



FOR THE GENERATIONS: NATIVE STORY & PERFORMANCE

ARTIST BIOS

Jana Mashonee (Lumbee) Pop Singer/Songwriter

Jana Mashonee emerged on the New York club scene in 2002 with her Native-inspired dance remix of Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven." The song shot to number seven on Billboard's Dance Singles chart. In 2006 she released the Grammy-nominated concept album *American Indian Story*. The album's first single, "The Enlightened Time," met with critical acclaim and has won numerous awards, including a Native American Music Award for Best Short Form Music Video. In the spring of 2010, Mashonee will release her first novel based on the album. Her most recent album, *New Moon Born*, was released in 2009 by Miss Molly Records.

The self-described "Urban Indian" remains attuned to her background as a Lumbee Native from the small village of Pembroke, North Carolina. In addition to her award-winning recording career, Jana is the founder of Jana's Kids, a nonprofit foundation that awards Native youth scholarships in academic, athletic and artistic categories. She also does motivational speaking to Native youth to help with issues of cultural pride, identity, motivation, education, gangs, tobacco, and illegal drug use.

Find more about Jana Mashonee at www.janamashonee.com.

Santee Smith (Mohawk) and Michael Greyeyes (Cree) World Class Dance

Santee Smith and Michael Greyeyes' 2008 movement duet *The Threshing Floor* is at once classical, contemporary and traditional; the pair's collaborative work challenges audience expectations about Native artists and the Native experience.

Santee Smith (Mohawk) is one of Canada's most exciting choreographers and the founding Artistic Director for Kaha:wi Dance Theatre. She is also the founder of Canada's Living Ritual World Indigenous Dance Festival. The event supports the aboriginal dance community around the world. Santee holds a Master's Degree in Dance from York University.

Michael Greyeyes (Cree) is an actor, dancer, director and choreographer. He is a member of the Muskeg Lake First Nation in Saskatchewan, Canada. Michael received his M.F.A. in Acting from Kent State University, where he began his ongoing research on "Notions of Indian-ness" in film and dance. His film credits include *PBS Mystery!*, *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*, *Smoke Signals* for Miramax, the ABC mini-series *DreamKeeper* and the role of Tecumseh in the PBS documentary mini-series *We Shall Remain*.

Smith and Greyeyes share a common past. Both were both chosen as children to attend the prestigious Canadian National Ballet School in Toronto, Ontario.

Find more about Santee Smith at www.kahawidance.org/santee.html.

Find more about Michael Greyeyes at www.michaelgreyeyes.com.

Bill Miller (Mohican) Celebrated Musician and Visual Artist

During his 35 year career as an award-winning singer and songwriter, Bill "Birdsong" Miller (Mohican) has composed, recorded, produced and performed music that is as true to his American roots as it is inspirational to his audience. As an acknowledged master of the Native American flute, Bill has earned three Grammy awards (including the 2010 Grammy for Native American Music Album) along with multiple Native American Music awards in recognition of his songwriting.

Never letting himself be confined to one genre, he has co-written songs with Nanci Griffith, Kim Carnes and Michael Martin Murphy, and has toured with Eddie Vedder, Arlo Guthrie and Richie Havens. Bill also co-composed *The Last Stand*, an original symphony that was performed in March 2009 across Israel by the

Kibbutz Orchestra, with Bill playing the Native American flute as a concerto soloist.

As an accomplished visual artist, Bill's work has appeared in The National Museum of the American Indian (Smithsonian Institution), the Barbara Able Gallery in Santa Fe, the Trickster Gallery in Chicago and the American Indian Community House Gallery in New York. He was born on Wisconsin's Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation, and now lives in Nashville.

Find more about Bill Miller at www.billmillerarts.com.

Painted Sky/Northstar Native Youth Dance Company

Portland, Oregon, nonprofit Painted Sky was founded in 1995 on the principle that music is the universal language with the power to inspire and unite people across cultural barriers. Their mission is to improve the lives of Native youth through dance.

Painted Sky's dance companies deliver a fresh, bold blend of traditional Native dance and modern jazz, lyric, tap and hip-hop styles. Mary Hagar (French-Canadian Cree/Metis) and Arlie Neskahi (Navajo) head the company, inspire dancers with the vitality of their heritage and challenge them to carry on their culture both within and outside their communities. Arlie calls the style "Native fusion"—a way to connect the past and the future.

Painted Sky involves Native youth in many high-quality artistic collaborations throughout the Pacific Northwest and regularly showcases the richness of Native arts and talent through the company's performances.

Find more about Painted Sky at www.paintedsky.org.

