WECKUWAPOK
(The Approaching Dawn)

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

Produced by: Taylor Hensel, Adam Mazo, Kavita Pillay, and Tracy Rector

Electronic Press Kit

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA
Website: reciprocity.org
IG: ReciprocityProj
TW: ReciprocityProj
FB: Reciprocity Project

PRESS CONTACT
press@reciprocity.org

PRESS KIT UPDATE:
09/16/22

TECH SPECS
Documentary Short
TRT: 12:54
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Color, HD
Languages: English & Passamaquoddy

POSTER & STILL PHOTOS

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SYNOPSIS

DETAILED 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.

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

TITLE STYLE GUIDE
Pronunciation: Weckuwapok [Wetch-guh-WAH-buhk]

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

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COLLECTIVE BIO:
Weckuwapok (The Approaching Dawn) was made by a collective of storytellers with a shared affinity for all beings and uplifting Indigenous voices. We are 8 people creating story together. We are Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Wolastoqey, Cherokee, Walla Walla / Northern Cheyenne, multicultural, and settler. Supporting us is a marvelous and diverse team including educators, program managers, advisers, editors, artists, and more who collectively make up the Reciprocity Project team.

Our names are (alphabetically): Jacob Bearchum, Taylor Hensel, Adam Mazo, Chris Newell, Roger Paul, Kavita Pillay, Tracy Rector, and Lauren Stevens.

DIRECTORS’ STATEMENT:
Just before the sun peeks over the horizon, weckuwapok – the approaching dawn – has magical power. We believe that moment is full of promise, possibility, and power: a gift about to be given. This is what we celebrate in our film: reverence for our awareness of dawn breaking and an opportunity for pomawsuwin – the standing bears – to reconnect with the energy that gives us all life. Wabanaki languages are manuals for sustainability if we take the time to listen and share. Gathered at Moneskatik for weckuwapok – the approaching dawn – we welcomed the day with stories and music wishing we could all be together, so this film is our gift to bring the magic to you.
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PRODUCTION NOTES

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

The film was produced as part of Season 1 of the Reciprocity Project - a collaborative multimedia platform and short film series made in partnership with Indigenous storytellers and their communities worldwide produced by Nia Tero and Upstander Project in association with REI Co-op Studios. Produced by Taylor Hensel, Adam Mazo, Kavita Pillay, and Tracy Rector.

ABOUT RECIPROCITY PROJECT

Facing a climate crisis, the Reciprocity Project embraces Indigenous value systems that have bolstered the Earth, which was in balance until the modern industrial age. This short film series and multimedia platform, made in partnership with Indigenous storytellers and their communities worldwide, invites learning from time-honored and current Indigenous ways of being. https://www.reciprocity.org/

ABOUT 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/

ABOUT UPSTANDER PROJECT

Upstander Project encourages decolonization and upstander behavior through compelling documentary films and learning resources. Their goals are to overcome indifference to social injustice, develop the skills of upstanders, and contribute to action-oriented campaigns in response to vital social issues. https://upstanderproject.org/

ABOUT REI

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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PRESS & ACCLAIM

“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

Weckuwapok (The Approaching Dawn) premiered at Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in February 2022 and subsequently screened at film festivals internationally, including: Skábmagovat Indigenous Peoples’ Film Festival, Cartagena International Film Festival, Seattle International Film Festival, Independent Film Festival Boston, Māoriland Film Festival, Martha’s Vineyard Film Festival, Northwest Folklife Festival, Māoriland Film Festival, and Indy Shorts International Film Festival, Presented by Heartland Film. The film will screen at imagineNATIVE Film and Media Festival in October of 2022.
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CREDITS

Weckuwapok (The Approaching Dawn)
A collaborative film by Jacob Bearchum, Taylor Hensel, Adam Mazo, Chris Newell, Roger Paul, Kavita Pillay, Tracy Rector, Lauren Stevens
Filmed at Moneskatik (Schoodic Point, Maine)
A Nia Tero and Upstander Project Production
In association with REI Co-op Studios

FEATURED: Chris Newell
Roger Paul
Lauren Stevens
With: Matt Dana II
Secretary Deb Haaland
Hawk Henries
Yo-Yo Ma
Lynn Mitchell
Wayne Newell
Rolfe Richter

FEATURED MUSICIANS & SONGS:
Hawk Henries, Flute
“Untitled Powwow Song”
Composed by Kenny Merrick Jr.
Arranged by Chris Newell
Performed by Chris Newell and Yo-Yo Ma

