

Transcript of *This Land What I Learn*

Part of *What Can You Learn From the Land You Are On?*

AUDIO DESCRIPTION:

This is a described audio introduction to “This Land What I Learn” a 2 minute and 40 second film. A title card at the end reads “Directed by Natasha ‘Courage’ Bacchus” and “Filmed and edited by Alexandra Hickox”. Courage is featured in the film. She is in front of a virtual backdrop and pictured waist up as she signs in ASL directly to the camera. She has an expressive and animated demeanor. Courage is a Black woman. She has short afro textured hair dyed red and shaved close on the sides. Courage wears a white button up blouse with two front pockets and short sleeves and earrings. She has several tattoos on her right forearm and one on her left wrist above her hand.

In the virtual backdrop Courage is standing in front of the starting line of a 9-lane running track in a modern stadium. At the moment she says, “I take a deep breath and close my eyes” the image goes to black and white, The modern stadium changes to a stadium with stone benches like in ancient Greek times. Later she says “I open my eyes” and the color comes back.

When referencing athletes in the video an image of that athlete will appear in the upper right hand of the video. The first athlete’s photo is from 1912 and the others are from 1969. The first athlete is an Indigenous man in a white team t-shirt and shorts. He has short dark hair that is longer on top and stands with his hands on his hips. When talking about the 1st athlete's shoes, a trash can appears on screen and mismatched running shoes emerge. They are leather and have short sharp spikes sticking out of the soles to grab onto the track and are old and worn down. The later athletes are Black men pictured mid stride running on the track. They have a dark US team tank top on and light coloured running shorts. They both wear gold chain necklaces.

[The following is a text transcription of the ASL performance by Natasha 'Courage' Bacchus. The audio described version includes voicing by Rebecca Singh:]

“This Land What I Learn”

I take a deep breath, close my eyes, and imagine myself running the one hundred meter race. I come in first place with a smile on my face.

Jim Thorpe inspires me. He found mismatched spikes in a garbage bin. One was black, the other was white. His spikes had gone missing. Someone had stolen them and thrown them in the garbage. He wore those mismatched spikes during the 1912 Olympics where he received a gold medal for decathlon. He is an Indigenous American. His spikes did not match, but somehow, he believed in himself. He is an iron athlete. He is tough and strong; one of the best athletes. He won a gold medal for decathlon and it touched my heart.

Tommie and John Carlos won gold and bronze for the two hundred meter race. The audience watched them and even booed at them. But they stood in first and third place and raised their fists. It touched my heart. They wore black leather gloves to show Black power. They were kicked out of the US Olympic team.

I open my eyes. I am a former three-time Deaf Olympian sprinter. Jim, Tommie, and John inspire me. I respect and honor them because their legacy as Olympians deserves respect and honor. They earned their medals and they fought for justice.

Commissioned by Common Boots Theatre

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