



# TEATA

(BEARER OF THE MORNING)

BASED ON THE TRUE STORY OF A GREAT FIRST AMERICAN HEROINE



*Sometimes*  
the best story is **your own...**



“Te Ata once wrote that art binds all people together. Her career bears testimony to the truth of that noble idea. She was a great ambassador for Chickasaw people and for all First Americans. Her life’s work helped bridge the divide between diverse cultures. She is a shining example of the power of artistic expression to change hearts and minds.”

**BILL ANOATUBBY, GOVERNOR**  
THE CHICKASAW NATION

The Chickasaw Nation presents

# TE ATA

Running Time **[105 minutes]**  
Genre **[Family Friendly/Historical Drama]**  
Aspect Ratio **[2.35 (Scope)]**  
Shooting Format **[Red]**  
Contact **[Tony Choate]**  
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# SYNOPSIS

## SHORT [SYNOPSIS]

*Te Ata* (TAY' AH-TAH) is based on the inspiring, true story of Mary Thompson Fisher, a woman who traversed cultural barriers to become one of the greatest First American performers of all time. Born in Indian Territory, and raised on the songs and stories of her Chickasaw culture, *Te Ata*'s journey to find her true calling led her through isolation, discovery, love and a stage career that culminated in performances for a United States president, European royalty and audiences across the world. Yet of all the stories she shared, none are more inspiring than her own.

## LONG [SYNOPSIS]

*Te Ata* (TAY' AH-TAH) is based on the inspiring, true story of Mary Thompson Fisher, a woman who traversed cultural barriers to become one of the greatest First American performers of all time.

She was born in 1895 in the Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), during a time of change and hardship for First Americans. Despite the attempts of government officials to fully assimilate Native people into “mainstream” society, many First American artists remained committed to the preservation of their traditional songs, dances, oral traditions and art.

*Te Ata* was raised on the songs and stories of her Chickasaw culture, which were passed down through generations of families and storytellers. It was these songs and stories, as well as the songs and stories of tribes she encountered on her travels, that would influence crucial decisions in her life. From a traveling performer to a Broadway stage, she never let go of her passions.

*Te Ata*'s journey to find her true calling led her through isolation, discovery, love and a stage career that culminated in performances for a United States president, European royalty and audiences across the world. Yet of all the stories she shared, none are more inspiring than her own.







BY:  
**NATHAN** [FRANKOWSKI]

Working on *Te Ata* was a vastly rewarding experience. Not only did I get to meet and work with the Chickasaw people, who remain dear friends today, but I was also able to discover the wonderfully rich woman, Te Ata.

What attracted me to Te Ata's story was her sheer will and audacity to follow her dreams. Not only was she a woman in the early 1900s, but she was also a Chickasaw. Through much adversity, she found a way to do what she was called to do, tell stories. She used her talents to tell stories that edify and educate.

Te Ata's life rings true in my own desire as a filmmaker. Using the power of story to shine light in the darkness, where unfamiliarity lies.



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# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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# CAST

## Q'ORIANKA KILCHER [TE ATA]

At the age of 14, Q'orianka Kilcher emerged into the front ranks of young actors with her portrayal of Pocahontas opposite Colin Farrell and Christian Bale in Terrence Malick's Oscar nominated film *The New World*, an epic about the encounter between English and North American societies in the early 1600s.

Some of Q'orianka's other credits include starring in the title role of *Princess Kaiulani*, the award-winning television show *Sons of Anarchy*, TIFF 2015 selected film *Sky*, *Longmire*, *Shouting Secrets*, Hallmark Hall of Fame's *Firelight*, *The Killing*, the miniseries *Neverland*, *The Power Of Few*, starring Christopher Walken and Christian Slater, a film she not only starred in, but also produced via her production company IQ Films, and TNT television drama *The Alienist*.

## GRAHAM GREENE [GOVERNOR DOUGLAS H. JOHNSTON]

Award-winning Graham Greene is most known for his co-starring role in *Dances With Wolves*, which garnered an Oscar nomination. His many film credits include *Die Hard With A Vengeance*, *North*, *Green Mile*, *Maverick*, *Snow Dogs*, *We Are Boats* and *Wind River*.

