OFFICIAL SELECTION
ANNECY 2023
COMPETITION
A FILM BY ÁRON GAUDER
FOUR SOULS OF
COYOTE
PRESSKIT

"When the Last Tree is Cut Down, the Last Fish eaten, and the Last Stream Poisoned, You Will Realize That You Cannot Eat Money"

old Indian prophecy

a film by the Annecy Cristal Winner ÁRON GAUDER

Cristal Winner
ANNECY

a Cinemon Entertainment Production

CONTENTS

The Film 3

Characters 4

Director's Concept 5

Creators 6

About Cinemon Entertainment 7

Technical Information 8

Cast 9

Find out more 10

THE FILM

animated feature film, 105'

„Nothing is eternal but the Earth and the mountains"

SUMMARY

Directed by accomplished animation director Áron Gauder (Annecy Cristal Award), Four Souls of Coyote is billed as an epic adventure tale of the Native American creation myth. Through a unique re-telling of the creation of the universe, the film highlights the increasingly pressing need to live in harmony with the environment, before it is too late.

LOGLINE

Set in the present day, Native American teenagers confront the crew of an oil pipeline project, just down the hill from the land of their ancestors. The grandfather evokes the ancient tale of their Creation myth, reminding all of us that the challenges facing humanity are universal, and that we need to find our place in the great circle of creatures.

STORY

We are slowly destroying Earth because we humans think we are special. Native populations have always known that we are just a small part of creation. The story is about our shared responsibility for each other and Earth.

Through adventures filled with animals, magic, hunger, greed and the sacred circle of all creations, the story gives us hope that it is not too late to correct course. It is the last minute to save us on Earth.

The rich culture of the Native American people has remained largely unexplored in the world of film and animation, and most films are not based on the authentic cultural heritage of the people. Their culture itself is very close to nature and all living creatures; their morals and wisdom are similar to modern environmental and green movements. Our film wants to bring this rich, magical and powerful knowledge to screens in a new and fresh way.

CHARACTERS

The Old Man Creator, is the one who has the gift of dreaming. He starts to form the material world with a handful of mud. He wants beauty and harmony. His only weakness is that he cannot control his anger and rage, so he unwillingly creates the Coyote, the trouble maker.

Coyote, is the ultimate trickster, the master of trouble-making. He is the one who was not created but appeared in the creator's dream. He is driven by his desires and begins to create life himself. A conflict with the Old Man Creator is inevitable.

Hoksila, the first man on earth debuts as a newborn baby, he discovers the world step by step with the first girl. He grows and makes mistakes under the influence of the coyote but in the end he finds his place in the council of living things.

Whichincala, the first woman starts as a new born baby, she is always on the boy's side, but is more cautious as she is the clever one of the pair. She is less attracted by blood and flesh and is more inclined to follow the rules of the creator.

The Duck, the first living being on the Great Water.

Tatanka, the largest, most majestic creature on the prairie,the symbol of strength, beauty.

The Lightning, who was created out of rage by the Old Man Creator.

DIRECTOR'S CONCEPT

I would like to present the wisdom of a bygone world. In several cases the perspective of the so-called primitive folks is much more modern than "more advanced" Western thinking. Global warming and the rapid destruction of the environment cause common problems. Thousands of documentaries are being produced about this theme, and a great number of scientists have proven the very facts Native Americans have been talking about for centuries.

This film honours the wisdom of a humiliated and crushed nation. Four Souls of Coyote is an alternative and more modest creation myth, in which the human being is neither the top creature of nature nor the king of the world, but only one of all the creatures. Surprisingly, these archaic myths depict the interrelations of the world quite similarly to modern scientific results. The former represents the only alternative to a capitalist society.

With the help of the animation, I would like to tell this story in an adventurous way in order to point out that we should live an environmentally more responsible life and that we should respect Mother Nature. The film goes back to the creation of the world, when Old Man and Coyote created life from mud. His every creation is new and unknown and affects the rest of the world. Desire and emotions are unknown, and with their evolution, the world becomes more complicated.

"As long as the grass grows", the Native Americans once said, and they meant eternity. They did not know it might be endangered in the future. Earth has tolerated everything so far but its strength is reducing quickly. We can only save it together.

CREATORS

DIRECTOR AND WRITER, ÁRON GAUDER

graduated from Moholy-Nagy University, Budapest and the Universität der Künste, Berlin. Áron is a director and scriptwriter, has won numerous awards including the Cristal Award of Annecy International Animated Film Festival with his feature length animated film The District!. He also directs documentaries and is an Associate Professor at Metropolitan University.

EXCUTIVE PRODUCER, RÉKA TEMPLE

has over 25 years of experience in the film and television industry and has contributed to numerous international co-productions, earning over 100 awards and nominations worldwide. She has been the Secretary General of the Hungarian Producer's Association, headed the Animation Department at the Institute of Theatre and Film. She is the President of the Hungarian Animation Producers' Association and represents the country as the Ambassador at the European Animation Awards.

ABOUT CINEMON ENTERTAINMENT

A multi-award-winning animation studio that has been using big company know-how with a personal touch for more than 25 years. Cinemon has contributed in the production of more than 25,000 minutes of animated projects, including 9 feature films and hundreds of TV series' episodes in association with the biggest studios and broadcasters in Europe, Canada and the USA.

http://www.cinemon.hu

TECHNICAL INFORMATIONS

LENGTH: 105'

TARGET: 9-99

GENRE: feature animation, adventure

SHOOTING FORMAT: 2D & 3D animation

AUDIO FORMAT: 5.1 / stereo

LANGUAGE: English

CAST (ENG)

Lorne Cardial - Creator / Grandpa

Diontae Black - Coyote

Danny Kramer - Hoksila (16–50 years old) / Sanders

Stephanie Novak - Wichincala (16–50 years old)

Priscilla Landham - Mataoka

David Mattle - Hoksila (2–9 years old)

Lily Rose Silver - Wichincala (2–9 years old)

Bill Farmer - Duck / Racoon

Cle Bennett - Buffalo / Commander / Wolf

Bob Klein - Eagle / Chancellor / CEO

John Bentley - Lightning / Mountain Lion / Grandson

Fred Tatasciore - Bear / Captain / Lawyer / Antelope / Opossum

Karin Anglin - Gloria

FIND OUT MORE

Film's official website:
http://www.4soulsofcoyote.com

Cinemon Entertainment:
https://www.cinemon.hu/

National Film Institute Hungary:
https://nfi.hu/en

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