SMOKE SIGNALS  (USA, 1998)
(Other titles: Phoenix Arizona)

Credits: director, Chris Eyre; writer, Sherman Alexie.
Cast: Adam Beach, Evan Adams, Irene Bedard, Gary Farmer, Tantoo Cardinal.
Summary: Comedy/melodrama/road film set in the contemporary American West. Story of the journey of two Coeur d’Alene Indian boys from Idaho to Arizona. Victor (Beach) is the stoic, handsome son of an alcoholic father (Farmer) who has abandoned his family. Thomas (Adams) is a gregarious, goofy young man orphaned as an infant by a fire which Victor’s father accidentally started while drunk. Thomas is a storyteller who makes every effort to connect with the people around him; Victor, in contrast, uses his quiet demeanor to gain strength and confidence. When Victor’s estranged father dies in Arizona the two young men embark on a journey to recover his ashes. Along the way the two learn a number of life lessons from each other and those around them. One of Thomas’s stories describes Victor’s father’s involvement in an anti-Vietnam War demonstration.

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Kliever, Brent. “‘Smoke signals’ a rite of passage” Santa Fe New Mexican (Jul 17, 1998), Passatiempo, p. P21.
Long Feather, Cheryl. “‘Smoke signals’ good for more than a laugh” Bismarck tribune (Sep 30, 1998), p. 1B.


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Persall, Steve. “‘Smoke signals’ is uniquely superb” St. Petersburg times (Jul 17, 1998), Weekend, p. 3.

Philpot, Robert. “Studio hype kindles mixed signals about ‘Smoke’” Fort Worth star-telegram (Jul 10, 1998), Star time, p. 8.


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