



**Critical Acclaim For
P.O.V.'s "STANDING SILENT NATION"**
By Suree Towfighnia and Courtney Hermann

"The story of a dirt-poor but enterprising family thwarted by shocking, stupid acts by jerks armed with red tape and guns produces a single effect: umbrage. It's good umbrage, mostly, that surging, almost euphoric response to a crusading documentary. . . . It is possible that in seeking a viable crop, the Oglala Lakota have found the next best thing: a purpose."

– **Virginia Heffernan, *The New York Times***

"She didn't set out to document the trials of a man living on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation, but Suree Towfighnia had only to visit with Alex White Plume in his hemp field to find the heart of her story. . . . White Plume's story became a living focus."

– **Karen Shade, *Tulsa World***

"P.O.V. follows a painful, painstaking ride through a legal system that – like the one in China – is a work in progress."

– **Mike Hughes, Gannett News Service**

"The family's attempt to grow hemp, which is used to make rope, oils, skin lotion, cloth and a variety of other products, is featured in a 'Point of View' documentary. . . . The film started as a look at hemp growing, but it grew to include a look at Indian treaties and the Lakota culture and tradition . . ."

– **Chet Brokaw, Associated Press**

"This is an amazing story and is worth being discussed. PBS has provided a wealth of information to go along with the film."

– **Tom Murphy, *Daily Kos***

"After 19 years of brain-tickling, nose-thumbing and gut-punching . . . P.O.V. comes back for another season."

– **Lawrence Toppman, Knight Ridder**

"This documentary caught my eye for two reasons: one, it deals with an unending drug war that often veers into territory that is utterly inexplicable, and two, it deals with the nature of Native American sovereignty."

– **Adam Finley, *TVSquad.com***

"With a proud and prominent place in American history, hemp is now a banned product and the US is virtually alone in the industrial world by not cultivating this hardy crop. This documentary focuses on the story of some of America's poorest people and their efforts to become self sufficient by farming industrial hemp."

– **TheHive.com**