

Find Events

BY DATE

April 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

BY CATEGORY

- 🍷 After Five
- 🌟 Celebrations
- 🍴 Culinary Arts
- 🧑‍🔬 Demonstrations
- 🎬 Films
- 🗨️ Gallery Talks & Tours
- 👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Kids & Families
- 🗣️ Lectures & Discussions
- 🎭 Performances
- 📖 Shopping/Book Signing
- 📺 Webcasts & Online
- 🏠 Workshops

Select: [All](#), [None](#)

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[All Smithsonian Events](#)

Calendar

[APR](#) [MAY](#)

Washington, DC **Dinner & A Movie: *The Searchers*** Friday, December 5, 2014, 7 – 9:30 PM

There will be a book signing before the screening in the lobby of the Rasmuson Theater from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The Mitsitam Native Foods Cafe will be open through 6:45 p.m. and will have items available for purchase.

The Searchers
(USA, 1956, 119 min.)
Director: John Ford

In 1956, John Ford's *The Searchers* released to mixed reviews. Loosely based on the abduction and search for Texas settler Cynthia Ann Parker, over the years, the film came to be thought of as one of the most influential, cinematic productions in American film history. For Native people, the misrepresentations of the Comanche have often elicited responses of anger and rejection. The stereotypical, hateful characterizations reinforced the popular thinking of the time. Still hundreds of Navajo people participated as extras and crew members on the production, establishing a legacy of filmmaking that has thrived in the Navajo Nation ever since.



John Ford directed over 140 films in his career, both documentary and fiction, and remains one of the most influential of American filmmakers. He is best known for his Westerns and adaptations of great American novels, but his eclectic career included working as a military photographer and cinematographer during both World War II and the Korean War. He won six Oscars, four for Best Director, two for his documentary work during World War II, and numerous other awards both American and foreign.

This screening of *The Searchers* is presented on the heels of the recently released Hollywood blockbuster *The Lone Ranger*, another characterization of Comanches over 50 years later. Join us for an extended discussion of the past, current, and future media representations of Native people with National Museum of the American Indian curator, **Paul Chaat Smith** (Comanche) and author of "The Searchers: The Making of an American Legend," **Glenn Frankel**, moderated by Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage curator, **Jim Deutsch**.

Paul Chaat Smith is a Comanche author, essayist and curator. His books and exhibitions focus on the contemporary landscape of American Indian politics and culture. He joined the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in 2001, where he currently serves as Associate Curator. His projects include the NMAI's history gallery, performance artist James Luna's *Emendatio* at the 2005 Venice Biennial, Fritz Scholder: Indian/Not Indian (2008), and Brian Jungen: Strange Comfort (2009). With Robert Warrior, he is the author of *Like a Hurricane: the Indian Movement from Alcatraz to Wounded Knee* (New Press, 1996), a standard text in Native studies and American history courses. His second book, "Everything You Know about Indians Is Wrong," was published in 2009 by the University of Minnesota Press, and is now in its second printing.

Glenn Frankel is director of the School of Journalism and G.B. Dealey Regents Professor in Journalism at the University of Texas at Austin. He was a longtime Washington Post reporter, editor and bureau chief in Jerusalem, London and Southern Africa, and he won the 1989 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting for "balanced and sensitive reporting" of Israel and the first Palestinian uprising. He also served as editor of the Washington Post Magazine, deputy national news editor and Richmond, VA, bureau chief. His first book, *Beyond the Promised Land: Jews and Arabs on the Hard Road to a New Israel*, won the National Jewish Book Award. His second, *Rivonia's Children: Three Families and the Cost of Conscience in White South Africa*, was a finalist for the Alan Paton Award, South Africa's most prestigious literary prize. He and his wife live in Austin.

Jim Deutsch has curated several Smithsonian Folklife Festival programs, including National World War II Reunion (2004), Forest Service (2005), (as co-curator) Mekong River (2007), NASA (2008), and Peace Corps (2011). He has worked in many other capacities—including foodways coordinator, accessibility coordinator, program coordinator, researcher/presenter, and sound engineer—on other Festivals dating back to 1991. At other times, Deutsch has worked overseas (including three stints as a Fulbright Scholar), teaching classes on American folklore, film, history, and literature at universities in Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Poland, and Turkey. He is currently adjunct faculty in George Washington University's American Studies Department (where he received his Ph.D. in 1991). Overall, he has held more than sixty different jobs, including newspaper reporter (Indiana and Mississippi); librarian (Alaska, Georgia, Mississippi, Montana, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.); park ranger/forest ranger (Alaska, Arizona, and Mississippi); census enumerator (Washington, D.C.); and Monorail operator (Walt Disney World).

Venue [Washington, DC](#) American Indian Museum

Location Rasmuson Theater, 1st Floor

Cost Free

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Part of the Series: [Anniversary Year](#)

Part of the Series: [Captured Shadows: Circulating Images of Native Americans on Film](#)

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