



Film producer Heather Rae is shown with her husband, writer Russell Friedenberg, on location in the Stanley area.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER RAE

Filmmaker looks at Native issues

With a dozen documentary films under her belt, independent film producer Heather Rae is just warming up to her craft. In post-production on *American Monster*, an independent film shot in the Stanley area, she is also working on a documentary about legendary Native American activist and poet John Trudell as well as a larger budget Western titled *1,000 Guns*, slated to shoot in New Zealand this summer.

Not bad for a central Idaho girl who didn't plan to be a filmmaker. As a Boise State student in the late 1980s, Rae was interested in images — photography, poetry, etc. That interest changed direction when she visited her father in Salmon and discovered his new video camera. Following an afternoon behind the lens, she was hooked.

A cultural anthropology major at Boise State at the time, she transferred to Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash., to pursue a degree in video-ethnography. After graduation, she landed a job at a production company in Los Angeles as a production manager. On the side, she produced and directed documentaries.

Eventually, her passion led Rae, a Cherokee, to a job as the Native American program director for the Sundance Institute and a programmer for the Sundance Film Festival. For six years she showcased new works by Native American filmmakers from the United States and Canada, eventually broadening the program to include other indigenous cultures as well. Her focus on finding and developing native writers and directors led to several successes, including *Smoke Signals* (1998) and *Doe Boy* (2001).

Rae says her Sundance experience helped develop a connection to her culture, while her documentary work has provided a tool for expression and social change.

"I like the storytelling, but also the truth telling," she says. "Every project I've worked on has its roots in some kind of social, political or cultural issue."

Rae will share some of her insights on independent filmmaking and Native American cinema in classes and workshops she'll teach at Boise State this summer and in the fall 2004 semester. She recently returned to Idaho from Southern California and lives in Boise with her three children and her husband, writer Russell Friedenberg.

— Kathleen Craven

Our policy is to print as much "In Touch" information as possible. Send your letters to the Boise State Alumni Association, 1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725, or send e-mail to bevanch@boisestate.edu. In addition, if you know someone who would make a good feature story in our "Alumnotes" section, contact the office of News Services at the same address.

50s

THOMAS W. SWITZER, AA, general arts and sciences, '57, was honored with an award for saving the life of a heart attack victim by administering CPR until paramedics arrived.

VERLENA RAE ORR, AA, general arts and sciences, '59, had her poems published in the *Chariton Review*, the *Oregon English Journal*, *Hubbub*, *Pemican Online Journal*, and Mr. Cogito online.

60s

ROBERT JEFFERSON JENSEN, AA, general arts & sciences, '62, and **DIANE M. JENSEN**, BA., social science, '75, recently purchased Newport Travel in Newport, Ore.

70s

ROBERT L. JACOBS, BS, psychology, '71, became the vice president of human resources for Omron Electronics in Schaumburg, Ill.

TIMOTHY R. COX, BA, English, '72, has joined the staff at Ontario Middle School in Ontario, Ore. After earning his degree at Boise State, Cox received a master's in education from Western Oregon State and a doctorate in education from Northern Arizona. He has 27 years experience as a counselor and psychologist.

BARBARA "BARBIE" VANDERBOEGH, AS, nursing, '75, was named Idaho's Mother of the Year for 2003 in a ceremony at the governor's office last spring.

MICHAEL STEVEN MELOTH, BA, psychology, '76, who taught for 14 years at the University of Colorado, is now the director of the Ferguson Center for Technology-Aided Teaching at Albion College in Michigan.

DANIEL L. TILLER, BBA, management, '76, was appointed to Idaho's State Board of Optometry by Gov. Kempthorne.

DANIEL L. WYNKOOP, BBA, accounting and finance, '77, was promoted to manager of Site Finance Managers for Solectron Global Services in Portland. He will supervise site managers in the United States and Canada, and for India call centers.

IVAN J. ROUNDS, BA, criminal justice administration, '78, is the 12th person in the state of Idaho to serve on his local school board for 20 years. The Idaho School Board Association presented Rounds a plaque of recognition to show its appreciation for his services.

LARRY J. DRESSER, MBA, '79, is the construction task manager for Washington Group International. Dresser's position will entail replacing a nuclear power plant steam generator near Fulton, Mo.

JERRON REID MOORE, BBA, management, '79, was inducted into the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame last year. Moore also won the Don Simplot Idaho Award for his work with the Optimist football program in Boise.

80s

BRADLEY T. FOLTMAN, MBA, '75, MPA, '80, was appointed by Gov.