



Powerful and evocative, *Ceremony* examines the disappearance of the ooligan in Bella Coola, revealing a story that reaches far beyond the river itself. For the Nuxalk Nation, the ooligan is more than a source of food — it is medicine, tradition, economy, and a living connection to generations of knowledge carried through land and water. As director Banchi Hanuse follows her community's search for answers, the mystery of the vanishing fish becomes an exploration of cultural survival, environmental stewardship, and the enduring relationship between people and place.

Combining testimony, striking watercolour animation, and rare archival material, *Ceremony* honours Indigenous ways of knowing while reclaiming histories often absent from colonial records. As the film flows between ceremony and activism, it celebrates the resilience of a Nation determined to protect its lands, waters, languages, and traditions. At once deeply personal and profoundly political, *Ceremony* offers an inspiring portrait of cultural resurgence grounded in care, memory, and the responsibilities we all share towards the places we call home.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Is the disappearance of the ooligan about more than the loss of a single species? What does it reveal about the relationships between land, water, culture, and community?
2. Throughout the film, Nuxalk Radio broadcasts in the Nuxalk language. What did you notice about the role language plays in everyday life for the community? How might the ability to speak, share, and communicate in one's own language connect to cultural sovereignty and self-determination?
3. This film brings together testimony, archival materials, radio broadcasts, and animation. How does each form influence what we understand — and whose knowledge we trust?
4. What is the difference between telling a story about an Indigenous community and a community telling its own story? Is that distinction important?



Director Profile:

Banchi Hanuse

Banchi Hanuse is a filmmaker and co-founder of Nuxalk Radio who works across film and radio in support of Nuxalk language revitalization, upholding Nuxalk Nationhood, and advocating for stewardship of Nuxalk

homelands. Her acclaimed film *Aitamaako'tamisskapi Natosi: Before the Sun* premiered at Big Sky in 2023, winning the Big Sky Award.