

## SPECIAL REPORT



After warmup, makeup (not yet) must be applied. It is a carefully done and time-consuming job. Although touring involves much time, work, and effort when Makka Kleist and Agga discover a wrapped mirror in the teachers lounge in Point Hope, they delightfully play with their distorted reflections (left). Before they can go out and perform, the five actors clasp hands for a couple of minutes of silent meditation.



When the drama begins, the Inuit laugh and play like happy children.



Then a cold, chilling spirit, the spirit of progress for progress's sake, interrupts their games.



After a violent encounter, the spirit places masks upon the Inuit, the human beings.



A masked, shanted, and tied Inuit, outdoors, uncovers himself to the spirit's commands.



As Jim Woodard and Mike Chybowski hustle behind the gear which they are taking to the school, they find Gambell to be a very special place.

## Inuit: timeless drama

There is a small group of people standing by as another performance of Tukak' Teatret comes to a close. The cheers and applause that ring through the village gymnasium are not directed towards them, but they can take pride in the knowledge that were it not for their efforts, there would be nothing to applaud.

Had they not been up early in the morning to load the 2,280 pounds of lights, backdrops, stands, electrical gadgets and other materials into the plane during a blizzard which made it seem doubtful that plane would ever leave the ground there would have been no lighting and stage.

Had they not then unloaded the plane in a blizzard worse than the one they left, a mile from the school house in a village with no cars or trucks, but only three-wheelers, snow machines and a small cart to haul their equipment, the same thing would hold true.

Once inside the school, they had to load and set up the equipment. Now that the play is over, they must take it all down. It will be well after midnight before they get to bed. They will be up at six in the morning to repeat the process all over again.

So when that applause comes roaring through the gymnasium, it is for actors Agga, Anda, Makka Kleist, Maanu, Qisu, director Reider Nilsson and his assistant director Mooqui and their tour manager, Ole Jorgensen, direct some of it to Hugh Hall, Jr., the company manager of Alaska Repertory Theatre and his master electrician and lighting designer Lauren Miller, carpenter/loadmaster Bob Sieger and electrician Mike Chybowski and Jim Woodard.

They helped make the project, which Alaska Repertory Theatre budgeted \$375,000 for, happen.

Photos by Bill Hess



Whatever Ajumaaq, a man-dog spirit, touches, rots and dies.



Amuu a helping spirit, comes to the aid of a fallen shaman in search of human beings.



Finally, Toornaq Qaqortoq, the spirit of progress for progress's sake is defeated and there is happiness once again. Without his mask, even Toornaq Qaqortoq has a pleasant personality.