

HIGH EAGLE

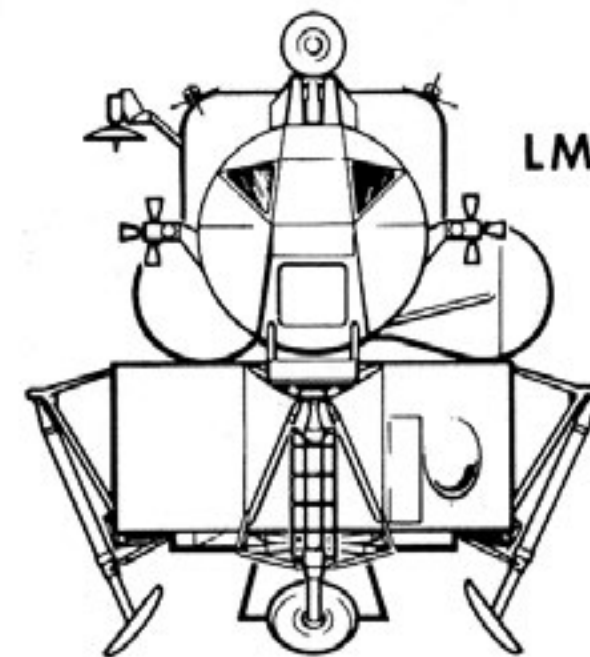


“THE EAGLE THAT FLIES HIGHEST, IS CLOSEST TO GOD. MY NAME MEANS CLOSE TO GOD”

JERRY ELLIOT HIGH EAGLE - NASA ROCKET SCIENTIST

High Eagle is the story of a Native American who looked up at the moon as a boy and received a vision that he would one day help mankind land on the lunar surface - an idea so preposterous at the time it was thought of as far off science fiction.

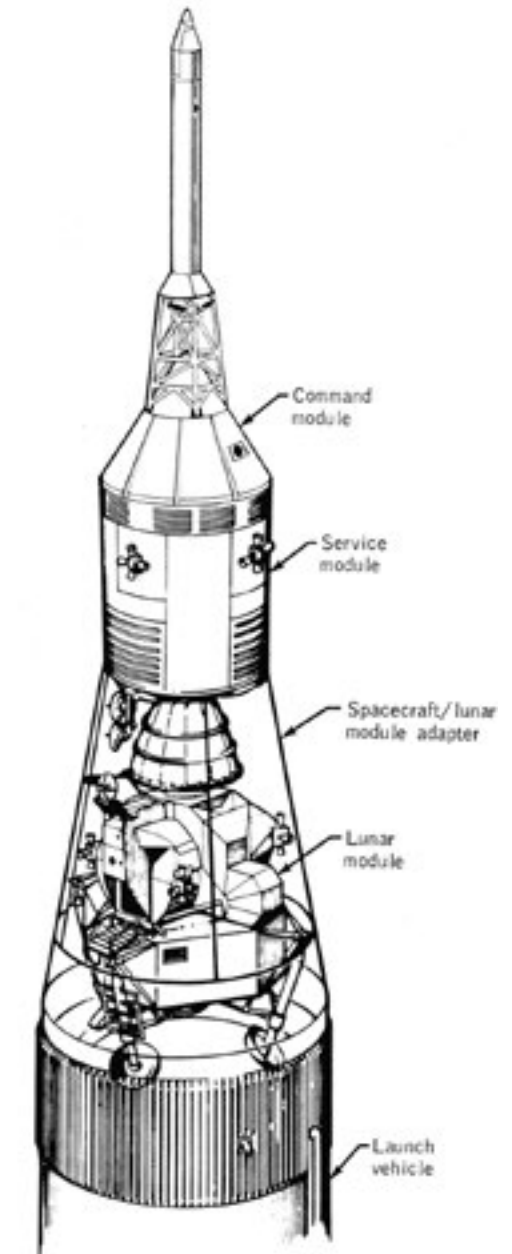
This is the story of Jerry Elliott High Eagle, the first Native American rocket scientist ever hired at NASA, and the sacrifices and triumphs he endured to make his vision a reality.



