



# Hollywood's Indian: The Portrayal of the Native American in Film

*By Peter C. Rollins, John E. E. O'Connor*

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Offering both in-depth analyses of specific films and overviews of the industry's output, *Hollywood's Indian* provides insightful characterizations of the depiction of the Native Americans in film. This updated edition includes a new chapter on *Smoke Signals*, the groundbreaking independent film written by Sherman Alexie and directed by Chris Eyre. Taken as a whole the essays explore the many ways in which these portrayals have made an impact on our collective cultural life.

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#### Review

"A welcome contribution to the lively and timely debate on the representation of ethnic minorities in the media." -- *Zeitschrift für Anglistik und Amerikanistik*

"Important and ground breaking work." -- *Bookman News*

"Offers an engaging and timely update to previous critical anthologies." -- *H-Net Book Review*

"The essays provide valuable ways to think about the meaning and impact of Hollywood's portrayal of American Indian characters." -- *Great Plains Quarterly*

"The value of this collection resides in the concentrated attention it gives to the portrayal of Native Americans on film." -- *Journal of American Ethnic History*

#### From the Inside Flap

"Illustrates the widely varying trends and depictions of the American Indian in films"—from the foreword by Wilcomb E. Washburn

"Hollywood's representation of Indians is a subject which up till now has generated a lot more heat than light. This welcome new collection of essays covers a lot of ground . . . including a valuable piece on Michael Mann's *The Last of the Mohicans* and earlier versions of Cooper's "Leatherstocking Tales," a surprisingly and convincingly sympathetic essay on *Dances with Wolves*, and an informative account of Pocahontas."—Edward Buscombe

"The essays are useful, enabling readers to construct a cinematic chronology of the Hollywood Indian and to comprehend the larger cultural forces at work interpreting the Indian-white past on screen."--Choice

"Will become the standard source for reference for an important subject, not only in American contemporary popular culture, but for evolving attitudes in a new century."--Film and History

"Raises interesting issues and challenges readers to consider the complex realities of American Indian cultures and Indian/non-Indian relations that major motion pictures often fail to communicate."--American Graduate

"The essays add to the growing literature on films about American Indians, and individually, they provide interesting insights into the process of movie-making and viewing."--North Carolina Historical Review

"The essays are solid pieces that place the films in a proper historical and artistic context."--Journal of American History

"An engaging and timely update to previous critical anthologies."—Journal of American Culture

"Rollins and O'Connor have skillfully blended a variety of thoughtful viewpoints."—Chronicles of Oklahoma

“A collection of quality essays, put together by two of the leading experts in this particular topic area.”—Communication Booknotes Quarterly

#### About the Author

Peter C. Rollins, Regents Professor of American Studies at Oklahoma State University, is the editor of *Hollywood as Historian* and of the journal *Film & History*.

John E. O'Connor is professor of history at the New Jersey Institute of Technology and the founding editor of *Film & History*.

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