



Games of the North

Crew Biographies

Jonathon Stanton, *Producer, Writer and Director*

Creating works in television and film, Jonathon has proven his abilities to balance the unique demands of producing while staying true to the story. The wilderness has greatly influenced Jonathon's style by sculpting his sense of self. His experiences as adventure athlete, outdoor guide, photographer, writer and journalist have uniquely shaped his filmmaking career. In the past nine years of producing, he has followed his passions into a diverse range of genres including feature film, documentary, commercial, music video, television and corporate—always collaborating with the best creative team possible.

Steven Wounded Deer Alvarez (Mescalero Apache/Yaqui/Upper Tanana Athabascan), *Executive Producer*

Alvarez comes to Anchorage, Alaska, from the San Francisco Bay Area where he was active as both a performer and educator. He graduated from San Jose State University with Bachelor of Arts degrees in Music (Voice and Percussion) and History, plus a minor in Philosophy. An artist with hands in many mediums, he works professionally as a percussionist, vocalist, stage actor, film and stage producer and music educator. Alvarez's work as a film producer includes: *Asveq*, *The Walrus Hunt*, *Living from the Land and Sea*, *In This World* (a music video for the Native band Medicine Dream) and he has also served as Project Director for *Drums of the North*, a traditional Yup'ik music CD.

Phillip Kill'aq Blanchett, *Associate Producer & Co-Creator*

Internationally acclaimed music producer, Phillip has successfully combined his Alaska Native heritage with his artistic talents for new media. Through the award-winning musical group Pamyua, Phillip has collaborated on film, television and music projects. He made his directorial debut for the award-winning film *To Play the Games*. As an athlete in the Alaska Native Games, Phillip has been successfully achieving top honors for over 20 years.

Greg Bernstein, *Director of Photography*

Greg's work for inspiring organizations such as Greenpeace, Amazon Watch and Project Bandaloop has taken him all over the world—from 2600 feet up El Capitan in Yosemite to above the Arctic Circle to the Amazon jungles of Peru. His video work has been seen at the Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, the Kennedy Center, *20/20*, *The Late Show David with Letterman* and many other television programs on CBS, ABC and ESPN. In 2005, Bernstein's work with Project Bandaloop and *The Late Show with David Letterman* earned an Emmy award for Best Technical Production on a Late Night Show. To Bernstein, the best things about filmmaking are its infinite scope and working with great people in amazing places on meaningful projects. He has always been inspired to tell great stories that move people emotionally and expand their understanding of the world.

Cast Biographies

David Thomas

Raised far from the Arctic by his Grandmother, an Inupiaq Elder, David grew up in the town of Palmer Alaska. Leading to the discovery of his personal abilities and cultural ancestry, his commitment to the Games reflects the strong values of his upbringing.

Jesse Frankson

Five-time world record holder, Jesse leads a traditional subsistence lifestyle in the remote village of Point Hope. His abilities prove that the wilderness is the best training ground. As his environment undergoes hostile change, the Games are becoming more vital than ever for his survival.

Elizabeth Rexford

A world champion, Elizabeth successfully bridges the traditional world of Barrow with the Ivy League of Dartmouth College. Through her travels we learn how the Games have prepared her for extreme physical and mental strain.

John Miller III

From the northernmost town in the United States, this Barrow High School senior has been breaking records in the Games since the age of 15. Through his celebrity, we explore the struggle between traditional life and the expanding consumer culture.

Brian Randazzo, Narrator

Interwoven through our story is legendary record holder Brian Randazzo. The core values of the Games formed his identity. After suffering a traumatic injury, Brian's world spiraled into darkness. His long and difficult recovery defines a message of hope, healing and the journey home.