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WDSE-TV Ojibwe documentary series episode wins Best Documentary Feature Award and special Producers Award at the 2002 American Indian Film Festival.

Duluth MN -- WDSE-TV, *PBS eight* was honored October 8th, 2002 at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco, receiving the Best Documentary Feature Award for *Ojibwemown: Ojibwe Oral Tradition*, the 6th episode of *PBS eight*'s six-part documentary series, *Waasa Inaabidaa—We Look In All Directions*, which chronicles the history of the Anishinaabe/Ojibwe (Chippewa) nation of the Great Lakes region. *Waasa Inaabidaa: We Look In All Directions* was also honored with a special Producers Award for Best Series.

Unable to attend the awards event at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco, Producer-Director Lorraine Norrgard and Writer –Associate Producer James M. Fortier (Métis-Ojibway) were pleased to have the awards accepted on their behalf by Mille Lacs Ojibwe Tribal Chairwoman Melanie Benjamin. The Mille Lacs band of Ojibwe was one of several Ojibwe tribal underwriters and supporters of the series from its inception in 1998.

The series was selected by American Public Television (APT) for national broadcast in November and will also be broadcast by the Aboriginal People's Television Network throughout Canada in February of 2003.

The project also includes an educational web site at www.ojibwe.org with transcripts, teacher guides, maps, photo gallery, etc. A companion book and music soundtrack CD have also been completed with the same title. Copies of the television series, companion book and CD may be ordered from *PBS Eight* by calling 218-724-8567.

*The series has received support from
The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Otto Bremer Foundation, Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe,
Grotto Foundation, Biem Foundation, Wisconsin Humanities Council, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire,
Aboriginal People's Television Network, Milwaukee Public Museum,
Minnesota Historical Society, Wisconsin Historical Society, Beck Foundation,
Famous Dave Anderson Life Skills Center and Aaron-Stokes Inc.*

For 40 years, American Public Television (APT), located in Boston, has been a major source of programming for the nation's public television stations. Press should contact Donna Hardwick at 617-338-4455 ext. 129 or via email to donna_hardwick@aptvs.org. For more information about APT's programs and services, log on to www.aptonline.org.

The American Indian Film Institute:

The American Indian Film Institute (AIFI) is a non-profit media arts center founded in 1979 to foster understanding of the culture, traditions and issues of contemporary Native Americans. American Indians have had an uneasy relationship with the media industry since the origins of film over 100 years ago. The quintessential 20th century art form has created and perpetuated enduring stereotypes that are at best tedious, and at worst profoundly erosive to the self-image of generations of Native Americans. Yet the ability of this art form to weaken and erode is matched by its power to heal and strengthen. In film we find a tool to preserve and record our heritage, and a vehicle for Indians and non-Indians alike to "unlearn" damaging stereotypes and replace them with multi-dimensional images that reflect the complexity of Native peoples.

The organization's roots stretch back to 1975 when the first American Indian Film Festival was presented in Seattle. In 1977, the festival was relocated to San Francisco, where it found its permanent home. The

American Indian Film Institute was incorporated in 1979, with the late actor Will Sampson (One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest) among its founding members. Today, AIFI is the major Native American media and cultural arts presenter in California, and its festival is the world's oldest and most recognized international film exposition dedicated to Native Americans in cinema.

The goals of AIFI are inherently educational: to encourage Native/non-Native filmmakers to bring to the broader media culture the Native voices, viewpoints and stories that have been historically excluded from mainstream media; to develop Indian and non-Indian audiences for this work; and to advocate tirelessly for authentic representations of Indians in the media.

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