



Electronic Press Kit

RECIPROCITY PROJECT SEASON 1

A Collection of Seven Short Films

A Project of **Nia Tero** and **Upstander Project**,
In Association with **REI Co-op Studios**

PRESS CONTACT
press@reciprocity.org

PRESS KIT UPDATE:
10/05/22

TECH SPECS
7 Documentary Shorts
TRT: 68:20
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Color, HD

**POSTER &
STILL PHOTOS**
<https://bit.ly/3U9806Z>

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA
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PROJECT SYNOPSIS

Facing a climate crisis, the Reciprocity Project embraces Indigenous value systems that have bolstered communities since time immemorial.

SEASON ONE:

In Season One of this multimedia project, storytellers and community partners created films in response to a question:

What does ‘reciprocity’ mean to you and your community?

LOCATION:

Reciprocity Project Season One showcases films created within Indigenous communities across Turtle Island in the U.S. and Colombia, with unique perspectives on reciprocity and each community’s unique relationship to the land and animals around them.

PARTNERS:

The Reciprocity Project is a collaboration between Nia Tero and Upstander Project in association with REI Co-op Studios.

PRODUCED BY:

Taylor Hensel, Adam Mazo, Kavita Pillay, and Tracy Rector

WEBSITE:

In addition to watching the films, you can find more information about the filmmakers and view discussion guides and more on the Reciprocity Project website: <https://www.Reciprocity.org/>

EMAIL:

All press and interview inquiries are welcome at:
Press@Reciprocity.org

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ABOUT THE COLLABORATORS



**NIA
TERO**

Nia Tero is a US-based non-profit working in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and movements worldwide with a mission of securing Indigenous guardianship of vital ecosystems. Nia Tero is committed to an antiracist and inclusive culture centering Indigenous rights, wisdom, practices, worldviews, and protocols.

<https://www.niatero.org/>



Upstander Project uses storytelling to amplify silenced narratives, develop upstander skills to challenge systemic injustice, and nurture compassionate, courageous relationships that honor the interconnection of all beings and the Earth.

<https://upstanderproject.org/>

In Association With

**REI CO-OP
STUDIOS**

REI Co-op Studios develops and produces stories that entertain, enrich and explore the power of time spent outside, while complementing the co-op's broader climate and racial equity, diversity, and inclusion commitments.

<https://www.rei.com/newsroom/article/rei-co-op-studios>

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AT A GLANCE :

EPISODE 1:

ŌʂŋŌ (What They've Been Taught)

by Brit Hensel and Keli Gonzales (Cherokee), filmed in the Qualla Boundary, North Carolina and in Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma

EPISODE 2:

Diiyeghan naii Taii Tr'eedaa (We Will Walk the Trail of our Ancestors)

by Princess Daazhrai Johnson and Alisha Carlson (Gwich'in), filmed on Lower Tanana Dene Lands

EPISODE 3:

SŪKŪJULA TE (Stories of My Mother)

by David Hernández Palmar and Flor Palmar (Wayuu Iipuana), filmed in the Wayuu Community of Majali, Wounmainkat | Abya Yala

EPISODE 4:

Weckuwapasihitit (Those Yet to Come)

by Geo Neptune and Brianna Smith (Passamaquoddy), filmed at Motahkomikuk and Sipayik (Indian Township and Pleasant Point, Maine)

EPISODE 5:

Weckuwapok (The Approaching Dawn)

by Jacob Bearchum, Taylor Hensel, Adam Mazo, Chris Newell, Roger Paul, Kavita Pillay, Tracy Rector, and Lauren Stevens, filmed at Moneskatik (Schoolic Point, Maine)

EPISODE 6:

Ma's House

by Jeremy Dennis (Shinnecock), filmed at Shinnecock Indian Nation

EPISODE 7:

Pili Ka Mo'o

by Justyn Ah Chong and Malia Akutagawa (Kanaka Maoli), filmed in the Occupied Hawaiian Kingdom

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EPISODE 1:



Oṣḥo

(What They've Been Taught)

By Brit Hensel and Keli Gonzales (Cherokee)

RUNNING TIME: 09:05

LOGLINE: Expressions of reciprocity in the Cherokee world as conveyed in a story told by an elder and first language speaker.

SYNOPSIS: Oṣḥo (What They've Been Taught) This film explores expressions of reciprocity in the Cherokee world, brought to life through a story told by an elder and first language speaker. Oṣḥo circles the intersection of tradition, language, land, and a commitment to maintaining balance. Oṣḥo (What They've Been Taught) was created in collaboration with independent artists from both the Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

LANGUAGE AND STYLE GUIDE: Oṣḥo (pronounced oo-day-yo-NUH) is Cherokee.

