

10-10-2003

The Sherman Alexie Lecture

Division of Lifelong Learning- Wabanaki Center

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**THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED
LECTURE SERIES COMMITTEE
GRANT APPLICATION**

PROVIDE 10 (TEN) COPIES, INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL.
PLEASE PLACE A COPY OF THIS COVER SHEET ON TOP OF EACH COPY

I. Applicant/Organization: Division of Lifelong Learning/Wabanaki Center


II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: Robert C. White
b. Title: Dean
c. Campus Address (include Email and Telephone): 100 Chadbourne Hall,
581-3113, Bob White on FirstClass

III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date (s):

"Without Reservation: An Urban Indian's Comic, Poetic & Highly Irreverent Look at the World"—April 19, 2004. The Division of Lifelong Learning (including the Wabanaki Center) in cooperation with the Native American Studies Program, American Indians at UM (AIUM), the English Department, and Student Affairs will bring to campus for a lecture Sherman Alexie—author, poet, screenwriter. Alexie is a Spokane Coeur d'Alene Indian from Wellpinit, Washington. The attached speaker press kit speaks to Alexie's numerous accomplishments and standing room only engagements. Bringing Alexie to The University of Maine's Maine Center for the Arts will not only provide an incredible cultural learning experience for UMaine's students, faculty, and staff, but will provide an opportunity to invite to campus the Wabanaki peoples of Maine to share the experience. Efforts will be made to publicize his lecture state-wide as well as provide numerous opportunities throughout the year for viewing of his films and reading his books through class assignments and other opportunities.

Expand in fuller detail, a supporting statement with detailed, itemized budget. Funding for current application is contingent upon submission of detailed budget and attendance report for any previous years' grants.

IV. a. Total funding required for program: \$17,700 (\$15,000 speaker fee plus travel, MCA expenses & dinner)
b. Amount committed by applicant organization: \$1,100 DLL/\$700 Wabanaki Ctr.
c. Amount committed by/requested of (please indicate which) other funding sources: Native Student Organization \$2,000 committed, Provost \$3,500 committed, Student Program Fund \$2,200 requested, English Dept., \$200 requested, Native American Studies \$500 requested.
d. Amount requested of Cultural Affairs/DLS Committee: \$7,500

Signature of responsible organization officer/date:
 _____ 10/10/03
SIGNATURE DATE

SPACE BELOW FOR COMMITTEE USE:

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
C/O PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
200 ALUMNI HALL


6,000

The Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Committee
Grant Application Supporting Statement
For
The Sherman Alexie Lecture

Part of the mission of the University of Maine is to be the University for all the peoples of Maine, of the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Micmac nations as well as the other cultures and communities of the state. While this is a mission to which we aspire and toward which we are working, while it is certainly not a mission that we have yet realized, Sherman Alexie's visit would make a vital contribution to the work. Land-grant universities like the University of Maine are frequently and accurately seen as crucial to the economic development of their states; they are also crucial to cultural development, to providing resources and support for the communities they serve as those communities work to create a sustainable cultural future. Sherman Alexie's visit would help us in that work, in helping us define what is at stake in realizing our mission as a liberal arts institution.

The Native peoples of Maine are excited about the possibility of bringing to Maine an internationally known celebrity who shares their heritage. The Wabanaki Center, the on-campus Native American home, maintains a vital interest in providing quality programming for its students and all Maine's native communities and is prepared to support the appearance of Mr. Alexie with enthusiasm.

The lecture will be free and open to the public. The Wabanaki communities have indicated their intent to bus students from the reservation schools to this event and a large attendance is anticipated from the Native communities. The English Department and the Native American Studies Program have expressed their desire to highlight Alexie's work in their spring course offerings, and a spring film series will be orchestrated, perhaps through the Maine Center for the Arts in cooperation with the Hudson Museum.

The support for this event is widespread and strong. Over half of the funds needed to bring Alexie to campus have been raised. The support of the Lecture Series Committee would be most appreciated.

