FIRST WE BOMBED NEW MEXICO

PRESS RELEASE – OCT 2, 2023 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MEDIA CONTACT: LOIS LIPMAN, PRODUCER & DIRECTOR EMAIL: <u>LOISLIPMAN@GMAIL.COM</u> WEBSITE: FIRSTWEBOMBEDNEWMEXICO.COM PHONE: (505) 231-1453

FIRST WE BOMBED NEW MEXICO – WORLD PREMIERE 2023 Santa Fe International Film Festival Tells the Story Oppenheimer Leaves Out

First We Bombed New Mexico follows the formidable Tina Cordova on her journey for justice. New Mexicans and other US citizens were poisoned by radiation from the Trinity nuclear bomb and continue to suffer multigenerational cancers. Unlike residents of other states, New Mexico downwinders have never been compensated.



Tina Cordova

"I am the 4th generation in my family to have cancer since Trinity released nuclear fallout in our backyard – my 23 year old niece is now the 5th generation. Our story is common in New Mexico and in many communities across the American West who lived downwind from where the very first nuclear bomb was detonated."

-Tina Cordova, Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium

Emmy Award winning journalist and filmmaker Lois Lipman states, "It has been my mission these past eight years to bring the story of the downwinders to light, which history books have ignored. We know the story of Oppenheimer, but we have never heard from those whose lives were devastated by this bomb - mainly Native Americans and Hispanics."

Congress is currently debating whether to expand the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) to include those residents and their descendants affected by the Trinity Bomb. There is no better time to bring this story to the big screen in support of this effort, for overdue recognition and compensation for the sacrifices they have made. This is a most urgent issue, because RECA expires in June 2024.

Simultaneously, 5,000 tourists will descend on the Trinity Site on October 21 for its biannual Open House due to the increased interest generated by Oppenheimer. Tina and the Downwinders will hold placards on the side of the dusty road – as they do every year – to bring attention to their plight and continued struggle for justice.

Please watch film teaser here: <u>https://vimeo.com/849354528?share=copy</u> Password: FWBNM100

Produced and directed by Lois Lipman, *First We Bombed New Mexico* premieres Friday, October 20, 2023 at 5:30 PM and Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 2:15 PM at the Center for Contemporary Arts- Santa Fe, 1050 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe as part of the Santa Fe International Film Festival. Each screening will be followed by a reception, location to be announced. Next it will be screened at the Austin Film Festival on October 31st and at the St.Louis International Film Festival.