BASIC PLOT LINE FOR HIGH EAGLE:

Raised by a single mother in Oklahoma, a land still coming to terms with the legacy of the Trail of Tears, High Eagle struggled to find his place in a society at odds with his American Indian heritage. It was during this time that Jerry received a vision from God that would come to shape his life, that he was destined to put man on the moon.

Determined to fulfill this vision, High Eagle became the first Native American to obtain a degree in physics from the University of Oklahoma despite the bigotry and intimidation he faced from fellow students and professors alike who didn't believe Indians had the intellect for higher mathematics.



Undaunted by the barriers he had to break, High Eagle was the first Native American ever hired as a NASA rocket scientist. Yet despite becoming a critical member of mission control at the height of the space race, he continued to battle the same prejudices and intolerance he'd known his whole life. Undeterred, he remained focused on fulfilling his destiny to get mankind to the moon.

As triumphant a moment as it was when Neil Armstrong stepped onto a world that was not our own, it was High Eagle's crucial and heroic efforts during the fated Apollo 13 mission that garnered him the Presidential Medal of Freedom. With the astronauts drifting hopelessly through the void of space, High Eagle created his now famous "sling shot round the moon", the calculation that was used to send Apollo 13 astronauts around the dark side of the moon, returning them safely back to Earth.

In addition to playing a critical role in the Apollo moon mission Jerry also wrote the legislation that led to Native American Week, celebrated to this day, which encourages members of every tribe to embrace their heritage and their own destiny.

THE STORY TELLER:

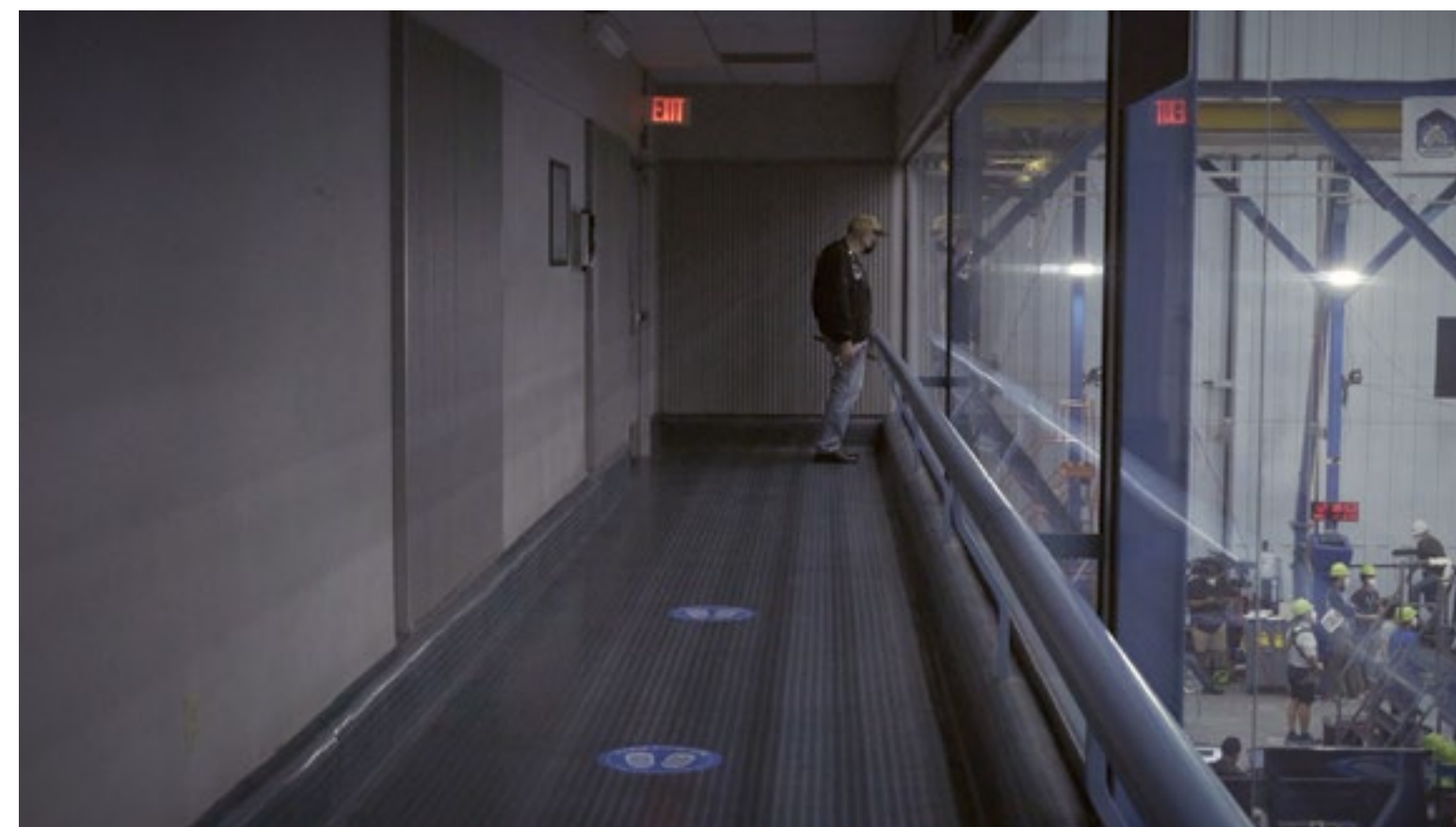
As a nearly 80 year old Jerry Elliot High Eagle recounts his life story to filmmaker Sebastian Rogers in a series of interviews shot in December 2020, his compelling, sage demeanor casts a spell over the listener.



