



ABOUT

Bringing Indigenous stories to the world

Acimow Media ᐱᑦᐱᐱᐱ is an Indigenous-owned production company based in Sydney, Canada that specializes in the development and production of high-quality, international Indigenous documentaries. Acimow means “she tells her story” in the Cree language.

Producer and CEO Barbara Todd Hager (Métis/Cree) is an award-winning documentary producer, director, and writer. Her portfolio includes four documentary series and six feature documentaries that have been broadcast on CBC, CTV, APTN, Knowledge, TELUS, NITV/SBS, ZDFE, ORF, TV3 Catalunya, Radio TV Portugal, and FTV Prima.

Barbara wrote, directed, and co-produced with Animiki See Digital Production the docu-drama series, *1491: The Untold Story of the Americas Before Columbus* that was commissioned by APTN and ZDFE. In 2018, the series won three Leo Awards for Best Documentary Series, Music Composer (Russell Wallace) and Screenwriter (Barbara Todd Hager).

In addition to her 20-year career as a documentary filmmaker, Barbara has spent many years working as an arts administrator and communications officer for government agencies, museums, literary organizations, and universities. She served as the Aboriginal Liaison at the Royal British Columbia Museum for five years in the 1990s and returned in 2022 as the Acting Director of the museum’s Indigenous Collections and Repatriation department. Barbara was a 2019 Indspire Arts Award recipient, Canada’s highest Indigenous honour.



IN PRODUCTION

01 TOMSON HIGHWAY DOCUMENTARY (1 X 90 MINUTES) PRE-SALES

This feature documentary is based on the book *Permanent Astonishment* by the award-winning Cree author Tomson Highway. Director Barbara Todd Hager will follow Tomson on a journey that spans seven decades, from his birth on a snowbank in Northern Manitoba, to his latest creative endeavour –preparing for the opening at the National Arts Centre of his musical, *Rose*. Tomson will share stories in English infused with Cree – some from his memoir and some from his life as a prolific writer and musician.

By bringing his love of country music together with his first language, Cree, Tomson is fulfilling a life-long dream. The film will offer a rare glimpse into the creative process of one of Canada's leading playwrights (Co-produced with White Pine Pictures. Pre-licensed to CBC Documentary Channel).



IN DEVELOPMENT

01 ON DISTANT SHORES (3 X 60 MINUTES) PRE-SALES, CO-PRODUCERS

Based on the award-winning book *On Savage Shores* by British author and professor Caroline Dodds Pennock, the docu-drama series *On Distant Shores* will redefine current Eurocentric understanding of the Age of Discovery. The documentary will feature stories of Indigenous people from North and South America who journeyed across the Atlantic to Europe after 1492, as slaves, translators, performers, and brides. The film will explore their lives in Spain, England, France, and Italy between 1492 until the early 1900s, and reveal how Indigenous people influenced and impacted societies in the “Old World.”

02 BIRDS CALL (SERIES) DEVELOPMENT, PRE-SALES

In the documentary series *Birds Call*, writer and bird enthusiast Paula Raimondi will follow one full bird migratory season, from spring through fall 2025, and observe the impact of climate change on several species of birds. While filming birds in their natural, and sometimes adapted habitats, Raimondi will meet bird watchers, biologists, and climate experts who are committed to taking action as both birds and humans navigate the state of our shared local and global communities.



COMPLETED PRODUCTIONS

01 LEAVING BERINGIA (1 X 90 MINUTES & 3 X 50 MINUTES) ACQUISITIONS, DISTRIBUTION

In the POV feature documentary *Leaving Beringia*, Metis/Cree writer Barbara Todd Hager, embarks on an epic journey to eight of the oldest known human occupation sites in North and South America, dating as far back as 23,000 years before present. Hager's conversations with archaeologists, Elders, and Indigenous knowledge keepers will challenge the long-held scientific theory that Indigenous people walked across a land bridge that connected Asia to North America 13,000 years ago, known as 'Beringia.' In each of the shooting locations – Quadra Island, Whitehorse, Wally's Beach, White Sands National Park, Blackwater Draw, Channel Islands, Cooper's Ferry, and Tulum, Mexico - Barbara will discover an alternative narrative of how Indigenous people came to be in the Americas (TELUS Independent).



02 FORBIDDEN MUSIC (1 X 75 MINUTES) ACQUISITIONS, DISTRIBUTION

The documentary *Forbidden Music* follows the story of Jewish ethnomusicologist Dr. Ida Halpern, who fled from Austria to Canada in 1938, and Kwakwaka'wakw artist and singer Chief Mungo Martin. Dr. Halpern recorded 124 songs with Chief Martin at her home in Vancouver, and they are preserved on LPs released by Folkway Records in the 1960s and 1970s. The documentary, set in Fort Rupert, Victoria, Vancouver, Vienna, and Washington DC, follows the journey of songs recorded more than 75 years ago to their role today in the resurgence of language and cultural traditions in First Nations communities (Knowledge Network).



COMPLETED PRODUCTIONS

03 1491: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE AMERICAS BEFORE COLUMBUS (8 X 60 MINUTES & 4 X 60 MINUTES) ACQUISITION AND VERSIONS

1491: The Untold Story of the Americas Before Columbus is a docu-drama mini-series that brings to life the complexity, diversity, and interconnectedness of Indigenous peoples in the Americas before the arrival of Christopher Columbus. Presented from an Indigenous perspective through a blend of documentary and scripted drama, the series takes its audience on a journey along a timeline that dates from 20,000 years ago to 1491. Throughout the themed episodes, the achievements of ancient Indigenous societies in North, Central, and South America will be interpreted by leading Indigenous scholars and cultural leaders in the fields of archaeology, art history, ethnology, genetics, geology, and linguistics (APTN, ZDFE).



04 DOWN2EARTH (26 X 30 MINUTES) ACQUISITION

Down2Earth is a documentary series that features Indigenous people from across Canada and around the globe who are using traditional knowledge and science to find solutions to environmental issues that are affecting their communities and territories. Presented by Art Napoleon (Cree), Steve Sxwithul'twx (Coast Salish), and Dr. Leigh Joseph (Squamish), *Down2Earth* visits Indigenous communities and explores their natural environments through engaging and informative conversations. The series won a national Environmental Media Award for season two.



05 TRUTH DANCE & RECONCILIATION (1 X 60 MINUTES) ACQUISITION

Truth, Dance & Reconciliation follows the creation of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's critically acclaimed ballet, *Going Home Star*. From the first creative planning meeting in to the world premiere in Winnipeg, the film captures the journey of a renowned creative team and five lead dancers, as they collaborate, develop and present a ballet about Canada's Indian residential school history. The documentary features two former residential school survivors who attend a performance of *Going Home Star* during the company's cross-country tour. Director Barbara Todd Hager had unique access to the lead dancers and creators as they worked collaboratively to create an emotional and complex story into a ballet.





Barbara Todd Hager
Producer and Director
Sydney, Canada
acimowmedia@gmail.com



www.acimowmedia.com