

News Release: 14.06.06

## **APACHE AND ZULU DANCERS TO PERFORM LIVE SHOWS TOGETHER IN BRISTOL**

Over twenty dancers and musicians from the United States and South Africa are set to share the stage in a series of three spectacular live shows next month in Bristol. It is thought to be the first time a Native American dance troupe has performed alongside a troupe of Zulus. The double-bill show, featuring music, dance, acrobatics and audience participation has been specially arranged by the British Empire & Commonwealth Museum. Performances will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July inside the Brunel Passenger Shed at Temple Meads, Bristol's largest covered indoor venue.

The Mighty Zulu Nation are famous for athletic dance routines, accompanied by soulful vocal harmonies and African drumming. Their energetic performances have been well received by the Queen (on two occasions) and also Nelson Mandela. The *Eastern Daily Press* said: "The hair raises on my back with just the thought of their music, to actually watch and hear them is unforgettable". With their strong muscular physiques the dancers have attracted a large female following on their overseas' tours as well as modelling contracts at home. In addition to performing they make their own, elaborately beaded costumes.

Yellow Bird, who have performed the world over, including for many heads of State, are visiting the UK for the first time. They are renowned for their haunting flute music and beautifully rich costumes. Each of their dances represents an age-old tale steeped in the Native American tradition. Acknowledged as one of the best troupes in the USA they are chiefly known for featuring the spectacular talents of the hoop dancing world champion.

Both troupes are committed to improving worldwide knowledge of their respective cultures and traditions. They are also touring to help support their own families and communities at home. Tour promoter John Curtin, who is taking care of the two troupes during their stay in Britain, says "I am delighted to bring the dancers to Bristol and thrilled at the prospect of seeing them appear on stage together for the first time ever. They are also looking forward to seeing the sights of this historic port city."

Each show will last approximately two hours, including an interval. Yellow Bird and the Mighty Zulu Nation will perform in turn before joining in a rousing finale. Individual tickets cost £9 for adults and £5 for children, with discounts available to families, schools and groups. Advance booking is recommended by calling the Museum on 0117 925 4980 or emailing [bookings@empiremuseum.co.uk](mailto:bookings@empiremuseum.co.uk)

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The Mighty Zulu Nation are available for a photo-call and interview opportunity on 24<sup>th</sup> June in Bristol.

For further information and readily available images, please contact:

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#### **Notes for Editors:**

##### **Yellow Bird Indian Dancers**

The Yellow Bird Indian Dancers present a repertoire of authentic Apache, Southwest and Northern Plains dances which are colourful yet educational. From the exciting Hoop Dance to the beautiful Apache Rainbow Dance, performances are enhanced by native sign language and enchanting flute music. The troupe members are almost all related through birth. They are based in Mesa, Arizona but are currently touring the UK and Russia.

##### **Might Zulu Nation**

Still in their 20s, the Mighty Zulu Nation dancers and musicians are a 12 piece South African troupe that has have already performed throughout the world. To join the troupe each member must train for six months. Their Director, Dr Iain Storey, is a specialist in phonetics and speech therapy.

##### **The British Empire & Commonwealth Museum**

It is the only Museum in the world to present the 500-year history of the British empire and to examine the legacy of Britain's colonial history on modern, multicultural Britain. The Museum opened in September 2002 and was short-listed in 2004 for the title of 'European Museum of the Year'. Special events are held inside the Brunel Passenger Shed, recently restored and generally regarded as one of the 'wonders of the Victorian Age'. The Passenger Shed is the largest covered indoor events' space in Bristol.