



Edge of America (dir. Chris Eyre, 2005)

Native American, American Indian and First Nations Film and Television Research Guide

The UCLA Film & Television Archive holds a wide selection of motion picture and television titles made by and about Native American, American Indian and First Nations peoples. These moving images span from the late-1800s to contemporary television programming and provide an opportunity to survey a complex history of representations related to Indigenous peoples within the commercial mainstream media, and the diverse range of productions from Indigenous media makers.

This guide represents a sample of the relevant materials held by the UCLA Film & Television Archive. Please consult the UC Library Search catalog (search.library.ucla.edu) for further listings or contact the Archive Research and Study Center for assistance.

Archival content is reflective of the period in which it was created. Films and television programs from the past contain biases and representations that were and still are offensive and harmful. The UCLA Film & Television Archive preserves and presents such historical documents as originally created in order to illuminate the past and inform the present in support of an equitable society.

Film

Buffalo Dance (1894). Edison Mfg. Co. Director, William K.L. Dickson. Cast: Hair Coat, Last Horse, Parts His Hair. “*Buffalo Dance* is one of several kinetoscope films featuring Oglala and Brulé Sioux.” Study Copy: DVD1913 M. Note: Part of *Edison: The Invention of the Movies*.

Club Swinging, Carlisle Indian School (1902). American Mutoscope & Biograph Company. Silent actuality short; film copy of paper print. “An elevated single camera position enabled the lens to take in about two hundred Indian boys and girls in their early teens swinging Indian clubs in unison.” Study Copy: VA12611 M

Ramona: A Story of the White Man’s Injustice to the Indian (1910). Biograph Company. Director: D.W. Griffith. Cast: Mary Pickford, Henry B. Walthall, Kate Bruce. “Ramona, a young girl growing up on her adoptive mother’s hacienda in California, falls in love with an Indian named Alessandro.” Study Copy: DVD4055 M. Note: Part of *Treasures III: Social Issues in American Film 1900-1934*.

The Squaw Man (1914). Jesse L. Lasky Feature Play Co. Directors: Oscar C. Apfel, Cecil B. DeMille. Cast, Dustin Farnum, Monroe Salisbury, Winifred Kingston. “A chivalrous British officer takes the blame for his cousin’s embezzlement and journeys to the American West to start a new life on a cattle ranch where he marries an Indian squaw.” Study Copy: DVD10172 M

The Heart of Wetona (1918). Norma Talmadge Film Corp. Producer: Joseph M. Schenck. Director: Sidney A. Franklin. Writers: Mary Murillo, George Scarborough. Cast: Norma Talmadge, Fred Huntley, Thomas Meighan. “Wetona, the daughter of Indian chief Quannah and a white mother, returns to her tribe after an education in a white school in the East, to find herself torn between the two cultures of her heritage.” Study Copy: VA10325 M

Braveheart (1925). Cinema Corp. of America. Director: Alan Hale. Writer: Mary O'Hara. Cast: Rod La Rocque, Lillian Rich, Robert Edeson. “Chief Standing Rock’s tribe has a treaty protecting their fishing grounds, but a canning corporation is violating the treaty through intimidation and force. The tribe is divided as to how to handle the threat. Standing Rock’s son, Braveheart, is sent to college to study law so that he can protect their rights, but others in the tribe, led by the hot-tempered Ki-Yote, want to provoke a more violent confrontation.” Study Copy: VA10376 M

I Killed Geronimo (1950). Jack Schwarz Productions, Inc. Director: John Hoffman. Writers: Sam Neuman, Nat Tanchuck. Cast: James Ellison, Virginia Herrick, Chief Thunder Cloud. "A U.S. Army undercover agent ends a smuggler's trade in guns with the Apaches and captures Geronimo." Study Copy: VA9461 M

The Exiles (1961). Director: Kent Mackenzie. "Chronicles one night in the lives of young Native American men and women living in the Bunker Hill district of Los Angeles. Based entirely on interviews with the participants and their friends, the film follows a group of transplants from Southwest reservations, as they flirt, drink, party, fight, and dance." Study Copy: DVD7065 -DVD7066 M

