



APACHE LEAP

2021 INDEPENDENT FEATURE FILM

PRESS KIT



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Apache Leap



PERIDOT FILMS PRESENTS "APACHE LEAP"

STARRING IGNACIO KENTON // CARRIE SAGE CURLEY // DOUGLAS MILES SR. // MARIAH KITCHEVAN // RACHEL CURTIS // MISTY GROSETH AND FEATURING CHESLEY GOSEYON WILSON
ART DIRECTION ALLISON FREDERICKS EDITED BY EMILY KOONSE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID ORR UPM STEPHANIE FIGGINS CO-PRODUCER JENN WALKER ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS PATRICIA WYATT // JOHN LEWIS TANDY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS GLEN LINEBERRY // DOUGLAS MILES JR. // CHRISTIAN ROZIER PRODUCED BY SELINA CURLEY // CARRIE SAGE CURLEY // DOUGLAS MILES SR.
WRITTEN BY JOHN LEWIS TANDY // CHRISTIAN ROZIER DIRECTED BY CHRISTIAN ROZIER www.ApacheLeapFilm.com

PERIDOT FILMS



Film Synopsis

LOGLINE

Apache artist Keane evades family stresses, old enemies, and car problems as he races to submit a job application before the deadline passes and all his dreams evaporate.

SYNOPSIS

Apache artist Keane is forced into a desperate mission to submit a job application before the deadline passes and his dreams evaporate, all while navigating family stresses, enemies from his past, and an unpredictable old car.

Produced on location in the San Carlos Apache Reservation and the neighboring city of Globe, Arizona, this independent feature explores the extraordinary beauty and the unique challenges of these two communities, and the scorching ribbon of highway that connects them.

Director Bio



Christian Rozier began his career as a music video and commercial director, producing broadcast videos for politically engaged artists locally and internationally. His documentary film credits include *Among the Trees*, a world tour feature film that follows the seminal hip-hop group Arrested Development throughout, and *Life In The Age Of Excess*, a documentary about an emerging barter economy movement in Los Angeles.

Christian is also one of the featured filmmakers in the United Nations sponsored global film *One Day On Earth* and a screenwriter of the 2013 feature film *Lineage*. He has produced documentary films in Senegal and in Southeast Asia, and his documentary *Racing The Past* has won awards at numerous festivals.

He is the director of the 2021 feature film *Apache Leap* and serves as Professor of Film Studies and Digital Storytelling at the University of Missouri.

Executive Producer Bios



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

DOUGLAS MILES JR.

Douglas Miles Jr. is a professional skateboarder, filmmaker and business owner who, when not producing indigenous independent cinema, may be found developing and creating skate parks for native youth.



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

CHRISTIAN ROZIER

Director and educator



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

GLEN LINEBERRY

Glen Lineberry is a high school principal, economist, and Director of the Arizona Student Opportunity Collaborative (AzSOC), a project connecting rural Arizona students with specialized teachers who can provide them with the courses not otherwise accessible.

Producer Bios



PRODUCER

DOUGLAS MILES SR.

Douglas Miles Sr. is a San Carlos Apache-Akimel O'odham painter, printmaker and producer from Arizona, who founded Apache Skateboards and Apache Skate Team. He is a producer of the 2019 film "The Mystery of Now" and of the 2015 film "In Circles".



PRODUCER

SELINA CURLEY

Selina Marie Curley is a San Carlos-based artist, educator, and a renowned designer who incorporates elements of Apache tradition and sacred history into her indelible designs under her *Traditions By Selina* brand.



PRODUCER

CARRIE SAGE CURLEY

Carrie Sage Curley is a politically engaged painter, educator and public artist whose works have been exhibited around the country. Carrie is based in San Carlos.

Principal Cast



“Alison Cassadore”

CARRIE SAGE CURLEY

We Walk in Beauty (2001)



“Uncle Max”

CHESLEY GOSEYUN WILSON

The Revenant (2015)
12 Years a Slave (2013)
Rio de Oro (2010)
Skinwalkers (2002)
Geronimo (1993)



“John Riley”

DOUGLAS MILES SR.

In Circles (2015)
The Mystery of Now (2019)

Principal Cast



"Melanie Riley"

MARIAH KITCHEYAN

We Walk in Beauty (2001)



"Keane Cassadore"

IGNACIO KENTON

Introducing



"Mina Riley"

RACHEL CURTIS

Introducing

Production Stills



Production Stills



Production Stills



Production Stills



Director's Statement

Apache Leap was born of the shared vision and commitment of an entire community who seeks to see itself represented with all the nuance and beauty that the San Carlos Apache Reservation contains.

The entire main cast--as well as the majority of production crew members--is comprised of tribal members. In order to prepare for production, the producers raised funds to create the Native Arts Film Academy, an intensive training module open to young adults with an interest in working on the film.

