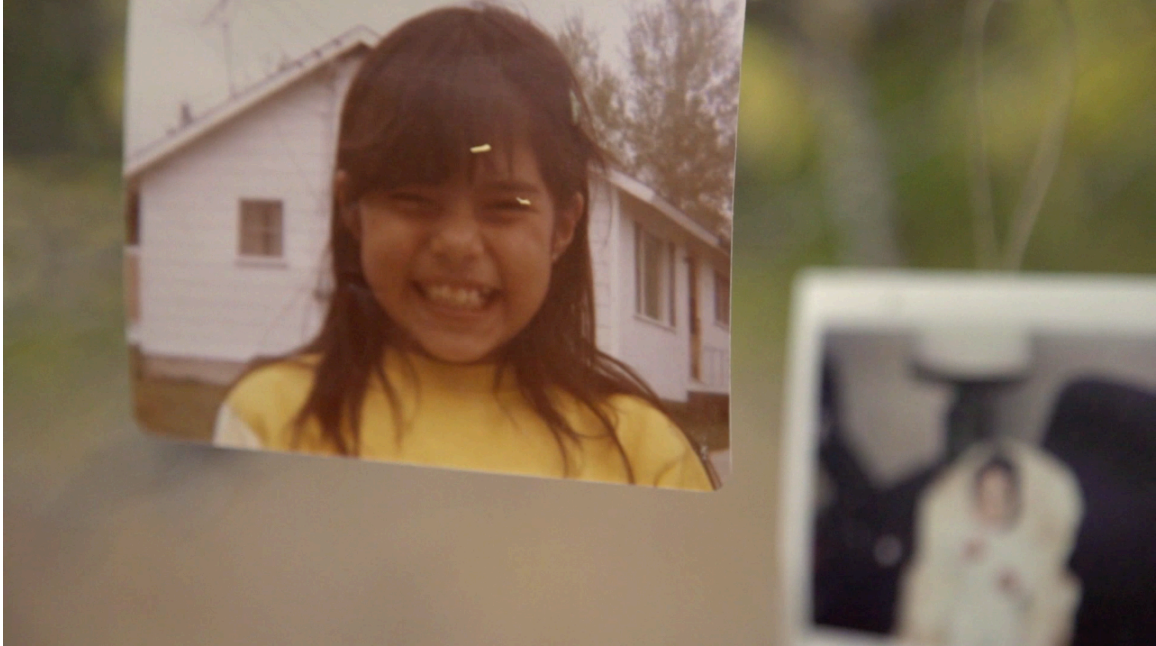


Raven Bear Productions
presents
When the Children Left



Runtime: 11.06 minutes
Country of Origin: Canada
Language: English
Genre: Documentary

Media Contact:

Charlene Moore

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Logline:

After the untimely passing of her sister Amelia McLeod, Angelina McLeod travels back home to Shoal Lake 40 First Nation to honour her sisters spirit and advocate for equal access to education.

Synopsis:

As a community struggles to keep their children safe, a loving Indigenous family's dynamics are changed forever when tragedy occurs. For generations, Shoal Lake 40 First Nation has had to send their children away for schooling. This short intimate documentary follows Angelina McLeod as she comes to terms with the passing of her sister, Amelia McLeod. As Angelina travels back home to Shoal Lake 40 First Nation to honor her sister's spirit, she reflects on her childhood, family, and the injustices her community faces.

Directors Statement:

Angelina McLeod is a friend and colleague of mine. We knew each other through the academic and filmmaking community in Winnipeg. Angelina is a Masters student at the University of Manitoba and a director as well. I was doing sound on her film series about the Shoal Lake 40 First Nation freedom road when she told me her story. Angelina, myself, and Ryan clicked right away. I was shocked to hear of the dangers children faced when leaving home to go to high school. Angelina's experience echoed that of the residential school experience. Today children are still facing the same obstacles from her community. It was from this discussion that we decided we wanted to share her story with the rest of Canada in hopes to raise awareness.

This film follows the struggle of losing a loved one and reconnecting roots that have been damaged over time. The deep love and bond within Angelina's family is exemplified within their home videos and pictures. With Amelia's passing, there was a loss in the way the family interacted and the comfort Angelina had in her home community. This struggle goes beyond the initial impact of loss, the grief extends a lifetime. However, there is growth in the pain and Amelia did not go in vain. Angelina works hard to advocate for her community in honor of her family. She strives to bring awareness to the unequal access to education, resources, and safety. This film showcases the resilience Indigenous women carry and the importance of connection to land, family, and culture. It was my goal to ensure that the beauty of Amelia's life, family, and culture were brought to the foreground while also revealing a nationwide crisis. Indigenous children across Canada are constantly being put at risk due to a lack of equal access to education. Amelia is one story of many, and there is much work to be done.

It is my hope that the audience can connect with the family and see the love that they share. I hope that the many barriers that Indigenous people face are revealed but also the resilience Indigenous people carry. I hope audiences learn that everyone in Canada is not treated equally and there needs to be pressure put on our governments to change this.

Charlene Moore - Director/ Producer Bio:

Winnipeg filmmaker and member of York Factory First Nation, Charlene Moore is passionate about storytelling and highlighting Canadian issues that affect Indigenous Peoples. She has completed two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Indigenous Studies and Film at the University of Winnipeg, and is a co-organizer of the Indigenous Film Summit held annually in Winnipeg. Her recently completed NSI IndigiDocs film *When the Children Left* will be broadcast next year on APTN and *documentary* Channel. It recently screened at the 2019 Gimli Film Festival with Charlene winning the Indigenous Spirit Award and Manitoba Shorts Audience Choice Award.

As a Cree, Saulteaux, and Welsh woman, Charlene creates films that focus on identity, connection, and resilience. Charlene advocates for Indigenous Peoples' to hold narrative sovereignty because she believes storytelling can be a powerful way for audiences to heal, learn, and explore.

Currently, Charlene is working on her MA in Indigenous Governance at the University of Winnipeg and is developing her feature film *Birthright*, which follows her family's healing journey to their first ceremony.

Ryan Wilson – Producer Bio:

Ryan Wilson is a Indigenous, to spirited, LGBTQ filmmaker and a recent graduate of the National Screen Institute's CBC New Indigenous Voices program, under the direction of legendary film and television producer Lisa Meeches (Ice Road Truckers, We Were Children, Taken). Ryan is also apart of this years 2018 NSI indigidocs program where he and a teammate (Charlene Moore) will have the opportunity to create a 10 minute documentary about indigenous peoples. Ryan also studied New Media at Interactive Entity docs program Design Nu Media, and trained in acting at the Academy of Acting. Ryan is from Peguis, a First Nation community in Manitoba. He has trained in theatre at the Centre for Indigenous Theatre, and film and theatre at the University of Winnipeg. Ryan has written over 1000 scripts, and has worked on various films, in various roles. He looks forward to bringing empowerment through film and television, and the arts, to his home community.

Credits:

Directed by Charlene Moore

Edited By Andrew Wiens & Lucius Dechausay

Cinematography By Sam Karney

Produced By Ryan Cooper & Charlene Moore

Original Music By Anita Lubosch

Sound Editor and Designer: Anita Lubosch

Sound Operator and Recordist: George Addis

Online Sound Mix: Cory Rizos

Colour Correction: Tony Manolikakis

Mentor: Tracey Deer

NSI Program Advisors: Lisa Jackson & Shane Belcourt

Legal Services: Paul Popeski

Insurance Provided By Front Row Insurance