



& The Dept.
of Alaskan
Native
Studies

PLAYBILL

Theatre UAF And Alaska Native
Studies Proudly Present



"NAAM / Gen eehu"

Athabaskan stories told and performed by Evelyn
Alexander and Ruth Grant - developed into performance
by the Tuma Theatre Company.

Directed by:

Theresa John & Thomas Riccio

Scenic & Sound Advisor / Lighting
Designer
Kade Mendelowitz

Costume Design
Tara Maginnis

Stage Manager
Jason Chapman

February 29 - March 10, 1996
UAF Lab Theatre

Theatre UAF Members

Angels: 101.1 Magic FM

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Theatre UAF's production program is income based. Our budget for sets, costumes, props, advertising, etc. is based on revenues from ticket sales, advertisements, and donations. We appreciate your support, and we hope you enjoy our work. We thank our program advertisers for their generous support, and hope you will patronize these community-minded companies and mention that you saw their advertisement in our program.

FOR THE AUDIENCE

PAGERS: Please leave them with the house manager.

CELLULAR PHONES: Please leave them with the house manager.

INFRARED Assistive Listening Devices are available at the Box Office.

SMOKING: Permitted outside the building only.

WATCHES Please turn off hourly chimes as to not disturb those around you.

PUBLIC PHONE: Located off the Great Hall (near candy machines).

RESTROOMS: Located off the Great Hall and downstairs by KUAC.

CHILDREN: No babies in arms permitted.

PHOTOS: No flash photography allowed for safety reasons.

GROUP SALES: 20% discount for groups of 20 or more, call 474-7751.

For our shows to begin on time we request that ticket holders arrive 15 minutes before curtain, and encourage others to purchase tickets before the evening of the event.

Ensemble Cast List

Evelyn Alexander

Gayle Booth

Tony Evans

Ruth Grant

A Little About The Cast and Crew

Evelyne Alexander, a 79 year young elder from the village of Minto, she says "I do this to help the young people to understand the story." She wants to help young people all the time with what she has learned.

Isabelle Gayle Booth, didn't actually reach self-actualization, ha! From Rivalike, Alaska, Isabelle enjoys dance and being a student at UAF.

Angela Brownfield, Assistant Stage Manager. This is Angela's first time backstage at UAF. She decided to take a break from being in the spotlight to hide in the dark. New to TUMA, she's discovered that she loves Native Alaskan Dance, and was thrilled to be learning about the place where she was born.

Jason Chapman, Stage Manager. "The Lord High Executioner" of Theatre UAF and SDA, he is the one behind a great deal of the theatre's odd occurrences. Managing Director & Costume Designer of SDA for the past year, he's produced everything from The Pink Monkey Ball to The Rocky Horror Picture Show. He wishes to dedicate his work to his family back in Detroit.

Tony Evans, is a dedicated Theatre Major. His commitment to his art is such that he has no social life. In the few minutes of spare time he has every day he likes to sit in his underwear and play computer games. You might have seen him in various UAF shows through the past couple of years - most recently in A Comedy of Errors.

Ruth Grant, has been working in schools for about ten years, in both Fairbanks and Tanana. She is happy to work with young people to teach them her way of life. She is especially glad to be working with her aunt Evelyne.

Ivan Heffner, is an academic oddity: a biology major, theatre minor, and all

A Little More About The Cast and Crew

Kade Mendelowitz, Lighting Designer / Scenic and Sound Advisor, is listed on the inside back cover under Faculty and Staff.

Jeannine Patané, after stage managing Tuma Theatre for the past four years, Jeannine couldn't resist the energy on stage pulling her in. She is also listed under Faculty and Staff on the inside cover.

Amy Prosser,

Notes From the Directors

"Naam / Gen eehu" the title of our 1996 Tuma Theatre production means "I don't know" (Yup'ik) and "Whatever" (Athabaskan). But it is more than a title, it is also a reflection and a point of view. It tells how Native Alaska, after more than one hundred and fifty years of contact with Western Culture, is still uncertain about its relationship with the strange people and customs that suddenly appeared and changed them forever. The stories told within the performance are a blend of traditional, personal and historical told by resident elders, Evelyne Alexander and Ruth Grant. These are the stories that they thought important, and like in traditional times, they are stories told around the fish camp.

