



RED NATION CELEBRATION INSTITUTE

THE THIRTY-FIRST EDITION

“

*The Creative Enterprise by Natives Delivering to
All People the Stories that Shape our World.*



20
26

Where Story Becomes Ceremony
and Script Becomes Sovereignty

Empowering Native Indigenous Storytellers Since 1995

RNCI's mission is to break barriers of racism by creating systemic change through the arts, media and pop culture in order to eliminate Native American stereotypes. Our vision for the future of cinema is one in which Native Indigenous perspectives are authentically pictured, recognized, and valued in a way that promotes strong authentic Native identities, economic outcomes, equity, and wellness.



NATIVE WOMEN
IN FILM &
TELEVISION
IN ALL MEDIA



WE ARE RED NATION

THE **AUTHENTIC VOICE** OF
AMERICAN INDIAN &
INDIGENOUS CINEMA.



P 818.665.5753

rednation.com

grants@rednation.com

Red Nation Celebration Institute

**Building on Our Legacy -
*Empowering Native and
Indigenous Excellence***

RNCI Flagship Programs

Red Nation International Film Festival

RNCI Red Nation Awards

Native Women in Film & Television
in All Media

Red Nation Television Network

Native Indigenous Student Academy
for Cinematic Arts

Each November, RNCI lights up Hollywood with one of the world's largest celebrations of Native and Indigenous storytelling- an international stage where creators, filmmakers, and changemakers rise, reclaim narrative power, and shape the future of global cinema.



COMMITMENT TO OUR MISSION WHO TELLS THE STORY MATTERS

We believe that Native and Indigenous stories told on screen have the power to unite us, offering reflections of the worlds we live in and the shared experiences that connect us all.

We support over 574 Native Nations and 1,200 Indigenous communities globally, fostering a vibrant network of artists, audiences, and allies who champion diversity, inclusion, and a collective vision for a more connected and compassionate humanity.

For three decades, we have proudly celebrated and uplifted independent Native and Indigenous artists, building audiences for their invaluable and indispensable work. Today, our mission-driven efforts have grown into the largest Native and Indigenous film festival in the U.S. and the world. Through our diverse programming, initiatives, and events—including Talent Development, Youth Education, Native Women Empowerment, Native Women in Film & Television in All Media, On the Road in Selected Theatres, Red Nation International Film Festival, Native Women in Film Festival, Native Indigenous Student Film Festival, and Red Nation Television Network (the world's first Native streamer and distribution platform)—we continue to empower and spotlight the voices, stories, and leadership of visual storytellers.

Our work challenges dominant narratives, fosters mutual understanding, and transforms the way audiences perceive the world and one another. Together, we are creating a future where Native and Indigenous representation thrives at the heart of global storytelling.

RNCI's unwavering commitment has proven to be of immense value—not only to the global community but also to the film industry and Indian Country America. Our staff and board of directors embody a diverse and equitable representation, reflecting our commitment to inclusion both internally and externally.

WHO TELLS THE STORY MATTERS



RNCI
RED NATION CELEBRATION INSTITUTE

#1

**The Leading
Native &
Indigenous
Entertainment
Enterprise**

25M
TOTAL DIGITAL REACH

THE WORLD WANTS IN ON HOLLYWOOD'S LARGEST NATIVE & INDIGENOUS NON-PROFIT ENTERPRISE

Red Nation Celebration Institute (RNCI) advances authentic Native and Indigenous storytelling through Native-led leadership and systemic change in the entertainment industry.

For over three decades, we have worked to ensure that these stories are led, protected, and elevated by Indigenous voices.

As a Native women-led media arts organization rooted in Los Angeles, we elevate federally recognized and urban Native voices while fostering greater understanding of American Indian,

Alaska Native, and Indigenous Nations across arts, social justice, tribal, environmental, and educational communities in Los Angeles, throughout California, and globally. We serve more than 575 Native Nations across the United States and engage Indigenous communities worldwide.

RNCI is the longest-running Native Women-Led Indigenous impact media arts and cultural nonprofit enterprise, stands as a cornerstone of Native leadership in the entertainment industry.

**Entertainment's biggest stories by and
about Native and Indigenous people.**

**150+ FILMS, TRIBUTES, PANELS,
AN EVENING WITH**

.... AND FREE EVENTS

November 6-15. 2026



EVENTS



RNIFF Screenings

LA's Premier Native & Indigenous Film Festival
Red Nation International Film Festival
The Authentic Voice of American Indian & Indigenous Cinema

Where story becomes ceremony.
Where film becomes legacy.

RNCI Presents: An Evening With...

