

A FIRESTARTER FILMS PRODUCTION
DIRECTED BY CODY LUCICH
PRODUCED BY CODY LUCICH HEATHER RAE GINGGER SHANKAR

AKICITA

THE BATTLE OF STANDING ROCK





LOGLINE

In the largest Native American occupation since Wounded Knee, thousands of activists, environmentalists, and militarized police descend upon Standing Rock, in a standoff between Big Oil and a new generation of Indigenous Warriors. Embedded in the movement, native activist and filmmaker Cody Lucich chronicles the sweeping struggle in stunning clarity, capturing the spirit and havoc of an uprising.

SYNOPSIS

From the initial gathering days on Standing Rock reservation, the movement grew to thousands of water protectors resisting construction of the Dakota access pipeline. Lucich's bold nontraditional approach, marries stylized pacing with a driving energy of the camera to immerse us in every action of the movement. *Akicita* focuses on voices of young native warriors who have stepped up to lead the charge, expressing the beats of the movement from every front: actions against the police, tactics for security and the vital customs of the camp - Each fighting for their families, for water rights and for justice. Through their eyes the struggle feels personal. *Akicita* shows in great detail how utilizing Nonviolent-Direct-Action costed the fossil fuel industry billions of dollars and sparked the environmental movement we know today.



Kanahus Manuel

Kanahus Manuel (Secwepemc and Ktunaxa) is an indigenous activist, birth keeper, and a member of the activist group Tiny House Warriors, which is currently fighting the TransMountain Pipeline. Kanahus decided to do this as an Indigenous woman to raise questions about the inherent rights of indigenous peoples of Canada.



Sacheen Seitchem

Sacheen Seitcham (Nuu Chah Nulth and Coast Salish) is from Ahousath British Columbia and has been involved in Indigenous Resistance work for many years. She is currently fighting for Indigenous rights in her territory.



Nataanii Means

Nataanii Means, (Oglala Sioux and Navajo) is a hip-hop artist and son of AIM activist **Russell Means**. He tours the world performing and speaking to youth about Indigenous rights.



Curtis Ray Yaz

Curtis Ray Yaz (Yupik, Diné and Blackfeet amskapiipikuni) is a community organizer and a hip hop artist and has been active in the fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline and is involved with the Indigenous movement to free the last remaining buffalo.



Mark K Tilsen

Mark Tilsen (Oglala Lakota) is poet and educator from Porcupine, South Dakota. He was at Standing Rock from August to December where he served as a non-violent direct action trainer and a police liaison. He continues to fight on the frontlines all across the US.

DIRECTOR, Cody Lucich

Cody Lucich (director) is an award-winning director, cinematographer, and editor who has worked with Sundance, Nike, Toyota, HBO, Vice, Disney and PETA. He also works extensively in community-based media, anchoring his art in culture and tradition. Lucich is from the Maidu Tribe in Northern California, he is directing a documentary about Standing Rock that is the only Native-made film about the uprising. Lucich spent eight months at camp documenting the movement and became a vital part of the innermost frontline architects. His voice as a filmmaker has been said to have influenced the movement, as much as the movement influenced him and his storytelling. Lucich has a highly stylized aesthetic with a deep-thinking approach. Upcoming projects include developing episodic drama, and Narrative Features.



PRODUCERS

Heather Rae (Producer) has produced such films as Academy Award nominated *Frozen River*, Netflix Originals *Tallulah* and *Dude*, festival darling, *I Believe in Unicorns* and award-winning films *The Dry Land* and *Magic Valley*. She has been named one of Variety's Producers to Watch and was awarded the Piaget Producer Award at the Independent Spirit Awards. Rae directed and produced feature documentary *Trudell* about late Native American activist John Trudell which played more than 100 festivals world-wide including Sundance and Berlin, and *First Circle*, a Showtime Premiere documentary about the foster care system in the American West. Formerly Rae ran the Native Program at the Sundance Institute where she has also served as an Advisor and Trustee. She is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences in the Producers Branch. As a speaker and social critic Rae is working with both her settler and indigenous heritage to deepen the dialogue of reconciliation and responsibility in the Americas.

Gingger Shankar (Producer) is a producer, composer, and the only female in the world that has mastered the Double Violin. She is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences as well as being a TED speaker. Her accomplishments include working with The Smashing Pumpkins, Katy Perry, Trent Reznor, Mike Nichols, Meryl Streep and more. In 2011 she was chosen as one of *Filmmaker Magazine's* "25 New Faces to Watch," and became a member of the Artist Advisory Board for the Sundance Film Festival. Her multimedia project 'Himalaya Song' (focusing on Climate Change in the Himalayas) premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and was named one of the '10 Best Music Films at Sundance 2012' by Rolling Stone. She scored Sundance award-winner *Circumstance* and co-composed Mel Gibson's blockbuster *Passion of the Christ*. Recent projects include *Heartbeats* with Jay-Z/Roc Nation, and First Lady Michelle Obama's *We Will Rise*, the highest rated film ever to air on CNN. She debuted her film *Nari* at TIFF and Sundance, as well as presenting it at TEDx. It's the untold story of Lakshmi and Viji Shankar (her mother and grandmother) as they brought Indian music to the West with Ravi Shankar and George Harrison.

CREDITS

Director
Producers
Executive Producers
Director of Photography
Editors
Music
Sound
Color

Cody Lucich
Cody Lucich Heather Rae Gingger Shankar
Johnny Depp James Redford Jill Tidman
Cody Lucich
Cody Lucich & Elena Kovalenko
Gingger Shankar & William Stanbro
Mathew Waters
Different By Design

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