

***Northern Inua* has new home for cultural performances**

This summer, Fairbanksans and visitors are entertained by the gravity defying feats that are the trademark of *Northern Inua*.

A performance of Alaska Native athletic games, songs, and music by the World Eskimo Indian Olympics, *Northern Inua*) moved from its former home in Alaskaland to the Museum's new Aurora Dome, built especially to house summer performances. The troupe, aged 15-21 years, performs incredible physical feats. The one foot high kick, the Canadian high kick, and the kneeling high kick all look impossible, yet the athletes accomplish them with ease.

Lee McCotter, who has been with *Northern Inua* for 5 years, says that all the kicks took quite a bit of practice in the beginning, but he keeps in practice, they aren't really that difficult. No one in the audience looks like they believe him. The girls participate in the events by doing the ear pull and the one foot high kick. Interspersed

among the athletic events is dancing, humorous stories and games.

As Richard Egnaty, the show's narrator, explains to the audience, these "games" are more than a child's way to pass the afternoon. All the games have survival at their heart. Games of skill, such as the high kick, built a hunters strength while game such as the excruciating and difficult knuckle hop built endurance to pain. Even games to make people laugh help dispel the winter darkness and allow the entire community to endure until spring arrives.

Northern Inua is especially suited for those children and adults who want a cross-cultural experience. Photo opportunities are available after the show. *Northern Inua* shows are presented Tuesday-Sunday, twice daily at 2 PM and 4 PM.

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