



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Indians of North America television series collection

Emily Moazami

2022

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Indians of North America television series collection
Date:	1994-1996
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.124
Creator:	InVision Communications Schlessinger Video Productions
Extent:	382 Videocassettes (BetacamSP) 4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection contains 382 videocassettes and 4 linear feet of notes and production bibles from the Indians of North American television series collection. This 20-part critically acclaimed educational video series designed for middle school students produced and distributed nationally by InVision Communications and Schlessinger Media in 1994 and 1996.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of Henry Nevison, 2017.

Processing Information

Processed by Emily Moazami, Supervisory Archivist, 2022.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Indians of North America television series collection, NMAI.AC.124; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Due to the fragile nature of the materials, this collection is currently closed to researchers until it has been digitized.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

In 1988, Henry Nevison and Jacqui Neulinger, founded InVision Communications. In 1994 and 1996, InVision Communications along with Schlessinger Media produced a 20-part series of 35-minute segments exploring various Native American cultures. These tapes were distributed to schools nationwide for educational purposes. The series won the Silver Medal at the New York Festivals.

Scope and Contents

The *Indians of North America* television series collection contains video and papers related to the production of the 20-part critically acclaimed educational video series designed for middle school students produced and distributed nationally by InVision Communications and Schlessinger Media in 1994 and 1996. This landmark series focused on individual tribes with the mission to tell the origin and history of American Indian cultures in North America to young student audiences; dispel stereotypes of popular culture; highlight contributions made by American Indians towards the development of the United States; educate about the genocide and cultural assimilation efforts of the U.S. government; highlight facets of contemporary Native lives; and tell the various stories and histories from American Indian perspectives.

The bulk of the materials in this collection was created in 1993 to 1994. The video assets include an average 10 hours of recordings per community recorded on BetaSP format analog videotape, with a total of 382 tapes. The footage includes interviews with many tribal elders, including Presidential Medal of Honor recipient Chief Joseph Medicine Crow and Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. Native communities documented in the footage include Apache, Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke), Cherokee, Chinook, Diné (Navajo), Haudenosaunee (Iroquois- Seneca), Lenape (Delaware), Maya, Menominee (Menomini), Muskogee (Creek), Nahua (Aztec), Nakota (Yankton Sioux), Narragansett, Niuam (Comanche), Potawatomi, Pueblo, Seminole, Stockbridge-Munsee, Taos Pueblo, Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne), and Wendat (Huron).

The collection also includes 4 cubic feet of 'production bibles.'

Arrangement

Collection is arranged by community.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Apache
- Cherokee
- Chinook
- Lenape (Delaware)
- Narragansett
- Niuam (Comanche)
- Seminole
- Seminole
- Taos Pueblo
- Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Cultures:

Apache
Cherokee
Chinook
Lenape (Delaware)
Narragansett
Nium (Comanche)
Seminole
Seminole
Taos Pueblo
Tsistsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Container Listing

Series 1: Television Series Overview and Compilation Show, 1993-1994

Box 1, Folder 1-6

Scope and Contents: This series contains an overview of Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994, as well as information about the compilation show. The paper materials include production correspondence, draft scripts, research, notes, interview questions, and interviewee release forms.

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Series 2: Apache, 1993-1994

18 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

5 Folders

Box 1, Folder 7-11 (text)

Box 10, Tape 1-18 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Apache series contains 18 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, notes, script drafts, production bibles, and interviewee release forms. The materials in this series relate to the Apache, White Mountain Apache, and Jicarilla Apache tribes. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are orange 000-017. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 1-18.

Culture: Apache
White Mountain Apache
Jicarilla Apache

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Series 3: Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke), 1993-1994

31 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

10 Folders

Box 1, Folder 12-21 (text)

Box 10, Tape 19-49 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke) series contains 31 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, interview questions, research, draft scripts, take sheets, notes, shot lists, production bibles, and interviewee release forms. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are green 61-91. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 19-49.

Culture: Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)

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Series 4: Nahua (Aztec) and Maya, 1993-1994

6 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

11 Folders

Box 2, Folder 1-11 (text)

Box 11, Tape 50-55 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Nahua (Aztec) and Maya series contains 6 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, research, notes, script, and interviewee release forms. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are orange 162-167. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 50-55.

Culture: Nahua

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Series 5: Cherokee, 1993-1994

14 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

16 Folders

Box 2, Folder 12-27 (text)

Box 11, Tape 56-69 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Cherokee series contains 14 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, draft scripts, Cherokee dictionary and alphabet, research, notes, filming contract, production bibles, and interviewee release forms. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are orange 121-134. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 56-69.

Culture: Cherokee

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Series 6: Chinook, 1993-1994

19 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

7 Folders

Box 3, Folder 1-7 (text)

Box 11, Tape 70-80 (moving images)

Box 12, Tape 81-88 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Chinook series contains 19 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, take sheets, research, notes, filming contract, and interviewee release forms. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are green 001-019. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 70-88.

Culture: Chinook

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Series 7: Diné (Navajo), 1993-1994

14 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

1 Videocassettes (VHS)

11 Folders

Box 3, Folder 8-18 (text)

Box 12, Tape 89-103 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Diné (Navajo) series contains 41 BetaSP and 1 VHS videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, schedules, draft scripts, shot lists, research, notes, production bibles, and interviewee release forms. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are orange 021-033. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 89-103.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

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Series 8: Haudenosaunee (Iroquois), 1993-1994

20 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

6 Folders

Box 3, Folder 19-24 (text)

Box 12, Tape 104-118 (moving images)

Box 13, Tape 119-123 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) series contains 20 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, research, scripts, notes, shot lists, and interviewee release forms. The majority of the footage appears to be documenting the Seneca tribe. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are orange 60-79. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 104-123.

