



CALVIN A. HUNT COPPER MAKER GALLERY

THE COPPER MAKER DANCE GROUP



The Copper Maker Dancers are a Kwagu't dance group of talented professional Kwakwaka'wakw people of the Pacific Northwest Coast. We use only our traditional Kwagu't songs and dances given and taught to us by our respected Chiefs and Elders. We strive for professionalism, reliability and excellence in our performances.

Calvin and Marie have organized cultural dance trips for the Copper Maker Dance Group since 1983. Calvin, with many family members has participated in professional dance groups for almost 35 years. They have performed throughout Canada, the U.S., Europe, as well as Australia and Japan.

Kwakwaka'wakw dances are considered valuable inherited privileges, depicting hereditary legends. In some cases, the dance dramatizes the adventure stories of the ancestor; while in others the dance recreates a dance given to the ancestor by a mythical being or by a dream being with whom the ancestor came in contact. Dances and the accompanying songs, masks or regalia are regarded as valuable family privileges to be passed on in the family from generation to generation.

Dancing is not only a right and a privilege, but it is our responsibility to carry on. Our Elders have taught us "It is a strict law that bids us to dance."

Contact us today and we will provide you with all the necessary information in sharing

our culture with the world. We will share with you our traditional dance and song of Kwakwaka'wakw culture.

Selected Dance Performances:

- 2011 Tallinn, Estonia – Birgetta Festival
- Kansas City, NM, Nelson-Atkins Museum, opening of Northwest Coast Gallery and renovated museum celebrations, 2009
- Santé Fe, NM, private Pole Dedication, 2009
- Portland, Oregon – Portland Art Museum, Copper Maker Dancers 2007
- 2001 Victoria, BC – Mercedes Benz 40th Anniversary Gull Wings Convention
- 2001, 2002, 2003 - District of Port Hardy - Cadillac 360 Yacht Race
- 2001 Numata Hokkaido, Japan - Pole Raising, Hunt Hall Learning Centre
- 1999 Mashantucket, CT - Pequot Museum and Research Centre, Pequot Band
- 1999 Royal Museum of Art and History, Brussels, Belgium - Dance group of 15 dancers
- 1999 UBC 50th Golden Gala Event, University of British Columbia, Museum of Anthropology Thunderbird Dance Costume.
- 1998 Whistler, BC, Lustige Musikanten for ZDF (German Television), 1 1/2 hour musical special with Marianne and Michael.
- 1996 Munich, Germany - Beck's Department Store
- 1988 Ottawa, Ontario - Museum of Civilization "Spirit Sings" Exhibit.

Negotiating and co-coordinating a dance performance is done on an individual basis. The number of dancers and singers of each dance group, performance length, single or multiple dance performances, and travel costs are considered in fees charged.