NATIVE PEOPLES
ARTS & LIFEWAYS

ALL THAT GLITTERS IN NATIVE CINEMA

irene Bedard

CELEBRATING GENEROSITY
Gifting traditions of the Plains

COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES
Preserving land and culture

ARTIST PROFILE
Glass artist C.S. Tarpley

PATHWAYS
Western North Carolina

US $4.95 CANADA $5.95
NOV/DEC 2000
DISPLAY UNTIL DECEMBER 31

PLUS
Collections: James Bialac, Part 2
Spirit of the Harvest Galleries & Museums
Film, Video & Music

www.nativepeoples.com
Features

26  ON THE COVER: IRENE BEDARD
From Anchorage, Alaska to New York City, the dramatic calling of Irene Bedard has led this Inupiat Eskimo/Cree actor to roles in Lakota Woman, Naturally Native and Smoke Signals. With her theatrical and Native roots firmly established, the voice behind Pocahontas celebrates two new releases this year, The Lost Child and Wild Flowers. Bedard glimmers in a 14k gold, inlaid pendant and bracelet, courtesy of Ray Tracey Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico. BY DANIEL GIBSON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LEROY DEJOLIE NAVAJO

28  INSIDE “THE LOST CHILD”
The Lost Child, a Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation, is scheduled to air this fall on CBS. Based on Yvette Melanson’s memoirs, “Looking for Lost Bird,” the film introduces a sensitive, contemporary subject—forced adoption. While on location in Arizona, Native cast members Irene Bedard, Tantoo Cardinal and Kimberly Guerrero-Norris share their convictions about The Lost Child, as well as the achievements and challenges they encounter in Hollywood. BY DOUGLAS MILES
SAN CARLOS APACHE

35  GIFTING TRADITIONS OF THE PLAINS
For the Lakota, the ritual of Christmas and gift giving is just over one hundred years old; yet the age-old custom of give-aways—rooted in generosity and survival—is a year-round practice to honor family and friends. In this spirit, the Native Peoples Holiday Gift Guide celebrates old and new lifeways through a vibrant collection of Flains-inspired gift ideas. BY DELPHINE RED SHIRT
OGALA SIOUX
PHOTOGRAPHY BY HILARY WALLACE

40  HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE
Tis the season to shop! For crafts, adornments, apparel and furnishings, that is. A treasure-seekers guide to Native America’s finest shops, galleries and trading posts.

52  FURNITURE FROM A NATIVE VISION
From his studio located at Seattle’s Pier 56, Blackfoot furniture artisan Ernie Apodaca offers hand-crafted, leather upholstered “functional art.” BY PATTY TALAHONGVA NAVAJO

56  ENVIRONMENTAL RECOVERY: COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES
The Colorado River Indian Tribes reservation in Parker, Arizona develops a model environmental and cultural preservation project, the Añashé Tribal Preserve. BY JOE RAKER
DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS
PHOTOGRAPH BY LEROY DEJOLIE NAVAJO

68  ARTIST PROFILE: C.S. TARPLEY
The glass vessels of C.S. Tarpley fuse molten glass, metalwork and universal motifs. Combined, his contemporary forms parallel his pursuit towards balance in art, identity and life. BY CHARLEEN TOUCHEITTE

72  COLLECTIONS:
JAMES T. BIALAC COLLECTION, PART II
The dialogue continues between author Joel Harnett and Balac, on individual pieces of this hundred collection span. BY JOEL HARNETT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK HENDRICKSON

Continued on page 4.

www.nativepeoples.com

AWARDS
1st Place, General Excellence
Native American Journalists Association, 1999
1998 Visionary Award winner
Institute of American Indian Arts Foundation

Native Peoples is dedicated to the sensitive portrayal of the arts and lifeways of Native peoples of the Americas.
Singing the River Back

'Ahkáhav Tribal Preserve reclaims river, culture for CRIT peoples

BY JOE BAKER (DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS)
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LEROT DEJOLIE (NAVAJO)

For members of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) reservation in Parker, Arizona, the Colorado River that "used to be" was an all-too-common refrain just a few years ago. But things have changed. The 'Ahkáhav Tribal Preserve is a model project conceived by the Colorado River Indian Tribes and driven by their collective histories and current realities. It inspires the reservation's youth to retain cultural values and preserve resources for future generations.

Prior to European settlement in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Lower Colorado River Valley was an ever-changing, dynamic riparian ecosystem. The river supported vast expanses of cottonwood and willow, mesquite bosques, alkalai flats and wetlands. River flows ranged from modest in the winter months to near floods between May and July. The untamed river eroded and deposited sediment, constantly changing its course in a cycle of disruption and mending.

The 'Ahkáhav area of the lower Colorado is the homeland of the Mojave and Chemehuevi Indian tribes. The river was the center of their existence, and native plants, including mesquite, cottonwood and willow, provided the people with materials for shelter, baskets and tools, medicine, clothing and even dyes and paints.

Because of European settlement and the introduction of exotic plant species to the lower Colorado ecosystem, traditional lifeways have changed dramatically. Dams now restrict the floods that deposited soils necessary for the creation of the forests and wetlands. Levees control the river and cut off historic wetlands and sloughs from seasonal floods necessary for their survival. Backwaters, beaches and forests cherished by the tribes for hunting, recreation and home sites have diminished. In less than 100 years, the historic Colorado had been transformed from a wild, meandering life force to nothing more than a large drainage ditch.

Today, the 228-million-acre Colorado River Indian Reservation is home to four different tribal groups: the Mohave and Chemehuevi, who have lived on these lands for generations, and the Hopi and Navajo, who moved here as part of a government relocation program in the 1940s. For most of the tribal members living on the reservation, cultural expression is strong, and many of the people share a sense of biological and cultural impoverishment resulting from the alterations of the river during the past century.
The 'Ablakhov Game Preserve Project has restored native vegetation to more than 500 acres of land and aquatic habitats. It conducts hydrographic surveys and provides ecological monitoring. Environmental education programs have been developed, a three-mile boardwalk and hiking trail were created, and a native plant nursery opened. The Colorado River Indian Tribes have established a Department for the Preserve, which provides general operating funds to maintain the project.

A summer Job Training Partnership Act provides employment opportunities to youth from the reservation. More than 2,000 youths and adults have participated in the recreation/education program, including tribal members, youth groups, disabled children, students from local schools, colleges and universities, foreign exchange students, rotary groups and a Mexican conservation group. Activities include canoe and camping trips, interpretive hikes, a summer day camp, workshops, trail days, tree planting and other environmental education activities.

The residue of U.S. government policies in the region is nowhere more visible than on reservation and allotment lands. Reservation lands are frequently targeted for nuclear-waste dumps, resources extraction and development activities. Strip mining and timber production have left scars on land important to Native American cultures. This assault on tribal lands has also manifested itself in a variety of social and health-related problems continuing to threaten Native Americans.

The 'Ablakhov Tribal Preserve, with its community-driven support, has gained national and international attention and continues to be cited as a model project for land reclamation. Federal, state and local governments are looking to this project as a model for adaptation to other sites so degraded.

Joe Baker, MFA University of Tulsa, is an internationally recognized contemporary artist who currently resides in Phoenix, Arizona. He currently is the Education Outreach Manager, Heard Museum, coordinating the Artist-in-Residence Program. Award-winning photographer Lyle Dykstra is renowned for his portrait of nature's landscapes, and is based in Flagstaff, Arizona.