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Know I'm Here film screenings in Churchill and Winnipeg

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 16, 2018 — It's been one year since an incredible winter blizzard on the Hudson Bay turned into an epic spring melt that washed away the rail line and devastated the town of Churchill, Manitoba.

Today, Manitoba filmmakers Handcraft Creative announce two upcoming screenings of their documentary, Know I'm Here, which follows the unfolding crisis in Churchill and the efforts of artists to bring hope and inspiration to the isolated community.

Inspired to take action by the closure of the Port of Churchill and the effects of climate change on the north, Winnipeg artist Kal Barteski coordinated a massive passion project in the subarctic town.

Under the name SEAWALLS CHURCHILL, Kal invited 18 local and international artists to volunteer their creativity and transform abandoned buildings with murals as a way of giving back to the community that changed her life.

"When I started planning the festival, a rail closure didn't occur to me. But, it happened. Everything fell apart - affording food and getting supplies became a big deal and daily struggle for the town. It still is. We almost called off the festival, but we decided to show up and do what we could with what we could find and borrow. As artists, we can't fix rail lines or political problems - but we can make art, and what is art if it isn't hope?" says Barteski.

"A year ago in June, Churchill was cut off. Even in the middle of a crisis where they felt trapped, they allowed us to come in and tell their story," says director Elbert Bakker." We jumped into this story looking to follow Kal, with the energy and optimism she brings to everything she touches. But, through her journey, we were able to witness the resolve and strength of many others: both the people of the town as they looked for solutions, and the international artists that took on this project with great purpose."

A special premiere screening will be held in Churchill's Theatre in Town Centre Complex on May 23. The theatre, built in 1976, was closed in 2016 because of asbestos and mold, but has been newly renovated and re-opened.

The Winnipeg screening of the documentary will be held at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights on Friday, June 15.

Know I'm Here was produced with the support of Bell MTS TV.

Tickets for all the screenings and more information can be found at handcraftcreative.com/know-im-here



Churchill screening

May 23, 2018 7:00 pm Churchill Theatre in Town Centre Complex Free screening, everyone welcome.

Winnipeg screening

June 15, 2018 6:30 - 9:00 pm Canadian Museum for Human Rights Tickets are available via Eventbrite

LOGLINE

In a moment of crisis for the subarctic town of Churchill, Manitoba, Kal Barteski brings together artists from around the world to paint massive murals on the town's neglected buildings, to bring hope and awareness.

SYNOPSIS

Know I'm Here is an hour doc that follows artist Kal Barteski as she organizes a massive art project in the subarctic town of Churchill, Manitoba. Motivated by the closing of the town's port, the loss of jobs, and effects of climate change, Kal invites 18 artists from around the world to paint murals as a way of helping the community.

But, those goals become tested.

Just days before the art festival, an unexpected crisis strikes. Spring floods wash out the rail line, and cut off Churchill's lifeline to the south. Getting food and supplies becomes a daily challenge. The American company that owns the rail is in a stand-off with the Canadian government. The remote community becomes trapped and more isolated than ever.

As townspeople deal with stresses and look for solutions, Kal and the artists work to create and do what all great art does: offer recognition and reflect a particular moment in time. These massive works of art transform the landscape and bring hope and recognition to a community feeling forgotten.

FILM

Know I'm Here

Documentary, 60 mins
Director: Elbert Bakker
Producers: Elbert Bakker,

Raymond Friesen, & Lisanne Pajot

Documentary Film Trailer https://youtu.be/S6IPnSwZ_Fo

Available for Interviews:

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