



TSENACOMMACAH

2020 SHORT EXPERIMENTAL FILM



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2020

Short Experimental Film

filmfreeway.com/TSENACOMMACAH

1080p HD 1920x1080 16:9

Directed By.....Ethan Brown
.....Caleb Hendrickson
.....Federico Cuatlacuatl
Sound Design.....Joshua Rodenberg
Completion.....August 2020
Running Time.....00:09:08
Country of Production.....USA

Short Synopsis

Tsenacommacah, is what the Powhatan called their territory of Tidewater Virginia. Roughly translated as, “densely inhabited land”. An experiential recall takes form through the spiritual symbology of the region in this sensory short film. Ahone the Creator, comes from the rising sun. But there were other spirits as well—Okee, the trickster of Chaos. A dance unfolds between them...

Long Synopsis

In a recorded Powhatan creation story, Ahone the Creator, who sometimes took the form of a Great Hare, comes from the rising sun carrying a magic bag that man and women were kept inside of. After creating the world and populating it with deer, Ahone took man and woman from the bag and placed them into the world to live in harmony... But there were other Spirits that the Powhatan believed in as well, darker Spirits that brought suffering and ruin. Offerings of tobacco and jewelry were made to Okee, the ruler of the underworld to appease him... There was also a story of a large crystal quartz cube that had stood at the Powhatan temple of Uttamusack on the Pamunkey river. It was said that it was so clear that you could see a single hair (Hare) through it... we are left with the image of a child making an offering and prayer to the rising sun, which was said to be a custom among the Powhatan. In her hands, she holds life...





ETHAN BROWN

Ethan Brown is a Pamunkey artist working in multiple mediums. He resides on the Reservation in Virginia.

Ethan's work is led by intuition and takes inspiration from Pamunkey history and culture, Virginia's flora and fauna, spirituality, and dreams. Tsenacommacah is Ethan's first foray into exploring film as a medium.

FEDERICO CUATLACUATL

Federico Cuatlacuatl is an artist born in Cholula, Puebla, Mexico. Cuatlacuatl is based in Charlottesville, Virginia and an Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia in the Department of Art.

Federico's work is invested in disseminating topics of Latinx immigration, social art practice, and cultural sustainability. Building from his own experience growing up as an undocumented immigrant and holding DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), Federico's research is primarily concerned with pressing realities in current social, political, and cultural issues that Latinx undocumented immigrants face in the U.S.

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CALEB HENDRICKSON

Caleb Hendrickson is a scholar of religion working at the intersection of religion, art, and philosophy. He holds a master's degree from Yale Divinity School and a PhD in religious studies from the University of Virginia. He has worked with journalists, filmmakers, and artists to create multimedia works concerning religion, visual culture, and American society. He is visiting professor of religion at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota.



This project was made possible by generous support from



Religion, Race &
Democracy Lab

CREDITS

CAST:

Ahone.....Napawisha
Okee.....Ethan Brown
Child.....Arabella Roberson

SOUND DESIGN:

.....Joshua Rodenberg
.....joshrodenberg.com

PRODUCTION AND DIRECTED BY:

.....Ethan Brown
.....ethanebrown@gmail.com

.....Caleb Hendrickson
.....calebhendrickson@gmail.com

.....Federico Cuatlacuatl
.....fc5b@virginia.edu

All scenes filmed on the Pamunkey Reservation







