

Kent Monkman – Clip 17

Before contact

When I started to investigate the theme of sexuality and the impact of Christianity on aboriginal cultures, on the sexuality of aboriginal people, I discovered you know how common it was for many native cultures to accept homosexuality. Quite often, they were referred to as two spirited people and sometimes the two spirited people were healers or medicine people or they were revered for having great power because they bridged the gap between the two sexes. They had both male and female spirits so that was something that was really quite critical for me. I think it's easy to look back and say, oh it was better then, but I think there were also other tribes where it wasn't accepted. But from everything that I've learned through my investigation and study of this subject... alternative forms of sexuality were present, like I said, polygamy, homosexuality. They were definitely here and accepted before contact.

