

Living Reciprocity

By **Jeremy Dennis** (Shinnecock Nation) Produced by: Taylor Hensel, Adam Mazo, Kavita Pillay, and Tracy Rector

PRESS CONTACT press@reciprocity.org

PRESS KIT UPDATE: 09/26/22

TECH SPECS

Documentary Short TRT: 08:29 Aspect Ratio: 16:9 Color, HD Languages: English POSTER &
STILL PHOTOS
https://bit.ly/3UfwS8u

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: <u>reciprocity.org</u> IG: <u>@mashousestudio</u> IG: <u>ReciprocityProj/</u> TW: <u>@mashousestudio</u> TW: <u>ReciprocityProj</u> FB: <u>ReciprocityProject</u>

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SYNOPSIS

DETAILED SYNOPSIS

Ma's House was once the heart of a community. As Ma's grandson, artist and photographer Jeremy Dennis is on a quest to restore the family home to its central role as a community gathering place for a new generation of diverse artists. Through personal mementos, intimate narratives, and a touch of celebrity gossip, Dennis and his family reveal generations of history and hope contained within the walls of their home.

LOGLINE

A Shinnecock photographer restores his family home by hand to create a gathering place for a new generation of artists.

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ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

ABOUT JEREMY DENNIS (DIRECTOR)

Jeremy Dennis is a contemporary fine art photographer and a tribal member of the Shinnecock Indian Nation in Southampton, NY. In his work, he explores Indigenous identity, culture, and assimilation. Dennis was one of 10 recipients of a 2016 Dreamstarter Grant from the national non-profit Running Strong for American Indian Youth. His project, *On This Site*, uses photography and an interactive online map to showcase culturally significant Native American sites on Long Island. Dennis received the Creative Bursar Award from Getty Images in 2018 to continue his series, *Stories—Indigenous Oral Stories*, *Dreams and Myths*. Inspired by North American Indigenous stories, he staged supernatural images that transform these myths and legends to depictions of an actual experience in a photograph. Dennis holds an MFA from Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, and a BA in Studio Art from Stony Brook University, NY.

ARTISTS' STATEMENT from Jeremy

Making this film about Ma's House was a wonderful experience. After working to rehabilitate our family home, it was important to reflect on the progress and how far the house has come. The work was tiresome and financially draining, but it all came together thanks to the individual contributions of many friends and family members. When we began, there was so much love and passion behind the mission of turning the home into a future communal art space for artists of color on the Shinnecock Reservation. I hope the film conveys our gratitude towards those individuals, shows where the space is going, and creates a better image of what Ma's House is all about.

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PRODUCTION NOTES

Ma's House is situated on Shinnecock ancestral territory in what is now Southampton, New York. Shinnecock is a self-governing sovereign nation that has endured nearly four hundred years of colonization. Shinnecock have resided on their traditional territory for over 10,000 years, and will continue to do so into the future.

The film was produced as part of Season 1 of the Reciprocity Project - a collaborative multimedia platform and short film series made in partnership with Indigenous storytellers and their communities worldwide produced by Nia Tero and Upstander Project in association with REI Co-op Studios. Produced by Taylor Hensel, Adam Mazo, Kavita Pillay, and Tracy Rector.

ABOUT RECIPROCITY PROJECT

Facing a climate crisis, the Reciprocity Project embraces Indigenous value systems that have bolstered the Earth, which was in balance until the modern industrial age. This short film series and multimedia platform, made in partnership with Indigenous storytellers and their communities worldwide, invites learning from time-honored and current Indigenous ways of being. https://www.reciprocity.org/

ABOUT NIA TERO

Nia Tero is a US-based non-profit working in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and movements worldwide with a mission of securing Indigenous guardianship of vital ecosystems. Nia Tero is committed to an antiracist and inclusive culture centering Indigenous rights, wisdom, practices, worldviews, and protocols. https://www.niatero.org/

ABOUT UPSTANDER PROJECT

Upstander Project encourages decolonization and upstander behavior through compelling documentary films and learning resources. Their goals are to overcome indifference to social injustice, develop the skills of upstanders, and contribute to action-oriented campaigns in response to vital social issues. https://upstanderproject.org/

ABOUT REI

REI Co-op Studios develops and produces stories that entertain, enrich and explore the power of time spent outside, while complementing the co-op's broader climate and racial equity, diversity, and inclusion commitments. https://www.rei.com/newsroom/article/rei-co-op-studios

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PRESS & ACCLAIM

"What Jeremy Dennis is doing, as revealed in this splendid documentary on the restoration of Ma's House, is visionary and expressive of his virtue, resourcefulness and courage. He is finding a way of using creative engagement to keep the line of his historic inheritance preserved, revitalized and forward looking. His project and its mission breathe hope into his Shinnecock community and serves as an example for other communities, This documentary, Ma's House, captures the spirit of those who deeply believe that the arts must be at the center of any community or culture if healthy bonds are to be woven and the meanings of our lives are carried forward."

