InYo Entertainment Film Distribution
Presents
Neither Wolf Nor Dog
Running time: 110 mins  Not Rated (some profanity)
AUDIENCE 8.2/10  4.7/5 – 94%

A white author gets sucked into the heart of contemporary Native American life in the sparse lands of the Dakota's by a 95 year old Lakota elder and his sidekick.

Adapted from the best-selling Native American novel by Kent Nerburn. Once known as the great unmade Native American novel in Hollywood, Neither Wolf Nor Dog has sold around half a million copies worldwide. The novel is acknowledged to successfully bridge the gap between white America and the Native American worlds. Two sequel novels followed.

THE CAST
Dave Bald Eagle - Into The West, River of Fundament
Christopher Sweeney - The Veil, Chasing Mavericks
Richard Ray Whitman - Barking Water, Drunktown's Finest
Roseanne Supernault - Maina, Blackstone
Tatanka Means - Tiger Eyes, Into The West, Saints and Strangers
Zahn McClarnon - Fargo TV Series, Mekko, Red Road, Longmire, The Son

THE FILMMAKER
The film is produced and directed by British director Steven Lewis Simpson whose first award-winning feature premièred at the Edinburgh Film Festival in 1994. Neither Wolf Nor Dog author Kent Nerburn approached him personally as Simpson had already directed two features in Lakota Country previously. In addition he produced and directed the 13 episode Native Arts & Entertainment show, The Hub, which was the first original show for First Nations Experience TV, the first 24/7 Native channel in the US.

EDUCATIONAL
So far a number of high and middle schools have taken all their pupils to the film; mostly BIE schools. Around 324 students from the Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Oregon, 175 students from the Nay Ah Shing school in Onamia, Minnesota, and around 250 from Eagle Butte School, South Dakota. We gather around 300 pupils from the Flandreau Indian School in South Dakota may be going this week to one too.
CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE
The novel has been used a lot in schools as a cross-cultural teaching tool and in particular in teaching an elders perspective, but the film takes that deeper by having an incredible elder inhabit that leading role. The most significant moment takes place at Wounded Knee, the site of the 1890 massacre. The script and the novel were abandoned and the film-maker had Dave Bald Eagle improvise the entire sequence, talking about the massacre to the Nerburn character. At the end of filming the scene. Dave turned to Chris Sweeney who played Nerburn and said “he’d been holding that in for 95-years”. The audience experiences that in close up.

Dave was of the Miniconjou Band of the Lakota people from Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. His people were the ones massacred at Wounded Knee and his ties there were even deeper than that of the character he was playing. Some historians used to wildly speculate (incorrectly) that his grandfather was the one that killed Custer at the Little Big Horn that the massacre was seen as the 7th Cavalry’s revenge for.

One of our other stars, Richard Ray Whitman spent 71 days in 1973 at Wounded Knee during the American Indian Movements (AIM) stand there while encircled by US government forces, whose 1,500 men fired up to half a million bullets at them (PBS estimates). Co-star Tatanka Means's father, Russell, was one of the AIM leaders and an instigator of that occupation. The weight of all their experiences resonate throughout the story.

Star, Dave Bald Eagle passed away last year at 97-years-old, and his remarkable life was so unique that his obituary was for a time, the most read story in the world on the BBC. NPR reported about his life to 10 million listeners on All Things Considered. NPR also discussed whether he was “The world’s most interesting man”. He was left for dead on D-Day and our other star, Chris Sweeney is also a combat veteran and has a Silver Star.

AUDIENCE REACTION
We consistently hear of applause at the end of the film in multiplexes in small midwestern towns and that people are rooted to their seats till after the lights come back up. People are returning two or three times. Word of mouth, traditional local media coverage and our sophisticated social media marketing are the heart of the films success.

“By the time the end credits arrive, the characters of this modest, crowd-funded feature are practically unforgettable. It's immensely serious but no downer.”

Colin Covert - Star Tribune ★★★½ out of four stars https://tinyurl.com/lyu3000

The first review: ★★★★★ http://www.edfestmag.com/neither-wolf-nor-dog/
Reddirt Report ★★★★★ Review: https://tinyurl.com/ycbcfgvu
Audience response: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3951908/  
The theatrical trailer: https://vimeo.com/199758739
The Novel

Neither Wolf nor Dog
On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder
Acclaimed author Kent Nerburn creates an incisive character study of a Native American elder, against the unflinching backdrop of contemporary reservation life and the majestic spaces of the western Dakotas. Nerburn draws us deep into the world of this elder, identified only as Dan, as we journey to where the vast Dakota skies overtake us and the whisperings of the wind speak of ancestral voices.

As this spellbinding story unfolds, Dan speaks eloquently on the power of silence, the difference between land and property, white people's urge to claim an Indian heritage, and the selling of sacred ceremonies. This is a story of fathers and sons, of the struggle for redemption after the loss of innocence, of distinct cultures on a common land.

An unlikely cross between Jack Kerouac and Black Elk Speaks, Neither Wolf nor Dog is full of humor, pathos, and insight. It takes us past the myths and stereotypes to the heart of the Native American experience and in doing so reveals America in a way few of us ever see. After reading this book, you will never look at America or the American Indian in the same way again.

