



THE GHOST DANCERS

Stone Soup Theatre Arts at the June Havoc Theatre as part of the Midtown International Theatre Festival

The Ghost Dancers is a dull, amateurishly rendered production of Adam Hunault's 90-minute play about the unfair treatment of the Lakota Sioux by the U.S. government. Sluggishly directed by Nadine Friedman, the show takes place on a South Dakota Indian reservation in 1973 yet intermingles the events of that year's standoff for the land at Wounded Knee with the famous massacre there in 1890. Among the play's 15 Nixon-era characters can be found an FBI agent named George Custer, a tribal leader called Sitting Bull, and a disillusioned half-breed known as Little Big Man.

Despite clever blending of past and present, beguiling themes of self-identity, and the dramatic conflict between cultural traditions and progress, *The Ghost Dancers* is seriously disabled by its cast of lackluster actors. The bright exceptions are Alejandro Garcia as a Vietnam vet named Crazy Horse and Galway McCullough as Crook, the owner of the Wounded Knee Trading Post.

Presented by Stone Soup Theatre Arts as part of the Midtown International Theatre Festival at the June Havoc Theatre, 312 W. 36th St., NYC.

July 21–30. Remaining performances: Thu., July 24, 8:30 p.m.; Fri., July 25, 5:30 p.m.; Sun., July 27, 2:30 p.m.; Tue., July 29, 8:30 p.m.; Wed., July 30, 4:45 p.m.

(212) 279-4200 or www.ticketcentral.com.

Reviewed by Lisa Jo Sagolla

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