



Devastated by her best friend's suicide, a young Lakota woman creates a girls' boxing team with urgent hope to heal her community through sport, sisterhood, and tradition.

RUN TIME 38:40

SYNOPSIS

At 23 years old, Shaionna lost her best friend- aspiring boxer Cheryl Ziegler- to suicide on January 16, 2017. Though struggling with the same, Shaionna creates a boxing team for the girls following in their footsteps, determined to alter the path for the next generation of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe. The pre-teen girls' boxing squad faces the challenges of growing up on a reservation together with humor, sass and slushy-stained smiles. But Shaionna's trauma-fueled struggle with continues to threaten her vision for change. "There's a good side of me that wants to do good and try to fix things. And there's this other side that wants to destroy everything and make everyone feel how I feel." As she comes to terms with the gravity of her addiction, she is forced to decide which path to follow.

WHY NOW

Suicide rates among Native American communities are 3.5 times higher than any other racial or ethnic groups. Forty percent of Native American suicides are between the ages of 15-24. Since beginning filming in July 2017, every single community member involved in the film has lost a loved one to suicide. Young Indigenous women across the country are struggling with thoughts of suicide every day. This film is intended to open up conversations around trauma, addiction and suicide in order to support the process of healing.

PROJECT STATUS

The film has screened at festivals including Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, and imagineNative, receiving two nominations and two awards within its category. It was screened in New York City high schools through the Tribeca Educational Series of 2019 and is slated to screen in the Walker Art Center's 2020 INDIGENESIS: GEN 3 film series. Additional information on past and upcoming screenings may be found on our website. A study guide to facilitate screening discussion will be available on our website in April 2020. Anyone interested in hosting a screening and discussion is encouraged to contact us via information below.

FILM CREW

Directed, Produced, Filmed and Edited by Jessie Adler
Produced by Tracy Rector and Hanna Nordenswan,
Executive Produced by: Marcie Hume
Co-Produced by Shiala Grey-Sky King
Original Score by Alexandra Kalinowski
Additional Music thanks to Fawn Wood ("Remember Me") and Gunner Jules ("Another Way")

CONTACT

Christine Wexler, Social Impact Producer
Jessie Adler, Director

+1 (914) 715-7257
+1 (347) 924-3994

✉ cmwex5@gmail.com
✉ jessie@jessie-adler.com