Ts’ísem Kw’as Tá:y

Raised by the Canoe

A film by Cathrine Paul



Decades after it first brought families together on the water, the Terry Lee Canoe Club of Sts’ailes (Chehalis) Nation is rising again, carried by a new generation of paddlers and the elders and knowledge keepers who guide them.

31
festival selections in 10 countries

WINNER
Best Indigenous Short
Regina International Film Festival & Awards (RIFFA)

WINNER
Best Documentary
Waterwalker Film Festival, Paddle Canada

Runtime 16.5 min **Genre** Documentary short **Country** Canada **Year** 2026

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

canoecultures

TERRY LEE CANOE CLUB

ABOUT THE FILM

From one generation to the next

The Terry Lee Canoe Club of Sts'ailes (Chehalis) Nation began decades ago as a family crew, built around a dugout canoe that drew relatives and friends together on the water. Its founders and early members left a history rich with culture and stories.

Today the club is in the middle of a powerful revival. Cathrine Paul and her husband, Devin, guide it forward with the support of many knowledge keepers. Devin has become a canoe builder, adding strip-canoe building, learned from Cathrine's father, a respected seventh-generation Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) carver and paddler, to the skills he has gathered over the years.

Staying connected to culture amid modern distractions is not easy. Canoe pullers train consistently, keep disciplined routines and learn to rely on one another until they paddle as one. The commitment is demanding, and the rewards are profound.

> **"From one generation to the next, the paddle never left our hands."**
>
> Cathrine Paul, director

THEN · FROM THE TERRY LEE FAMILY ARCHIVE







NOW · STILLS FROM THE FILM







DIRECTOR

Cathrine Paul

Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and Sts'ailes · First-time director



Cathrine Paul is a first-time filmmaker whose work is grounded in her family's canoe traditions. She has been in a canoe for as long as she can remember and began paddling at five, guided by teachings passed down through generations of paddlers.

With her husband, Devin Paul, she co-manages the Terry Lee Canoe Club in his traditional territory of Sts'ailes (Chehalis), a revival of a club that once thrived in the community. Supported by elders and knowledge keepers, they mentor the next generation of paddlers.

Raised by the Canoe is her directorial debut. Through it she honours her ancestors, celebrates community resilience, and invites others to reconnect with their roots through paddling.

ORIGINAL MUSIC

Sts'ailes drum and song

The original music comes from Sts'ailes itself. Keegan Charlie and Kelsey Charlie Sr. both drum and sing, carrying songs of the same territory, river and families the film follows. This is music of place, made by the people whose story is being told. Recorded by Evan Ashley Smith at The Back End Recording.



Keegan Charlie · Sts'ailes



Kelsey Charlie Sr. · Sts'ailes

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

31 festivals, 10 countries

WINNER · BEST INDIGENOUS SHORT

Regina International Film Festival & Awards (RIFFA)

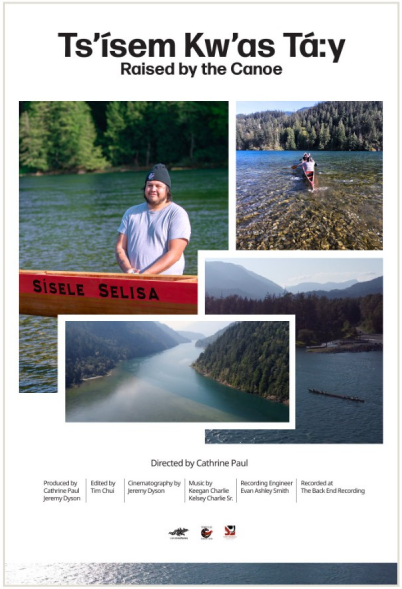
Regina, Saskatchewan · August 2026

WINNER · BEST DOCUMENTARY

Waterwalker Film Festival

Presented by Paddle Canada · November 2026

Vancouver premiere at the Vancouver Maritime Museum on National Indigenous Peoples Day, June 21, 2026. Festival run opened at the Dawson City International Short Film Festival, April 2026.



OFFICIAL SELECTIONS · 2026

Apr 3	Dawson City International Short Film Festival · Canada
Apr 14	Bridge of Peace · France
Jun 3	imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival · Canada
Jun 6	Ācimowin Film Festival · Canada
Jun 18	International Sport Film Festival Slovenia · Slovenia
Jul 17	Anatolia International Film Festival · Türkiye
Aug 4	Festival international Présence autochtone · Canada
Aug 14	**RIFFA: Best Indigenous Short** · Canada
Aug 14	The Pathways Indigenous Arts Festival · USA
Aug 15	Emberlight International Film Festival · USA
Sep 4	Huntington Beach Cultural Film Festival · USA
Sep 6	Roshani International Film Festival · India
Sep 11	Navajo Nation Film Festival · USA
Sep 15	Asinabka Film & Media Arts Festival · Canada
Sep 17	Crossings Film Festival · Norway
Sep 21	BIPOC Film Fest · Canada
Sep 22	Ateljee Film Festival · South Africa
Sep 23	NatiVisions Film Festival · USA
Sep 25	Forks Film Festival · Canada
Oct 9	Miccosukee Indigenous Film Festival · USA
Oct 12	Native Spirit Film Festival · UK
Oct 15	Okanagan International Film Festival · Canada
Oct 15	Fresh Coast Film Festival · USA
Oct 21	Chilliwack Independent Film Festival · Canada
Oct 21	Bakunawa Fest · Philippines
Oct 22	Hobnobben Film Festival · USA
Oct 23	New Westminster International Film Festival · Canada
Oct 23	Rocket City Short Film Festival · USA
Nov 1	**Waterwalker Film Festival: Best Documentary** · Canada
Nov 14	Mentone CA International Film Festival · USA
Nov 27	Sault Film Festival · Canada



KEY SUPPORTER

Canoe Cultures is an Indigenous-led organization in Vancouver, on the homelands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples. Through canoe tours, carving, school programs, festivals and documentary film, it shares the living culture of the canoe. *Raised by the Canoe* was made with its support.

ALSO FROM CANOE CULTURES

Canoe Connections

Reeva Billy's directorial debut traces First Nations canoe racing from the late residential school era to today. Played more than a dozen festivals; audience award, Fist Up Film Festival.

Learning, Knowing & Sharing: The Journey of Kikya

Sḵwx̱wú7mesh carver Mike Billy Sr. builds a dugout canoe with his son and nephews. Best Documentary, Black Rock City Film Festival.

Canoe Stories with Mike Billy Sr.

A seven-part podcast series of canoe stories from many guests, funded by TELUS STORYHIVE for TELUS TV and YouTube.

Terry Lee Canoe Club · Sts'ailes (Chehalis). *Raised by the Canoe* is the club's own story, told by its members through the thoughtful direction of Cathrine Paul, who now co-leads the club with her husband, Devin Paul.

CREDITS

Directed by Cathrine Paul	Produced by Cathrine Paul Jeremy Dyson	Cinematography Jeremy Dyson	Edited by Tim Chui
Music by Keegan Charlie Kelsey Charlie Sr.	Recording engineer Evan Ashley Smith	Recorded at The Back End Recording	Running time 16.5 min · Canada · 2026

Press & screening enquiries

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Screener link and hi-res stills on request