FACT SHEET

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Available to the APT Exchange Group

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Pequot War was a pivotal event in early American
History that set the stage for the ultimate domination of
all Native Americans by Europeans. Narrated by two-
time Academy Award nominee Roy Scheider, MYSTIC
VOICES: THE STORY OF THE PEQUOT WAR
presents a balanced view of events, underlying causes,
consequences and legacy of the first declared war in
American history.

Although the conflict was small by today's standards, the
rhetoric of the English Puritans made their victory over
the "heathens" a significant event in the early history of
the United States and crystallized the attitudes and
myths that became the foundations of our nation.
MYSTIC VOICES: THE STORY OF THE PEQUOT
WAR is not just a history lesson about a regional tribe,
but presents insights into how the voices of our ancestors
play a part in who we are today as Americans.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS: News release, director profile, film credits, and high-
resolution photos are available on the APT catalog
program page, aptonline.org
NATIONAL UNDERWRITER: Eastman Kodak and the International Documentary Association Project Access Grant

RELATED MERCHANDISE: Available on DVD and VHS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mystic Voices
The Story of the Pequot War

The Pequot War has long been an obscure event in the historical perspective of the general public. *Mystic Voices: The Story of the Pequot War* is intended to increase public understanding of the significance of this event, not only for northeastern Native Peoples and descendants of the English and Dutch colonists who settled the region, but also for Native Peoples across America and for all Americans today. The documentary examines the underlying human motivations, and cultural and religious differences that led to war, and explores how the legacy of the War still affects the lives of Native American and Puritan descendants in the region today.

**CULTURAL VALUE SYSTEMS AND RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE.**

Native Americans and the English Puritans saw the world around them in entirely different ways, especially with respect to land ownership and warfare. Natives believed land could be occupied and used, but they had no real concept of land ownership. The English believed they had divine rights, through patents from the King, purchase, occupation of unused land, or rights of conquest, to possess the land.

Compared to European warfare, Native warfare was conducted on a small scale. Although capture, torture, and other foul deeds were routinely exercised on individuals, large numbers of people were not killed in conflicts. The Natives were not prepared for the kind of unlimited warfare practiced against them by Europeans.

Natives saw themselves as being in communion with other peoples, animals, and indeed all of nature as part of a world embraced by Manitou, the living Spirit in all things. The Puritans saw themselves as the chosen people of God establishing a "New Jerusalem" in the wilderness of America, surrounded by people they saw as savages. The Puritans feared that their very survival in that wilderness was at stake. Ultimately, they believed that their ability to survive and overcome threats from heathen savages was a measure of their own righteousness before God.
MISCONCEPTIONS AND MISCOMMUNICATIONS

Neither the Natives nor the Puritans completely understood what their actions meant to the other culture. Language differences and lack of understanding about how each culture practiced politics and negotiation contributed to the problem.

The Puritan English clearly feared for their survival. The Puritans were acutely aware of the 1622 Powhatan uprising in Virginia, in which Indians had killed hundreds of English settlers. The stories the New England settlers heard from most of the other tribes in the region, many of which had been subjugated by the Pequots, in their mind clearly showed that the Pequots were powerful, hostile, and devious. Most of these tribes ultimately fought with the English against the Pequots, somewhat dispelling the notion that the War was exclusively a "conflict of cultures."

THE LEGACY OF THE WAR

The battle was the first time northeastern tribes experienced the total warfare of European military methods. From a historical perspective, the War was an important early test of the "Indian Policy" of European settlers in America. Some Native Americans believe the legacy of the War is still with us, reflected by the greed, bigotry, racism, and intolerance they see around them.

"Even today, the Pequot War stimulates a lot of debate among the scholars and sometimes passionate discussion among descendants of the people who fought the War," said Co-producer Guy Perrotta. Co-producer Charles Clemmons adds, "For some descendants, some of the underlying causes of the War are still with us. In many respects, for them the Pequot War is not over."

FACES AND VOICES

Narrated by two-time Academy Award® nominee Roy Scheider (Jaws, All That Jazz, The French Connection), Mystic Voices: The Story of the Pequot War features scenes shot on location on New Shoreham (Block Island), Middletown and Bristol, Rhode Island. The music of Grammy-nominated Joanne Shenandoah, an Oneida Six Nations Iroquois singer-songwriter, and Emmy Award-winning composer Charles David Denler, provide a haunting score to what has been described as the “first declared war in America.”
One of the central figures of Mystic Voices: The Story of the Pequot War is Rhode Island Colony founder, Roger Williams. Using excerpts from his journals, the film illustrates this early American hero’s call for Puritans to live peaceably with Native Americans. Many of his fellow colonists disagreed with that view, and the subsequent Pequot massacre set the stage for the ultimate domination of Native tribes by European colonists.

