

ers of a community are divided into crews with their captain. Each crew possesses a whaling lodge which serves as a ceremonial house for its exclusive use, and where song-leaders compose songs recording the heroic adventures, hunting experiences, and colorful deeds of its members. At Point Hope the names of these whaling lodges used to be Qalgigruk, Agraktagvik, Saugvik, Unasiksikaaq, Qagmaqtuuq, and Kaniliqpak. Two of them still survive.

Within the context of the whaling lodge, dances are composed, rehearsed, and then performed for the members. Additionally, the whalers and hunters of neighboring coastal communities are welcomed in the formal seasonal Inviting-In, which features athletic competition, feasting, dancing, and gift-giving. During the gift-giving at certain festivals, a large wooden box-drum called the *kalukhaq* is suspended from the ceiling and swung back and forth, while the names of gift-recipients are called out. This is done today at Barrow, Wainwright, and Nome.

The most common Inupiaq dance styles are (1) *sayuun*, which features fixed dance motions which are memorized and performed in unison, and (2) *atuutipiaq*, which features free motions, the men performing *ad lib* angular gestures, the women curving their arms gracefully. The purpose of *atuutipiaq* is to enable visitors from outside the community to join in dancing without prior memorization of motions.

In addition to these two main dance styles, there are special dances, such as the women's seated dance *taliq*, which mimes boat-rowing (in former times women carried out this task). Other special dances are the spinning-top dance *kiap-saq*, the pupped dance *tchoyaqluuqaun*, the masquerade dance *uijarung*, the Northern Lights



Plate 2: Curving, graceful movements of Inupiaq women dancers.

dance *kigugiyataun*, and the well-known blanket-toss (or rather walrus skin toss) associated with dance at the Whaling Feast in June, *nalukataun*. Each of these dances possesses its own song or body of songs. At Point Hope, for instance, there are currently eight known blanket-toss songs, which are performed at the spring Whaling Feast on the beaches.



Plate 1: Angular, aggressive movements of Inupiaq men dancers.



Plate 3: Inupiaq masked dance called "Looking for Two Pots."