

REMAINING NATIVE

Directed by Paige Bethmann

Executive Produced by Billy Mills

Produced by Paige Bethmann, Jessica Epstein, Judd Ehrlich



LOGLINE: Ku Stevens dreams of becoming an elite runner, but he struggles to balance the sport's glorified individualism and the values of interconnectedness he was raised with on the reservation. When thousands of Native children's remains are discovered, Ku reckons with his family's dark past while running towards his future.

SYNOPSIS: On the Yerington Paiute reservation in Nevada Kutoven, 18, "Ku" Stevens is the only child of Misty and Delmar Stevens. The reservation is quiet and Ku is restless. He dreams of following in the footsteps of his idol, the late Steve Prefontaine, who went to the University of Oregon before becoming an Olympic athlete. However, Ku doesn't have a cross country team or the resources to travel to meets attended by recruiters. When thousands of Native children's remains are discovered, Ku learns of his family's painful history which forces him to reimagine his identity. In an act of reverence, Ku runs the same 50-mile escape route his great-grandfather used to flee an Indian boarding school at age 8. Ku draws power from Frank's story. No competition, lap, or finish will ever be more arduous than what his people endured for centuries. Ku goes undefeated in both track and cross country, placing in the top 20 nationally and breaking a Nevada record to become State Champion. Remaining Native is a coming-of-age story that intertwines a dark history with the hopeful journey of a one teenager running toward his future.

PITCH TEAM BIO

Paige Bethmann is a director/producer based in Reno, Nevada. Over the last 10 years, Paige has worked in non-fiction television for various digital and broadcast networks such as ESPN, PBS, Vox Media, Youtube Originals, USA and NBC. Paige is currently a Logan Non-Fiction Fellow and 2022 PGA Create fellow. Her debut feature film, 'Remaining Native,' is currently in post-production and has been supported by the IDA Logan Elevate Grant, Tracksmith Fellowship, and the Points North + CNN Films American Stories fellowship program. A graduate of Ithaca College, Paige has a bachelor's degree in Film, Television, and Radio from the Park School of Communications.



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