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“Rising Voices/Hoṭḥaŋjipi” to be shown Nov. 10 at Cultural Heritage Center

PIERRE, S.D. -- A free public showing of “Rising Voices/Hoṭḥaŋjipi” will be on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. CST at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

A reception with cast members and the film director will precede the showing at 6:30 p.m. with light refreshments available. Limited seating will be available for the film, shown in the center’s Education Room.

“Rising Voices/Hoṭḥaŋjipi” tells the story of a passionate, dedicated and diverse group of people -- members of the Lakota community and linguists from outside of the community -- who are working together to save the Lakota language and restore it to its rightful place in Lakota, and American, culture.

Told through the voices of a wide range of Lakota people who share their feelings about their language and the myriad challenges facing their community, the film also incorporates four short films created for “Rising Voices” by Lakota filmmakers and artists, each one giving a perspective on how finding one’s authentic “language” connects a person to a deeper sense of culture.

“We are pleased to be able to provide one of the South Dakota screenings of this powerful and important film,” commented Jay Smith, museum director for the South Dakota State Historical Society. “We look forward to meeting the remarkable team that put this film together.”

“Rising Voices” offers a snapshot into the day-to-day struggles of one of the biggest American Indian nations, and illuminates the problem of ancestral language loss to American Indian people.

“Rising Voices” is presented and distributed nationally by American Public Television and will premiere on public television stations nationwide beginning Nov. 1 (check local listings).

“Rising Voices/Hoṭḥaŋjipi,” a film by Lawrence Hott and Diane Garey, is a production of Florentine Films/Hott Productions, Inc. in association with The Language Conservancy. The project is funded by Vision Maker Media with major sponsorship provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Administration for Native Americans, the Dakota Indian Foundation, the South Dakota Humanities Council and the North Dakota Humanities Council – a nonprofit, independent state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or

recommendations expressed in “Rising Voices” do not necessarily reflect those of the North Dakota Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Language Conservancy is a nonprofit organization that works with American Indian tribes to preserve their ancestral languages by providing educational materials, teacher trainings, dictionaries and other materials that assist in language revitalization. The primary service area for the Language Conservancy is in the American Northwest, including Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The executive producer for The Language Conservancy is Wilhelm Meya, and the executive producer for Vision Maker Media is Shirley K. Sneve.

To see five additional short videos about Lakota language, film credits, a study guide and more press materials, including a full transcript of the film, visit www.risingvoicesfilm.com.

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About the South Dakota State Historical Society

The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Education. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society’s world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.

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