



Technical Information

Working Title: Bootlegger

Director: Caroline Monnet

Screenplay: Caroline Monnet, Daniel Watchorn

Country: Canada

Genre: Drama

Format: 2K

Length: 85 min

Shooting Location: Quebec

Production Company: Microclimat Films

Producer: Catherine Chagnon

Executive Producer: Pierre Even

Director's Biography and Filmography

Caroline Monnet is a multidisciplinary artist of Algonquin ancestry from Outaouais, Quebec. She studied in both Sociology and Communication at the University of Ottawa (Canada) and the University of Granada (Spain) before pursuing a career in visual arts and films. She is based in Montréal.

Monnet is an alumna of the Berlinale Talent Campus and TIFF Talent Lab 2016. Her short films have screened at numerous festivals including *Toronto International Film Festival (Ikwe, Warchild, Tshieutin)*, *Les Rencontres Internationales (Gephyrophobia)* and *Sundance Film Festival (Mobilize)*. She was nominated for a Canadian Screen Awards for Best Short Drama for **Roberta**. She won a Golden Sheaf Award at the *Yorkton Film Festival* for Best Experimental Film for **Mobilize**. She is currently developing with Microclimat Films her first feature film entitled **Bootlegger**, selected for both CineMart and Berlinale Co-Production Market 2016.

BOOTLEGGER

A film by

CAROLINE MONNET



cinéfondation
LA RÉSIDENCE



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Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films,

or even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.



cinéfondation
LA RÉSIDENCE



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With the support of HP. Printed on an HP Indigo Digital Press.



Synopsis

Laura, a Caucasian woman in her forties, manages a general store on a native reserve in Northern Quebec where the sale and consumption of alcohol is prohibited. Laura opportunistically uses her role as a front to traffic illegal alcohol to those willing to overpay, making her a polarizing figure on the reserve. Laura's life as a bootlegger changes when Mani, an ambitious activist in her mid thirties, returns to visit her ailing grandmother and discovers the amount of work that needs to be done to help emancipate her community from outdated paternalistic bindings. Realizing the

amplitude and significance of her actions, Laura's conscience eventually catches up with her albeit too late. Will the community ultimately rise up to push Laura out and embrace Mani as their new medium for change?

Statement of Intent

Bootlegger speaks of acceptance and social differences seen from the inside of a secluded community. The idea is to demonstrate the daily happenings with poetry, respect and authenticity while directly addressing taboos.

There are still too many examples of Indigenous stereotypes and generally oversimplified representations dominating the mainstream. My approach is contemporary, portraying my people as modern, vibrant, resilient and colorful. Through the characters of Laura and Mani, we benefit from the important duality between Indigenous and non-Indigenous existence, ensuring that this film has a perspective from within, but also that it remains accessible to all.

Synopsis

Laura, femme blanche de quarante ans, gère le magasin général d'une réserve autochtone au nord du Québec où la vente et la consommation d'alcool sont interdites. Elle utilise toutefois cette façade pour le trafic illégal d'alcool auprès de ceux qui sont prêts à payer le prix, ce qui la place au centre des débats dans la réserve. La vie de la contrebandière bascule lorsque Mani, une militante ambitieuse dans la trentaine, revient pour rendre visite à sa grand-mère malade et découvre l'énorme travail à faire pour aider sa communauté à se libérer des lois paternalistes dépassées.

Laura comprend l'ampleur et la signification de ses actions, mais sa conscience la rattrape trop tard. La communauté se soulèvera-t-elle pour pousser Laura hors de la réserve et accueillir Mani comme nouvel intermédiaire pour le changement ?

Note d'intention

Bootlegger parle d'acceptation et de différences sociales vues de l'intérieur d'une communauté isolée. Je souhaite décrire les événements quotidiens avec poésie, respect et authenticité tout en abordant directement les tabous. Il y a encore trop

d'exemples de stéréotypes autochtones et de représentations simplifiées qui dominent la pensée commune. Mon approche est contemporaine, dépeignant mon peuple comme moderne, vibrant, résistant et coloré. À travers les personnages de Laura et Mani, je tire profit de la dualité importante entre l'existence autochtone et non autochtone, afin que ce film puisse présenter un point de vue de l'intérieur tout en restant accessible à tous.