

Questions for the Introductory Film “*Reel Injun*”

- What are the consequences of distorted representations of Native people regarding their identity, self-esteem and social and cultural development?
- Why would American culture treat Indians as myths or dinosaurs?
- In the movies, all Native people are portrayed as superior horsemen, at one with their horses, but most of them can't ride in real life. Why was such a myth created?
- By developing “Tonto speech,” did Hollywood harm the existing Native languages spoken by US tribes?
- Robbing nations of their identity is an act of settler colonialism, but why did the Plains Indians attract more attention than the Pawnees or the Mohawks?
- What are some of the misguided notions surrounding the Indian “princess” Pocahontas?
- When John Wayne shoots a dead Indian that was dug up from a burial ground in the eyes to make sure he will not be going to the spirit world, what kind of message is Hollywood sending?
- General Philip Sheridan stated: “*The only good Injun I ever saw was dead.*” Why would Hollywood use such neo-colonialist propaganda to confuse the feelings of young Native people?
- Regarding the notion of human beings, why does John Trudell place so much emphasis on language as an instrument of war? What does it mean to you to be a human being?

- Director Neil Diamond mentioned that he found the answers he was looking for in the North. What exactly was the object of his quest?
- Is the documentary approach used by Neil Diamond in *Reel Injun* valuable in terms of changing people's perceptions about the mythological and one-dimensional stoic Indian?
- Why do you think Russell Means and John Trudell, famous AIM activists and Hollywood detractors, agreed to participate as actors in certain Hollywood productions?