



JOANELLE ROMERO

An American media proprietor, Romero's career spans over forty-four years in the entertainment industry as an acclaimed actress in film and television, Award-winning director, producer, writer, marketer, film distributor, recording artist, singer/songwriter and humanitarian. Through her organization *Red Nation Celebration Institute*, now in its 26th year and representing over 570+ Native Nations, Romero has mentored more than 839 Native Indigenous filmmakers through the Institute's labs and fellowships. Romero has curated some 5000+ movies written, produced and directed by Native Indigenous people that premiered at the *Red Nation International Film Festival* and through her *Red Nation Television Network*. Romero is deeply committed to amplifying Native-Indigenous Storytellers in mainstream media worldwide. Joanelle is born of Mescalero-Chiricahua Apache, Diné'tah, Paiute and is Spanish- Sephardic. A relative of Pojaoque, Pawnee, Southern Ute, Haudenosaunee and Lakota. Joanelle is a traditional Sundancer, Chanupa-carrier and 40-years sober. Romero is also a mother of two children, (who themselves are graduates of Yale University and Berklee College of Music), and an active grandma of three.

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Joanelle Romero on IMDB

WORK EXPERIENCE

1977 - Present

ACTRESS

Accomplishments

- Romero's career spans over forty+ decades as an accomplished actress in over 20 episodic television and feature film roles. Romero has worked and co-starred with some of the best in the business, i.e. Demi Moore, Willie Nelson, Raquel Welch, Alex Baldwin, Gary Busey, Russell Means, as well as notable directors: George Schaefer, Oliver Stone, Fred Schepisi, Gregory Hoblit, Charles Band, Mel Damski, Ricky Schroder, and Aaron Lipstadt
- The Girl Called Hatter Fox* (1977). First Contemporary American Indian Woman's story produced and first-time a native actress carried a leading role in a contemporary movie
- Powwow Highway* (1989), directed by George Harrison. The first feature-film that changed the Native Narrative forever.
- Home Home on the Rez* (1996). First Pilot all-Native Drama Series in the U.S.
- Wild Indian* (2021) Cast by Director's request

1979 - Present

RECORDING ARTIST & SINGER-SONGWRITER

Accomplishments

- The Legendary Leonard Cohen produced Romero's first records at A&M Records; the first artist Mr. Cohen produced
- Film Score credits include: *Rockin' Warriors*, a documentary film produced in Luxemburg for U.S. This film was broadcast in Europe and aired on the Oxygen Network and the Arts Channel. Her music can also be heard in such films as *American Holocaust: When It's All Over I'll Still Be Indian* (short-listed for an Academy Award), *Vendetta*, a Roger Corman Film, and PBS Series *POSITIVE: Life With HIV*, (broadcast nationally in 1996)
- Multiple Grammy Considerations (2002 - 2005)
- Toured with Sarah McLachlan on the *Little Fair Tour* alongside Sinead O'Connor, The Indigo Girls and Natalie Merchant.
- Music Video credits include: *Why Can't You Take Me Like I Am*, *I Left My Heart With You*, *Thunder in the River*
- BILLBOARD Magazine featured Romero prominently in the first-ever special issue focusing on contemporary American Indian music. Since then, BILLBOARD Magazine has included Romero in every summer issue in their Native American Music interviews
- Also produced by: Henry Lewy, Roscco Beck, Richard T Bear, Ron Tyson of The Temptations
- Romero has opened for notable artists as Rick Danko of The Band, Kris Kristofferson, Stevie Wonder, Eric Anderson, John Trudell, Paul Butterfield, Tin Machine, Freddie Fender, Ritchie Havens and Roseanne Cash
- Romero has been invited to perform by the Holiness Dalai Lama, The United Nations 60th Anniversary, Jane Goodall, Cesar Chavez National Holidays, Gandhi's Grandson for Peace Day, Earth Day Celebrations and EMA Awards

1977 - Present

FILM DIRECTOR

Accomplishments

- First and only (but not the last) Native Filmmaker to be short-listed for an Academy Award for her film *American Holocaust: When It's All Over I'll Still Be Indian* (2000)
- RNCI RED NATION AWARDS: The Only Native Awards Show, broadcast and live-streamed since 2013
- RNCI and Red Nation Conversation Series: Native-Indigenous conversations with high-profile artists and industry professionals
- LET'S HEAR YOUR FUNNY: A Native-Indigenous Comedy Series
- Melvin & John - The First Story on Native Men Living with HIV/AIDS
- Romero is a Documentary Award-Winning Director whose filmography includes *The Third Verse 500 Years: The Land of the Children*

