

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

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COWBOY & INDIAN

A FEATURE FILM BASED ON REAL LIFE EVENTS

"Grace & Empathy win over differences & division."



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PRODUCTION DETAILS

TITLE	Cowboy & Indian
GENRE	Drama / Comedy
RUNTIME	75 minutes
LANGUAGE	English
COUNTRY	United States
YEAR	2026
PRODUCTION CO.	Sacred Union Pictures

ASPECT RATIO	1.85:1
SOUND	Dolby Atmos, 5.1
SHOOTING FORMAT	Digital 4K
PHOTOGRAPHY	Feb 2025
LOCATIONS	California, North Carolina
BUDGET	\$735K
DELIVERY	DCP, ProRes 4K, H.264

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

DCP AVAILABLE: Yes

SUBTITLES: English, Spanish

CLOSED CAPTIONS: Yes

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: Yes

ABOUT THE FILM

Imagine a world where hatred is losing its grip, dialogue replaces outrage, and people begin to see one another not as political opponents, but simply as fellow human beings. *Cowboy & Indian* tells the story of ordinary people who set politics aside and discover that despite countless differences, they have far more in common than they ever imagined. Filled with warmth, humor, and empathy, it is a celebration of communication, compassion, and the enduring hope that understanding can heal even the deepest divides.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A rural American white man struggles to adapt to a changing America. Lonely and unable to find a woman with whom to build a family, he unexpectedly befriends an Indian immigrant despite their profound ideological differences. Inspired by true events, *Cowboy & Indian* is a heartwarming story about empathy, friendship, and the humanity that exists beyond politics.

PLOT SUMMARY

For three decades, he has watched the country he knew change around him. Convinced that globalization, changing social values, and the political establishment have left working-class Americans behind, he has grown bitter and isolated, finding comfort only in his Christian faith and patriotism. Unable to find a woman with whom to build a family, loneliness has become a way of life.

Then he encounters an Indian immigrant. Their first meeting nearly ends in violence, yet an unlikely friendship slowly develops. Even as the two grow close, he continues to struggle with his resentment toward immigrants, women, and the politicians he believes have abandoned people like him.

Everything changes when he is diagnosed with a terminal illness. Confronting his mortality, and guided by a compassionate pastor and the unwavering kindness of his new friend, he begins to question the anger and prejudice that have defined his life. Through empathy and forgiveness, he discovers love, true friendship, and a renewed faith in humanity.

Inspired by real events, *Cowboy & Indian* is a story of redemption and unlikely friendship — a reminder that political differences and prejudice lose their power when we choose to see the human being before the ideology.

QUOTES FROM THE FILM

STEVE, THE COWBOY — BRAD NAPP

"Sometimes the only relief is just someone to hear."

VIJAY — MAHESH SRIRAM

"I ignore it. I don't have to approve or disapprove what Steve says. My duty as a friend is to let him say what he wants to, not what I wish he would say."

LAILA — ELHEM RICH

"Sometimes the death of a close friend can be a wake-up call for those who waste their time in differences."

DEBBI — LAURA MEADOWS

"A century ago, a great poet from India, Tagore, penned a poem for his country. I believe Steve would have loved this, and I hope you do too."

MRS. RICHARDSON — VEDRA GRANT

"You are losing a dollar to save a cent. Control your pride."

PASTOR — JEFF ZARINELLI

"There is so little time in this world for love. Where do you find time for so much hate?"

NEIGHBOR — VIUF J SOREN

"For me, patriotism is by defending all of America. It's not about my tribe or your tribe."

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Cowboy & Indian takes an unconventional approach to storytelling. A risk worth taking, I suppose.

With help of drama and humor we have tried to present a narrative that supports empathy and acceptance. Even if we fail in this endeavor it's worth trying to add a heartwarming, non-partisan, no-villain story in these difficult times for a common person.

Generally, films have a hero and a villain. Or there is a right group of people and there is a wrong group of people. And we side with the one we are told is right and reject the other. In documentaries, there is an issue that we are introduced to and there is no other side, but just one side which needs our attention.

This film takes a different path. There are no traditional villains in this story. There is no one hero — in a way, each character is a hero in her and his own right. But we are not asking to root for anyone. What the film asks for is basic patience and an affordable amount of empathy for everyone.

Why so? I presume most of us are neither heroes nor villains. We are imperfect human beings trying to make sense of a complicated world. And most of us need empathy and understanding.

I believe many of us have met a character in real life, like our Cowboy Steve. He is lonely and struggling with the challenges of changes. All sorts of changes. He is bitter. He is rude. He has been rejected. Which makes him even more bitter and angry. More rejection, more anger. More anger, more rejection. The vicious cycle is interrupted by terminal disease. People start affording empathy. Steve starts to change. Life is beautiful. But most of it was wasted in a vicious cycle.

There are several questions unanswered in the film; I will leave that up to the audience's perception. To start the conversation, here is my question: Can we afford empathy to those who disagree with us before they are dying?

By this story I present a case to people to consider that life is too short to be bitterly opposed to those who disagree with us. Allow a conversation, try to afford sympathy — I bet no one will lose.

LEO PRASHANT SHELLEY

WRITTEN, PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY

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