

# Gail Maurice

📍 103 Avenue Road, Apt 802, Toronto, ON M5R 2G9 Canada ☎ 416.230.2748 ✉ gailmaurice@gmail.com

## Filmmaking

(Select screenings)

- 2015 **ASSINI, Director, Writer, Producer – Assini Productions (post-production)**  
*A little girl finds out she's an Indian in the 1970's when Indians were maniacal crazy redskins in her mind, she rebels and rages until she learns to love and accept herself through her grandmother's love.*
- 2011 **MISAWAC KAWI NAWAPAMITIN, Director, Writer, Producer – Assini Productions**  
*A granddaughter returns home to say, "misawach kawi nawapamitin" which means "until we meet again" to her dying grandmother because there is no word for "goodbye" in Cree.*
- ImagineNative film and Media Arts Festival
  - San Francisco American Indian Film Festival (nominated for Best Live-Action Short)
- 2010 **WILD MUSTANGS, 2nd unit Director, Camera Operator – Stornoway Productions**  
*Saving North America's horse on the brink of annihilation.*
- 2010 **SIRENS OF SOUL, Director, Writer, Researcher (development)**  
It's the journey of Three powerful Indigenous women, Three Lives in Three Continents. These mavericks speak of the power they get from their culture, roots, ancestors, history, blood and land. They are mature and strong, they rode the tides of change and exploded into the supernova talents that they are. Our Voice.
- 2008 **GANGSTER GIRLS, Director, Cinematographer, Researcher – Stornoway Productions**  
*I Immersed myself in Saskatchewan's Girl gangs. They are the most invisible of society's invisible ones. They are aboriginal girl gangs, few people know much about them. Until now.*
- 2007 **THIRST, Director, Writer, Producer, Cinematographer, Location Sound**  
*I encounter Third World Conditions when I go to Northern Ontario First Nations. I expose Uranium and Canada's dirty little Truth – over 200 Aboriginal communities are without Clean Drinking Water!*
- ImagineNative film and Media Arts Festival
  - Planet in Focus
  - Aired on APTN
- 2007 **SCREAM YOUR DREAMS, Director, Writer, Producer, Additional Cinematography**  
*A feature documentary shot in the Arctic, Northern Saskatchewan and Toronto, this film explores living in isolated Aboriginal communities and "leaving home" to follow your dreams. What does it mean to leave an entire way of life, culture & language to follow your dreams – hear what graduating youth have to say about it. (I am planning on doing a 'follow-up' 9 years later, all youth are on board, that's why I have not submitted it to any festivals).*
- 2006 **SMUDGE, Director, Writer, Additional Cinematographer – National Film Board of Canada**  
*A look at Native Spirituality in the city; its not practiced between four walls. Christians have their cathedrals, Muslims their mosques, Hindus their temples but for Aboriginal people the world is their sacred space. A group of Aboriginal women celebrate their right to worship in the city – their way.*
- Sundance Film Festival 2006, official selection
  - Michael Moore's Traverse City Film Festival 2006, official selection by invitation only
  - Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian 2006
  - Columbus International Film & Video festival 2006 – Honourable mention
  - Screened at festivals Internationally and nationally
  - Aired on CBC
- 2005 **MEMORY IN BONES, Director, Writer, Producer, Cinematographer, Editor**  
*Every step I take is with my ancestors; my memory in my bones – urban and rural live within me. I am who I am a strong Indian woman. A look at our roots, our culture and how it identifies who we are in our day to day life.*
- Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian 2006
  - InsideOut Film Festival 2005
  - Screened at festivals world wide

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- 2004 **LITTLE INDIANS, Director, Writer, Producer, Cinematographer**  
*What makes us who we are? Is it blood or bannock? My brother, my mother and I meet for the very first time as adults.*
- Salekhard Siberian Travelling Film Festival 2005
  - Screened at Film Festivals Internationally and Nationally
- 2004 **ME+D=AHH, Director, Writer, Producer**  
*A B-movie inspired flick starring Valerie Buhagiar ('Roadkill', 'Highway 61') in a tongue-in-cheek look at the influence media has on public opinion*
- Screened at Film Festivals Internationally and Nationally

