

NîSWAYAKAN

Aaron Sinclair

Directed By



ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

Nîswayakan

Divided

A film by Aaron Sinclair

Short Film / Drama

Canada

9 minutes

Colour





SYNOPSIS

Seventeen-year-old David has lived with a wall that has built up between himself and his estranged mother, and consequently his indigenous heritage, but he begins to break down those barriers when his mother visits him over the winter holidays.

"A young man sets out to explore his indigenous heritage when his mother visits for the holidays."

Writer/Director Statement:

I've been drawing a lot of inspiration from my cultural background recently, specifically the struggle to learn about and be able to identify with that part of myself. I think that idea is something that is universal for everyone, trying to find yourself. And that's the main idea behind the story of Niswayakan. How do you find yourself, especially with these walls that are built up around where you come from? It's a hard question to answer, and I hope the message of this film helps others be able to take a step towards answering it for themselves.





Production Notes

I wanted to create a light-hearted mood but also create empty space between characters. Nîswayakan is a tragic story, however, I don't want to create a mellow drama with tears and sorrow. I worked closely w the director to make the sadness from Nîswayakan come gently and naturally so it can live in the audience's heart even when the film ended. In Nîswayakan, I tried to mix the beauty from the Eastern and Western cinematography. I used a lot of references from the director - Wong Kar Wai from the setting, color to framing.

Overall, Nîswayakan is a very delicate project, from the beginning to the end. Every member of the crew makes sure that Nîswayakan can reach the highest quality!



C A S T



John Wamsley

as David

Raised in Kitchener, Ontario, John's first on-stage role was as Pig Pen in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Although the house was empty, this is where John discovered a love for performing - leading him to enroll in the Theatre and Drama Studies program at Sheridan College and the University of Toronto.

John's selected credits include Private Harris in Timothy Findley's *The Wars* (The Grand Theatre), Jared in *Spain* (OPIA Theatre Collective), Chip Tolentino in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Hart House Theatre), and Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare BASH'd).

Michelle Roy

as Debbie

Michelle Roy is a Canadian Actress, Visual Artist, Director, and Writer. As a child, she studied at The Children's Television Studios, and later on at TVS-TV Studios with Lindsay Toutant. She has also studied Fine Art (drawing and painting), writing, and directing at OCAD. Most recently she has graduated from Psychology at Ryerson University and studied On-Camera Acting at Armstrong Acting Studios, where she was also a Teaching Assistant. Her immediate plans are to find other creative people to collaborate with and help bring their vision to life, both on Television and Film.



Kris Langford

as Lew

Kris is a stage and screen actor, filmmaker, and former ballet dancer. As an actor, Kris's most recent credits include the feature film Parts of Me (currently in postproduction) and the web series Make Karen Great Again. Prior to theaters going dark due to the COVID 19 pandemic, Kris was a prolific theater actor, having been cast as Weaver/Scofield in Guelph Little Theaters production of The Man Who Shot Chance Delaney as well as Rollie Waters in the Cambridge Players production of Norm Fosters Skin Flick. .