Proposed Alexie Budget

Sherman Alexie Lecture--Proposed Contributors

Description	Amount	DLL	Native Students	Wabanaki	Provost	NAS	Prog. Fund	English	DLS	Total
Speaker Fee	\$ 15,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 500	\$ 3,500	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 7,500	\$ 15,000
Travel	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 500	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 800
MCA Expenses	\$ 900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 700	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 900
Dinner/Social	\$ 1,000	\$ 100	\$ 500	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Totals	\$ 17,700	\$ 1,100	\$ 2,000	\$ 700	\$ 3,500	\$ 500	\$ 2,200	\$ 200	\$ 7,500	\$ 17,700

confirmed confirmed confirmed confirmed confirmed pending pending pending pending pending \$ 17,700

In-Kind Expenses

MCA Rental Waived by Director
 Promotion Shared by sponsoring units

Royce Carlton
INCORPORATED



Sherman Alexie

Author • Poet • Screenwriter

Speaker Press Kit

Sherman Alexie

Author • Poet • Screenwriter

"Sherman Alexie teaches, entertains and inspires — interculturally, intergenerational-ly and with a flair for taking you to a creative playground that is both familiar and unfamiliar to all of us. He is simply one of the best speakers I've ever heard."

These words, offered by the University of Puget Sound, begin to convey the impact Sherman Alexie has on an audience.

A prolific novelist, poet and screenplay writer, Alexie has been hailed as one of the best young writers of his generation. *The New Yorker* named him one of the top 20 writers for the 21st Century.

But his talent and voice shine brightly, far beyond the pages of his work. A gifted orator, Alexie won the World Heavyweight Championship Poetry Bout four years in a row — from 1998 to 2001. In his lectures, he tells tales of contemporary American Indian life laced with razor-sharp humor, unsettling candor and biting wit. He reshapes our myths and stereotypes by speaking his mind on a wide range of issues — from race relations, religion and politics to homophobia, war and morality.

A Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Indian, Alexie grew up on the Spokane Indian Reservation in Washington. As a college student, he landed in a poetry-writing class and his professor quickly recognized his "intensity of language, passion and energy." Upon the publication of *The Business of Fancydancing*, his first collection of poetry, *The New York Times Book Review* described him as "one of the major lyric voices of our time."

Since then, Alexie has authored seven


"He was alternately hilarious, outrageous and thought-provoking before an overflowing crowd."

Iowa State University

books of poetry, several collections of short stories, two novels and numerous works for magazines. He wrote the screenplay for and produced the feature film *Smoke Signals*, based on his book *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*. The film premiered at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival, winning both the Audience Award and Filmmakers Trophy.

Alexie's first novel, *Reservation Blues* won *Booklist's* Editors Choice Award for Fiction. He also wrote the *New York Times* Notable Book, *Indian Killer* and *The Toughest Indian in the World*, which won the 2001 PEN/Malamud award, honoring excellence in the art of storytelling. His latest book is *Ten Little Indians* (June 2003).

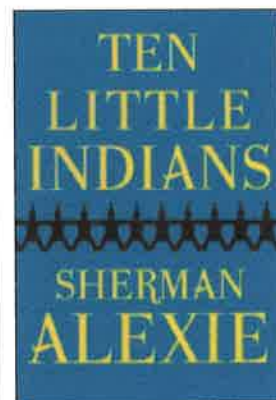
In 2002 Alexie released his directorial debut, *The Business of Fancydancing*, which he also wrote. The film won many awards, including the Outstanding Screenwriting Award at Outfest and the Audience Award for Best Feature at the 26th San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. He is currently working on a screenplay adaptation of *The Toughest Indian in the World*, which he will direct and co-produce.

Blending his experiences and creativity into thought-provoking, humorous and outrageous works of art, he compels his audiences to see the world for all of its pitfalls *and* its possibilities. 

