



Almost half of the Dances With Wolves shoot took place on a 55,000-acre ranch near Pierre. Some 3,500 buffalo exist on Roy Houck's Triple U Ranch. Greene had to learn how to ride bare-back Plains Indian style.

Since the community embraced the project for its fair and genuine treatment of the heritage, support and co-operation of local Native Americans beat at the heart of the project's success. Upwards of 150 locals were used as extras.

In addition to costume authenticity, Doris Leader Charge, an instructor of Lakota at Sinte Gleska College on the Rosebud Reservation, served as dialogue coach and technical advisor. Greene and other actors were given a three-week crash course in the language.

"Lakota is a very difficult language with so many strange sounds," said Leader Charge. "We had to first translate the script the way we (Lakota) would speak it, then go back and simplify the dialogue using fewer, easier words with similar meanings."

Other native talent in the film includes Rodney Grant, who plays the bold warrior, Wind in His Hair. Folksinger and long-time activist Floyd Red Crow Westerman plays the wise and venerable tribal chief Ten Bears.

Greene's wife, Black Shawl, is played by Tantoo Cardinal, who played Molly Brant in the Glen-Warren Productions Limited film Divided Loyalties.

Though similarly named, the Lakota characters in the film are not Chief Ten Bears of the Comanches nor the great warrior Chieftain Kicking Bird of the Kiowas.

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Brian Thompson, Expositor Staff

NEW STAR: Six Nations actor Graham Greene, who plays a Sioux holy man in the new movie Dances With Wolves, answers questions at a press conference in Brantford. The 38-year-old Oneida from the Six Nations Reserve attended the special benefit premiere of the film here Wednesday.