

Musical preserves past

In Deo
SUB Theatre
October 18, 19

Review by Georgeann McInerney

The Indian Musical *In Deo* is best acclaimed in the words from which the name 'Indian' comes: du corpus in Deo, made in the image of God.



Cree students from Winterburn Enoch Band

The spiritual beauty of the Indian People, which warrants this expression came brilliantly to life in the performance at SUB Theatre last week.

In Deo began in July 1982 when The World Assembly of First Nations asked Bill Brittain, a James Smith Reserve Indian from Saskatchewan, to promote an historical awareness of what has happened to the Indian.

Brittain, a professional performer who has appeared in Australia and throughout Europe, decided to use entertainment as his instrument and wrote the Indian Musical *In Deo*.

Approximately 40 Native amateur performers take part in the play performing traditional music, song and dance they learned as children.

Most of the play's music is traditional. The rhythm, the chanting, and the drum beats are unique to Indian style, and are recognizably North American.

Other pieces composed by the performers reflect influence from Indian heritage. Reservation Blues is one example. It is an adaptation of a Blues tune strummed on an electric guitar telling of the Reserve Indians' depression.

The performance's traditional dances include a Hoop dance. This is a very difficult dance, where the performer steps through hoops to the beat of a drum, and the sound of chants. Few have the opportunity to see it performed; especially so well.

Other dances are contemporary. Rene Highway, originally from Manitoba, combines Ballet and modern dance with Indian folklore to choreograph some very unique contemporary dances which have been well accepted in the United States.

In Deo is a history story. With a teepee, a campfire, and a simple back-drop-painting of hills, *In Deo* captivates the simple and natural life of the Indian before the White Man. However it is more than an account of the past. The last act explains what has happened to the Indian as a result of the past.

The Indian had to sign treaties and move onto reserves. As the song "Learning Ways" says, "their feet were in two canoes" and there was nothing the Indian could do. The Indian's societies, culture, and religion were unaccepted. He was forced to change, learn the White Man ways, and fall under his rule." The Indian's "spirituality remained with the past" and the Indian became "Idle." It became hard to be proud to be Indian.

The traditions did not die, the elders kept them alive in legend. The Indian felt he had to chose between being white and being Indian. Brittain tells the Indian to be Indian, but to learn the White Man ways, and use them to enhance the Indian Nationhood.

According to Brittain this is the purpose of *The In Deo Foundation*. It was developed out of *In Deo* to promote Indian Fine Arts in schools and on Reserves. In the future, the organization hopes to affiliate the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College with the University of Regina to offer credit courses in the Indian Arts.

Brittain wants to see the Indians live in the White Man's society in a position of self-determination rather than subversion and conflict. This is expressed in the final dance "Come Let Us Round Dance Together."



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Golden Bears Football

VS.

UBC Thunderbirds
(Defending C.I.A.U. Champions)

Saturday, October 29, 1983

2:00 pm. Varsity Stadium

U of A students admitted free with current I.D. card

Golden Bears Hockey
host the

1ST ANNUAL GOLDEN BEAR INVITATIONAL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT FRIDAY - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28 - 30, 1983

Friday, October 28, 1983	Saturday, October 29, 1983	Sunday, October 30, 1983
4:30 p.m. Saskatchewan vs Calgary 7:30 p.m. Alberta vs Lethbridge	4:30 p.m. Lethbridge vs Saskatchewan 7:30 p.m. Calgary vs Alberta	12:00 Noon Calgary vs Lethbridge 3:00 p.m. Saskatchewan vs Alberta

VARSITY ARENA

	Tournament Pass	Daily Pass
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Golden Bear Soccer

VS.

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Sunday, October 30, 1983

2:00 pm. Varsity Stadium

2:00 pm. Varsity Stadium

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CABARET

Absolutely no
minors admitted.

DINWOODIE
2nd Floor SUB

Tickets are available from the SUB Box Office (2nd Floor SUB) and various club members.

NOTE: These events are open only to U of A students, staff, and guests.

Arts Students' Association
present

Blood Fire

Friday, October 28, 8 PM.

U of A Women's Centre
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with Special Guests

Friday, November 4, 8 PM.

Chemical Engineering
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with guests: BOYS YOUR OWN AGE

Saturday, October 29, 8 PM.

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present

DAVID WILCOX

with guests

Saturday, November 5, 8 PM.

UP & COMING:

- November 5
David Wilcox
- November 10
Secret Society
- November 19
B-Sides
- November 25
Sound FX