

All The buzz

First with all the news, all the details

MEDICINE MAN BLESSES SANDLER'S NEW FLICK!

*He also chased away evil spirits
where 'Longest Yard' is being filmed*

ADAM SANDLER'S upcoming movie is bound to be a huge hit — a Native-American medicine man blessed the entire production.

As an exclusive ENQUIRER photo shows, Paul Ortega — the principal medicine man of the Mescalero Apaches — gave an official blessing to the 37-year-old star on the site of the now-vacant New Mexico penitentiary grounds where "The Longest Yard" is being shot.

The spiritual healer not only blessed Sandler, the rest of the cast and the crew, he also chased away any evil spirits.

NO JOKE

"It was a very solemn ceremony," a set source told The ENQUIRER.

"First there was a prayer to bless the ground, because over the years there was a huge amount of suffering on the land due to riots and violent



**EXCLUSIVE
PHOTO**

SOLEMN CEREMONY: Mescalero Apache shaman Paul Ortega uses eagle feathers and burning sage during the ritual with Adam Sandler.

deaths in and around the prison."

Ortega held eagle feathers in his right hand and a burning bundle of sage in his left. As he blessed the field, he spoke of the sacred past of the New Mexico land.

OTHERS, TOO

"Adam was respectful of Ortega — I've never seen him more somber. He's usually joking around all the time, but he was deadly serious during the

prayer," disclosed the set source.

"After Ortega was finished blessing Adam, many of the other actors lined up to get blessed."

"The Longest Yard" tells the story of prison inmates who form a football team to challenge the prison guards. Due out next year, it also stars Steve Austin, Brian Bosworth, James Cromwell, Chris Rock, Nelly, and Burt Reynolds — who starred in the original 1974 version.

— ROBIN MIZRAHI