Among his many television credits include *Exhibit A*, *Rocket Science*, *Wolf Lake*, *The Red Green Show*, *North of Sixty*, *Longmire* and *Dudley the Dragon*, which earned Greene two Gemini awards. His many stage credits include *The Crackwalker*, *Jessica*, *History of the Village of the Small Huts* and *DY Lips Oughtta Move Kapuskasing*, for which Greene won the Dora Maver Moore Award for Best Actor.

## GIL BIRMINGHAM [THOMAS BENJAMIN "T.B." THOMPSON]

Award-winning actor Gil Birmingham has appeared in more than 40 film and television productions. Birmingham generated public acclaim for his portrayal as Billy Black in the blockbuster films *Twilight*, *New Moon*, *Eclipse* and *Breaking Dawn*. He appeared in *The Love Ranch*, Oscar Award winning film *Rango*, *The Lone Ranger*, *Crooked Arrows*, *Hell or High Water* and *Wind River*.

On television, Gil has guest starred in several episodes of *Wilfred*, *The Lying Game*, *Castle*, *The Mentalist*, *Nip/Tuck*, *Veronica Mars* and *Vegas*. His powerful portrayal of "Dogstar" in Steven Spielberg's six-part TV miniseries *Into the West* captured the attention of audiences worldwide. He is currently a recurring star in *Banshee*, *House of Cards* and *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*.

## MACKENZIE ASTIN [DR. CLYDE FISHER]

The youngest son of actors Patty Duke and John Astin, Mackenzie Astin entered the family trade at the age of nine and found success on the iconic 1980s television show *The Facts of Life*, where he spent the better part of four seasons. As an adult, his work has included more complicated and dynamic characters, including roles on *Scandal*, *Shameless*, *House* and *Lost*.

## BRIGID BRANNAGH [BERTIE THOMPSON]

Brigid is best known for her role as "Pamela Moran" in Lifetime's long-running series *Army Wives*, a role in which she made the transition from wife/mother to active police officer. Acting for more than 18 years, she was formally introduced to the public in 1989 on the Fox sitcom *True Colors*. She went on to more series regular and recurring roles in *Over There*, *Kindred: The Embraced*, *Legacy*, *Brooklyn South*, *Angel* and *CSI*.

## CINDY PICKETT [MISS DAVIS]

A native of Sand Springs, Oklahoma, Cindy Pickett is best known for her role as Ferris Bueller's loving and unsuspecting mother, Katie, in the 1986 classic American comedy *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. Cindy has played numerous recurring roles such as "Jackie Marler-Spaulding" on *Guiding Light*, as "Dr. Carol Novino" in *St. Elsewhere*, and as "Marjorie Sweeney" in *Hyperion Bay*.







### **NATHAN FRANKOWSKI** [DIRECTOR]

Nathan Frankowski is an international director whose work has taken him to more than 30 countries. He's best known for directing the successful 2008 documentary *Expelled, No Intelligence Allowed*, which was the highest grossing documentary of 2008, bringing in \$8 million at the box office.

Frankowski's directing credits for scripted films include the independent feature *No Saints for Sinners*, *To Write Love on Her Arms*, *Unlimited* and his latest, *The Chickasaw Rancher*. He also served as second unit director on *The Path to 9/11*, a \$40 million Disney/ABC mini-series.



### **PAUL SIRMONS** [PRODUCER]

Paul Sirmons' career as a director, producer, line producer and production manager in both movies and TV covers 35 years. He served as Florida's State Film Commissioner from 2005 to 2008, where he created Florida's film incentive program.

He line-produced the recent movies *Home Run*, *Letters to God* and *To Write Love on Her Arms*, as well as the upcoming documentary series *Building A Family Legacy*. He produced the movie *The Way Back Home*. He directed and produced the family movie *The First of May*, which starred Broadway legend Julie Harris, Mickey Rooney and Dan Byrd, and featured a rare cameo by Yankee baseball legend Joe DiMaggio.



### **ESTHER LUTTRELL** [SCREENWRITER]

Esther Luttrell's career as writer, screenwriter, director and producer in both movie and TV covers more than 25 years and includes both MGM and CBS. She is the author of *Tools of the Screenwriting Trade*, used by the Writers Guild of America as a screenwriting standard and Screen Writers Q&A. She has written 12 published novels.



