

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

WRITER/DIRECTOR—Bennie Klain

Navajo filmmaker Bennie Klain is a founding partner of the Austin-based production company TricksterFilms. As chief creative officer, Klain oversees all artistic decisions in all stages of development and production.

An award-winning journalist and filmmaker, Klain's media career began as program director for public radio station KGHR-FM in Tuba City, Ariz. He went on to anchor three daily Navajo language newscasts at KTNN AM 660 on the Navajo Nation. His programs were recognized by the Arizona Associated Press and the New Mexico Broadcaster's Association.

Before earning his B.S. in radio-television-film at the University of Texas at Austin, Klain co-produced the acclaimed documentary, *The Return of Navajo Boy*, in 2000, and was a writer/producer/director of the short narrative, *Yada Yada*, in 2002. Both films premiered in the Sundance Film Festival. Klain has also co-produced and directed *Share the Wealth*, a short experimental narrative that situates a homeless Native American woman on a busy street corner.

Since 2002, Bennie has been the Native programming liaison for the annual Ciné las Américas film festival in Austin. He is also a 2004 and 2008 nominee for the prestigious Rockefeller Media Fund Fellowship and has been a Sundance Institute fellow for several years. Klain is also a recent nominee for the USA Media Fellowship.

He is currently directing *Lost Tribes*, a documentary that explores American issues of free speech, tolerance, and ethnic pride against the backdrop of the Columbus Day controversy in Denver, Colo.

Klain is *Honágháahnii* (One Walks around Clan), born for *Táchii'nii* (Red Running into the Water Clan).