

September 22, 2011

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For Immediate Release:

***Smokin' Fish*, a humorous documentary about personal
identity and family, comes to PBS November 1st**

Lincoln, Neb.: Native American Public Telecommunications, Inc. (NAPT) proudly announces the release of *Smokin' Fish*, a new documentary that delves into the untold history of the Tlingit people of Alaska as it relates to today's modern society.

Smokin' Fish, produced by Luke Griswold-Tergis and NAPT, was selected as the recipient of the prestigious award of "Best Documentary" by *Séquences Journal* at the 2011 Montreal First Peoples' Festival. The film also was selected as an "Official Selection" at the Hawaii International Film Festival, the Mill Valley Film Festival and the Southeast Alaska State Fair. In the documentary, Tergis serves as co-director of the documentary alongside the film's main focus, Tlingit director Cory Mann. Together, they take viewers into the very personal, but quirky life of Mann.

Mann is businessman hustling to make a dollar in Juneau, Alaska. He gets hungry for smoked salmon—nostalgic for his childhood—and decides to spend a summer preparing traditional smoked salmon. The unusual story of his life and the untold history of his people interweave with the process of preparing traditional food as he struggles to pay his bills and keep his business afloat.

Members of Cory's family—including the "seven women" who raised him—feature prominently in the documentary. His Aunt Sally Burattin (Tlingit), in particular, anchors the narrative in the history and culture of an ancient civilization while Mann's business exploits carry him helter-skelter through the 21st century, struggling to navigate the messy zone of the modern world as it collides with traditional culture.

"For a while, I didn't really like it. I didn't want to be Indian. I felt like I was being punished for something I didn't do. All I could think of was I just want to be away from it," commented Cory.

Cory's childhood was centered around him being raised by his great grandmother who was born and raised in a time when Tlingit culture was still dominant. She dedicated herself to smoking salmon in the traditional manner on an almost industrial scale, providing food and a cultural connection to a wide network of people who couldn't prepare their own. As a child, Cory was terrified of Alaska, but as he became immersed in it, he saw the beauty of how everything was alive and thriving, much different than the city of San Diego that he was used to.

"No one can step on you once you learn what your house is, who you are, where you came from and how you got where you're at," explained Aunt Sally.

Smokin' Fish producer/director/writer Luke Griswold-Tergis explains, "*Smokin' Fish* is more than preparing traditional smoked salmon. We see traditional food as a connection with history and with the land, as well as a pillar that supports living Indigenous culture."

To inquire about station carriage in your area, please visit 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 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 *Smokin' Fish*:

Run time: 56:46

Broadcast feed dates/times:

NOLA Code: SMOF

Release/Feed Date (HD 16:9): Saturday, November 1, 2011, at 0900-1000ET; PBS Plus

Credits: Produced by Luke Griswold-Tergis and Native American Public Telecommunications, Inc. (NAPT)

Funding for *Smokin' Fish*: Major funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Additional funding provided by the Rasmuson Foundation, Cory Mann (Juneau, AK), Luke Griswold-Tergis (Haines, AK), Charlotte Griswold (Lower Lake, CA), Craig Griswold (Moro Bay, CA) and Margo Griswold (Los Angeles, CA).

Press Kit available online at: www.nativetelecom.org/smokin_fish

Educational resources available online at: www.nativetelecom.org/education

About the Crew:

Cory Mann (Tlingit), Director

Cory Mann is an emerging filmmaker from Juneau, Alaska. A Tlingit Indian from the Eagle Thunderbird Clan, his twin passions are Tlingit food and history. Mann is an entrepreneur and when he is not smoking fish, he runs his business, Stories and Legends, out of Juneau. His business focuses on mass producing and importing Tlingit artwork and wholesaling it to the tourism industry. He was inspired to take *Smokin' Fish*, his first film, by a deep concern for the future of his culture and the health of his people.

Luke Griswold-Tergis, Producer/Director/Writer

Luke Griswold-Tergis is an emerging filmmaker from Haines, Alaska. He graduated from the University of California-Santa Cruz where he studied anthropology and social documentation. In Alaska, he has been a commercial fisherman, carpenter and boat mechanic. Since 2002, Luke has annually participated in the subsistence fishery in Klukwan. He is adopted by elder Sally Burattin, Cory Mann's Aunt, who is from the Gaanaxteidí (Chilkat Raven) Frog Clan. Along with Cory Mann, he has been following the story of cultural revitalization amongst the Tlingit people for several years.

Distributed by: VisionMaker, a service of NAPT

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