



"Thought Woman: The Life and Ideas of Paula Gunn Allen" premiered on November 1 at the Pangea World Theater in Minneapolis. The film is the result of local filmmaker Ellen Hinchcliffe's multi-year journey to interview and honor one of her intellectual heroines.

"Native American thought, struggle, resistance, all of it becomes a side issue that gets added on to other ideas - like we have an environmental movement [and it's] 'Oh, let's listen to the Native people because they're so close to nature,'" she said. "These things get really oversimplified and I hope that this film can be part of... a recentering of who are we listening to and what ideas are we building any sense of creating a better world from."

Hinchcliffe had been aware of Allen's work for twenty years before finally contacting the well-known indigenous thinker and author in 2007.



"I had noticed a lack of media representation around her, as, to me, such an incredibly important thinker," said Hinchcliffe of the inspiring forces behind the creation of the film.

Allen responded to Hinchcliffe's email almost immediately. The two continued communicating and eventually decided that Hinchcliffe would travel to Allen's home in Fort Bragg, California, where they began the filming and interviewing process in September of 2007.

"I didn't want it to only be focused on the arc of her life story because I think her ideas and the life of her ideas seems really important as well," said Hinchcliffe about the direction of the film. "I tried to make that choice between her as a person and her as a thinker, trying to find the place between those two things."



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