

About the Filmmakers

Producing Team

Carol Patton Cornsilk (Cherokee) - Executive Producer/Producer

Ms. Cornsilk, an award-winning producer/writer, is President of Adanvdo Vision, Inc. which co-produced **INDIAN COUNTRY DIARIES**. Cornsilk was formerly Assistant Director - Programming and Production for NAPT. Cornsilk served as Senior Producer/Director at Nashville Public Television and Producer/Director at KLRU/Austin before joining NAPT in 2000. She has earned an Emmy nomination for scripting the documentary *Impressions of Normandy*; a National Educational Telecommunications Association award for the concert performance series *Recital Hall*; a Cable ACE nomination for TBS' *The Native Americans*; Chicago and New York Film Festival awards and a National Medal of Arts for *Austin City Limits*.

Frank Blythe (Eastern Band of Cherokee/Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota) - Executive Producer

Mr. Blythe is a founder and Executive Director of Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT), a major national producer and distributor of Native American film, video and radio programming. Production credits include *Storytellers of the Pacific*, a documentary co-production with public broadcasters in Canada, Australia, New Zealand the USA; and *Native America Calling*, the nation's first live daily radio call-in show for the AIROS Network (American Indian Radio On Satellite). Mr. Blythe currently serves on the President's Advisory Committee on Public Interest Obligations for Digital Television Broadcasters.

Phil Lucas (Choctaw) - Senior Producer

Mr. Lucas is founder and President of Phil Lucas Productions, Inc., one of the first native-owned production companies in the United States. In a career that spans four decades, he has written, produced and directed more than 80 projects, including feature films, television series and documentaries. Credits include the ground-breaking 1980 PBS series *Images of Indians* hosted by actor Will Sampson, *The Native Americans* series for TBS, and *The Honor of All*, a 1987 docudrama which won the prestigious international public television INPUT award. Mr. Lucas was honored for his distinguished career at the 1999 Sundance Festival.

Hanay Geiogamah (Kiowa) - Senior Producer

Mr. Geiogamah is a writer, director and producer with thirty years experience working in American Indian performing arts, theater, media and culture. He is Professor of Theater at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and Artistic Director of the American Indian Dance Theater. He served as producer for TNT's Native American project's feature films, which include *Geronimo*, *Lakota Woman*, and *Crazy Horse*. He was principal writer for the

six-hour 1994 documentary series, *The Native Americans*, for TBS. Geiogamah wrote, co-produced and co-directed the American Indian Dance Theatre's second *Great Performances' Dance in America* special, *Dances For The New Generations*, which was nominated for a 1993 Prime-time Emmy Award.

PART ONE – “A Seat at the Drum”

Journalist/Writer: MARK ANTHONY ROLO - (Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe)

Mr. Rolo is the former Executive Director of the Native American Journalists Association. He edited the Second Edition of *The American Indian and the Media*, a collection of essays from Native journalists on covering Indian Country. He is the former Washington Bureau Chief for the national weekly *Indian Country Today*, and former Editor of *The Circle* newspaper based in Minneapolis. His features have earned top awards from the Native American Journalists Association and his columns have appeared in major newspapers including *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Seattle Times*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Kansas City Star*, *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, *Charlotte Observer* and *San Jose Mercury News*. Mr. Rolo, a Sundance Screenwriter's Lab fellow, has also written and directed six plays that have been staged in the Twin Cities. In the summer of 2005, his play *Mama Earth Loves Lace* was produced by Thunder Road Theatre Company in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He has also taught at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and at Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College. Currently, Mr. Rolo is a guest lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Producer/Writer: SAM HURST

Hurst began his broadcast career as a news producer in Los Angeles and rose to National Producer of NBC's *Today Show* over the next seven years. A Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, Mr. Hurst has produced many documentaries for public television and cable including Turner's *The Native Americans*, *Paul Ehrlich and the Population Bomb* for KQED, *A Falconer's Memoir* and *Hooked* for PBS, and *The Coming Plague* for Turner. He is the recipient of a Cable ACE for Best Documentary Writing. He resides in South Dakota with his family where he also owns and operates the South Swell Buffalo Ranch.

