

- A SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILM -
DIRECTED BY MICHAEL TOLEDANO & SAM VINAL
PRODUCED BY FRANKLIN LÓPEZ,
MICHAEL TOLEDANO AND SAM VINAL



I N V A S I O N

In an era of reconciliation, Indigenous land is being taken at gunpoint



S Y N O P S I S

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

THE UNIST'OT'EN, A DETERMINED GROUP OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, FIGHT TO STOP 13 PIPELINES FROM CROSSING THEIR LAND. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ANSWERS WITH AN ARMED POLICE RAID.

LONG SYNOPSIS:

IN THIS ERA OF "RECONCILIATION" WITH INDIGENOUS NATIONS, INDIGENOUS LAND IS STILL BEING TAKEN AT GUNPOINT. INVASION IS A FILM FROM THE FRONTLINES ABOUT THE UNIST'OT'EN CAMP, THE GIDIMT'EN CHECKPOINT, AND THE LARGER WET'SUWET'EN NATION AS THEY STAND UP TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND CORPORATIONS IN THE FACE OF CONTINUED COLONIAL VIOLENCE.

UNIST'OT'EN CAMP HAS BEEN AN ICON OF INDIGENOUS DEFIANCE FOR THE LAST DECADE. AS A COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED IN THE PATH OF SEVERAL FOSSIL FUEL PIPELINES, IT IS A HEALING SPACE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND SETTLERS ALIKE AND AN ACTIVE EXAMPLE OF DECOLONIZATION. INVASION FOLLOWS FREDA HUSON, CHIEF HOWILKhat, THROUGH A YEAR OF RESISTANCE AS RCMP OCCUPY WET'SUWET'EN TERRITORIES AND THE COASTAL GASLINK PIPELINE BEGINS TO CARVE THROUGH UNCEDED WET'SUWET'EN LANDS.

THE COMING FEATURE FILM:

THE FILMMAKERS BEHIND INVASION HAVE BEEN DOCUMENTING THE WET'SUWET'EN RESISTANCE FOR NEARLY A DECADE. YINTAH IS AN UPCOMING FEATURE FILM THAT TELLS THE STORY OF A DECADE OF WET'SUWET'EN RESISTANCE, COMING IN 2021.



FILMMAKING TEAM

Michael Toledano - Co-Director/Producer

Michael Toledano is a filmmaker and journalist based in British Columbia Canada, effectively living at the Unist'ot'en Camp for the last year. Michael has a strong background in photojournalism and documentary filmmaking, and has co-produced several documentaries with VICE Canada on Indigenous communities on the frontlines of Canada's environmental conflicts. His work has been published by Al Jazeera America, Democracy Now, CBC Fifth Estate, and shown across every major Canadian television news network. He is known for vibrant, ground-level documentation of social movements ranging from Black Lives Matter Toronto to No One is Illegal.

Sam Vinal - Co-Director/Producer

Sam Vinal directs documentaries and produces fictional films. These bold works are housed in the Los Angeles based production company, Mutual Aid Media. Sam creates visually stunning independent media to speak truth to power through film. His films have played at the Sundance Film Festival, The New Orleans Film Festival and the Chicago International Film Festival among others. Sam's latest works include L'EAU EST LA VIE (WATER IS LIFE): FROM STANDING ROCK TO THE SWAMP (2019), WAR PAINT (2018).

Franklin López - Producer / Editor

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, producer and editor Franklin López has been making political films for over 30 years, with a focus on social justice and environmental issues. He has published hundreds of films online since 1998 under the name subMedia, which have been watched by millions, broadcast on international TV networks and screened in alleyways and movie theaters all around the world. He has received accolades from the New York Times and Wired Magazine and had an entire chapter dedicated to this work in Breaking the Spell, a book about video activism. Over the years Frank has produced over 20 documentaries for subMedia including 18 episodes for subMedia's monthly Trouble series and two documentaries about the Unist'ot'en for Al Jazeera's AJ+ which garnered over 10 million views on Facebook.



T E C H N I C A L
I N F O R M A T I O N

Completion Date: November 2019

Duration: 18 mins

Country of Origin: CANADA

Ratio: 1.78:1

Sound: 2.0 Stereo Sound

Color

Language: English

Screening Format: DCP, ProRes

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/369199238>

CREDITS

Directed by: Michael Toledano & Sam Vinal

Produced by: Franklin López, Michael Toledano,
Sam Vinal

Edited by: Franklin López

Cinematography by: Michael Toledano

Camera Operators:

Jesse Freeston, Sam Vinal, Alexandra Kotcheff,
Melissa Cox, Franklin López

Additional Camera: Jen Gibson, Dan Loan

Re-recording Mixer: Tommy Stang

Color Correction: Pablo Perugorria

THE COMING FEATURE FILM



Michael Toledano, Sam Vinal and Franklin López are three filmmakers who joined together to release *INVASION* in November of 2019 to support the Wet'suwet'en in advance of a brutal police raid that happened in February of 2020.

Now we have shifted gears to focus on the feature film on the subject. We have documented powerful, unreleased scenes which show the character arc of Freda Huson (Chief Howihkat), as well as the changes that have taken place on Wet'suwet'en territory over the last several years.

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