



Jim Thorpe: World's Greatest Athlete

Director/Producer/Writer
Tom Weidlinger

Tom Weidlinger is an independent filmmaker who has been writing, directing and producing documentary films for 30 years. Nineteen of his films have received national broadcasts on public television. Many have won prestigious festival and industry awards, and are in educational distribution. Weidlinger's work deals with a wide range of subjects, from the emotional development of boys in the United States to humanitarian aid in the Congo. The themes of social justice and human relations run through his films. Detailed information on recent works can be found at www.moiraproductions.com. For his most recent film *Jim Thorpe, The World's Greatest Athlete*, Weidlinger teamed up with co-writer Joseph Bruchac, the Abenaki author and storyteller. The film is a biography of the legendary Native American athlete.

Weidlinger graduated from the Center for Advanced Film Studies of the American Film Institute in 1977. He was awarded a William Benton Fellowship in Broadcast Journalism at the University of Chicago in 1993. He has received writing fellowships and residencies at the Ragdale Foundation, the Ossabaw Island Foundation, and the McDowell Colony. He has written two feature film screenplays and been commissioned to write and develop numerous proposals and teleplays for public television.

Producer/Writer
Joseph Bruchac

Joseph Bruchac is a traditional storyteller and writer whose work often reflects his Abenaki Indian ancestry and his lifelong interest in American Indian history and culture. Winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native Writers Circle of the Americas and Storyteller of the Year from the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers, his work has appeared in hundreds of publications from American Poetry Review to National Geographic. The author of over 120 books for children and adults, his titles include JIM THORPE, ORIGINAL ALL-AMERICAN, OUR STORIES REMEMBER (Fulcrum), and MARCH TOWARD THE THUNDER (Dial).

As a professional teller of the traditional tales of the Adirondacks and the Native peoples of the Northeastern Woodlands, Joe has performed throughout the United States from Florida to Hawaii and has been featured at such events as the British Storytelling Festival and the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesboro, Tennessee. He's been a storyteller-in residence for Native American organizations and schools throughout the continent, including the Institute of Alaska Native Arts and the Onondaga Nation School. He discusses Native culture and his books and does storytelling programs at dozens of elementary and secondary schools each year as a visiting author. From 1973 to 1981, he directed a college program inside a maximum security prison.