Field Producer: KARIN WILLIAMS

Williams, a Pacific Island native, brings over twenty years experience producing, directing, and writing experience to **INDIAN COUNTRY DIARIES**. Williams began as a reporter for Cook Islands Broadcasting, Radio New Zealand and Radio Pacific before relocating to Seattle to join King Broadcasting as a Writer/Producer where she garnered a Peabody and five local Emmys for her work. Since 1992, her independent production company, Williams Communications, has served clients including NBC, CNN, PBS,

Reuters and a consortium of Alaska Native tribes. Her documentary, *The Voyage Home*, which aired on PBS, won Best Global Indigenous Award at the Edmonton Dreamspeakers Festival in 1998. Her recent work includes *Skin Stories*, presented by Pacific Islanders in Communication on PBS.

Director of Photography: Diana Wilmar

Diana Wilmar has worked around the world for every major US television network including ABC, CBS, NBC and PBS. She has also worked as a principal photographer with CNN's Environmental Unit. Diana has won five Emmy awards and a Silver Medal from the New York Film Festival for her work in news, documentaries and features. Special assignments have taken her to the Seoul Olympics, the civil war in El Salvador, the earthquake in San Francisco as well as to Russia, Mexico and Peru. Currently she is producing a documentary about a nuclear artist entitled *The Promise and the Peril*, and continues her work with CNN Productions.

PART TWO – “SPIRAL OF FIRE”

Journalist/Writer – LEANNE HOWE (Choctaw)

Ms. Howe is an author, and playwright, and an enrolled citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Born and educated in Oklahoma, she writes fiction, creative non-fiction, plays, poetry, and screenplays that deal with American Indian experiences. *Shell Shaker*, Ms. Howe's first novel, won an American Book Award for 2002 from the Before Columbus Foundation in May 2002. *Equinoxes Rouge*, the French translation, was the 2004 finalist for Prix Medici Estranger, one of France's top literary awards. Other books by Howe include *Evidence of Red* which won the 2006 Oklahoma Book Award.

She is currently associate professor in the American Indian Studies program and English at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Producer/Director/Editor: CAROL PATTON CORNSILK (see above)

Field Producer – PAMILA BELGARDE (Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe)

Belgarde began her career in public broadcasting as the first Producer/Director of *Native America Calling*, the flagship daily public affairs program on American Indian Radio on Satellite (AIROS). She worked as a producer for Four Directions Health Communications, Prairie Public Television and Red-Horse Productions before starting her own independent production company, Well Native Productions, in 2001. Her credits include production work on Turner's *The Native Americans* under producer Sam Hurst. She is currently completing *Rez-Robics*, a health and fitness video that incorporates Indian humor featuring Elaine Miles and Drew LaCapa.

Field Producer – LARRY POURIER (Lakota Sioux)

A twenty-year veteran of film, television and radio, Larry Pourier's recent credits include second Assistant Director on the hit PBS Mystery *Skinwalkers* for Director Chris Eyre; and Associate Producer of the Crazy Horse Segment for *Colorvision*, also slated for public television. Pourier, from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, also served as Associate Producer/2nd A.D./Locations Manager/ Extras Coordinator/Casting Assistant for Eyre's second feature film *Skins*. A member of the Director's Guild of America, Pourier's credits also include *The Doe Boy*, *Dreamkeepers* (ABC), *Crazy Horse* and *Lakota Woman* (TNT)

Director of Photography – JAMES M. FORTIER (Metis-Ojibwe)

James M. Fortier recently produced, directed and shot *Pulling Together*, a documentary feature focusing on the Muckleshoot tribe's cultural revival during the 2003 Tribal Canoe Journey in the Puget Sound area. He was the Director, Co-Writer and DP for *Alcatraz Is Not An Island*, which screened at Sundance 2001, earned Fortier an Emmy for Directing, and aired nationally on PBS in 2002. In addition he was the Writer, Producer and Director of the Minnesota PBS environmental documentary *Voices For the Land*, and he was the Writer and Associate Producer for the five-time Emmy Award winning 6-hour Ojibway PBS documentary series *Waasa-Inaabidaa: We Look In All Directions*.