

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lewis & Clark as Told by the Blackfeet

Beginning in April, public television viewers will have the opportunity to hear and see one of the most cherished stories of American history from a different perspective – the Blackfeet perspective. While exploring the only deadly clash between Native Americans and the Lewis and Clark Expedition, *A Blackfeet Encounter* uncovers a rich Blackfeet history, heritage and culture. Shot at important Blackfeet historic sites in Montana, the story is told mainly through the eyes of Native American historians, cultural experts, tribal elders and educators.

A stunning vista explodes upon the screen from the very first frame. A single, authentic voice begins the narration – in the Blackfeet language. An historical account of an actual event that poised to change Blackfeet life irrevocably, is used as a jumping off point to explore the effects of the arrival of Lewis and Clark on all First Nations societies along the way, and how their cultures have survived to this day.

Blending rich scenery, expert First Nations testimony, rich narration and a compelling sound track, the film reveals the extraordinary world and culture of the Blackfeet. Beautiful historical paintings by Charles Russell, George Catlin and others, mixed with intriguing historical photographs from the Edward S. Curtis collection illustrate the story.

The documentary traces the tribe's history beginning with the oral tradition of Blackfeet Creation, explores the encounter with Meriwether Lewis during the Lewis and Clark Expedition, chronicles their experience after the Expedition, and ends with a revealing look at Montana's Blackfeet Indian Reservation and the people who live there today.

A Blackfeet Encounter is the brain child of Blackfeet cultural leader, Curly Bear Wagner, who envisions a series of Native American documentaries about the First Nations peoples all along the Lewis and Clark trail. It is written, produced and directed by Dennis Neary, and is his second documentary on a Native American theme.

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The program is distributed by American Public Television (APT). For 45 years, APT has been a prime source of programming for the nation's public television stations. APT distributes more than 300 new program titles per year and has 10,000 hours of programming in its library. It is responsible for many public television milestones including the first HD series and the 2006 launch of the *Create* channel featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming. APT is known for its leadership in identifying innovative, worthwhile and viewer-friendly programming. It has established a tradition of providing public television stations with program choices that strengthen and customize their schedules, such as *JFK: Breaking the News*, *Battlefield Britain*, *Globe Trekker*, *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Great Museums*, *Jacques Pépin: Fast Food My Way*, *America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated*, *Broadway: The Golden Age*, *Lidia's Family Table*, *California Dreamin' – The Songs of The Mamas & the Papas*, *Rosemary and Thyme*, *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home*, *The Big Comfy Couch*, *Monarchy With David Starkey*, and other prominent documentaries, dramatic series, how-to programs and classic movies. For more information about APT's programs and services, visit APTonline.org.

A Blackfeet Encounter is presented by Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT), one of five national consortia chartered by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to provide minority programming to the public broadcasting system. For 30 years, NAPT has supported the creation, promotion and distribution of Native public media. NAPT support has made it possible to bring to the public television audience such quality programs as *Indian Country Diaries*, *Aleut Story*, *Storytellers of the Pacific*, *Warrior in Two Worlds*, and many others. More information about Other award-winning services of NAPT include the AIROS Radio Network, and Visionmaker Video, distributor of authentic documentaries by and about Native Americans. NAPT receives major support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and the Ford Foundation. Program information is available on the web at www.nativetelecom.org. Check local listings for broadcast dates and times.

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