His storytelling is rich with wisdom and mystery as he describes childhood visions from God, miraculous close calls with fate and his many encounters with prejudice as he becomes the first Native American to leave Oklahoma University (a place where professors openly told him “Natives don’t have the brain for Math”) with a Physics degree and is recruited to NASA where he again battles for respect as the only non-white hire in the command centre.



As the filmmaker journeys with Jerry, visiting NASA and walking in nature, deep spiritual insights emerge about the relationship between science and a creator God and the destruction and suffering caused when ego becomes the master of ones spirit. And as the stories from an illustrious life and career are revealed, the theme of the film - It is good to be led by something outside oneself - is illustrated again and again.



THE HUMAN ELEMENT:



Jerry is raised by a single mom who instils in him a deep sense of his purpose and belief in his calling.



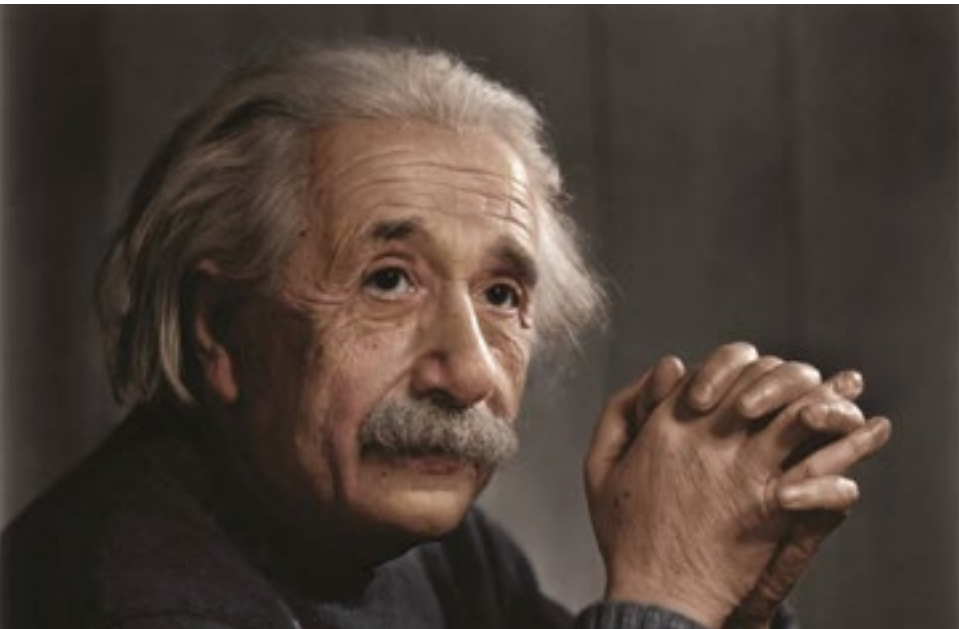
Jerry is mentored by his wise and stoic maternal grandfather, into a peace giving belief in his destiny and vision, even in the face of looming disaster - like an extremely near miss with the Vietnam draft.

