



TURTLE ISLAND PRODUCTIONS
JAMES M. FORTIER • WRITER/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release:

Turtle Island Productions launches new Native American/First Nations Web Site.

Contact: James M. Fortier
Phone: 650-738-9105
Email: jmfortier@nativenationsnet.net or jfortier@turtle-island.com
Web: www.nativenationsnet.net or www.turtle-island.com

Native Nations Network (NNN) is the first Native American and Canadian First Nations global, on-line tribal village featuring the robust Post Nuke PHP Content Management System. Our goal is to put the power of the internet to positive use. Our mission is to provide an on-line, interactive gathering of Indigenous peoples, to come together and share ideas, debate issues, exchange information, and celebrate all Native cultures without borders and unencumbered by distance.

Native Nations Network will feature news, editorials, essays, internet sources, and specialty sections focusing on issues of sovereignty, treaty rights and activism. In short this site is about self-determination, from Indian identity to sacred sites, from Indian child welfare to repatriation, and from AIM to the National Congress of the American Indian. The site will also feature special interest group sections and forums for Native filmmakers, writers, journalists, musicians, artists, and more

How are we different from other Native American internet news sources and weblogs? Simple, NNN is an interactive internet forum where the registered members contribute to the site. In essence the power and flexibility of Post Nuke PHP will allow registered members to customize the content, the layout, the delivery, and the interactivity that best suits their needs and contributes to the functionality and content of the site.

Individual accounts and home pages for registered members can be easily set up allowing you to submit your own editorials, discuss and debate issues with other members, post poetry and other works of literature (e-publish), advertise your small business products and services, post press releases and community announcements, network with others in your profession or who share your interests, and so on. The possibilities are only as limited as the imagination. Everyone is welcome to browse the site, but registered members will have additional access such as posting capabilities. Soon, advanced features such as e-publishing documents above 1MB, streaming audio and video, posting Flash Animations, virtual art galleries and more will be available for a small monthly fee.

In the meantime, basic membership is free, so register today to become part of the Native Nations Network global, on-line tribal village. If your company or organization is

interested in supporting NNN with banner ads, side ads, or classified ads, please contact the NNN administrator at jmfortier@nativenationsnet.net or call 650-738-9105. Miigwetch!

About Turtle Island Productions:

Turtle Island Productions is a full service Native-Owned and operated film/video and new media production company started by James M. Fortier (Métis-Ojibway) since 1990.

James Fortier is an award winning Writer/Producer/Director working primarily in video, television and web site production. Jim was the Associate Producer and Writer for the 5 - Time Emmy Award winning "*Waasa-inaabidaa: We Look In All Directions*," a six-hour national PBS documentary series focusing on the history of the Ojibway people of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. The series also received the Best Documentary Feature Award at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. He is also the producer for the companion web site at www.ojibwe.org. Jim, who is Métis-Ojibway originally from Canada, also recently directed, co-wrote, and was the DP for the documentary "*Alcatraz Is Not An Island*," which received the Best Documentary Feature Award at the 1999 American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco, and was selected by the prestigious Sundance Film Festival in 2001. He was the Co-Producer and Co-Director of the Alcatraz Occupation 30th Anniversary Celebration/Concert and Cultural Event on Alcatraz in 1999. Jim also recently wrote, produced, and directed "*Voices For the Land*," a PBS documentary for WDSE, Duluth, MN focusing on environmental issues in Minnesota. In 1995 Jim was the Director of Photography for the dramatic short video "*Looks Into the Night*," starring Tantoo Cardinal, which was awarded Best Dramatic Short Video at the 1996 American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. Jim was also the Director of Photography for "*We Hold the Rock*," a short video which is part of the new permanent exhibit on Alcatraz Island commemorating the 1969 Indian retaking and occupation of the island. In 1998, Jim worked with Cree filmmaker Lorretta Todd on her award winning CBC documentary on the life of Chief Dan George. Jim is currently the Director and DP for a 90-minute feature documentary for Native American Public Telecommunications/PBS to air nationally on PBS.

Since 1987 Jim has provided his skills for hundreds of productions for broadcast, cable, corporate, industrial, and educational clients including TBS, CBS, NBC, ABC, ESPN, CBC, PBS, Knowledge TV, E-CHANNEL, Sci Fi Channel, History Channel, Apple TV, Hewlett-Packard TV, Intel, Electronic Arts, Cisco, Visa, and many more. Recently, Jim was the DP for "*Stay Tuned*," a documentary series pilot with host Peter Coyote. Jim was also recently the DP for the documentary series "*In America*," produced for the International Channel, and the DP for the PBS series "*Great Museums*," shot in HDTV, as well as for a documentary on the history of the Presidio in San Francisco. Jim is also currently the Co-Producer and Director of Photography for the documentary "*American Lynching: Strange and Bitter Fruit*."

Jim taught video production workshops for Native American high school students at the 1997 Native Americas International Film Expo in Santa Fe, NM. He has also been active

working behind the scenes for the American Indian Film Institute in San Francisco, CA. He has appeared as a guest speaker at SFSU, USF, ASU, Brown University, Syracuse University, KQED Television, and the Banff Television Conference discussing aboriginal filmmaking, and his articles and interviews have appeared in several Bay Area and national publications. Jim is a two-time recipient of PBS's Emerging Filmmaker Fellowships, including the prestigious PBS Producers Academy Workshop at WGBH in Boston.

On a personal note, Jim was born in Nipigon, Ontario, Canada. He has strong ties to his Métis and Ojibway relatives in Thunder Bay, and Nipigon, Ontario, and on the Pic River Ojibway First Nation Reserve. He was raised near Chicago and moved to California in 1983 to finish film school at San Francisco State University where he completed course work for a BA in Broadcast Communications Arts and has operated his own production company since 1990.