

July 8, 2003

For Immediate Release

“Turtle Island Productions to produce film of tribe’s traditional canoe journey”

The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, near Auburn, WA, has selected Turtle Island Productions (filmmaker James Fortier) to produce a 30-minute documentary of the tribe’s participation in this year’s annual Tribal Canoe Journey. The Canoe Journey, according to a spokesman for the tribe, “is a growing phenomenon where dozens of tribes from the Pacific Northwest and Canada travel for ten days to two weeks in traditional carved cedar canoes, gathering together, tribe by tribe, into ever-larger groupings as their paths converge, until they finally rendezvous at the host tribe’s location.

“This year it will be Tulalip, which is just north of Seattle and, since we are so close to Tulalip, the Muckleshoot canoe will be departing instead from Neah Bay on the Makah Reservation, and traveling along the north coast of the Olympic Peninsula before arriving at Tulalip around July 28 for the grand celebration.”

Fortier will be filming the Muckleshoot Canoe Journey crew, ground support team, and other tribal members as they prepare for the journey, on the water, in camp, and as they come ashore and are greeted by hosting tribes. The emphasis of the film is the importance of the Canoe Journey’s role in maintaining the tribe’s traditions, and their relations with neighboring tribes, expressed through the personal stories of tribal members and Canoe Journey participants.

Fortier and Seattle based sound man Eric Soma will be utilizing two of Panasonic’s new AG DVX 100 cameras. Shooting in 16x9 widescreen and employing the DVX’s capability to shoot in 30p, the primary camera is equipped with a Chroizel 4x4 Matte Box, a Century Optics .7mm Wide Angle Lens, an Azden SGM –X 8” Shotgun Mic, a Zoe Zoom Control, and Sachtler DV-6. “I’ve done extensive tests with this camera, and the 16x9 widescreen capability results in a very clean image with virtually no resolution loss because the letterbox mask replaces pixels that are no longer seen,” says Fortier. Adding, “the ability to shoot in 30p is ideal since it gives us the “film-like” look that we want without the complications in post that are accompanied when shooting 24p and 24p advanced. We will be shooting some scenes in very low light, and the 24p settings appear to be about a stop slower than the 30p, and certainly slower than 60i. The response of the manual focus ring is much better with the Leica lens than with lenses on similar Mini DV cameras such as the Sony VX 2000 and the Canon XL1s, so losing the auto focus ability when shooting in progressive modes should not be a problem. I have also done tests shooting in 60i with the Cine-Like settings for gamma and matrix, and custom settings for detail, chroma, and pedestal and then deinterlacing in post to achieve the Progressive look of 30p. Shooting in 60i would enable us to use the auto focus and gain settings for

low light. Either way, the images are breathtaking, and the size of the camera and the price allow us to shoot with two, and often in challenging situations, such as on small boats and canoes for much of the time.”

The project will be edited in the Chicago area on a supped up Mac-based Final Cut Pro 4 system with award winning editor Mike Yearling, who worked with Fortier on their Emmy Award-Winning PBS documentary *Alcatraz Is Not An Island*. The production is slated for completion by December and will premiere on the Muckleshoot Reservation in time for Christmas.

For more information about Turtle Island Productions contact James Fortier at 877-817-0696 or at 630-930-9925. Or visit the TIP website at www.turtle-island.com.

For more information about the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and the Canoe Journey contact John Loftus at