

MANKILLER

ACTIVIST. FEMINIST. CHEROKEE CHIEF.



A Valhalla Entertainment and Red-Horse Native Productions documentary for Vision Maker Media
with major funding by the Corporation of Public Broadcasting

MANKILLER

Directed and Produced by Valerie Red-Horse Mohl
Executive Produced by Gale Anne Hurd

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Not yet Rated, 74 min, Color

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On location in San Francisco, the Mankiller Documentary crew interviews Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz. Pictured from left to right: Ms. Dunbar Ortiz, Valerie Red-Horse Mohl (Director/Producer), Tarin Anderson (Director of Photography), Robert Swanson (B-Camera Operator). Photo by Curt Mohl.

Director's Statement

MANKILLER is the powerful story of Wilma Mankiller, who found her voice in San Francisco's civil rights movement and returned to lead the Cherokee Nation as the first woman to be elected Principal Chief. As a Native American woman myself, I am honored and humbled to be directing and producing this documentary in collaboration with my tremendous production team, especially Executive Producer Gale Anne Hurd (THE TERMINATOR trilogy, ALIENS, ARMAGEDDON, THE ABYSS, THE WATERDANCE). I have been very fortunate to be reunited with Gale. Despite her incredibly busy production schedule (she currently Executive Produces AMC's THE WALKING DEAD, FEAR THE WALKING DEAD, Amazon's new series LORE and USA's FALLING WATER), her creative drive has enabled us to produce our third Native American themed documentary together. Through

crowdfunding, we were able to raise more than half our budget for MANKILLER from supporters around the world! We have fostered trust within Native communities as filmmakers who are true to our subjects, fair and honest in our portrayals and accurate in our storytelling. As we complete this film with news of world events unfolding around us, we realize how Wilma Mankiller's leadership style, her focus on consensus building and her ability to organize a community with quiet influence and humility, are all qualities that are extremely topical. I truly believe we can learn rich and valuable lessons from her story and her legacy. I see this film as so much more than a biography; I believe it actually is a wakeup call. Wilma lived her life with the philosophy of "Ga-Dugi" which translated means "in a good way" – and our goal is that we embody "Ga-Dugi" on this project to honor her.

About the Filmmakers



Gale Anne Hurd

MANKILLER Executive Producer

Hurd's career as a Producer was launched when she produced and co-wrote THE TERMINATOR. Hurd's additional feature credits include the Academy Award winning films THE ABYSS, TERMINATOR 2: JUDGMENT DAY, and THE GHOST AND THE DARKNESS, as well as the Academy Award-nominated ARMAGEDDON, THE INCREDIBLE HULK, TREMORS, DANTE'S PEAK, ÆON FLUX, THE PUNISHER, DICK, and THE WATERDANCE. She has also produced two other documentaries on Native American subjects, TRUE WHISPERS: THE STORY OF THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS and CHOCTAW CODE TALKERS. Hurd is currently an Executive Producer on THE WALKING DEAD, which reigns as the most watched television drama in the 18-49 demographic for six consecutive years, as well as the AMC companion series, FEAR THE WALKING DEAD. Hurd is also an Executive Producer on the Amazon original series, LORE, and Producer of CBS Films newest horror movie, HELL FEST.

In 2015, Hurd was awarded the prestigious David O. Selznick Award for Achievement in Motion Pictures by the Producers Guild of America, and she was inducted into the International Women's Forum Hall of Fame in 2014. In 2012, Hurd received her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



Valerie Red-Horse Mohl

MANKILLER Director/Producer

A filmmaker of Cherokee ancestry, Red-Horse Mohl's body of work spans over three decades of film and television content creation and production. A graduate of UCLA's Theater/Film Program, she has produced, directed and written over a dozen award winning films and television programs including, NATURALLY NATIVE (Sundance Feature), TRUE WHISPERS: THE STORY OF THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS (PBS-also with Hurd), CHOCTAW CODE TALKERS (PBS-also with Hurd), POP HUNTER'S DEW DROP INN (PBS), DIVERSITY IN THE DELTA (PBS), MY INDIAN SUMMER (CBS) and BEAUTY (NBC). Red-Horse Mohl is a member of the Directors Guild and Screen Actors Guild and was inducted into the NAWBO (National Association of Women Business Owners) Hall of Fame in 2008.