Join us for an intimate conversation as we take a deep dive into a director's life, artistry, and remarkable career- from their award-winning films to their early beginnings in the film industry.

This special evening celebrates Native and Indigenous Filmmakers boldly taking their place in the **director's chair**, where vision becomes voice and story becomes power.

When Native and Indigenous Filmmakers control the lens, we do more than tell stories- **we reclaim narrative sovereignty and redefine the future of cinema.**



EVENTS

Spotlight Exclusive Filmmakers Celebration Reception

Alumni of the Red Nation International Film Festival reunite to celebrate their journeys, exchange stories, strengthen creative bonds, and engage with leading industry professionals—fostering collaboration, opportunity, and the next chapter of Indigenous cinema.



Red Nation Conversation Series - The Matriarch of Cinema

Over the last eight years, RNIFF has wholeheartedly championed the screening of impressive **281 films** directed by women.

This laudable initiative is a resounding testament to our unwavering commitment to promoting inclusivity within the film industry. In a remarkable feat, we have surpassed prominent film festivals like Toronto, Cannes, Sundance, Tribeca, & the Oscars in the sheer number of women-directed films featured.



EVENTS



On the Red Is Green Carpet

RNCI's Red Is Green Carpet events in Los Angeles are signature moments on the entertainment calendar - where celebrity appearances, high fashion, and media converge to spotlight Native and Indigenous excellence.

More than a red carpet, it is a statement of presence and power. The Red Is Green Carpet amplifies Indigenous representation in front of the cameras and behind the scenes, celebrating artists, filmmakers, and cultural leaders shaping the future of global entertainment.

Blending artistry, couture, and purpose, these high-profile gatherings generate press visibility while supporting charitable initiatives aligned with RNCI's mission - advancing narrative sovereignty, community impact, and opportunity for the next generation of Indigenous creatives.

Call To Action | Virtual Free Events

RNCI is widely recognized for its bold Call to Action initiatives — including *Why We Wear Red*, *Only One Water*, *Climate Change*, and *Native Youth Matter* — powerful platforms that ignite meaningful dialogue around the critical issues impacting Indian Country and Indigenous communities across America.

Through film, broadcast media, red carpet visibility, and live convenings, RNCI transforms awareness into advocacy — elevating urgent causes, amplifying Native voices, and mobilizing audiences to move from conversation to commitment. Each initiative is strategically designed to bridge culture and action, ensuring that visibility leads to measurable impact.

These are not symbolic gestures. They are purposeful interventions rooted in sovereignty, environmental stewardship, youth empowerment, and the protection of Native women and families.

At RNCI, storytelling is never passive — it is a catalyst for awareness, accountability, and systemic change.

WHO TELLS THE STORY MATTERS.

#NATIVESINCHARGE OF THEIR NARRATIVE

EVENTS

RNIFF: The Native Film Market

NATIVE & INDIGENOUS TALENT DEFINING HOLLYWOOD'S NEW ERA

Buyers and investors from around the world are discovering the next wave of authentic storytelling—driven by Native and Indigenous creators shaping the future of global media.

Home to the largest selection of new and emerging Native and Indigenous films—and the talent shaping the future of global storytelling.

A dynamic nine-day summit spotlighting film, series, industry conversations, and more—designed to elevate voices, forge partnerships, and accelerate opportunity.

This one-of-a-kind marketplace connects festival filmmakers directly with distribution companies, production companies, and leading decision-makers across the entertainment industry—where deals are made, careers are launched, and stories find their global audience.



RNIFF the market

First & Only Native Indigenous Film Market

DISTRIBUTION. UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES.

November 6-14. 2026

Curated Access / Panels / Pitches / Labs



“

The Red Nation International Film Festival is essentially a space for Indigenous voices stories and lived experiences. The program is thoughtful, powerful and grounding and respect for community culture, and true rather than spectacle.

What stood out the most was the range of strength and storytelling across both narrative and documentary films. The festival created a space for intimate, personal storytelling, bold creativity, vision, and culturally, rooted narratives that rarely find space in mainstream festivals. Whether fiction or nonfiction the films are unified by authentic care and a deep connection to Land, identity, and history.

Red Nation is more than a film festival. It's a platform for voices that are too often minimized or ignored. I was honored to be part of it and would strongly encourage filmmakers and audiences alike to support and engage with this important festival.

***If The Silence Could Be Broken*
Director Guy Morgan**

EXPOSURE

REPRESENTATION MATTERS

RNCI PREMIERES, EVENTS, AWARDS

RNCI research demonstrates that when Native stories are told by Native people, they go beyond mere entertainment—they educate, challenge stereotypes, and inspire meaningful policy changes.

