

Silimiut will perform at AFN Tues.

by Maria Williams
for the *Tundra* Times

Members of Silamiut, the national theatre of Greenland, have been conducting workshops and performances in Anchorage.

Karina Moller, Maariu Olsen and Rassi Thygesen have been teaching mask making, movement, dance, drumming and singing as well as performing for anchorage audiences in the traditional style of Greenland.

The members of Silamiut are Inuit, the circumpolar indigenous group related the Inupiat people of Alaska.

They will perform for the Alaska Federation of Natives on Tuesday, October 15 at 9:20 a.m. and will also have a booth at the convention. They have been working with local performing groups such as Kicaput, Kingikmiut, and Naa Luuisk Gwai Yatxi and are excited about meeting and sharing with Alaska Native people.

Greenland is the only independent

Inuit nation in the world and became free of Danish rule in 1979. The Inuit, like indigenous people throughout the world, endured colonialism and restrictions on all their cultural practices.

During the 1960's, the Inuit began exerting their right to practice their cultural traditions. Tukak, in indigenous theatre group formed and was later renamed Silamiut in 1982.

Silamiut means 'Mankind' in Inuit and the company specialized in creating contemporary performances pieces which are influenced by their language, music and dance in addition to Western theatrical practices.

Silamiut is highly respected in their native country where they have a just completed performing arts center in Nuuk, Greenland's largest city where Silamiut is based.

Silamiut is involved in theatrical performance, video, movies and training younger indigenous actors. Their residency in Anchorage is sponsored by Out North Theatre and lasts 21 days.