In addition to her entertainment expertise, Ms. Red-Horse is an investment banker serving as owner/founder of Red-Horse Financial Group, Inc.; she holds seven FINRA securities licenses and has raised/structured over \$3 billion in capital for American Indian Tribal Nations. Red-Horse Mohl is also the founder of three non-profit organizations.



Wilma Mankiller reads to young students. Photo courtesy of Wilma Mankiller Foundation.



Wilma Mankiller and colleagues hold ceremonial shovels at the groundbreaking of the Wilma P. Mankiller Health Center. Photo courtesy of Wilma Mankiller Foundation.

Synopses

LONG FORM SYNOPSIS

This is the story of an American hero. One who stands tall amongst the likes of Robert Kennedy, Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King, Jr. Someone who humbly defied the odds and overcame insurmountable obstacles to fight injustice and gave a voice to the voiceless. And yet few people know her name. This is the story of an American legend, Wilma Mankiller, who overcame rampant sexism and personal challenges to emerge as the Cherokee Nation's first woman Principal Chief in 1985. MANKILLER examines the legacy of the formidable Wilma Mankiller and reunites the documentary team of Gale Anne Hurd and Valerie Red-Horse Mohl for their third and most powerful film.

As a child, Wilma's family was relocated from Oklahoma to San Francisco, and although the move was traumatic, it was in the Bay Area during the turbulent 1960s that she became involved in the fight for civil rights and joined the Alcatraz Occupation.

Wilma brought this passion back to the Cherokee Nation where she was re-elected by her people to serve three terms as the Cherokee's highest leader. While in office, she provided the foundation for the Nation's current economic and cultural status as one of the most successful tribes in America.

Although she considered herself a liberal Democrat, as Deputy Chief she was chosen by a conservative Republican and was known as a uniter of all people. Wilma launched many cutting edge initiatives that substantially improved living conditions during her tenure, and in 1990 she signed an unprecedented Cherokee Nation self-determination agreement with the federal government, in which the Nation took control of its funding, programs and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 1998, recognizing her impressive leadership and achievements, President Bill Clinton awarded her the Medal of Freedom. A stalwart activist for women's rights, Wilma Mankiller was cited by the organizers of the January 2017

Women's March on Washington as one of the most important leaders in America's movement for equality. MANKILLER reminds audiences of the true meaning of servant leadership and serves as a wake-up call to take action for positive change.

MEDIUM SYNOPSIS

In 1985, after serving as Deputy Chief under a conservative leader, Wilma Mankiller took office as the Cherokee Nation's first woman Principal Chief. Having relocated from Oklahoma to San Francisco earlier in her life, Mankiller worked with both the nascent Black Panther and the Alcatraz occupation movements, eventually bringing the passion and experience she gained there back to her people. During her decade-long tenure as Principal Chief and beyond, Mankiller's leadership enabled the Cherokee Nation to become one of the most economically and culturally successful tribes in America.

Through rare archival footage and intimate interviews with activists including Gloria Steinem, as well as with Wilma herself, MANKILLER gives us insight into how this remarkable woman successfully navigated through the minefield of bipartisan politics. Veteran

filmmaker Valerie Red-Horse Mohl and Executive Producer Gale Anne Hurd present a portrait of a composed and assured leader who persevered through sexism and devastating personal setbacks to become one of the greatest leaders in American history.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

MANKILLER examines the legacy of the formidable Wilma Mankiller, who defied all odds to become one of the most influential leaders in the United States. Mankiller overcame rampant sexism and personal challenges to emerge as the Cherokee Nation's first woman Principal Chief in 1985. Through rare archival footage and intimate interviews with activists including Gloria Steinem, as well as with Wilma herself, MANKILLER gives us insight into how this remarkable woman successfully navigated through the minefield of bipartisan politics.

