

Leaving Beringia

The **origins** of the **first people in the Americas** is one of the **greatest mysteries** of modern times. Some people claim the ancestors of today's Indigenous people walked here across an **ancient land bridge** that once connected **Asia** and **North America** until about **13,000 years ago**. Others say they **paddled** here by canoe along the **Pacific coastline**, then dispersed to every corner of the Americas more than **20,000 years ago**. Indigenous people in every part of the Americas have **origin stories** that describe how their **ancestors** came from the sky, the water or the land below. There's one thing that all of these concepts of arrival have in common - they all begin with a **journey**. In the feature documentary **Leaving Beringia**, Métis Cree filmmaker **Barbara Todd Hager** embarks on a life-changing journey to eight of the oldest **Indigenous archaeological sites** in **North and South America**, where she'll discover that studying **ancient tools** is only one way to **uncover** the ways of life of her **ancestors**. Filmed on location at **village sites** that were occupied tens of thousands of years ago, her ground-breaking conversations with **Indigenous knowledge keepers** and **culturally aligned archaeologists** will reveal a **compelling new narrative** of the first people of the Americas drawn from **origin stories** and **Indigenous way of knowing**.



Barbara Todd Hager is a Canadian documentary writer, producer and director. She traces her Métis and Cree ancestry to the Red River and St. Paul des Métis Settlements in Canada and Pembina, North Dakota in the USA. Barbara has produced four documentary series and five feature docs for APTN, CBC, CTV, TELUS, Knowledge and ZDF. Her eight-part docu-drama series, *1491: The Untold Story of the Americas Before Columbus*, covers 20,000 years of history

from the perspective of Indigenous people. The series won Canadian Leo Awards for Best Documentary Series, Music Composer and Screenwriter. She was the Aboriginal Liaison at the Royal British Columbia Museum for five years, and served as the Acting Director of the museum's Indigenous Collections and Repatriation department in 2022. Barbara was the 2019 Inspire Arts Award recipient, Canada's highest Indigenous honour. She owns Acimow Media Ltd, an Indigenous production company based in Vancouver, BC.

Documentaries and series by Barbara Todd Hager

1491: The Untold Story of the Americas Before Columbus (2017)

Based on the book *1491* by Charles A. Mann
APTN, ZDFE, ORF, SBS / 8 X 60 minute episodes
Trailer - <https://vimeo.com/376296636>
Episode 101: Origins - <https://vimeo.com/292727873>

Truth Dance & Reconciliation (2018)

APTN, CBC / one hour doc
Trailer - <https://vimeo.com/112632850>
Documentary - <https://vimeo.com/377240216>

Forbidden Music - one hour documentary (2024)

From Bella Coola to Berlin - one hour documentary (2006)

All Our Relations II - 7 X 30 minute genealogy/bio series (2022)

Down2Earth - 26 X 30 minute documentary series (2009-2012)

The New Canoe - 104 X 30 minutes documentary series (2002-2011)

Acimow Media acknowledges the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish Nations whose traditional territory the company is located.



TELUS independent



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