Their presence and strengthening influence over Jerry will be expressed during the emotional high points of the movie, by the creative use of atmospheric visual flash backs - recreations of Jerry's childhood encouragements by them, shot in Oklahoma.



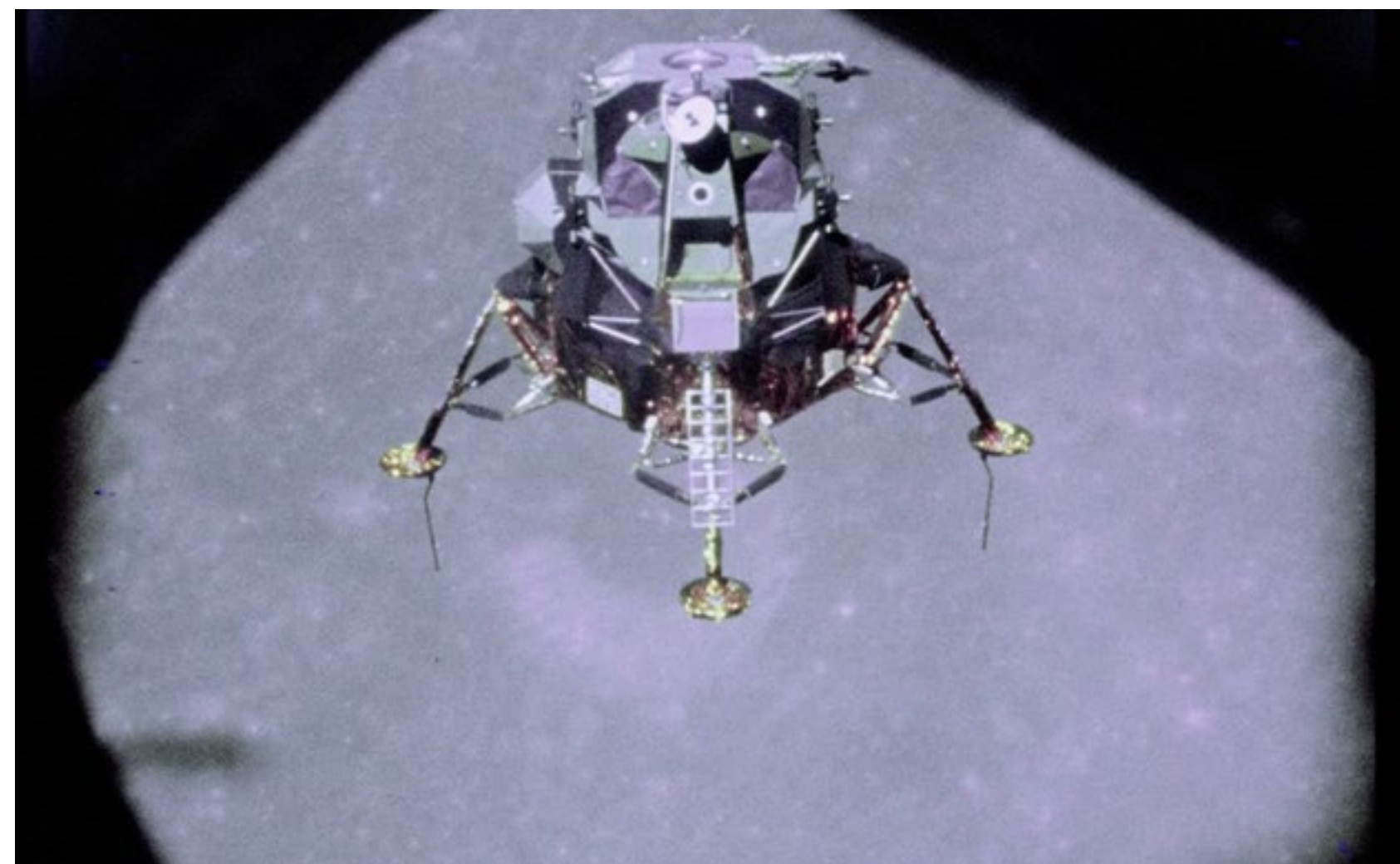
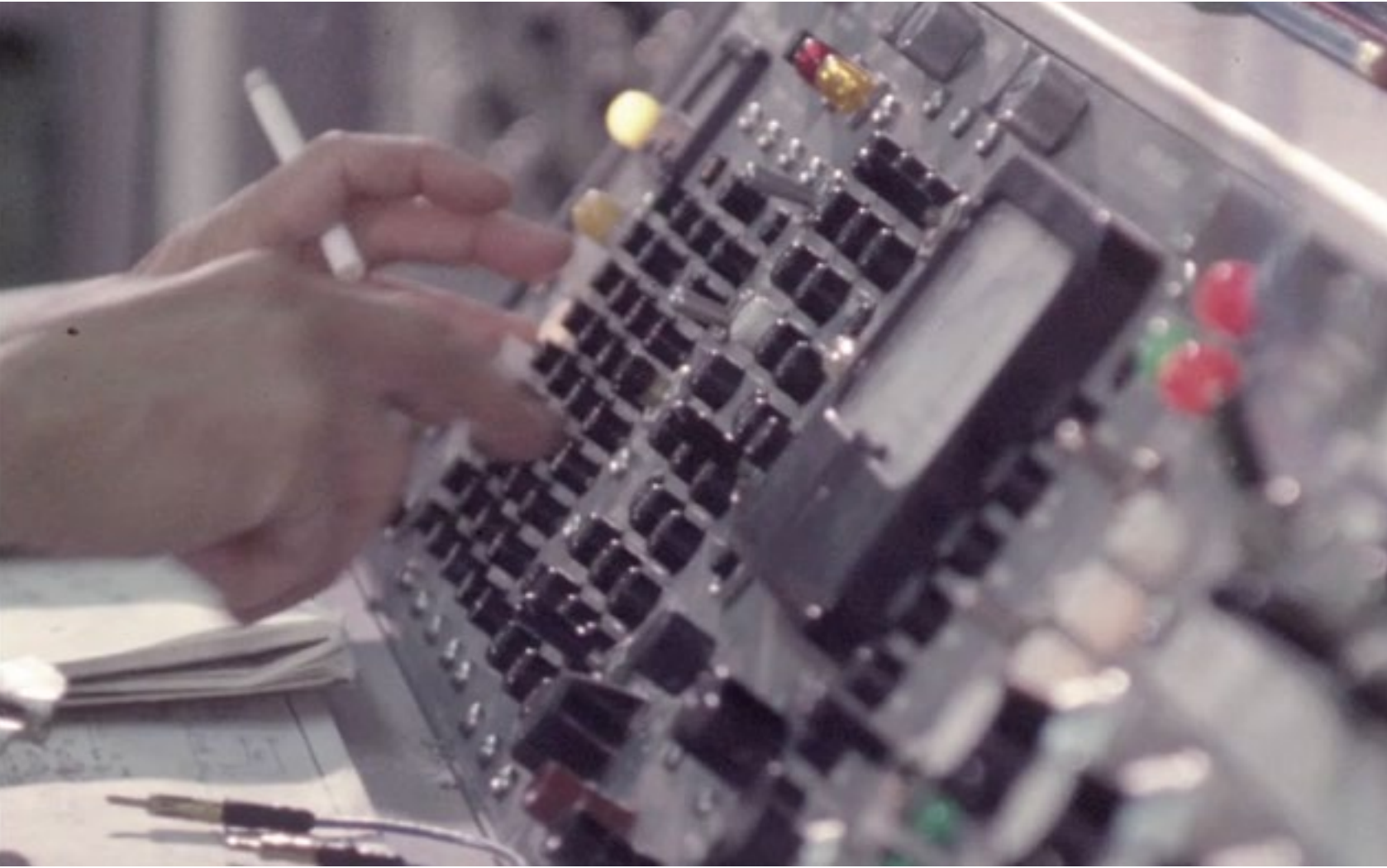
POP CULTURE

