

## Kushtaka Den

In the beginning, the world between the animals and man was not distinct; but as time went by, only Raven could transform into man and other creatures. One legend tells how the land otter, or Kushtaka, had saved Raven's mother during the Great Flood, and so land otters were given both the ability to transform themselves, and also power over the wind and waves. They are known for luring into their dens those unsuspecting humans who were drowned or lost, and those who were mischievous. Shamans are famous for acquiring the spiritual power of the Kushtaka to build their shamanistic strength.

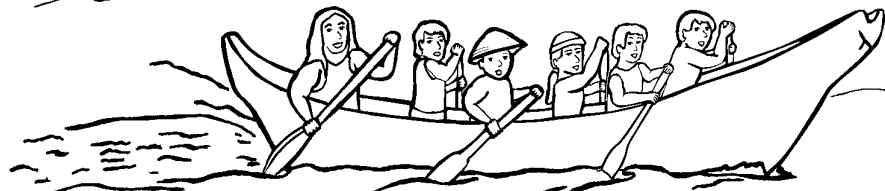
Here is a Kushtaka den with Land Otter in various stages of transformation, welcoming a human into his realm. Note the totem poles with land otters arranged on various parts of the people; this is to symbolize a human becoming a Kushtaka. The totem on the left is called "One-Who-Was-Saved-By-The-Land-Otter". Elders warn: "Beware! The Longer You Stay with the Kushtaka, The More You BECOME LIKE THEM!"



# Copper Mountain Lover Mask

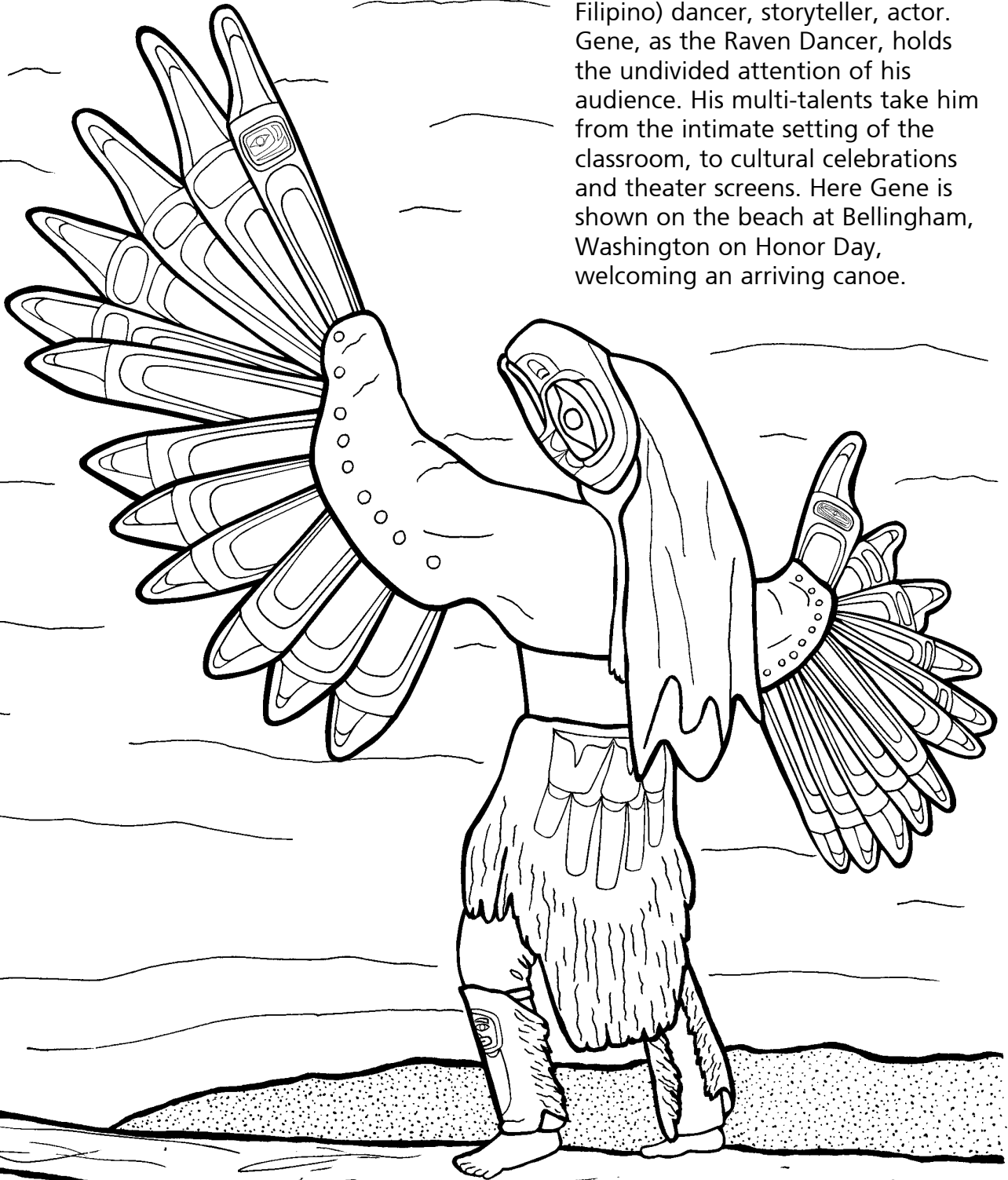
The Kaigani Haida have a story of women paddling to the Copper Mountain to visit their loved ones. The Hydaburg dancer in the illustration is the loved one, and his hands are in a welcoming/honoring position to his ladylove paddling to shore. It is said that the Northwest men dance with knees deeply bent to show how strong their legs are, capable of carrying a deer down from the mountain. In the background is the Hydaburg Totem Park on Prince of Wales Island.

