



Critically Acclaimed Director Brings Film to Huron for Special Screening

London, ON - On the heels of the Vancouver International Film Festival, director, producer Alex Williams brings his new documentary 'The Pass System' to Huron University College on Monday, January 25th at 7:00 pm. The screening, followed by a Q&A with the director, is in advance of the film's Toronto premiere at the TIFF Bell Lightbox in February. The entire community is welcome to enjoy this powerful film, free of charge, in Room V214 on Huron campus.

Thanks to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission, Canadians are becoming increasingly aware of residential schools and their impact on First Nations people. A new documentary explores a lesser known dark chapter in Canadian history which affected Indigenous communities of Western Canada for over sixty years. 'The Pass System' unveils the government of Canada's method of restricting the movement of First Nations people. Without a pass, issued by the Indian Agent, First Nations people could not leave the reserve - for any reason. "It was segregation," said Williams. "Reserves were open-air prisons."

Williams spent five years researching, investigating and documenting this piece of Canadian history. "It helped me to understand society better," he said. "It made me understand the divisions in society and the healing that needs to happen."

"Huron University College has a long history in southwestern Ontario, particularly among and within nearby Indigenous communities," said Dr. Tom Peace, assistant professor of Canadian History at HUC, and member of the group that is responsible for this screening. "As the community at Huron – and Western more generally – reflects upon the meaning of 'truth and reconciliation' for our campus community, it is important that we bring in outside voices and perspectives, like those in Alex's film, that help foster this discussion."

The film, which critics call 'passionate', 'thought-invoking' and 'essential to view', is narrated by Gemini award winning actress Tantoo Cardinal ('North of 60', 'Dances With Wolves') and runs just shy of an hour telling first-hand stories of the pass system's effect on First Nations families.

Huron University College welcomes Alex Williams to campus with 'The Pass System' on Monday, January 25th at 7:00 pm in Room V214, HUC Campus, 1349 Western Road, London. Admission is free.

Directed and produced by Alex Williams
Narrated by Tantoo Cardinal.
Music by Aboriginal cellist and composer Cris Derksen
Edited by Igan Hecht.
Executive producer James Cullingham

The Pass System was produced in association with Tamarack Productions and graciously supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, The Ontario Arts Council and the Toronto Arts Council.