Indians and Chiefs (1967). Director: Judith MacDougall. Documentary film about rural Native Americans recently settled in Los Angeles. Study Copy: DVD8414 M

This Side of the River: The Onondaga Nation (1978). Director: Monona Wali. UCLA student film. Documentary about the Iroquois Indians. Study Copy: DVD4827 M

Colliding Worlds (1980). Director-writer: Orie Sherman. With: Ida Bishop, Donna Lee, Francys Sherman. A documentary about the Mono Indians of Central California, and their attempt to maintain their cultural traditions. Study Copy: VA7191 M

Deep Inside Clint Star (1998). National Film Board of Canada. Executive Producer: Louise Lore. Producer: Silva Basmajian. Director: Clint Alberta. "Clint Alberta's stylish, surprising documentary renders a fascinating group portrait of young Aboriginal Canadians in and around Toronto at the turn of the millennium." Study Copy: VA21981 M

Smoke Signals (1998). Miramax Films. Producers: Scott M. Rosenfelt, Larry Estes. Director: Chris Eyre. Writer: Sherman Alexie. Cast: Adam Beach, Evan Adams, Irene Bedard. "Setting: Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation, Idaho, 1976. A Young Indian man and his friend hit the road on a journey to collect the ashes of his father." Study Copy: DVD2773 M

Homeland: Life on an American Indian Reservation (1999). Philomath Films. Producers-directors: Jilann Spitzmiller, Hank Rogerson. "Follows four Lakota Indian families from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Through the lives of a grandmother, an artist, a spiritual leader, and a community activist, the problems of the reservation system are balanced with the thriving richness of the culture." Study Copy: VA22468 M

Dreamer (2000). Director-writer: Raymond E. Spiess, Jr. Cast: Saginaw Grant. "A Native American medicine man has a vision of the future to come." Study Copy: VA20093 M

Atanarjuat (2001). Director: Zacharias Kunuk. Screenwriter: Paul Apak Angilurq. Cast, Natar Ungalaaq, Sylvia Ivalu, Peter-Henry Arnatsiaq, Lucy Tulugarjuk, Madeline Ivalu. "Zacharias Kunuk's award-winning film, the first ever in the Inuktitut-language, presents a violent and brutal environment punctuated by moments of kindness in stark and breathtakingly beautiful landscape." Study Copy: VA4708 M

5th World (2005). 5th World LLC. Producer: Ernest Quiroz. Director-writer: Blackhorse Lowe. Cast: Liva'ndrea Knoki, Sheldon Silentwalker, Ernest Tsosie III. "Two young Navajos fall in love as they hitchhike across the Navajo Nation only to find tradition plays a large role in the outcome of their developing relationship." Inventory Number: M225588

Four Sheets to the Wind (2007). Director-writer: Sterlin Harjo. Cast: Wes Allen, Jeri Arredondo, Laura Bailey. "After his father's untimely suicide, Cufe leaves his home in a Native American reservation in search of a more fulfilling life." Inventory Number: M196486

Television

The Public Eye. Pilot (1954 or 1955?). Producer: Julian Lesser. Host: Ralph Story. Possibly an unsold pilot. "The first segment consists of a look at the real life 1883 murder of California Indian Juan Diego by Sam Temple, an act that was fictionalized in Helen Hunt Jackson's *Ramona*." Study Copy: VA23118 T. Note: Incomplete at 12 min.

Disneyland. Adventureland. People and Places—Sardinia, Morocco, Ice breakers and Tiburon (1956-7-4). ABC. Director: Winston Hibler. Writers: Ted Sears, Winston Hibler, Jack Speirs. Rebroadcast of program originally aired October 5, 1955. "Includes: Tiburon Island in the Gulf of California. Little-known facts are revealed about the Seri Indians on the island." Study Copy: VA4107 T

Playhouse 90. "Massacre at Sand Creek" (1956-12-17). CBS. Director: Arthur Hiller. Writer: William Sackheim. Cast: John Derek, Everett Sloane, Gene Evans. "Col. John Templeton is in command of troops stationed in the territory of Kansas. The Colonel hates all Indians bitterly; his methods tend to prolong war rather than work toward peace." Study Copy: VA12259 T

