



## Stay in the circle...

### **Tobacco Leaves – an Original Smoking Prevention Play for Youth and Adult Audiences**

Red Eagle Soaring, a non-profit Youth Theatre Program based in Seattle, WA, has been serving American Indian and Alaska Native youth with drama workshops, performance projects, cultural experience and mentoring, for the past 17 years. Over these years Red Eagle Soaring has seen living proof of the power of theatre, or contemporary storytelling, to transform and illuminate the lives of both participants and audiences. In collaboration with professional teaching artists and playwrights, Red Eagle Soaring students have created and produced an original play every spring since 2003. Sometimes totally original, sometimes based on a classical piece (in 2006 students chose to adapt Shakespeare's *Othello*), sometimes based on a traditional story, each play has centered on a health or social issue of relevance to the students' lives and of importance to the Native

community. Out of concern for the health disparities in the Indian community related to the widespread abuse of commercial tobacco, the 2008 play, *Tobacco Leaves*, was written in collaboration with Red Eagle Soaring students by noted Native playwright Terry Gomez (*Comanche*) of Santa Fe, NM. The story centers on the experiences of two high school student smokers who learn about the health risks of smoking commercial tobacco, and learn respect for traditional tobacco.

*Continued on page 2*



*"The Mad Scientist (James Ives) and his assistant make the 'perfect' cigarette."*

"...each play has centered on a health or social issue of relevance to the students' lives and of importance to the Native community..."

Continued from page 1

*Tobacco Leaves* premiered at the Bagley Wright Theatre as part of Seattle's Folk Life Festival on May 25, and toured in June and July to Western Washington tribal communities and to Maple Lane and Green Hill, two Washington State Youth Correctional Facilities. We are grateful to the Urban Indian Tobacco Program of the Seattle Indian Health Board and to the City of Seattle Human Services Department for supporting this project. Red Eagle Soaring is looking forward to a partnership with Native People for Cancer Control in 2009 with the creation of a stage adaptation of the Coast Salish story of *Octopus and Crow*. For more information, please contact Larry Cordier, Managing Director, at 206-447-8860 or [resoaring@earthlink.net](mailto:resoaring@earthlink.net).

Photo credit: Corey Contreras

*"Frankie (Nicole Suyama) meets her dreamtime family (I-r, Jagger Suyama, James Ives, Kish Castonguay, Jacob Braxton, Shanoa Pinkham, Dallas Pinkham, Anthony Ziegler) and learns of their love and their disapproval."*



**American Indian Week  
September 22-25, 2008**

Seattle Indian Health Board  
611 12<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144  
(206) 324-9360 ext. 1101 <http://www.sihb.org>

**Tuesday: Hearing Screening Day**  
All staff training: Clinic will be closed until 1:00  
Native Elder Hearing Screening and VA Benefits and Resource Information (1:00 – 4:00)  
Northwest Justice Project (1:00 – 4:00)  
T-shirt Day (wear a favorite SIHB or Native design t-shirt)

**Wednesday: Native Art Day**  
UIATF – Headstart  
Native Elder Hearing Screening (10:00 – 5:00)  
Display of artwork by Native artists; Native arts and crafts  
Youth Mural Unveiling (4:00)

**Thursday: Alaska Native Day**  
Southcentral Foundation's Alaska Native Health Resource Advocate Program provides information and referral services to Alaska Native people. ANHRAP will be providing food and door prizes.

Alaska Native storytellers  
Food served from 1:00 – 3:00  
UIATF – Resources  
Diabetes Screening (1:00 – 5:00)  
Tobacco Stories Kick Off at the Northwest Film Forum (2:00 – 4:00)  
Native Elder Hearing Screening – Federal Way (11:00 – 7:00)

**Friday: American Indian Day Holiday**  
The Seattle Indian Health Board will be closed Friday, September 25, 2008 in recognition of American Indian Day.

## **Klamath Tribal Youth Sports Camp—Exercise and Healthy Lifestyle for Cancer Prevention**

A Native People for Cancer Control community grant helped provide funding for the Klamath Tribal Sports Youth Camp held August 11-15 at the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Eighty-four children and youths aged 6 to 17 participated in various sports activities, including soccer, kickball, volleyball, football, basketball, and swimming. Christa Runnels, Health Educator for Klamath Tribal Health and Family Services, spoke to the children about the importance of physical activity and healthy lifestyles in preventing chronic diseases such as cancer. The celebration of sports and health also included a picnic for all of the participants.



*Anthony Navarro at Sports Camp*

### **September is National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month**



### **Free Prostate Cancer Screening**

The University of Washington Prostate Clinic, 1959 NE Pacific Street, Seattle, has free monthly prostate cancer screenings on Monday of each month. The clinic offered free prostate screenings on September 15, 16, 17, and 19. You may call to schedule an appointment, or to see what Monday they will be doing screening (206) 598-4294.

The screening consists of a simple blood test and an optional physical exam. Screenings are strongly recommended for men 50 years of age and older. Screenings are also recommended for men ages 40+ at high risk. (High risk: African American, family history of prostate cancer in 1st degree relative or multiple first degree relatives)

The Washington State Urban Indian Tobacco Coalition  
&  
Longhouse Media  
is honored to request your presence at the

## Tobacco Stories Kick Off



Featuring  
*Knuckles' Story*  
about Secondhand  
Smoke  
and more short stories  
from community members!

Join us on  
Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
2 PM - 4 PM

Northwest Film Forum  
1515 - 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Seattle



For more information, contact  
Annette Anquoe at 206.324.9360



There will be a limited number of DVD's available to the public at this event