

Bobby Bridger

Featured Presenter and Performer

Bobby Bridger is a singer, songwriter, author and painter. Over his fifty year career, Bridger has performed all over America and Europe on National Public Radio, Austin City Limits, PBS's *American Experience*, Good Morning America, and CNN. Bridger also starred in Dale Wasserman's groundbreaking musical, *Shakespeare and the Indians* and was featured with David Carradine and Will Sampson in the drama *Black Elk Speaks*.

Bobby has been the artist in residence at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming, the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Connecticut, the John G. Neihardt Center in Bancroft, Nebraska, and Yellowstone National Park. Bridger is the 2016 recipient of the Neihardt Foundation's prestigious Word Sender Award.

In 2013, he contributed a historical interview and original music to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian exhibition *Treaties: Great Nations in Their Own Words* in Washington, D.C.

He is the author of the award-winning books *Buffalo Bill and Sitting Bull: Inventing The Wild West* and *A Ballad of the West* and has contributed essays to anthologies on western icons Frank Waters and John G. Neihardt.

Lakota is Bridger's epic ballad depicting Lakota holy man Black Elk telling his life story to the epic poet John G. Neihardt in 1931 South Dakota, which served as the basis for Neihardt's classic *Black Elk Speaks*.

"Bridger is a true balladeer with a background of professionalism in music and the history to the period. Bridger's songs and texts are splendid."
- Dee Brown, author of *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*

Native American Cultural Symposium and Outdoor Film Series June 2-4 2017



The Native American Cultural Symposium is sponsored by: Museum of Native American History, Downtown Bentonville Inc., Visit Bentonville, KUAF 91.3, Arkansas CW, Osiyo TV, RUNWAY-Moving Arkansas Forward, Tribal Voices, Comfort Inn, Tribal TV, Red Feather Productions, WGW Marketing, River Grille Steakhouse, Dymark Sign and Display.



Joseph Marshall III

Featured Presenter

Joseph Marshall III was born and raised on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation and is an enrolled member of the Sicangu Lakota (Rosebud Sioux) tribe. Raised in a traditional Lakota household by his maternal grandparents, he learned the ancient tradition of oral storytelling and his first language is Lakota.

Joseph taught at both the high school and college levels and developed Native Studies curricula. For several years he worked for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, and he now writes full time. He has published nonfiction works, novels, collections of short stories and essays, and has written several screenplays. Many of his books are published in countries around the world, including France, Germany, Italy, Bulgaria, Korea, China, Japan, Romania, Brazil, Spain, and Israel. Joseph has won several awards for both the text and audio versions of his book.

He worked as technical advisor and narrator for the TNT and Dreamworks Television six-part mini-series *Into the West* and played the on-screen role of “Loved by the Buffalo,” a Lakota medicine man. He is a practitioner of primitive Lakota archery, having learned from his maternal grandfather the art of hand crafting bows and arrows, and is a specialist in wilderness survival.

One of his most treasured and meaningful experiences was serving as a founder of Sinte Gleska University on the Rosebud Reservation in 1971. He is one of the Charter Board Members.

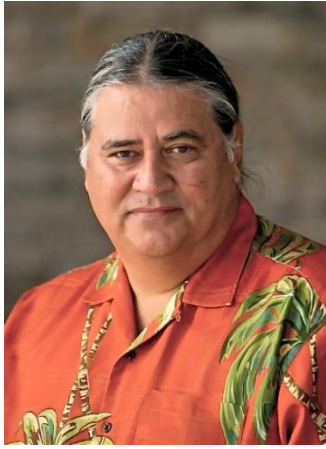
As a speaker and lecturer, Joseph has appeared in many venues throughout the United States and in countries across the globe.

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J R Mathews

Featured Presenter

J R is a member of the Quapaw and Seneca/Cayuga Tribes of Oklahoma. He was elected Chairman of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma in 1990 and served one term. During this time J R began research on buying back land into trust for gaming. From 1998 to 2001, he served as tribal administrator, and in 2003 he was elected Vice Chairman and served for more than 6 years. He was also Treasurer of the National Indian Gaming Association in Washington, D.C. for two terms and has served on many boards for Indian country for the past ten years. He currently serves on the Finance Committee for NIGA.

