

GATHER

THE FIGHT TO REVITALIZE OUR NATIVE FOODWAYS

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021 / 4:00 PM

WITH
DIRECTOR SANJAY RAWAL
AND
EDITOR ALEXANDER MEILLIER





Gather is an intimate portrait of the growing movement among Native Americans to reclaim their spiritual, political and cultural identities through food sovereignty, all while battling the trauma of centuries of genocide. *Gather* follows Nephi Craig, a chef from the White Mountain Apache Nation (Arizona) as he works to open an Indigenous café that doubles as a nutritional recovery clinic; Elsie Dubray, a young scientist from the Cheyenne River Sioux Nation (South Dakota) who conducts landmark studies on bison; and the Ancestral Guard, a group of environmental activists from the Yurok Nation (Northern California) working diligently to save the Klamath River.

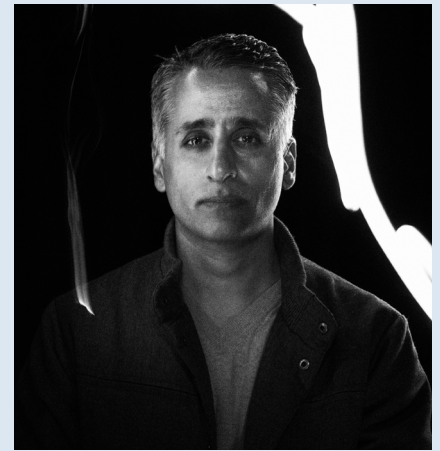
Director Sanjay Rawal and editor Alexander Meillier will join Capps Center Director Greg Johnson for a discussion of the making of *Gather*. Please note this event will not include a screening. Registered participants will receive a link to screen *Gather* two days in advance of the event.



GUEST BIOGRAPHIES: DIRECTOR SANJAY RAWAL

A James Beard Award-winning filmmaker, Sanjay is the director of *Food Chains* (2014, EP Eva Longoria, Eric Schlosser), which chronicles the battle of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a small group of Oaxacan and Chiapan indigenous farmworkers in Florida, against the largest agribusiness conglomerates in the world. The film was released theatrically in a number of countries and won numerous awards, including citations from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Clinton Global Initiative, and the White House. The film was also a winner (shared) of the 2016 BritDoc Impact award and several festival prizes.

Sanjay's previous film, *3100: Run and Become* (2018), has won several festival prizes. Following a robust U.S. theatrical release in 2018, *3100* will be opening in traditional theatrical engagements across Europe and Australia in 2020 and 2021.



EDITOR ALEX MEILLIER

Alex Meillier is a documentary film producer, writer, director and editor. Alex's career in documentary filmmaking began in 2005 while he was stationed in Timor-Leste and Sumatra, Indonesia working for the United Nations. Returning to the United States, Alex began producing feature documentaries with his wife Tanya Ager Meillier. Their first feature documentary, *Obscene* (2007), premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and was broadcast on the Sundance Channel in the U.S. Other professional credits include *3100: Run and Become* (2018, Editor), Amir Bar-Lev's *Long Strange Trip* (2017, Add'l Editor), *Alias Ruby Blade* (2012, Director), Michael Moore's *Capitalism: A Love Story* (2009, Editor), *Born to Fly: Elizabeth Streb vs. Gravity* (2014, Editor, Emmy award nominee), the HBO documentary *Happy Birthday to a Beautiful Woman* (2014, Editor) and numerous commercial credits. Originally from Minneapolis, he now resides in Fort Greene, Brooklyn.



MODERATOR GREG JOHNSON

Greg Johnson is Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at UCSB, where he is also director of the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life. Johnson's research focuses on the intersection of law and religion in contexts of indigenous struggles over burial protection, repatriation, and sacred land. His work has focused primarily on Hawaiian and Native American contexts but also on emerging forms of global indigeneity. Johnson's publications include *Sacred Claims: Repatriation and Living Tradition* (UVA 2007), *Handbook of Indigenous Religion(s)* (co-edited with Siv Ellen Kraft, Brill 2017), *Irreverence and the Sacred: Critical Studies in the History of Religions* (co-edited with Hugh Urban, Oxford 2018), *Indigenous Religion(s): Local Grounds and Global Networks* (co-edited with Kraft, Tafjord, Alles, and Longkumer, Routledge forthcoming), and a working manuscript entitled *Religion in the Moment: Tradition, Law, and Contemporary Indigeneity*.



FEATURING:
NEPHI CRAIG / WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

On the White Mountain Apache Reservation in Arizona, Nephi Craig, acclaimed chef and founder of the Native American Culinary Association, is attempting to establish a first-of-its-kind indigenous cafe where Apache chefs prepare Apache grown produce for Apache diners. As a legacy of his foray into the high-paced world of fine dining and French cuisine, Nephi has personally had to battle addictive and violent behavior that destroyed his last marriage and threatened to estrange his son. Through this period of recovery, Nephi realizes the importance of reconnecting with his Apache identity through food.



ELSIE DUBRAY / CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE

A gifted 17-year old scientist, Elsie is taking a research project to the Regional Science Fair, analyzing the comparative health effects of eating a beef-based diet versus a traditional Lakota diet based on Buffalo. Her father Fred has dedicated his life to bring the buffalo back to traditional lands. Fighting the powerful cattle industry has been an uphill battle though, and Elsie is performing research that directly threatens that industry. Despite this, Elsie holds steadfast in her unshakeable belief that Native wisdom and food practices can begin to heal the scourge of health disparities that plague Native communities.



SAMMY GENSAW / YUOK TRIBE

In Northern California, Native tribes are in a crisis. Overfishing, dams and climate change have almost eliminated salmon populations vital to tribal food supplies and spiritual practices. A ragtag group of teenage boys called “The Ancestral Guard”, led by Sammy Gensaw of the Yurok Tribe, take it upon themselves to fight for their river and preserve their ancient practices. With no jobs and a sick river, the boys struggle to keep their culture alive. However, their determination catalyzes their rise in the growing global communities of indigenous cultures fighting oppressive governments and corporations.



TWILA CASSADORE / SAN CARLOS APACHE

Twila is master forager, an elder and medicine woman of the San Carlos Apache tribe. Haunted by a childhood of abuse, Twila battled addiction until she discovered healing through her tribe's ancestral ways of harvesting and foraging. Now she is on a quest to help youth, introducing them to diets and foods that are foreign to western palates. As an example of this, Twila takes Mae, a 12 year old abandoned by her family, on a hunt of a traditional local delicacy - the gloscho - or a common "pack rat."





CWC Docs

The Carsey-Wolf Center is committed to screening documentaries from across the world that engage with contemporary and historical issues, especially regarding social justice and environmental concerns. Documentaries allow filmmakers to address pressing issues and frame the critical debates of our time.

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