



## TURTLE ISLAND PRODUCTIONS

James M. Fortier • Writer/Producer/Director/DP/Editor

### Short Bio

For over 25 years James has been a Director of Photography and Cameraman on thousands of productions for Fortune 500 Companies, broadcast and cable television, PBS and the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network in Canada. James is also an accomplished documentary filmmaker and Sundance Film Festival alum. Since 1995, his documentaries have focused primarily on Native American and environmental issues. He has won numerous awards including 3 Emmy Awards and most recently the DuPont Columbia Award for his contribution as episode producer and director for *Bad Sugar*, part of the national PBS health series *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?* James current documentary *Gifts from the Elders* is screening at several film festivals across the country.

James is an enrolled member of the Pic River Ojibway First Nation, located in Ontario, Canada. Born in Nipigon, Ontario, raised in the Chicago area, James moved to the San Francisco to complete his college education in 1983.

James' first documentary, *Alcatraz Is Not An Island* screened at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival in 2001 and aired nationally on PBS and APTN in Canada. Other documentary works include the six hour PBS Ojibwe series *Waasa Inaabidaa: We Look In All Directions, Voices for the Land, Indian Country Diaries: Spiral of Fire, Playing Pastime: American Indians, Softball, and Survival, Green Green Water*, and two documentaries for the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, *Pulling Together*, and *Gathering Together*. In 2007 James was the Artist in Residence at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign where he conducted a four week video production lab for the American Indian Studies Department course, *American Indian Stereotypes in Film*, and presented several of his documentaries for students and faculty.