Ohiyesa: The Soul of an Indian was produced by Dakota Eastman Productions for a presentation of Vision Maker Media, with major funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

Ohiyesa: The Soul of an Indian was produced by Dakota Eastman Productions, which is solely responsible for its content.

Not Rated, 57 min, Color

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Kate Beane holds a BA in American Indian Studies and a PhD in American Studies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. With an employment history rooted in education, she has worked in the Twin Cities as an after school mentor for American Indian youth, an early childhood Dakota language immersion teacher, a local public history consultant, and as a community college instructor. Previously, she served as a Charles A. Eastman Pre-doctoral Fellow at Dartmouth College, and as a President’s Post-doctoral Fellow at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Currently, she is the Dakota Program and Outreach Manager for Native American Initiatives at the Minnesota Historical Society.

Education, community organizer, and documentary filmmaker. Syd Beane’s great-grandfather was Rev. John Eastman, the older brother and mentor of Charles Alexander Eastman (Ohiyesa). Syd served as Project Manager of The Dakota Land Study in Minnesota Before 1862 Research/Book Project which was completed with the publishing of the book “Mni Sota Makoce: The Land of the Dakota.” This book was awarded Minnesota History Book of the year for 2012. He was writer and co-producer of the documentary film “Native Nations: Standing Together for Civil Rights” shown nationally on ABC, NBC, and the Hallmark Channel. He is Executive Producer/Producer of “Ohiyesa: The Soul of an Indian.”
LONG SYNOPSIS

Ohiyesa: The Soul of an Indian is a deeply personal film that follows Kate Beane, an urban, Dakota scholar, as she traces the footsteps of her celebrated relative, Ohiyesa, recounting his remarkable life. On this journey, they seek to return the legacy of their grandfather back to their ancestral homeland, while also searching for what their own legacy will be.

Ohiyesa, also known as Charles Eastman, lived an extraordinary life during a tumultuous time for the Dakota Oyate (nation). Born in 1858, Ohiyesa was part of the last generation of his family to inherit and be raised with the full knowledge of traditional Dakota life in Minnesota. As a child he was forced out of the state following the Dakota War of 1862. He grew up to become the second Native American physician in the United States and an important author, social activist, and lecturer on the international stage, all before his people were considered American citizens in their own land. Ohiyesa's memoirs relate his journey from a pre-reservation Dakota boyhood to the ivy halls of Dartmouth and beyond.

In the words of Eastman scholar and professor David Martinez, "When somebody like Eastman asserts himself as a true American, he is doing so in defiance of that fundamental belief in the United States that Indian people are going to fade into the sunset. He refused to fade."

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Alec Roslik

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Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC, Art Resource, NY
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The Newberry Library, Chicago
Virginia Risk
The Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College
South Dakota State Historical Society
VideoBlocks
Walter P. Reuther Library, Archive of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University

MUSIC
Grandfather’s Calling
Written and Performed by Douglas Spotted Eagle
Published by Firedrum Music (ASCAP)
Courtesy of The Soar Corporation
Creation
Written and Performed by Douglas Spotted Eagle
Published by Firedrum Music (ASCAP)
Courtesy of The Soar Corporation
Celebration of Life
Written and Performed by Douglas Spotted Eagle
Published by Firedrum Music (ASCAP)
Courtesy of The Soar Corporation
The Beauty Way
Written and Performed by Douglas Spotted Eagle
Published by Firedrum Music (ASCAP)
Courtesy of The Soar Corporation
Kee’ta Kee’ta Matt Sin
Written by D. Norman
Performed by Norman & Kramer
Published by Firedrum Music (ASCAP)
Courtesy of The Soar Corporation
Voices on the Wind
Written by Robby Bee
Performed by Santee
Published by Firedrum Music (ASCAP)
Courtesy of The Soar Corporation
Creation
Written and Performed by Douglas Spotted Eagle
Published by Firedrum Music (ASCAP)
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