

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2008

For Media Inquiries Contact:
Cindy Benitez, publicrelations@aifisf.com

THE 33rd ANNUAL AMERICAN INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES AWARDS WINNERS

San Francisco, CA - The American Indian Film Institute (AIFI) and Title Sponsor, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, are proud to announce the winners for the 33rd annual American Indian Film Festival. The award winners were presented at the annual American Indian Motion Picture Awards Show on Saturday Nov. 15 at 6:00p.m at the historic Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco.

The American Indian Motion Picture Awards Show, (established in 1978), has recognized excellence in American Indian cinematic achievement, making the annual awards show one of the most prominent Indian Country and Native Cinema showcases.

Outstanding performances varied across the talent venue, on awards night which included: new country music artist Crystal Shawanda, *You Can Let Go* (single) -*Dawn of a New Day* CD; recording artist Shea Keck along with Grammy award winner Micki Free; violinist Swil Kanim and Raven dancer Gene Tagaban; Yaaw Tei Yi Tlingit Dancers from Juneau, AK; comic Charlie Hill; and singer Claude McKenzie.

Best Film

Before Tomorrow, Director: Marie –Helene Cousineau and Madeline Piujuq Ivalu, Canada

Best Director

Georgina Lightning, *Older than America*, USA

Best Actor

Trevor Duplessis, *In a World Created By a Drunken God*, Canada

Best Actress

Candace Fox, *Moccasin Flats: Redemption*, Canada

Best Supporting Actor

Wes Studi- *Older than America*, USA

Best Supporting Actress

Misty Upham- *Frozen River*, USA

Best Documentary Feature

River of Renewal, Director – Carlos Bolado, USA

Best Documentary Short

Byron Chief- Moon: Grey Horse Rider, Directors: Philip Szporer and Marlene Miller, Canada

Best Live Action Short

Niigaanibatowaad: Front Runners, Director –Lori Lewis, Canada

Best Animated Short

By the Rapids, Director – Joseph Lazare, Canada

Best Music Video

You Can Let Go, Director: Margaret Malandrucolo, USA

Best Public Service

Modern Day Warriors, Director –Jenni Monet, USA

