

Name of collection

Indigenous rituals

Contributors name:

Michael Walling

Contributors name:

Jose Navarro

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Jose Navarro's performance, Man of the Andes, one of the rituals which he makes use of is the ritual scissor dance from his people, which is performed by men, is performed with scissors-- usually by two men but he does it by himself. And it's a way of sort of preening and showing yourself as someone who's a prospective mate, I believe.

I start dancing not when I was young, but when I was kind of a certain age, mature person. And I had to find for a master from who I learned, and then after a certain time I was able to grab a lot of the kind of knowledge and skills required for a scissor dancer. I can say the scissor dance is a ritual dance that is done in order to honor the Mother Earth-- what we call pachamama. Because of pachamama we have all the things that we can live from like foods. Animals can live because pachamama provides for us and therefore, we have to be grateful.

We do our dance to basically say our big thanks to the mother earth. The way we perform with scissors, so is basically more an Andean tradition specifically in Peru because it's not everywhere in the Andes, but even in Peru it is constrained to certain regions. A dancer is not just dance, but there are many other aspects to it. And a lot of them is part of the ritual which involves different acts of courage, physical strength, kind of magic, comedy, a little bit of everything. Dancer has to do many things.

[MUSIC PLAYING]