Recognition



Best Documentary Feature

Rome International Film Festival



Best Documentary Feature

Tulsa American Film Festival



Best Documentary Feature

Māoriland Film Festival



Best of Fest

Palm Springs International Film Festival



Best Editing

United Nations Association Film Festival



Spirit Award

Bozeman International Film Festival



Centerpiece Screening

Athena Film Festival

Festivals & Screenings



Reviews

"Mankiller Is March's Must-See Documentary... a supremely moving story"

— *Eve Macsweeney, VOGUE*

<https://www.vogue.com/article/mankiller-documentary-pbs-review>

"The question now is whether Hollywood can turn the telescope around and discover a new kind of heroine, capable of evolving beyond muscles...."

— *Ann Hornaday, The Washington Post*

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/why-female-portrayals-of-power-on-screen-need-to-evolve/2018/03/15/1e8e03d6-2862-11e8-874b-d517e912f125_story.html

"Hurd and Red-Horse Mohl have skillfully weaved together footage of the turbulent times that tried Wilma's and her people's souls..."

— *Herbert Paine, Broadway World*

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/phoenix/article/BWW-Review-MANKILLER-Eulogizes-The-Proud-Life-And-Turbulent-Times-Of-A-Cherokee-Hero-20180130>

"Mankiller is that rare documentary that is informative and moving, but will make you laugh, too."

— *Erika W. Smith, Bust Magazine*

<https://bust.com/movies/194308-wilma-mankiller-documentary.html>

In wake of Standing Rock, Native storytelling gets more screen time

by PBS News Hour's Courtney Norris

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/arts/in-wake-of-standing-rock-native-storytelling-gets-more-screen-time>

The Movies at the San Diego International Film Festival

by FOX 5 San Diego

<http://fox5sandiego.com/2017/10/04/the-movies-at-the-san-diego-international-film-festival/>

LAFF Review

by Hollywood Progressive

<http://hollywoodprogressive.com/mankiller/>

Close up Your guide to the 2017 Tulsa American Film Festival

by The Tulsa Voice's Joe O'Shansky

<http://www.thetulsavoice.com/October-A-2017/Close-up/>

Mankiller's Life Lessons: A Must-See Documentary on a Modern-Day Superhero

by HoneySuckle's Jaime Lubin

<https://honeysuckle.com/mankiller-life-lessons/>

Credits

Front Credits

Editors

Ken Schneider
Joe LaMattina
Lisa LaMattina

(On Graphics in Body of Program)

Producers

Stacy Mahoney
Charlie Soap
Kristina Kiehl

Executive Producer

Gale Anne Hurd

Director/Producer

Valerie Red-Horse Mohl

End Credits

Co-Producers

Gina Olaya
Felicia Olaya

(On Scroll Under Song)

Sound Design

Joe LaMattina

Audio Mixers

Andy Theiss
Aaron Saddler
Michael Silvestri

Production Assistants

KC Mackey
Corey Soap
Sylvia Soap
Daniel Ancheta
Justin Branch
Amanda Cuellar
Matt Kliewer
Stephanie Moore
James Becker
Melissa Sweeney

Associate Producers

Phillip Kobylanski
Dawn Jackson

Valhalla Entertainment

Julie Thomson
Marisa Stotter

Composer

Jesse Friedman

Theme Composed by

Tyler Strickland

Assistant Editors

Aaron Merrill
Mary Helen Phelan
Daniel Pico

Red-Horse Native Productions

Chelsea Red-Horse Mohl
Kendall Woirhay

Associate Editors

Asako Ushio
Jeffrey Asher
Julie Anne Koehnen

Clearances

Elizabeth Kuriakose

Unit Publicist

Lyndsey Miller

Graphics

Richard McNealy

Post Production Supervisors

Adria Schneider
Kenneth Requa

Directors of Photography

Tarin Anderson
Josh Mayes

Still Photographers

Evan Taylor
Curt Mohl
Alex Lopez

Post Production Services

Tree Falls Post

Camera Operators

David Aubrey
Robert Swanson
Curt Mohl
Corey Soap
Ernie Stevens III

Research

Vanessa Brown
Dan Agent



On location, the Mankiller Documentary crew interviews Felicia Olaya, Wilma's daughter at the Mankiller home in Oklahoma. Pictured from left to right: Felicia Olaya (Interview Subject), Andy Theiss (Audio Mixer), Valerie Red-Horse Mohl [behind cameras] (Director/Producer), Tarin Anderson (Director of Photography). Photo by Evan Taylor.

