

## Longfellow Narrates Acadian Film

by Juliana L'Hereux

Following in the footsteps of his famous relative, Layne Longfellow has helped bring the story of the Acadians to light.

Longfellow, a relative of Maine's best known poet, Henry Wadsworth, is flying to Maine from Arizona next week for the premiere of "The Story Of The Acadians," by film producer Brenda Jepson, of Madawaska Maine. The film, narrated by Layne Longfellow, will be shown at theaters from Calais to Bucksport.

"The Story of The Acadians", which was filmed in Downeast Maine, France and Canada, chronicles the arrival of the first French settlers to St. Croix Island, to St Sauveur in Acadia and on to Nova Scotia. It culminates in the deportation of the French from their beloved Acadia to far flung locations along the Eastern seaboard and, in some cases, back to France.

"History must not forget this injustice done to a culture," said Longfellow, whose relative immortalized the tale of the

Acadians in his epic poem "Evangeline."

"Even so gentle a man as Longfellow saw it as his duty to stand up against injustice - to speak out and use the gift he was given and the enormous influence he had, to make a stand against man's inhumanity to man."



*Layne Longfellow*  
*"History must not forget this  
injustice done to a culture"*

Longfellow, who was inducted into the Speaker's Hall of Fame in 1986, only learned in recent years that he was related to Henry Wadsworth. Since then he has made it his mission to renew interest in Longfellow's poetry,

"Even if Layne were not related to Longfellow, he had the perfect voice to narrate this film," said Brenda Jepson, the Maine director/producer who made "The Story of The Acadians."

"The fact that Layne knew the story so well and felt so passionate

about the tale made him even better. I am really thrilled he is coming to Maine specially for the showings.

An earlier version of "The Story Of The Acadians", narrated in French, was taken by Governor John Baldacci last fall to France during his trade mission for a showing at the ancestral home of the Acadians in Poitou.

Film showings, followed by panel discussions with Dr. Layne Longfellow, Brenda Jepson and Dr. Francoise Paradis are scheduled at the following venues:

Friday, July 28th - University of Maine at Machias Performing Arts Center  
7pm.

Saturday, July 29th – Downeast Heritage Center, Calais - film showing all day with panel discussion following the 7pm showing.

Monday, July 31st - Alamo Theater, Bucksport 7pm.

For more information about the film visit:

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