

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 15, 2010

CONTACT INFORMATION:  
David Mueller & Lynn Salt  
Producer-Directors  
310-963-2633  
[david@agoooddaytodiefilm.com](mailto:david@agoooddaytodiefilm.com)  
[lynn@agoooddaytodiefilm.com](mailto:lynn@agoooddaytodiefilm.com)

### **“A GOOD DAY TO DIE” WINS BEST DOCUMENTARY AT WORLD PREMIERE**

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. – A new documentary film produced by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation in Northern California has won "Best Documentary" at the deadCENTER Film Festival in Oklahoma City. It was the film's world premiere.

The film tells the story of Dennis Banks and the rise of the American Indian Movement (A.I.M.) from Banks' early boarding school experiences to his service in the US military to the founding of the Movement. Much of the film's energy is focused on the early and controversial actions of A.I.M. in Washington DC, Custer, South Dakota and Wounded Knee. Through evenhanded and diverse interviews from all "sides" the film presents a clear and cohesive telling of the events leading up to and surrounding a period of history that the Filmmakers claim is not well known and often misunderstood.

Filmmakers Lynn Salt and David Mueller chose to unveil the film at the Oklahoma festival because of the state's strong and inherent ties to Native America. Presenting the film with Salt and Mueller were Banks' daughter and co-producer Tashina Banks and associate producer Bob Hicks from the Creek Nation in Okmulgee.

"We felt strongly that the film should have its premiere at a festival that draws its audiences from both Native and non-Native communities" said Salt, who produced and directed the film with her partner David Mueller. "It was an honor to receive this award and this kind of recognition from deadCENTER as well as from the Indian and non-Indian audience members in attendance".

The film screened twice during the festival. Sunday's sold out screening received a lengthy standing ovation from its diverse audience.

The film had its beginning in 2007 when Salt was asked by producer Fred Roos to read Banks' autobiography "Ojibwa Warrior" for potential adaptation to the big screen.

"Dennis responded to the outline I was asked to write and drove all the way from Leech Lake to meet me in Los Angeles. During our meeting it became clear to me that before a screenplay was written, Dennis' story should be told in documentary

form. I felt strongly that people should experience Dennis Banks himself before a dramatic script was written and an actor cast to portray him."

Salt brought the idea of a documentary to Mueller, her partner and the two created a proposal and brought it to Dennis and his daughter Tashina for their approval. They then brought the proposal to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation for funding where they received a green light from the Tribal Council.

Salt and Mueller spent the next year on the road with Banks traveling across the country filming interviews, revisiting locations that played a key role in the Movement and spending long hours in libraries locating archival material.

"We made one of our most exciting discoveries at the Minnesota Historical Society library", said Mueller, "when we found a box containing rare footage of the confrontation in Custer, South Dakota in 1973. The footage had been shot on rare half inch video tape and has never been seen by the public."

Salt and Mueller together with the film's editor Robert McFalls used this rare footage to create a dramatic chapter on the Custer riot during which Banks proclaimed, "It's a good day to die".

Salt and Mueller chose to use American Indian songs and music for the soundtrack. Banks himself sings a majority of the songs, which composer Michel Tyabji recorded and mixed to create the score.

"It was an honor for us to make this film," said Salt. "Dennis Banks stood up and was willing to die to make things better for future generations. His actions helped create a movement that changed everything and we want people to know that."

"We feel it's critical for this country to recognize the other side of its history", said Mueller. "We hope this film will lead to a clearer understanding of the motivations behind the American Indian Movement so that we can learn from the past and move on to a brighter future for all."

The Filmmakers hope that this film will connect with Native and non-Native audiences in the United States and around the world.

"A Good Day To Die" will screen at film festivals throughout the country for the remainder of 2010 and into 2011.

For more info contact:

Lynn Salt & David Mueller  
310-963-2633  
[lynn4salt@gmail.com](mailto:lynn4salt@gmail.com)  
[david@agoodydaytodiefilm.com](mailto:david@agoodydaytodiefilm.com)