

THE SEXY INDIANS DUMP THE TEA

a ten-minute play

by

Alexis Kozak

CHARACTERS

NICKI a college co-ed. Early 20's. The fun one.

ALI a college co-ed. Early 20's. The smart one.

TIME

(Throat clearing...) The sixteenth day of the twelfth month of the year of Our Lord seventeen seventy-three. (Pause.) That is, ye olde night of the Boston Tea Party. 6:38 p.m.

PLACE

Nicki's bedroom. Boston.

“Is it equitable that 99, rather 999, should suffer for the Extravagance or Grandeur of one, especially when it is considered that men frequently owe their Wealth to the impoverishment of their Neighbors?”

—*New York Gazette*, 1765

“We're gonna party like it's 1999!”

—Prince

SETTING: (NICKI'S ROOM. NICKI and ALI, college girls, dressing to go out, wearing "sexy" Indian outfits. There is a PARCHMENT FLIER for a party.)

ALI

I don't think it's that kind of party, Nicki.

NICKI

(Reading from the PARCHMENT FLIER.)

The flier says, "Showest thou up on the Beaver"—

ALI

"the Beaver"?

NICKI

That's the name of the ship, "the Beaver." "Showest thou up on the Beaver at the hour of seven in the post meridian on the sixteenth day of the twelfth month of the year"—that's December—"seventeen seventy-three"—that's today—"clothed as the Injuns do, bearing tea and matches."

ALI

"Tea and matches"?

NICKI

That's what it says. "Tea and matches."

ALI

It's 6:38. Pick something and let's go.

NICKI

(Holding up an Indian outfit.)

What do you think about this dress?

ALI

Too Iroquois.

NICKI

This one?

ALI

Very Mohawk.

NICKI

(Putting this one on.)

Perfect. This is the one. Okay: skin tight Indian dress, check. Knee-high leather boots with fringe, check. Thigh high stockings, check.

ALI

“Thigh high stockings”?

NICKI

Can't be a slutty Indian without thigh high stockings.

(Pause.)

Is that what you're wearing?

ALI

Yeah. Why? What's wrong with it?

NICKI

Did I say something was wrong with it?

ALI

I know that look.

NICKI

Do you have a beaded headband? Or some eagle feathers?, maybe some wampum? Something?

ALI

I got it from a real Indian.

NICKI

This is not a party dress, Ali. Maybe it's okay for gathering twigs in the woods in 1492, but not for picking up guys in downtown Boston in 1773.

ALI

Nicki, my sense is that tonight is supposed to be an act of serious sedition.

NICKI

Seriously seditious partying! I know! They are going to be talking about this party for *years!* Trust me!

ALI

I think it's a political thing, Nicki.

NICKI

Ali, it's *called* the Boston Tea Party.

ALI

It's called the Boston Tea Party.

NICKI

Unh, unh, unh. It's the Boston Tea Party.

ALI

The British stamp master has been taxing us colonists to death. So we started boycotting pretty much everything. But now that the boycotts have stopped, they're taxing us on something they think we won't get that angry about: tea.

NICKI

Exactly! Like, who cares about tea?

ALI

The top ten percent of Boston owns 66% of the taxable income. You know what the bottom 34% owns? Nothing.

NICKI

"Who oppresses the oppressors?" Blah, blah, blah. If I hear another person complain about "we are the 34%!"

ALI

You don't think that's a major issue?

NICKI

When was the last time you went out with a guy? 1692?

ALI

I came to Boston to go to college, not to date.

NICKI

You've got the rest of your life to go to college. You only live in Boston once. You think when you're in a courtroom years from now trying a case you're gonna remember statute number seven dash blah blah blah, or are you gonna remember an *awesome* party, on an *awesome* boat, where you were dressed like a slutty squaw?

ALI

I think these costumes are chicken.

NICKI

Leather comes from cows, feather from chickens.

ALI

I mean, they're cowardly.

NICKI

Does that mean they come from cows?

ALI

It's scaredy cat crap.

NICKI

For crying out loud, it's "cow," Ali. Leather is "cow," not "cat."

ALI

I mean it's fearful.

NICKI

Ali, this is the bravest thing we've ever done. Dressing up like Indians, so nobody will recognize us and doing a subversive act like dumping tea into Boston Harbor?

Look, I wanna be as politically active as the next girl, but we may as well pick up a guy while we're at it. I know I'm getting a degree in Theatre Education and you're pre-Law, but we don't wanna come off too politically intelligent. Guys don't like it. You think while some guy is shoving his tongue down your throat, he cares "Who discovered this land?"

ALI

(Under breath, to self.)

Christopher Columbus.

NICKI

Or “What three ships did the Pilgrims sail here on?”

ALI

(Under breath, to self.)

The Mayflower.

NICKI

You can’t help yourself, can you?

ALI

Some guys like it.

NICKI

I’m not talking about your Johnny Tremains.

(Macho.)

I mean your Sam Adamses. I mean your Paul

(Mispronounces “Revere” as “reverse.”)

