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Cody's Last Stand: Masculine Anxiety, the Custer Myth, and the Frontier of Domesticity in Buffalo Bill's Wild West

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Abstract

Close analysis of Buffalo Bill's Wild West show suggests that frontier mythology of the late nineteenth century was more domestically oriented than most historians have assumed. In fact, the show relied on scenes of family defense more than it did on depictions of "Custer's Last Fight." How William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody utilized domestic imagery, and why he appears to have dropped it near the end of his career, suggests changes in his personal biographical needs and in frontier myth at the beginning of the twentieth century.

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