

A Blackfeet Encounter **Bios & Crew Credits:**

Curly Bear Wagner (Blackfeet) **Co-Writer, Co-Producer**

Curly Bear Wagner has served as cultural director for the Blackfeet Nation, is president and founder of the Going-to-the-Sun Institute, and is great-grandson of the famous Blackfeet, Chief Red Crow. He is an accomplished oral tradition storyteller, the recipient of the Montana Historic Preservation Award, and was instrumental in recovering the ancestral remains of Native Americans from the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., and the Field Museum in Chicago, for repatriation and traditional tribal burial. He serves on museum boards for the Plains Indian Museum in Browning, Montana, and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming. He and his two youngest children live on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in northwestern Montana.

Dennis Neary **Writer, Producer, Director**

Dennis Neary has been writing professionally since 1974, when he graduated from Indiana University. He is one of the owners of Native View Pictures, and owner of Neary Creative, a production services company in Indianapolis, Indiana. He has received a Clio Award, and has been an International Clio Finalist. His first documentary on Native American history, *Three Rivers in Time*, explored the largest Native American victory over the United States Army ever, St. Claire's Defeat, in 1791, and the Native American history of the Old Northwest Territory from the first French explorers to the removal of the First Nations people from the territory in the 1840s. He began work on *A Blackfeet Encounter* in 2003.

Lee Nassau **Director of Photography**

Lee Nassau is owner of DL Images, a production company in Indianapolis. During his 20 plus years as a videographer, he has videotaped heads of state from Mikhail Gorbachev to Presidents Reagan and George Bush, has worked with noted talents such as James Earl Jones and Jay Leno, and sports figures such as Peyton Manning and the NCAA. He regularly shoots for networks and programs such as CNN, CBS, MTV, Vh1 and Inside Edition. He has been the recipient of a variety of national production awards.

Scott Ellerbrook **Editor**

Scott Ellerbrook is a 2000 graduate of the Chapman University's School of Film & Television in Southern California. He has edited projects for Vh1, ESPN, Delta Faucet Company, Eli Lilly & Company, Simon Malls and Doner Advertising. Scott has an understanding and sympathy of the subject matter that is apparent in his work on this documentary.

Tom Blackweasel (Blackfeet) **Adviser/Consultant/Interpreter**

Tom Blackweasel was a Blackfeet tribal elder who believed teaching the language is central to all tribal issues. As Blackfeet orthographer he painstakingly translated then voiced the Blackfeet language portions of the documentary, provided invaluable guidance to the shooting, writing and research of the program, and also added thought-provoking interview segments within the documentary on Blackfeet culture, attitudes and accomplishments.

As a tribal elder he mentored troubled youth as well as serving older tribe members. He was a member of the board of trustees of the Glacier Electric Cooperative, and served on the statewide Tribal Issues Committee and Education and Training Committee.

Tom passed away in 2006, but left part of his legacy in this documentary – including the Blackfeet-speaking portions of the presentation.

Key On Screen Appearances:

Terry Whitright, Blackfeet, President, Blackfeet Community College, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Browning, Montana

Darrell Kipp, Blackfeet, Educator, Founded the Niziputtwashin School, a Blackfeet Language Immersion School, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning, Montana, in 1995

Brian Reeves, adopted member of the Blackfeet, Anthropologist, Archaeologist, University of Calgary

Ben Sherman, Lakota, President, Western American Indian Chamber

Joe Medicine Crow, Crow, noted First Nations Historian, Author

Cynthia Kipp, Blackfeet, respected Blackfeet Cultural Leader

Matthew L. Jones, Otoe-Missouria, Historian, University of Nebraska

Tom Blackweasel, Blackfeet, Tribal Elder, Blackfeet orthographer

Blackfeet Sign Language Translator:

James Boy

Additional Blackfeet Consultants:

Jack Gladstone
Tommy Thompson
Shannon Plank
Jack Kuehn