Endorsements

“This is one of those rare works that once you've read it, you can never look at the world, or at people, the same way again. It is quiet and forceful and powerful.”
— American Indian College Fund

“Realists wanting a truthful, fiery, and ultimately cleansing dialogue between Indian and white will definitely want [this book].”
— Booklist

“An imaginative leap that encompasses several genres in its successful attempt to convey some aspects of American Indian life and truth to American readers.”
— Minneapolis Star Tribune

“A chronicle extraordinary for its difficult truths and its stunning depths. . . . This is a sobering, humbling, cleansing, loving book, one that every American should read.”
— Yoga Journal

“I expected to find Black Elk between these covers. What I found instead was more modern, more alive, and every bit as poignant and moving.”
— NAPRA Review
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
The film is in its theatrical release so educational opportunities now are to bring students to nearby theaters showing the film. If your school has enough pupils then we can reach out to a theater and your interest will likely be enough to inspire them to book the film for their theater. If you have an auditorium where you show films to students then a license can be arranged to have it projected there. Email us @ educational@inyoentertainment.com to set either up.

In a few months Educational Licenses shall come on stream. Also other screenings in museums or perhaps Native Heritage Month events can be arranged. For any of those click here and complete the form. https://goo.gl/forms/9UnJkvTQruG2tNUF2

THE FILMS RELEASE
Neither Wolf Nor Dog is on track to becoming the most successful non-Hollywood, US Native film in theaters in many years. It is working its way around the country, starting in Minnesota/South Dakota, where it is set. In its first week at the CEC theatre in Bemidji, MN it was the number 1 film beating 9 Hollywood movies. Our opening at the Landmark Lagoon in Minneapolis had more first week admissions than the film with the top screen average in the entire USA that week. It ran 4 weeks and due to demand 16 weeks later it returned for a 2 week run at another top first run theatre in Minneapolis. In a Spokane, WA cinema it ran for 9 weeks.

“The Lagoon’s opening weekend of NEITHER WOLF NOR DOG was the best weekend gross in the entire country. It’s nice to see that beautifully told stories can still find an audience.”

Hugh Wronski Senior Publicist, Landmark Theaters - Re: Minneapolis opening

In Vancouver, Wa, the film beat 11 of the 12 summer blockbusters playing at a nearby multiplex. Because it is being self-distributed it doesn't have the millions of dollars to do a national media campaign in one go but as you can see below, regionally the film has been in vastly more theaters in the regions we've played than all but the biggest movies.

NUMBER OF THEATRES IN MAIN TARGETED STATES SO FAR

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<th>STATE</th>
<th># OF THEATRES</th>
<th>NATIONAL EQUIVALENT # OF THEATRES</th>
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AUTHORS PERSPECTIVE

“Yes, Steven changed the book. Yes, he adapted it; yes, he augmented it. But he nailed it. The choices he made were exquisite. His film is at once different from the book and better than the book.” “in an act of astonishing creative transformation, one stubborn, incredibly talented man with a camera did something I did not think was possible: he made a completely new work of art that honored the original work of art while carrying it to a new level. He took my literary child and made a man of it.”

Kent Nerburn, author of Neither Wolf Nor Dog

EXCERPTS FROM THE FILM

DAN

No Indian alive dares to think too much for the past. The bones of my people are crying. Our people never had a chance. The soldiers attacked us in our homes. They killed our little boys. Little bitty girls. And rode away, laughing. That's what gets me. We tried to protect our families, but soldiers had all the weapons. All we had was surprise and our own knowledge of our homeland. They killed all the Buffalo. To starve us out and left them to rot. What if you had to watch your grandfather die on his bed shaking like a leaf from hunger. What if you had to hold your little baby all night while he was crying for just one little piece of food. And all you could give it was bark to suck on. These things happened. There were so many of you. You came like a sea. Now our sacred drums and pipes are hanging on the walls of the rich people. You took the sacred out of everything. I'm sorry to talk like this. I must learn to forgive. Maybe it'd be better for the grandchildren. I just wish I knew why it happened this way. I could have so much more peace if I just knew why it had to happen this way?
EXCERPTS FROM THE NOVEL

“People should think of their words like seeds. They should plant them, then let them grow in silence. Our old people taught us that the earth is always speaking to us, but that we have to be silent to hear her.

“I try to be that way. I taught my children to be that way.”

“Do you hear that bird?” asked Dan.

I told him I did.

“Do you know what he is saying?”

“I don’t speak ‘bird,’” I answered.

“You should,” he twinkled. “Learn a lot. The birds are ‘two-legs,’ like us. They are very close to us. He is calling to another. He is saying it will rain soon.”

“You can tell that?”

“Yes, and I can tell that the wind is switching to the north and we will soon have colder weather.”

“How do you know that?”

“I just do,” he responded cryptically. “It’s in the voices I hear. I can understand all the trees. The wind. All the animals. The insects. I can tell what a color of the sky means. Everything speaks to me.

“There,” he said, pointing to a patch of scrubby grass in the distance. “What do you see?”

“It looks a little greener than the rest of the hills,” I answered. “At least in a few patches.”

“Good. Why is that?”

“I don’t know.”

“Look closer.”

I squinted my eyes. There was nothing to be seen except the short green grass.

“I don’t see anything,” I said.

“Look closer.”

I squinted again. There seemed to be some kind of movement, but it was too small to make out.

“Something is moving,” I said.

“Good. Do you know what it is?”

I admitted I didn’t.

“Pispiza. You call them prairie dogs.”

“Okay,” I acknowledged.

“That’s why the grass is green. Our brother prairie dogs dig under the ground to make their homes. They dig up the earth so the rain can go deeper and the roots of the grass can grow stronger.

“Where the grass is richer, the bigger animals come to feed. If we sit here quietly, in the morning, when the antelope are hungry, we will see them and we could hunt them. It is all because of our brother prairie dog. Where he lives, we can live.

“These are the kind of things I see when I look out here. They are things my grandfathers taught me.”