### **BRYAN E. MILLER** [FILM COMPOSER]

Bryan E. Miller is an award-winning and visionary film composer. His artistic passion has driven him to pursue meaningful projects for clients including Walt Disney, 20th Century Fox, Lionsgate, NBC Universal, CBS, ABC, A&E and the Style Network.



### **BEN HUDDLESTON** [CINEMATOGRAPHER]

Ben Huddleston began his professional career as a camera operator on the independent feature film, *After...* He worked on an ABC movie, *The Path to 9/11*. Ben was the Director of Photography on feature-length documentaries *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*, *spOiled*, *Last Will and Testament*, *FrackNation* and *America: Imagine the World Without Her*. Ben was also the Director of Photography for the 2011 independent dramatic film *No Saints for Sinners*.



### **JEANNIE BARBOUR** [STORY BY]

As the Creative Director for the Chickasaw Nation's Department of Communications, Jeannie Barbour has served on the Oklahoma Film Commission, the National Trail of Tears advisory board and graduated from the prestigious Leadership Oklahoma program. She has written for a variety of books and periodicals focused on southeastern tribal history and culture.





## CAST [TE ATA]

Te Ata	<b>[Q’orianka Kilcher]</b>
T.B. Thompson	<b>[Gil Birmingham]</b>
Douglas Johnston	<b>[Graham Greene]</b>
Clyde Fisher	<b>[Mackenzie Astin]</b>
Bertie Thompson	<b>[Brigid Brannagh]</b>
Miss Davis	<b>[Cindy Pickett]</b>
Bettie Johnston	<b>[Jenni Mabrey]</b>
Margaret	<b>[Marissa Skell]</b>
Thurlow Lieurance	<b>[Tom Nowicki]</b>
Young Te Ata	<b>[Boriana Williams]</b>
White Man	<b>[Zac Abbott]</b>
New Yorker	<b>[Bill Anoatubby]</b>
Casting Lady	<b>[Jeannie Barbour]</b>
Lady Member	<b>[Lona Barrick]</b>
Conductor	<b>[Robert Cheadle]</b>
Eleanor Roosevelt	<b>[Gail Cronauer]</b>
Mrs. Tucker	<b>[Stacy Cunningham]</b>
Iva Mae	<b>[Erin DeCoursey]</b>
Avis Thompson	<b>[Malarie Drake]</b>
Senator Pettigrew	<b>[Gordon Fox]</b>
Director	<b>[Tommie L. Goad]</b>
Willie Watts	<b>[Robert Grossman]</b>
Eugene Thompson	<b>[Reese Hamilton]</b>
Gladys Thompson	<b>[Lauren John]</b>
Brewster Children	<b>[Blue John]</b> <b>[Rylen Owen]</b> <b>[Preston Owen]</b>
Johnston Children	<b>[Breanna Kihega]</b> <b>[Jaclyn Darnell]</b> <b>[Jesse Darnell]</b> <b>[Dylan Darnell]</b>
Taxi Driver	<b>[Geoff Koch]</b>
Head Man Dancer	<b>[Jesse Lindsey]</b>
Slimeball #1	<b>[Joe Maselli]</b>
Carla	<b>[Grace Montie]</b>
Lady Receptionist	<b>[Joy Moon]</b>
Senator Bates	<b>[Robert Ousley]</b>
Baby Avis Thompson	<b>[Chandler Schultz]</b>
Man #1	<b>[Shan Scroggins]</b>
Mrs. Brewster	<b>[Morgana Shaw]</b>
Receptionist	<b>[Julia Smola]</b>
Senator Judd	<b>[Don Taylor]</b>
Stomp Dance Elder	<b>[Dennis Underwood]</b>
Native American Mother	<b>[Linda Underwood]</b>
Mr. Stevens	<b>[Mike Waugh]</b>

