

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SILENT NATION PROJECT

CHICAGO

"Hemp is not the alternative, it's the solution"

-*Debra White Plume*

For more information contact:

Event Inquiries: Amber Mohammad 773/914.3001 [ambermoh@gmail.com](mailto:ambermoh@gmail.com)

Suree Towfighnia 773/517.3132 [suree@prairiedustfilms.com](mailto:suree@prairiedustfilms.com)

Music inquiries: Che Christ 951/816.7815 [intoxicatedmc@hotmail.com](mailto:intoxicatedmc@hotmail.com)

The Silent Nation Project was inspired by the questions and feedback generated following screenings of the documentary, ***Standing Silent Nation***. The documentary chronicles the story of a Lakota family as they try to grow industrial hemp on their land in South Dakota. It's a story of sovereignty, treaty rights, human rights, and economic independence through the growing of a sustainable and non-drug crop, that the United States falsely classifies as marijuana.

"WOW WOW WOW - FABULOUS FABULOUS FABULOUS - it was beyond well done – it had spirit and heart and most importantly it just didn't accurately describe the absurdity of the issue, it showed the life of the tiospaye in delicate and subtle ways. Really, this film will go far and wide and be invaluable in the work. I think it has the potential to be the Lakota Inconvenient Truth. I know it will bring in resources to the work."

-*PBS' POV Blog*

"It's good umbrage, mostly, that surging, almost euphoric response to a crusading documentary that frees you from the duty to be even-handed or hear out the other side."

-*New York Times*

**Comunidad** is a series of short documentaries about an indigenous community's efforts to build a stronger local economy. Directed by Indigenous women in Guatemala, **Comunidad** demonstrates how artisans create textiles and shampoos for sell in Guatemalan markets.

**THE INTRODUCTION:** Saturday June 7, 2008 7:00PM-12:00AM

**Location:** Yolot Atecocolli Cultural Center, 2005 S. Blue Island - Chicago, IL 60608

PART I: Che Christ hosts a Moderated Discussion with Activists and filmmakers.

PART II: Owe Aku presentation on sovereignty with ***Standing Silent Nation*** screening and discussion continues.

**Comunidad**, a series of documentaries directed by Indigenous women in Guatemala.

PART III: Live Music, Drumming, Dj's, Raffles, and closing thoughts.

Contact: Rosie Torres (773/240.5786) Suree (773/517.3132, [suree@prairiedustfilms.com](mailto:suree@prairiedustfilms.com))

**Creating Solutions:** Tuesday June 10, 2008 6:00PM-10:00PM

**Location:** Catedral Café, 2500 S Christiana Ave - Chicago, IL 60623

PART I: Ally with others interested in participating in positive consumer choices. Featuring a Local and Global Green Market. Presentations on Solutions for Social Change.

PART II: Presentation of Lakota History and Activism. Videos from Lakota Media Project, Chiapas Media Project, and Maya Pedal/Working Bikes.

PART III: Drums, Live Music by Che Christ, and Open-Mic Jam Session.

Contact: Suree ([suree@prairiedustfilms.com](mailto:suree@prairiedustfilms.com), 773/517.3132), Amber ([ambermoh@gmail.com](mailto:ambermoh@gmail.com), 773/914.3001)

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE CULMINATION FEST:** Saturday June 14, 7:00PM-2:00AM

**Location: 1100 West Cermak Space – Chicago, IL 60608**

A hosted-showcase featuring local music (**Los Vicios de Papa, Fandanguero, Che Christ, DJ David Chavez, Rebel Starz, DJ Scapegoat**, and more!), art, raffles, informational tables, photography, small screen movies, performance, video installation, dancing, and more! Take the hemp seed challenge!

Contact: Suree ([suree@prairiedustfilms.com](mailto:suree@prairiedustfilms.com), 773/517.3132)  
Music inquiries: Che Christ ([intoxicatedmc@hotmail.com](mailto:intoxicatedmc@hotmail.com), 951/816.7815)

## **Proceeds from all events go to:**

- White Plume fire rebuilding efforts
- The Peoples Media Project (an organization of artists, musicians, and filmmakers that collaborates with people on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota to create art, music, and film with the intention of inspiring social change and human rights for all);
- Maya Pedal (a Guatemalan organization that recycles used bicycles to build pedal-powered machines, bicimáquinas, which support and help facilitate the work of self-sustainable projects, also promoting the use of alternative transportation using bicycles and tricycles);
- The Lakota Media Project (an initiative of Prairie Dust Films and Owe Aku to train Lakota youth in documentary and video making tools. It encourages the development of videos about Lakota from a Lakota perspective).

## **The Silent Nation Project: The Proposal**

The Silent Nation Project was inspired by the questions and feedback generated following screenings of the documentary, Standing Silent Nation, for people who ask the question: What can we do to help? With a series of community organized events, we hope to create solutions that can benefit others with alternative options for consumption and information that supports socio-economic change. Through communication and joint participation we can unite the common interests and concerns of people and shine light on the different cultures existing among us. The Silent Nation Project is an educational tool of expression that serves as the informational foundation for peaceful dialogue and solutions among communities.

## **Guatemala's Maya Pedal: Mission**

To support the basic family economy, through the design and distribution of bicycle machines, providing an efficient alternative for the rural development of Guatemala. Maya Pedal is a non-for-profit organization that promotes the use of bicycle machines through projects, partnerships, and activities. It also promotes the use of alternative transportation using bicycles and tricycles.