



Aleut Story

From isolated internment camps in Southeast Alaska to Congress and the White House, this is the incredible untold story of Aleut Americans. Narrated by EMMY® winner Martin Sheen.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Aleut Story* nominated for Best Documentary Feature at American Indian Film Festival**

30th Annual AIFF to be held Nov. 5-12 in San Francisco

ANCHORAGE—*Aleut Story*, a new film from Anchorage-based SprocketHeads, LLC, has been nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the 30th annual American Indian Film Festival. The film, commissioned by the Aleutian Pribilof Heritage Group, Inc., will be screened Monday, Nov. 7th at the Galaxy Theatre in San Francisco.

AIFF is the world's oldest and most recognized international film exposition dedicated to Native American cinema. AIFF is presented by the American Indian Film Institute; among the institute's founding members is the late actor Will Sampson (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*). More than 5,000 people are expected to attend this year's festival.

Aleut Story is presented by Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT), which supports the creation, promotion and distribution of Native media. The film is distributed by American Public Television.

Aleut Story presents the extraordinary true account of Aleut Americans' internment during World War II and their epic struggle for the restoration of their civil and human rights. Produced for public television, *Aleut Story* will make its public broadcast premier next month on stations nationwide (see local listings for dates and times).

Narrated by EMMY® winner Martin Sheen, the film features compelling interviews with Aleut internment survivors—some speaking out for the first time in more than 60 years—rare archival footage, commentary by leading historians and key national figures. *Aleut Story* includes powerful performances by actor John O'Hurley (*Seinfeld*, *Dancing with the Stars*) and GRAMMY® winner Mary Youngblood.

Filmed on location in Alaska and Washington, D.C., *Aleut Story* is a richly textured film resonating with all the elements of a great human drama—war, suffering, sacrifice, faith, self-discovery and renewal.

In 1942, as World War II invaded Alaska, Aleut Americans were taken from their homes and removed to abysmal government camps 1,500 miles away. Death was ever-present in the camps. An estimated 10 percent of the men, women and children sent to the camps would die there—a death rate comparable to that suffered by Americans in foreign prisoner of war camps. As the Aleuts prayed for deliverance, “friendly forces” looted their homes and churches in the Aleutian and Pribilof islands.

Those who survived would fight for their rights—in the nation's courts and on Capitol Hill. In a historic action—one that continues to influence our lives and our nation's ideals—Aleuts joined Japanese Americans in seeking wartime reparations from the federal government.

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Aleut Americans prevailed, but their story remains virtually unknown to their countrymen. A powerful and provocative film, *Aleut Story* gives voice to Aleut Americans and serves as a poignant reminder we must all be vigilant in defense of individual freedoms.

Aleut Story is produced by SprocketHeads, LLC for the Aleutian Pribilof Heritage Group. The film is presented by Native American Public Telecommunications, which receives major funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Distribution is provided by American Public Television. Major funding for *Aleut Story* was provided by NAPT, the Rasmuson Foundation, the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Restitution Trust, and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundations. Additional funding was provided by First Alaskans, Inc., Aleutians Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA), Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation, Ounalashka Corporation, Alaska Airlines, CIRI Foundation, Aleut Corporation, At-Sea Processors Association, Atka Fisherman's Association, Henry M. Jackson Foundation, Tanaq, and Fowler & Associates, CPA.

Film Credits:

Executive Producer Carolyn K. Robinson
Writer/Director/Producer Marla Williams
Director of Photography Steven L. Rychetnik
Editors Loren Church, Peter Coan, and Steven L. Rychetnik
Associate Producer Jessi Roullier
Contributing Writer Amy Wilson
Composer Alan Koshiyama
Executive Producer, Aleutian Pribilof Heritage Group Maj. Gen. Jake Lestenkof (ret.)

Other News:

Aleut Story will have an Alaska Premier Screening on Monday, Nov. 7, at the Bear Tooth Theatre in Anchorage, show times are 5:30 PM and 8:15 PM.

Aleut Story is the recipient of a Gold Special Jury Award from the World-Fest Houston International Film Festival 2005.

About SprocketHeads, LLC

SprocketHeads is Alaska's film and HD headquarters providing highest quality pre-production, production and post-production services for national and international projects. The company is owned by Executive Producer Carolyn K. Robinson; Creative Director and Director of Photography is Steven L. Rychetnik.

About Native American Public Telecommunications

NAPT produces and develops programs for public television and radio, distributes and encourages the use of Native media, provides training opportunities to increase the number of American Indians and Alaska Natives producing broadcast quality programming, provides leadership for the development of telecommunications policies favorable to American Indians and Alaska Natives, and works with tribal nations, Indian organizations and native communities. NAPT receives major funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Press should contact Penny Costello, at 402-472-0496 or via email to pcostello1@unl.edu. For information about NAPT programs and services go to www.nativetelecom.org.

About American Public Television

For 44 years, APT has been a prime source of programming for the nation's public television stations. APT distributes more than 10,000 hours of programming including JFK: Breaking the News, Simply Ming, Globe Trekker, Rick Steves' Europe, Julia and Jacques Cooking at Home, Battlefield Britain, Jungle, America's Test Kitchen, Lidia's Family Table and classic movies. APT is known for identifying innovative programs and developing creative distribution techniques for producers. In four decades, it has established a tradition of providing public television stations nationwide with program choices that enable them to strengthen and customize their schedules. Media inquiries regarding APT should be directed to Donna Hardwick, at 617-338-4455 ext. 129 or via email to Donna_Hardwick@APTonline.org. For more information about APT programs and services visit at www.APTonline.org