



PRESS KIT

# Sweetgrass Rings

Written & Directed by Hector Jenkins

Canada, 2025  
English, 14 minutes  
Digital, Colour, 5:3  
Stereo

Producer: Devki Patel  
780-742-1207 ; [devkipatel.film@gmail.com](mailto:devkipatel.film@gmail.com)  
[www.devkipatel.com](http://www.devkipatel.com)

# Land Acknowledgment

We recognize that Milton and Toronto are situated on the stolen land of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, and Mississaugas of the Credit nations.

This film was filmed in Milton, ON, a part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

We recognize that Milton is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people.

This film was produced in Toronto, ON, covered by Treaty 13 in the “Dish With One Spoon Territory.”

We recognize that Toronto is the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples.

We also acknowledge the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people who live on these lands today.

Our settler crew and cast members stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.

We commit to telling stories that reflect their resilience against colonialism and sovereignty over their traditional territories.

We appreciate and care for this land.





## Story

On the day of her wedding, a young Ojibwe woman contemplates the consequences of her decision to marry a non-Indigenous man as she prepares for their impending nuptials.

# Director's Statement

*Sweetgrass Rings* tells the story of an Indigenous woman forced to choose between love and her status. This situation for me and my family isn't just a story, it's the reality of multiple generations. My grandmother, a survivor of Indian Day School, married a non-Indigenous man and did not regain status in her lifetime. The goal of this film is to show the resilience of Native communities against sexist and racist colonial marriage laws.

When I think about this film, it is not about the tragedy or pain that the law inflicts on our main character Josie; instead, it is about her resilience and dedication to maintaining her connection to Ojibwe culture despite the obstacles put in her way.

**This film is a testament to the resilience of all Indigenous people and a reminder that we were Anishinaabe long before the term Indian ever existed; no law, loss, or government can take that away from us.**

- Writer/Director, Hector Jenkins





## Producer's Statement

*Sweetgrass Rings* reflects on a common feeling in intercultural relationships - the fear of loss. I was immediately drawn to Hector's script because of its authentic portrayal of this feeling.

Told through a much-needed perspective, I was touched by the film's ability to be so rich in its cultural roots, while also resonating with a wider audience. In every relationship, there is a push and pull of what we think we want and what we need. As a BIPOC individual myself, I understand the fear of losing cultural identity in intercultural relationships and future lineage.

This film's script was the first time I felt this experience of cultural loss, and the particular feelings that accompany it, written out on paper, immediately drawing me in to the narrative. Josie's story is not an uncommon experience - it has been happening for decades.

***Sweetgrass Rings* is a story that is timeless, stretching across many generations and cultures. I am incredibly proud to support this project and the voices it shares.**

- Producer, Devki Patel

# Bios

**Hector Jenkins** is an Anishinaabe filmmaker and off-reserve band member of Beausoleil First Nation, currently living in Tkaronto. Hector has been helping to create films since he was 17. He starred in the LGBTQ+ cult classic *How to Fix Radios* (2020), writing and composing several songs for the film's score. During his time at York University for a BFA Honours in Film Production, he continued to hone his artistic skills as a writer, director, cinematographer, and composer, working to create films that speak to his experiences and heritage. *Sweetgrass Rings* is his narrative directorial debut and he is incredibly excited to share it with the world.

**Devki Patel** is a filmmaker from Fort McMurray, Alberta, now based in Toronto and NYC. She holds a BFA Honours in Film Production and Psychology from York University. Devki's films focus on intimate relationships that reflect universal themes; she believes that at the heart of storytelling is the ability to create positive change, aiming to achieve this in her creative work. Devki is also the Industry Series Producer at the Future of Film Showcase, delivering distinctive industry programming that fosters opportunities and networking for emerging filmmakers, with an emphasis on uplifting underrepresented communities.



# Key Creatives

**Writer & Director**

Hector Jenkins

**Producer & Director of Photography**

Devki Patel

**Production Designer**

Lily Lowe

**Editor**

Gaeun Lee

**Sound Designer**

Blake Elvin

# Cast

**Josie**

Tatyana Rose Baptiste

**Lorraine**

Lisa Cromarty

**Grandpa Roger**

Guy Monague

**Will**

Liam Bell

**Amy**

Debbie Kilfoyle

# Contact Information

## PRODUCTION

### **Devki Patel**

devkipatel.film@gmail.com

+1 780 742 1207

### **Hector Jenkins**

muqwa9@gmail.com

+1 613 483 6897

### **General Inquiries**

sweetgrassrings@gmail.com

## CAST

### **Tatyana Rose Baptiste**

Agent: Dani De Lio

danidelio@creativedrivedartists.com

### **Lisa Cromarty**

Agent: Janine Oloman

46thparallelmanagement@gmail.com

### **Liam Bell**

Agent: Carolyn Nikkanen

carolynsonline.com

### **Debbie Kilfoyle**

debbie.kilfoyle@gmail.com

## INSTAGRAM

@sweetgrassrings