

## Media Release

For immediate release

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### Library hosts *John Ware Reclaimed* watch party with filmmaker Cheryl Foggo

**ST. ALBERT, AB** – St. Albert Public Library is delighted to revive our popular Friday night film watch party series on May 7 with filmmaker Cheryl Foggo and her award-winning National Film Board documentary *John Ware Reclaimed*. The film re-examines the story of John Ware, the Black cowboy who settled in Alberta before the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Following the screening, Cheryl Foggo will be interviewed by local author, Leslie Greentree.

“We’re so fortunate to be able to bring director Cheryl Foggo and her film to the community. Cheryl’s dedicated research and work to preserve Black history in Alberta has resulted in a mesmerising and educational film,” says Library assistant Geoff Manderscheid. “The post-film discussion between her and Leslie Greentree will include an invitation for attendees to ask questions through the chat, for an intimate and interactive experience.”

In *John Ware Reclaimed*, Foggo takes us on her quest to re-examine the mythology that surrounds John Ware, and uncover who this iconic figure might have been and what his legacy means in terms of anti-Black racism, both past and present. The film features music from Foggo’s singer-songwriter daughter Miranda Martini, Calgary poet and musician Kris Demeanour, and Corb Lund.

“The Library is excited to host another watch party. Our audiences love the format because they don’t feel like they’re watching a film alone,” says Manderscheid. “They can interact with people in the chat while taking in a timely story about an important figure in Albertan history.”

The *John Ware Reclaimed* watch party screens online on Friday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Library watch parties are open to all, and aim to bring the St. Albert community and beyond together for a fun night of thoughtful film and engaging discussion. Register in advance at [www.sapl.ca](http://www.sapl.ca).

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**For more information, contact:**

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## **MORE:**

### **Cheryl Foggo bio:**

Cheryl Foggo is an award-winning author, playwright, and filmmaker whose work over the last 30 years has focused on the lives of Western Canadians of African descent. She directed the short film *Kicking Up a Fuss: The Charles Daniels Story* and is a recipient of the Sondra Kelly Award from the Writers Guild of Canada, as well as the 2015 Alberta Literary Award for Drama from the Writers' Guild of Alberta. She has also worked as a story editor and script consultant in television and film, and wrote and directed the documentary *The Journey of Lesra Martin* for the NFB. A well-known author, she has been published in dozens of anthologies. Her books include the recently released 30th-anniversary edition of *Pourin' Down Rain: A Black Woman Claims Her Place in the Canadian West*; the young adult novels *One Thing That's True* and *I Have Been in Danger*; and a children's picture book, *Dear Baobab*. *John Ware Reclaimed* is her second directing project with the NFB.

### **Leslie Greentree bio:**

Leslie Greentree is the author of the award-winning short story collection *A Minor Planet for You*, and two poetry books: *go-go dancing for Elvis*, which was shortlisted for the 2004 Griffin Prize for Poetry, and *guys named Bill*. Leslie has won CBC literary competitions for short fiction and poetry, and the Sarah Selecky Little Bird short fiction competition for a story that appears in her current short story manuscript, *This is not the apocalypse I was hoping for*. She co-wrote the play *Oral Fixations* with her life partner Blaine Newton; it was professionally produced in 2014 by Ignition Theatre. Her essay, "The ways Tom Petty will let you down: riffs on waiting" was written before his death and appears in *Waiting: An Anthology of Essays* (University of Alberta Press, 2018).