In a departure from how Tuma Theatre has formerly created its performances, this year we have brought the words and memories of the elders directly into performance "helping them remember". Our payment in helping them remember is our opportunity to simply be with them and glean some of the wealth of their lives. In traditional times orphans, having no family, had to try to "steal" stories where they could, and in this way steal wisdom, from the elders. It is a wisdom the elders gave freely to those who sought it. The Tuma company and its audience are now part of that tradition.

Thomas Riccio

This year we are privileged to be working with two Minto elders Evelyne Alexander (79 years young) and her niece Ruth Grant (63 yrs.). We have ventured into something new with this year's Tuma production partly in response to the voice of Native constituents who desire a more direct Native involvement. We also have made this year's production more understandable to the general audience, by presenting the stories in English. Tuma '96 will present some traditional Athabaskan stories as well as some contemporary "real-life" experiences that both Evelyne and Ruth have shared with us. These stories show a sampling of authentic (Lower Tanana) culture but yet maintain a simplicity of style which should be enjoyable to all of our Tuma audience.

Throughout the semester, students sat around the elders, quietly listening to the "old time" stories describing the nomadic life-style of the Interior Alaska, Minto Flats MENHTI XWT'ANA people. Some of the traditional stories that we will present tell about an old man that slept for three days. When he awoke he shared the visions that he had in his dream, various methods of transportation and technology, long before they actually came into the area. The elders stated that some Athabaskan people were gifted in this manner a long time ago. Many Athabaskan tales, such as the Old Woman story, also include a theme of great respect for the spirits of the animals, nature and to the creator.

Just as some Athabaskan visionaries had foreseen, the steamboat, "hello" and tourist stories reveal cultural changes like Evelyne and Ruth experienced first hand. Interior villages then experienced new languages, new culture and technology and religion thus bringing about new choices for life-styles. The difficult choice between living a subsistence or a modern life-style, was an issue experienced by all Alaskan Natives at some time during their history.

Finally, the contemporary 'real-life' experiences of the elder's are related in

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Theatre UAF
is proud to help serve the community.

Beginning with 93's The Velveteen Rabbit, Theatre UAF began inviting Fairbanks Big Brothers / Big Sisters to previews of select mainstage shows. We feel Big Brothers / Big Sisters does an incredible job of helping support the needs of Fairbanks youth. If you'd like to help, or if you're interested in getting more information about Fairbanks Big Brothers / Big Sisters, please call them at 452-8110.

Theatre UAF also donates tickets to many community-service groups including the Fairbanks North Star Borough Senior Citizen Activity Program. For more information about this group, please call 459-1000.

As you may be aware, last year Theatre UAF was proud to salute the man who formed the Theatre Department at UAF, Mr. Lee H. Salisbury, by renaming the Fine Arts Theatre after him. The official renaming ceremony took place Saturday, March 19, 1994. We are continuing to work on the renovations to the "house" of the theatre that were started by this event. If you would like to help us with the renovations, please send a contribution to Theatre UAF, P.O. Box 755700 Fairbanks, AK 99775-5700, Attn.: Renovation. There's also still time to take part in our "Buy a Seat" drive. Further information about this drive is available at the box office, or by calling 474-7752.

The Best for the Best!

Tony Award Winner. . .
Best Musical!
Best Book!
Best Score!

All three awards were won by *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Theatre UAF's spring musical production. To do justice to this script— never before seen in Fairbanks— Theatre UAF is bringing you a very talented and accomplished guest artist.

Top notch all the way. That's the only way to describe Bob Putnam, choreographer for this Spring's musical. Success seems to follow Bob into every corner of theatre that he explores. As a performer, he began 13 years of work in New York City with a job from his very first audition. His stage roles have taken him from Shakespeare to contemporary comedy and drama. Off-Broadway, regionals and at stock theatre compnaies East of the Mississippi, he also had a two year recurring role on *The Guiding Light*.

Bob has also met with tremendous success behind the scenes. He has stage managed on Broadway, Off-broadway, and on tours. He has produced and directed both Off-Broadway and at regional theatres. Bob currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia where six of his productions have received 15 nominations for "Best in Atlanta", winning in six categories including best production.

Bob first came to Fairbanks as part of the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival in which he's led thetre workshops for the past two years. We are proud to offer such talent to Fairbanks again and hope no-one will miss the opportunity to see his work.



