

THE SIMON ORTIZ AND LABRIOLA CENTER LECTURE ON INDIGENOUS LAND, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY

Maria Tallchief



lecture, film & q&a with
Sandy Osawa

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2014 | 7:00 p.m.
Heard Museum, Steele Auditorium (2301 N Central Ave) | www.heard.org | Phoenix, Arizona

Photo of Maria Tallchief in *Orpheus* courtesy of Sandy Osawa

This event is free of charge and open to the public.

Sandy Osawa (Makah) broke media barriers in the 1970s by launching the first ten-part national television series to be entirely produced, acted, and written by Native Americans. Her work continues to stand apart by combining old values with new stories, while challenging more popular images of Native Americans. Seventeen of Osawa's documentaries have been broadcast on both PBS and commercial television stations and over sixty non-broadcast works have been created for non-profit organizations.

Osawa was the first Native American filmmaker to produce a one-hour documentary for network television, called *The Eighth Fire*, which aired on NBC stations in 1992. *Lighting the 7th Fire* (1994) aired nationally on PBS, on a series called *P.O.V.* and was the first Indian-produced program for that major series. The film also captured top documentary honors at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco.

Osawa's film on *Maria Tallchief*, America's first prima ballerina, was broadcast on PBS from 2007-2010. The film swept Fargo's 2009 International Film Festival for "Best

Documentary" and "Best of Show" categories. *Maria Tallchief* is currently being extended to include additional footage of key dances including her innovative role as the first sugar plum fairy in "Nutcracker." Such an extension will enable the film to play in theaters and will target a new audience.

A growing number of colleges use her work in the classroom including UC Berkeley, Wesleyan University, UC Riverside, University of Arizona, University of Utah, The Evergreen State College, University of Oregon, University of Indiana, Harvard University, and others.

Osawa holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon and has done graduate work at UCLA and the University of Washington. She is the recipient of grants and awards from The Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the American Film Institute, Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT), Washington State Arts Commission, J. Roderick McArthur, the Muckleshoot Tribe, the George Soros Foundation, the King County Arts Commission, 4 Culture, and the Independent Television Service (ITVS).

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I THINK IT'S HEALTHY for us to define ourselves in a much broader, bigger way than the way the media likes to define us . . . I also think it's time that we define ourselves as a people of the present and future and not just of the past.

—SANDY OSAWA



Photo/courtesy Sandy Osawa

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The Simon Ortiz and Labriola Center Lecture on Indigenous Land, Culture, and Community at Arizona State University brings notable scholars and speakers to Arizona for public lectures twice per year. These speakers address topics and issues across disciplines in the arts, humanities, sciences, and politics. Underscoring Indigenous American experiences and perspectives, this series seeks to create and celebrate knowledge that evolves from an inclusive Indigenous worldview and that is applicable to all walks of life.

Sponsored by Arizona State University's American Indian Policy Institute; American Indian Studies Program; Department of English; School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies; Women and Gender Studies in the School of Social Transformation (all units in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences); Indian Legal Program in the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law; School of Art in the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts; and Labriola National American Indian Data Center; with tremendous support from the Heard Museum.