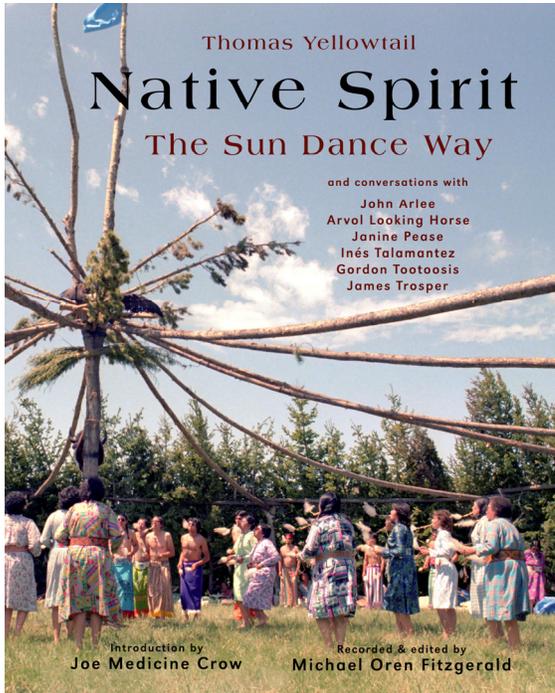


# Native Spirit & The Sun Dance Way

## Documentary DVD & Companion Book

### Available March 2007



### Book

This breathtakingly illustrated book, *Native Spirit: The Sun Dance Way* is a rare look into the little-known world of the Crow-Shoshone Sun Dance Ceremony. This ancient rite has been at the center of the spiritual life of the Plains Indian tribes for centuries, handed down through the generations by tribal elders and spiritual leaders.

#### Contains:

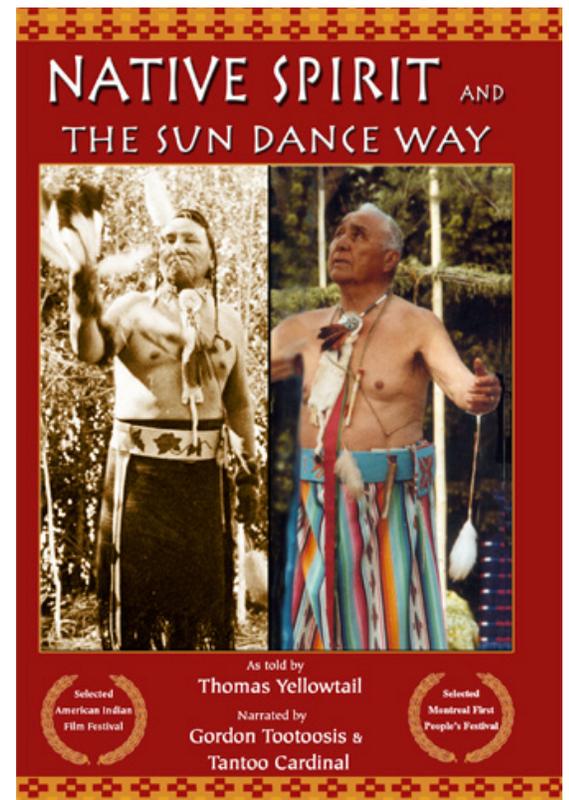
- ◆ Over 100 never-before-published photographs of Crow and Shoshone Sun Dances from as far back as 1903.
- ◆ Insightful description of the ceremony by Thomas Yellowtail, a revered Crow medicine man and Sun Dance chief for over 30 years.
- ◆ Interviews with prominent tribal and spiritual leaders from the Sioux, Cree, Shoshone, Crow, Apache, and Salish tribes.

The documentary, *Native Spirit*, transports the viewer back to the days of Red Cloud when, "Our old men spoke to spirits and made good medicine, our young men herded the horses and made love to the girls. In this way we lived and were happy." It tells the inspiring story of the Native American people's oppression and ultimate triumph of the spirit.

The second documentary, *The Sun Dance Way*, reveals the symbolism and mystical beauty of this ancient ceremony, which remains at the center of tribal spiritual life today.

