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For Immediate Release:

***Apache 8, a heart-felt documentary about the first all-women  
firefighting crew, comes to public television in March 2011***

Native American Public Telecommunications, Inc. (NAPT) proudly announces the release of a new documentary that shares stories from the Apache 8 all-women wildland firefighter crew. The Apache 8 firefighter crew was not only the first of its kind, but it is also the longest lasting all-women firefighting crew in the United States.

Produced by Apache 8, LLC and NAPT, *Apache 8* tells the story of the all-women wildland firefighter crew that fought fires in Arizona, and throughout the United States, for over thirty years. The film delves into the heroic lives of these firefighters from the White Mountain Apache Tribe and considers the challenges of being a firefighter on the Reservation.

Four extraordinary women from different generations of the Apache 8 crew share their personal narratives with humor and tenderness. They speak of hardship and loss, family and community, and pride in being a firefighter from Fort Apache.

Marjorie Grimes, crew leader of the predecessor Apache 6, recalled the crew's early days, "The public was not open to women firefighters. We had to fight for the right to fight fires."

Katy Aday also experienced the struggle for acceptance immediately upon signing up. As the then director of forestry told her, "Once you get all that [firefighting] equipment on you, that equipment is going to weigh more than you. You're too small, you're too thin, you can't do it. You won't be able to handle the job." Aday recalls that on that day when he said that to her, she was more determined than ever to go work for Apache 8.

Combining archival footage and present-day interviews, the film focuses primarily on four women—Cheryl Bones, Ericka Hinton, Katy Aday and Nina Quintero—who represent the different generations of Apache 8 crewmembers. Alongside the personal narratives of these women is an exploration of life in the contemporary Apache Nation. The cinematography of the film integrates a poetic stylization of firefighters at work and at Apache rituals like the Sunrise Dance—the initiation ritual for girls at puberty. *Apache 8* showcases a music score from composer Wendy Blackstone and many contributing Native American artists such as Tony Duncan (Apache/Arikara/Hidatsa/Mandan), Joe Tohonnie, Jr. (Navajo/White Mountain Apache) and Phillip and Patsy Cassadore (Apache). Set against the backdrop of the White River, the documentary also recounts Apache history and culture in both English and Apache.

The women of Apache 8 have all excelled and been honored with national recognition for community and military service, including Cheryl Bones, the Apache 8 crew boss who was selected as the only woman model for the Wildland Firefighters Monument in Boise, Idaho, which pays homage to all firefighters with bronze statues. Despite the difficulties of life on the Apache Reservation, these women persevere as heroes and pillars of strength for their entire community. Katy Aday summed it up best, "You never knew what you were going to face. You were with a bunch of women that could handle anything."

To inquire about station carriage in your area, please visit [www.pbs.org/stationfinder](http://www.pbs.org/stationfinder).

**About NAPT**

Native American Public Telecommunications, Inc. (NAPT), a non-profit 501(c)(3) which receives major funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, shares Native stories with the world through support of the creation, promotion and distribution of Native media. Founded in 1977, through various media—public television, public radio and the Internet—NAPT brings awareness of Indian and Alaska Native issues. NAPT operates AIROS Audio, offering 24/7 downloadable podcasts with Native filmmakers, musicians and Tribal leaders. VisionMaker is the premier source for quality Native American educational and home videos. All aspects of our programs encourage the involvement of young people to learn more about careers in the media—to be the next generation of storytellers. NAPT is located at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. NAPT offers student employment, internships and fellowships. Reaching the general public and the global market is the ultimate goal for the dissemination of Native-produced media.

## **Additional Information Regarding Apache 8:**

**Run time:** 56:40

### **Broadcast feed dates/times:**

NOLA Code: APHE 00 H1

Release/Feed Date HD: Saturday, March 26, 2011, at 2000-2100ET/HD04;

National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA)

**Credits:** Produced by Apache 8, LLC and NAPT.

**Funding for Apache 8:** Major funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Additional funding provided by the French American Charitable Trust (FACT), the Hanson Film Institute and National Geographic's All Roads Film Project.

### **Online Resources:**

**Press Kit:** [www.nativetelecom.org/apache8](http://www.nativetelecom.org/apache8)

**Additional information:** [www.apache8.com](http://www.apache8.com)

**Educational resources:** [www.nativetelecom.org/education](http://www.nativetelecom.org/education)

### **About the Crew:**

#### **Heather Rae (Cherokee), Executive Producer**

Heather Rae produced *Frozen River*, which was nominated for two Academy Awards, won two Gotham Awards and was nominated for seven Spirit Awards resulting in a Best Actress win for Melissa Leo and the Piaget Producer Award for Rae. Rae produced and directed *Trudell* which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and went on to play in over 100 film festivals worldwide. For six years, Rae ran the Native Program at the Sundance Institute and was a programmer for the Sundance Film Festival. Last year, she was named one of *Variety's* Ten Producers to Watch.

#### **Sande Zeig, Producer and Director**

Zeig is a writer, director, producer and film distributor. Her short film, *Central Park*, premiered at Sundance in 1994. She went on to direct a feature, *The Girl*, based on a short story by renowned French writer Monique Wittig that premiered at the Toronto and Berlin Film Festivals in 2001. Her documentary *Soul Masters: Dr. Guo & Dr. Sha*, was released in April 2008, by Beyond Words Distribution. Zeig is president of Artistic License Films, a film distribution company that has distributed more than one hundred films including films by Ismail Merchant, Michel Negroponte, Jim Stark, Kore-eda Hirakazu, DA Pennebaker and Chris Hegedus. She is head of the Media Department for Institute of Soul Healing and Enlightenment. Zeig recently completed *Apache 8*, and is developing a documentary on Monique Wittig, her partner, with whom she collaborated on a book, screenplays and plays.

#### **Distributed by: VisionMaker, a service of NAPT**

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