SUGGESTED
TOPICS

**Without Reservations:
An Urban Indian's Comic,
Poetic & Highly Irreverent
Look at the World**

**The Business of
Fancydancing: Poems,
Stories, Punch Lines and
Highly Biased Anecdotes**



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Biography

Sherman Alexie

Author • Poet • Screenwriter



Sherman Alexie is a Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Indian from Wellpinit, Washington — a town on the Spokane Indian reservation. Shortly after the publication of his first book, *The Business of Fancydancing* — a collection of poetry and stories — Alexie was described as "one of the major lyric voices of our time" in the *New York Times Book Review*, which selected the book as a "1992 Notable Book of the Year." That same year Alexie received a National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Fellowship. In each year from 1998 to 2001, Alexie won the World Heavyweight Championship Poetry Bout at the Taos Poetry Circus, becoming the first poet in the history of the Bout to hold the title four consecutive years. He also won the regional 1999 New York Heavyweight Poetry Bout. Alexie's several books of poetry include *Old Shirts & New Skins*, *The Summer of Black Widows*, and *One Stick Song*.

Alexie's first collection of short stories, *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, published in 1994, was a citation winner for the PEN/Hemingway Award for Best First Fiction. In the same year he also earned a Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writers' Award.

Alexie's first novel, *Reservation Blues*, published in 1995, was selected as a *Booklist* Editors Choice Award for Fiction and was awarded an American Book Award from The Before Columbus Foundation in 1996. His most recent novel, *Indian Killer*, published in 1998, was a *New York Times* Notable Book and was selected as one of ten "Best of Pages" titles by *People* magazine. For his skilled fiction writing, Alexie was named one of *Granta* magazine's "Twenty Best American novelists Under the Age of Forty."

In June 1999 *The New Yorker* called Alexie as one of the top writers for the 21st Century. He was one of twenty writers featured in the magazine's Summer Fiction Edition, "20 Writers for the 21st Century."

Alexie's first screenplay, *Smoke Signals*, based on his book *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, became the first feature film produced, written, and directed by American Indians. It premiered at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival, where it won the Audience Award and Filmmakers Trophy. *Smoke Signals* also received a Christopher Award in 1999. Alexie was nominated for the Independent Feature Project/West 1999 Independent Spirit Award for Best First Screenplay.

Alexie is a 2001 recipient of the PEN/Malamud award, honoring excellence in the art of storytelling, for his most recent book, *The Toughest Indian in the World*. His film, *The Business of Fancydancing*, which he wrote and directed, was selected for the 2002 Sundance Film Festival. He is also working on the screenplay adaptation of his novel *Reservation Blues*, which he will also direct and co-produce for SearchParty Films.

03.28.03

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Audience Comments

Sherman Alexie

Thank you for your absolutely fabulous presentation "The Creative Genius of Community" at the American Library Association conference in San Francisco on June 18, 2001. The anticipation was palpable. You exceeded our expectations and gave us all an afternoon that will stay with us for the rest of our lives. Throughout the rest of the conference, individuals streamed up to me enthused about the magical afternoon you created and how you allowed them to find new meaning in their own stories.

American Library Association

It was awesome. We had such a large audience -- we had to turn away 300 people... and, at Sherman's request, we stuffed about 200 people onto the stage to clear the aisles. He was on fire!

Northern Arizona University

...Sherman was all we expected and more...rockin' and shockin' and the students loved it.

Keene State College

Sherman was fabulous and the program was wildly successful. I estimate that there were 700-800 people and he got a standing ovation at the end. People stood in line 45 minutes to 1 hour to have him sign the poem.

Association of College and Research Libraries

The event was amazing! We had about 350 to 400 people there, which is huge for a Haverford event. It's rare that people stay very long too--but he kept them there for 2 hours, easy. He was brilliantly funny, with an acid tongue and he held no idols. People have been coming up to me raving about how good he was.

Haverford College

He was alternately hilarious, outrageous and thought-provoking before an overflowing crowd.

Iowa State University

...Sherman was just the easiest person in the world to work with and what a message.

American College Personnel Association

Sherman Alexie, as a speaker, teaches, entertains and inspires — interculturally, intergenerationally and with a flair for taking you to a creative playground that is both familiar and unfamiliar to all of us. He is simply one of the best speakers I've ever heard.

University of Puget Sound

(continued) Audience Comments

Sherman Alexie

Sherman was fabulous...deep and awe-inspiring!

Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce

The fifth speaker in the Wisconsin Union Directorate's Distinguished Lecture Series, Alexie's lecture was the first this year to be sold out. Alexie is one of the most celebrated and honored voices of our generation. His work walks a line between pathos and humor

University of Wisconsin at Madison

Absolutely smashing! Beyond my wildest expectations. He had us all laughing for two hours. But beyond that, he changed people's thinking ---which is my goal for bringing people of his caliber here. Anyone who saw him will never be the same.

Bismarck State College

Sherman Alexie was one of the best speakers the University of Hawaii's Distinguished Lecture Series has ever invited. He was topical, funny and incredibly generous with his time and energy. He really connected with his audience, and people were talking about his lecture for months afterward. A truly stimulating visit.

University of Hawaii

Sherman's lecture last night was a great success here. We packed the hall with 300+ persons, 2/3 students and 1/3 people from the Boston area. He received a long ovation at the end, which soon became a standing ovation.

Boston College

Thank you so much for joining us in Portland for the NCTE Spring Conference. Your talk was the high point for many of the attendees. Participants stopped by our registration desk all day to tell us how much they enjoyed hearing you speak.

National Council of Teachers of English

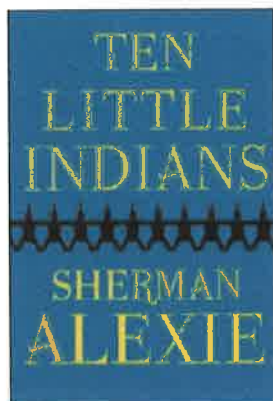
In the years I've been at Bryant, I've rarely seen the campus so full of excitement about an event. I was thrilled (and a little amazed) that you were able to captivate our audience for a full two hours — and I think they would have gladly stayed for at least another hour.

Bryant College

Sherman was an excellent and timely tonic for the emotional state that people (our audience!) are in right now. Among the many things he addressed were issues and perspectives around the 9/11 tragedy.

The Field Museum, Chicago

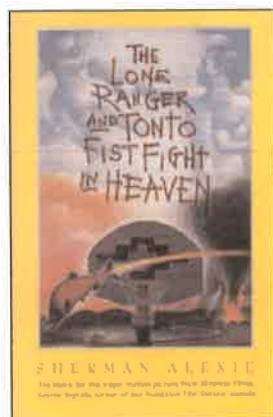
Sherman Alexie



Ten Little Indians offers eleven poignant and emotionally resonant new stories about Native Americans who, like all Americans, find themselves at personal and cultural crossroads, faced with heartrending, tragic, sometimes wondrous moments of being that test their loyalties, their capacities, and their notions of who they are and who they love. Sherman Alexie's stories are driven by a haunting lyricism and naked candor that cut to the heart of the human experience, shedding brilliant light on what happens when we grow into and out of each other.

(from: Grove Press, 2003)

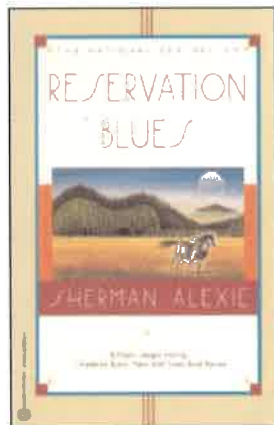
This is the story of two American Indian boys on a journey. Victor is a stoic, handsome son of an alcoholic father. Thomas is a gregarious young man who lost his parents at a very young age. When Victor's estranged father dies, the two embark on an adventure to Phoenix to collect the ashes. Along the way, *Smoke Signals* illustrates the ties that bind these two very different young men and embraces the lessons they learn from each other.



In this darkly comic short story collection, Sherman Alexie brilliantly weaves memory, fantasy and stark realism to paint a complex, grimly ironic portrait of life in and around the Spokane Indian Reservation. These 22 interlinked tales are narrated by characters raised on humiliation and government-issue cheese, and yet are filled with passion and affection, myth and dream.

