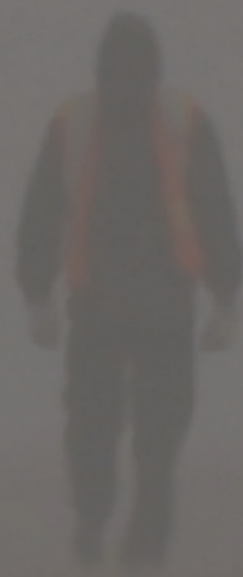


DƏNE YI'INJETL

THE SCATTERING OF MAN



DƏNE YI'INJETL | The Scattering of Man



Logline

Unwilling participants in a wave of development that led to the creation of the largest hydroelectric project in the history of British Columbia, Canada, the Tsay Keh Dene people found themselves displaced from their land amidst the rising waters.

Synopsis

Between 1960 and 1961 the Province of British Columbia, then led by the Premier W.A.C. Bennett, underwent a series of nationalizations in order to create Provincial "Crown corporations". This initiative included the creation of what is now known as BC Hydro.

In 1968, BC Hydro completed construction on the W.A.C Bennett Dam and began flooding the Rocky Mountain Trench in northern British Columbia, Canada. The resulting flood greatly impacted the Tsay Keh Dene people who have inhabited this area since time immemorial.

DƏNE YI'INJETL is told from the perspective of the Tsay Keh Dene Nation and its membership about the events that took place before and after the flood. Viewed by many critics as a Provincial vanity project, development of the dam was pushed forward and completed ahead of schedule, with little thought given to the resulting impacts that the natural environment and Tsay Keh Dene people would soon face.



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Directors Statement

DƏNE YI'INJETL - The Scattering of Man is a project that was first pitched to the Tsay Keh Dene Nation in 2014. The people of the Nation felt it was time to tell their story about the flooding of the Rocky Mountain Trench and its resulting impacts. As a member of the Tsay Keh Dene Nation I was blessed to have full support from the people and our leadership. This film is unique as it is completely funded by the Tsay Keh Dene Nation and driven by one of its own members.

Our goal was to find the beauty in the horror. We looked at the project not as a traditional documentary, but as an intimate and personal film that allows the poetry and grace of the story to unveil itself and linger throughout. I worked closely with film composer David James McLeod to create themes that would inhabit different spaces, and represent different characters in the film.

The resulting film is a story of strength, dignity, perseverance and beauty as told by the survivors, witnesses and descendants of the Tsay Keh Dene people who were the unwilling participants in a wave of development that led to the creation of the largest hydroelectric project in the history of British Columbia, Canada.

Tsay Keh Dene

The Tsay Keh Dene Nation is both culturally and linguistically Tsek'ene (Sekani). The name Tsek'ene is often translated as "people of the mountains". The Tsay Keh Dene have used and occupied a large and well defined territory in north-central British Columbia since time immemorial.

In the 1960s the Tsay Keh Dene people were forcibly relocated to reserves outside of their territory when the Williston Reservoir and WAC Bennett Dam were created. More than 175,000 hectares of their territory was flooded including villages, graveyards, prime hunting, trapping and fishing grounds, and other culturally significant sites.

Tsay Keh Dene history reveals that the loss, disruption and dislocation caused by the creation of the reservoir were devastating. For the survivors and their descendants, the social, cultural, and economic effects of this event, including the collective trauma and a deep sense of loss, persist more than fifty years later.



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About the Director

Luke Gleeson is a member of the Tsay Keh Dene Nation, a Sekani speaking people, known as “People of the Mountains” who inhabit and protect the headwaters and upper tributaries of the Peace River and Rocky Mountain Trench in northern British Columbia. In the north, a lot of time is spent on the land, observing the beauty of the natural environment that surrounds us. The inspiration from which is evident in the rich arts and culture of the Tsay Keh Dene people. Luke has worked and played in these northern ecosystems for most of his life and utilizes concepts of water, natural states and Tsay Keh Dene culture as metaphors in his music, art and film. After many years in lands and resource management, Luke has begun to shift back into the artistic world and is an emerging filmmaker, film score composer and consultant who culturally identifies as Glezhe Na'che and has written and performed music under this appellation.