J R served on the gaming commission for the Quapaw Tribe from 1982 to 1984. He also served as President of the Quapaw Gaming Corporation as they renovated the old bingo hall and added new construction to become the Quapaw Casino. He became the Vice Chairman of the Downstream Development Authority (DDA), which oversaw the construction of a \$300 million casino.

J R was recently appointed to serve as a board member of the National Indian Cannabis Coalition. The mission of NICC is to provide education and guidance in collaboration with tribal leaders, industry professionals, and elected officials relative to the emerging regulated cannabis industry while also advocating for parity on behalf of Indian Country. J R is also the President of Flying Eagle Advisors and is the chairman of the board for Mayfield Holdings, a group involved in helping tribes develop medical cannabis operations in states that have approved its adoption and implementation.

Formerly, J R was the Artistic Director of the American Indian Theater Company (AITCO) from 1980 to 1987, during which time he co-produced the play "Black Elk Speaks". His work in the training of Native talent in Tulsa produced more than 14 individuals who have gone on to work in the film industry, including Wes Studi (*Avatar*), Mark Abbott (*Naturally Native*), Harrison Lowe (*Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*), and Emmy award nominee Casey Camp Hornick ("Son of Morning Star"). J R has won numerous awards for his theatrical and film work and was recognized by the Governor of Oklahoma with the Governor's State Arts Award.

He has been married for 37 years to Beth Mathews, and they have three sons.



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Charlie Soap Featured Presenter

Charlie Soap is the producer and director of *Cherokee Word for Water*. Charlie was Wilma Mankiller's husband and community development partner for more than thirty years and a leader in the Bell Waterline Project that inspired the film.

Charlie is a full-blood bilingual Cherokee and has a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Northeastern State University and served in the United States Navy from 1965-1969. Mr. Soap has dedicated virtually his entire career to strengthening Cherokee communities. He served as the community service group leader for the Cherokee Nation, overseeing a \$100 million budget dedicated to public transit services, roads, bridges and infrastructure projects, environmental health services, self-help housing assistance, youth programs and natural disaster relief. Due to his accomplishments and innovative approaches to community development in rural communities, Mr. Soap has received numerous awards, including the Common Cause Public Service Achievement Award and two National Certificates of Merit from the Department of Housing and Development. Mr. Soap has lectured on community development at numerous prestigious institutions across the country.

Mr. Soap also worked with business, education and political leaders to establish the Boys and Girls Club of Tahlequah and served as its founding director. Under Mr. Soap's leadership, the Club operated a comprehensive summer enrichment program and worked with Tahlequah Public Schools to develop the first after-school programs in the school system. The collaboration between the Boys and Girls Club and the Tahlequah Public Schools has served as a national model. Mr. Soap also served as Director of the Cherokee Nation Community Development Department and served for seven years as the Oklahoma Area Director of the Christian Children's Fund.

Mr. Soap is a skilled photographer and is working on a book of photographs of indigenous people in the South American Amazon. Mr. Soap is a fancy war dancer and avid golfer, fisherman, and cyclist.



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Gayle Ross

Featured Presenter

Gayle Ross has a rich heritage of storytelling. She is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation and a direct descendant of John Ross, Principal Chief of the Cherokee during the infamous Trail of Tears. Her grandmother told stories and it is from this rich Native American heritage that Gayle's storytelling springs. During the past twenty five years, Gayle has become one of the best-loved and most respected storytellers to emerge from the current surge of interest in this timeless art form.

Gayle has appeared at almost every major storytelling and folk festival in the United States and Canada, as well as theaters and performance arts halls throughout the US and Europe. She is in great demand as a lecture artist on college campuses and as a keynote speaker at education and humanities conferences. Most importantly, she continues to mesmerize children at countless schools and libraries across the country. Whether she is provoking laughter with a Trickster tale or moving her listeners to tears with a haunting myth, Gayle is truly a master of the age-old craft of storytelling.

