

COALITION-Stop This Racist Play Opposes Productions of THE NEW WORLD

The Coalition-Stop this Racist Play, consisting of Native and Indigenous representatives, call on all concerned citizens in the region to come and learn why they strongly oppose the production of the play "The New World".

Currently being shown at the Bucks County Playhouse, PA, "The New World" is a racist depiction of the genocide of Native Americans in our country. The play was written about Native Americans without consultation or consent from the Native community. Additionally, there was neither Native involvement in the production and development nor any Native actors cast in the show. "The New World" is filled with disparaging depictions of Native people, blatant stereotyping, and misappropriation of Native culture.

Their goal is two-pronged: They want "The New World" to never be shown outside the Bucks County Playhouse, and they want to ensure racist and insensitive plays like "The New World" are not produced, shown, or supported. There is nothing humorous about a play that further perpetrates the pilgrim's myth of the "Thanksgiving" - a holiday that was born from the extermination and exploitation of Native populations. Although the writer's intention was to unify people, even going so far as to make a mockery of every social group included in the production and including a "multicultural" cast, our community finds the depiction and the rewritten historical accounts of our people reprehensible and not acceptable.

" Since 1970, Native Americans and [their supporters] have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the US thanksgiving holiday. Many Native Americans do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims and other European settlers. Thanksgiving day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands, and the relentless assault on Native culture. " - <http://www.uaine.org/>

To learn more about our campaign, the true history of the Wampanoag tribe, National Day of Mourning, myth of the Thanksgiving and what you can do.

Visit our website:

www.indigenous215.net/stopthisracistplay



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FIRST, the appropriation of the Wampanoag and entire Native culture, society and history:

- The reference of sacred and ancestral objects, foods and animals as props - (ie: peace pipe, headdresses, lacrosse stick, medicine bag, animals, the turkey, and our sacred food, the corn).
- The reference of Squanto's life & moment of kidnapping - Squanto was in fact kidnapped into slavery.
- Furthermore, there is also no historical documentation that indicates Squanto had a relationship or marriage with an English colonial-settler woman.

SECOND, the use of colonialism ideology in the arts which perpetuates white supremacy, violence and extermination of Native / Indigenous people:

- The perpetuation of White Savior complex, whereby in the end it is a white woman who saves the day.
- Dressing the "Native" in modern attire to signify the interpretation of what is considered suitable attire for a "civilized population".
- The racist song "How" reminiscent of old Red-face and racist television and movie depictions of Natives.
- Use of the character Miles Standish, a known Indian killer responsible for brutal and deadly attacks against Natives.
- The use of white supremacist songs such as "the Indians are coming".
- Cinematic music that was played at the beginning of the play and throughout.
- The use of a White and People of Color non-indigenous cast to represent the Native. Perpetrating the on-going settlers colonialist mentality, erasure and violence by non-indigenous people towards Indigenous people.
- The depiction of a fairytale ending- rendering Indigenous genocide completely invisible.

- The over sexualization of the "Native" characters and of sacred cultural materials: The desecration of our sacred vegetables in to phallic props; Pornographic names (i.e. creamy corn); The two male leading "Native" characters - who are the only two half-naked people who are wearing clothes in the style of hippy contemporary cloth; The suggestive relationships between Sequoia and his male friend "Turkey"; The sexualization of Indian Summer to equate to a time to have sex; The flamboyant representation of the "Native" drinking and speaking in a middle class manner.

THIRD, the use of White Supremacist violent historical accounts against Indigenous People to make a comedy, a mockery:

- Reference to the "Manifest Destiny" - a military campaign that waged a war against Native American Nations to steal their land and life styles.
- The notion that evolution was needed and was used as a reason to create a "New World".
- The notion that Natives granted permission to create a "New World" and wanted to work together with the Pilgrims to do so in "Harmony" (song).
- The pseudo-utopia seems plausible to the writers, there are many steps in between that need to take place before such a reality could be accomplished (recognition, retribution, healing, apologies etc. to Native and Indigenous communities). It is dangerous to suggest this is the way to peace; even if a "comedy".

**STOP THIS
RACIST PLAY
"THE NEW WORLD"**

**RESPECT
NATIVE
HISTORY**