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### Entertainment

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## Attend Native American cultural event this weekend

**Deborah Nicol**  
The Desert Sun  
March 17, 2007

Great films rely on great dialogue, so it stands to reason that a good storyteller can hold his own without a large, vinyl screen. Members of the California Indian Storytelling Association plan to prove that today.

The Native American Film Festival and Cultural Weekend is hosting the eighth annual Southern California Indian Storytelling Festival for the second year in a row. It is a showcase for the best raconteurs in the state, part of the only such organized group in the country.

Providing exposure to a form of Native American culture apart from more familiar powwow entertainment, the audience will hear a variety of stories ranging from comedy relief to serious morality tales. Performers integrate tradition with original presentation, as many have only recently reconnected with their heritage to develop this talent.

"Hopefully these stories will help preserve teaching both internally and externally," says O'Jay Vanegas, Education Director for the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum.

After a full day of storytelling, the film festival awaits at the Camelot Theatres. A documentary double-feature includes the sharply poignant "The Canary Effect" and "Standing Silent Nation."

Cast and crew reunite for a screening of the comical yet culturally significant 1998 film, "Smoke Signals."

On Sunday, kids will be entertained by a Native American animated shorts program. The festival concludes with the one-woman jazz musical, "The Velvet Devil."

### 6TH ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN FILM FEST & CULTURAL WEEKEND

All screenings at Camelot Theatres, 2300 E. Baristo Road, 325-6565

#### Saturday, March 17

10 a.m. Southern California Indian Storytelling Festival (until 5 p.m.) Pavilion Auditorium, Sunrise Park

5 p.m. The Canary Effect Standing Silent Nation

8 p.m. Smoke Signals

#### Sunday, March 18

5 p.m. Native American family shorts

7 p.m. Closing night reception

8 p.m. The Velvet Devil

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