When using the title, please use the original Cherokee and follow with the English translation: Oṣḥo (What They've Been Taught)

“Brit’s film is a beautiful meditation of sound and space, expressing her people’s reciprocal relationship to the natural worlds that they exist in.”

~ Sterlin Harjo

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press@reciprocity.org

PRESS KIT UPDATE:
10/05/22

TECH SPECS
Documentary Short
TRT: 09:05
Aspect Ratio: 16:9,
shot in 2:35.1
Color, HD
Languages: English &
Tsalagi Gawonihisdi

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<https://bit.ly/3BHJlf6>

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Website: www.brihensel.com
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EPISODE 2:



DIIEGHAN NAII TAI TR'EEDAA

(We Will Walk the Trail of our Ancestors)

By Princess Daazhraii Johnson and Alisha Carlson (Gwich'in)

RUNNING TIME: 06:05

LOGLINE: A Gwich'in grandfather teaches his granddaughter how the Gwich'in people take care of caribou and vice versa.

SYNOPSIS: A grandfather teaches his granddaughter, a young Gwich'in mother named Alisha, how the Gwich'in people take care of caribou and vice versa. The northern lights warm the caribou; the caribou helps feed and sustain the community; the community honors the connections. Each element in nature is purposeful and related. In turn, these connections bring new meaning to Alisha and her wishes for her children and for all living beings.

Diiyeghan naii Taii Tr'eedaa (We Will Walk the Trail of our Ancestors) was filmed on Lower Tanana Dene Lands

LANGUAGE AND STYLE GUIDE: **Diiyeghan naii Taii Tr'eedaa** (pronounced Dee-ya-hun nai Tai Tray-da) is Gwich'in.

When writing the title, please use the original Gwich'in and include the English translation after: *Diiyeghan naii Taii Tr'eedaa* (We Will Walk the Trail of our Ancestors)

“This film is a prime example of Indigenous narrative power. Its message connects the dots between the struggle to protect the land and the fight to preserve Gwich'in heritage and culture. It's so good!”

~ Dallas Goldtooth, Environmental Activist

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press@reciprocity.org

PRESS KIT UPDATE:
10/05/22

TECH SPECS
Documentary Short
TRT: 06:15
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Color, HD
Languages: Gwich'in
& English

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<https://bit.ly/3LdEeF6>

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Website: reciprocity.org
IG: [Daazhraii](https://www.instagram.com/Daazhraii)
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TW: [ArcticDaazhraii](https://twitter.com/ArcticDaazhraii)
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EPISODE 3:



SŪKŪJULA TEI

(Stories of My Mother)

By David Hernández Palmar and Flor Palmar (Wayuu lipuana)

RUNNING TIME: 07:26

LOGLINE: During a visit to her sister Amaliata, Rosa, a wise Wayuu woman, teaches Amaliata's grandchildren the importance of reciprocity within their culture.

SYNOPSIS: Rosa, a wise Wayuu woman, travels to her sister Amaliata's village for a long overdue visit. As she enters the village, she encounters Amaliata's children, upon whom she will impart important lessons about sharing and caring for each other. In the sisters' conversations, viewers are introduced to common understandings of how reciprocity is enacted in Wayuu life.

SŪKŪJULA TEI (Stories of My Mother) was filmed on the land of the Wayuu Community of Majali, Wounmainkat, Abya Yala.

LANGUAGE AND STYLE GUIDE: SŪKŪJULA TE

is pronounced Soo-koo-ha-la Tay.

When writing the title, please use the original Wayuunaiki and include the English translation after: *SŪKŪJULA TEI* (Stories of My Mother)

“A touching, multilayered poem on the cohesion of generations, the strength of community, of family, of tradition - and the power of place.”

~ Maryanne Redpath

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press@reciprocity.org

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TECH SPECS

Documentary Short

TRT: 07:26

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Color, HD

Language: Wayuunaiki

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STILL PHOTOS

<https://bit.ly/3S5Wjao>

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: www.reciprocity.org

IG: [davidhpalmar](https://www.instagram.com/davidhpalmar)

IG: [reciprocityproj](https://www.instagram.com/reciprocityproj)

TW: [davidhpalmar](https://twitter.com/davidhpalmar)

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EPISODE 4:



WECKUWAPASIHTIT

(Those Yet to Come)

By Geo Neptune and Brianna Smith (Passamaquoddy)

RUNNING TIME: 11:58

LOGLINE: Revitalizing practices kept from their elders, Peskotomuhkati youth lead an intergenerational process of healing through athasikuwi-pisun, "tattoo medicine."

SYNOPSIS: On the Eastern reaches of the occupied territory now referred to as North America, the children of Koluskap call upon ancestral teachings to guide them. Revitalizing cultural practices kept from their elders, Peskotomuhkati young people lead an intergenerational process of healing through the reclamation of athasikuwi-pisun, "tattoo medicine."

