

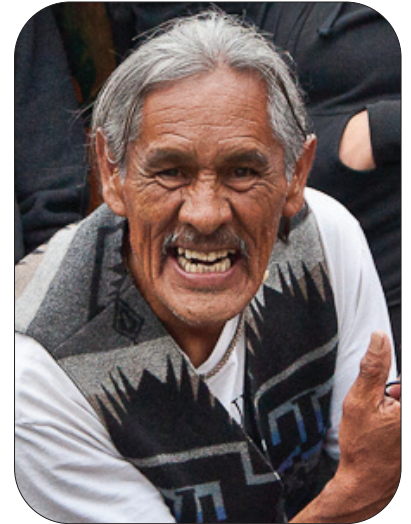


## *Tribal Hostess* **Robert Peele**

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Saaduuts Robert Peele is the second son to Sylvester Peele of the Kaigani Haida Nation and his wife Frieda. He spent the first three years of his life in Juneau, Alaska, and the balance of his youth in Hydaburg, Alaska. He received his Haida name Saaduuts at the age of 40. His moiety is Eagle and his primary clans are Sgalāns & K'ust'án.

Robert languished in an Indian boarding school, and eventually joined the U.S. Navy before completing high school. A significant event in Saaduuts' two years of military service was as a crew member on the ship that plucked the returning crew of Apollo 11 from the sea after their historic journey to the moon. An event he'll always remember, and a duty he was proud to perform.



In 1971, before moving to Seattle, Robert married Janet Watson, a young Tlingit woman from the neighboring village of Klawock. He has three adopted children and one daughter with Jan.

Fishing was his primary career until the age of 45 when an injury would eventually bring an end to his commercial fishing time on the sea. With limited career opportunities available in the small town of Hydaburg, Robert moved to Seattle in 1975, and began the next phase of what was to become an extraordinary life changing journey.

Robert then expanded his opportunities to include both community service and cultural renewal. He became a Tlingit & Haida Delegate and one of the founders of the Haida Heritage Foundation. He joined the Haida Laas dance group, and fully participated in the busy dance schedule of that group, and the Tlingit dance group, Haan Dei I Jin. He went on to carve at least six canoes and gifted them all away at potlatches so more tribes could join the ever growing return of canoe culture. Through this, he was able to return to the ocean life he loved so much.