Ultimately, there were nine graduates of that program who were hired by the production as crew in the camera, sound, art, and production departments. As director, this structure of complete inclusivity in our production was absolutely essential and remains my most favored element of the production.

Apache Leap is truly a family affair, and the film is textured with the pride of a community eager to share a glimpse of itself with the world.

With gratitude,
Christian Rozier Director, *Apache Leap*





Native Arts Film Academy

Program Overview

The vision and purpose of the Native Arts Film Academy is to create an opportunity for Tribal members from the San Carlos Apache Tribe who had no prior experience in filmmaking to engage in an intensive training module.

Graduates of that first cohort were hired onto the *Apache Leap* production as 2nd and 3rd Camera Assistants, Location Audio Assistants, Grips, Costume Designers, Art Department crew members, Props Managers, and Production Assistants.

The Academy produced results that were far more impactful than our highest hopes for the project and its outcomes.

Native Arts Film Academy

Origins

The Native Arts Film Academy is an initiative launched in 2019 on the San Carlos Apache Reservation in Eastern Arizona.

This program is designed to provide training in media production skills, employment opportunities, and media literacy capacity for young adults from the San Carlos community. In the inaugural cohort,

10 Apache tribal members participated in an intensive training module with professional filmmakers, during which they learned the foundational components of film and television production and received weekly stipends to help support their progress in this rigorous program.



Native Arts Film Academy



Impact

After their training module, the 10 participants in the Academy were each paired with industry veterans on the Apache Leap set. It only took two days for the participants to become indispensable members of the crew.

By the end of the filming phase, several participants were already being hired on to commercial productions in the Phoenix area. One participant, a young Apache man named Chris McIntosh who was hired onto the *Apache Leap* production as a lighting grip and who impressed us all with his acuity, told me that he had found the passion he wanted to pursue for the rest of his life.

Press Coverage

A LEAP OF FAITH

*Apache Leap: New film
rooted in San Carlos*

By Linda Gross

Apache Leap, an indie movie that wrapped up filming on San Carlos last year, was an improbable concept from the beginning.

Not one of the lead actors had ever acted before, and the crew that shot the film had learned their skills in a crash course just a week before shooting began.

A Leap of Faith, Continued on page 18



Cast and crew members: L-R: Jamilla Bates, Celeste Stevens, Carrie Curley (actress), Ignacio Kenton (actor), Rebekah Miles, Marisa Shaw, Sonny Banasau. Back Row: Douglas Miles Jr., Skyler Polk. Not shown: Christopher McIntosh, Elijah Albert and Giovanni Rustin. Photo by Selina Curley

Press Coverage

18 JANUARY 2020

“Create your own visual style ~ let it be unique for yourself and yet identifiable to others.”
Orson Welles

A Leap of Faith, Continued from page 1

The film's director, Christian Rozier, told his actors, “If we try to act, we are going to fail miserably. We're going to make a bad movie if we all try to pretend to act.”

“Our success,” he told them, “depends on the degree to which we can take these characters and infuse them with our own life experience, our own journey, with its struggles, joys, and the love and the pain each of us has been through.”

“Our job,” said Rozier, “is to marry this story to these authentic lived experiences.”

“If we do that, we will have the performances that will make audiences feel what it is truly like to live here and to care about these characters.”

Rozier explains that San Carlos itself is a tight knit community and the film was created by an extended family filming on the streets and schools in which they were raised.

“Because of the organic nature of the production, audiences will feel something of the unique character and beauty of the San Carlos community.”

Rozier, who teaches film studies and digital storytelling in the School of Visual Studies at the University of Missouri, has been coming to San Carlos for over a decade. He has collaborated on earlier film projects, including *Lineage*, *Racing the Past*, and *Pushing Buttons*.

Rozier has never been interested in the mainstream approach to native narratives.

“I know so many projects like this – ones featuring indigenous themes. I know some that have come to San Carlos in the past, come to indigenous spaces with a ton of resources, and [they bring]



Last October, when MountainFilm on Tour came to Globe and featured the San Carlos film “Mystery of Now,” along with seven other short film documentaries, Rozier was invited to show a trailer of his upcoming film at the conclusion of that event. Cast and crew joined him on stage. Photo by LCGross



Selina Curley agreed to hear Rozier out when he first approached her about the movie. She ended up signing on as program manager and served as script supervisor for the film. Photo by LCGross

well the landscape and connections there. She smiles and remembers that she agreed to meet Rozier for 20 minutes over coffee to hear him out. That meeting turned into a few hours.

“Oh my gosh,” says Curley. “Part of my dream was coming [true]. We live in a world where everyone has a cell phone, and I would watch these young people doing amazing things with their phones. I thought if someone could put a camera in their hands.... Just what they could do.”

