

Alaskan performers bring ancient Tlingit legend to the stage, Oct. 24

October 4, 1993

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NATIVE ALASKAN PERFORMERS BRING ANCIENT TLINGIT LEGEND TO THE STAGE

The six-member touring troupe, Naa Kahidi Theater, a Native American theater company from Alaska, will perform stories of ancient myth and creation of the Tlingit people, in a presentation called "Fires On the Water," at 8 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 24, in the Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

Tickets for this University Events presentation are \$15 general admission, \$13 seniors and \$11 students, and may be purchased at the UCSD Price Center Box Office or from TicketMaster outlets.

Established in 1986, the troupe dramatizes legends rooted in the traditions of story telling, dance and songs of Native Northwestern Americans. The troupe's costumes, masks, carvings and symbols are taken from pre-European Tlingit culture.

The presentations are titled, "The Box of Daylight" (the Tlingit creation myth); "Gunakadeit" (The Sea Monster); "Keet Shagoon" ("Origin of the Killer Whale Yeil"), "Raven Stories," and "The Cannibal."

"The Box of Daylight" depicts the myth of how the light of the sun, moon and stars is held in a guarded box, kept from the rightful owners, until Raven frees the light, enabling it to fly up into the sky.

"Keet Shagoon" is a tragedy. The hero, known as Naatsilanei, sends his (carved cedar) whales to kill his faithless brothers-in-law. But, in the end, Naatsilanei is overcome with remorse, and promises that the whales will never again bring harm to human beings.

The Naa Kahidi Theater has given performances at such venues as the Anchorage Museum of History and Art, the Portland (Oregon) Art Museum, the Burke Museum (Seattle), the Cincinnati Zoo and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Naa Kahidi Theater is a program of Sealaska Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit arts and cultural organization that serves the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian tribes of Southeast Alaska.

For information on this and other UEO presentations, call 534-4090. Parking permits are required on the UCSD campus.

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