



“Native American Teens...Who We Are”

**Premieres November 18th on PBS stations (check your local listings)
Sunday, November 19th at 11:30am in the New York City Metro Area
Hosted by rap artist and film actor Litefoot**

(New York, NY For immediate release) What's it like to be a young Native American today? In this new *In the Mix* special, teens from cities and reservations throughout the United States share their lives, problems and solutions. Shot around the country, the program features profiles of accomplished teens, short films made by young Native Americans, and insightful discussion with a group of young leaders.

“Native American Teens...Who We Are” is hosted by Native American rap artist and film actor Litefoot (Cherokee), along with Dartmouth film major Christina Douglas (Shinnocock) at the Mashantucket Pequot reservation in Connecticut. Litefoot appears at the celebration as part of his “Reach the Rez” tour, and in the program, viewers learn about the year-long tour’s messages of hope and empowerment for Native American youth (www.reachtherez.com).

A champion lacrosse player and a Grammy-nominated musician are among the teens profiled in the special. The lacrosse player is 15-year-old Kori Hafiltown, and on the Seneca Cattaragus reservation in Western New York, we see his exciting play, learn about the deep roots of lacrosse in Native American culture, and see how traditional lacrosse sticks are made. On the Shoshone-Bannock reservation in Fort Hall, Idaho, we meet award-winning musician Hovia Edwards, a young flute player who’s carrying on a tradition passed down from her father that was once only reserved for boys and men.

“*Native American Teens...Who We Are*,” also features several short films made by Native American teens to express their lives. Swinomish youth in Washington State dramatize teens at-risk on the reservation, with a strong message about making positive choices. From Anchorage, Alaska, we see the unique and fun Native American Youth

Olympics in which teens compete in sports based on traditional Inuit activities like carrying game and jumping between ice flows.

Throughout the program, we hear from a group of teens in Buffalo, New York, at the annual UNITY Conference, a gathering of Native American youth leaders and activists from all over the country. They weigh in on the issues that affect them everyday, including common misconceptions and stereotypes about Native Americans, how they balance traditional culture with contemporary concerns, and their hopes for the future.

In addition to the broadcast, the project includes a website (www.pbs.org/inthemix/shows/nativeamerican) with additional information about the topics featured in the program, a list of resources for and about Native Americans, a classroom discussion guide and how to get a copy of the program.

"Native American Teens...Who We Are," is produced by Castle Works, Inc. for PBS; Sue Castle and Pamela Benson, executive producers. Funding for "Native American Teens: Who We Are" is provided by Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT).

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