“So when Christian came along talking about San Carlos people in roles, handing over cameras and teaching them how to do lighting...I was in.”

Selina smiles. “We were able to do the casting entirely in the community to ensure it was grounded in truth, authenticity, and reality, because the people we see on screen [in this movie] all live, love, and work and raise their families in the exact locations we see in the film.”

“Every day before a scene, we would huddle and invariably see something that seemed false,” Curley explains. Production

outside talent. They come and use the space, the background. And everyone is excited for a week, two weeks, and then they blow out of town. Nothing has been contributed. Truly, it feels

FOSTERING

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“Here is where we pursue an education.”

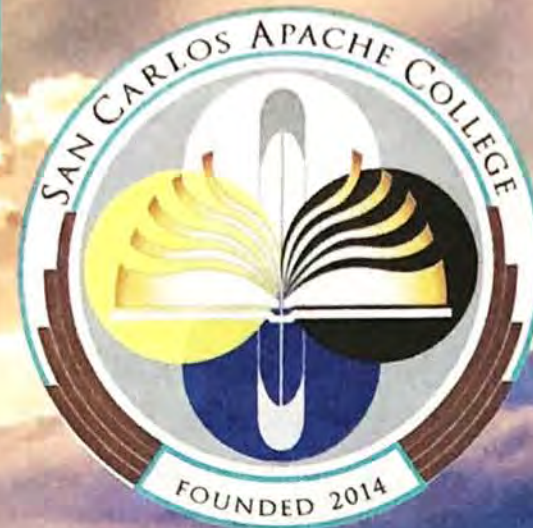
Press Coverage

know some that have come to San Carlos in the past, come to indigenous spaces with a ton of resources, and [they bring]

Selina Curley agreed to hear Rozier out when he first approached her about the movie. She ended up signing on as program manager and served as script supervisor for the film. Photo by LCGross

**FOSTERING
COMMUNITY HEALTH
THROUGH EDUCATION.**

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"Here is where we pursue an education."



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- AB Business Administration
- AA Social Services - Addiction Studies
- AA Social Services - Behavioral Sciences
- AA Social Services - Social Work
- Certificate in Social Services
- Certificate in Substance Abuse & Addiction Studies

Contact Us

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Mail to: PO Box 344
San Carlos, Arizona 85550
(US Postal mail must use PO Box)

San Carlos Apache College (SCAC) operates as an accredited site of Tohono Oodham Community College (TOCC). SCAC is a Tribal College in Arizona which provides students quality education, access to federal financial aid programs and transferable course credits.

**Open Door Policy –
SCAC is not just for
Native American students!**

Need Help?

Our Admissions office is ready to assist you with any of your enrollment questions!

Email admission@apachecollege.org
or call (928) 475-2024.

outside talent. They come and use the space, the background. And everyone is excited for a week, two weeks, and then they blow out of town. Nothing has been contributed. Truly, it feels like something has been taken."

"I would not be working on this project at all if that was the paradigm," Rozier says.

The story follows a young man in his early twenties who has a wife and young daughter and the weight of the world on his shoulders. He has a great talent and passion for the visual arts, but not much direction about how to apply that in a way that's going to help support his family.

Rozier's idea was to hand the ownership of the film and the characters to the actors themselves.

"In order for this to be a project worth making, the community must be fully involved at every phase and every position—producers, actors, crew, tribal members—all the way through." Rozier adds that because they understood there wasn't a pool of experienced crew members to draw from, the group knew they had to create the infrastructure first.

Rozier turned to Glen Lineberry, a local principal and fellow visionary. They collaborated to write a grant establishing the Gila County Film Academy, which launched in the spring of 2019. The film academy brought together selected participants between the ages of 18 and 29 to learn the technical skills of film production in an intensive 80-hour course. The grant also supplied funding to pay the cast and crew through an equally intensive two weeks of filming.

Rozier's first stop in casting for the film was Selina Curley, who would become Program Manager on the film and serve as the Script Supervisor for the Film Academy.

Curley, a creative and entrepreneurial talent who owns her own dress label, was born and raised in San Carlos and knows

the casting entirely in order to ensure it was grounded in truth, authenticity, and reality, because the people we see on screen [in this movie] all live, love, and work and raise their families in the exact locations we see in the film."

"Every day before a scene, we would huddle and invariably see something that seemed false," Curley explains. Production members would come up with their own ideas to solve it. "A hundred percent of the time, their ideas would always be fresher and better than what was on the page."

"So there was room to improvise...to make this story," Curley says.

Rozier nods in agreement. "One of the things that let us know we were going in the right direction was during the first day of filming when the actors would tell us, 'Well, this is how I would say it. This is how I would tell Keane this.' And we said, 'OK, let's roll.'"