Layers of nostalgia and irony will be added throughout the film by the inclusion of pop culture and documentary media: illustrating the passing of history and the changing world views



NASA ARCHIVES

The extensive, public-domain NASA film and photography archives, provide an endless resource of dynamic and exciting illustrative b-roll. Although Jerry's career spans the entire Apollo era and beyond - we will be focusing on the Apollo 1, Apollo 11 and Apollo 13 stories.



ANIMATION

We plan to produce three animated sequences for the film by facilitating a collaboration between a Native artist and an established animation production studio.

1: INTRO: After an atmospheric cold start sequence, the opening titles roll over images of Oklahoma and its “Indian Territory” heritage. Credits are accompanied by animated native symbols like arrows, teepees and animals interspersed with highly modern objects from the NASA story like rocket ships and command modules etc. all produced in a Native American art style.

2: PHILOSOPHY: As we enter part two of Act 2 we exit the excitement of the Apollo 11 moon landing and enter a movement where Jerry describes the prejudiced and limited attitudes he confronted while at NASA. He goes on to explain how his Native spirituality allows him to see no disconnection between the science and technology he works hard to perfect and the creator God he lives to serve - This sequence is accompanied by metamorphosing images which illustrate the moving and powerful philosophy he is explaining.

3: END TITLE SEQUENCE: As the credits roll and the powerful live version of Hill Song’s “So Will I” (A popular worship song that unites concepts of evolution, the creator God and the creation of the universe) plays, the viewer will be taken on a journey through stars, galaxies and nebula (animated using NASA photography of the universe). As we journey constellations of stars - created using the same iconic images from nature, native culture and science - will appear and be passed through - leaving the viewer elated and inspired.



