Performing Arts Center 'Indians' opens

By Christina Flagler

Performances of "Indians," Arthur Kopit's play, will be shown this weekend at 8 p.m. at the new Interim Performing Arts Center.

Suzanne B. Dieckman, assistant professor of visual arts, said she chose this play to inaugurate the new Performing Arts Center because she felt something that would raise consciousness, values and point out philosophical and social issues was necessary.

"Indians is a play I have always liked, even before I started teaching at Creighton," Dieckman said. "But I did not think the Little Theater was big enough for it's performance."

Pleased with work

"I am very pleased with the work of the entire cast," Dieckman said. "A lot of work and sacrifice has gone into the production of this play, and into the finishing of the center. The collaboration of everybody has made this possible," she said.

"I am very pleased with the work of the entire cast — the construction people, students and faculty," Dieckman said she is also pleased with the work of the Creighton Committee for Lectures, Films and Concerts, and the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities which sponsored the special appearance of Arthur Kopit at a discussion session after the play last night.

She said she just finished a study on Kopit's work.

The play shows the personality development of Buffalo Bill who is played by Arts junior, Frank Koernicki.

Dieckman said the public can appreciate the existence of a young idealistic Cody before he becomes a hero; the friendly Cody who wants to help the Indians; the showman Cody who puts up "Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show;" the scared Cody who has become caught between the circumstances which are destroying the Indians; and, finally, there is the old Cody who tries to justify the destruction of the Indian culture.

Cody's inner conflicts are present during the whole play, Dieckman said. The hero figure constantly fights with that of the helper figure within himself. Cody tries to help the Indians, but at the same time, he exploits them by using them in his show, Dieckman said.

At the end of the play, Cody tries to justify all he has done, but he is unable to because he has become trapped in his hero role, she said.

Outside conflicts present

Outside conflicts are also evident in the plot of the play. These are the cultural shocks between two cultures in which one exploits the other. Each culture is caught in its own way of viewing the world, and cannot see the destruction arising.

The conflict between the new and the old continued on page 9.