

Christine Welsh.

Christine Welsh is the Writer and producer of *Finding Dawn* (NFB, 2006). This film is a compelling documentary that puts a human face on a national tragedy: the murders and disappearances of an estimated 840 Aboriginal women in Canada over the past 30 years. *Finding Dawn* is being shown in conjunction with the *Walking With Our Sisters* project as it tours Canada and the USA. *Walking With Our Sisters* is an installation art project of 1,700 pairs of moccasin tops or “vamps” commemorating and representing an estimated 824 Aboriginal women and girls who have been murdered or gone missing in Canada since 1961. This film is a journey into the dark heart of Native women's experience in Canada. From Vancouver's Skid Row to the Highway of Tears in northern British Columbia, to Saskatoon, this film honours those who have passed and uncovers reasons for hope. *Finding Dawn* illustrates the deep historical, social and economic factors that contribute to the epidemic of violence against Native women in this country.

Christine Welsh is a Métis from Saskatchewan. She has worked in film for over two decades. Her early work included editing documentaries and educational films for agencies like TV Ontario and the NFB as well as for independent producers. She has lectured and taught extensively, and published several articles on the historical and contemporary experiences of Métis women. She joined the University of Victoria Women's Studies as an Associate Professor in 1996.



Documentary filmmaker Christine Welsh is the great-grand daughter of Norbert Welsh and her great-great-great-grandmother was Margaret Taylor (b. 1805). Margaret Taylor was the Métisse wife of Sir George Simpson. After bearing him two sons, she was abandoned by Simpson when he married his English cousin. Margaret then married a French Canadian voyageur, Amable Hogue. Welsh's great grandparents were among the first Métis families to settle on the flats beside Mission Lake near the present day town of Lebret, Saskatchewan.

Welsh graduated from University of Regina, with a B.A. in 1986. She has produced, written and directed films for more than 30 years. Welsh's film credits include the 2006 National Film Board of Canada documentary *Finding Dawn*, about murdered and missing Canadian Aboriginal women. This film won a Gold Audience Award at the 2006 amnesty

International Film Festival. She currently teaches courses in Indigenous women's studies and Indigenous cinema.

Selected Filmography

- *Finding Dawn*, (2006) Ericksen, Svend-Erik (Producer). [Documentary]. Canada. The National Film Board of Canada.
- *The Story of the Coast Salish Knitters*, (2000) Darling Kovanik, G. & Welsh, C. (Producers). [Documentary]. Canada. Prairie Girl Films and the National Film Board of Canada.
- *Kuper Island: Return to the Healing Circle*, (1997) Campbell, Peter C & Welsh, C (Producers). Campbell, Peter C & Welsh, C (Directors). [Documentary]. Canada. Gumboot Productions.
- *Keepers of the Fire*, (1994) Herring, I., Johansson, S., Macdonald, J. & Welsh, C. (Producers). [Documentary]. Canada. Omni Film Productions and the National Film Board of Canada.
- *Women in the Shadows*, (1991) Johansson, S. & Welsh, C. (Producers). Bailey, N. (Director). [Documentary]. Canada. Direction Films and the National Film Board of Canada.

Selected Publications

Welsh, Christine. "Women in the Shadows: Reclaiming a Métis Heritage", *Feminisms in the Cinema*, eds. L. Pietrapaola and A. Testaferri. Indiana University Press, 1995, 28-40.

Welsh, Christine. "Listen with the ear to your heart: a conversation about story, voice and bearing witness" (with Sylvia Olson), in *Screening Culture: Constructing Image and Identity*, ed. Heather Norris Nicholson. Lexington Books, 2003.



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