

NATIVE ROOTS & RHYTHMS® 2005

Eleventh Annual Contemporary and Traditional
NATIVE AMERICAN PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

August 20, 2005

PAOLO SOLERI AMPHITHEATER, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The Premiere Venue for Native American Music, Dance Theater, Storytelling and Comedy

Throughout **Native Roots & Rhythms**' 10 years, many challenges, unforgettable moments and hard won achievements have made the festival one of the nation's leading venues for contemporary and traditional Native American performing arts. **NR&R** has provided a solid performance platform for established Native entertainers while simultaneously nurturing promising up & coming talent. A show leader in the Native American entertainment industry, **NR&R** has, both directly and indirectly, contributed to the creative and commercial success of many Native performers.

The benefits to our own New Mexico Pueblos, Navajo, and other Native American communities have been numerous and even unique. Within New Mexico, there is no comparable event where Native Americans and the public can witness a showcase of our own traditional songs and dances as well as celebrate the "stars" of Native America. This is especially important for our youth. A key objective is to create opportunities for youth to be exposed to careers in the performing arts. **NR&R** presents positive role models and provides mentorship to aspiring producers, musicians, dancers, comedians, etc. through interactive workshops facilitated by native and mainstream artists.

NR&R offers audiences an opportunity to see that Native Americans are flourishing, adapting and thriving while maintaining Native traditions. Through **NR&R**, thousands of people from the US and all over the world have discovered the enormously rich heritage and diversity of Native performing artists. Although Native showcases are emerging, rarely have there been ambitious quality productions of the scope and caliber of **NR&R** that have moved audiences so deeply.

NR&R's producers realize the importance of respectfully presenting Native performers in innovative ways. Each year we have taken a different approach; from a multimedia variety show to a presentation with a more traditional focus. 2001 featured Native rock, rap, blues and reggae with five bands, a pueblo youth dance group, a singer/songwriter and a comedian. Other years the production was more theatrical and choreographed with dance as an important element. 2002 featured Native performers from North, Central and South America.

In 2004, **NR&R** featured a Contemporary Native Music and Comedy Showcase on the first evening. The second evening was a Native Performing Arts Spectacular opening with fifty singers and dancers from many of the Pueblos followed by award-winning musical acts. A live video feed on large screens projected close-ups and other imagery to provide added dimension to the performances. Seven Native comedians were featured and a meet & greet tent allowed the audience to meet the performers.

A Cross-section of Contemporary and Traditional Performers

Of course, various traditional Native music and dance is ceremonial and not meant for public performance. On the other hand, certain traditional performers are able to bridge their heritage and talent in respectful and creative ways, giving audiences the rare opportunity to experience the various voices of Native peoples. The Native ways of life retain great lessons & wisdom resonating more than ever in these extraordinary times.

Guided by a Native majority Advisory Board of Elders and professionals with a commitment to indigenous cultures, the arts and youth mentorship, **NR&R** has showcased more than 500 entertainers, performers and actors from across the continent. A partial list of performers includes: The R. Carlos Nakai Quartet, Buffy Ste. Marie, Floyd Westerman Red Crow, Joanne Shenandoah, Robert Mirabal, Grammy Award-winner Bill Miller, Rodney Grant, Kashtin, Kevin Locke, Ulali, Walela with Rita Coolidge, Joy Harjo, Clan/destine, Litefoot, Vincent Craig, Cherokee Rose, Annie Humphrey, Mary Redhouse, Grammy winner Mary Youngblood, Brent Michael Davids, Drew Lacapa, Charlie Hill, Gary Farmer, John Trudell, Derek Miller, Harlan McKosato, Simon Ortiz, the Rez Crew, the Rio Grande Singers, the Hopi Second Mesa Dancers, the American Indian Dance Theatre, Pamyua (from Alaska), Grammy winner Black Eagle, and singers & dancers from all 19 pueblos of New Mexico.

Symposiums on Native Music & Performing Arts

NR&R attracted the interest of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS, producer of the Grammy® Awards). For four years in conjunction with **NR&R**, we have co-sponsored with NARAS, special Grammy in the Schools® professional development symposia and conferences on Native music & performing arts for Native students and people in the music industry. Through our work with NARAS, **NR&R** contributed to the 2001 establishment of a Native American category for the music industry's most prestigious honor. This has brought increased recognition and respect for Native music and Native cultures.

