

# Indians



CHESTERFIELD SCHOOL

CHRONOLOGY FOR A DREAMER

- 1846 William F. Cody born in Le Claire, Iowa, on February 26.
- 1866 Geronimo surrenders.
- 1868 William Cody accepts employment to provide food for railroad workers; kills 4,280 buffaloes. Receives nickname 'Buffalo Bill'.
- 1869 Buffalo Bill, the King of the Border Men, a dime novel by Ned Buntline, makes Buffalo Bill a national hero.
- 1872 Expedition west in honour of Grand Duke Alexis, Buffalo Bill as guide.
- 1876 Battle at the Little Big Horn; Custer killed.
- 1877 Chief Joseph surrenders.
- 1878 Buffalo Bill plays himself in "Scouts of the Plains", a play by Ned Buntline.
- 1879 Wild Bill Hickok joins Buffalo Bill on the stage.
- 1883 Sitting Bull surrenders, is sent to Standing Rock Reservation.
- 1883 'Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show' gives first performance, is great success.
- 1885 Sitting Bull allowed to join Wild West Show, tours with company for a year.
- 1886 United States Commission visits Standing Rock Reservation to investigate Indian grievances.
- 1890 Sitting Bull assassinated, December 15.
- 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre, December 25.

The play derives, in part, from this chronology but does not strictly adhere to it.

## "INDIANS"

Arthur Kopit's play "Indians" is a difficult play for performance. It demands great concentration and effort from the actors, and its movement between historical events and dream-like illusion may seem strange to an audience.

The play concerns the American Government's investigation of complaints by Sitting Bull and the Sioux at Standing Rock reservation, and the events leading up to the massacre of the Sioux at Wounded Knee on Christmas Day 1890.

William Cody, who became known as Buffalo Bill, had been largely responsible for the extinction of the buffalo, which in turn caused the Sioux to be confined on their reservation. Kopit's play is from Bill's point of view and traces his thoughts and memories of events.

The gaudy razzamataz of American showbusiness, seen in Ned Buntline's play about Buffalo Bill, which takes place before the President, and later in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, is important. The artificiality of these shows and the superficial, unthinking reaction of the "audience" who watch them reflect the American government's attitude toward the Indians.

The play's main character, Buffalo Bill, is a link between the glamorous, unfeeling world of showbusiness and the harsh reality of starvation on the reservation. He is a sympathetic figure who finally realizes the significance of his actions and the consequences of the government's Indian policy.

Alan Williams

THERE WILL BE AN INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES DURING WHICH  
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE, COURTESY OF THE PARENTS'  
ASSOCIATION

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Buffalo Bill	..	Matthew Jagger
Sitting Bull	..	Martin Lambert
Senator Logan	..	Glyn Fisher
Senator Morgan	..	Ivan Parkinson
Senator Dawes	..	Michael Briggs
John Grass	..	Ben Forbes
Spotted Tail/Wild Bill Hickok	..	Darren Wagstaff
Interpreter/Sergeant	..	Richard Anderson
Grand Duke	..	Geoffrey Holloway
Ned Buntline	..	Ashley Hunt
Geronimo	..	Simon Beard
Ushers	..	Barrington Jones, Martin Miller.
President	..	Andrew Oldale.
First Lady	..	Rooma Sinha
Paula Monduli	..	Fiona Muxlow
Gunther Hookman	..	Richard Hallas
Chief Joseph	..	David Bridgman
Colonel Forsyth	..	Simon Dodds

Cowboys and Indians:

Michael Andrews; Simon Bell; John Batteson; Dean Bradshaw;  
Philip Bramley; Paul Brill; Steven Calladine; Gwen Davies;  
Mark Dawson; Jason Dent; Richard Gibbs; Matthew Godber;  
Jonathan Hallett; Timothy Hallett; Adrian Hardy; Danny  
Harvey; Richard Hooper; Jason Hopkinson; Peter Horton;  
Adrian Hunt; Tarun Jaiswal; Andrew Lennox; Medha Limaye;  
Bric Luk; Chris Mason; James McDowell; Ian Molloy; Andrew  
Poulter; Paul Ramsamooj; Siobhan Ryan; Gary Spencer; Paul  
Tustain; Nadine Wall.

Music: Tom Bryson Nigel Turner

Backstage: Steve Atkins; David Coultham; Martin Frost;  
Keith Hobson; David Johnson; David Staves;  
Gary Warner.

Lighting: Tony Yorke; Paul Brunyee; David Channon;  
Steven Panich.

Produced and Directed by Alan Williams

**Watch Out For**

**"PICNIC ON THE BATTLEFIELD"**

