



Choctaw Code Talkers

Crew Biographies

Valerie Red-Horse (Cherokee), *Producer/Director/Writer*

Valerie Red-Horse, who is of Cherokee ancestry, is the owner/founder of Red-Horse Native Productions, Inc. which has become the pre-eminent collaborator with American Indian Tribal Nations to bring important Native stories accurately and respectfully to the screen. Red-Horse's body of work spans over two decades of film and television content creation and production; always proving insightful, sensitive and unique perspectives for both the historical and contemporary indigenous story. From the Company's premiere feature film—*Naturally Native*, an official Sundance Festival selection which Red-Horse wrote, produced, co-directed, starred in and distributed, to *Pop Hunter's Dew Drop Inn*, a PBS/NAPT short about an American Indian owned legendary night club—Red-Horse consistently brings unique access, community-based insight and a depth of creative experience to any production. Perhaps best known for her award-winning *True Whispers: The Story of the Navajo Code Talkers*, a PBS nationally broadcast documentary produced with Gale Anne Hurd of Valhalla Motion Pictures, Red-Horse is currently in pre-production as director/producer for the feature film *Standing Bear*, depicting the first American Indian Human Rights Trial in the United States. Red-Horse's collaborations have included projects funded by or working with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, the Navajo Nation, the Powhatan Renape Nation, the Chumash Band of Mission Indians, the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay, the Choctaw Nation and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

Gale Anne Hurd, *Producer/Writer*

Over the course of her career, Gale Anne Hurd has produced more than two-dozen feature films that have generated billions of dollars in revenue, and earned Oscar nominations and scores of awards. She has further distinguished herself by championing paradigm-shifting technological innovations, carving out a pre-eminent position within the previously all-male ranks of epic-scaled film production. As the chairman of her own production entity, Valhalla Motion Pictures, Hurd continually develops a broad range of projects, highlights include: *The Incredible Hulk*, *Armageddon*, *The Ghost and the Darkness*, the *Terminator Trilogy*, *The Abyss*, *Aliens* and the Sundance Audience Award-winning drama—*The Waterdance*. Hurd is currently the Executive Producer of the upcoming AMC series, *The Walking Dead*, based on the best-selling graphic novels by Robert Kirkman, and written and directed by Frank Darabont (*The Shawshank Redemption*).

Stacy Mahoney, *Producer*

Stacy Mahoney's passion is to produce films and documentaries that educate and inspire. For the last 13 years, her production experience has included feature films, commercials, music videos, educationals, reality programming and documentaries. She has produced for Fox Sports, Discovery Channel, ABC, HBO, PBS and several independents. Many of these projects garnered awards in excellence in their respective arenas. Her experiences working with The Discovery Channel, Red-Horse Native Productions, Inc., The Annenberg Foundation and Freemantle Media has uniquely exhibited the power in telling a story. Chronicling the human experience to provide perspective and awareness is her goal. She is currently developing programs that provide a medium for those willing to share their stories and seeking positive change.

Bill Sheehy, Director of Photography

Bill graduated from LMU in Los Angeles with a degree in Fine Art and Film. He has pursued his vision of telling stories visually through his work in Film and Television. An accomplished cinematographer Bill has worked on projects for all the major networks and cable channels. One of his projects on Adam Clayton Powell was nominated for a Documentary Academy Award. Bill continues a long-term stint as the Director of Photography for *Curb Your Enthusiasm* the highly acclaimed series on HBO.

Laura Fisk, Editor

Laura Fisk has a gift for storytelling. She believes film is a tremendous medium for entertaining people everywhere. Her editing style is intuitive and creative. Laura deeply cares about preserving the heart of each story she edits. Laura uses Final Cut Pro HD and Avid HD to create these exciting works of art. Laura is dedicated to creating intelligent, fun and extraordinary stories one frame at a time. Laura's work includes television commercials, documentaries and multiple promotional videos and trailers.

Mark Abbott (Choctaw), Executive Producer

An enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Mark Abbott has work in the entertainment industry since 1986 in multiple disciplines—as an actor, production assistant, post-assistant and video assist operator on many sets of movies, television and commercial productions for television. He was previously employed at Laser Pacific post-production house in Los Angeles, which enabled him to learn many aspects of the post-production world where very few Native Americans have an opportunity to gain much experience. He toured for over two years with the American Indian Dance Theatre to foreign countries, as well as all fifty states. Mark was responsible for bringing Red-Horse Native Productions, Inc. to Oklahoma and passionately working to see this story told on behalf of his people and ancestors. He is a founding trustee of First Americans in the Arts and is currently employed by Cloud 9 Productions in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Dr. Gavin Clarkson (Choctaw), Advisor/Consultant

Dr. Gavin Clarkson is a respected Indian Law scholar. He is a licensed investment banker, and simultaneously an Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan School of Information, School of Law and Native American Studies. An enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Dr. Clarkson holds both a Bachelor's Degree and an MBA from Rice University, a Doctorate from the Harvard Business School in Technology and Operations Management, and is a *cum laude* graduate of the Harvard Law School, where he was the managing editor of the *Harvard Journal of Law and Technology* and president of the Native American Law Students Association.