

INDIAN BY BIRTH

THE LUMBEE DIALECT

(original title font Capitals / small capitals...)

Produced and Directed by NEAL HUTCHESON
Executive Producer WALT WOLFRAM

“If we’re anywhere in the country and hear ourselves speak, we know exactly who we are.”

a production of
THE NC LANGUAGE AND LIFE PROJECT, NC-STATE UNIVERSITY
THE MUSEUM OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN, UNC-PEMBROKE
DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES, UNC-PEMBROKE

www.talkingnc.com

DESCRIPTION

A documentary portrait of Lumbee Indian identity as expressed in dialect.

SYNOPSIS

Stripped of their heritage language generations ago, the Lumbee Indians of Southeastern North Carolina carved out a unique dialect of English that has helped to maintain their distinctive cultural identity. The story of Lumbee English is one of the most remarkable narratives of linguistic adaptability and cultural perseverance ever documented in the history of American English dialects.

CREW & CREDITS

Walt Wolfram – *Executive Producer*
Neal Hutcheson – *Producer, Videography & Editing*
Natalie Schilling-Estes – *project Development*
Clare Dannenberg – *Content Specialist*
Ben Torbert – *Research Assistant*
Becky Childs – *Research Assistant*
Karen Kast-Hutcheson – *Graphic Design*
David Van Gieson – *Production Support*

Narrated by Linda Oxendine, Professor of American Indian Studies at UNC-Pembroke

Advisory Committee: Stanley Knick, Linda Oxendine, Hayes Alan Locklear, Hubbard Lowry, James Hardin

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ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

NEAL HUTCHESON (Producer / Director) is an award-winning documentary producer, whose work has appeared on PBS, The Sundance Channel, History, The Documentary Channel and A & E. His producer/director credits include the acclaimed *The Last One* (2008), *The Carolina Brogue* (2008), *The Outlaw Lewis Redmond* (2008), *The Prince of Dark Corners* (2007), *The Queen Family – Appalachian Tradition and Back Porch Music* (2006), *Voices of North Carolina* (2005), *Mountain Talk* (2003), and *Indian By Birth: The Lumbee Dialect* (2001). Hutcheson received the Bill Arnold North Carolina Film Award from the Carolina Film and Video Festival in 2008, a Visual Artist Fellowship from the North Carolina Arts Council in 2004, and project grants from United Arts in 1997 and 2002. Three of his documentary films were honored in a special showing at an annual film festival in Berlin, Germany, in 2006.

WALT WOLFRAM (Executive Producer) has pioneered the study of dialect and culture for more than three decades. Wolfram has published more than 20 books and more than 250 articles on American English dialects, and has served on the Advisory Board of the Children’s Television Workshop. A prominent concern of Professor Wolfram involves the application of basic research findings to social and educational problems, and the effective dissemination of information on language variation and cultural diversity to the American public. This interest has included work on a number of TV documentaries, including the award-winning *American Tongues* (1986) and *Do you Speak American* (2005), as well as serving as Executive Producer for *The Ocracoke Brogue* (1997), *Indian by Birth: The Lumbee Dialect* (2001), *Mountain Talk* (2003), *Voices of North Carolina* (2005), *The Queen Family - Appalachian Tradition & Back Porch Music* (2006), *This Side of the River* (2007), *The Carolina Brogue* (2008), and *Spanish Voices* (forthcoming). Among numerous other honors, Wolfram received the Extension Excellence Award from North Carolina State University and the prestigious John Tyler Caldwell Award for the Humanities from the North Carolina Humanities Council, both in 2008.

FILMOGRAPHY

NEAL HUTCHESON and WALT WOLFRAM in collaboration

The Carolina Brogue. 2008.

The Queen Family - Appalachian Tradition & Back Porch Music. 2006.

Voices of North Carolina. 2005.

Mountain Talk. 2003.

Indian By Birth: The Lumbee Dialect. 2001.

MORE ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

- Walt Wolfram on WUNC's hour-long NPR show "The State of Things," 7/28/2008:
<http://wunc.org/tsot/archive/sot0728abc08.mp3/view>
- Profile of Executive Producer Walt Wolfram in North Carolina's *Independent Weekly*:
<http://www.indyweek.com/gyrobase/Content?oid=oid%3A38278>
- Reviews of Hutcheson's *The Last One*, released in November, 2008:
 - <http://blogs.newsobserver.com/tv/the-last-one-popcorn-and-moonshine-in-north-carolina>
 - <http://gulahiye.blogspot.com/2008/11/last-one.html>
 -
- Neal Hutcheson and Walt Wolfram chosen as "Tarheels of the Week" by the Raleigh *News and Observer*: <http://www.newsobserver.com/692/story/396765.html>
- Neal Hutcheson, Walt Wolfram, and Mary Jane Queen interviewed on WUNC's hour-long NPR show "The State of Things," 1/23/2006. Archived broadcast available:
http://www.ibiblio.org/wunc_archives/sot/index.php?p=544
- Profile of director Neal Hutcheson in North Carolina's *Independent Weekly*:
<http://www.indyweek.com/gyrobase/Content?oid=oid%3A20124>

ABOUT THE NC LANGUAGE & LIFE PROJECT

The North Carolina Language and Life Project (NCLLP) is a part of NC State University's Humanities Extension, and is an umbrella organization for regional research, cultural preservation, and the production of educational documentary media for television and classroom.

The goals of the NCLLP are:

- To preserve the rich heritage of language variety in North Carolina as it reflects the different cultural traditions of its residents.
- To gather basic research information about language variety in order to understand the nature of language variation and change.
- To provide information about language differences and language change for public and educational interests.
- To use the material collected in research projects for the improvement of educational programs about language and culture.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The North Carolina Language and Life Project

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photos available at www.talkingnc.com

video preview: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=feYbZBZwT8w>

NC Language & Life Project YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/NCLLP>