

MEET THE MUSEUM
Discovery
Theater &

**The National Museum
of the American Indian**

Dancing the Stories

with Thirza Defoe


A member of the Ojibwe and Oneida tribes of Wisconsin, **Thirza Defoe**—whose Native name is Giizhiigoquay (ghee-zhee-GO-kway)—grew up on the Lac du Flambeau Reservation and in Milwaukee. She shares her culture—traditional Iroquois social songs, storytelling, hoop dancing, eagle dancing and the Ojibwe language—through educational presentations and performances for audiences of all ages and cultural backgrounds. She has won awards and recognition in the native community and around the world for her Eagle Dancing and for her Hoop Dancing. She began performing at the age of 8, and shortly after danced in the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Barcelona.


In 2004, Thirza received her BFA in Theatre from the California Institute of the Arts, and was also awarded the Indigenous Heritage Festival award for Performing Arts. She has been featured in *National Geographic World* magazine and hailed as “Wisconsin’s Best Kept Secret” by *News from Indian Country: The Independent Native Journal*.

To learn more about Thirza, see www.thirzadefoe.com.



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