

Barrow Enjoys Mime Show

Pantomime ("mune") is a basic part of most Alaska Native dances, and is therefore a "language" art well understood by Native people. So it is not surprising that Mime Musica, playing to a packed house of

about 450 in Barrow's High School Gymnasium, held the audience spellbound for two hours when they performed there recently.

Mime Musica combines traditional pantomime with the entrancing music produced from dulcimers, for a performance that captured the attention of the audience from the 2-year old child to the 85-year old grandmother, and from the sophisticated businessman to the respected subsistence hunter.

Jon Harvey is the mime; Joemy Wilsom is the music for Mime Musica. They were extremely impressed with the Barrow audience, and said they really were able to relate to the crowd. The kids were well-behaved and sat quietly through-

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● Barrow Audience Enjoys Mime Show

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out the performance. Mothers with babies who started to cry took them out so as not to disrupt the performance. A more receptive and courteous audience couldn't be found elsewhere, said the performers.

This is Barrow's second year as a sponsor for the performing arts program, of which Mime Musica is a part. So far in their tour of the state, they have played in Barrow, Bethel, Kenai, and Tok.

At the conclusion of their Alaska Performing Arts Tour, Mime Musica has signed up for a two week Artist in School residency program in the school at Kaktovik.

This program is sponsored by the Alaska State Council of the Arts and administered through the North Slope Borough School District.

When asked why they signed up to spend two weeks in a remote Inupiat Village in the middle of winter on their first trip to Alaska, they replied,

"We have seen examples of Eskimo Dance before coming to Alaska, were fascinated with it and wanted to learn more, because a lot of Eskimo dance is mime and we wanted to teach our mime and learn the Eskimo Mime. There is a lot of Folklore in the Eskimo dance and in our mime, so the residency is a mutual exchange of knowledge -- about the everyday struggles of life. The adventure comes about from performing in frontier type towns with frontier situations in housing and accommodations. We have been received like royalty in Barrow and are enjoying the surprises of hospitality and weather. After our tour of town we have one other reason: *it's beautiful.*"

If their success in Barrow is any indication of the type of reception and cooperation they can expect in Kaktovik, then look out Jon and Joemy for the most rewarding two weeks of your career, for Kaktovik is waiting eagerly for your arrival.