

## MIRAGE 1984-85

3/4" colour video, stereo sound, 9 mins

This science fiction Western tells the story of a Native American Indian trying to return to a small town after the Vietnam war. Set in Lubbock, on the West Texas Plains, the action is located in the town's main tourist attraction, the 'Ranching Heritage Center'. Using the device of the road movie, the film explores the plight of the native, homeless within the reconstructed and fake history metaphorically suggested by the Center. We see through the eyes and time-space sense of the native, the tragedy of a destroyed heritage. This story was constructed from the writings and remembrances of Native American authors and local people who identified as Native Americans.

Mirage is an odd hybrid, something American, grown out of the red dust that is West Texas soil. A science fiction western. Has anything changed? It asks questions to interrogate a history that still exists, but isn't spoken. It refers to a time, the distant present, whose truth, such as it is, cannot be taken lightly: race, miscegenation and death.

Now you see it, now you don't. And can you trust what your eyes are seeing? Would you even know it, if you could?

Starring John Herring, Patricia Pope, Suzanne Bernard, Carl Pugh / Camera: Suzanne Griffith / Lighting: Kathryn Cloud / Production Manager: Ricahrd Privitt Music: Steve Paxton / Camera Assistant: Eric Noble / Post Production Editor: Rick Feist / Producer: Judith Barry, Kim Smith