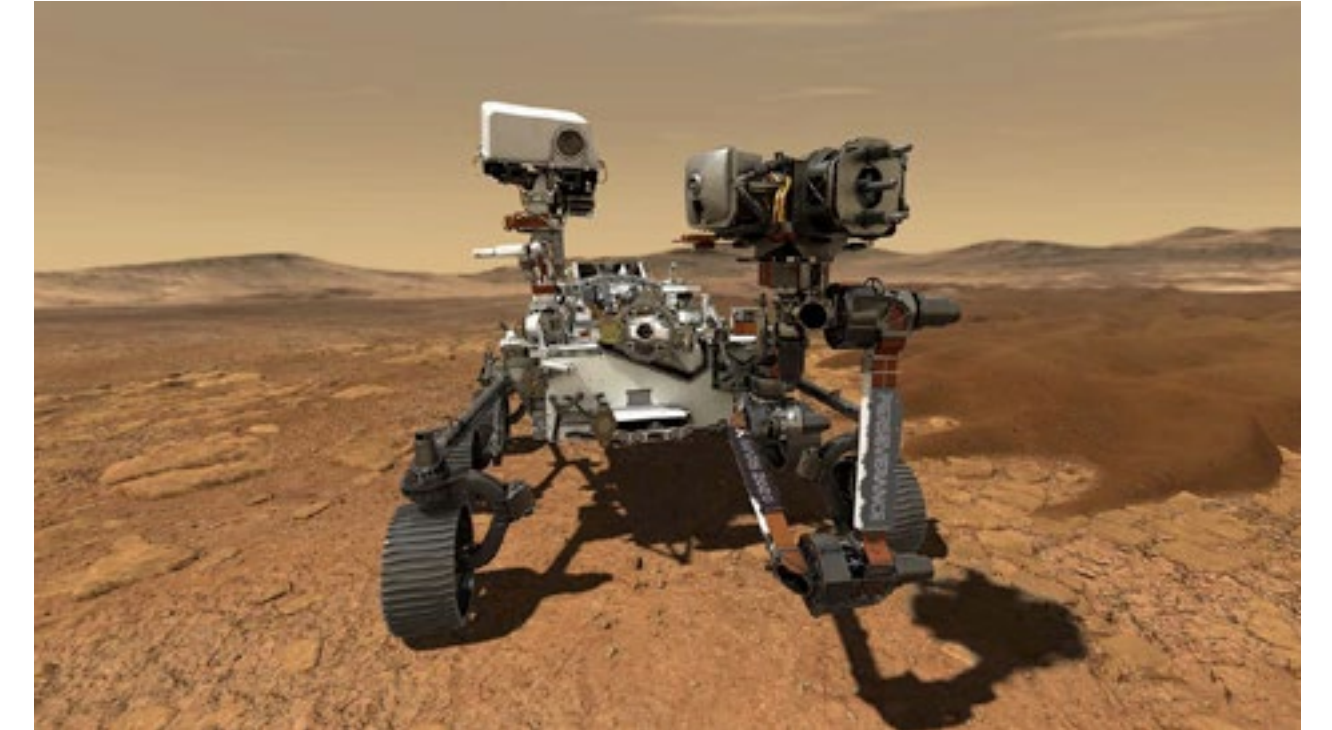
ADDITIONAL CHARACTERS



AARON YAZZIE is a Navajo NASA scientist responsible in part for the design and development of the recently landed Mars rover Perseverance.

He was inspired to pursue a career in science as a young boy by an organization Jerry founded (American Indian Science and Engineering Society AISES) for that explicit purpose.

Jerry has always been a hero and inspiration to Aaron since he attended AISES events as a boy.



MANDY is one of Jerry's daughters, she lives close by him and is devoted and loving. She tells what it was like to be a child in a community where everyone's father worked at NASA and rocket launches were regular community occasions.

She gives us insight into the softer side of Jerry's character, that his stoic persona might hide.



