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PBS to Broadcast “Native Ball” Documentary in November

Blackfeet college-basketball player Malia Kipp is at the heart of the award-winning half-hour film [*Native Ball: Legacy of a Trailblazer*](#), coming to PBS for Native American Heritage Month.

Kipp was a trailblazer. In 1992, only one of the roughly 5,000 American high-school girls who annually received a full-ride Division I basketball scholarship was a Native American: Malia Kipp.

As a member of the University of Montana’s Lady Griz, Kipp faced challenges learning to live in two worlds, but she carried the burden with grace and grit. Described by her chief Earl Old Person as “a warrior,” she blazed an heroic and inspiring trail for other Indigenous girls to follow.



University of Montana Lady Griz Malia Kipp

Starting November 1, the award-winning documentary from Family Theater Productions will air on 80 PBS affiliates around the country and stream on PBS.org, the PBS app, and the PBS YouTube channel.

"Malia treasures her heritage as a member of the Blackfeet Nation," said executive producer David L. Guffey, National Director of Family Theater Productions, "but she also entered into the arena of NCAA basketball. She speaks of the struggles and tensions that arose but demonstrated the courage and wisdom to be true to herself and her call."

The film’s writer/director/producer Megan Harrington, who also played Lady Griz basketball, said, "I hope whoever watches the film is entertained, inspired, and educated - docs have the power to hit those three marks in a unique way."

"In particular, with Malia’s heroic journey, there is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and cultural differences Native Americans face living in two worlds. It would be wonderful if that sparked a larger conversation!"

“Everybody has a story to tell,” said Kipp. “Everybody struggles; everybody goes through things. Megan wanted to tell my story, and she did it in such an awesome way.”

Native Ball has landed awards at film festivals around the country, including the prestigious Cleveland International Film Festival, where it won the Programmers’ Choice Award for Best Short, and the Montana International Film Festival, where it won Best Made In Montana Film.

To learn more about ***Native Ball: Legacy of a Trailblazer*** and how to see it at a PBS channel near you, or online, go to www.nativeball.com.

Links to *Native Ball* press room materials:

[Trailer](#)

[Photos and captions](#)

[Bios and headshots](#)

[Electronic Press Kit](#)

ABOUT FAMILY THEATER PRODUCTIONS

With media facilities on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood, California, Family Theater Productions' Emmy® , Gabriel and Christopher Award-winning media has engaged families since 1947 with stories that touch the heart. The company’s current media offerings include feature films, TV series, video web series, and a popular faith-and-family-friendly entertainment blog. See the company’s award-winning media at www.familytheater.org

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