

## **UCSD to present "Clearcut," a Canadian film about a native American response to the destruction of the forests, Feb.12**

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UCSD TO PRESENT "CLEARCUT," A CANADIAN FILM ABOUT

A NATIVE AMERICAN RESPONSE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FORESTS

Polish filmmaker Richard Bugajski, who emigrated to Canada in the mid-'eighties for artistic freedom, has told a cinematic story about Native American response to the destruction of the land and environment. The film, "Clearcut," based on the book by M.T. Kelley, "A Dream Like Mine," will be screened at 8 p.m., Feb. 12, in the UCSD Mandeville Auditorium.

Tickets are \$5.50 for general admission and \$4.00 for students, and may be purchased at the UCSD Price Center Box Office.

"Clearcut" takes place in the northern Canadian forest. A logging company, Canadian Shield, is clearcutting the pristine wilderness, taking hardwood and softwood alike, and not replanting the forest. The tracks of the clearcutter leave huge swaths of bare ground behind it, with only stubs of trees showing above the earth.

Into this wilderness steps Peter (Ron Lea), a city lawyer who tries to protect native Indian land through the courts, but loses a claims case. Peter runs into Arthur (Graham Green of "Dances With Wolves" and "Thunderheart"), whose rage over the abuse of the land has conjured up a powerful spirit, which overtakes his form.

Greene says, "Arthur comes from the waters of the earth. He's a trickster spirit that has taken human form...In this story the trickster spilled blood on the earth, and once a trickster starts doing something, he'll keep on and on...and he has to be stopped."

The spirit in the form of Arthur kidnaps the logging company manager Bud (actor Michael Hogan), to teach him a lesson about the earth, and forces Peter and the manager deep into the woods as his captives. Peter tries to rescue Bud, who bears the brunt of Arthur's rage. The mill manager doesn't get Arthur's message about preserving the wilderness. He feels that he is providing a necessary product, and local jobs. Arthur then vents his rage on Bud.

This story has scenes of brutality, which director Bugajski says are not contrived. Unhappy with Canadian film critics, Bugajski's response was, "...all sensationalized the (few brief scenes) violence as if the story was about nothing else."

Actor and Native American activist Floyd Red Crow Westerman, who plays the role of "Wilf," the elder chief, offered his view on film violence: "Violence in movies is prevalent. The movie industry really capitalizes on the violence. Yet, when a movie like 'Clearcut' comes out with Indians, and there's violence, people relate violence to the 'savage' nature. But violence is a reality. In 'Clearcut,' a kind of anger comes out as a reaction to what is

happening to the land. That is a necessary thing, to show how Indians feel about defending their land against industries who come and take these resources in a ruthless manner."

This film will screen the day after the staging of the American Indian Dance Theatre, at UCSD. For more information call 534-4090. Parking permits are required on the UCSD campus and may be purchased at the Gilman Drive and Northview Drive information pavilions.

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