-Eric Fischl

Ma's House has screened at film festival around the globe, including Skábmagovat Indigenous Peoples' Film Festival, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, Halifax Black Film Festival, Durango Independent Film Festival, Cartagena International Film Festival (FICCI), Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF), Dreamspeakers International Indigenous Film Festival, Independent Film Festival Boston, and imagineNATIVE Film and Media Festival.

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CREDITS

Ma's House

A film by Jeremy Dennis
Filmed at Shinnecock Indian Nation
A Nia Tero and Upstander Project Production
In association with REI Co-op Studios

FEATURING:

Jeremy Dennis Denise Silva Dennis Avery Dennis, Jr. Kelly Dennis

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Jeremy Dennis Sauli Pillay

WRITERS:

Jeremy Dennis Sauli Pillay

FIELD PRODUCER:

Adam Mazo

SOUND RECORDIST:

Sauli Pillay

EDITOR:

Sauli Pillay

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Jacob Bearchum

COVID-19 SUPERVISOR

Eleni Ledesma

ON SET COVID-19 COORDINATOR:

Adam Mazo

MUSIC COURTESY OF:

Soundstripe

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Jared Lank

ARCHIVAL IMAGES COURTESY OF:

Jeremy Dennis

CULTURAL ADVISOR:

Dr. Rev. Trimble Gilbert

(Land Acknowledgement) Ma's House is situated on Shinnecock ancestral territory in what is now Southampton, New York. Shinnecock is a self-governing sovereign nation that has endured nearly four hundred years of colonization. Shinnecock have resided on their traditional territory for over 10,000 years, and will continue to do so into the future.

N MEMORY OF:

Loretta 'Ma' Silva



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CREDITS CONTINUED

RECIPROCITY PROJECT PRODUCERS:

Taylor Hensel Adam Mazo Kavita Pillay Tracy Rector

SERIES CO-DIRECTORS:

Taylor Hensel Adam Mazo

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:

Tracy Rector

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERSFOR REI CO-OP STUDIOS:

Hanna Boyd Joe Crosby Paolo Mottola

CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS:

Hindou Ibrahim Yo-Yo Ma Cristina Mittermeier

LEARNING CO-DIRECTORS:

Dina Gilio-Whitaker Mishy Lesser

FIELD PRODUCTION COORDINATOR:

Kavita Pillay

PRODUCTION MANAGER:

Sauli Pillay

LEAD ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Jacob Bearchum

TECHNOLOGIST / SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT:

Ben Pender-Cudlip

ADMINISTRATION / PROGRAM SUPPORT SPECIALIST:

Chelsea Strelser

COLOR CORRECTION:

Heather Cassano

POST SOUND SERVICES:

Bad Animals

SOUND ENGINEER:

Dave Howe David Gallander

POSTER DESIGN:

Yen Tan

PROMOTIONAL DESIGN & GRAPHICS:

Cindy Chischilly Joel Schomberg

SPANISH LANGUAGE TRANSLATION:

Neyda Quiñones-Ortiz Maria Angelica Ramirez

PRINT TRAFFIC MANAGER:

Jonah Kozlowski

ACCOUNTING:

Melissa Billows Jonathan Saceda Susi Walsh

LEGAL:

Jeffrey Cadwell Justine Jacob Sarah Robertson

WEBSITE:

TurnStyle Studio

Production and Clearance Counsel by DORSEY & WHITNEY, LLP

Insurance Provided by Interstate Fire & Casualty

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Languages: English

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PRESS PHOTOS



Ma's House in early spring. Photo Credit: Jared Lank



Dennis family portrait. Photo credit: Jared Lank



Jeremy Dennis (Director)



Jeremy Dennis working on the interior of Ma's House. Photo Credit: Jared Lank



Settlement project film crew with Jeremy Dennis.



L to R: The filmmaker's older sister Kelly Dennis, his mom Denise Silva-Dennis, and "Ma" AKA Loretta Silva. Photo courtesy of Jeremy Dennis

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