



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# NAPT

### *To Brooklyn And Back: A Mohawk Journey* tells family stories of ironworkers

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*To Brooklyn and Back: A Mohawk Journey*, tells the personal story of Mohawk filmmaker Reaghan Tarbell from Kahnawake, Quebec, as she explores her roots and traces the connections of her family to the Mohawk community in Brooklyn, New York. It is being released on PBS stations across the nation this fall 2009. The film is presented by **Native American Public Telecommunications** for Native American Heritage Month. Check your local Public Television station listings for dates and times.

For over 50 years, the Kahnawake Mohawks, of Quebec, Canada occupied a 10 square block area in the North Gowanus section of Brooklyn, which became known as Little Caughnawaga. The men, skilled ironworkers, came to New York in search of work and brought their wives, children and often, extended family with them. The story of the Mohawk ironworkers has been told through documentaries, newspaper and magazine articles. Yet the stories of Kahnawake Mohawk women who lived in Brooklyn is little known.

As a matriarchal people, Kahnawake women created and maintained this Mohawk enclave in the middle of a bustling, diverse city. As mothers, keepers of the home and the children, there were often the bread winners themselves during the hard times when work was slow. Today, Tarbell works in New York City and lives in Brooklyn, just a few blocks away from the legendary Mohawk community that she heard stories about while growing up in Kahnawake.

"Never have I thought more about them than during my own time living in Brooklyn," Tarbell said. "Although many years have passed I had a feeling, based on my own experiences, that deep down not much has changed for Mohawk women. I wanted to learn about their experiences. I wanted to hear about the issues they faced and I wanted to hear it from the women in whose path I was now walking."

The contributions and stories of the Mohawk women who were instrumental in the creation of Little Caughnawaga are told through interviews, archival photos, home movies and their visit to the old neighborhood. Directed by Reaghan Tarbell from Kahnawake, this documentary was produced by Mushkeg Media Inc and the National Film Board of Canada.

- Photos and broadcast information: [http://nativetelecom.org/brooklyn\\_and\\_back](http://nativetelecom.org/brooklyn_and_back)
- Electronic Press Kit: [http://nativetelecom.org/brooklyn\\_and\\_back](http://nativetelecom.org/brooklyn_and_back)

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 *For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska*, *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 *To Brooklyn and Back: A Mohawk Journey* and other documentaries by and about Native Americans. For more information, visit: [www.nativetelecom.org](http://www.nativetelecom.org).

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**NAPT shares Native stories with the world.**

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