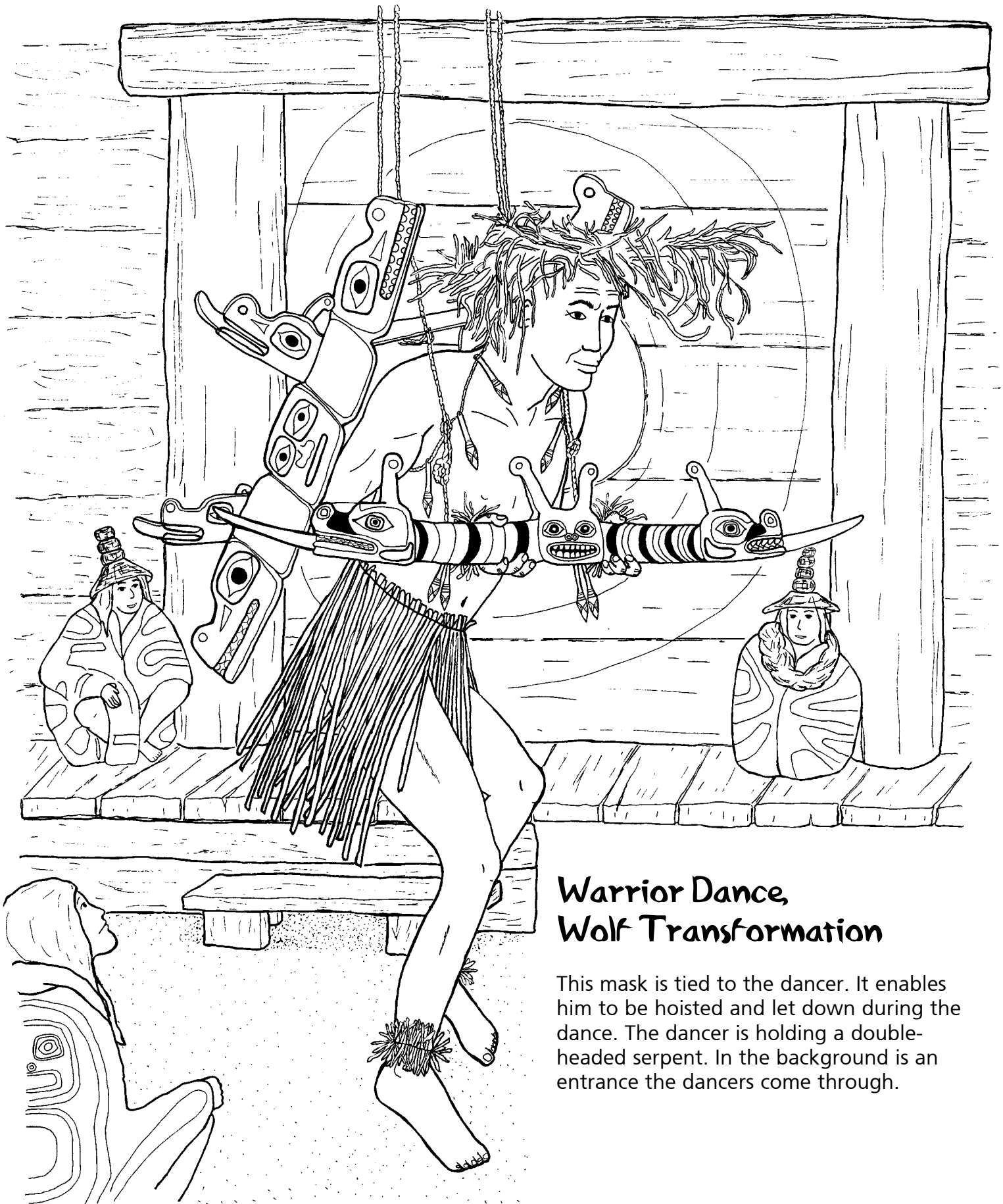




## Raven Dancer

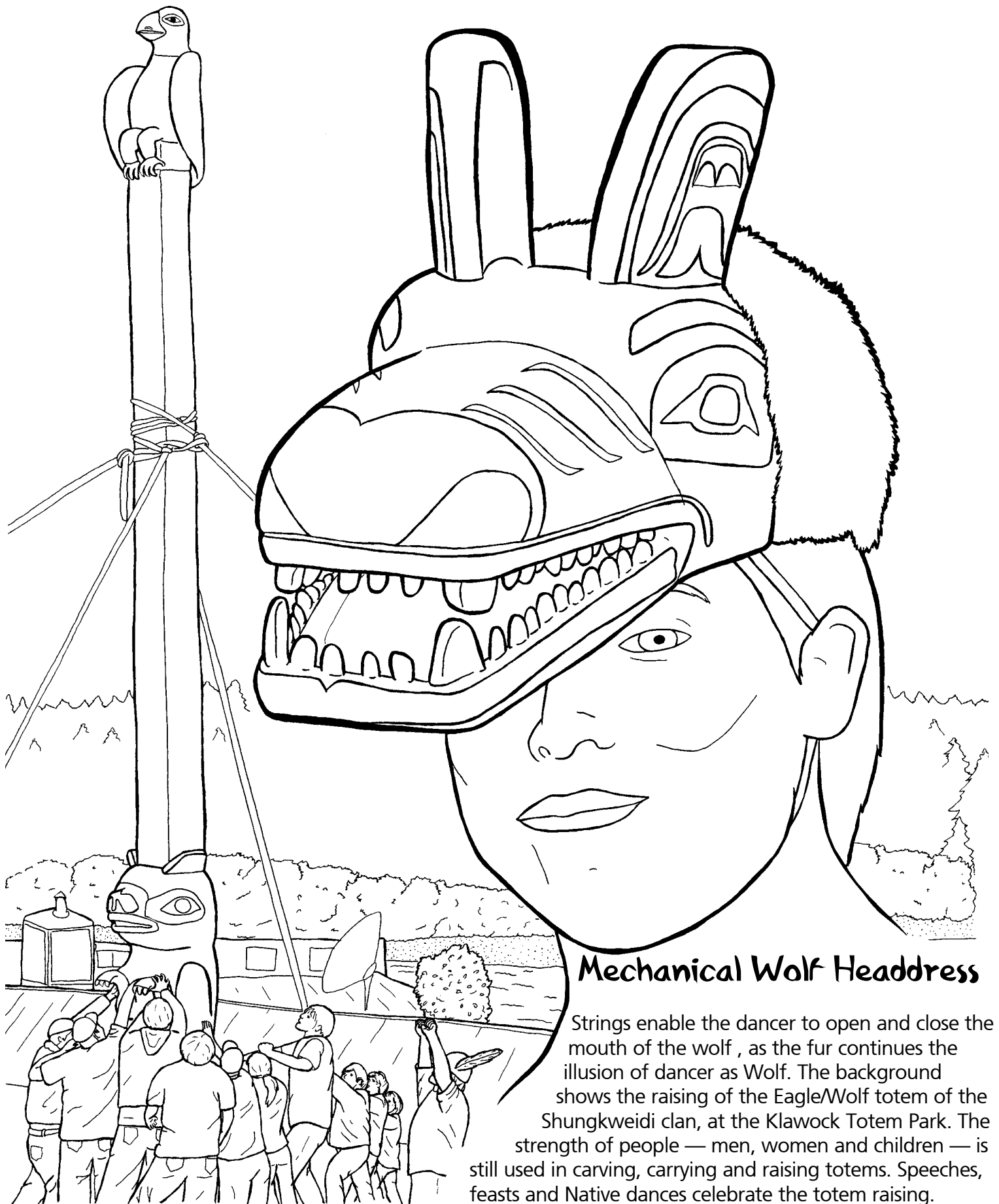
Gene Tagaban (Tlingit, Cherokee, Filipino) dancer, storyteller, actor. Gene, as the Raven Dancer, holds the undivided attention of his audience. His multi-talents take him from the intimate setting of the classroom, to cultural celebrations and theater screens. Here Gene is shown on the beach at Bellingham, Washington on Honor Day, welcoming an arriving canoe.





## Warrior Dance, Wolf Transformation

This mask is tied to the dancer. It enables him to be hoisted and let down during the dance. The dancer is holding a double-headed serpent. In the background is an entrance the dancers come through.



## Mechanical Wolf Headdress

Strings enable the dancer to open and close the mouth of the wolf, as the fur continues the illusion of dancer as Wolf. The background shows the raising of the Eagle/Wolf totem of the Shungkweidi clan, at the Klawock Totem Park. The strength of people — men, women and children — is still used in carving, carrying and raising totems. Speeches, feasts and Native dances celebrate the totem raising.