

AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

A project of the Native American Cultural & Educational Authority

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2007 Sundance Award Winning Film Screening to Kick off Month of Activities!

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK,--American Indian Heritage month will begin with a blockbuster on **Thursday, November 1, 2007** with the screening of the **2007 Sundance Award Winning Film, *Four Sheets to the Wind***. The **American Indian Cultural Center & Museum**, the **Oklahoma City Museum of Art**, the **Oklahoma Film & Music Office** and the **Sundance Institute Art House Project** present a celebrity-filled evening beginning with a **reception from 6-7:30pm**. The talented duo, Director **Sterlin Harjo** (Seminole, Muscogee Creek) and Producer, **Chad Burris** (Chickasaw) will be in attendance as well as actor, **Richard Ray Whitman**, (Euchee, Muscogee Creek) and Associate Director of Native American Initiatives for the prestigious Sundance Institute **N. Bird Runningwater** (Cheyenne, Mescalero Apache). The **screening** will begin at **7:30pm** located in the Noble Theatre located at the **Oklahoma City Museum of Art**. Following the screening, the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions and dialogue with these special guests. The film will continue to show through November 4, 2007. Advance tickets can be purchased the same day of the screening (except Sundays) at the museum admissions desk (10am to 5pm) or with a credit card by calling **(405) 278-8237**. **For more information about the film screening log onto www.aiccm.org**.

***Four Sheets to the Wind* premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival.** In 2006, Harjo received the Tribeca All Access Creative Promise Award for his script *Before the Beast Returns* and a Media Arts Fellowship from Renew Media. *Goodnight, Irene* premiered at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, and was cited for Special Jury Recognition at the Aspen Shortsfest. In 2004, Harjo became one of first five Annenberg Film Fellows at the Sundance Institute. Harjo studied film and video at the University of Oklahoma and formerly worked for the Seminole Nation communications department in Wewoka. He grew up in Holdenville and lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Shoshana Wasserman, Director of Marketing and Public Relations for the American Indian Cultural Center & Museum shared, "I was visiting with Sterlin recently about how challenging it was to film *Four Sheets to the Wind* with such a small budget and a tight filming schedule. He shared a funny story that illustrates how creative and adaptive Indian people are; the story reveals a lot about our sense of humor and how much we love to laugh!" Harjo remembers, "We needed a catering truck for the caterers but didn't have a lot of money. My mom told me she knew an old Creek man with an Indian Taco stand trailer. We went to visit him and offered some money to use the trailer for the 18 days of filming. So here we were shooting this film about contemporary Native life with an Indian Taco stand as part of our entourage."

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The film is a film about listening, and about how easy it is not to really hear the ones closest to us.

"I knew I was going to like [Four Sheets From the Wind](#) within the first ten minutes of the film, when in voice-over narration in the Muscogee native language with English subtitles, the storyteller wryly noted, 'Every now and then, good things happen in Oklahoma'-- before leading the audience headlong into a story that begins with a death. What follows is a lovely tale about communication, family, forgiveness, and 'something resembling love,' told through the story of a Native American family in small-town Oklahoma."

Kim Voynar
CINEMATICAL

"In the best tradition of coming-of-age films, '*Four Sheets*' weaves a personal story that transcends any specific heritage or geographic setting. Although the narrative is culture specific, set in Oklahoma and centering on a young Seminole/Creek American, it translates to universal human truths. The performances are richly subdued. Lightning's portrayal of Cufe is superb, capturing the young man's reserved strength -- something he never knew he had. Podemski's performance as his hard-drinking sister shows the young woman's fears and loneliness, while Bailey is captivating as Cufe's new big-city flame. Under filmmaker Sterlin Harjo's firm but whimsical hand, '*Four Sheets*' enchants, in large part because of its talented technical team."

Duane Byrge
Hollywood Reporter

Chad Burris received the Sundance Institute's Mark Silverman Fellowship for New Producers in 2007, to produce Larry Blackhorse Lowe's *The Left-Handed Path*. Producer of Sterlin Harjo's *Goodnight Irene* and *Four Sheets to the Wind*, he will also produce Harjo's upcoming feature *Before the Beast Returns*. In 2003, Burris participated in the Producers Lab at the Sundance Institute. Burris is the president of the Oklahoma Territory Film Council and serves as the Director of Yuwita, a non-profit organization supporting Native American media initiatives. He is the co-owner of Indion Entertainment Group, which produces Oklahoma film projects, utilizing tax incentives to encourage local financial investment. Burris lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he graduated from the University of Tulsa Law School, concentrating in Indian Law. "Making a movie is an amazing accomplishment because there are so many elements, so many little pieces, that depending on how they fall into place, will change the outcome of the movie. I feel incredibly fortunate to have been a part of something so...unique, that happened in such a way to give us this film," says producer Chad Burris.

Richard Ray Whitman's voice can be heard throughout the movie as the voice of the father that passed away. Whitman does this in the Muscogee Creek Language and commented, "We spent the whole night in the studio recording 2-3 words at a time, it wasn't about memorizing lines, I tried to capture the nuances of the language. The greatest compliment occurred when the film screened in Tulsa, and George Coser, (a Muscogee speaker) stood with an approving nod and said 'I understood the narration.' Sterlin and I looked at each other and shared a very proud moment."

Oklahoma City film screening sponsors: Seminole Nation, Speaker George Tiger, Muscogee Creek Nation, Chickasaw Nation, McAfee & Taft and Anonymous.

FOUR SHEETS TO THE WIND: Indion Entertainment Group, Credits: Screenwriter-director: Sterlin Harjo, (Seminole/Creek) Producers: Chad Burris, (Chickasaw), Ted Kroeber, Executive producer: Cheyenne Fletcher, Director of photography: Frederick Schroeder, Production designer: Carla Marie Rugg, Music: Jeff Johnston, Cast: Cufe Smallhill: Cody Lightning, Cora Smallhill: Jeri Arredondo, Miri Smallhill: Tamara Podemski, Francie: Laura Bailey, Frankie Smallhill: Richard Ray Whitman, David: Christian Kane, Sonny: Mike Randleman, Running time -- 90 minutes, No MPAA rating. Four Sheets to the Wind, (2006, 91 min.) US.