



"Spirit — the Seventh Fire" is at Fairmount Park's Lemon Hill.

A journey played out with 'Spirit'

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On the surface, *Spirit — the Seventh Fire*, is a theatrical show about one man's struggle to balance his Native American heritage with present-day culture.

But underneath lies a message that people of all ages and cultures can relate to, says Peter Buffett, its creator and producer.

"It's really speaking to anyone who feels disconnected and is looking for a soul," says Buffett, a composer who scored the fire-dance scene in *Dances With Wolves* plus an eight-hour CBS mini-series on Native American history called *500 Nations*.

The 90-minute narrated production takes the audience on a man's journey of self-discovery through Native American dance, music, drumming and live

"Spirit — The Seventh Fire," today through July Fourth weekend. 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays; 4 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays; 1 and 5 p.m. Sundays, at Fairmount Park's Lemon Hill, Sedgley and Lemon Hill Drives. Tickets \$20-\$60; \$18-\$54 seniors and students; \$16-\$48 children ages 12 and under. Information: 215-336-2000, www.ticketmaster.com or www.spirit7thfire.com.

musicians, plus film and lighting components. At each stop on the show's tour, a separate tent houses the "Spirit Lodge" to showcase local tribes.

Buffett says *Spirit*, staged in a 750-seat tent in Fairmount Park, leads people to think about their identities and "what about the past is important to take into the future."

"It's very immersive, and everyone leaves saying, 'I didn't know what to expect, but I didn't expect that.'"