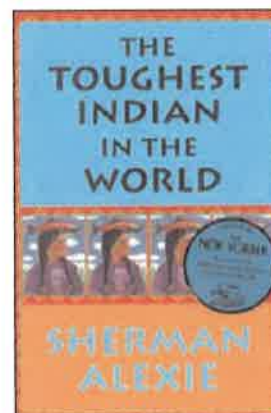
(continued) In Print

Sherman Alexie



In the 111-year life of the Spokane Indian reservation, not one person has arrived by accident, until the day the black stranger appears with nothing more than the suit he wears and his guitar. The man is legendary bluesman Robert Johnson, in flight from the devil and presumed long dead. And when he passes his enchanted instrument to young Thomas-Builds-the-Fire - storyteller, misfit and musician - a magical odyssey begins.

In this collection of stories, we meet the kinds of American Indians we rarely see in literature - the upper and middle class, the professionals and white-collar workers, the bureaucrats and poets, falling in and out of love and wondering if they will make their way home.



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Cultural Affairs Committee
including the
Distinguished Lecture Series
200 Alumni Hall
University of Maine

December 22, 2003

To: Robert White

From: Kathleen March & François Amar, Co-Chairs

On behalf of the Cultural Affairs Committee, including the Distinguished Lecture Series, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that your proposal, "Without Reservation", has been awarded \$6,000.00. **Please contact Wanda Legere at 1-1516 before your event takes place to arrange for disbursement of award funds.** Note: Reception and University of Maine System payroll expenses are not reimbursable through this award.

Please note that acknowledgment of the *Cultural Affairs Committee* is required on all promotional materials. **A budget report must be submitted at the conclusion of your event and will be considered for future funding requests.** It is assumed that projects are completed within 12 months, therefore, any remaining balance will be returned to the Committee account for further distribution unless otherwise notified.

The Committee notes that it does not fund more than 50% of the amount for any given program. It also asks applicants to consider the most reasonable honoraria possible, as there may not be funding for the higher amounts.

We, the members of the Cultural Affairs Committee, congratulate you and wish you much success on this project.

Division of Lifelong Learning
Office of the Dean



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TO: Kathleen March & Francois Amar, Co-Chairs
Cultural Affairs Committee

FROM: ^{RAW} Robert C. White, Dean, Division of Lifelong Learning

DATE: August 24, 2004

RE: Report on the Sherman Alexie Lecture

With the assistance of numerous campus entities, including the Cultural Affairs Committee, we were able to bring to campus author, poet, and screenwriter Sherman Alexie. By all accounts Alexie's visit was hugely successful with an attendance of approximately 800 at his evening lecture. In addition, a group of invited guests, primarily students, met with him prior to his lecture/performance. We were very pleased that the lecture and the reception preceding the lecture was well attended by members of Maine's Native communities and that many UMaine students chose to attend. I think anyone who attended Alexie's lecture would agree that he is dynamic, thought provoking, and "irreverent" as promised.

I wish to thank the Cultural Affairs Committee for its support of this event. Attached for your records is a financial accounting of the expenditures. The contribution of your Committee was much needed and much appreciated.

Enclosure

Alexie Expenses

Month	Expenses	Incoming Money	Description	Object Code
Mar-04	\$5,500.00		Alexie Partial Payment	400
	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	Provost commitment	
	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	Cultural Affairs Comm. Commitment	
Mar-04	\$188.00		Alexie Tix	450
Mar-04	\$36.04		Alexie Book Mark	450
Mar-04		\$2,000.00	Money received from acct# 5251117400	671
Apr-04	\$35.00		BK For Alexie Project	420
Apr-04	\$39.75		Alexie Q&A Cards	450
Apr-04	\$50.88		Alexie Receipt	455
May-04	\$65.00		Public Affairs video taping	660
May-04	\$514.88		Maine Center for the Arts travel, etc.	660
	\$1,540.00		Catering for reception	
		\$4,569.55	DLL Commitment (using Waba Ctr sal savings)	
		\$500.00	NAS contribution	
		\$200.00	English Dept.	
		\$700.00	Wabanaki Ctr contribution	
Subtotal	\$17,469.55	\$17,469.55		
TOTAL	\$0.00			
Paid Directly for Stipend:				
	Provost	\$3,500.00		
	CAC	\$6,000.00		
		\$9,500.00		
		\$15,000.00		