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Welcome Back. . . !
A conversation with Gorden Hedahl
by Rick Ashby

After taking a year away from theatre to recover from heart surgery, Gorden Hedahl, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts returns to direct *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. He made his Fairbanks theatre debut two years ago by directing *Noises Off* — a critical and popular success. I was able to catch up with the Dean in his busy office. He greeted me with a warm smile in spite of the avalanche of papers on his desk that would chill most spirits.

As we spoke, his enthusiasm for theatre became evident. Gorden remembers going to his first play— a college production— when he was four years old, and he fell in love with theatre. In high-school, he participated in twelve shows. But being from a small town in North Dakota, he considered theatre more a hobby than a realistic career possibility. So he followed his other love— teaching. While pursuing his undergraduate degree in education and math he was roped into working on a couple plays. “It wasn’t long until I realized I was getting the answers to my math problems from the back of the text book,” he chuckled, “while I was finding the answers to my theatre assignments within myself.” With that realization Gorden decided he’d rather teach theatre than math. The rest is, shall we say, academic.

While directing and teaching at the college level for more than twenty years, Gorden gradually began accepting more administrative duties, “I found I could affect more than just my classroom.” In December of ‘92 he left the U. of Wisconsin, Whitewater - College of the Arts where he was Acting Dean, moved to Fairbanks, and accepted his current position as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

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Best Wishes to Theatre
UAF for a Great 1995 -
1996 Season!



Catch the late local
news at 11:00 for the
most up-to-date
weather with Mike
Shultz!

Theatre UAF Faculty and Staff

Amy Fautland, is Theatre UAF's Department Secretary and Box Office Manager. She holds a degree in Theatre and Education from Biola University. She has a background in both technical theatre and acting. Besides running the box office she is an instructor for the UAF Summer Fine Arts Camp, as well as The Drama Project, a local drama studio.

Gorden Hedahl is Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Professor of Theatre at UAF. He holds degrees in Speech and Theatre from North Dakota, and a Ph.D. in Theatre Arts from Minnesota. He served twenty-two years with the University of Wisconsin System. He directed *Noises Off* at UAF during the 1993-'94 Season, and will be directing *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* this April.

Theresa John, Assistant Professor, Yu'pik was born and raised on Nelson Island. A UAF graduate of Sociology '83, Secondary Education Certificate '90, MED 1992. She is a founding member of TUMA, Directed Agayu two years ago, and assisted with INUA last year.

Travis Kulp, Shop Supervisor and Master Electrician, is waiting for his next chance to parachute from the lighting grid. After all, one can't work all the time. He also designed lighting for SDA's *Phoenix Too Frequent*.

Tara Maginnis, UAF Costume Designer, has returned after a year spent in St. Petersburg Russia. Tara has a Ph.D. in Theatre from the University of Georgia, and has also studied at San Francisco State, College of Marin and California State Univ. Fresno. She has also written numerous articles on costume and related topics for *Theatre Design and Technology*, *Costume (UK)*, *Theatre Crafts*, *Ladies Gallery*, *College Monthly* and *The St. Petersburg Press*.

Kade Mendelowitz wears many hats at UAF: Lighting Designer, Business Manager, Scenic Design Advisor and Technical Director. Originally from New York, Kade loves the variety of arts Fairbanks has to offer. Though worried that the lighting will be destroyed by a failing lightboard (as what happened twice over tech. weekend), Kade hopes you will be able to enjoy TUMA even if you're unable to see it very well - "deferred maintenance is not just a building / construction problem". Kade's upcoming projects include the Northstar Ballets' *Alice in Wonderland*. Oh, and he's designing the set for *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (but don't tell anyone he did it!)

Jeannine Patané is Theatre UAF's Costume Shop Supervisor. Originally from New York, she is now a Fairbanks resident. She has been employed in various theatrical and costume-related jobs and currently operates her own business, Shaman's needle, when she isn't busy at the University. Jeannine

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Join us for the rest of Theatre UAF's Season!



Spring Showcase

Join us for a night of entertainment... the Spring Showcase is a Variety Show of Fairbanks' best talent. Performers from the community as well as our department bring this wonderful evening in the Lee H. Salisbury Theatre one night only! Saturday, March 23, 1996. Adults \$ 5.00, Students \$ 3 Live for less than the movies!

Winter Shorts

Two one-act plays directed by UAF students. The Actor's Nightmare by Christopher Durang is a comedy about an actor who awakens not knowing who he is! Directed by Sarah A.D. Hartley. Sean Bledsoe will direct A. Artaud's Spurt of Blood,

