



NAPT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For The Rights Of All Explores Native Alaskan Civil Rights

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For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska is being released to Public Television stations across the nation this Fall. The film is presented by **Native American Public Telecommunications** and **American Public Television** for Native American Heritage Month. Check your local Public Television station listings for dates and times.

For the Rights of All is the largely unknown story of the Native Alaskan struggle for equality in the first half of the 20th Century and the central role in it played by an extraordinary Tlingit Indian woman, Elizabeth Peratrovich. Her relentless struggles and compelling State Senate testimony resulted in the passage of the Alaskan Anti-Discrimination Bill, the first civil rights bill enacted in the United States since the Civil War—one decade *before* “Brown vs. Board of Education.”

Through extensive reenactments, historic footage and photographs, the non-violent struggle for Native Alaskan justice unfolds in *For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska*. Its filmmakers include many images of signs reading “No Natives allowed,” commands that confronted the indigenous people on a daily basis until 1945. One sign is shown in front of an Army recruitment center—a *center recruiting Native Alaskans!*

Elizabeth Peratrovich’s struggle for Native Alaskan rights began when, as a teen, she was arrested for sitting in the movies next to whites. She continued her non-violent fight, first alone, later with her husband, Roy—and still later with the support of Alaskan Governor Ernest Gruening, always with the growing support of other indigenous people. Struggling for Native Alaskan access to all the places open to whites and for other equal rights, their efforts sought the right to vote and the right to an education allowing Natives to speak their Traditional languages and practice their Traditional ways.

For the Rights of All is produced by Jeffrey Silverman, Blueberry Productions. Presented by NAPT, it is underwritten by Rasmuson Foundation, Alaska Humanities Forum, Alaska Native Heritage Center, Sealaska Corporation and Alaska Airlines.

- Photos and broadcast information: http://www.nativetelecom.org/rights_all_0
- Official Program Web Site: <http://www.alaskacivilrights.org/>
- Electronic Press Kit: http://www.nativetelecom.org/rights_all_0
- Viewers Guide: http://www.nativetelecom.org/rights_all_0

Broadcast presenter, **Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT)**, shares Native stories with the world through support of the creation, promotion and distribution of Native media. NAPT’s other fall 2009 offerings include *To Brooklyn and Back: A Mohawk Journey*, *Jim Thorpe*, *The World’s Greatest Athlete*, *River of Renewal*, and *Power Paths* on *Independent Lens*. Other NAPT services include **AIROS.org**, for streaming and downloadable audio; and **VisionMaker Video**, a distributor of *For the Rights of All* 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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