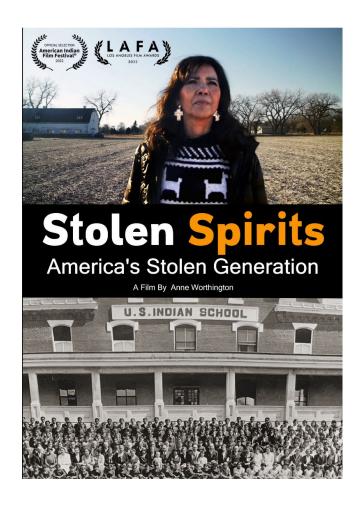
STOLEN SPIRITS



A FILM BY ANNE WORTHINGTON

36 mins / 2022 / English / Australia



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AWARDS & FILM FESTIVALS

BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY – LA FILM AWARDS, US AMERICAN INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL, US

SYNOPSIS

In 2021, in the small rural town of Genoa Nebraska, a harrowing search commenced to locate the graves of Native America children who were taken from their tribes and sent to the Genoa U.S Indian Industrial school, one of America's largest and longest running boarding schools for indigenous children. The Genoa school was part of a vast network of institutions for Native American children set up in the 19th and 20th centuries across the USA. Their purpose was to assimilate indigenous children into the white man's world. By 1926, it's estimated more than 80 per cent of Native American children were enrolled in these institutions. Many of these children left the school their culture broken, some didn't return home at all. Last year, the discovery of more than a thousand graves of children at the sites of former boarding schools in Canada pushed the USA to examine its own history. Presented by ABC journalist Stan Grant, whose family was impacted by Australia's assimilationist policies, Stolen Spirits is a powerful and haunting story of one community's attempts to uncover the truth about a painful past.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

The discovery of mass graves in Canada pushed the USA to examine its own boarding school history.

As a journalist in Australia this story resonated with me as it had so many similarities with our own country's history of forcibly taking indigenous children from their families in an attempt to break culture, assimilate and colonize.

Over a period of 6 months, I worked tirelessly to gain the trust of the Nebraskan tribes who bravely shared their personal stories and spoke of their determination to fight for justice and bring their lost children home. It was an honor and privilege to make this important film.

Anne Worthington

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Anne Worthington is an award-winning journalist with nearly 20 years of experience in public interest journalism. She has worked at the ABC since 2011 across the broadcaster's flagship programs, including as a researcher for Four Corners and a producer at Q&A. She is currently a producer with the ABC's international current affairs program Foreign Correspondent. Follow Anne on Twitter @alwortho82

PRODUCTION CREDITS

PRESENTER Stan Grant

PRODUCER & WRITER Anne Worthington

CAMERA Greg Nelson ACS

EDITOR Leah Donovan

ADDITIONAL CAMERA Michael Werner

GRAPHICS Andrés Gómez Isaza

ASSISTANT EDITOR Tom Carr

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH Michell Boukheris

ARCHIVE

U.S. National Archives
Yale University Library
Library of Congress
Denver Public Library Special Collection
U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center
NAA, Smithsonian Institution

SPECIAL THANKS

Genoa U.S. Indian School Foundation History Nebraska Nebraska Public Media

SENIOR PRODUCTION MANAGER Michelle Roberts

RESEARCH Victoria Allen

DIGITAL PRODUCER Matt Henry

SUPERVISING PRODUCER Lisa McGregor

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Matthew Carney

Foreign Correspondent abc.net.au/foreign

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