

**Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto
and
imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival
2012 MENTORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT**

Toronto, February 9, 2012—imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival and the Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT) are pleased to announce that Vancouver raised, Toronto based Métis artist **Tyler Hagan** is the recipient of the 8th annual LIFT/imagineNATIVE Mentorship. This annual mentorship was developed to offer an Indigenous artist the opportunity to expand their practice into the realm of film. Tyler will be enrolled in LIFT’s seasonal workshops, be paired with a suitable mentor, be provided with access to LIFT’s production and post-production equipment, and receive additional financial and resource support from imagineNATIVE and mentorship partners, Kodak (www.kodak.ca) and Technicolor (www.technicolor.com), to complete a film for premiere at the 2012 festival.

“LIFT is pleased to be working with Tyler on a film for imagineNATIVE 2012,” says Ben Donoghue, LIFT’s Executive Director. “With presentation as a single-channel work and potential as a 16mm installation, Tyler’s proposed project illustrates the range of possibilities the film medium provides to contemporary artists. All of us at LIFT are looking forward to working with him to realize his vision.”

Daniel Northway-Frank, imagineNATIVE’s Programming and Industry Manager adds, “With an enthusiasm for exploring the medium and an aesthetically investigative treatment of his subject, the Selection Committee recognized that, with Tyler’s educational background and active arts practice, this mentorship would be an important step in expanding his understanding and application of 16mm film to further his creative potential.”

Selected mentee, Tyler Hagan, had this to say about this year’s mentorship:

“Receiving this mentorship with LIFT is exciting because now I have an incredible opportunity to experiment with film in ways that I otherwise wouldn’t be able to. This is vital to the artistic practice because it’s really where you find things, rather than sitting in front of a blank page trying to conceptualize a project. Getting your hands dirty—process—is the lifeblood of any artist.”

Previous year’s mentees include interdisciplinary artist Susan Blight (*Waabooyaan*), actor and choreographer Michael Greyeyes (*Seven Seconds*), visual artist and filmmaker Amanda Strong (*Honey for Sale*), Dora and Juno Award nominee Jani Lauzon (*eu•tha•na•sia*), and actor and filmmaker Michelle Latimer (*Tomorrow*), who recently received a 2012 Genie nomination for best animated short film, *Choke*. Tyler Hagan will premiere his new short at the 13th annual imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, October 17-21, 2012.

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On behalf of the Selection Committee, thank you to all of this year’s incredible applicants! To find out more about this annual mentorship, and other artistic opportunities available through imagineNATIVE, please contact programming@imagineNATIVE.org