

Press release - October 2014

Greenland's revolution started with a rock band

The first international feature documentary film from Greenland deals with the nation's uprising after 250 years of colonial suppression. And the rock band that made it happen.

SUMÉ - THE SOUND OF A REVOLUTION is nominated for Best Documentary and Best Indigenous Language Film at the 15th annual imagineNATIVE Film and Media Arts Festival. Its director Inuk Silis Høegh is nominated for Best Emerging Artist. The film be screened Sunday, October 26 11:00 am at TIFF Bell Lightbox in downtown Toronto.

It's a revolution you've probably never heard of. Not a shot was fired, not a single drop of blood spilled. But in the span of just a few years in the 1970's the hearts and minds of the entire Greenlandic people were turned upside down.

The sound of Greenland's first rock band singing in their native tongue woke people up. SUMÉ's lyrics introduced words like "oppression" and "revolution" to the Greenlandic language, and inspired the political figures of the time to take Greenland's policies out of the hands of Danish politicians.

Now, 40 years later, the first international feature documentary film to be produced in Greenland chronicles the uprising of the 1970's and Sumé's impact on Greenlandic history. Through present day interviews and unique archival footage the film brings to life a story of an indigenous people's fight for their own voice and cultural identity. A story which is becoming increasingly more relevant today, as Greenland debates full independence from Denmark, while international corporation push to exploit the arctic nation's national resources.

Says director Inuk Silis Høegh: "I was born in 1972 and grew up listening to SUMÉ's songs, and my parents stories about how SUMÉ's music changed the way they saw themselves as Greenlanders. The film is our way of trying to feel the struggles of our parents' generation. And to understand a pivotal time in modern Greenlandic history which shaped the way our society works today."

Since its release on September 12th SUMÉ - THE SOUND OF A REVOLUTION has been seen by nearly 20% of Greenland's population. Many say that a new time of revolution is upon us.

Original title: SUME - MUMISITSINERUP NIPAA

Director: Inuk Silis Høegh

Creative Producer: Emile Hertling Péronard

Produced by: Anorak Film in co-production with Bullitt Film and Jabfilm

Country / Year: Greenland, Denmark, Norway / 2014

Language: Greenlandic, Danish with English subtitles

Running time: 73 mins.