



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## NAPT's NATIVE RADIO THEATER KICKS OFF THIRD SEASON WITH ALL-NATIVE VARIETY SHOW RECORDED LIVE

LINCOLN, Neb.—Nov. 10, 2008— **Native American Public Telecommunication's Native Radio Theater** project is kicking off its **third season** of audio plays with a story of young love and a **new variety show** that includes music, poetry, comedy and more.

"This is Native entertainment and talent at its finest," **NAPT Executive Director Shirley K. Sneve** (Rosebud Sioux) said of the show being billed as ***A Prairie Home Companion for Native Americans***. "This is the first time NAPT has done a variety show with the Minneapolis community."

The 90-minute variety show features playwrights **Jim Northrup** (Ojibwe) and **Rhiana Yazzie** (Navajo), who each take a slice of Indian life and bring it to the stage. Northrup gives the game show world a spin with ***Shinob Jeopardy***. Yazzie creates a spoof on reporting on the reservation in the ***Really, Real News from Indian Country***.

In addition to the variety show, a play by **Robert Vestal** (Cherokee) is included in this year's mix of radio theater. Vestal re-creates an Eastern Band of Cherokee story of young love with ***The Bullfrog Lover***. Vestal's re-creation, which was taken from the recordings by anthropologist James Mooney in the late 1800s, is performed by Eastern Band of Cherokee high school students.

Vestal's play is done live in front of an audience in North Carolina, and the variety show is recorded live in Minneapolis.

Other acts and performers in the variety show include:

- Poetry by Ardie Medina and Marcie Rendon
- Traditional storytelling by Faith Bad Moccasin
- A drum group led by John Oakgrove

The Native Radio Theater project was created in 2005 with the Los Angeles-based **Autry National Center's program, Native Voices at the Autry**, to promote greater awareness of the range of talent in the Native American theater community. The goal of Native Voices at the Autry is to develop and produce new works for stage by Native American playwrights.

**Native Radio Theater** is the only Native American programming of its kind produced for public radio in the country, and is heard through tribal, public and community radio stations throughout the nation. The project is funded by the **Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Ford Foundation** and the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

The program, which can be broadcasted in an hour or half-hour segments, is being

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distributed to tribal and public radio stations by **Native Voice One** starting **this month** for **Native American Heritage Month**, and will be available on the satellite system from now until March 9, 2009.

**The third season** also will be **broadcasted** on **AIROS.org**, the online Native radio network, during November. Check AIROS.org for air dates and times. Encore shows of Native Radio Theater's 2006 and 2007 seasons are also set to air on AIROS.org during this time. Past plays produced include ***Super Indian***, written by recording artist, actor and writer **Arigon Starr** (Kickapoo), and ***Melba's Medicine***, written by **Rose-Yvonne Colletta** (Lipan Mescalero Apache).

To read more about **NAPT's Native Radio Theater** and learn about past projects, go to NAPT's Web site at **www.airos.org**. To learn more about **Native Voices at the Autry**, go to: **www.autrynationalcenter.org**.

For more **information about the radio theater feed and the satellite program service**, **contact Burt Poley**, network manager at **Native Voice One**, at **505-724-3577** or **bpoley@nv1.org**. For more information about **AIROS** or the production of Native Radio Theater, contact **Eric Martin**, interactive media specialist at NAPT's AIROS.org, at **emartin2@unl.edu** or **402-472-3287**.

NAPT shares Native stories with the world through support of the creation, promotion and distribution of Native media with offices in Lincoln, Neb., and Albuquerque, N.M. NAPT support makes it possible for public television audiences to view such quality programs as ***Weaving Worlds***, a new documentary about the economics of Navajo weaving, and the upcoming documentary about the aftermath of a \$294 million damming project that submerged the Ft. Berthold Reservation, ***Waterbuster***. Check your local PBS station for air dates and times.

Other NAPT products include **VisionMaker Video**, distributor of ***March Point***, ***Waterbuster***, ***Weaving Worlds***, ***Oceti Sakowin***, and other documentaries by and about Native Americans as seen on PBS.

NAPT is one of five members of the **National Minority Consortia** funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to provide diverse programming to PBS and other public broadcasting systems.

**For more information on NAPT, go to [www.nativetelecom.org](http://www.nativetelecom.org).**

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