Cheyenne. "The Broken Pledge" (1957-6-4). ABC. Executive Producer: William T. Orr. Writers: Louis Stevens, N.B. Stone Jr. Cast: Clint Walker, Jean Byron, Gary Vinson. "An Indian uprising results when reporter Fay Kirby tries to interview Sitting Bull." Study Copy: DVD9046 T

Death Valley Days. "Tribal Justice" (1958). Executive Producer: Robert Stabler. Producer: Nat Perrin; Director, John English. Writers: Alva Anderson, Bill Danch, Budd Lesser. Host: Ray Milland. Cast: Richard Angarola, Robert Warwick, Rudy Solari. "Son of Indian chief accused of the murder of a fellow tribesman faces trial." Study Copy: VA14605 T

This is Your Life. "Oscar Howe" (1960-4-13). Executive Producer-Host: Ralph Edwards. Subject is a Native American painter and art teacher. Study Copy: DVD11154 T

On the Go. "Silver Spurs" (1960-6-21). CBS. Executive Producer: Irvin Atkins. Producer: William Kayden. Director: Irving Lambrecht. Host: Jack Linkletter. "Jack is made an honorary chief of the Piute tribe by 94-year-old Piute chief Thunder Face (who is assisted by translator Eagle Feather). He also talks with two young Native American boys who are champion tribal dancers." Study Copy: DVD15154 T

The Warden. "Johnny Runs More Slowly" (1963). Executive Producer: Matthew Rapf. Director: Irvin Kershner. Writer, Guy Trosper. Cast: Robert Webber, Gene Evans, Tige Andrews. "Pilot to a proposed series concerning a liberal and concerned warden of a maximum security prison. The Warden helps a young Native American convict realize that he should be proud of his race and his heritage." Study Copy: VA43 T. Note: Unaired, unsold pilot, produced for CBS.

This Proud Land. "The Big Sky Country" (1965-12-18). ABC. Producers: Phil D'Antoni, Norman Baer. Director, Don Horan. Writer: Harold Flender. Featured is a visit with Wyoming's Oglala Sioux Indians. Study Copy: VA16330 T

Custer. "Spirit Woman" (1967-12-13). ABC. Cast: Wayne Maunder, Slim Pickens, Agnes Moorehead. "Agnes Moorehead exchanges her *Bewitched* gear for the white buckskins of a Sioux mystic who defies tribal warmongers to seek peace. Custer's job: protect the woman from her enemies, both white and red." Study Copy: VA22604 T

Climb an Angry Mountain (1972-12-23). NBC. Producer: Herbert F. Solow. Director: Leonard J. Horn. Teleplay: Joseph Calvelli, Sam H. Rolfe. Cast: Fess Parker, Marj Dusay, Joe Kapp. "A Native American convicted of manslaughter, Joey Chilko, escapes prison so he can climb to the top of Mount Shasta, where his gods will protect and forgive him." Study Copy: DVD13621

Reflecciones (1973). Excerpt. KABC-TV, Los Angeles. Director: Jim Gardner. Writer: Tony Rodriguez. Narrator, Alfonso Tafoya. Includes the following segment: Native Americans and Wounded Knee. Study Copy: VA22131 T

The Girl Called Hatter Fox (1977-10-12). CBS. Producer, Director: George Schaefer. Writers: Marilyn Harris, Darryl Ponicsan. Cast: Ronny Cox, Conchata Ferrell, John Durren. "A concerned young doctor must battle against superstition and prejudice to try to save a teenage Indian girl, sent to a state reformatory as an incorrigible." Study Copy: VA18436 T

Abnaki: Native People of Maine (1989-07-04). KCET, Los Angeles. Study of four Indian tribes in Maine. NAPA Cassette: 24038

