



MUD (HASHTŁ'ISHNII) - PRESS NOTES

Starring

Trini King
Forrest Goodluck

Written and Directed

by Shaandiin Tome

9 min | 1.85:1 | Dolby 5.1

Inquiries

Shaandiin Tome
T: +1(505) 306-0675
E: contact@shaandiin.com

SHORT SYNOPSIS

On her last day, Ruby faces the inescapable remnants of alcoholism, family, and culture.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Mud (Hashtł'ishnii) follows Ruby, a mother who lives in Window Rock, AZ with her son, Joseph. In order to keep her secret of alcoholism from her family, friends, and culture, Ruby chooses to suffer with her secret rather than seek help.

On her last living day, her secret is at risk—avoiding speaking with her son about her problem, not admitting it has affected her well being, and living with jealousy. She feels stuck due to her addiction.

This all culminates when she walks home in a drunken state, not realizing the relentless freezing temperatures. While the environment serves as a reality, her death is a transcendence where she no longer suffers.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Mud is about Ruby's craving for connection with her son, which is hindered by her alcoholism. This story explores the overwhelming control that addiction holds over the addicted and those who love them, and the powerlessness of individuals and society to cure this illness. How does one heal the genetic destiny of a family? In a hopeless spiral, addiction promises relief from the pain that it causes, with the ultimate cure being death caused by the medicine.

On the reservation, drinking is a large problem, especially for those traveling to border towns to consume. Gallup is a border town that has one of the highest rates of deaths due to exposure. While this film is a statement of social justice, it is even more so a story of compassion for those whose voices are lost.

Alcoholism is a heavy topic, especially when it is considered a stereotype amongst Native American people. This is not a stereotype we are perpetuating. It is a harsh reality that members of the Navajo tribe are suffering as alcoholics through isolation. Isolation from family, culture, and support. This film aims to bring understanding and awareness to not only to our own people but also to those who believe that Native Americans are statistical drunks.

Understanding why people hurt and are pushed to the point of addiction will help realize this issue—ignoring it will continue pain. It is only one story amongst many that are still untold.

Happiness, tragedy, joy, pain. Each day begins again.

CAST INFORMATION



Ruby

Trini King

Trini King is best known for her role as Alvina 'Baby' Tsoosie in Chris Eyre's *EDGE OF AMERICA*. Born on the Navajo Indian Reservation in Shiprock, New Mexico, she began acting at a young age. Under the supervision of her 5th grade Drama instructor; Steve Neal, Trini traveled with classmates competing in local drama and performing arts festivals within the Four Corners. Upon entering high school, she pursued her passion for acting by signing up for classes and joining the Drama Club. In 2002, Trini got her break and landed a role in Showtime's *Edge of America*. After filming, she committed the next few years to her education and worked in the medical field. In 2017, Trini made her return to the film industry by playing the principal role in Shaandiin Tome's film *MUD (Hashtl'ishnii)* as Ruby. Trini resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Joseph

Forrest Goodluck

Making his big screen debut, Forrest Goodluck appears opposite Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hardy, Domhnall Gleeson and Will Poulter in FOX's epic drama, "The Revenant." Directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu. Goodluck plays Hawk, the son of DiCaprio's Hugh Glass.

Goodluck has several years of acting work under his belt, participating in community theater and short films since the age of ten. Prolific behind the camera, Goodluck is an award-winning youth filmmaker whose work has premiered at the Seattle International Film Festival, Taos Shortz Film Festival, LA Skins Festival, and had made him the Smithsonian's National Museum of

the American Indian and SWAIA Santa Fe Indian Market Class X Youth Winner. Goodluck was chosen as one of Sundance Institute's 2015 Full Circle Fellows.

A member of the Dine, Mandan, Hidatsa and Tsimshian tribes, Goodluck is the son of Laurie and Kevin, a Practice Manager and Internal Medicine Physician, respectively. He graduated from the prestigious Bosque School and studies drama with acclaimed acting teachers Angela Gibbs and Judith Weston in Los Angeles.

CREW INFORMATION



Shaandiin Tome – Writer/Director

Shaandiin Tome is an aspiring filmmaker. She graduated *cum laude* with a BFA in Film and Digital Media from UNM. She is a 2016 Sundance Full Circle Fellowship alumna, 2016 Sundance Programming Intern, and in May 2017, she was selected for the Sundance Native Filmmaker's Lab Fellowship. She currently lives in Albuquerque, aiming to bring resonating imagery in convergence with story, illustrating her perspective as a Diné woman.

www.shaandiin.com



Aroonsri Khamsamran – Producer

Aroonsri Khamsamran sprang from the waves of Thailand's Koh Samui Island in 1992. While growing up, she and her parents watched every movie available from the local video store, and they would take trips to Bangkok to see the latest blockbuster on screen. At the age of thirteen, her and her family relocated to the high mountain desert of New Mexico. She began exploring her passion for filmmaking in the University of New Mexico's Interdisciplinary Film and Digital Media program. As a recent college graduate, she is working part time at a college in Taos, NM, while simultaneously improving her craft in her own and friends' short film projects. She's produced FEMME and WAKE.



Mike Maliwanag – Director of Photography

From the first murals of crayon drawings in his bedroom closet to the high school photography darkroom, Mike always knew he wanted to be in a creative field. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Columbia College Chicago with a concentration in cinematography. There, he learned to shoot on 35mm and 16mm and became proficient in digital cinematography. Now based in Los Angeles, Mike works as director of photography shooting narrative, branded content, and commercials.

When not shooting, Mike likes to play basketball and travel the world.

<http://mikemaliwanag.com/>

PRODUCTION STILLS





mud
(hasht'ishnii)

A FILM BY
SHAANDIIN TOME

TRINI KING
FORREST GOODLUCK
ERNEST DAVID TSOSIE



CREDITS

Ruby **Trini King**
Joseph **Forrest Goodluck**
Harold **Ernest David Tsosie**
Beggar **Zoel Zohnnie**
Gas Station Attendant **Merritt Glover**

Writer/Director **Shaandiin Tome**
Producer **Aroonsri Khamsamran**
Director of Photography **Mike Maliwanag**

First AD **Carese Bartlett**
Supervising Producer **Andrew Ahn**
Production Designer **Jess Danielle**
Hair/Makeup **Mindi Coats**
Sound Recordist **Jacob Blom**
Sound Designer/Mixer **Eric Fawcett, EGG Studio**
Composer **Nataani Tome**
Editor **Shaandiin Tome**
Website **mudfilm.com**
Facebook **www.facebook.com/mudshortfilm**



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