



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VisionMaker Film Festival features Native-made documentaries from around the country

The third biennial VisionMaker Film Festival, titled "Elder Voices, Youth Choices," will be held Oct. 30-Nov. 5, 2009, with screenings at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center and Sheldon Art Museum.

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The theme "Elder Voices, Youth Choices" reflects Natives' tradition of respect for elders, who pass on cultural knowledge to the youth in their communities. Today, however, youth have more tools to tell their own stories—tools such as cell phones and inexpensive video cameras. The VisionMaker Film Festival features a range of generations, including the story of young Navajo activists bringing renewable energy to their reservations and the story of Native Alaskans fighting for their civil rights in the 1940s.

Films screening at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center include *For The Rights Of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska*, *Jim Thorpe: The World's Greatest Athlete*, *Mohawk Journey*, *River of Renewal* and *Power Paths*. The Sheldon Art Museum will feature *The Last Conquistador*.

NAPT assembled a curatorial team of nationally recognized media makers to help shape the festival, including Chris Eyre (Cheyenne/Arapaho), award-winning independent filmmaker, director and producer; N. Bird Runningwater (Cheyenne/Mescalero Apache), associate director of Native American and Indigenous programs for the Sundance Institute; Danny Lee Ladely, director of the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center; Dustin Owl Johnson (Saginaw Chippewa) coordinator for Native American and Indigenous programs for the Sundance Institute; and Shirley K. Sneve (Rosebud Sioux), executive director of NAPT.

The VisionMaker Film Festival is a partnership with the Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Arts Council, *Lincoln Journal Star*, Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center and the Sheldon Art Museum.

Festival website with trailers, schedule and poster: www.nativetelecom.org/festival.

Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT) shares Native stories with the world by supporting the creation, promotion and distribution of Native media. NAPT's Fall 2009 offerings include *To Brooklyn and Back: A Mohawk Journey*, *For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska*, *River of Renewal* and *Power Paths* on *Independent Lens*. Other NAPT services include **AIROS.org**, which features streaming and downloadable audio stories, and **VisionMaker Video**, a distributor of *Jim Thorpe*, *The World's Greatest Athlete* and other documentaries by and about Native Americans. For more information, visit: www.nativetelecom.org.

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**NAPT shares Native
stories with the world.**

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AIROS Audio  VisionMaker Video

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www.nativetelecom.org

www.visionmaker.org

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