

AUG 2026



THE BEAR ESSENTIALS

TAKING PAWS TO BEAR THE NEWS



Sky Bear Livestreams Paddle to Nisqually 2026

Over a 100 Canoes Converge on Nisqually Tribal Homelands for Six Days of Celebration

Paddles up! Canoe Journey 2026 was hosted by the Nisqually Tribe right in Sky Bear's backyard near Olympia, WA. Each year, Canoe Journey reclaims the ancestral highways, the waterways, paddling from tribal homelands to a designated site in the Pacific Northwest. This year, over a hundred canoes arrived on the shores of Sequim Beach where permission was asked to come ashore and exchange songs and dances to honor their hosts. Sky Bear was selected to provide the landing and protocol livestreams for Elders and visitors watching from home and around the world. Despite the extreme heat, a good time was had by all who attended. An estimated 10,000 meals were served by Nisqually and hundreds of volunteers. Sky Bear was blessed to be the bridge for the many thousands who could not attend but were able to be "on the water" or "under the tent" to observe the celebrations. Hands raised!

(Above Left) Jeff captures the landing from the banks of the Salish Sea. (Above) Jack calls cues at landing. (Below) Skylar focuses in on dancers at protocol. (Bottom) Protocol livestream set up.



Intertribal Ag Council Spotlights Native Youth

Sky Bear Highlights CA Native Youth Environmental Projects

California has become a second home to Jeff this month, as he not only dropped his last kid off at college in Los Angeles but also embarked on the first of three stops in CA with the Intertribal Agriculture Council to showcase next gen Native youth making an environmental difference in their home communities. Jeff visited the Santa Ysabel community and met budding lawyer Temyal who is working towards a future legal career to protect her beloved homelands. He interviewed her and photographed her at her community garden and dancing in regalia to bird dance gourd singers. Next stops are out at Bishop and Hoopa Valley to do the same with other fellow IAC youth. Sky Bear truly believes, like IAC, that our children are the future and providing opportunities for them to learn, network and grow are imperative to raising the next generation of Native agricultural leaders.



(Above) IAC Youth Temyal Lomayesva dances to bird singing in Santa Ysleta homelands.
(Below) Dropping Fiyero off at Oxy College.



Sky Bear's Film Hits the Festival Circuit

“Raven Steals the Sun” Racks Up Five Film Laurels and Counting!

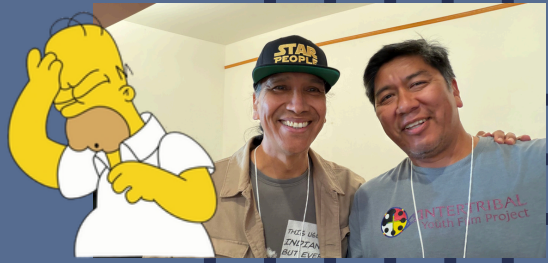


Sky Bear supports the next generation of filmmakers and Sydney Renee's directorial debut has amassed five film festival laurels so far, with most recent announcements for the Tacoma Film Festival (October 22-25) and the Roots Film Festival in Spokane, WA (November 12), laurels coming soon. Each year, Sky Bear mentors one Indigenous youth who conceives, writes and helms their first short film. In it's 7th year, the Intertribal Youth Film Project continues with Muckleshoot's Sovereign Bill, poised to lead the next iteration of ITYFP in the fall of 2026.

(Above) Raven Steals the Sun movie poster. Sydney Renee's post screening Q&A at OlyFilm's Summer Shorts.

The Monthly GROWL

When you meet ballet dancer turned actor idol Michael Greyeyes and forget to tell him your son is a ballet dancer too! Doh!



Sky Bear Supports Suicide Prevention

Sky Bear Collaborates with CALM America to Make Training Videos for Safespaces for People in Crisis

In partnership with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, Sky Bear worked with CALM America, to make videos that reduce the risk of suicide through collaborative, culturally informed ways of creating spaces for persons in crisis to safely exist. Helping to cast Native actors, prep scripts, find locations, and build a set in the Sky Bear studio, Sky Bear led all aspects of production to create the training videos. Sky Bear would like to thank the Nisqually Tribe for allowing the use of their new Nisqually Generations Healing Center as a pivotal filming location.



(Above) Jack claps before Larry Hicks. Sky Bear Studios. (Below Left) Riley programs robotic slider. (Below Right) On location at Nisqually Generations Healing Center.



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