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NATURALLY NATIVE to Debut on Turner Classic Movies During May's NATIVE AMERICAN IMAGES ON FILM, Latest Edition of Network's Acclaimed RACE AND HOLLYWOOD

Joining TCM host Robert Osborne in presenting the films will be Professor Hanay Geiogamah, director of the American Indian Studies Center at UCLA. The films and introductions will explore a different topic each night, including the evolution of Native American depictions by director John Ford (May 4), non-Indians in Indian roles (May 6), Indians as enemies (May 11), white men living among Indians (May 13), Indians as "noble savages" (May 18), Native Americans facing racism (May 20), **Native American actors and filmmakers (May 25)** and images from outside Hollywood (May 27).

Among the notable works featured during the NATIVE AMERICAN IMAGES ON FILM collection will be **Naturally Native** (Red-Horse Native Productions, Inc., 1999) airing in its TCM debut as part of the May 25th "Native American actors and filmmakers evening. **Naturally Native** follows the lives, loves, pain, joy and relationships of three sisters as they attempt to start their own business. Of Native American ancestry, but adopted by white foster parents as young children, the film is a touching love story of family and culture, **Naturally Native** also interweaves a subtle, but strong wake-up call regarding the treatment of Native people in corporate America while providing some insight into tribal infrastructure and gaming issues. **Naturally Native** was financed by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and is Cherokee filmmaker Valerie Red-Horse's feature debut; she serves as the film's producer, writer, co-director and lead actress. The feature premiered as an official Sundance Film Festival selection and was groundbreaking on a number of levels. Native Americans serve in above the line roles as well as within the cast and crew. In addition to Red-Horse, credits include Producers, Dawn Jackson (Saginaw Chippewa) and Yvonne Russo (Sioux); Co-Director, Jennifer Farmer (Shinnecock); and Production Designer, Kee Miller (Navajo). Irene Bedard (Inuit) and Kimberly Norris Guerrero (Colville/Salish) star in leading roles and Grammy award winning singer-songwriter, Joanne Shenandoah (Oneida) contributes an original song on the soundtrack, which includes several outstanding Native American artists. **Naturally Native will air May 25th at 10:15pmPST/1:15amEST.**

"We are very proud that each year we can use our huge film library to show how racial and cultural identities have been portrayed in films through the decades," says TCM host Robert Osborne. "Movies have always had such a tremendous impact – both positive and negative – on how different minority groups are viewed. Utilizing our expansive library, we have the opportunity to dig into such subjects more deeply than anyone else on television. This has made our RACE AND HOLLYWOOD festivals an important part of the ongoing dialogues within society. We look forward to continuing this important endeavor with the participation of Professor Hanay Geiogamah, someone who has helped shape the way Native Americans have been treated and portrayed on the screen, television and the stage."

RED-HORSE NATIVE PRODUCTIONS, INC. has become the preeminent collaborator with American Indian tribal nations to bring important Native stories accurately and respectfully to the screen. The Company's body of work includes film and television content creation and production; always providing insightful, sensitive and unique perspectives for the indigenous story. RHNP followed their feature film **Naturally Native** with the PBS award-winning documentary "**True Whispers: the Story of the Navajo Code Talkers**", produced with Gale Anne Hurd of Valhalla Motion Pictures. They are currently in post-production on "**Telephone Warriors**" about the Choctaw Code Talkers' involvement in WWI as well as in development on a feature film depicting the Standing Bear story, focusing on real life events surrounding the first American Indian Human Rights Trial. The Production Company's collaborations have included projects funded by or working with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, the Navajo Nation, The Powhatan Renape Nation, the Chumash Band of Mission Indians, The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay, The Choctaw Nation and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

A complete schedule of TCM's RACE AND HOLLYWOOD: NATIVE AMERICAN IMAGES ON FILM is found at:
http://news.turner.com/article_display.cfm?article_id=5051nshared