



Going Tribal in the Badlands

A family-owned business educates travelers about the Native American nations within our borders.

■ **By Adriana Gardella**
SHERIDAN, WYO.

SITTING AT A PINK FORMICA TABLE IN THE BREAKFAST ROOM OF A HOWARD JOHNSON IN Spearfish, S.D., my expectations are low. The cottage-cheese ceiling and cheaply framed bird prints do not portend a magical experience. To my right, a sign beside the coffeemaker urges patrons to “refrain from taking food and beverage out of the breakfast room.” But my traveling companions and I aren’t here to filch boxes of Frosted Flakes. We’re waiting for Sequoia Crosswhite, a 30-year-old Lakota musician who works for Go Native America (GNA), a travel firm based in Sheridan, Wyo. I am part of their Wisdom Keepers tour group, here to see the High Plains from a Native American perspective, and this inauspicious HoJo is simply

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD SWONETZ

Lakota Footwork:
Sequoia Crosswhite,
dancing at dusk in
South Dakota’s Badlands