

WAABOOZ

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A short film

The birth of an Ojibwe Superhero ... with really big ears.

A young Native American artist overcomes his fears through his own superhero brought to life with the help of his grandfather.



Description: “Waabooz” is a character-driven drama set on a remote northern Wisconsin reservation, centered around a boy and his isolation, imagination and inspiration. The story is told through realism and comic book fantasy and carries themes of family, relationships, culture, bullying and inner strength.

Synopsis: Twelve year-old Rabbit spends most of his days collecting comics, keeping his little sister out of his hair and avoiding daily taunts from his peers for being different. He keeps busy drawing and perfecting Waabooz; a superhero reflecting Rabbit’s desired self: strong, smart and brave. As the annual powwow approaches, Rabbit’s grandfather uses traditional storytelling and a little something up his sleeve to empower his grandson to be his own superhero.

Mixed Media: As grandfather tells the story of Waabooz (The Rabbit) and Ma’iingan (The Wolf) Rabbit daydreams the story in full comic book panel format which will translate to film through the rich and vibrant illustrations of professional comic book artist, Nicolas Selma (Dark Horse: Tomb Raider) with a two-minute animated story.

Impact and Audience: While this story is set in the cultural landscape of the modern Native American reservation, the themes are universal for children and adults everywhere. Every child needs a place in his own world and have heroes, mentors, teachers, family and friends to relate to, lean on and learn from. Native Americans are largely marginalized in modern media and what stories do get told are often romanticized, idealized or politicized. It’s time for the Native community to have superheros of their own.

Our Team: Waabooz has a team comprised of award-winning filmmakers with diverse backgrounds and a passion for the project and the community it embraces. Waabooz is a story that will resonate and connect with youth both on and off the reservation and needs your support to bring it to life.

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