Mystic Voices: The Story of the Pequot War is a collaboration of two Connecticut-based independent filmmakers, Guy Perrotta of Sasco Creek Productions in Norwalk and Charles Clemmons of Wiltonwood Productions in Wilton. Presented by Rhode Island PBS and distributed nationally by American Public Television, the documentary derives its title from a pivotal battle in which 400-700 Pequot men, women, and children were burned to death in a fortified village in a place called Missituck (now Mystic, Connecticut).

Scholars involved in the making of Mystic Voices: The Story of the Pequot War include Francis Jennings, Director Emeritus of the Newberry Library Center for the History of the American Indian in Chicago; Neil Salisbury, Professor of History at Smith College; Alfred Cave, Professor of History at the University of Toledo; Alden Vaughan, Professor Emeritus of History, Columbia University; and Kevin McBride, Co-Director of the Native American Studies Program at the University of Connecticut and Director of Research at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center. Alvin M. Josephy, author of several prize-winning books on the American Indian experience, former chairman of the National Museum of the American Indian (Smithsonian Institution), and former editor of American Heritage magazine, has endorsed the project and has served on its Advisory Board. In 2003 the producers gave a presentation and showed clips at the Center for Race and Ethnicity in America at Brown University.

Native American participants include Jo Ann Dark Eyes, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Elder; Marcia Flowers, Eastern Pequot Tribal Council Chair; James Cunha, Jr., Eastern Pequot Tribal Officer; Raymond Geer, Eastern Pequot; Melissa Tantequidgeon Zobel, Executive Director of the Mohegan Tribal Museum Authority; John Brown III, Narragansett Tribal Historic Preservation Officer; Trudie Lamb Richmond, noted Schagticoke cultural educator and storyteller; and Tall Oak, Pequot-Wampanoag heritage. Actor Gregory Zaragoza (Pima), previously seen on stage in Annie Get Your Gun with Bernadette Peters, portrays Sassacus, Grand Sachem of the
Pequots. Julienne Jennings of Warwick, RI, assisted with providing resources for Rhode Island shoots, including referrals of many area Native American dancers and musicians for village scenes. Chris Ortiz of Narragansett, RI, portrays Uncas, who with his small band of Mohegans split from the Pequots in 1635 to align with the English Puritans.

Jeremy Black (The Boys From Brazil) portrays Puritan Governor John Winthrop, Sr., and provides voice over for other Puritans including John Cotton. Members of the Underhill Society of America and the Mason Family Memorial Association, descendants of John Underhill and John Mason, the commanders who led the bloody attack at Mystic, have also participated.

Those interested in learning more about the documentary may visit the films’ Web site at www.pequotwar.com.

For 42 years, American Public Television (APT) has been a major source of programming for the nation’s public television stations. APT has more than 10,000 hours of available programming including Discovering the Real World of Harry Potter, Globe Trekker, Muhammad Ali: Through the Eyes of the World, Nightly Business Report, Rick Steves’ Europe, Julia and Jacques Cooking at Home, Ballykissangel, Brian Jacques’ Redwall, and The Three Tenors Christmas. APT is known for identifying innovative programs and developing creative distribution techniques for producers. In four decades, it has established a tradition of providing public television stations nationwide with program choices that enable them to strengthen and customize their schedules. For more information about APT’s programs and services, visit APTonline.org.

WSBE-TV Rhode Island PBS is owned and operated by the Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority, a quasi-public agency of the State of Rhode Island. Rhode Island PBS is a viewer-supported member of the Public Broadcasting Service. As Rhode Island’s most accessible learning resource, Rhode Island PBS is dedicated to the principle of lifelong learning and broadcasts family-oriented programs that educate, inform, enrich, inspire, and entertain viewers of all ages in Rhode Island, southeastern Massachusetts, and eastern Connecticut. For more information about the programs and services at Rhode Island PBS, visit www.RIpbs.org.
Mystic Voices: The Story of the Pequot War

The Credits

Narration: Roy Scheider (Jaws, Klute, All That Jazz)
Dovie Thomason (Lakota-Kiowa/Apache)
Sheri Graubert

Original Music: Charles David Denler (National Geographic)
Associate Producer: Jonathan Perry (Wampanoag)

Principal Cinematography: Garrett C. Maynard
Charles Clemmons

Music: Joanne Shenandoah (Oneida)
Hawk Henries (Nipmuc)
Ron Perry
George Penedo
Tim Perniciaro