This film was created on the land of the Passamaquoddy Nations of Sipayik and Motahkomikuk: Unceded Passamaquoddy Territory.

LANGUAGE AND STYLE GUIDE: *Weckuwapasihtit* is pronounced Wetch-guh-WAH-buh-zee-dehd.

When the title, please use the original Passamaquoddy and include the English translation after: *Weckuwapasihtit* (Those Yet to Come)

“A beautiful film about a community's reconnection to their culture.”

~ Jonathan Van Ness

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TECH SPECS
Documentary Short
TRT: 11:58
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Color, HD
Languages: English
& Passamaquoddy

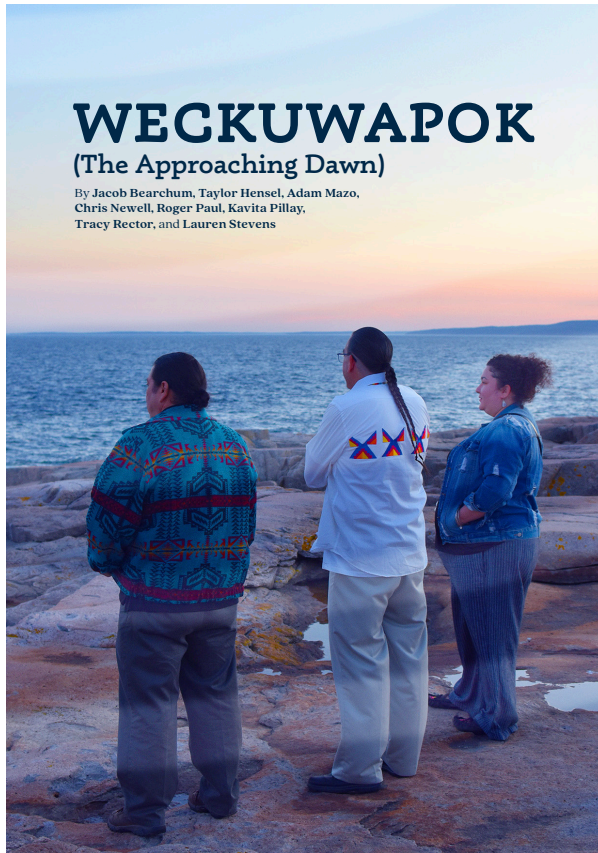
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EPISODE 5:



WECKUWAPOK

(The Approaching Dawn)

By Jacob Bearchum, Taylor Hensel, Adam Mazo, Chris Newell, Roger Paul, Kavita Pillay, Tracy Rector, and Lauren Stevens (listed alphabetically)

RUNNING TIME: 12:54

LOGLINE: Through song and stories, **Waponahkik** (the people of the dawn land) bring gratitude to the rising sun.

SYNOPSIS: **Waponahkik** (the people of the dawn land) bring gratitude to the sun where it first looks our way. Song and stories invite us to accept the new day and put behind us any harm done the day before. Featuring Passamaquoddy citizens Christopher Newell, Roger Paul, and Lauren Stevens; and Yo-Yo Ma.

Weckuwapok (The Approaching Dawn) was filmed at Moneskatik (Schoodic Point, Maine.)

LANGUAGE AND STYLE GUIDE:

Weckuwapok is pronounced Wetch-guh-WAH-buhk.

When writing the title, please include the English translation after: *Weckuwapok (The Approaching Dawn)*

“This film captures our language, our culture, our life views, and how we have managed to survive genocide. We all have a role on this earth, and when we take the time to celebrate our strengths and work together, we can create beautiful things. Wayne Newell’s wisdom expressed it more than walking away and feeling good: “We have a lot of work to do!” This work is important, and we must never give up!”

