

# Feels Good

A short film written and directed by Andrew Okpeaha MacLean

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## SYNOPSIS



Sometimes the best day of your life is the worst day of your life.

Set under the midnight sun of an Alaskan summer, *FEELS GOOD* is one day in the life of Kelvin, a young Tlingit man living in the big city of Fairbanks, AK. Kelvin is just getting by, trying to make that dollar delivering “packages” for village bootleggers. When his car breaks down on a deserted rural highway, Kelvin is picked up by Russ, a Gwich’in man looking for his runaway daughter. Their encounter sets off a chain of events that forces Kelvin to choose between heroism, and his front teeth.

## KEY CREW

**Writer/Director** Andrew Okpeaha MacLean  
**Producer** Cara Marcous  
**Producer** Maya Salganek  
**Director of Photography** Shlomo Godder  
**Assistant Director** Jennifer Gerber  
**Production Designer** Brian Cook  
**Costume Designer** Bethany Marx  
**Sound Recordist** Kevin Kniowski  
**Editor** Jessie Dorfman  
**Music by** Timothy Cleary  
**Sound Designer** Benny Mouthon

## CAST

**Kelvin** Jake Waid  
**Russ** Allan Hayton  
**Maxine** Allison Warden  
**Jolene** Quannah Potts  
**Raven** Daazhrai Johnson  
**Bootlegger 1** Bruce Rodgers  
**Bootlegger 2** Ray DeWilde  
**Waitress** Gina Kalloch  
**Girl 1** Deenaalee Hodgdon  
**Girl 2** Nicole Cowants  
**Dude 1** Greg Goudy  
**Dude 2** Daniel Lum

## CREW BIOGRAPHIES



**Andrew Okpeaha MacLean** (Writer/Director) is an Iñupiaq filmmaker born and raised in Alaska. His feature film debut *On the Ice* premiered at Sundance 2011 and won Best First Feature and the Crystal Bear for Generations 14plus at the 2011 Berlin International Film Festival; The FIPRESCI Prize for Best New American Film at the Seattle International Film Festival; and Best Feature and Best Cinematography at the 2011 Woodstock Film Festival. He was also named Best Director for his work in *On the Ice* for the 2011 American Indian Film Festival. His short film *Sikumi* premiered at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival where it won the Jury Prize in Short Filmmaking. Other films include *Natchiliagniaqtuguk Aapagalu* (*Seal Hunting With Dad*), which had its premiere at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, *Kinnaq Nigaqtuqtuaq* (*The Snaring Madman*), which won Best Short film at the 2006 American Indian Film Festival, *Such A Perfect Day*, and *When The Season Is Good: Artists Of Arctic Alaska*, a feature documentary. In 2008, he was named one of 25 New Faces of Independent Film by Filmmaker Magazine.

In his hometown of Barrow, Alaska, he co-founded the Iñupiat Theater, the first theater company in the country dedicated to performing entirely in the indigenous Iñupiaq language. He is a recipient of the 2013 Native American Arts & Culture Foundation Film Fellowship, a 2008 United States Artists Rasmuson Fellowship, the 2004 John H. Johnson Film Award, and a 2004 Princess Grace Foundation Graduate Film Fellowship.

Since 2014 he has served as an instructor and mentor in the Sundance Institute's Native American and Indigenous Program Film Lab. He was a mentor in the University of Alaska's FRAME Film Program. He is currently an Assistant Arts Professor in the Graduate Film Program at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, of which he is also an alumnus.

### **Andrew Okpeaha MacLean Filmography**

Original Title	English Title	Run time	Year	Film type	Role
Feels Good		15 min	2016	Short narrative	Director, Writer
Children of the Northern Lights		26 min	2014	Short narrative	Director, Writer, Editor
On the Ice		96 min	2011	Feature narrative	Director, Writer
Sikumi	On the Ice	15 min	2008	Short narrative	Director, Writer, Editor
When the Season is Good		66 min	2005	Feature documentary	Director, Editor
Kinnaq Nigaqtuqtuaq	The Snaring Madman	13 min	2005	Short narrative	Director, Writer, Editor
Natchiliagniaqtuguk Aapagalu	Seal Hunting With Dad	10 min	2004	Short documentary	Director, Editor
Such a Perfect Day		4 min	2002	Short narrative	Director, Writer, Editor



**Cara Marcous** (Producer) produced the award-winning feature film “On the Ice” which premiered in competition at Sundance 2011 and was released in February 2012. “On the Ice” won Best First Feature and the Crystal Bear for Generations 14plus at the 2011 Berlin International Film Festival; The FIPRESCI Prize for Best New American Film at the Seattle International Film Festival; and Best Feature and Best Cinematography at the 2011 Woodstock Film Festival. She also produced the short narrative film “Sikumi,” which has won numerous awards including the Jury Prize in Short Filmmaking at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival and the BAFTA/LA Award for Excellence, and has screened at over 60 festivals around the world. Other film work includes the narrative short films “Feels Good” (2016) and “Children of the Northern Lights” (PBS FutureStates, 2014) and the feature-length documentary “When the Season is Good: Artists of Arctic Alaska” (2005). Ms. Marcous also produces the popular web series “Raw Craft with Anthony Bourdain” ([goo.gl/gnNTxm](http://goo.gl/gnNTxm)) which is currently in production for Season Two and will be released in Fall 2016. She is the recipient of the Sheila Johnson Fellowship for the 2009 Sundance Institute’s Feature Film Creative Producing Lab.