Culture: Seneca

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Series 9: Lenape (Delaware), 1993-1994

50 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

15 Folders

Box 4, Folder 1-15 (text)

Box 13, Tape 124-156 (moving images)

Box 19, Tape 366-382 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Lenape (Delaware) series contains 32 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, research, draft scripts, notes, take sheets, interview topics, production bibles, and interviewee release forms. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are green 121-158 (Tapes # 141 and 151 were not part of NMAI's acquisition of this collection) and green 301-317. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 124-156 and 366-382.

Culture: Lenape (Delaware)

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Series 10: Menominee (Menomini), 1993-1994

21 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

10 Folders

Box 4, Folder 16-25 (text)

Box 13, Tape 157-158 (moving images)

Box 14, Tape 159-177 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Menominee (Menomini) series contains 21 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, research, scripts, notes, shot lists, take sheets, interview topics, production bibles, and interviewee release forms. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are green 151-170. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 157-177.

Culture: Menominee (Menomini)

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Series 11: Muskogee (Creek), 1993-1994

30 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

15 Folders

Box 5, Folder 1-15 (text)

Box 14, Tape 178-197 (moving images)

Box 15, Tape 198-207 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Muskogee (Creek) series contains 30 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, take sheets, research, notes, draft scripts, shot lists, bibles, and interviewee release forms. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are green 031-057. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 178-207.

Culture: Muskogee (Creek)

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Series 12: Nakota (Yankton Sioux), 1993-1994

17 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

11 Folders

Box 5, Folder 16-26 (text)

Box 15, Tape 208-214 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Nakota (Yankton Sioux) series contains 17 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, research, notes, draft scripts, production bibles, and interviewee release forms. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are orange 101-117. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 208-214.

Culture: Nakota (Yankton Sioux)

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Series 13: Narragansett, 1993-1994

32 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

12 Folders

Box 6, Folder 1-12 (text)

Box 15, Tape 215-221 (moving images)

Box 16, Tape 222-246 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Narragansett series contains 32 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, take sheets, research, interview planning, notes, draft scripts, shot lists, bibles, and interviewee release forms. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are red 181-212. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 215-246.

Culture: Narragansett

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Series 14: Niuam (Comanche), 1993-1994

14 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

17 Folders

Box 6, Folder 13-22 (text)

Box 7, Folder 1-6 (text)

Box 16, Tape 247-260 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Niuam (Comanche) series contains 14 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, take sheets, research, notes, draft scripts, and interviewee release forms. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are orange 041-054. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 247-260.

Culture: Niuam (Comanche)

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Series 15: Potawatomi, 1993-1994

20 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

9 Folders

Box 7, Folder 7-15 (text)

Box 17, Tape 261-280 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Potawatomi series contains 20 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, take sheets, draft scripts, research, notes, production bibles, and interviewee release forms. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are green 211-230. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 261-280.

Culture: Potawatomi

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Series 16: Pueblo, 1993-1994

22 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

9 Folders

Box 8, Folder 1-9 (text)

Box 17, Tape 281-300 (moving images)

Box 18, Tape 301-302 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Pueblo series contains 22 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, draft scripts, contracts, research, notes, production bibles, and interviewee release forms. The bulk of the video tapes appear to have been shot at Taos Pueblo. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are blue 241-262. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 281-302.

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Series 17: Seminole, 1993-1994

15 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

10 Folders

Box 8, Folder 10-19 (text)

Box 18, Tape 303-317 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Seminole series contains 15 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, take sheets, draft scripts, research, notes, shot lists, production bibles, and interviewee release forms. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are orange 141-155. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 303-317.

Culture: Seminole

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Series 18: Stockbridge-Munsee, 1993-1994

1 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

3 Folders

Box 8, Folder 20-22 (text)

Box 13, Tape 137 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Stockbridge-Munsee series contains 1 BetaSP videotape production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production research, notes, and interviewee release forms. The new NMAI videotape number is 137.

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Series 19: Tsitsistas / Suhtai (Cheyenne), 1993-1994

20 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

9 Folders

Box 9, Folder 1-9 (text)

Box 18, Tape 318-337 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Tsitsistas / Suhtai (Cheyenne) series contains 20 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, take sheets, credits, research, notes, shot lists, production bible, and interviewee release forms. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are orange 80-98. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 318-337.

This series includes interviews with Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell on tapes 325 and 337.

Culture: Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

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Series 20: Wendat (Huron), 1993-1994

25 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

9 Folders

Box 9, Folder 10-18 (text)

Box 18, Tape 338-340 (moving images)

Box 19, Tape 341-362 (moving images)

Scope and Contents: The Wendat (Huron) series contains 25 BetaSP videotapes as well as production files related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The paper materials include production correspondence, take sheets, draft scripts, research, notes, production bibles, and interviewee release forms. The original numbers assigned to the Beta videotapes are green 91-115. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 338-362.

Culture: Wendat (Huron)

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Series 21: General Tapes, circa 1993-1994

1 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

2 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 19, Tape 363-365

Scope and Contents: The general series contains 1 BetaSP videotape and 2 VHS tapes related to the Indians of North America television series, circa 1993-1994. The footage includes a reenactment of the Battle of Little Bighorn and a VHS of St. Labre Indian School in Ashland Montana. The new NMAI videotape numbers are 363-365.

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