

Gretchen M. Bataille and Charles L. P. Silet. *The Make-Believe Indian: Native Americans in the Movies*.

Slide-tape program, 1982, rental \$15.00, purchase \$99.00. Accompanying bibliography and teacher's guide \$5.00.

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*The Make-Believe Indian* is all that is implied in the title and more. The slide-tape program is a useful instructional device which goes beyond the scholarly margins of *The Pretend Indians* (1980) by the same authors. The program clearly depicts how most white Europeans had their "images of Indians" formed well before their arrival in the Americas. We are subsequently shown and told how these fixed images of Indians were generated through the dime novels of the nineteenth century and transferred to the silver screen by movie producers in Hollywood. The slides and narration are presented effectively; the pictures are well-chosen to illustrate the points being made on the tape. By examining the historical development of Indian stereotypes, it becomes easy to understand how deeply ingrained the "make-believe" images of Indians are. Furthermore, the program demonstrates why American Indians suffer from diminished identities.

While Bataille and Silet recognize the need for new films which present Indians in more positive and non-stereotypical roles, it is critically important that users of the program be conversant with the teacher's manual, for the images presented in the slides are primarily stereotypes. Viewers of the program should be aware that the purpose of its development is the examination and elimination of stereotypes in the light of current reality—a reality which has denied more than a million Native Americans access to their heritage.

It is clear that nothing less than public demand will force large film companies to produce movies which are concerned with accurate images of Indians in contemporary society. Good quality films about Native Americans can be produced; a producer need only watch *More Than Bows and Arrows* to get some good ideas.

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