About

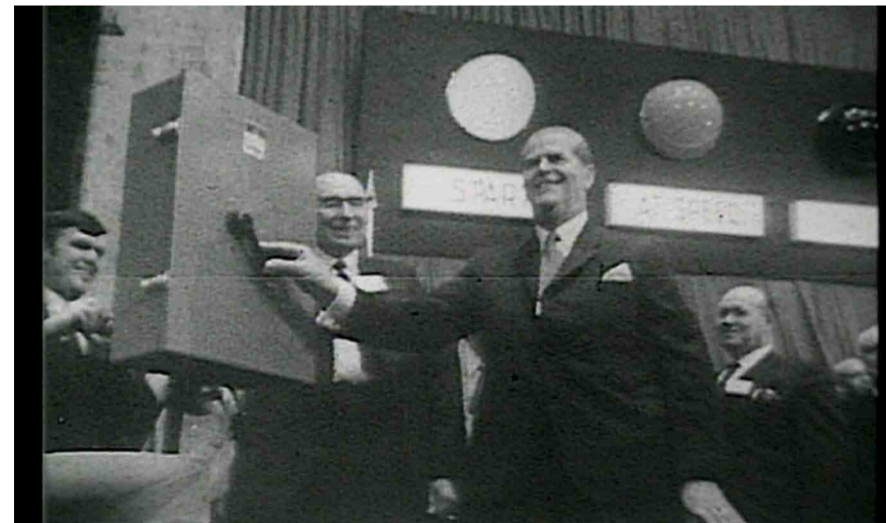
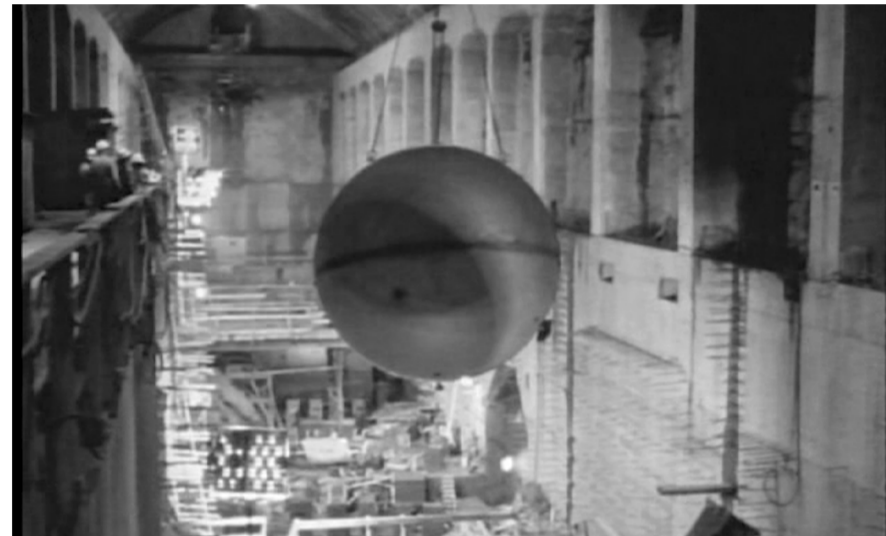
Filmed over a three year period from 2015-2018, and in post-production from 2018-2021, DƏNE YI'INJETL – The Scattering of Man is a Tsay Keh Dene Nation driven project that is fully financed by the Nation. The feature film is the directorial debut of Luke Gleeson, who is also a member of the Tsay Keh Dene.

A core creative team of 3 people, (collectively forming Mesilinka Films - Yves Grundler, Tim Cote, Luke Gleeson), worked intimately with members to translate the vision and people's stories into reality. This film is a first hand account of an ongoing despoliation of territory told by the people of a nation once forgotten in the name of progress.





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SPECIFICATIONS:

2021 | 75 mins
Format: 4K Digital
English / Sekani with english subtitles

Filmed on location in Tsay Keh Dene Nation territory.
Northern BC, Canada.

Funded by Tsay Keh Dene Nation

PRESS CONTACT:

LUKE GLEESON
info@mesilinkafilms.com
mesilinkafilms.com

KEY PRODUCTION CREDITS:

CREATED BY LUKE GLEESON
TIM COYOTE COTE
YVES GRUNDLER

PRODUCED BY MESILINKA FILMS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER TSAY KEH DENE NATION

DIRECTED BY LUKE GLEESON
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY TIM COYOTE COTE
EDITED BY YVES GRUNDLER

ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSED BY DAVID JAMES MCLEOD
STORY BY YVES GRUNDLER
TIM COYOTE COTE
LUKE GLEESON

NARRATION BY SEYMOUR ISAAC

POST PRODUCTION MESILINKA FILMS

AUDIO POST PRODUCTION EARWORM SOUND
SOUND DESIGN MATTHEW GIONET
TYLER GILLIS

SEKANI TO ENGLISH TRANSLATION VERA POOLE
JEAN ISAAC
BILL POSER

MUSICAL TRANSPOSITION AND
STRINGS CONDUCTED BY DAVID PARFIT

MUSIC SUPERVISION DAVID JAMES MCLEOD
MUSIC SUPERVISOR LUKE GLEESON

FEATURING:

BOB PIERRE
FRANCIS ISAAC
ISADORE IZONY
JEAN ISAAC
RAY IZONY
BILL POOLE
SEYMOUR ISAAC
SYLVIA PIERRE
VIOLET MESSENGER
RITA MCISAAC
BLAYNE PIERRE
KENNY WARREN
PAT PIERRE
JOHNNY PIERRE
RICARDO TOMAH
KIRK MILLER
DENNIS IZONY
DESHAY POOLE
HELEN GEORGE
VERA POOLE
BRUCE POOLE



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