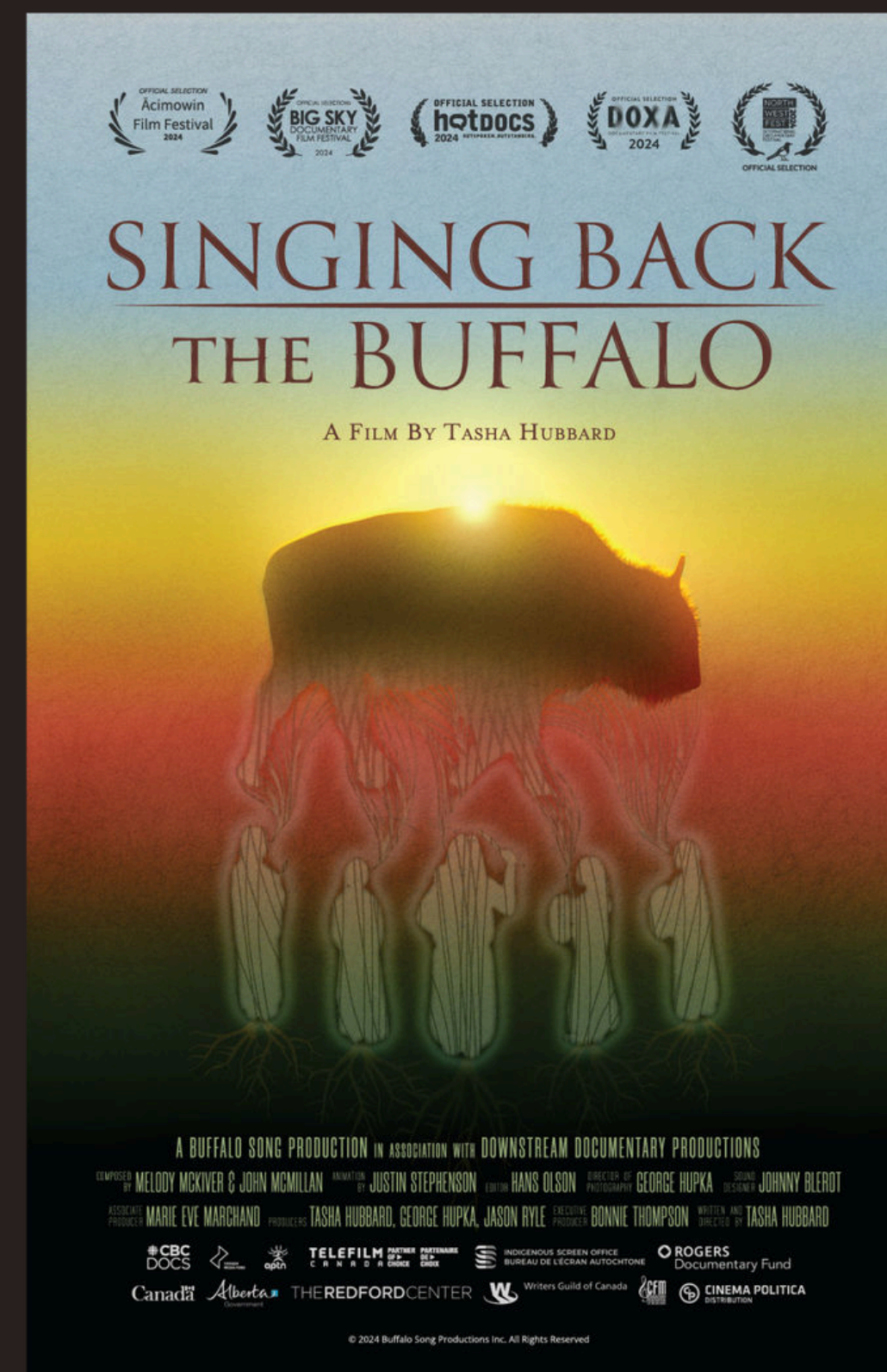


The background of the image is a close-up, high-resolution shot of a buffalo's fur. The fur is dark brown to black, with individual hairs clearly visible, creating a dense, swirling, and textured pattern. The lighting is slightly uneven, with some areas appearing darker than others, emphasizing the tactile quality of the fur.

SINGING BACK THE BUFFALO

PRESS KIT

Richly visualised and deeply uplifting, SINGING BACK THE BUFFALO is an epic reimagining of North America through the lens of buffalo consciousness and a potent dream of what is within our grasp.



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Synopsis

In a time of immense environmental degradation and global uncertainty, the buffalo can lead us to a better tomorrow.

After a dark recent history, the buffalo herds of North America are awaiting their return, aided by dedicated Indigenous activists, leaders and communities, including award-winning Cree filmmaker Tasha Hubbard (*nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up*). Together with Blackfoot Elder Leroy Little Bear, Hubbard weaves an intimate story of humanity's connections to buffalo and eloquently reveals how their return to the Great Plains can indeed usher in a new era of sustainability and balance.

On her journey, Hubbard explores the challenges faced by buffalo allies and shares the positive steps already taken towards the ultimate – but uncertain – goal of buffalo rematriation. Richly visualised and deeply uplifting, **SINGING BACK THE BUFFALO** is an epic reimagining of North America through the lens of buffalo consciousness and a potent dream of what is within our grasp.





Audience Responses:

“SO MAGNIFICENT!”

“MY MOST
ANTICIPATED MOVIE
OF THE YEAR”

“GORGEOUS!”





