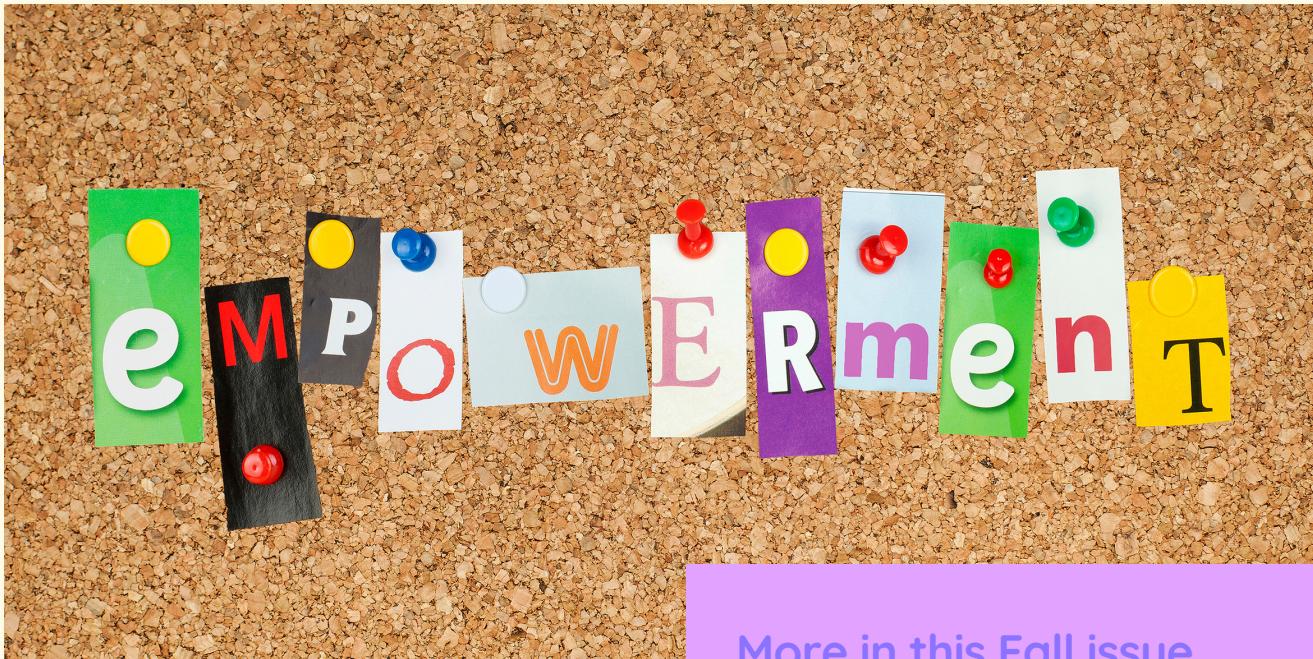


Breaking The Reel



The Monthly Newsletter of CineElle Circle Women in Film Organization



Chic and Chill this Winter

Check out our newest posts!

More in this Fall issue

Native American Heritage Month

Welcome to the latest edition of Breaking The Reel newsletter, where the spotlight shines brightly on the incredible women who continue to shape and redefine the landscape of the film industry. As we embark on this cinematic journey together, we are thrilled to share inspiring stories, industry insights, and noteworthy achievements that amplify the voices of women in film.

Behind the Scenes: Celebrating Indigenous Women in Production Roles

By: Uyen Nguyen

Razelle Benally: A Visionary Artist Bridging Cultures Through Creativity

Razelle Benally stands as a luminary in the realm of contemporary art, her work transcending boundaries and inviting viewers into a world where culture, identity, and resilience intertwine. Born into the Navajo Nation, Benally's creations echo the rich tapestry of her heritage, encapsulating the essence of storytelling and ancestral wisdom.

A master of mixed media, Benally's artistic repertoire spans painting, sculpture, and installations, each piece a testament to her ability to weave narratives with color, texture, and form. Her works serve as a bridge between tradition and modernity, seamlessly blending traditional Navajo motifs with a contemporary aesthetic, giving rise to a visual language that resonates universally. Benally's art is a celebration of the enduring strength and spirit of Indigenous communities, serving as a powerful commentary on the challenges faced by Native peoples while simultaneously highlighting their unwavering resilience. Her pieces often delve into the complexities of identity, exploring the intersection of tradition and the ever-evolving present.

In addition to her prowess as a visual artist, Benally is a vocal advocate for Indigenous rights and cultural preservation. Through her art and activism, she champions the recognition of Native voices, fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by Indigenous communities and the importance of preserving their cultural heritage.

As an artist who defies categorization, Razelle Benally's creations are more than visually striking; they are a call to action, an invitation to engage with the stories embedded within the layers of her work. With each stroke of the brush or intricately crafted installation, Benally invites us to contemplate the profound beauty and resilience that resides at the intersection of tradition and contemporary expression. Her art is not merely a reflection of her identity; it is a catalyst for dialogue, understanding, and appreciation for the rich cultural tapestry of the Navajo Nation and Indigenous peoples as a whole.



Cinematic Voices: A Showcase of Women-Centric Films

By: Uyen Nguyen

Uncovers the hidden history of the profound influence Indigenous women had on the beginnings of the women's rights movement in the United States.

"Without a Whisper," a documentary film directed by Katsitsionni Fox, emerges as a cinematic testament to the resilience and empowerment of Indigenous women in the face of historical erasure. Through the lens of Fox, the film skillfully unveils a narrative that has long been silenced, shedding light on the pivotal role Indigenous women played in shaping the women's rights movement in North America.

The film unravels a hidden chapter in history, a narrative where the voices of Indigenous women, often relegated to the shadows, rise to the forefront. Fox masterfully navigates through historical archives, interviews, and poignant storytelling to weave together a compelling account of how Indigenous women contributed to the genesis of the women's rights movement. "Without a Whisper" is not merely a documentary; it is a reclaiming of narratives, a rediscovery of untold stories that reverberate through time.

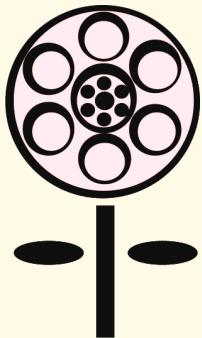
Fox, herself a member of the Mohawk Nation, brings a unique perspective to the storytelling. Her connection to the subject matter is evident in the sensitivity with which she handles the stories of these remarkable women. The film becomes a platform for the voices of Indigenous grandmothers, mothers, and daughters to echo across generations, breaking the silence that has obscured their contributions for far too long.

The title, "Without a Whisper," encapsulates the historical reality faced by Indigenous women—an erasure so profound that their influence was often not acknowledged, let alone celebrated. Fox, however, ensures that their whispers are transformed into a resounding chorus, echoing through the corridors of history.

The documentary not only highlights the past struggles of Indigenous women but also serves as a call to action for contemporary audiences. It challenges viewers to reevaluate their understanding of history and acknowledge the intersections of women's rights movements with the enduring strength of Indigenous communities. In doing so, "Without a Whisper" transcends its role as a documentary and becomes a catalyst for dialogue and reflection.



Through compelling storytelling and archival footage, the film sheds light on their unheralded activism, highlighting the profound impact of these often-overlooked voices.



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