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## Fast Horse

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# Fast Horse

## **Abstract**

This is a review of the Sundance short film, *Fast Horse* (2019), directed by Alexandra Lazarowich.

## **Author Notes**

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film, and is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also the editor of the Continuum Companion to Religion and Film (2009).



**Fast Horse (2019), dir. Alexandra Lazarowich**

This is a story of aboriginal jockeys racing horses. Aboriginals used to ride horses into battle, but now they race them. In this short film, that type of racing is a relay race at the Calgary Stampede. The Indian Relay is called the original extreme sport of North America. It consists of one rider and three horses. After riding the first horse, the rider must jump off his or her horse and onto a second horse. The danger of this is shown in the film as one of the riders jumps off his horse as the second horse moves and the horse and rider collide, knocking the rider out of the competition. The same jump from one horse to another takes place again as the riders jump to a third horse and ride that horse to the finish line. The dangers of jumping from one horse to another are many. The sport brings honor to its participants, as warriors, but it also connects them to the horses and the animal world. It is the latest version of a long tradition.