On Camera Interviewees

Ada Deer
Betty Parent
Bob Blackburn
Bob Friedman
Candessa Tehee
Cara Cowan Watts
Chad Smith
Charles "Chief" Boyd
Charlie Shell
Charlie Soap
Chris Carlsson
Chuck Garrett
Corey Soap
David Walkingstick
Dean Chavers
Doris Shell
Dr. Thomas Dullien
Eloy Martinez

Ernie Stevens, Jr.
Felicia Olaya Wing
Frieda Vann
Gina Olaya
Gloria Steinem
Gwen Grayson
Ilka Hartmann
Ira Phillips
Jay Hannah
Joe Byrd
Joe Grayson
Kimberly Teehee
Kristina Kiehl
Lou Kerr
Mark Downing
Mary Crowley
Mary Jean Roberston
Mary Smith

Melissa Gower
Meredith Frailey
Michael Wallis
Nita Cochran
Pamela Iron
Pastor Duke Pickup
Pat Ragsdale
Philip Viles, Jr.
Principal Chief Bill John Baker
Ralph Keen
Rennard Strickland
Rodger Vann
Ross Swimmer
Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz
Representative Tom Cole
Virginia Carey
Wallace Coffey



Photographs and Video Provided by:

Adele M. Stan for Ms. magazine
 Alamy
 AP Images
 Argenta Images
 Buyout Footage
 CBS News Sunday Morning
 Cherokee Advocate/Cherokee Phoenix
 Cherokee Nation TV
 Cherokee National Historical Society; Tahlequah, OK
 Dan Agent
 Dennis Wholey
 East Toledo Productions
 George Ballis
 Getty Images
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 Harry S. Truman Library and Museum
 Huntley Archives
 Ilka Hartmann
 Kristina Kiehl
 Library of Congress
 Make Believe TV, LLC
 Museum of the Cherokee Indian
 Muskogee Daily Phoenix
 National Archives
 National Park Service
 Northeastern State University
 Oklahoma City University
 Oklahoma Historical Society
 PARS International
 Pete Souza

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 Thirteen Productions, LLC
 Tulsa World
 UW Video-University of Washington
 Video Courtesy of ABC
 Video Courtesy of CBS
 Video Courtesy of CNN
 Video Courtesy of ITN
 Video Courtesy of Jed Riffe Films
 Video Courtesy of KPIX
 Video Courtesy of KQED
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 Video Courtesy of KTUL
 Video Courtesy of KWTW
 Video Courtesy of MDA
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 Wazee Digital
 William J. Clinton Presidential Library
 Wilma Mankiller Foundation
 WNET
 Woolaroc Museum; Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Music

“Cherokee Morning Song”

Arranged by Rita Coolidge, Priscilla Coolidge and Laura Satterfield

Walela appears Courtesy of Rich-Heape and Espy Music Group

All Rights Reserved

“Fortunate Son”

Written by John Cameron Fogerty

Performed by Creedence Clearwater Revival Published by Jondora Music

Courtesy of Fantasy Records

By arrangement with Concord Music Group, Inc.

“Your Legacy”

Written and Performed by Joanne Shenandoah

Top Left: Gloria Steinem being interviewed for MANKILLER.

Bottom Left: On location in Oklahoma, the Mankiller Documentary crew interviews Chad Smith, former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. Pictured from left to right: Robert Swanson (B-Camera Operator), Chad Smith (Interview Subject), Tarin Anderson (Director of Photography), Valerie Red-Horse Mohl (Director/Producer), Phillip Kobylanski (Associate Producer) and Andy Theiss (Audio Mixer). Photo by Evan Taylor.



Wilma Mankiller and Charlie Soap wave during a parade while she is Principal Chief. Photo courtesy of Wilma Mankiller Foundation.

Wilma Mankiller is sworn into office as Principal Chief in 1987. Pictured Left to Right: Wilma Pearl Mankiller, Charlie Soap (Wilma's husband) and then Chief Justice of the Cherokee Nation Philip Viles. Photo courtesy of Wilma Mankiller Foundation.

Support

Fiscal Sponsor

International Documentary Association

Executive Producer for Vision Maker Media

Shirley K. Sneve

Other Resources

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mankillerdoc.com

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