For the past three decades, RNCI has not waited for the entertainment industry to recognize our storytelling and talent. Since 1995, RNCI has been actively creating that space for Native voices, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of the entertainment industry. By doing so, we have inspired Native talent to believe in themselves, embrace their creativity, and share their stories with the world.

Native in Charge of Their Narrative!





WHO WILL TAKE HOME THE RNCI RED NATION FILM AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 2026

THE RNCI RED NATION AWARDS
PRESENTED BY RED NATION
CELEBRATION INSTITUTE

LIVE ONLY ON RED NATION
TELEVISION NETWORK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15. 2026
BEVERLY HILTON HOTEL



YOUR DESTINATION FOR AWARDS SEASON

**Awards season begins
each November with
the RNCI Red Nation
Awards—where Native
and Indigenous
excellence takes its
rightful place at
the forefront.**



"Hollywood & Indian Country's Biggest Night for American Indian & Indigenous Voices"™

Cementing Native Indigenous at the
forefront of the Entertainment Industry

Hollywood has Oscar, Broadway has Tony, Television has
the Emmy, and Indian Country has the Red Nation Film
Award of Excellence™

and 2025 RNCI Red Nation Awards went to...

Best Picture

Nika & Madison, Katelyn Cursio,
Paula Devonshire, Kaniehtiio Horn,
Ellyn Jade, Tyler Levine, Jennifer
Podemski, Eva Thomas, Producer

Achievement in Directing

Eva Thomas For Nika & Madison

Outstanding Lead Performance by an Actress

Ellyn Jade For Nika & Madison

Outstanding Lead Performance by an Actor

Joshua Odjick For Sweet Summer
Powwow

Outstanding Supporting Performance by an Actress

Kataraina Howden-Borell For In
The Fire Of War

Outstanding Supporting Performance by an Actor

Billy Merasty For Nika & Madison

Best Original Screenplay

Michael McGowan &
Eva Thomas For Nika &
Madison

Best Documentary Feature

YANUNI

Best Doc Short

Red Girl Rising
A Wilderness Act

Best Live Action

Courage

Best Animated Short

The Forgotten Soles

Best Episodic & Television Series

Dark Winds – Producers,
Cast And Crew AMC
Networks



Red Nation Honors Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award

Zahn McClarnon



THE BRANDO AWARD

Peter and Jennifer Buffett

NoVo Foundation

THE EDWARD ALBERT JR AWARD

QOTZUNI: PEOPLE OF THE LAKE

Directors Michael Salama, Gastón Zilberman

THE EDWARD R ROYBAL AWARD

Wendsler Nosie Sr

Apache Stronghold

THE CHIEF DAN GEORGE AWARD

THE SNAKE AND THE WHALE

Director John Carlos Frey

THE COURAGE AWARD

CHEYENNE CREATION STORY

Director Nellie Whiteman

THE JOANELLE ROMERO

IMPACT AWARD

YOU'RE NO INDIAN

Director Ryan Flynn

RNCI & The Academy Awards

Congratulations to all RNCI Alumni, Nominees and Winners for the 98th Academy Awards 2026

Marking its 30th anniversary in 2025, the Red Nation Celebration Institute Film Festival & Awards has once again emerged as a key platform in the awards landscape, with multiple films entering Academy Awards “For Your Consideration” campaigns, shortlist considerations and nominations for the 98th Academy Awards.

RNIFF30 RED NATION INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
The Authentic Voice of Native & Indigenous Cinema

CONGRATULATIONS TO SINNERS FOR ITS NOMINATION IN 16 CATEGORIES FOR THE 98TH ACADEMY AWARDS

RNCI Red Nation Award Winner
The Birds Who Fear Death
* Outstanding Supporting Performance by an Actor
Monkey Beach
* Outstanding Performance by Actor in a Leading Role

RNCI Red Nation Award Nominee
Portraits from a Fire
* Outstanding Performance by Actor in a Leading Role
The Northlander
* Outstanding Supporting Performance by an Actor



RNIFF ALUMNI NATHANIEL ARCAND



RNIFF30 RED NATION INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
The Authentic Voice of Native & Indigenous Cinema

Congratulations to Chloé Zhao on her Academy Award® nomination for Best Director HAMNET

RNCI Red Nation Award Winner
Songs My Brothers Taught Me
• Best Picture – Chloé Zhao
• Best Director – Chloé Zhao
• Outstanding Actress – Jashaun St. John

RNCI Red Nation Awards Nominee
The Rider
• Best Picture – Caviar & Highway Films
• Best Director – Chloé Zhao
• Outstanding Actress – Lilly Jandreau



