

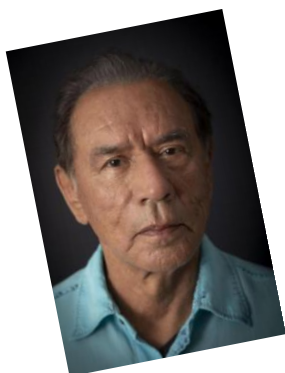


CINEMA FACTS:

- Studio: *Anthony Vozza Productions*
- Producer/Distributor: *Warner Brothers*
- Director: *Jonathan Wacks*
- Screenplay: *Janet Heaney*
- Year: *1989*
- Nominations: *Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor (American Indian Film Fest)*
- Filmed in: *Technicolor*

• MAIN ACTORS:

<i>A. Martinez (NA)</i>	<i>Buddy Red Bow</i>
<i>**Gary Farmer (NA)</i>	<i>Philbert Bono</i>
<i>Joanelle Romero (NA)</i>	<i>Bonnie Red Bono</i>
<i>Wes Studi (NA)</i>	<i>Buff</i>
<i>Graham Greene (NA)</i>	<i>Viet Nam Vet</i>
<i>Amanda Wyss</i>	<i>Rabbit Layton</i>
<i>John Trudell (NA)</i>	<i>Louie Short Hair</i>
<i>Sam Vlahos (NA)</i>	<i>Chief Joseph</i>



Pow Wow Synopsis

Underlying this comedic road movie is a search of what it means to be a warrior in a modern-day tribal community. Buddy Red Bow, played by A Martinez, one of the few non-tribal members to work on the film, plays an activist, having survived the Wounded Knee and Viet Nam conflicts. Philbert Bono has never seen combat but is gathering power to become a spiritual warrior. When Red Bow's sister is thrown in jail on a trumped-up charge, Red Bow approaches Bono, who is willing to travel from Montana to New Mexico in his "war pony;" a beat up 1964 Buick that he envisioned as a wild and free mustang while scanning a junk yard.

Along the way, Bono visits sacred spots seeking tokens which are manifestations of the universal forces that guided his ancestors. He is forced to confront the very real prejudices and inequities that Red Bow constantly sees all around him. For his part, Red Bow begins to appreciate his culture as something more than an identity filled with anger and resentment.

It is at a Pow Wow on the Pine Ridge Reservation where the complexities of being Cheyenne are played out. While Bono actively participates in the dancing and drumming, Red Bow cynically degrades the activities and reminisces with his fellow Wounded Knee activists in the stands. The interaction with another Viet Nam veteran, played with great power by Graham Greene, brings the thread of a warrior who was forced to fight another person's war into the conversation. This vet's loss of self is crushing, even as his adherence to his culture is somehow affirming. In his eyes, damaged as he is, it is Red Bow who is the one who has been conquered--by his fury that negates any future personal growth through his refusal to honor his past.