



For Immediate Release

Indian Predicts Stardom for Local Man
Months Later He is "Discovered" as George Washington in Documentary

Pittsburgh, Pa.—June 22, 2004—Bryan Cuning didn't believe it when a Native American from the American Southwest said to him, "I think you're going to be famous." But months later, Cuning was portraying George Washington in two historical documentaries. The newest is the Special Edition *When the Forest Ran Red* released on DVD April 30, 2004, with a special theatrical premiere in Pittsburgh on May 19.

The original *When the Forest Ran Red* was a 2001 historical documentary that earned five national awards and appeared on PBS affiliates around the United States and Canada. It continues to air in 7 of the top 10 U.S. markets. And now Bryan Cuning has been added to the newly remastered and expanded Special Edition as Washington, a role he played in the 2003 Paladin film, *George Washington's First War*, which earned four more national awards.

"It's kind of funny. That's what started it. People started coming up to me and saying, 'You're George Washington. I saw you in that movie.' Since then I've appeared in paintings by Andrew Knez, John Buxton, and Ray Forquer, and a statue by James West that will be on Mt. Washington."

Paladin's decision to use Cuning in the Special Edition *When the Forest Ran Red* adds continuity between the two documentaries "We had to have Cuning as GW," says writer/director Robert Matzen. "It was just meant to be. You don't even really need to direct him. He knows the character and he knows the history. Plus he's got big-screen presence, no doubt about it."

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Cunning received his undergraduate degree at California University of Pennsylvania in Anthropology and his graduate degree in Cultural Resource Management. He has been an active reenactor since childhood. “My father purchased a black powder gun when I was 10 or 12. I slowly got into reenacting that way. Then I joined a local shooting group, where I met some reenactors. They asked me, ‘Do you want it to take it to the next step?’ And the rest, I guess, is history.”

“Bryan really makes Washington human,” said Mary Matzen, producer of the Special Edition *When the Forest Ran Red*. “He lets you see a young man out on the frontier who’s making mistakes and learning from them. He’s flesh and blood. He’s any of us, out there in the world, trying to get by.”

Then there’s that prediction by the Native American in 2002, at a reenactment in Reading, PA. “It’s been a ride I wouldn’t have missed for the world,” said Cunning. “I think a lot about what that Indian said. I’ve been in two movies, a statue, three paintings. I wonder if maybe he wasn’t right.”

Editors Notes:

- For more information on Paladin Communications, visit www.paladincom.com.
- Bryan C. Cunning is also scheduled to appear in the next Paladin feature documentary, set for release in 2006, in which he will continue his development of Washington’s character.

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