Dance in America. American Indian Dance Theatre: Dances for the New Generations (1993-05-21). WNET. Producer: Hanay Geiogamah. "*American Indian Dance Theatre: Dances for the New Generations* observes the exchanging of 'dances and music of different tribes' between generations of Native Americans. Included: a memorial potlatch and a Kwakiutl Red Cedar Ceremony in British Columbia; a powwow in North Dakota." Study Copy: VA14665 T

The Native Americans. Part 1, "The Northeast—Give and Take;" "The Far West—Glorious Spirit" (1994-10-10). WTBS. Executive Producer, Pat Mitchell. Producers: Patricia Foulkrod, Michael Grant. Northeast segment directed by John Borden. Far West segment directed by Phil Lucas. Writer: Hanay Geiogamah, Michael Grant. "Debut: A three-part 'story of the American continent, and its original people.' The documentary—an oral history that is supplemented with stills, artwork and atmospheric cinematography—relies on the recollections of tribal leaders gathered in regional 'councils'. Part 1 covers the Northeast and the Far West, and both stories are eerily similar." Inventory Number: T46518

The Native Americans. Part 2, "The Southeast—No Matter How White"; "The Southwest—White Myth, Native Mythology" (1994-10-11). WTBS. Executive Producer, Pat Mitchell. Producers: Patricia Foulkrod, Michael Grant. Southeast segment directed by John Borden. Southwest segment directed by Phil Lucas. Writers: Hanay Geiogamah, Michael Grant. Narrator: Joy Harvo. Inventory Number: T46519

The Native Americans. Part 3, "The Plains—All Our Relations;" "The Plains—Fields of Grass, Seas of Blood" (1994-10-12). WTBS. Executive Producer: Pat Mitchell. Producers: Patricia Foulkrod, Michael Grant. Writers: Hanay Geiogamah, Michael Grant. Narrator: Joy Harvo. Study Copy: VA14668 T

In the Life. Episode 1102, "Vital Discoveries" (November 2001). Host: Katherine Linton. "The episode begins with the segment, Anatomy of a Colorado Murder, about the death of transgender Native American teen Fred Martinez." Study Copy: DVD12651 T

Our Nationhood (2003). The National Film Board of Canada. Executive Producer: Sally Bochner. Producer-Writer-Director: Alanis Obomsowin. "A chronicle of the Listuguj Mi'gmaq community in Quebec—a people determined to live off of their traditional lands." Inventory number: M232003

Totem: The Return of the G'psgolox Pole (2003). The National Film Board of Canada. Executive Producer: Graydon McCrea. Producers: Bonnie Thompson, Jerry Krepakevich. Director: Writer, Gil Cardinal. "Feature-length documentary traces the journey of the Haisla people to reclaim the G'psgolox totem pole that went missing from their British Columbia village in 1929." Inventory number: M231994

Screen Actors Guild Foundation. Conversations. "Russell Means" (2004-04-03). Moderator: Todd Amorde. "Russell Means is an Indian activist turned actor who has lobbied for the dignified portrayal of indigenous people on screen." Study Copy: DVD1502 T

We Shall Remain: America Through Native Eyes. "Tecumseh's Vision" (2009-04-20). PBS. Directors: Ric Burns, Chris Eyre. Writers: Ric Burns, Mark Zwonitzer. Narrator: Benjamin Bratt. Cast: Michael Greyeyes, Alex Meraz, Dwier Brown. "In the course of his brief and meteoric career, Tecumseh would become one of the greatest Native American leaders of all time, orchestrating the most ambitious pan-Indian resistance movement ever mounted on the North American continent." Study Copy: DVD4986 T

We Shall Remain: America Through Native Eyes. "Wounded Knee" (2009-05-11). PBS. Director: Stanley Nelson. Writer: Marcia Smith. Narrator: Benjamin Bratt. Cast: Dennis Banks, Clyde Bellecourt, Carter Camp. "In 1973, American Indian Movement activists and residents of the Pine Ridge Reservation occupied the town of Wounded Knee, demanding redress for grievances. As a result of the siege, Indians across the country forged a new path into the future." Study Copy: DVD4986 T

Newsreels and Broadcast News

International News. Vol. 3, issue 21. Silent newsreel excerpt. "Redskins Pay Tribute to Big Chief Harding; Indian Leaders Bring Pledges of Loyalty to the President—Washington, D.C." (1921-3-15). "President Harding and Mrs. Harding at the White House with Native Americans." Study Copy: DVD9730 M. Note: part of *Treasures V: The West 1898-1938*.

