



"Quiana Alaska"

"Quiana Alaska," an evening of Native dance and cultural celebration, is set October 15 beginning at the Sullivan Sports Arena in Anchorage.

Now in its fourth year as a convention-week activity, "Quiana Alaska" has become quite a show. In 1984, more than 4,000 people made up the audience at the Sullivan arena, and well over half of them stayed to watch performances until after midnight.

"Quinana" is the Yupik Eskimo word for "thank you," and the first "Quiana Alaska" presentation was organized in 1983 to express the thanks of the Native community to all of Alaska for the defeat of the 1982 ballot proposition to repeal the subsistence priority. Following two successful years, "Quiana Alaska" in 1985 will once again bring together dance groups and cultural activities from across Alaska.

Past performances have included the Wainwright Dancers, who performed at the 1984 Summer Olympics, and the Metlakatla Dance Group, former winners at the World Eskimo/Indian Olympics in Fairbanks. A Native Review of traditional dress has also become a crowd-pleaser and will again be presented this year.

Eskimo and Indian dancing conveys stories and legends which have been passed down from generation to generation, with their messages about life and lessons of survival.

This year's presentation, as in the past, will be open to the public, without charge for admission.