

T1 “Arthur Kopit: *Indians*”

Arthur Kopit is an American playwright (b. 1937). *Indians* is perhaps his best-known play, first performed in London in 1968 and then in New York (Broadway) in 1969.

Scene Two

Light up on SITTING BULL. He is dressed simply – no feathered headdress. It is winter.

SITTING BULL. I am Sitting Bull! ... In the moon of the first snow-falling, in the year half my people died from hunger, the Great Father sent three wise men ... to investigate the conditions of our reservation, though we'd been promised he would come himself.

Lights up on SENATORS LOGAN, MORGAN, and DAWES; they are flanked by armed SOLDIERS. Opposite them, in a semi-circle, are SITTING BULL's people, all huddling in tattered blankets from the cold.

SENATOR LOGAN. Indians! Please be assured that this committee has not come to punish you or take away any of your land but only to hear your grievances, determine if they are just. And if so, remedy them. For we, like the Great Father, wish only the best for our Indian children.

The SENATORS spread out various legal documents.

SITTING BULL. They were accompanied by ... my friend, William Cody –

Enter BUFFALO BILL, collar of his overcoat turned up for the wind.

in whose Wild West Show I'd once appeared ...

BUFFALO BILL greets a number of the INDIANS.

in exchange for some food, a little clothing. And a beautiful horse that could do tricks.

SENATOR MORGAN. Colonel Cody has asked if he might say a few words before testimony begins.

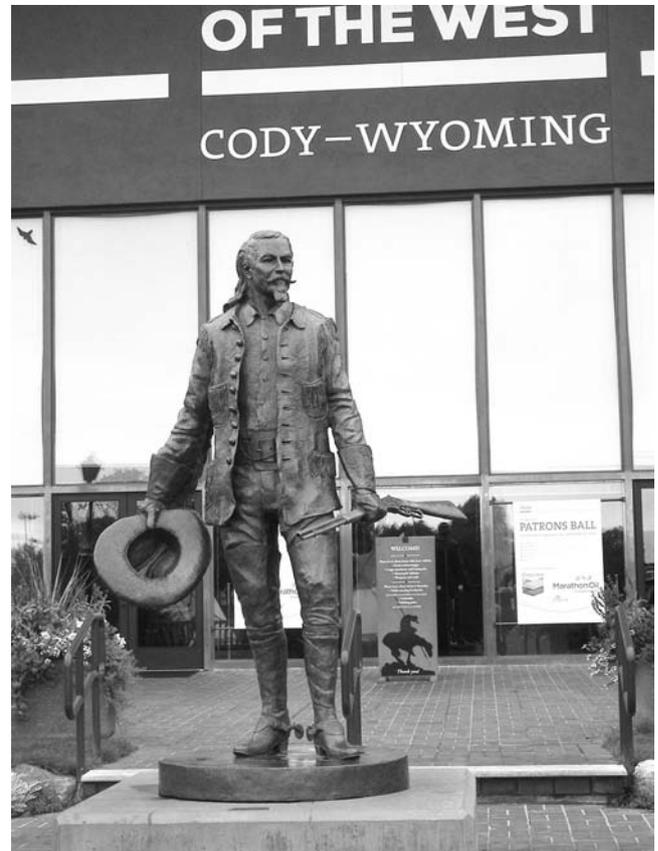
SENATOR LOGAN. We would be honoured.

BUFFALO BILL (*to the INDIANS*).

My ... brothers.

Pause.

I know how disappointed you all must be that the Great Father isn't here; I apologize for having said I thought I ... could bring him.



© Peter Dines

Pause.

However! The three men I have brought are by far his most trusted personal representatives. And I promise that talking to them will be the same as ...

Pause. Softly.

... talking to him.

Long pause; he rubs his eyes as if to soothe a headache.

To ... Sitting Bull, then ...

He stares at SITTING BULL.