“Welcome Song”
Composed by Blanch Sockabasin
Vocals: Lauren Stevens
Drums: Matt Dana II, Lynn Mitchell,
Chris Newell
Cello: Yo-Yo Ma

“Summer in the High Grassland”
Composed by Zhao Jiping
Courtesy of Silkroad
Performed by Yo-Yo Ma

“Humbling Song”
Traditional
Translated by Deanna and Marten Francis
Performed by Lauren Stevens

CO-DIRECTORS:
Jacob Bearchum
Taylor Hensel
Adam Mazo
Chris Newell
Roger Paul
Kavita Pillay
Tracy Rector
Lauren Stevens

PRODUCER:
Adam Mazo

CO-PRODUCERS:
Taylor Hensel
Kavita Pillay
Tracy Rector

FIELD PRODUCERS:
Matt Perez-Mora
Ben Severance

DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY:
Jeff Griecci
Ben Severance

ADDITIONAL CAMERA:
Filipp Kotsishevskiy
Ben Pender-Cudlip
Jared Lank

SOUND RECORDIST:
Justin Lacroix

EDITORS:
Jacob Bearchum
Chi-Ho Lee

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT:
Riss Bickford

ON SET COVID SUPERVISOR:
Paul Froman

STILLS PHOTOGRAPHER:
Brianna Smith

TRANSLATION:
Cousin Charlie
Lynn Mitchell
Dwayne Tomah

COLOR:
Filipp Kotsishevskiy

CONTINUED
CREDITS CONTINUED

SOUND:
Peter Campbell

ADVISOR
Wayne Newell

SPECIAL THANKS
Acadia National Park,
David J. Goldstein, Office of
the Secretary of the Interior,
Daniel Lin,
National Park Service,
Schoodic Institute,
Sound Postings (Office of
Yo-Yo Ma), Sunlight Media
Collective, Timber & Frame

IN MEMORY OF
Wayne Newell

RECIPROCITY PROJECT PRODUCERS:
Taylor Hensel
Adam Mazo
Kavita Pillay
Tracy Rector

SERIES CO-DIRECTORS:
Taylor Hensel
Adam Mazo

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:
Tracy Rector

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS FOR REI CO-OP STUDIOS:
Hanna Boyd
Joe Crosby
Paolo Mottola

LEARNING CO-DIRECTORS:
Dina Gilio-Whitaker
Misfy Lesser

CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS:
Hindou Ibrahim
Yo-Yo Ma
Cristina Mittermeier

FIELD PRODUCTION COORDINATOR:
Kavita Pillay

PRODUCTION MANAGER:
Sauli Pillay

LEAD ASSISTANT EDITOR:
Jacob Bearchum

TECHNOLOGIST / SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT:
Ben Pender-Cudlip

ADMINISTRATION / PROGRAM SUPPORT SPECIALIST:
Chelsea Strelser

COLOR CORRECTION:
Heather Cassano

POST SOUND SERVICES:
Bad Animals

SOUND ENGINEER:
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David Gallander

PROMOTIONAL DESIGN & GRAPHICS:
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Joel Schomberg

SPANISH LANGUAGE TRANSLATION:
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Maria Angelica Ramirez

PRINT TRAFFIC MANAGER:
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ACCOUNTING:
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Jonathan Saceda
Susi Walsh

LEGAL:
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Justine Jacob
Sarah Robertson

WEBSITE:
TurnStyle Studio

Production and Clearance Counsel
by DORSEY & WHITNEY, LLP

Insurance Provided by
Interstate Fire & Casualty

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PRESS PHOTOS

Ben Severance and Filipp Kotsishevskiy (foreground); Riss Bickford (background)

Sipsis Peciptaq Elamoqessik (Passamaquoddy) photographing community members and invitees at the sunrise gathering. Photo by: Adam Mazo

(L to R) Flor Palmar, David Hernández Palmar, Duiren Wagua, Mabel Vanegas, Yelver Yesid Florez, Juan Pablo Nuñez, Jesús Acosta, Ernesto Acosta Cepeda

Lee Francis (Penobscot) and Roger Paul (Passamaquoddy) with Yo-Yo Ma. Photo by: Sipsis Peciptaq Elamoqessik

Jacob Bearchum
(CTUIR – Walla Walla)

Taylor Hensel
(Cherokee Nation)

Adam Mazo

Chris Newell
(Passamaquoddy)

Roger Paul
(Passamaquoddy)

Kavita Pillay

Tracy Rector

Lauren Stevens
(Passamaquoddy)

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