The prestigious National Council of Traditional Arts has included Gayle in two of their touring shows - "The Master Storyteller's Tour" and the all-Native show "From the Plains to the Pueblos". Internationally acclaimed musician and composer Peter Buffet featured Gayle and her stories in his epic stage performance "500 Nations", based on the CBS mini-series produced by Kevin Costner. Gayle also produced and directed an all-Native show entitled "Full Circle", which featured the Grammy award-winning Mohegan musician Bill Miller, as well as the singing and dancing of Rob Greyhill, Jennifer Meness, and the Great American Indian Dance Theater. Gayle was invited by then-Vice President Al Gore to perform at a gala at his residence entitled "A Taste of Tennessee" and she was chosen by the Clinton White House as the only Native American speaker at the giant "Millennium on the Mall" celebration in Washington, D.C. First Lady Laura Bush also selected Gayle to perform at the National Book Festival's Opening Gala.

As the author of five critically acclaimed children's books, Gayle has been asked to speak at the American Library Association, the International Reading Association and the International Board for Young People. She was recently featured in the ground-breaking American Experience series "We Shall Remain" in the Trail of Tears episode. Her stories have been heard on National Public Radio on such programs as "Living on Earth" and Mountain Stages. From the kindergarten classroom to the college campus to the Kennedy Center, Gayle's stories have enthralled audiences of all ages.

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Sam Scinta

Featured Presenter

After graduating from Yale University, Sam Scinta joined North American Press, a division of Fulcrum Publishing, as a research associate. Sam received his J.D. from the University of Denver, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Transportation Law Journal, and worked as a public finance attorney for three years, assisting on over \$1.5 billion in projects around the nation. He returned to Fulcrum as Vice President and Associate Publisher, and in December 2006, was named President and Publisher. He has worked as project editor for dozens of Fulcrum's titles. In 2015, Sam founded IM Education, Inc., a non-profit focusing on education programming, and currently manages critical thinking and writing programs at three La Crosse-area high schools, among other programs.

He is a lecturer in the Political Science Department at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and has also served in the same role at Viterbo University, focusing in political theory and American government. Sam created and manages a "critical thinking" club at the Onalaska High School, and has worked with the La Crosse County Juvenile Detention Facility to create a civics program for teen detainees. A frequent speaker on civics and critical thinking, he produced a series of lectures on privilege for the La Crosse Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 2015-2016.

The creator of Fulcrum's best-selling Speaker's Corner Books series on contemporary political and social issues, Sam has edited two collections including *Spirit and Reason: The Vine Deloria, Jr. Reader* and *Parting Shots from My Brittle Bow* with Eugene McCarthy. During his tenure at Fulcrum, the company became one of the leading publishers of Native American books in the nation, focusing on social and political issues. He served as President of the Board of Publishers Association of the West, President of the Wisconsin Center for the Book and board member of the Jefferson County Public Library Foundation in Colorado. A frequent speaker on the state of book publishing, in 2007 he was named as one of the "Ten to Watch" in the Denver arts and culture scene by the Rocky Mountain News. He has served Chairman of the City of Onalaska (Wisconsin) Waterfront Project Management Team and Chairman of the Onalaska Tourism Commission, is a member of the Board of Curators of the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Board of the Winding Rivers Library District, and is a member of the American Antiquarian Society. He wrote a bi-weekly column on civility for the Onalaska Courier-Life for two years.

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Celia Xavier

Featured Presenter

Celia Xavier is a producer, writer, director, and actress, known for *Playground of the Native Son* (2013), *Blood Battle* (2012) and *Rock, Paper, Scissors* (2005). Celia is CEO and Head of Original Programming at Tribal TV, a lifestyle and entertainment online channel for young, indigenous strivers. Tribal TV is a dedicated channel on the Nativeflix website, Amazon Prime, and two new platforms coming soon. She is also the owner of IndieIN films as well as the founder and executive director of the Tribal Film Festival in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

Celia is the co-founder of the Filmmaking Bootcamp along with Mary About, which seeks to inspire, teach, sustain, and empower students to tell their digital stories.

Celia comes from the Big Island of Hawaii and resides in Los Angeles & Tulsa. She is Salish, Athabaskan, and Mayan and is represented by Ross Stephens Artists and Entertainment.

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TribalFilmFestival.com
IMDB: imdb.com/name/nm0944381
LinkedIn: [celia-xavier-2412a432](https://www.linkedin.com/in/celia-xavier-2412a432)

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