

Watching Place Productions
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Language of America – an Indian Story

Short Description:

Three Native American families from different New England tribes journey back into nature and into a dream of a time when words had meanings so big they could not be translated into English. As they unravel the secret of the survival of their 9,000 year old culture, they confront the power of a lie that Americans have yet to question.

Medium length description:

Listen to the names of New England rivers, its towns and states: Sippewissett, Skowhegan, Connecticut, Penobscot... the sounds flow like forest streams carrying a hidden story—an Indian story of America from beginning to present. Language of America takes us deep into New England's last surviving Indian places and languages, revealing a 9,000-year-old success story that's been pushed to the edge of extinction by a government that proclaims "diversity" but doesn't want to practice it with Native peoples who resist being assimilated.

Meet Allen Sockabasin, singing his child into becoming a Passamaquoddy speaker; Jessie Littledoe, who against all odds, has brought back her Wampanoag language that had not been spoken for 200 years; and Ella Sekatau, who still refers to non-Indians as "the strangers" and has never forgotten the sacred Narragansett ceremonies.

Language of America explores Indian language, philosophy, and community as never before. It shows how Indian words reveal an inherent connectedness between people, nature and spirit. The film bears witness to America's history of Indian human rights abuse, yet it inspires hope by promoting an understanding of diversity that accepts Native peoples' inextricably shared history and destiny with their neighbors.

Full description:

Three Native American families from different New England tribes unravel the secret of the survival of their 9,000 year old languages and cultures, and confront a history that Americans have yet to question.

Listen to the names of New England rivers, its towns and states: Sippewissett, Skowhegan, Connecticut, Penobscot... the sounds flow like forest streams carrying a hidden story—an Indian story of America from beginning to present. Language of America takes us deep into New England's last surviving Indian places and languages, revealing a 9,000-year-old success story that's been pushed to the edge of extinction by a government that proclaims "diversity" but doesn't want to practice it with Native peoples who resist being assimilated.

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Language of America triggers a conversation about cultural and environmental sustainability and fixing what's been broken. It's a film that helps us understand why the world's languages are disappearing at unprecedented rates and what's at stake for all of us when any one of them is lost.

Film website:

www.languageofamerica.com

Official Selection at:

Maine International Film Festival

Boston International Film Festival

Camden Film Festival

Connecticut International Film Festival