CREW

Aaron Sinclair

Director &
Writer

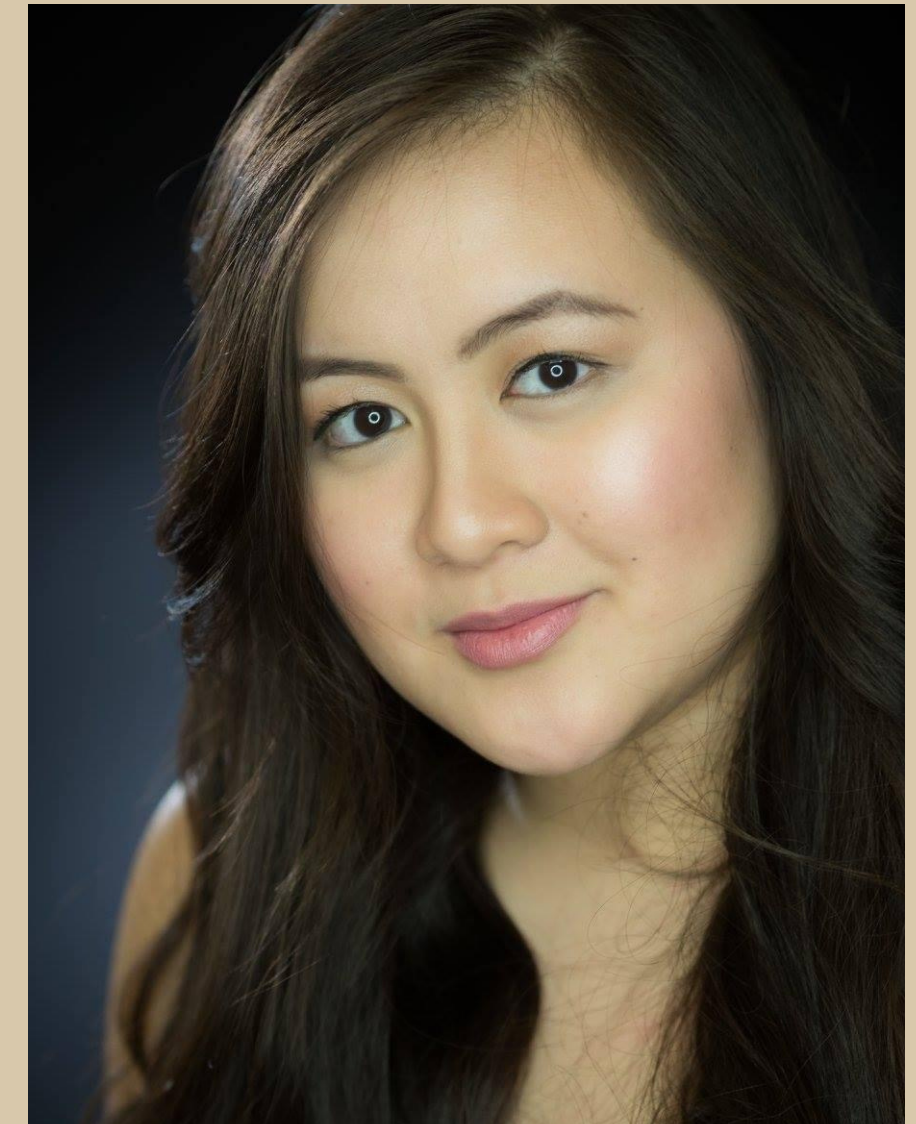
Aaron Sinclair is an aspiring director based in the GTA. He is studying film and television production at Humber College to hone the craft of filmmaking. His focus is on personal stories that he hopes audiences will be impacted by.



Bea Dator

Producer

Bea Dator is an up and coming producer currently based in Toronto, Canada. Born and raised in the Philippines, Bea has always been passionate about film, she started out as a child actor and later realized that she loved working behind the camera as much as she loved being in front of it. Her current work includes, Forgive Me Father, Bad Guys, and Ramparts (Post-Production). Bea is currently a Humber College student, but hopes to one day work as a producer for a major film production company.



Long Le

Director of Photography

Born and raised in Hanoi, Vietnam, he always has the passion of mixing the beauty of Eastern and Western cinematography. After finishing his Bachelor degree of Media Production and Management at Hoa Sen University and a couple of years of experience in Vietnam film industry, Long Le seeks for a new challenge in the West with Film &TV program at Humber college.



Haya Kawkji

Production designer



Haya Kawkji is a Toronto-based director, producer, cinematographer and production designer who studied media and chose to continue her journey studying film production to show us the world through her lens. She is currently enrolled in the third year of the Film and Television Production program at Humber College. Her passion is to work on films, television drama series, commercials and music videos.

Emma Clarke

Editor



Emma Clarke is an aspiring editor and colourist who is proud to have been the picture editor for NîSWAYAKAN. Being a part of the post process was a pleasure, she thoroughly enjoyed bringing this story to life. After editing Youtube videos, a sports documentary, and a few promotional trailers, she is excited to add this dramatic short to her ever growing filmography.