RNIFF ALUMNI CHLOE ZHAO



RNIFF30 RED NATION INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
The Authentic Voice of Native & Indigenous Cinema

Congratulations to Benicio del Toro on his Academy Award® nomination for Best Supporting Actor ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER

Benicio del Toro headlined Opening Night at the 2013 Red Nation International Film Festival
with Jimmy P:
Psychotherapy of a Plains Indian



RNIFF ALUMNI BENICIO DEL TORO



In the rarefied air of the Oscars, a nomination alone represents excellence at the highest level of global cinema. For our alumni, that recognition reflects years of discipline, courage, and uncompromising commitment to authentic storytelling. Whether or not they take home the statuette, their work has already shifted the cultural landscape and expanded the boundaries of what is possible.

At RNCI, we have long championed Native and Indigenous actors and filmmakers — building platforms for visibility, recognition, and meaningful opportunity at pivotal stages of their careers. Witnessing them stand among the industry's most celebrated voices affirms what we have always known: investing early in Indigenous authorship transforms cinema itself.

These nominations are not simply personal milestones; they are indicators of collective momentum for Indigenous storytelling worldwide. They represent progress — and responsibility. If we want to see Native and Indigenous artists not only nominated, but consistently financed, distributed, and sustained, we must continue to invest boldly, advocate strategically, and expand access at every level of the industry.

The future of global cinema will be defined not just by the stories recognized — but by the stories sustained.

RNIFF30 RED NATION INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
The Authentic Voice of Native & Indigenous Cinema

CONGRATULATIONS TO SINNERS FOR ITS
NOMINATION IN 16 CATEGORIES
FOR THE 98TH ACADEMY AWARDS

RNCI Red Nation Award Winner
The Birds Who Fear Death
• Outstanding Supporting Performance by an Actor
Monkey Beach
• Outstanding Performance by Actor in a Actor in Leading Role

RNCI Red Nation Award Nominee
Portraits from a Fire
• Outstanding Performance by Actor in Leading Role
The Northlander
• Outstanding Supporting Performance by an Actor

RNIFF ALUMNI
NATHANIEL ARCAND

RNIFF30 RED NATION INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
The Authentic Voice of Native & Indigenous Cinema

CONGRATULATIONS TO TRAIN DREAMS FOR ITS
NOMINATION IN FOUR CATEGORIES
FOR THE 98TH ACADEMY AWARDS

RNCI Red Nation Award Winner
The Birds Who Fear Death
• Outstanding Supporting Performance by an Actor
Monkey Beach
• Outstanding Performance by Actor in a Actor in Leading Role

RNCI Red Nation Award Nominee
Portraits from a Fire
• Outstanding Performance by Actor in Leading Role
The Northlander
• Outstanding Supporting Performance by an Actor

RNIFF ALUMNI
NATHANIEL ARCAND

RNIFF30 RED NATION INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
The Authentic Voice of Native & Indigenous Cinema

Congratulations to Leo DeCaprio on his
Academy Award® nomination
for Best Actor

ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER

RNCI Red Nation Award Winner
Leo DiCaprio was the recipient of the prestigious THE BRANDO AWARD
The Marlon Brando Award established in 2008, endorsed by the Brando family.

RNCI Red Nation Award Winner
The Revenant
• Best Picture
• New Regency, Anonymous Content, and M Productions
• Best Director - Alejandro González Iñárritu
• Best Actor - Leo DiCaprio

RNIFF ALUMNI
LEO DICAPRIO

RNIFF30 RED NATION INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
The Authentic Voice of Native & Indigenous Cinema

Congratulations to Benicio del Toro on his
Academy Award® nomination
for Best Supporting Actor

ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER

Benicio del Toro headlined Opening Night at the 2013 Red Nation International Film Festival
with Jimmy P: Psychotherapy of a Plains Indian

OFFICIAL SELECTION 2013
RED NATION INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

RNIFF ALUMNI
BENICIO DEL TORO

RNIFF30 RED NATION INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
The Authentic Voice of Native & Indigenous Cinema

Congratulations to Chloé Zhao on her
Academy Award® nomination
for Best Director

HAMNET

RNCI Red Nation Award Winner
Songs My Brothers Taught Me
• Best Picture — Chloé Zhao
• Best Director — Chloé Zhao
• Outstanding Actress — Jashaun St. John

RNCI Red Nation Awards Nominee
The Rider
• Best Picture — Caviar & Highway Films
• Best Director — Chloé Zhao
• Outstanding Actress — Lilly Jandreau

RNIFF ALUMNI
CHLOE ZHAO

Within the film industry, and particularly at the Academy Awards, meaningful progress for Native filmmakers began in 2000 when the first Native filmmaker was short-listed for an Academy Award. This milestone marked a crucial step in the long-overdue recognition of Native voices telling their own stories on the world's biggest stage. Within the film industry, and particularly at the Academy Awards, meaningful progress for Native filmmakers began in 2000 when the first Native filmmaker was short-listed for an Academy Award. This milestone marked a crucial step in the long-overdue recognition of Native voices telling their own stories on the world's biggest stage.