## CREW [TE ATA]

Director and Editor	<b>[Nathan Frankowski]</b>
Producer	<b>[Paul Sirmons]</b>
Executive Producer	<b>[Robyn Elliott]</b>
Supervising Producer	<b>[Karissa Pickett]</b>
Content Producer	<b>[Jeannie Barbour]</b>
Associate Producers	<b>[Brooke Tidwell]</b> <b>[Angela Owen]</b>
Production Supervisor	<b>[Nathan Gardocki]</b>
Cinematographer	<b>[Ben Huddleston]</b>
Costume Designer	<b>[Beverly Safier]</b>
Production Designer	<b>[Andrew White]</b>
Music By	<b>[Bryan E. Miller]</b>
Screenwriter	<b>[Esther Luttrell]</b>
Story By	<b>[Jeannie Barbour]</b> <b>[Esther Luttrell]</b>
First Assistant Director	<b>[Mike Finn]</b>
Second Assistant Director	<b>[Vincent G. Gonzales]</b>
A Camera 1st Assistant	<b>[Jon Roman]</b>
A Camera 2nd Assistant	<b>[Jeff Marks]</b>
B Camera Operator	<b>[Andrew Smith]</b>
B Camera 1st Assistant	<b>[Adam Smith]</b>
B Camera 2nd Assistant	<b>[Reggie Lloyd-Jones]</b>
Video Assist Crew	<b>[Wyatt Keel]</b> <b>[Austin Parker]</b>
Digital Imaging Technician	<b>[Matthew Gardocki]</b>
Script Supervisor	<b>[Wendy Delouche]</b>
Casting	<b>[Beverly Holloway, CSA]</b>
Casting Assistant - Los Angeles	<b>[Nicky Hawthorne]</b>
Oklahoma Casting	<b>[Chris Freihofer Casting, Norman, OK]</b>
Extras Casting Coordinators	<b>[Ryan Kowey]</b> <b>[Matthew Jordan]</b> <b>[Shara Rogers]</b> <b>[Brooke Tidwell]</b>
Construction Coordinator	<b>[Robby D. French]</b>
Construction Foreman	<b>[Sam Goodwin II]</b>
Prop Master	<b>[Jazz Bishop]</b>
Co-Prop Master	<b>[Diane LeCrone]</b>
Additional Props	<b>[Forest Fagan]</b>
Set Decorator	<b>[Brent D. Mannon]</b>
Lead Person	<b>[Jennifer Herbel]</b>
Chief Lighting Technician	<b>[Andy Lohrenz]</b>
Best Boy Electric	<b>[Brian Boyll]</b>
Electricians	<b>[Joseph A. Cook]</b> <b>[Matt Bauske]</b> <b>[Jeremy “Smarty” Smart]</b> <b>[Chad Bennett]</b> <b>[Stacy Mize]</b> <b>[Russell Macway]</b>
Balloon Operator	<b>[Brian Cwiakala]</b>
Key Grip/Dolly Grip	<b>[Jeremy D’Apolito]</b>
Best Boy Grip	<b>[Jimmy Hollingshead]</b>
Grips	<b>[Kyle J. Keegan]</b> <b>[A.J. Brou]</b> <b>[Russell Macway]</b> <b>[Stacy Mize]</b>