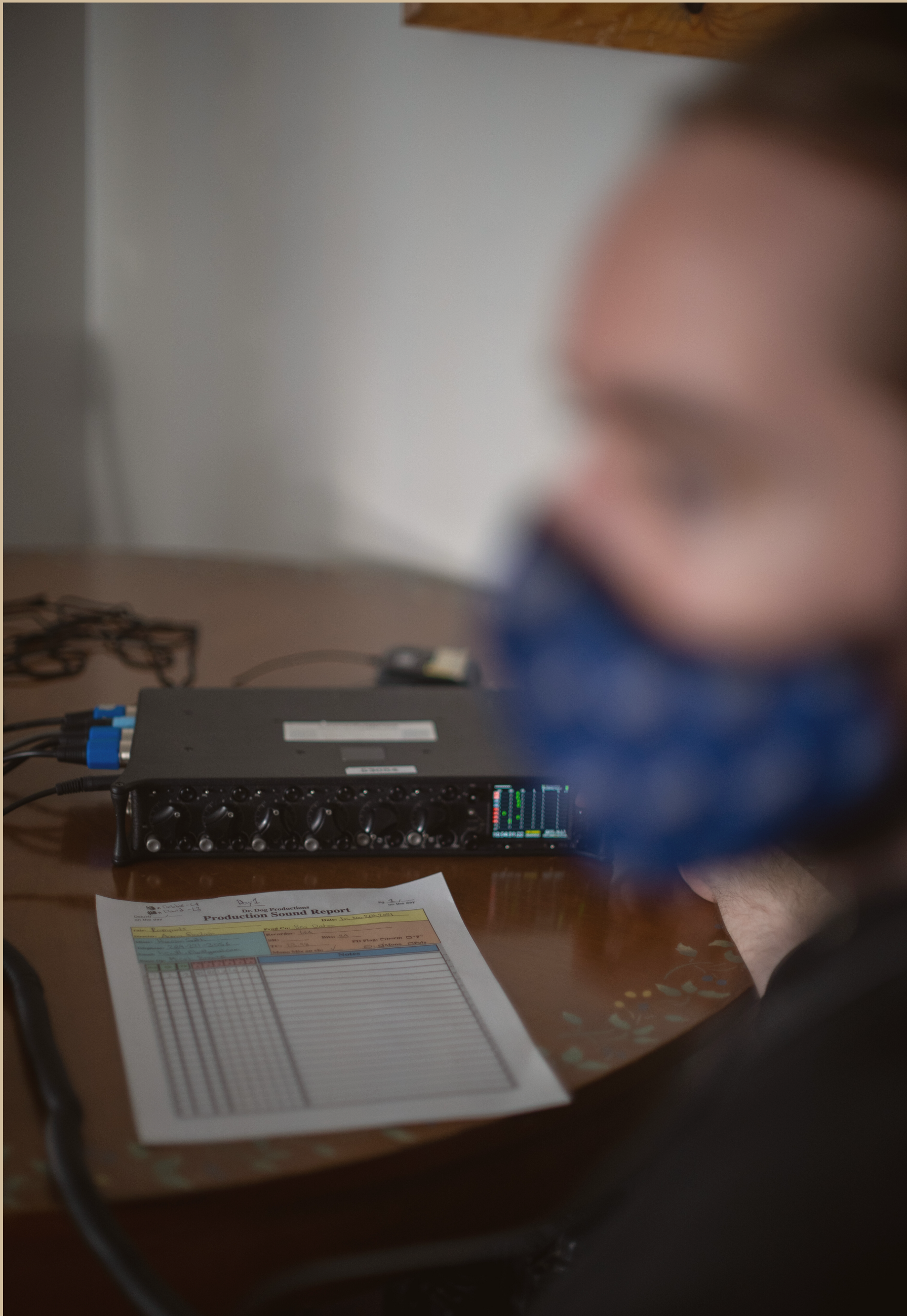
B T S













**Director
& Writer**
Aaron Sinclair

Producer
Bea Dator

Executive Producer
Donna O'Brien-Sokić

Story Editor
Daniel Silva Ferreira

1st Assistant Director
Chris Fernandes

Cinematographer
Long Le

Camera Operator
Mason Thivierge

1st Assistant Camera
Katie Dennis-Jones

2nd Assistant Camera
Lucas Solaro

Gaffer
Marisa Wu

Key Grip
Yan Kaminsky / David Nguyen

**Production Designer
/ Costume**
Haya Kawkji

Art Director
Kyle Fisher

Art Assistant
Emorphia Margaritis

Location Mixer
Harrison Smith

Boom Operator
Micah Browne

Script Supervisor
Nell Sommerville

Casting Director
Yi Man

**Production Manager
/ Still Photographer**
Rijul Kathuria

DIT
Alexander Balant

Craft Services
Yi Man

Transportation Coordinator
Zachary Doolan

Unit Publicist
Maggie Snyder

Production Assistant / BTS
Charlotte Kozak

Picture Editor
Emma Clarke

Assistant Editor
Daniel Silva Ferreira

Finishing Editor
Selena Lee

Visual Effects Supervisor
Marisa Wu

Colourist
Jessica Tran

Supervising Sound Editor
Joseph Galluzo

2nd Sound Editor
Mike Jones

ADR/Foley Supervisor
Haysham Zia

ADR/Foley Assistant
Joshua Bernalte

Sound Mixer
Maggie Snyder

Marketing Manager
Bea Dator

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