

CURATORIAL STATEMENT - Lulu Keating

"The People and the Place": PROGRAM of YUKON Films

Screening: Monday July 12, 6:30 pm

Movie Monday, Victoria BC - Bruce Saunders, Coordinator

The Yukon is a unique part of the world, full of mystery and promise. But that could be said about any number of places in the world. This perspective of mystery and promise is often too, I think, the newcomer's perception. Writers like Robert Service and Jack London astounded the world with their poetry and stories when they came to the Yukon after the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898. But what's the real story of the Yukon?

First Nations peoples were living on the land for tens of thousands of years before the Gold Rush. They weren't merely surviving in isolation. For centuries trading routes brought goods to and from the coast. Cultural traditions firmly grounded the many nations in this region. Some indigenous peoples made contact with people of European descent prior to the Klondike discovery. But for others, their lives were not impacted by the new settlers until the mid-1900's.

Picturing a People: George Johnston (51min) Tlingit Photographer tells the story of one man's passion to record his people's history and culture. When the U.S. and Canadian armies constructed the Alaska Highway during World War 2, they didn't consider how it would impact on traditional Tlingit way of life. Carol Geddes' excellent film explores the negative impacts it had on her people. Yet the message of cultural strength is the positive resolution in the film. With respect and wisdom Carol's film mirrors George Johnston's reverence for the Tlingit culture.



A newcomer to the Yukon, Lulu Keating, paints a playful portrait of her new home in **Dawson Town Melted Down** (6min). Dawson City is and isn't what it seems to be - the film is an homage to the city that gold built, now a tiny village with a big name. Keating's tongue-in-cheek humour continues in her most recent film. **Her Man Plan** (6min) pays tribute to the powerful women who make the Yukon their home. Two very different perspectives on the place that nourishes independent thinking and adventurous living.

Old Crow is a fly-in community north of the Arctic Circle. Mary Jane Moses has made several films, all reflecting the unique culture of Old Crow. **Geh eenjit di' tr'iheetl'yaa (We will set Snares for Rabbit)** (6min) speaks directly to her people, a straight-forward lesson in a traditional way of life.

Rod Jacob's film, **Contained Chaos: the Kinetic Art of Philippe LeBlond** (5min) is another celebration of individualism. In this film we see the explosive creative energy of a Yukon artist, and his wacky and wonderful inventions.

Boar Attack (4min) is an animation by Jay White. Although it seems to have nothing to do with the Yukon it was created here, in the land where imagination can roam into any uncharted territory. This short film is, again, a celebration of freedom of express.

Total film running time 78 min - plus intros and context by Lulu Keating in person!

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