Adding Another Dimension to the Indian Market Experience

NR&R has added another dimension to the main event of the summer in Santa Fe: Indian Market weekend. Amidst the largest Indian art show in the world, **NR&R** provides a venue for Native voices and talent. **NR&R**'s audience of youth and adults is primarily made up of Indian artists & their families, Indian art collectors, Native celebrities, tourists from around the world seeking an inspiring cultural experience, and residents of New Mexico.

Promotion

NR&R has been profiled in the national and international media. Cable television travel programs have done features on the event and television travel programs in Japan, Germany, Italy, etc. have also featured the show.

The Future - Television Programming

NR&R continues to meet current challenges and consistently establish new goals relative to ever changing potential. **NR&R** continues to build upon its achievements. In addition to the annual stage productions, **NR&R** is developing television programming from the festival to be syndicated through national and international television networks. Broadcasting will provide much needed greater public exposure of Native American musicians and performers, and has the potential to change public perceptions, knowledge and appreciation of indigenous cultures and their performing arts.

Sponsorship Support

We have kept ticket prices low to make it possible for families to attend. We also provide tickets to students from a variety of schools and youth programs. In recent years **NR&R** has been sponsored in part by the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Acoma Business Enterprises, the Seminole Tribe, New Mexico Arts (a division of the Office of Cultural Affairs), the NM Dept. of Tourism, the National Endowment for the Arts, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Martin Foundation.

Presented by Emergence Productions (Native American Owned)

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PRODUCERS – NATIVE ROOTS & RHYTHMS 2005

Emergence Productions, managed by **Melissa Sanchez** (Acoma/Laguna Pueblos) and **Emmett “Shkeme” Garcia** (Santa Ana/Jemez), markets Native American/Indigenous entertainers, produces professional shows and provides industry consultation to entertainers, producers, and agents. Melissa and Shkeme are both Ambassadors for Americans for Indian Opportunity. Melissa’s industry experience includes: Gathering of Nations/Miss Indian World staff (1998-2002), national Native music sales for Four Winds Trading Company, and Entertainment and Special Events Manager for Sky City Casino (2002-2004). She was recently asked to become a member of the newly formed New Mexico Music Commission. Shkeme, a lifelong traditional dancer and singer of his community, is also lead singer for the band Native Roots, a storyteller and comedian. He has produced the “Shake, Giggle Laff” comedy tour and has performed in Japan, Singapore, New Zealand and throughout the US.

Seth Roffman, a founder of the Native Roots & Rhythms Festival, has been an event & concert producer for 20 years. He is also a photojournalist and Executive Director of the non-profit **Southwest Learning Centers (SWLC)**. Seth has been involved in community development in the Southwest for many years and has been a major supporter of Native American cultures & arts. SWLC’s Center for Indigenous Arts & Cultures helps preserve the history and cultures of the Southwest. The organization publishes the “American Indian Art Series,” acclaimed comprehensive reference books on two hundred years of potters, weavers, jewelry makers and more.

Soni Moreno (Mayan/Apache/Yaqui) of the internationally acclaimed acapella women’s trio Ulali, is a Board Member of the American Indian Community House in New York City.

NR&R DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD (1995-2005)

The following people have been members of NR&R’s Advisory Board. Many are community leaders who have had a commitment to Native cultures, the arts and youth mentorship.

Sid Byrd (Lakota), Elder, historian
Cloud Eagle (Nambe Pueblo), Artist
Gloria Emerson (Navajo) Educator, Artist
Aysen New, Planner

Jon Gahate (Laguna/Zuni), Radio Producer
Jose Lucero (Santa Clara Pueblo), Educator
Tammy Rahr (Iroquois), Artist, Curator

Greg Cajete (Santa Clara Pueblo), Director, N.A. Studies, University of NM
Albert Raymond Cata (San Juan Pueblo), Native American Radio host, KSFR
Benito Concha (Taos Pueblo), Musician, Pueblo official
Beaver North Cloud (Jemez), Institute of American Indian Arts Alumni
Fred Nahwooksie (Kiowa), Indian Country Development Corp.

Lloyd Kiva New (Cherokee), President Emeritus, Institute of American Indian Arts
Bernie Teba (Santa Clara Pueblo), former Cabinet Secretary, NM Office of Indian Affairs
Ed Wapp (Comanche), Music teacher, Institute of American Indian Arts