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For Immediate Release:

**NAPT Announces Its Newest Spring Film Release,
*For the Generations: Native Story & Performance***

Native American Public Telecommunications, Inc. (NAPT) proudly announces the release of a new documentary that examines contemporary Native performers' efforts to recast themselves in the 21st century.

Co-produced by Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) and Painted Sky, *For the Generations: Native Story & Performance* combines original performance footage and the artists' own words to tell the performers' stories, creating a narrative that is both gritty and beautiful in the artistry it showcases. The documentary travels across the country and to Canada to capture the artists' performances.

"*For the Generations: Native Story & Performance* is about how heritage and modernity do not mutually exclude one another," said OPB's Sean Hutchinson, who co-produced the documentary. "It explores how artists in a variety of genres, including some genres you might not associate with American Indians, draw in their tribal experiences as they embrace and comment on contemporary culture."

Featured artists include award-winning pop-diva Jana Mashonee (Lumbee); classically trained ballet dancers Michael Greyeyes (Cree) and Santee Smith (Mohawk); Grammy winners Robert Mirabal (Taos Pueblo) and Bill Miller (Mohican); R&B songstress Martha Redbone (Choctaw/Shawnee/Cherokee); and Painted Sky's own Northstar dancers.

The documentary also explores the performers' efforts to instill cultural pride and identity in Native youth, who face challenges such as diabetes and depression. *For the Generations: Native Story & Performance* also examines the performers' own efforts to overcome Native American stereotypes in television, cinema and dance.

"The film is important because it challenges the way contemporary audiences consider Native artists," Hutchinson said.

Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT) shares Native stories with the world through support of the creation, promotion and distribution of Native media. Founded in 1977, through various media—public television, public radio and the Internet—NAPT brings awareness of Indian and Alaska Native issues. Through the CPB-funded Production Fund, five to ten new projects are supported each year. Last year, we worked with *American Experience* in the award-winning *We Shall Remain* five-part Native history series. NAPT operates the AIROS Native Network, a 24/7 Internet radio station that features music, news, interviews, documentaries and audio theater. We also feature downloadable podcasts with Native filmmakers, musicians and Tribal leaders. VisionMaker Video is now the premier source for quality Native American educational and home videos. Profits made from video sales are invested in new NAPT productions. All aspects of our programs encourage the involvement of young people to learn more about careers in the media—to be the next generation of storytellers. Through our location at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, we offer student employment, internships and fellowships. Reaching the general public and the global market is the ultimate goal for the dissemination of Native-produced media.

Additional Information Regarding *For the Generations: Native Story & Performance*:

Run time: 56:46

Broadcast feed dates/times:

NOLA Code SD: FTGN 00 K1

Release/Feed Date SD: May 29, 2010; 2200-2300ET/SD07

NOLA Code HD: FTGN 00 H1

Release/Feed Date HD: May 31, 2010; 1530-1630ET/HD04

Credits: Co-produced by Oregon Public Broadcasting and Painted Sky.

Funding for *For the Generations: Native Story & Performance*: Principal funding provided by the Spirit Mountain Community Fund. Additional funding provided by the Regional Arts and Culture Council.

Press Kit available online at: nativetelecom.org/for_the_generations

About Oregon Public Broadcasting

Oregon Public Broadcasting is the state's most far-reaching and accessible media resource, providing free access to programming for children and adults designed to give voice to community, connect Oregon and its neighbors and illuminate a wider world. Every week, more than 1.5 million people tune in to or log on to OPB's television-, radio- and Internet-delivered services. As the hub of operations for the state's Emergency Broadcast and Amber Alert services, OPB serves as the backbone for the distribution of critical information to broadcasters and homes throughout Oregon. OPB is one of the largest producers and presenters of national television programming through PBS and is also a member station of NPR, Public Radio International and American Public Media. Find out more about OPB at opb.org.

About Painted Sky

Portland, Oregon, non-profit Painted Sky was founded in 1995 on the principle that music is the universal language with the power to inspire and unite people across cultural barriers. Their mission is to improve the lives of Native youth through dance.

Painted Sky's dance companies deliver a fresh, bold blend of traditional Native dance and modern jazz, lyric, tap and hip-hop styles. Mary Hager (French-Canadian Cree/Metis) and Arlie Neskahi (Navajo) head the company, inspire dancers with the vitality of their heritage and challenge them to carry on their culture both within and outside their communities. Arlie calls the style "Native fusion"—a way to connect the past and the future. Painted Sky involves Native youth in many high-quality artistic collaborations throughout the Pacific Northwest and regularly showcases the richness of Native arts and talent through the company's performances. Find more about Painted Sky at paintedsky.org.

About Sean Hutchinson, executive producer/writer

Sean Hutchinson has written for print and television for 15 years and has produced nationally distributed programming for public broadcasting, the U.S. Department of Education, Annenberg Media and commercial clients such as Nike and Turner Broadcasting. An employee of Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) for eight years, Hutchinson has authored segments for the acclaimed local series *Oregon Field Guide* and *Oregon Art Beat*. During that time, he also produced 20 hours of multimedia and educational documentaries incorporating the latest scholarship on topics ranging from globalization to game theory. An alumnus of the Bay Area Video Coalition's 2007 New Media Producers' Institute in San Francisco and Fellow at the 2008 PBS Producers Academy at WGBH, Hutchinson has a keen interest in progressive implementation of online outreach as an extension of documentary filmmaking.

About Mary Hager, executive producer/artistic director

Mary Hager (French-Canadian Cree/Metis) is founder and co-president of Painted Sky, a non-profit organization that provides outreach programs to Native youth in order to raise awareness of their rich cultural heritage. She is the lead director of the Northstar Dance Company, a traditional/contemporary Native American Dance troupe affiliated with Painted Sky. A tireless advocate of Native American culture and artistic achievement, Hager directs and coordinates performances, cultivates a growing network of volunteers and constantly strives to create partnerships with other organizations sharing the same objectives as Painted Sky.

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