Principal Cast: SASSACUS - Gregory Zaragoza (Pima) (The Jury, Annie Get Your Gun)
JOHN UNDERHILL-William Scott Russell (Long Wharf Theater)
UNCAS-Chris Ortiz (Wampanoag)
JOHN MASON-Morton Hall Millen (The Road From Erebus)
PEQUOT ENVOY-Jonathan Perry (Wampanoag)(National Geographic, Colonial House)
JOHN WINTHROP, SR. - Jeremy Black (The Boys From Brazil)
HELENA UNDERHILL - Sheri Graubert (BBC, Our Betters)
ROGER WILLIAMS - Simon Boughey
MIANTANOMO - Cliff Drake (Lumbee)
LION GARDINER - Dennis Smith
WINCOMBONE - Strong Woman (Wampanoag/Nottoway)
PEQUOT WARRIOR - Matt Vianna (Algonquin-Cherokee)
JOHN STONE - Thom Delventhal
NARRAGANSETT ELDER - Cochise Medicine Shield (Delaware)
THE OLD CHIEF - Howling Wolf (Micmac)
SMALLPOX VICTIMS- Matoaka Little Eagle (Tewa/Apache/Chicka),
Arlene Diaz (Taino)
INDIAN IN SCARLET MANTLE - Joe Cross (Caddo/Potawatomi)
DEBORAH UNDERHILL - Evie Dill
DAUGHTER OF WINCOMBONE - Lily-Rae O'Brien

Voices: WILLIAM APESS - Steve Elm (Oneida)
JOHN BREWSTER - David Conaway
SASSACUS (ENGLISH) - Joe Cross (Caddo/Potawatomi)
UNCAS (ENGLISH) - Cliff Drake (Lumbee)
WINCOMBONE (ENGLISH) - Matoaka Little Eagle (Tewa/Apache/Chicka)
WILLIAM BRADFORD - Andy Dolan
JOHN COTTON & EDWARD JOHNSON - Jeremy Black
JOHN ENDICOTT - Mark McConnell
Dramatizations based on *Elegy for an Icon*, A stage play by Nicholas P. Checker
Other Dramatizations by Guy Perrotta & Charles Clemmons

Paintings by:  David Wagner
              Elizabeth Perry (Wampanoag)
              Guy Perrotta

Advisors:  John Brown III, Narragansett Tribe
         Alfred A. Cave, Ph.D.
         Paul Grant-Costa, Ph.D., J.D.
         James A. Cunha, Jr., Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation
         Melissa Tantaquidgeon, MA, Mohegan Tribe
         Dreaming Spirits, Eastern Pequot Tribal Chair
         Raymond A. Geer, Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation
         Francis Jennings, PhD
         Alvin M. Josephy, Jr.
         Kevin A. McBride, PhD
         Dale Plummer, Descendant of John Mason
         Neal Salisbury, PhD
         George T. Underhill, Jr., Underhill Society of America
         Alden T. Vaughan, PhD
         Jo Ann Dark Eyes, Council of Tribal Elders, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
         Tall Oak, Absentee Mashantucket Pequot and Wampanoag
         Trudie Lamb Richmond, Schagticoke Tribe
Mystic Voices: The Story of the Pequot War

The Producers

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Guy Perrotta Co-Producer and Artistic Director, has served as Director of Promotions and Special Events and juror for various film festivals in the United States. He also has served as Connecticut Salon Coordinator for the Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers (AIVF) and as a member of Media Alliance/WNET, lobbying state and local governments to assign higher priorities to film and television arts. Since 1993, he has served with the Adult Volunteers in Action: Voluntary Action Center of Mid-Fairfield County (Connecticut), as a member of the Advisory Board.

With Haverland Film/Video Productions, New York, he wrote, produced, and directed educational works, including documentaries (Fairfield: The First 350 Years) and test pilots for proposed television series (Two Wiseguys of Verona with Chris LaValle Associates); directed Mulberry Street off-Broadway; and created portrait paintings of Native Americans for Native Faces exhibition sponsored by the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut. He is a member of the American Association of State and Local History, the International Documentary Association, the Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers, and the Boston Film and Video Foundation.


Charlie also has served as Production Associate for several documentaries aired on Connecticut Public Television by Emmy Award-winning producer, Ron Gould. He also was First Assistant Director for the Victor Duncan film production of The Ransom of Mack by O. Henry, aired on Texas Public Television station KERA in 1993. He is a member of the International Documentary Association, the Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers, the Boston Film and Video Foundation, and The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. He also is a Life Member of the Media Communications Association International

THE CREATIVE APPROACH

A primary objective of the project was to present a balanced view of the historical events and their interpretation for today. To achieve that objective, the often highly divergent opinions and viewpoints of both Puritan and Native Americans are presented in the film. Although the program is characterized as a documentary, dramatic elements are also used to involve the viewer. The documentary uses paintings, historical documents, and reenactments of events, with narration, and interviews with scholars and descendants of the people who fought the War. Photography utilizes both 16-mm film and video. Because of its perceived archival image quality, film is used for historical and dramatic segments to convey a sense of looking backward in time. Because of its "here and now news" quality, video is used for interviews and photography of locations as they appear today.