



Native American Public  
Telecommunications

*Empower, educate, and entertain through Native media*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### *Silent Thunder* Portrays the Power of a Gentle Spirit

*Silent Thunder* is the heartwarming story of Stanford Addison: a Native American Elder, Spiritual Leader, Horse Tamer, and Quadriplegic. Through his unique method of gentling wild horses, Stanford delivers an inspiring and timely message of universal peace and cultural tolerance by sharing the experiences of his own life. Addison's story, as revealed in the film, is one of tragedy overcome, and as a result, a true calling is found. Stanford irrevocably teaches us that life is greater than it appears and our problems are not as big as they seem.

In June 2004, filmmaker Angelique Midthunder by chance picked up a copy of *Smithsonian* magazine where it fell open to an article about a Native American horse trainer. An avid horse lover, Angelique was immediately interested, but what really grabbed her attention was the photograph of the strikingly strong looking man in a wheelchair sitting next to a stallion in a grassy field of rolling hills, majestic snow capped mountains in the background. After reading the story of Stanford Addison, she did what we all do these days when we want to know more- she "googled" him. She found his website, and hours later she was on the on the phone with him saying that she wanted to film him. But first, she had to gain his trust. So she mailed him copies of every film she had ever made.

Two days later, Angelique received a call from Stanford. "Come on up," he said,

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and a week later she was on a plane with a film crew that consisted of herself and one other person. They shot for a week and when Angelique got home, she cut a “work in progress” reel that secured funding support from Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT). The following summer, Angelique returned to Wyoming’s breathtaking Wind River reservation with a solid film crew and some of the newest digital technology available to capture the story of Stanford Addison – he had already captured her heart.

*Silent Thunder* is an emotional documentary in a “slice of life” style that invites the viewer into a world of hope and inspiration. Shot documentary style, and pulling on more “hip” influences from its young director, it utilizes symbolic images, quick cuts, and special effects to inspire introspection. Viewers will come away from this show feeling the tremendous value of life and reflecting on how we each can utilize our own distinctive gifts and talents.

*Silent Thunder* will air on public television stations in November, 2006. More information is available on the program website, [www.midthunderproductions.com](http://www.midthunderproductions.com). The program will be available on DVD from VisionMaker Video, [www.visionmaker.org](http://www.visionmaker.org), in conjunction with the November broadcast release. *Silent Thunder* is funded and distributed by NAPT, one of five national consortia chartered by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to provide minority programming to the public broadcasting system. For nearly 30 years, NAPT has supported the creation, promotion and distribution of Native public media. NAPT receives major support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and the Ford Foundation.

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