Hair & Makeup Department Head	<b>[Sharon Simon]</b>
Key Makeup Artist	<b>[Sharon Tabb]</b>
Assistant Makeup Artists	<b>[Toni Marlo]</b> <b>[Stacey Coffee]</b> <b>[Krischelle Blackwell]</b>
Key Hair Stylist	<b>[Alexandra Ford]</b>
Assistant Hair Stylists	<b>[Mazey Denman]</b> <b>[Shelly D’Apolito]</b> <b>[Mandi Heldreth]</b> <b>[Cara Courtney Prentiss]</b> <b>[Jessica Loboda]</b>
Production Accountant	<b>[Sherry Lynn Sirmons]</b>
1st Assistant Production Accountant	<b>[Katherine Silva]</b>
Accounting Clerk	<b>[Savannah Thomas]</b>
Financial Controllers	<b>[Tim Rhynes]</b> <b>[Jered Cartwright]</b> <b>[Joy Moon]</b>
Incentive Auditor	<b>[Angie Doke]</b> <b>[Regier, Washecheck &amp; Jones]</b>
Wardrobe Supervisor	<b>[Colleen Gura]</b>
Key Costumer	<b>[Alyssa Cawthon]</b>
Costumers	<b>[Joseph Clinton]</b> <b>[Zackary Steven Graham]</b>
Costume PAs	<b>[Jeannie Fehr]</b> <b>[Randy Fehr]</b> <b>[Brandon Hamilton]</b> <b>[Casey Eldridge]</b> <b>[Lucas H. Mulder]</b>
Seamstresses	<b>[Moninya Mulder]</b> <b>[Laurie Nichols]</b> <b>[Edna M. Wiser]</b>
Seamster	<b>[Shawn Sturdevant]</b>
Cultural Clothing	<b>[Ardith Lemming]</b> <b>[Glen Lemming]</b> <b>[Jean Billey]</b> <b>[Couita Nucosee]</b> <b>[Nicole Schultz]</b> <b>[Joanna John]</b>
Chickasaw Wardrobe	<b>[Lona Barrick]</b>
Cultural Objects	<b>[Skylar Nucosee]</b> <b>[Nicole Schultz]</b>
Dance Troupe Regalia Seamstresses	<b>[Pauline Brown]</b> <b>[Rose Jefferson]</b> <b>[Virginia Puller Bolen]</b>
Sound Mixer	<b>[Carl Carden]</b>
Boom Operator	<b>[Brian Gililland]</b>
Additional Boom Operator	<b>[Demyilo Ray]</b>
Co-Location Managers	<b>[Ty Dickson]</b> <b>[Sean Patrick Eaton]</b>
On-Set Location	<b>[Cameron Gillispie]</b>
Overnight Security	<b>[Ed Hammers]</b>
Second Second Assistant Director	<b>[Chris Butcher]</b>
Key Set Production Assistant	<b>[Ann Laudick]</b>
Set Production Assistants	<b>[Meredith Autrey]</b> <b>[Jordan Butler]</b> <b>[Austin Kennedy]</b>
Production Assistant	<b>[Micah Hart]</b>
Stand Ins	<b>[Taylor Broom]</b> <b>[Meredith Little]</b> <b>[Raven Morgan]</b>
Production Coordinator	<b>[Temple Tucker]</b>

Assistant Production Coordinator	<b>[Casey Crowdis]</b>
Still Photographers	<b>[Marcy Gray]</b> <b>[Jacquelyn Sparks]</b>
Catering	<b>[Catering Creations, Norman, OK]</b>
Chef	<b>[Kim Torress]</b>
Craft Services	<b>[Megan L. Carter]</b>
Craft Services PA	<b>[Lorraine Comfort]</b>
Transportation Coordinator	<b>[Jack L. Sander]</b>
Transportation Captain	<b>[Justin Clenard]</b>
Drivers	<b>[Grant Funderburg]</b> <b>[Billy Wolff]</b> <b>[Trenton Blake]</b> <b>[Jay Erikson]</b> <b>[Nathan Palmer]</b> <b>[Jim Madden]</b> <b>[Bethany Gill]</b> <b>[Stephanie Scott]</b> <b>[Skylar Bussey]</b> <b>[Jennifer Matthews]</b> <b>[Zachary Cobb]</b> <b>[Denmoun Hill]</b> <b>[Austin Parker]</b> <b>[Alan Grimes]</b> <b>[Mark Resoner]</b> <b>[Shawn Bless]</b> <b>[Buster Caradaj]</b>
Choreographer	<b>[Q’orianka Kilcher]</b>
Shadow Puppet Specialist	<b>[Milissa Orzolek]</b>
Dog Handler	<b>[Whitney L. Wiltfong]</b>
White Dog	<b>[Sampson]</b>
Production Legal Services	<b>[Jay Shanker, McAfee &amp; Taft]</b>
Script Clearance	<b>[IndieClear]</b>
Insurance	<b>[Brown and Brown Insurance of Oklahoma]</b> <b>[Joyce Pinkley and Chris Floyd]</b>
Set Teacher Coordinators	<b>[Shirley Boatright]</b> <b>[Gayla Jackson]</b>
Set Teachers	<b>[Andra Wyatt]</b> <b>[Rita Fritchman]</b> <b>[Carol Gunke]</b> <b>[Tracy Largent]</b>
Second Unit Camera A Operator	<b>[Jason Alexander]</b>
Second Unit Camera B Operator	<b>[Wyatt Keel]</b>
Second Unit Camera A 1st Assistant	<b>[Philip Sullivan]</b>
Second Unit Camera B 1st Assistant	<b>[Austin Parker]</b>
Post Editor	<b>[Jason Alexander]</b>
Sound Re-Recording Mixer	<b>[Jeff Carpenter]</b>
Visual Effects Supervisor	<b>[Jarrod Davis]</b>
Post Production House	<b>[MPS Studios Dallas]</b>
MPS Post Production Supervisors	<b>[Ronnie Brazeal]</b> <b>[Matt Wittmeyer]</b>
MPS Colorist	<b>[Ronnie Brazeal]</b>
MPS Foley Artist	<b>[Blake Wellman]</b>
MPS Sound Designer	<b>[Matt Wittmeyer]</b>
Research Specialists	<b>[John Troutman, Ph.D.]</b> <b>[Thomas Bailey]</b> <b>[Rick Thompson]</b> <b>[Harley Lewis]</b> <b>[Quin Tran]</b> <b>[Jeannie Barbour]</b> <b>[Deborah Large]</b>





