

# THE SPIRIT OF *Sacajawea*



**Press Release**  
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## Documentary Premiere - Charlotte, NC

After six years in production, Charlotte filmmakers Beverly Penninger and Alyson Young of Naka Productions, Inc. are pleased to announce the Charlotte premiere of *The Spirit of Sacajawea*. Two hundred years after the storied Lewis & Clark expedition to the Pacific, this new documentary retells the story of the Indian woman who traveled with the Corps of Discovery, carrying her infant son across the country on her back. *The Spirit of Sacajawea* reexamines the life and legacy of this woman whose image adorns more monuments than any other woman in US history, this time from the point of view of her own Native American people. Through a mix of interviews, footage shot along the trail, the original Lewis & Clark journals, and an original score by Native American artists, the Naka Productions team has endeavored to tell Sacajawea's story in a way that both adheres to fact and reaches beyond—to the larger truths of westward expansion and its impact on Native Americans past and present.



The team's hope is that the film will inspire "an honest exploration of American history. As a nation, we need to realize and acknowledge out loud that native peoples play into that history in much greater depth than what has traditionally been depicted."

The Light Factory, WTVI and Naka Productions will debut the project at Spirit Square in March 2007. The evening will include a special performance by composers Jim Brock and Mary Youngblood, plus Q&A with the filmmakers.

**March 28, 2007**

**CHARLOTTE PREMIERE AT SPIRIT SQUARE**  
**THE MCGLOHON THEATRE 7:30 PM**  
**345 NORTH COLLEGE STREET**  
**\$10**

Presented by The Light Factory.

### Project Highlights

- Narrated by Tantoo Cardinal, noted Native American actress seen in *Dances with Wolves*, *Smoke Signals* and *Legends of the Fall*.
- Original music score by Charlotte percussionist Jim Brock and Grammy award winning Native American flute player Mary Youngblood.



- Includes scenes from 1955 film, *The Far Horizons*, featuring Charlton Heston & Donna Reed.
- Two songs from Robbie Robertson's *Contact from the Underworld of Red Boy* and music by Keith Bear and Robert "Tree" Cody.
- Footage from the 2003 Bicentennial Commemoration kick-off at Monticello, including presentations by Dr. James Ronda & Ken Burns.
- Selected for screening at the Carolina Film and Video Festival in Greensboro, NC in February 2007.
- Slated to air on WTVI in April 2007.
- In-kind Sponsors: Lindblad Expeditions, KOA & U-Haul

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