Reverse.

ALI

Who’s Paul Reverse?

NICKI

How do you pronounce it? Paul

(Mispronounces “Revere” as “reserve.”)

Reserve?

ALI

Who?

NICKI

The guy?, with the horse?, and the “Two if by this, one if by that”?

ALI

Paul *Revere*?

NICKI

It’s not “Reverse”?

ALI

No.

NICKI

I mean when it's plural.

ALI

You like him?

NICKI

I wouldn't kick him out of the hay loft for eating oyster crackers.

ALI

(Like "icky.")

Really?

NICKI

What? He's cute.

ALI

My friend Gary told me he was gay.

NICKI

Paul Revere? No way.

ALI

How would *you* know?

NICKI

Because I *didn't* kick him out of the hay loft for eating oyster crackers.

ALI

Oh my God! You *didn't*!

NICKI

Whaaat?

ALI

(Seriously.)

Nicki! You're a woman of the night.

NICKI

You think I don't wanna change things? I *wanna* change things. But change has gotta be *fun*. Otherwise, why do it? Most people just think protest is funny.

ALI

"Funny"?

NICKI

Gone are the days of settling political disputes by murdering a man's wife, kidnapping his kids, and burning down his house. Unless there's violence or significant financial loss involved, they poo-poo it. They make the people who are doing it seem like idiots. Civil disobedience has no effect anymore. It's like whining. It's like you're a joke. I don't wanna be a joke. So protest has gotta have some other purpose. Like, fun, but with a deeper underlying point. It's, like, you laugh at it, but then you go, "huh."

ALI

But the colonies were built on protest.

NICKI

"*Were* built on." "*Were*." You gotta change with the times, Ali. Our forefathers know this. That's why they're throwing this pah-tay.

ALI

I don't need to protest with a mob of people. Protest is personal.

NICKI

Jesus Christ. The personal *is* political. You can't be political *personally*. Federalist *party*. Democratic *party*. Whig *party*. Tea *Party*. What do they all have in common? Parties!! You *need* to have a party. Think about it.

(Pause.)

You're looking at me like I'm dumb right now. I'm not dumb. I just know what I want, and I'm gonna use my political power to get it.

ALI

We're a couple of out-of-state coeds. We don't *have* any political power.

NICKI

That *is* our power. Our sexuality *is* our power. If *we* don't use it, who will?

ALI

Paul Reverse?

NICKI

Shut up!

ALI

You think anybody's gonna care if a couple of college girls *do* or *don't* dump some tea in Boston Harbor tonight?

NICKI

See? It's *that* kind of apathetic attitude that's gotten us into the political situation we are in today.

ALI

And what situation is that?

NICKI

Well, I can't, like, articulate it on the spot or whatever, but, *you* know—the bad political situation we are in now.

ALI

(Not worth fighting; giving up the fight.)

It's 6:43. If we're gonna go, we gotta go!

NICKI

Where's the tea?

ALI

I brought a couple of packets from home.

NICKI

A couple of packets?! We're supposed to bring our own tea!

ALI

For what?

NICKI

To throw!

ALI

They're not providing the tea?

NICKI

(Indicating the flier.)

It says it right there. "Bring tea and matches"!

(Ali picks up flier and reads it.)

ALI

What "matches"?

(Of the flier.)

It says "hatchets."

NICKI

What?

ALI

It says, "hatchets," not "matches."

NICKI

Let me see that. No, that says, "matches."

ALI

And it says, "bring *thee*," not "bring *tea*."

NICKI

What?

ALI

"Bring thee and hatchets."

NICKI

"Hatchets"? What the hell are we gonna do with hatchets?

ALI

Smash the crates of tea open.

NICKI

Where the hell are we gonna get hatchets? What if we just brought some hammers?

ALI

“Hammers.”

NICKI

Hammers are good for smashing stuff.

ALI

We’re supposed to look like Indians, Nicki. How many hammer-wielding Indians have you seen?

NICKI

We could glue some feathers on them.

ALI

It’s 6:47. Let’s go, let’s go!

NICKI

Ali, just promise me you’ll try to have a good time.

ALI

Okay.

NICKI

Promise.

ALI

Okay. I promise.

NICKI

And if a guy hits on you, you won’t talk politics.

ALI

(Holding up three fingers, Indian-greeting style, imitating rudimentary Indian voice.)

“How? Me Ali. No talkee politic. Drinkee fire water.”

NICKI

That’s more like it. This is going to be an *awesome* party!

ALI

(In stony Indian voice.)

“Party! Party! Party!”

(Ali begins to do a stereotypical Indian rain dance.)

“Wah, wah, wah, wah! Wah, wah, wah, wah!”

NICKI

There’s a guy out there for you, Ali. And we’re gonna find him. Tonight’s gonna change things. I can feel it.

ALI

(As herself.)

I can feel it, too.

NICKI

Now let’s go get on that Beaver.

(They exit.)

LIGHTS DOWN

END PLAY