## Workshops/Panels/Juries

- 2012 **Tri-Nation Women's Performance, Sydney Opera House**  
*Participated in a cultural performance with three Aboriginal nations of women: Canadian, Australian and New Zealand.*
- 2010 **WIFT-T, Convergent Media Program**  
*12-week professional program on convergent media.*
- 2008 **Beijing Art Museum of the Imperial City, China, Delegate**  
*Invited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage to screen two of my films during the months of August and September. I was also a panel member on: Contemporary Perspectives on Canadian Aboriginal Film and Culture.*
- 2007 **Introduction to filmmaking, Instructor**  
*Taught basic filmmaking workshops to community members and students in 11 remote Northern Ontario First Nations Communities. Discussed the opportunities for self-expression through the visual medium*
- 2007 **Conference on Aboriginal Youth Empowerment, Speaker**  
*Shared personal journey of being an Aboriginal filmmaker in the film industry to Northern Saskatchewan youth*
- 2006 **Introduction to Video, Instructor**  
*Taught basic video skills and introduced various forms of artistic expression in film to grade 12 students in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut and Beauval, Saskatchewan*
- 2006 **Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival, Speaker**  
*Gave workshop on documentary filmmaking to emerging filmmakers – from pre to post production*
- 2006 **Privy Council Ottawa, Speaker**  
*Opened Privy Council's two-day conference on Social Cohesion and Inclusion in Canadian Society, after the screening of my film "Smudge"*
- 2006 **Canada Council for the Arts, Aboriginal Media Arts Program, Peer Assessment**  
*Reviewed visual & media arts submissions from across Canada*
- 2006 **ImagineNATIVE film festival, Panel**  
*Getting started on your first feature film and making the transition from shorts to features*
- 2005 **ImagineNATIVE film festival, Jury**  
*Viewed shorts and awarded prizes in experimental, animation and narrative*
- 2005 **ImagineNATIVE film festival, Panel**  
*Filming sacred ceremonies, how do we do it, when is it wrong, is it ever wrong, when do we begin sharing and when is it sacrilegious*
- 2004 **Inside/Out film festival, Jury**  
*Viewed over 100 National entries*

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## 2004 **ImagineNATIVE film festival, Panel**

*What is the film industry like for Indigenous actors, what sorts of struggles do we face, what are stereotypes that may still exist, do we ever have to compromise our beliefs for a role*

## 2004 **Salekhard film festival, Siberia, Delegate**

*"Little Indians" was invited to the festival promoting Indigenous awareness; I was invited to attend representing Indigenous people of Canada. I gave interviews to local news agents and fostered collaborations with Indigenous people from Russia and Sweden*

## Awards

### 2011 **Misawac Kawi Nawapamitin**

*Nominated for best short narrative at the San Francisco American Indian film festival*

### 2007 **ImagineNative Film & Media Arts Festival**

*CBC Newsworld documentary pitch Prize*

### 2007 **Quebecor Documentary Fellowship Award**

*A year membership with DOC; full delegate pass to Hot Docs, mentorship with Robert Lang of Kensington Communications*

### 2006 **Smudge**

*Nominated for best short documentary at Columbia International film & video festival  
Official selection of Michael Moore's inaugural film festival in Traverse city*

### 2006 **Ontario Arts Council**

*Completion grant for production, Scream Your Dreams*

### 2005 **Canada Council for the Arts**

*Full grant for production of feature documentary, Scream Your Dreams*

### 2005 **Alliance Atlantis Mentorship Award – ImagineNATIVE Film & Media Arts festival**

*Mentorship with Cindy Witten, VP, Original Production, History Channel*

### 2003 **Canada Council for the Arts**

*Grant to develop film script, Blood Lines*

## Script Writing

### 2011 **BLOOD LINES, Writer**

*A young Aboriginal woman thinks she has it all together until her alienated street-living mother dies, revealing a secret that shatters any hope of a life with her new-found love.*

### 2010 **INDIANS RULE, Writer, Director, Producer (currently in post)**

*A young girl's coming-of-age story.*

### 2000 **JOHNNY GREYEVES, Co-Writer, Writer/Director Jorge Manzano**

- -Outfest, LA-Freedom Award
- -Inside Out, Toronto - Best Canadian Film
- -Sundance Film Festival, Official Selection 2000

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## COMPANY

2007 **ASSINI PRODUCTIONS INC. Producer/Director**

*Creating powerful high quality content focusing on Indigenous Peoples of the world*

## Education

1988 **University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC**

Anthropology-Minor

1983-1988 **University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK**

B.A. Advanced – Psychology (Sociology/Anthropology Minors)

### **ImagineNative Film and Media Arts Festival**

- Former Board Member (5 years)

### **Women in the Directors Chair (WIDC)**

- Director participant, nominee for Telefilm's Micro-Budget program

### **Trinity Square Video**

- Digital Video Camera
- Editing (Final Cut Pro)
- Lighting
- Sound

### **Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto**

- Film Camera (16mm Bolex)
- Film Camera (Super 8mm)
- Film editing/Cutting negative (Steinbeck)
- Lighting for film

### **Toronto Animated Image Society**

- Camera-less animation workshop

### **National Film Board**

- Momentum Program