Hearst Metrotone News. Vol. 7, no. 268. Excerpt. "Indians Invade Nation's Capital" (1936-5-13). "Redskin braves, encamped in Washington, call on Uncle Sam for new deal." Study Copy: DVD9730 M. Note: part of *Treasures V: The West 1898-1938*.

Hearst Vault Material. “Introducing World’s First Eightsome at Golf—Toppenish, Washington” (1938-2-26). “Four young Indian mothers determine to master game of golf. Play with papooses strapped to their backs, according to tribal customs. Names of players: Nancy Wak Wak, Nina Meninock, Ellen Suluskan and Virginia Beaver.” Study Copy: VA12511 M

News of the Day. Vol. 12, no. 228. Excerpt. “Uncle Sam Pays Tribute to Iroquois!—Tonawanda Reservation, New York” (1940-12-18). “Indian Agent at Tonawanda Reservation, New York gives 6 yards of calico to tribesmen of Six Nations under terms of treaty signed in 1794.” Study Copy: VA12595 M

Telenews. Vol. 14, Issue 163. Excerpt. “Quakers Protest Indian Treaty Violation, Allegheny River, Pennsylvania” (1961-8-16). “White man’s dam threatens to cover Indian lands.” Study Copy: VA12595 M

The Unhappy Hunting Ground (1971-2-4). KNXT-TV, Los Angeles. Producers: Joe Saltzman, Dan Gingold. “An examination of the plight faced by Indians who leave the reservation hoping for a better life in Los Angeles. For many of the more than 60,000 Indians who have made the journey, the problems to be faced are acute: disillusionment, despair and the loss of cultural identity. Filmed in Los Angeles and at a Navaho reservation in Arizona, the program is narrated by Indians who relate their personal experiences.” Study Copy: DVD2298 T

CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite. Unidentified issues. Excerpts (1972). CBS. “Includes: Lesley Stahl reports on the takeover of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. by a group of Native American Indian Movement supporters. Included is a press conference by Russell Means.” Study Copy: VA14903 T

KTLA News. Excerpt and/or outtakes. “Marlon Brando Attends a Ceremony Celebrating His Donation of Forty Acres of Land to an Indian Tribe—Malibu Canyon, Agoura, Los Angeles, California” (1974-12-30). “Includes footage of Native Americans, John Tunney, Hank [?], singing, chanting, drumming, firemen.” Study Copy: VA13929 M

EcoNews. No. 1718 (1999). “Native American Treaties and Lands.” With: Dorothy Robbins, Steve Traisman and Dave Chief. “Shoshone, Cherokee, Lakota and other Native American treaties and lands.” Inventory Number: T82474

World Today (1999-5-17). CNN. “Includes: Makah Indians revive their age-old tradition of whale hunting.” NAPA Cassette: 71316

Related Resources

UCLA American Indian Studies Center

The UCLA American Indian Studies Center (AISC) was founded in 1969 as a research institute dedicated to addressing American Indian issues and supporting Native communities. For more information, please visit the AISC website (aisc.ucla.edu) or contact AISC (email: aisc@ucla.edu).

UCLA Resources on Native American and Indigenous Affairs

A list of resources including UCLA Law's Native Nations Law & Policy Center, UCLA Land Acknowledgment Guidelines and the "Mapping Indigenous LA" project. Created by the UCLA Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, the UCLA American Indian Studies Interdepartmental Program, and the UCLA American Indian Studies Research Center. equity.ucla.edu/know/resources-on-native-american-and-indigenous-affairs

UCLA Library American Indian Studies Research Guide

A guide to articles, books, primary sources and other resources for researchers. guides.library.ucla.edu/american-indian

UCLA Library Center for Oral History Research

Online project includes over 30 recorded interviews relevant to American Indian history. oralhistory.library.ucla.edu