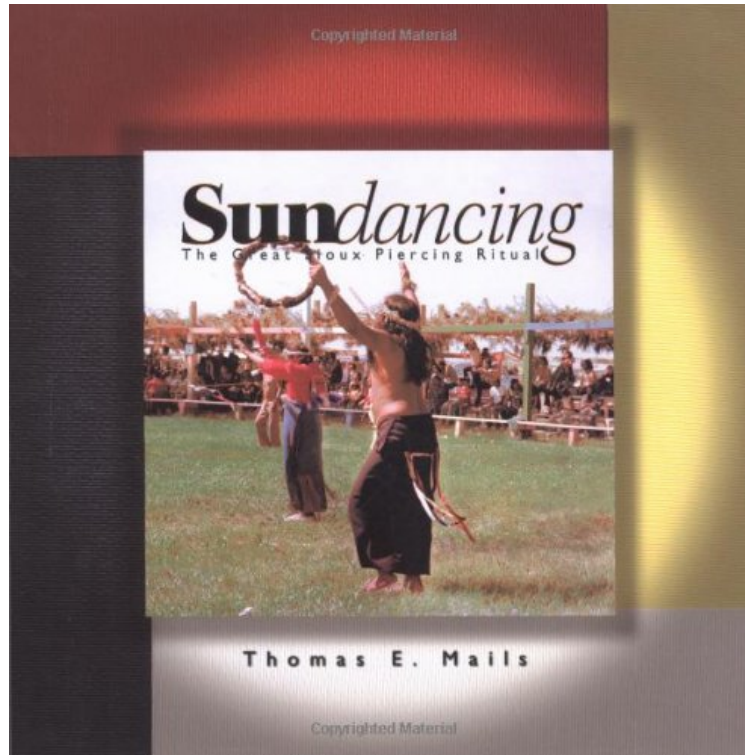


[Free] Sundancing: The Great Sioux Piercing Ceremony

Sundancing: The Great Sioux Piercing Ceremony

Thomas E. Mails

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To the Plains Indians, the Sun Dance has traditionally been a profound religious ceremony, the highest form of worship of the Most Holy One. Thomas E. Mails was invited to attend and record in detail the Sioux Sun Dances at Rosebud and Pine Ridge. This was a singular honor no white man has been accorded before or since. The result is this groundbreaking work, illustrated with rare photographs and stunning four-color paintings.

"His combination of engrossing text and fascinating pictures makes this one of the most valuable books on Indian life ever to be published." -- The Navajo Times "Magnificently and accurately conveys both the tragic ironies and the splendors of the rich Plains civilization." -- Newsweek magazine "Sympathetic, respectful and appreciative...a major attempt to present the Indians' own view of their lifestyle." -- University of New Mexico Press About the

Author Thomas E. Mails is the author-illustrator of many best-selling books, including *Mystic Warriors of the Plains* and *Fools Crow: Wisdom and Power*. Mails is a renowned authority on Native American history and culture. Other titles by Thomas E. Mails: *Secret Native American Pathways: A Guide to Inner Peace* *The Cherokee People: The Story of the Cherokee From Earliest Origins to Contemporary Times* *Spirits of the Plains* *Warriors of the Plains* *Peoples of the Plains* *Creators of the Plains* Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. REPORT OF ONE OF THE YOUNG SUNDANCE PARTICIPANTS "On the third day of the dance, Titus and I were pierced...I lay down on the buffalo hide and the dancers faced me, blowing their whistles and dancing while I prayed with the Peace Pipe. When Titus was cut, I helped him up and then put a stick through his skin to hold the rope. Titus danced and pulled on the rope until the stick broke loose...I pulled for quite a while before mine broke too, and the flesh offering was finished. Titus and I will both pierce as long as we are alive and the Indian language and culture are alive."