PRODUCER

Accomplishments

- RED BLANKET - HOME, HOME ON THE REZ (1996), the first all-Native drama series produced in the U.S.
- The *American Holocaust: A Film & Conversation Original Series* dedicated to the Native Perspective (3 Episodes)
- RNCI *Red Nation Awards Shows*, in-person and online (2013 to present)
- Red Nation Conversation Series* (1995 to present)
- The Adventures Of Thomasina Sawyer* (James Franco Film)
- The Third Verse 500 Years: The Land of the Children*
- Melvin & John - The First Story on Native Men Living with HIV/AIDS*
- Red Nation Celebration Concert Series* (since 1995) and Other Numerous Concerts (since 1978)
- In 2007, produced the Mayor Reception welcoming in Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in unifying the interests of 19 tribes in the Los Angeles area. The Mayor Reception was held in City Hall
- SAG-AFTRA, Romero produced numerous events including the panels "Where Are We (Native Americans) in Film, Television and Radio" (2000) and "Native Women in Film & Television" (2012)
- Warriors Against AIDS Concert Series (1993)
- Other credits: *Why Can't You Take Me Like I Am*, *I Left My Heart With You* and *Thunder in the River*

1991 - Present

CEO/Founder/President

Red Nation Films

Accomplishments

In 1991, Michael Jackson helped launch Ms. Romero's production company, Red Nation Films (former Spirit World Productions). Jackson became the leading force in making Romero's company known to the world. Due to Jackson's insight, he added her newly founded production company (1991) in his press interviews in Entertainment Weekly.

- Joanelle Romero was instrumental in bringing American Indian dancers to Jackson's music video, The "Black or White" this music video and song made history. Joanelle Romero was able to negotiate for the American Indian dancers to be paid over and above any dancers on any music video ever, due to the fact they were traditionally dressed (the wardrobe did not come from western costume). To date, they are the highest paid dancers in any music video! Also, this segment was the first clip of American Indian dancers in a music video without being a Native American music group/artist
- American Holocaust: When It's All Over I'll Still Be Indian*. Short-listed for Academy Award
- Several Documentary Award-winning films
- Several TV Series Specials

2006 - Present

CEO/Owner/Chairwoman

Red Nation Television Network | rednationtv.com

Red Nation TV is arguably the nation's premier source of American Indian & Indigenous content (predating Netflix, Hulu and others). Reaching millions internationally, Red Nation Television Network "Native is Here" is the first international (including the U.S.) online streaming entertainment media company and distributed TV Channel exclusively devoted to American Indian and World Indigenous content. The company was established in 2006, cementing the name Red Nation Television Network as the first American Indian Television Channel. Red Nation Television Network is the Authentic Voice of American Indian and Indigenous content from around the world, and a pioneer Native Indigenous content provider.

Accomplishments

- Acclaimed as the first official streaming company (predating Netflix and others)
- Original Programming includes: TV Series, Comedy Shows, Conversation Series, Awards Shows, Documentaries and Red Nation News

1995 - Present

CEO/Founder/President

Red Nation Celebration Institute | rednationcele.org | nativewomeninfil.com | rednationff.com

Community of over 5000+ filmmakers

Accomplishments

Red Nation Celebration Institute (RNCI), The Authentic Voice for American Indian & Indigenous Nations, founded 1995. The Creative Enterprise by Natives delivering to all people the stories that shape our world. The longest standing Native Women-Led, Indigenous media arts cultural pioneer nonprofit enterprise in Los Angeles, offices in Santa Fe NM, serving Indian Country & Entertainment Industry, has established a rich legacy of work supporting more than 5000+ Native and Indigenous filmmakers through its streaming company Red Nation Television Network, representing 570+ Native Nations, amplifying more than 839+ Native Indigenous filmmakers through its Red Nation International Film Festival. Mission is to break barriers of racism by creating systemic change through media and pop culture in order to eliminate Native American stereotypes. Our Vision for the future of cinema is one in which Native Indigenous perspectives are authentically pictured, recognized, and valued in a way that promotes strong authentic Native identities, economic outcomes, equity, and wellness for our Indigenous communities. rednationff.com/board-of-directors/

