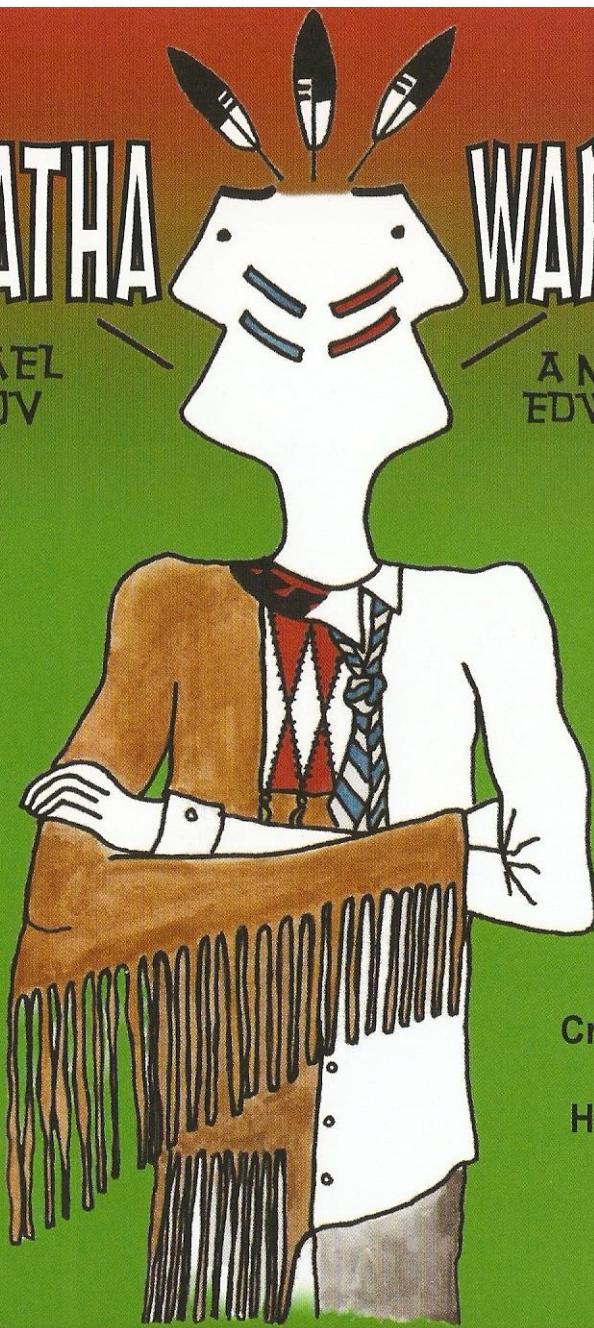


# HIAWATHA

BY MICHAEL  
BOGDANOV

# WARPAINT

A NEW PLAY BY  
EDWARD TOONE



Crusader Round  
Church of the  
Holy Sepulchre,  
Sheep Street  
Northampton



Thu 16 - Sat 18 April 7.30pm  
(2.30pm Saturday Matinee)

Masque Youth Theatre  
Box Office 01604 719365  
or in person from The Works  
Adnitt Rd, Northampton  
Tickets £6 / £5 concessions

## TWO SHORT PLAYS ON THE THEME OF IDENTITY

### HIAWATHA

Directed by Ursula Wright  
Choreography by Kerri Jackson

Longfellow's epic poem *The Song of Hiawatha*, published in 1855, is mostly known to us today through various parodies, from Lewis Carroll to Walt Disney. Yet the original verses, with their rhythmic four beat metre and their treasure store of native American legends and traditions, have long deserved a wider audience. This adaptation for the stage by Michael Bogdanov was first performed by the Young Vic Theatre Company in 1978, and two years later by the National Theatre.

Using authentic tribal songs and dances, live percussion, simple props and staging, a cast of twenty performs the story of Hiawatha: demi-god son of the West Wind, warrior with magical powers, devoted husband to his bride Minnehaha, peacemaker and prophet. The Crusader Round provides the perfect setting:

*"You have noticed that everything an Indian does is in a circle. In the old days, when we were a strong and happy people, all our power came to us from the sacred hoop of the nation, and so long as the hoop was unbroken, the people flourished. The life of a man is a circle, and so it is in everything where power moves."* **Black Elk** (1863-1950)

### WARPAINT

Directed by Edward Toone  
Choreography by Stephanie Smith

Time - the present.  
Place - an ordinary comprehensive. Groups of students discuss each other, and whether to audition for the school dance production. A new teacher struggles to engage her class. Tensions and rivalries simmer and flare. An unlikely friendship begins to grow. Using native American history as a backdrop for the 'tribal' warfare of contemporary school life, *Warpaint* explores themes of truthfulness and courage, the search for identity and cultural heritage.

Edward Toone, who was a member of Masque Youth Theatre for four years, has written *Warpaint* specifically for 22 members of the group. After university, Edward returned to MYT as Assistant Director on *Gulliver* and *Ringtime* (for which he wrote and directed a short literary dramatisation on the theme of love called *'It's Complicated'*).

Masque Youth Theatre was formed in November 1997 and currently has an active membership of 60 young people in two age groups, 9-12 and 13-19, drawn from schools and colleges in Northamptonshire. There are no auditions and weekly attendance fees are kept low. The Youth Theatre is registered with NCC and NAYT. It meets at Northgate School, Harborough Road, Northampton and performs in various venues. 11 major productions have been staged to date, as well as street theatre, workshops and projects at the request of the County and Borough Councils. It also arranges and hosts an annual Summer School open to non-members. Many former members of Masque Youth Theatre are now training or working professionally in the theatre and television.



For further information contact  
Ursula Wright on 01604 719365 or visit

[www.masqueyouththeatre.co.uk](http://www.masqueyouththeatre.co.uk)