Cultural Dances for Q'Orianka Kilcher  
Chickasaw Dance Troupe

**[Nicole Schultz]**

**[Jesse Lindsey]**  
**[Halley Taylor]**  
**[Angelia Postoak]**  
**[Eddie Postoak]**  
**[Randall Hamilton]**  
**[Andrea Mann]**  
**[Jason Burwell]**  
**[Cotie Poe]**  
**[Dixie Brewer]**  
**[Jeremy Wallace]**  
**[Reese Hamilton]**  
**[Gerald Hart]**  
**[Ladonna Brown]**  
**[Sharon Postoak]**  
**[Tyla Carpenter]**  
**[Trent Mershon]**  
**[Jared Walker]**  
**[Ashley Wallace]**

Chickasaw Nation Bow & Arrow Advisor

**[Darrell Underwood]**

Chickasaw Nation Flute Advisor

**[Michael Cornelius]**

Chickasaw Language Advisors

**[Pauline Brown]**  
**[Joshua Hinson]**

Chickasaw Culture Advisor

**[Lynn Moroney]**

Wardrobe Provided by

**[Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma]**  
**[Jeffrey Meek, Costume Designer]**  
**[University of Oklahoma Theatre Department]**  
**[Oklahoma City Community College Theatre Department]**  
**[Chickasaw Nation Arts and Humanities Division]**

Original Vocal Compositions

**[Q'orianka Kilcher]**

Indigenous Cultural Liaison & Researcher

**[Saskia Genet-Oulicky]**

Dine' Cultural Advisor/Performance Coach

**[Earl Tulley]**

Dine' Language Specialist

**[Polly Bitsui]**

Dine' Cultural Consultant

**[Marilyn Help-Hood]**

Mnicoujou Lakota Mentors

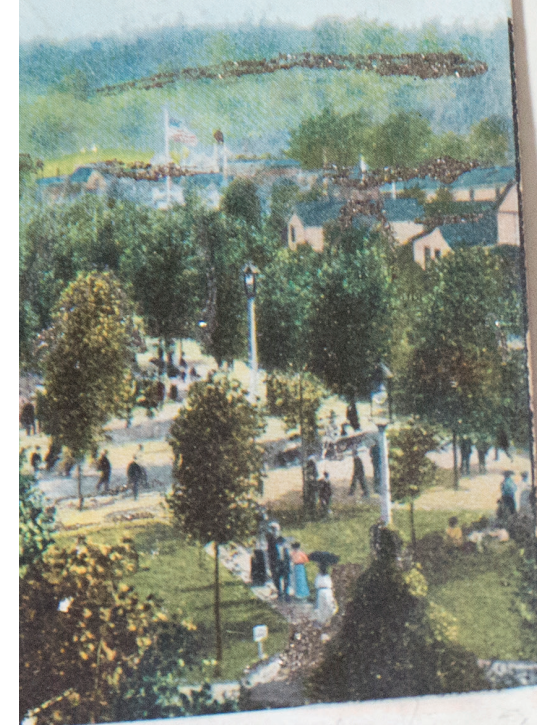
**[Zintkala Ohitika]**  
**[Joseph Alan Lafferty]**

Cherokee Mentor

**[Wiley Harwell]**

For a complete list of cast and crew visit:

[www.TeAtaMovie.com](http://www.TeAtaMovie.com)







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**BILL ANOATUBBY**, GOVERNOR  
THE CHICKASAW NATION