



THE GREAT SALISH HEIST

Logline: A down-on-his-luck First Nations Archeologist seeking redemption teams up with a group of misfits from the Rez to break into a museum and reclaim sacred artifacts that rightfully belong to their people.

When First Nations objects are removed from their burial sites, bad things happen. No one knows this better than STEVE JOE (late 40's), traditional archeologist for the Moquahat people. He used to be revered within his community, but his life rapidly went downhill after his son died in a car accident and his wife TANYA (late 30's) left him. He believes that his misfortune, and the bad luck of his community, is a result of the displacement of sacred artifacts. The only way to stop the suffering is to return the sacred objects to the people they were taken from. But there's a problem. The artifacts are stored in a museum with one of the country's most sophisticated security systems.

Steve, along with a rag-tag group of rebels from the Rez, hatches a plan to break into the museum and reclaim their stolen artifacts. After all, is it really stealing to take back what's rightfully yours? His group includes troubled teenager STEPHANIE (19), gruff single-mother JOANNE (50), faux-British ANDREW (50's), and the socially stunted, CRAIG (23).

They need money to bankroll the heist, so Steve reluctantly contacts a Russian man who offered him a business card at the museum, YURI PACHENKO (30), the representative of a formidable gangster, VLADIMIR MIKHAILOV (55) who offers to finance the caper... but of course, the Russians want a piece of the action as well. Is Steve really planning to give the sacred objects to the Russians? The money is tempting and pulling a fast one on the Russians could be dangerous.

Steve and his team spend more time in the museum "casing the joint," which draws the attention of his ex-wife Tanya, who "works for the enemy" as the museum's Collections Manager. She suspects he is up to something and begins watching him like a hawk. Although Tanya does not approve of this suspected criminal action, she and Steve are connected through the death of their son, and her allegiance to their Indigenous community. Through a series of exciting twists and turns, with some help from some nimble teens from the Rez, and a cunning double-cross involving Steve's spiritual mentor AUGGIE (60's), Yuri, and his sister YANA (32), the team manages to steal the objects from the museum and outsmart Vladimir and his cronies, who have

come all the way to Canada to make sure things go off without a hitch. The film ends with the sacred objects safely reinterred to the ground from which they came. Finally, the spirits of the ancestors are at rest, and balance is restored.



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