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- ARTS
- MUSIC
- FOOD
- FILM
- DIGITAL IQ
- COVER STORIES
- COLUMNS
- PROFILES
- SPORTS
- BOOKS
- CAREERS
- CLASSIFIEDS
- ADVENTURES

- 

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- ADVERTISING
- CONTACT

**LATEST EVENTS**

**The Una Vida Art Project**  
November 2, 2012 (5:30 pm)  
(Art)

**An Evening with Branfo...**  
November 14, 2012 (7:00 pm)  
(Music)

**Storytime with Murf Bo...**  
November 15, 2012 (1:00 pm)  
(Talks & Readings)

**Monotype Madness**  
November 17, 2012 (10:00 am)  
(Art)

**EVENT CALENDAR**

November 2012						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2 3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

- CLASSIFIEDS**
- Message for Women  
For Sale Film  
(08.11.2012)
  - St. Jude Novena  
Exchange Therapeutic  
(08.11.2012)
  - Message Room \$10

**Fact or Fiction?**

Thursday, 15 November 2012



*Multimedia performance investigates Native American history via contemplative, informative production*

**By Jennifer Moreland**  
Native American history cannot be defined, nor understood for that matter, solely by the written word. From the outside, Native American history appears somewhat obscure, bearing no clear definition. However, I know this much: It's simply sacred. It's rooted in long-established customs, including detailed religious practices and rituals. It's also multi-faceted and multi-cultural, encompassing a range of Native American groups that maintain their own unique histories and traditions.

While I'm the last person to claim adequate knowledge of such a remarkable history, I do know that, from the onset, native peoples have had little to no voice in how their history or culture is interpreted, understood and represented.

Instead, their culture(s), religious practices and personal histories have often been written for them by outsiders, and what is confined to pen and paper is sadly misrepresented and misunderstood.

"What is fact? Those that write the history, write the fact," said Susanna Kearney of the VSA North Fourth Art Center. "How do you write a history for a culture that is so multifaceted? One that is based primarily on oral tradition and ritual?" Such a question epitomizes the world premier of *The History of Asking the Wrong Question* — written and directed by American playwright Ain Gordon in collaboration with Albuquerque filmmakers Ramona Emerson (Navajo) and Kelly Byars (Choctaw) of Reel Indian Pictures.

**The History of Asking the Wrong Question**

8p, Fri.-Sat.,  
Nov. 16-17  
N4th Theater  
4904 4th NW,  
505.344.4542  
**\$15, \$10**  
sen./stu.  
[vsartsnm.org](http://vsartsnm.org)

*The History of Asking the Wrong Question* is a multimedia play of past and present. It probes the notion of: What is history? Generally speaking, the term "history" itself is a bit murky and encompasses several parts. In my mind, it's composed of factual information, containing a long set of interpretations, forgotten memories and biased accounts to any given event, person or group of people. *The History of Asking the Wrong Question* demonstrates how cloudy history can be and compels us to ask the particular question: Do we really know Native American history? And significantly, this absorbing production asks: What is history for Native Americans, who have all too often been excluded as authors of their own histories?

"This performance is important for several reasons. It is a combination of film and theater, which is a bit unusual," said Kearney. "It's also significant in that

Gordon is a recognized playwright. He turns history upside-down a bit by questioning the questions that construct history."

Gordon is a three-time Obie Award winning writer, actor and director based in New York City. His work frequently challenges the deeply-engrained "facts" of American history and focuses primarily on misrepresented and overlooked histories of marginalized people and events. In short, his work aims to narrow the gaps between historical fact and fiction. Gordon's creative imagination of American history, theatrical performance and good-old fashion storytelling ranges from African-American personal biography in *In This Place* and historical events such as the natural hurricane disaster of 1900 in *A Disaster Begins*.

Husband and wife duo Byars and Emerson also bring an intellectual and professional touch to the production. Emerson, a renowned videographer, writer and editor was awarded the Student Spirit Award at the Indian Summer Film Festival in 2003; and, in 2010, was awarded the Native Lab Fellowship from the Sundance Filmmakers Institute for her screenplay *Opal*. Byars is a notable filmmaker, producer, actor, sculptor and educator. In 2005, he received the Outstanding Performance Award from the First Americans in the Arts for his role as Delbert Tsosie in the Chris Eyre-directed TV movie *A Thief of Time*.

In an artistic combination of recorded and live action, *The History of Asking the Wrong Question* will be performed by a multicultural cast, including actors from New York City and Native American performers. Without question, *The History of Asking the Wrong Question* is a contemplative and informative theatrical production that brings to light a history that is so often overlooked and disregarded ... until now.

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