**Maya Salganek** (Producer/Executive Producer) hails from Santa Fe, New Mexico and is a mother of a seven-year old son and wife of Tlingit contemporary artist, Da-ka-xeen Mehner. She is the founding Director of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Film Program and assistant professor of Film. She has produced features, documentary, and educational films, and curates film festivals while teaching film production and showcasing indigenous storytellers. She was co-producer of feature film *Chronic Town* (Sundance Official Selection 2008), and Producer of narrative feature *alaskaLand* (2012), which explores Nigerian-American identity. In 2013 she founded the UAF Film Reel Alaska Mentoring Experience (FRAME) to link students and film professionals while growing the Alaska State Film Industry. Through FRAME she produced independent feature *Mining for Ruby* (2014); Andrew Okpeaha Maclean’s *Feels Good* (2016); and currently a feature documentary that reflects the legacies of generational trauma and healing in Alaska Native communities. She holds an M.A. in visual Anthropology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.



**Shlomo Godder** (Director of Photography) is a cinematographer who was born in Jerusalem and grew up in New York City. He received an MFA in Directing and Cinematography from the graduate film program at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. Since then, he has been Director of Photography on films in Honduras, Ethiopia, France, Trinidad & Tobago and the US. Shlomo received an award for Best Cinematography from the Tribeca Film Festival for his work on the critically acclaimed *Una Noche*, shot in Havana, Cuba.



**Jessie Dorfman** (Editor) is a film editor based in Philadelphia. Her most recent feature documentary, *A Road To Home*—which follows six LGBT homeless youth in New York City—recently screened at The Newport Beach Film Festival, the Manhattan Film Festival, and the Boston LGBT Film Festival. Beyond her documentary and narrative work, she has also created commercial spots for companies such as Weight Watchers, West Point, Gallo Wine and Stanford University. Also a filmmaker, Jessie’s films have screened in festivals across the country, including the New York Jewish Film Festival and the Santa Cruz Film Festival. Jessie brings a director’s vision and a background in psychology and music to her editing work. She holds an MFA in Film Production from The University of Texas at Austin.

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES



**Jake Waid** (KELVIN) is a Tlingit actor from Juneau, Alaska. He has performed with, Fairbanks Shakespeare Theatre, Working Class Theatre, Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, and Shakespeare & Company with whom played Horatio in the national tour of their critically acclaimed production of *Hamlet*. He has also played the Title role in Perseverance Theatre's touring production of *Macbeth*, which culminated with a two-week run at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. The play was translated into the language of his Tlingit tribe, a language only spoken now by about 300 Tlingit elders. He will also be appearing in the upcoming feature

*Cortez* in the role of Lou. Mr. Waid studied at Cornish College and Freehold Actors Studio.



**Allan Hayton** (RUSS) is Gwich'in, Koyukon and Scottish/Irish from Arctic Village, Alaska. He is the son of James & Pauline Hayton, and the grandson of Robert and Lena Albert. He currently works as Language Revitalization Program Director at Doyon Foundation, focusing on revitalization efforts for nine Indigenous languages of the Doyon region. Allan graduated with a BA in Theatre & Film from the University of Kansas, and an MA in Applied Linguistics from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He was co-founder of Yeil Sé, an Alaska Native theatre company. Favorite roles include Roy Peratrovich in *For The Rights of All*, Duncan/Porter/Siward in a Tlingit

language *Macbeth*, and the title role in *Lear Khehkwaii*. Allan has been active teaching and documenting Gwich'in language for new generations of speakers, and enjoys singing traditional Gwich'in songs and hymns. Allan has served on the board of the Doyon Foundation, and the Vestry of Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church.



**Allison Warden** (MAXINE) is an Iñupiaq performance artist and rapper, whose passion is helping young people explore their own culture... and find their voices and their place in the world. She doesn't pretend to speak for all Iñupiaq – she says they're not all as weird as she is. Allison raps under the name AKU-MATU. She teaches, performs, writes and raps all over Alaska. Her one-woman show, *Ode to the Polar Bear* has traveled extensively throughout Alaska and has been re-worked into a longer show, *Calling All Polar Bears*, which debuted in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2011. In 2012, she received a Rasmuson Individual Artist award for performance

art and became an "On Our Radar" artist for Creative Capital. She works with youth as an Artist in the Schools for the Alaska State Council of the Arts and loves empowering youth to find their creative voice through theatre and music. In 2014, she won the Alaska Governor's Award for the Humanities. In 2015, she performed in Paris during COP21 for over 1,000 people, won a Rasmuson Fellowship award, and received an Art Matters award.



**Quannah Potts** (JOLENE) is 14 years old, going into 8th grade. She is Lakota Sioux from the Rosebud Reservation and Han Gwich'in from Eagle Village, Alaska. She loves to hunt and berry-pick with her family whenever she is able to be on the land where her people live. She also loves singing, playing guitar and ukulele with family and friends, reading, writing, and playing sports.

## PRODUCTION NOTES

*Feels Good* was produced as part of the Film Reel Alaska Mentoring Experience (FRAME) through the University of Alaska Fairbanks. FRAME was established by Maya Salganek (Producer) to provide hands-on experience with film professionals and technicians on a live film set. During production the professional department heads mentored undergraduate students in all aspects of the film shoot.

FRAME aims to:

- make students employable in the industry, connect them to industry leaders, while also awarding academic credit toward a BA in film,
- generate a tangible film product that showcases Alaska's trained workforce,
- develop interest from and accessibility to indigenous actors, while working with native producers and directors to develop films that showcase Alaska's unique stories,
- address not only the skilled crew needed to work in the film industry, but also the economic development of supportive local and regional infrastructures that support that industry, e.g. catering services, transportation, housing, construction, security, accounting, management, etc.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Production Format – HD

Screening Format – HD (ProRes)

Sound Format – 5.1

Aspect Ratio – 2.35:1

Running Time – 00:15:00

Language – English

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Filmed in Fairbanks, Alaska

