

KEVIN WILLMOTT

Kevin Willmott is one of the most prolific independent writers and filmmakers working today. His writings, speeches and films focus on the concept of our "Living History" –how the history of the past can shape our lives, outlooks and opinions of other peoples and cultures today.

Willmott's most critically acclaimed feature film, *C.S.A: Confederate States Of America*, is about America, had the South won the Civil War. After its premiere at the Sundance Film Festival, IFC Films purchased the film for domestic theatrical distribution. CSA was released theatrically in the U.S. by IFC and was distributed in several foreign countries.

The Only Good Indian, starring Wes Studi (*Avatar, Last of the Mohicans*), J. Kenneth Campbell (*Bulworth, Yulee's Gold*) and newcomer Winter Fox Frank, which premiered at The Sundance Film Festival, is set in Kansas during the early 1900s, and tells the story of a teen-aged Native American boy who is taken from his family and forced to attend a distant Indian "training" school to assimilate into White society. When he escapes to return to his family, Sam Franklin, a bounty hunter of Cherokee descent, is hired to find and return him to the institution.

Willmott's other films include *The Battle for Bunker Hill*, starring *NYPD Blue*'s James McDaniel, Saeed Jaffrey (*Gandhi*), Laura Kirk (*Lisa Picard is Famous*), Kevin Geer (*American Gangster*) and Blake Robbins (*Oz, The Office*) and *Ninth Street*, an independent feature film starring Martin Sheen and Isaac Hayes, which was written, produced and co-directed by Willmott. He also played the role of "Huddie" one of the films main characters.

For television, Willmott co-wrote with Mitch Brian *House Of Getty* and *The 70's*, both mini-series for NBC. In 2005, he produced *High-Tech Lincoln*, a special which premiered on The History Channel.

As a screenwriter, Willmott co-wrote *Shields Green And The Gospel Of John Brown* with Mitch Brian. The script was purchased by Chris Columbus' 1492 Productions for 20th Century Fox. He has also co-wrote *Civilized Tribes* for producer Robert Lawrence and 20th Century Fox. Producer and director Oliver Stone hired him to co-write *Little Brown Brothers*, about the Philippine Insurrection and to adapt the book *Marching To Valhalla* by Michael Blake. Willmott also adapted *The Watsons Go To Birmingham* for CBS, Columbia Tri-Star and Executive Producer Whoopi Goldberg. Willmott recently adapted and directed a stage version of *The Watsons Go To Birmingham* in New York and at Kansas City's *Coterie* Theater.

The play *T-Money And Wolf*, written with Ric Averill, dealing with the holocaust and contemporary gang violence, was selected as part of the New Vision/New Voices series produced by the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. The play is published by Dramatic Publishing.

Willmott directed the premiere performances of *Now Let Me Fly*, a new play by Marcia Cebulka commemorating the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision to segregate public schools. The performances featured actors James McDaniel (*NYPD Blue*), Roger Aaron Brown (*The District*) and Yolanda King, and musical performers Queen Bey and Kelley Hunt.

Willmott grew up in Junction City, Kansas and attended Marymount College receiving his BA in Drama. After graduation, he returned home, working as a peace and civil rights activist, fighting for the rights of the poor, creating two Catholic Worker shelters for the homeless and forcing the integration of several long standing segregated institutions. He attended graduate studies at New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, receiving several writing awards and his M.F.A. in Dramatic Writing.

Willmott is an Associate Professor in the Film Studies Department of Kansas University.

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