There have only been 3 Native filmmakers, that we know of, that have made the Oscars short-list in its 98 year history as of 2025! American Holocaust: When Its All Over I'll Still Be Indian 2000 for Best Doc Short, director Joanelle Romero, Apache. Angakusajaujuq: The Shaman's Apprentice 2021 for Best Animated Short Film, director Zacharias Kunuk, Inuk Nation. Sugarcane 2025 for Best Documentary Feature, director Julian Brave NoiseCat, Secwepemc (Shuswap) Nation.



YANUNI: Director Richard Ladkani
Won Best Documentary at 30th Red Nation
International Film Festival

QOTZUNI(S): People of the Lake
Director Michael Salama and Gastón Zilberman

COURAGE: Director Eric Michael Hernandez
Won Best Live Action at 30th Red Nation
International Film Festival



LEARN MORE
TIMELINE HISTORY
OF RNCI AND
THE OSCARS

Red Nation Celebration Institute



Become a Member

Are you a part of the film industry? Whether you're an actor, director, producer, screenwriter, film/TV crew member, dancer, musician, or recording artist, we extend an invitation for you to become a valued member of our organization. If you're committed to acknowledging and promoting the Native and Indigenous narrative in the entertainment industry, join us today and become a partner in amplifying these stories to the world. TOGETHER WE CAN make a substantial impact and elevate diverse voices to the forefront of storytelling.

Inclusivity and equality are our top priorities!

Not a Member? Join a community of diverse and unique voices and celebrate the Power of Film!

Become a Member TODAY

PURCHASE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

20th Anniversary



The Creative Enterprises by Natives
Delivering to All People the Stories
that Shape Our World.

20th Anniversary of Red Nation Television Network

The Original Native & Indigenous
Streaming Entertainment Platform—
Reimagined for a New Era

EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT IT

The largest Native & Indigenous content provider

- Fresh stories. Bold voices. Streaming 24/7

- Elevating authentic Native & Indigenous storytellers worldwide

Step into the future of media—where
culture, innovation, and storytelling lead.
Be part of what's next. Stay connected.

Subscribe Today

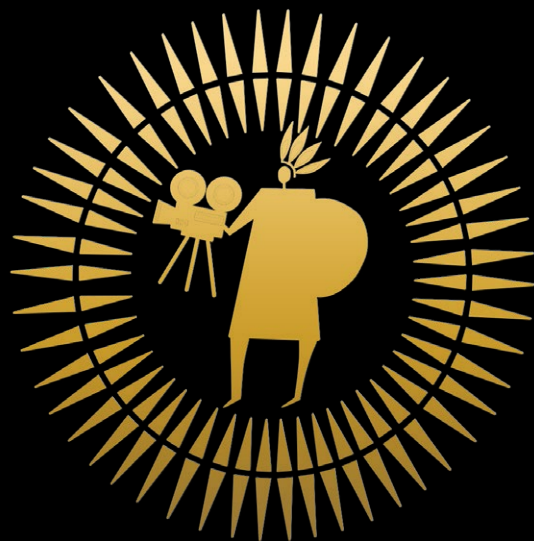


RNCI produces the premier Native and Indigenous film festival, awards show, and industry events—setting the gold standard for excellence, impact, and global reach.

There's a reason we lead.

Where the film community meets culture—and culture leads the conversation.

All proceeds support the nonprofit organization's year-round programs, including the Red Nation International Film Festival.



Where Story Becomes Ceremony and Script Becomes Sovereignty™

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

CONTACT

Linda Tenequer

Chair Red Nation Celebration Institute (RNCI)

818.665.5753 | partnerships@rednation.com

Press:

Liz Kramer | Media@rednation.com

Red Nation Film Festival: <https://www.rednationff.com/>

Red Nation Celebration Institute: www.rednationcele.org

Red Nation Television Network: <https://www.rednationtv.com>

RNCI Leadership: www.rednationff.com/board-of-directors/

RNCI Brands: www.rednationff.com/leadership/