DR. TASHA HUBBARD

Director & Producer

Cree filmmaker and an associate professor in the Faculty of Native Studies and the Department of English and Film at the University of Alberta. Tasha is from Peepeekisis First Nation in Treaty Four Territory and has ties to Thunderchild First Nation in Treaty Six Territory. She is also the mother of a seventeen-year-old son. She researches and champions Indigenous efforts to restore the buffalo, has been a supporter of the Buffalo Treaty since 2015, and is a founding board member of the International Buffalo Relations Institute.

Her films *Two Worlds Colliding*, *Birth of a Family* and *nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up* have screened around the world and won numerous awards, including the Canadian Screen Award for Best Feature Documentary in 2020. Her work has led to recognition from the Directors Guild of Canada, who awarded her with the Discovery Award in 2019. Her latest feature documentary is called *Singing Back the Buffalo*.

Director's Statement

Feel the vibrations from the millions of hooves, see the immense clouds of dust in the air on your skin, witness the Buffalo move through their territory. This is being dreamed about by Indigenous peoples across North America. **Our relative, the buffalo, deserves an epic. *Singing Back the Buffalo* combines my academic work with my search to tell compelling Indigenous stories in a visual and connective way.**

It follows **key themes: Buffalo Kinship, Genocide, Confinement, Women and Buffalo, and finally, Return, or Rematriating, the Buffalo to the lands.** These form the framework for what I wished to be a layered and interwoven film. I wanted to tell both the history of Buffalo and Indigenous people from our perspective, as well as the future vision we have for our collective return to living in balance with the land.

DR. TASHA HUBBARD
Director & Producer



PLAYBACK

Cameras roll on Tasha Hubbard's Singing Back the Buffalo

BY VICTORIA AHEARN

June 21, 2022



Hubbard says the feature doc, which looks at the "rematriating" of buffalo and is bound for CBC, APTN and a festival launch, is her most ambitious project yet.

In the News

Learn more about previous press features in our website



'SINGING BACK THE BUFFALO' Film Will Premiere Next Month

The film will have its Western Canadian premiere at the 2024 DOXA Documentary Film Festival

By: Stephi Wild Apr. 04, 2024



Buffalo are our relatives and teachers, new documentary film explores

MOVIES

TORONTO STAR

Hot Docs returns: Our critic picks the 10 best documentaries showing at the embattled 2024 festival

10. Singing Back the Buffalo



BONNIE THOMPSON

Executive Producer

Bonnie is a veteran and independent Canadian media producer of documentary, animation, and interactive projects. She worked as a producer with the National Film Board of Canada for many years, and now works independently. Her productions have been screened by national and international broadcasters and streamers (CBC, The Doc Channel, SuperChannel, APTN, PBS, NHK, Netflix, Apple), in festivals around the world (TIFF, Hot Docs, IDFA, Berlin, Sundance, Annecy) and on the web, with numerous awards and nominations, including Canadian Screen nominations and awards, an Oscar and Emmy nomination, and Webby awards.



JASON RYLE

Producer

Programmer, curator, story editor, and arts consultant based in Toronto. Through his mother, he is Anishinaabe and a member of Lake St. Martin First Nation, Manitoba. He was the Executive Director of imagineNATIVE from 2010 to 2020. Jason has produced the docuseries AMPLIFY for APTN and several award-winning shorts. In 2021, Jason received the Clyde Gilmour Award from the Toronto Film Critics Association. Jason is also the International Programmer, Indigenous Cinema for TIFF.



GEORGE HUPKA

Director of Photography, Producer

George has worked with Tasha for 25+ years. They formed Downstream Documentary Productions to make Nîpawistamâsowin, and continue to bring Indigenous stories to the screen. As a cinematographer, Hupka has shot projects around the world for the UK's Windfall Films, documentaries for the National Film Board, and many award-winning projects for CBC, CTV, and TSN. He directed and produced Obmin, a documentary about the Soviet Union before the fall of the Berlin Wall as seen through the eyes of Canadian exchange students, and was the producer and DP of the Rogers series On the Edge.



JADE TOOTOOSIS

Lead Impact Producer

Nehiyaw (Plains Cree) from the Red Pheasant Cree Nation in Treaty 6 Territory and is also a member of the Rocky Boy Chippewa Cree Nation in Montana. She has worked extensively in the areas of education, Indigenous justice advocacy and community relations. She is passionate about amplifying the voices & knowledge of Indigenous peoples and nations for generational healing, safety and growth. Jade is the Public Relations Director for the International Buffalo Relations Institute and the lead impact producer at Singing Back the Buffalo.



HANS OLSON

Editor

Hans Olson edited two of Tasha Hubbard's previous documentaries – nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up (2020 Canadian Screen Award for Best Feature Documentary) and Birth of a Family. Other recent editing work includes Arab Women Say What?! by Nisreen Baker and Kímmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy by Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers. Hans studied screenwriting at Langara College and is an alumnus of the Canadian Film Centre and Berlinale Talents.



MARIE-EVE MARCHAND

Associate Producer - Production Manager

Executive Director of the International Buffalo Relations Institute supporting the implementation of the Buffalo Treaty with over forty indigenous communities in the Great Plains of North America and she is Business Manager and Strategy for the UICN WCPA Beyond the Aichi Task Force working globally on setting global goals for people, nature and climate. She successfully coordinated the movement to bring the plains bison back to Banff National Park and received the Golden Leaf National Award for her conservation work in Quebec.

Find media assets, video clips and more press materials in our website

Singing Back the Buffalo is produced in association with CBC and APTN and produced with the participation of the Canada Media Fund, the Indigenous Screen Office and Telefilm Canada, with the assistance of the Government of Alberta, the participation of the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit, and Rogers Documentary Fund.
Fiscal sponsorship provided by Redford Center.

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