#### Features:

- ◆ Narrated by Gordon Tootoosis & Tantoo Cardinal
- ◆ 2-Disc DVD with two feature-length documentaries
- ◆ Official Selections for American Indian Film Festival and First People's Film Festival in Montreal
- ◆ Over 90 minutes of Special Features



2 - Disc DVD

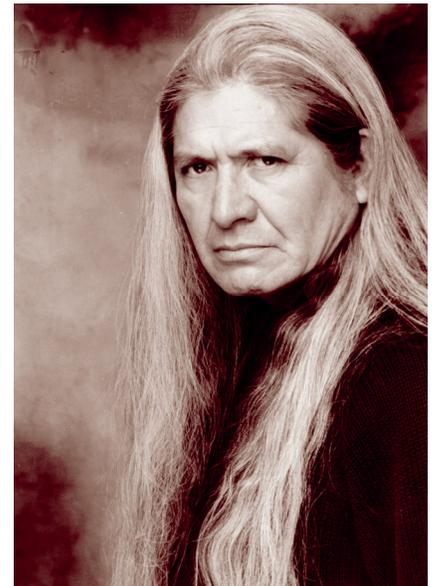


## The Narrator for *Native Spirit* Tantoo Cardinal

Tantoo Cardinal has brought her gift of evocative storytelling to such films as *Dances with Wolves*, *Legends of the Fall*, and *Smoke Signals*. In *Native Spirit*, Ms. Cardinal transports the audience to a time of cultural upheaval and heartbreaking transitions. Her voice reflects the story's epic time and inspirational resolve.

## The Voice of Yellowtail in *The Sun Dance Way* Gordon Tootoosis

Gordon Tootoosis' unique voice and natural expression make him one of Hollywood's most poignant narrators. His personal experience with the spiritual ways of his people lend authenticity to his portrayal of the revered medicine man and Sun Dance chief, Thomas Yellowtail. A veteran of over 40 films, Tootoosis has appeared with such stars as Brad Pitt and Anthony Hopkins in *Legends of the Fall* (1994) and Ben Affleck and Charlize Theron in *Reindeer Games* (2000).



## The Inspiration for *Native Spirit* & *The Sun Dance Way* Thomas Yellowtail

Born in 1903, medicine man and Sun Dance chief, Thomas Yellowtail, was the principal figure in the Crow-Shoshone Sun Dance Religion during the last half of the 20th century. As a youth he lived in the presence of old-time warriors, hunters, and medicine men who had lived in the freedom and sacred ways of pre-reservation life.

Yellowtail's profound and authoritative words, taken from his memoirs, provide the documentary's narration, which he saw as a means of preserving the sacred ways of his people for future generations.



Visit [www.nativespiritinfo.com](http://www.nativespiritinfo.com) for more information.

## Editor and Producer of Native Spirit & The Sun Dance Way Michael Oren Fitzgerald

Fitzgerald is the author of numerous books on American Indian spirituality:

*Yellowtail: Crow Medicine Man and Sun Dance Chief* (1991)

*Light on the Indian World: The Essential Writings of Charles Eastman (Ohiyesa)* (2002)

*Indian Spirit* (2004)

*The Spirit of Indian Women* (2005)

Yellowtail gave Fitzgerald permission to photograph the annual Sun Dances and gave him exclusive permission to film the 1989 Crow Sun Dance held in Yellowtail's honor.



## The Director of Native Spirit & The Sun Dance Way Jennifer Casey

Jennifer Casey first visited the Crow Indian reservation when she was 17 years old. For over 35 years she has traveled to many Plains Indian reservations and met with numerous tribal leaders and Sun Dance chiefs. The two documentaries, *Native Spirit & The Sun Dance Way*, came about as a result of Casey's unique experiences with spiritual and tribal leaders of the Crow and Shoshone tribes. Casey is currently working on a documentary on the vibrant Buddhist culture in Bhutan.

## Additional Information

- ◆ The *Native Spirit* two-disc documentary DVD (1-933316-32-2) is priced at \$32.95.
- ◆ The *Native Spirit* trim size 8x10 companion book (1-933316-27-6) is priced at \$19.95.
- ◆ The *Native Spirit* documentary and companion book will be sold separately.
- ◆ All royalties from the sales of both the documentary DVD and the companion book will go toward the purchase of the books and DVDs for all Canadian and American Indian Colleges and high schools.
- ◆ Visit [www.nativespiritinfo.com](http://www.nativespiritinfo.com) for more information.

