

**Drew Hayden Taylor explores everything from the weird and wacky to the deep and profound ways Indigenous Peoples impact the world in *Going Native***



**Available for interviews:** Drew Hayden Taylor

**Downloadable Trailer:** [HERE](#)

**Facebook:** @Going-Native-TV-102327638251627

**Instagram:** @goingnativetv

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**Press Materials available at:** <https://www.goingnativetv.com/>

**Screeners available upon request**

**April 7, 2021, Toronto, Ontario** – Sam Karney (*A Life on the Line*) and Andrew Wiens (*A Life on the Line*) of Ice River Films are pleased to announce that the IndigiGonzo series, *Going Native*, starring Drew Hayden Taylor (*Cottagers & Indians*, *Searching for Winnetou*, *Mixed Blessings*) will premiere on Canada’s national Indigenous network APTN. The half hour, 13-episode series premieres Saturday, May 8, 2021.

In ***Going Native***, celebrated Anishinaabe humorist and author Drew Hayden Taylor turns his comic gaze on how Indigenous Peoples have changed the world and are re-shaping their culture in the 21st century. Each episode takes on one theme, from pop culture to architecture, as Drew takes viewers on a wild journey of discovery from concert halls to desert ruins and from video game conventions to treacherous cliff pole-fishing expeditions.

Every episode is its own unique adventure, and Drew’s perspective ties it together. When people think about Native buildings, they think about teepees, longhouses and wigwams. But Drew Hayden Taylor is thinking about the revolutionary architects that are creating zero-emission communities on the West Coast. When people think about Native food they think about pemmican and seal blubber; but Drew is tucking into nouvelle cuisine in downtown

Toronto and learning how traditional “companion planting” of crops is revolutionizing today’s agriculture. When people think about Native culture, they think about beads and dancing, while Drew is watching zombie movies and checking out graffiti artists.

Written by Drew Hayden Taylor, Kurt Spenrath and Paul Kemp, *Going Native* is directed by Sam Karney, Paul Kemp (*Cottagers & Indians*, *Searching for Winnetou*), Andrew Wiens and Kurt Spenrath (*Queen of the Oil Patch*). Produced by Sam Karney, Andrew Wiens, and Kurt Spenrath, and executive produced by Paul Kemp of Paul Kemp Productions and Drew Hayden Taylor.

“I have always felt this kind of series was sorely needed in the Indigenous community. If you look at a lot of the literature and media about our communities, the focus always seems to be on the negative, or perhaps more accurately the dark, depressing, sad, bleak, and angry perspective of Indigenous life,” says writer/producer/host Drew Hayden Taylor. “As somebody who’s travelled to over 150 First Nation communities, I know for a fact that there is so much more to us. Just down the road and across the field there’s laughter, there’s beauty, there’s the unexpected and there’s the knowledge nobody knows about. Well, maybe we knew, but not everybody did. And that is where the fun begins.”

*Going Native* has been commissioned and financed by APTN, with financial contributions also coming from The Canada Media Fund, Manitoba Film and Music and Ontario Creates.

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### **ABOUT DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR**

Drew Hayden Taylor is an award-winning playwright, novelist, journalist and filmmaker. Born and living on the Curve Lake First Nation (Anishinaabe) in Ontario, he has done everything from stand-up comedy at the Kennedy Centre in Washington D.C. to serving as artistic director of Native Earth Performing Arts, Canada’s leading Indigenous theatre company. The author of 33 books, Drew likes to travel the world, spreading the gospel of Native literature and storytelling.

### **ABOUT ICE RIVER FILMS**

Ice River Films was established in Winnipeg in 2013 by Sam Karney and Andrew Wiens to pursue a passion for storytelling through the lens of documentary filmmaking. Propelled by early work in short film for CBC and Bell MTS, their first hour-long documentary, *A Life on the Line* (APTN), explored Sam’s Métis roots and family tradition of working a trap line. Travelling the world, the duo has since worked on several docuseries including, *High Maintenance* (Smithsonian Canada), *Polar Bear Town* (Smithsonian US), *Taken* (APTN/CBC) and *First Contact* (S02, APTN). Their latest, *Going Native* (APTN), is hosted by Drew Hayden Taylor.

### **ABOUT PAUL KEMP PRODUCTIONS**

Paul Kemp Productions is a multiple award-winning TV series and feature documentary film

company based in Toronto. With over 50 films and series produced over the years, and with sales in over 140 countries, some of the company's notable productions include: *Searching for Winnetou* (CBC), *Transformer* (CBC, Netflix USA), *The Rise of Jordan Peterson* (CBC, SKY UK, Amazon), *Village of the Missing* (CBC, Sundance Now), *Cottagers & Indians* (CBC), *The Science of Sin* (Discovery International), *Rise of the Trolls* (Amazon + 80 countries) and *Infestation* (UKTV, ZDF-GERMANY).

#### **ABOUT APTN**

[APTN](#) launched in 1999 as the world's first national Indigenous broadcaster, creating a window into the remarkably diverse mosaic of Indigenous Peoples. A respected non-profit and charitable broadcaster, it's the only one of its kind in North America. The network is *Sharing Our Stories* of authenticity in English, French and a variety of Indigenous languages to over 10 million Canadian subscribers. With over 80% Canadian content, APTN connects with its audiences through genuine, inspiring and engaging entertainment on multiple platforms.

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