



# being caribou



A National Film Board of Canada Production



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## THE FILM

Environmentalist Leanne Allison and wildlife biologist Karsten Heuer follow a herd of 120,000 caribou on foot, across 1,500 kilometres of rugged Arctic tundra. The husband-and-wife team want to raise awareness of threats to the caribou's survival.

They let the caribou guide them through a wild and remote landscape, from the central Yukon to coastal Alaska and back. During the five-month journey, they ski and hike across mountains, swim icy rivers, brave Arctic weather and endure hordes of mosquitoes. They survive an encounter with a hungry grizzly bear that forces them to reconcile what it means to be a part of true wilderness. Hunger, fatigue and pain become routine, but the sacrifice is worth it when they witness the miracle of birth just metres from their tent.

Dramatic footage and video diaries provide an intimate perspective of an epic expedition. At stake is the herd's delicate habitat, which could be devastated if proposed oil and gas development goes ahead in the herd's calving grounds in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

**Running Time:** 72 minutes  
**Order number:** C9104179

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## THE FILMMAKERS

Leanne Allison's journey with the caribou is not her first expedition of this kind – in 1998, she joined Karsten Heuer hiking, 3,400 kilometres from Yellowstone to the Yukon to highlight the need for wildlife corridors in the Rocky Mountains. She was also part of the first all-women's expedition to the top of Canada's highest peak, Mount Logan. An emerging filmmaker, Leanne previously worked with glaciologists and avalanche scientists in places such as Antarctica and BC's Cariboo Mountains. ***Being Caribou*** is her first feature length film.

Diana Wilson is an independent producer and director whose previous credits include producing and co-writing the hour-long documentary *100% Woman*, and associate producing the Leo Award-winning documentary *Culturejam: Hijacking Commercial Culture*. Diana is currently producing her first dramatic short, *Kathleen's Closet*, and also teaches part-time at the Gulf Islands Film and Television School. ***Being Caribou*** is her first feature length film as a director.

**DIRECTED & WRITTEN BY** Leanne Allison & Diana Wilson  
**EDITOR** Janice Brown  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER** Leanne Allison  
**MUSIC** Dennis Burke  
**SOUND DESIGN** Gael MacLean  
**PRODUCER** Tracey Friesen  
**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER** Rina Fraticelli



Closed captioned. A decoder is required.

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