



Image courtesy of Kent Monkman

Indigenous Futures Cluster Presents

# “Better as a boy or girl?:”

miyo-wîcêhtowin in Kent Monkman’s *Future Nation*

**June Scudeler**

Swampy Cree filmmaker and visual and performance artist Kent Monkman’s third film, *Future Nation* (2005), addresses the coming out of an Indigenous youth in a dystopic future Toronto. Although *Future Nation* is a narrative film, it has a decidedly unconventional topic as Indigenous gay teenager Brian finds love with Indigenous dominatrix James / Tonya during a “megapox” epidemic. Monkman, who wrote the script, positions women and drag queens as the most powerful characters in his film. They are the providers, which is sometimes seen as “traditionally” a male responsibility, although women often participated in hunting and certainly contributed as much as men to the family diet. Monkman also depicts women as much more open to differing gender roles and sexualities. Two Spirit people and women are more willing to enact the Cree concept miyo-wîcêhtowin or expanding the circle than straight, cisgendered men.

**Indigenous Futures Cluster Presents** is the public event arm of the Indigenous Futures Cluster (IFC) at the Milieux Institute for Art, Culture, and Technology. The IFC explores how Indigenous people are imagining the future of their families and communities. We are interested in narratives, frameworks, and technologies that help us articulate a continuum between our histories, our present, and the seventh generation and beyond. We take a research-creation approach to these issues, employing art-and technology-making coupled with scholarly analysis and conceptual development to illuminate how the challenges of the present can be addressed, in part, through concrete, constructive, and critical dreams of the future. IFC Presents is our ongoing series of talks, performances, exhibitions, and other public engagement activities.

WEDNESDAY

3:00PM

**DEC 13 2017**

**EV Building 6.720**  
Concordia University  
1515 Saint-Catherine St W  
Montreal, QC H3G 2W1



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