Women of the Four Winds Vocal Artist Concert Tour

The Women of the Four Winds Tour brought together voices of four contemporary Native singers for a powerful and innovative road show. Their musical styles vary, but the Women of the Four Winds performers are united by a deep desire to destroy stereotypes, sing their hearts out, and have a blast doing it. The Women of the Four Winds are:

Martha Redbone (Choctaw/Shawnee/Cherokee). Martha's two albums, *Skintalk* and *Home of the Brave*, have been lauded by numerous awards including Best R&B Album at the 2006 Independent Music Awards. *Billboard Magazine* calls her work "sharply drawn...pleasantly sticky, completely original jams."

Tracy Bone (Ojibway) is a country singer/songwriter whose debut album *No Lies* earned her a 2009 nomination for Aboriginal Album of the Year at Canada's Juno Awards.

Wayquay (Ojibway/Anishnabe). On her album *Tribal Grind*, Wayquay emerges as a combination of hip hop chantress and Native American Jim Morrison. Her music video for "Navigate" won top music video honors at the American Indian Film Festival and the Native American Music Awards.

Davidica Little Spotted Horse (Oglala Lakota) organized the Women of the Four Winds Tour. She sings and performs rhythm guitar on her debut album *The Other Half of Me*.

Robert Mirabal (Taos Pueblo) Artist, Craftsman & Renaissance Man

Robert Mirabal is a musician, composer, painter, master craftsman, poet, actor, screenwriter, horseman and farmer. He travels extensively playing his music all over the world and has created twelve albums of traditional music, rock and roll, and spoken word.

Robert has won many honors including two-time Native American Artist of the Year, three-time Songwriter of the Year, a 2006 GRAMMY Award for *Sacred Ground* and a 2008 GRAMMY for *Johnny Whitehorse Totemic Flute Chants*. He maintains a traditional life, keeping the centuries-old customs of

the Taos Pueblo people. Robert lives with his family at the foot of sacred Taos Mountain in northern New Mexico.

Find more about Robert Mirabal at <http://mirabal.com>.

CREW BIOS

Executive Producer/Writer: Sean Hutchinson. Hutchinson has written for print and television for fifteen years and has produced nationally distributed programming for public broadcasting, the U.S. Department of Education, Annenberg Media and commercial clients such as Nike and Turner Broadcasting. An employee of Oregon Public Broadcasting for eight years, Sean has authored segments for the acclaimed local series *Oregon Field Guide* and *Oregon Art Beat*. During that time he also produced twenty hours of multimedia, educational documentaries incorporating the latest scholarship on topics ranging from Globalization to Game Theory. An alumnus of the Bay Area Video Coalition's 2007 New Media Producers' Institute in San Francisco and Fellow at the 2008 PBS Producers Academy at WGBH, Sean has a keen interest in progressive implementation of online outreach as an extension of documentary filmmaking.

Executive Producer/Artistic Director: Mary Hager (French-Canadian Cree/Metis). Mary is Founder and Co-President of Painted Sky, a non-profit organization that provides outreach programs to Native youth in order to raise awareness of their rich cultural heritage. She is the lead director of the Northstar Dance Company, a traditional/contemporary Native American Dance troupe affiliated with Painted Sky. A tireless advocate of Native American culture and artistic achievement, Mary directs and coordinates performances, cultivates a growing network of volunteers and constantly strives to create partnerships with other organizations sharing the same objectives as Painted Sky.

Creative Content Director: Arlie Neskahi (Dine' Navajo). Born within the Dine' Nation of New Mexico, Arlie is the Co-President and Vice President of Painted Sky. He is renowned throughout the Indian Nations for his performance, composition and knowledge of traditional music, as well as his lectures on Native American culture, spirituality and storytelling. Arlie has won many awards and has numerous song commissions from the "Gathering of Nations Song" to the "Mayor's Honor Song of Seattle." He is also a member of the band Songcatcher, whose album, *Dreaming in Color*, was recognized with the First Americans in the Arts Outstanding Musical Achievement Award in 1994. His composition and performance, *Round Dance*, was featured on the 1995 Grammy-Award winning *Prayer for the Wild Things* by Paul Winter and the Earth Band.

Director of Photography/Editor: Greg Bond. As a senior staff videographer and editor with OPB, Greg Bond has worked on PBS national programs including *History Detectives* and *Time Team America*. His recent documentary work includes a local production about physician-assisted suicide, an international/national production on West Point, and a series on artists called *Works in Progress for the Annenberg Foundation*. Greg has contributed toward stories for the *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, as well as National Education program videos that teach French and Spanish to students. Bond started in television news, and he's experienced in medical videography/photography as well. His degree in journalism comes from the University of Oregon.

Sound Technician: William Ward (Lakota). William Ward has over ten years experience as lead sound technician on many of OPB's programs. These include award-winning local productions such as *Oregon Field Guide* and *Oregon Art Beat*, multi-media projects such as *America's History in the Making Volume One*, and PBS national programs *History Detectives* and *Time Team America*. With extensive knowledge of Native American musical culture, Ward brings his expertise to bear on the production.