"Once it started rolling, we knew we were on point so many times because the set got quiet. There were tears in the eyes of those watching, and these young people who had never acted were on point. They were amazing to watch."

The film production wrapped in March of last year, and Rozier showcased a trailer at the conclusion of the Mountainfilm event held at High Desert Middle School in Globe last October.

Rozier recalls the evening where a majority of the cast and crew of Apache Leap were able to attend and join him on stage where they each spoke about what the production meant for them personally. It was inspiring to hear them speak about the experience to such a large audience and lift up their voices.

The film is currently in post-production dealing with editing, color grading and sound mixing. Once all of that is completed in the Spring of this year they will take the film to festivals across the country and ultimately partner with a distributor to make the film widely available.

"We are especially excited to share our film with indigeneous audiences around the world," Rozier says. ♦

Production Credits - Cast

CREDITED NAME	ROLE
Carrie Sage Curley	<i>Alison Cassadore</i>
Ignacio Kenton	<i>Keane Cassadore</i>
Paul Curtis	<i>Officer Simon Pike</i>
Douglas Miles Sr.	<i>John Riley</i>
Mariah Kitcheyan	<i>Melanie Riley</i>
Rachel Curtis	<i>Mina Riley</i>
Giovanni Rustin	<i>Burndown</i>
Chesley Goseyun Wilson	<i>Uncle Max</i>
Orville Steve Wilson	<i>Tan</i>
Kasheena Miles	<i>Kash</i>
Danielle Mercado	<i>Bernice</i>
Misty Groseth	<i>Janine Lindon</i>
Jason Cutter	<i>Big Jason</i>
Angelina Burgett	<i>Ms. Yancey</i>
Twila Cassadore	<i>Community Organizer</i>

CREDITED NAME	ROLE
Michael Rea	<i>Beer Vendor</i>
Cristina Mislán	<i>Radio Testimonials</i>
Sharon Miles	<i>Taco Vendor</i>
Juanita Hooke	<i>Café Owner</i>
Douglas Miles Jr.	<i>Lookout</i>
Gunnar Touchin	<i>Runner</i>
Anthony Logan	<i>Community Organizer #1</i>
Tina Anderson	<i>Community Organizer #2</i>
Margie Curley	<i>Community Organizer #3</i>
India Miles	<i>High School Student #1</i>
Luke Burgett	<i>High School Student #2</i>
Audra Burgett	<i>High School Student #3</i>
Jordan Armijo	<i>Self</i>
Marcus Satta	<i>Self</i>

Production Credits

POSITION	CREDITED NAME
Executive Producer	Douglas Miles Jr.
Executive Producer	Glen Lineberry
Executive Producer	Christian Rozier
Producer	Selina Marie Curley
Producer	Carrie Sage Curley
Producer	Douglas Miles Sr.
Co-Producer	Jenn Walker
Associate Producer	John Lewis Tandy
Associate Producer	Patricia Wyatt
Director	Christian Rozier
Screenwriter	John Lewis Tandy
Screenwriter	Christian Rozier
Director of Photography	David Orr
Production Designer	Carrie Sage Curley

POSITION	CREDITED NAME
Unit Production Manager	Stephanie Figgins
First Assistant Director	Dominic Ross
Second Assistant Director	Douglas Miles Jr.
Production Designer	Carrie Sage Curley
Art Director	Allison Fredericks
Set Decorator	Jamilia Bates
Property Master	Marisa Shaw
Costume Designer	Giovanni Rustin
1st Assistant Camera	Austin Hobart
2nd Assistant Camera	Rebekah Miles
2nd Unit Camera Operator	Kenneth Chan
Camera Production Assistant	Jennyfer Antonio
Digital Imaging Technician	Megan Babbitt
Script Supervisor	Selina Curley

Production Credits

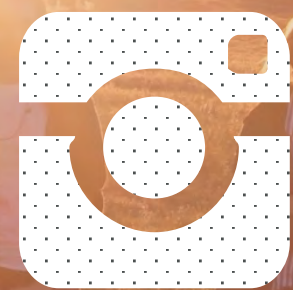
POSITION	CREDITED NAME
Location Sound Mixer	Stephanie Roberts
Gaffer	Jordan Hall
Key Grip	Michael Rea
Grip	Christopher McIntosh Jr.
Grip	Sonny Banasau
Key Set PA	Skyler Polk
Creative Consultant	Israel Hill
Editor	Emily Koonse
Post Production Coordinator	Fanxi Sun
Music Supervisor	Arturo Quiros
Post Production Services	Chimaeric Motion Pictures
Colorist	David Anderson
Post Production Sound	Nick Price
Business Affairs	Lisa Harrison

Contact and Links



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INSTAGRAM

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