COMPARATIVE DOCUMENTARIES

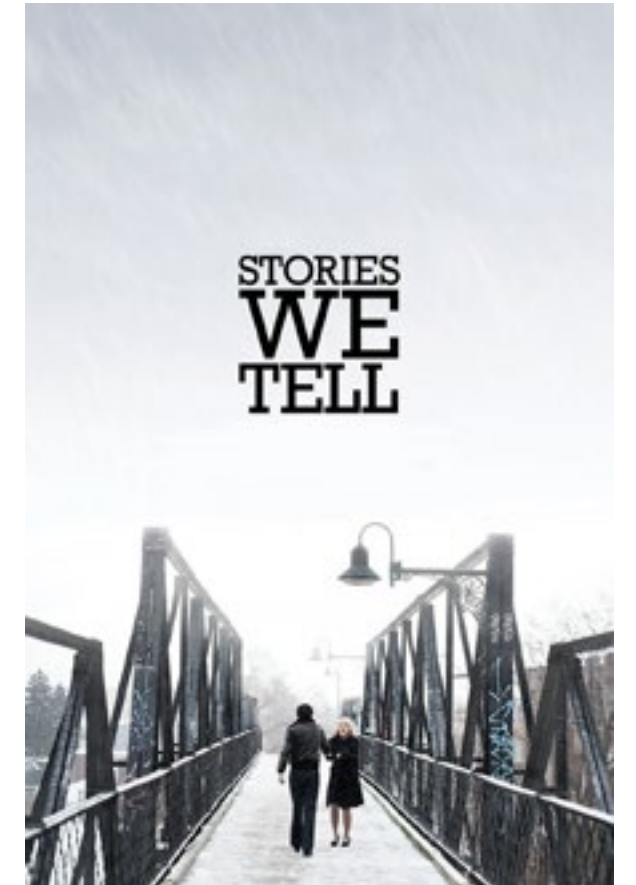
SARAH POLLEY'S STORIES WE TELL



Sarah's main interviewee/story teller (her aging father) has the same down to earth, yet noble air as our subject Jerry.

The film's great plot line (a family with a devastating secret) is more a vehicle for the theme (the subjective nature of story itself), than the theme simply adding substance to the story.

This is the effect I hope to achieve with High Eagle. The exciting story (NASA's/Jerry's many accomplishments and adventures), will be secondary to the powerful theme "it's good to be led by something outside of yourself" or (stated in more complex terms) being led by something (Vision/calling/loyalty/mission) outside of oneself brings strength, effectiveness and resilience. Contrasted with being led by one's ego, which can be misleading, easily manipulated or defeated by adversity.



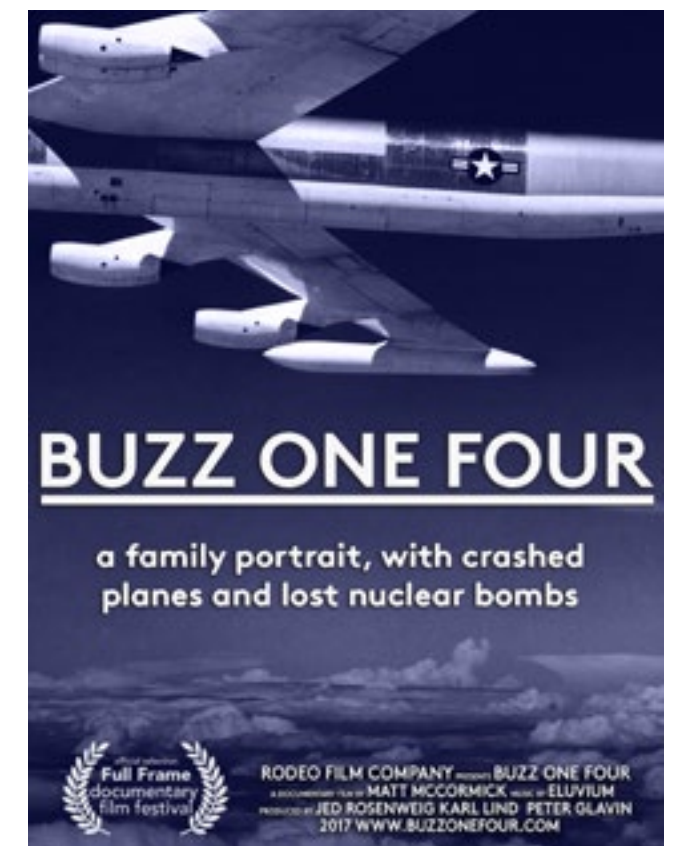
MATT MCCORMICK'S BUZZ ONE FOUR



Just like High Eagle, Matt's story is one directly from American history and popular imagination (threat of nuclear destruction during the Cold War), meaning there is an abundance of archival and documentary footage at his disposal.

However, also like High Eagle, he has an untold personal story (that of his grandfather who very nearly caused a nuclear disaster on American soil) through which to transform the viewer's vision of the familiar scenario.

Unlike High Eagle, Matt lacks a first hand account told by his grandfather and therefore must rely on excessive voiceover.



CONTACT: INFO@PVPDX.COM

THANK YOU