~ Chief Maggie Dana, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik

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press@reciprocity.org

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TECH SPECS

Documentary Short

TRT: 12:54

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Color, HD

Languages: English
& Passamaquoddy

POSTER &

STILL PHOTOS

<https://bit.ly/3BjmZOj>

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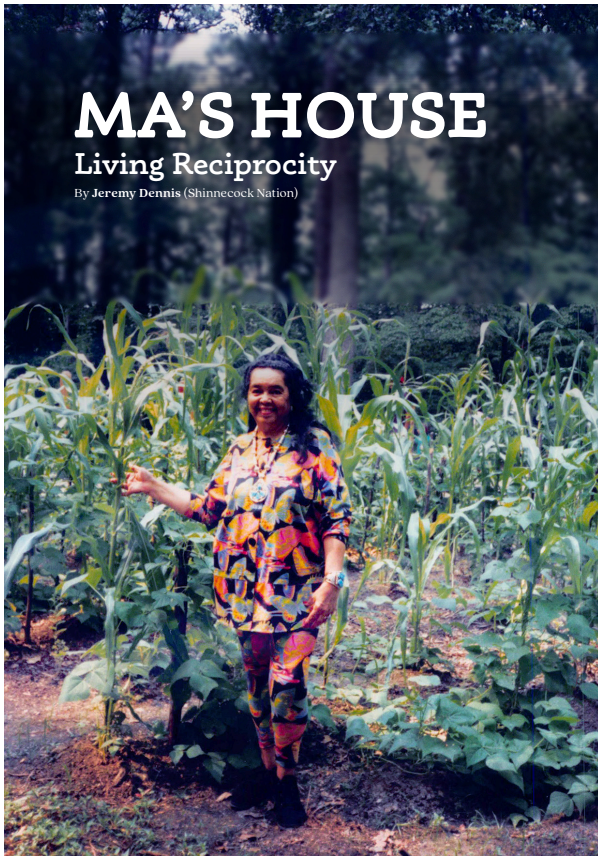
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EPISODE 6:



MA'S HOUSE

By Jeremy Dennis (Shinnecock Indian Nation)

RUNNING TIME: 08:29

LOGLINE: A Shinnecock photographer restores his family home by hand to create a gathering place for a new generation of artists.

SYNOPSIS: **Ma's House** was once the heart of a community. As Ma's grandson, artist and photographer Jeremy Dennis is on a quest to restore the family home to its central role as a community gathering place for a new generation of diverse artists. Through personal mementos, intimate narratives, and a touch of celebrity gossip, Dennis and his family reveal generations of history and hope contained within the walls of their home.

Ma's House, both the place and the film, are situated on Shinnecock ancestral territory in what is now Southampton, New York. Shinnecock is a self-governing sovereign nation that has endured nearly four hundred years of colonization. Shinnecock have resided on their traditional territory for over 10,000 years and will continue to do so into the future.

“What Jeremy Dennis is doing...is visionary and expressive of his virtue, resourcefulness, and courage. He is finding a way of using creative engagement to keep the line of his historic inheritance preserved, revitalized, and forward looking.”

~ Eric Fischl

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Documentary Short
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Languages: English

POSTER & STILL PHOTOS
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IG: [@mashousestudio](https://www.instagram.com/mashousestudio)
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EPISODE 7:



PILI KA MO'O

(Those Yet to Come)

By Justyn Ah Chong and Malia Akutagawa (Kanaka Maoli)

RUNNING TIME: 13:48

LOGLINE: A Native Hawaiian taro farming family is drawn into a logistically and emotionally complex quest to preserve their ancestral land.

SYNOPSIS: The Fukumitsu 'Ohana (family) of Hakipu'u are Native Hawaiian taro farmers and keepers of this generational practice. While much of O'ahu has become urbanized, Hakipu'u remains a kīpuka (oasis) of traditional knowledge where great chiefs once resided, and their bones still remain. The Fukumitsus are tossed into a world of complex real estate and judicial proceedings when nearby Kualoa Ranch, a large settler-owned corporation, destroys their familial burials to make way for continued development plans.

Pili Ka Mo'o was filmed on the Occupied Kingdom of Hawai'i.

LANGUAGE AND STYLE GUIDE:

Pili Ka Mo'o is pronounced Pee-Lee Kah MOH-oh

When writing the title, please make sure to use an 'okina in Mo'o.

If possible, please list Malia Akutagawa, Associate Producer along with the Director, Justyn Ah Chong. It is ok to list titles and names, or just names.

“A quote from the film lingers in my mind as a fellow Native Hawaiian: ‘To unearth our kupuna in the ground is like the final eviction.’ It is a reminder that the spiritual war featured in PILI KA MO'O clearly ties back to the Colonization of Hawai'i and the dark side of Capitalism.”

~ Ciara Lacy, Kanaka Maoli filmmaker & Activist

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WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: reciprocity.org

IG: [@jahchong](https://www.instagram.com/jahchong)

IG: [@maliahaaheo](https://www.instagram.com/maliahaaheo)

IG: [ReciprocityProj/](https://www.instagram.com/ReciprocityProj/)

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CALL TO ACTION

JOIN US in spreading the word about Season One of Reciprocity Project!

WATCH

All films in from the first season on Reciprocity Project can be watched on the Reciprocity Project website Project website (www.reciprocity.org) and on REI's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/rei>

SHARE & LEARN:

Share the films with your friends, and find learning materials, press kits, posters, stills, and much more at reciprocity.org

CONNECT WITH US:

We welcome all requests for additional information, including press kits for the individual films, film posters, film stills, and interviews with the producers or filmmakers.

Email us: Press@Reciprocity.org

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