- Red Nation International Film Festival - the Largest Native Indigenous Festival in the Country
- Red Nation International Film Festival 'On the Road' (New Mexico, Washington D.C., New York)
- Native Women in Film & Television and Native Women in Film & Television Festival - First and Only Native Indigenous women's film festival in Los Angeles
- RNCI Crew - providing career pathways for below-the-line native-indigenous talent.
- Native Youth Matter - If I Can See It I Can Be It
- Native Studies Center at USC
- Groundbreaking year-round programming at rednationcele.org
- Artists include but not limited to: Sterlin Harjo, Loretta Todd, Alejandro Gonzalez Iñárritu, Mark Williams, James Bird, Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers, Kyle Kauwika Harris, Katsitsionni Fox, Daniel Foreman, Alba Eid Garcia, Klee Benally, Yvonne Russo, Randy Redroad, Jeffrey Palmer, Hepi Mita, Chelsea Winstanley, Taika Waititi including allies that have made Native and Indigenous-themed films Chloé Zhao, Taylor Sheridan, Joe Berlinger, Rebecca Harrell Tickell, Josh Tickell, Susanna White, Stephen S. Campanelli, Brigitte Timmerman, Deborah Anderson, Kathleen Hepburn, Jaima Chevalier, Joanne Storkan, Haroula Rose, Lesley Johnson, Chris Writs, and Mark Ruffalo

2005 - Present

FOUNDER

American Indian Heritage Month in the City of Los Angeles Honoring Our Ancestors

Accomplishments

- In 2005, Romero established American Indian Heritage Month in the City of Los Angeles. In 2006, it was officially recognized by the State of California and the City of Los Angeles
- In 2006, City of Los Angeles Mayor's Reception was produced by Red Nation Celebration Institute. Local Tongva Spiritual Leader Jimi Castillo officially recognized Joanelle Romero as "the First Lady of American Indian Heritage Month" for all Red Nations, due to her vision in founding and establishing the American Indian Heritage Month in the City of Los Angeles in 2006, in addition because she had succeeded in unifying the interests of 19 tribes in the Los Angeles area at Mayor Reception in City Hall
- In 2006, established The Scared Life of Water Ceremony along the Los Angeles River and at Playa del Rey Ballona Wetlands. RNCI and with the support of City Council Member Bill Rosendahl is responsible for the returns of Tongva Ancestors to their right burial site
- In 2007, American Indian Holocaust Memorial established by RNCI in the City of Los Angeles. The ceremony was held at The Los Angeles State Park in association with the City of Los Angeles reopening of Park
- In 2008, Romero established American Indian Heritage Month in the State of New Mexico
- In 2015, RNCI established The American Indian Holocaust Memorial in Washington D.C. in front of the White House with Native Community Leaders

1980 - Present

PRESIDENT/CEO/FOUNDER

Social Justice Campaigns

Accomplishments

- Ongoing campaigns: WHY WE WEAR RED, ONLY ONE WATER and NATIVE YOUTH MATTER

UNIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

- SAG-AFTRA Member since 1977
- Member of The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences since 2016. First Native-Indigenous woman to be invited
- SAG EIOC from 1998-2001
- Summit Entertainment's *Twilight: New Moon* film screening partnership in 2009. Prior to its public premiere, this was a first for Summit Entertainment in regards to other screenings/partnerships with any film festivals.
- U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland's participation in WHY WE WEAR RED Call-To-Action Campaign, 2018 to present

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Short-listed for an Academy Award (2000)
- State of California's Resolution for American Indian Heritage Month in 2006
- National Women's History Month Awards, Romero received the award for *Generations of Women Moving History Forward* for development of Red Nation Television Network (RNTV)
- In 2005, Romero received the *Armin T. Wegner Humanitarian Award* for "the vision to see the truth...and the courage to speak it" for *American Holocaust: When It's All Over I'll Still Be Indian* (Producer, Director)
- In 2000 and 2003, *The American Indian Film Festival Awards* and *The Fargo Film Festival* awarded Romero for Best Documentary Short for *American Holocaust: When It's All Over I'll Still Be Indian*
- Red Earth Awards / State Arts Council of Oklahoma for "Home, Home on the Rez (Drama/Indian produced 1997)", "Melvin & John (Doc Short/Indian produced 1995)", "Why Can't You Take Me As I Am (Experimental/Indian produced 1995)", "Where the Red Road Meets the Information Super Highway" (Commercial/promotion/Indian produced 1995), "The Third Verse 500 Years the Land of the Children" (Experimental/Indian produced 1994)
- Numerous City of Los Angeles & New Mexico Proclamations (2000 to present)
- Resolution for the State of California
- Joanelle Romero has made an outstanding contribution to the arts and science of motion picture in producing Native Indigenous content to the world