

*Kingulliit Productions presents*

## **Arnaapik - Violence Against Women**

*A Six-Part Television Series*

### **PRESS NOTES**



*Performers Angeline Ivalu, Alexa Morency Dubuc and Clarissa Murphy Samson (Episode 4)*

**Directors** Lucy Tulugarjuk  
Maia Iotzova  
Miali Buscemi

**Writers** Gillian Robinson  
Maia Iotzova  
Miali Buscemi  
Robyn Angilirq

**Producers** Gillian Robinson  
Jonathan Frantz  
Lucy Tulugarjuk

**Executive Producers**

Madeline Ivalu  
Zacharias Kunuk

**Line Producer**

Marcela Gomez

**Actors**

Miali Buscemi as Elisapee  
Savannah Mamgark Lachapelle as sister Annie  
Angeline Ivalu as Mom  
Clarissa Murphy-Samson as young Elisapee  
Alexa Morency Dubuc as young Annie

**Interviews**

Aggiu Lillian Dimitruk  
Ann Hanson  
Annie Hickey  
Beatrice Deer  
Charlotte Wolfrey  
Chelsea McCulla Uppahuak Prusky  
Deborah Qaunaq  
Elisapie Isaac  
Gerri Sharpe  
Jackie Nakoolak  
Jimmy Qiyuk  
Judith Nuluijuk  
Lori Idlout  
Madeline Ivalu  
Martha Greig  
Mary Simon  
Na'kuset  
Nancianne Grey  
Natan Obed  
Nicole Dicker  
Noel Kaludjak  
Sarah Arngna'naap  
Therese Uttak  
Thomas Angoshadluk

**Director of Photography**      Kristen Brown - KB Images

**Editors**                              Maegan Tessler  
    Maia Iotzova

**Music**                                “Arnaapik” Written by Elisapie Isaac  
    Performed by Elisapie Isaac  
    Courtesy of Avalanche Sound Publishing

*Tautuktavuk* Score “Cemetery”  
Version 2, VOX1, Track 10  
Written and Performed by  
Beatrice Deer Band  
Courtesy of Beatrice Deer Band

*Produced with the participation of the Canada Media Fund, Telefilm Canada, Nunavut  
Independent Television Network and the Government of Canada Canadian Film or Video  
Production Tax Credit program.*

## SYNOPSIS

### **Arnaapik - Violence Against Women**

*TV Series (6 Episodes x 60 minutes)*

*Violence can be broken. We have to stop this cycle of violence. We have to stop the shame.*

Lucy Tulugarjuk, 2022

This 6-part docu-drama series delves into the current crisis of violence against Inuit women and girls within Canada. With a sensitivity and deep understanding, the female director trio (Lucy Tulugarjuk, Miali Buscemi and Maia Iotzova) uncover the layers of colonial, cultural and systemic factors contributing to this crisis.

To allow different perspectives and emotions, the directors chose to use partly a fictional approach to give a poignant layer of a narrative, taken from real life experiences and other histories, of a young Inuk woman - Elisapee – searching for answers and solutions around the death of her mother due to domestic violence. Elisapee comes into her own awareness around both her grief and beginning a serious search for answers to this tragedy and epidemic of violence. As she follows this search, so do the real people interviewed also open up, and discuss this subject of violence in conversations with the directors.

Through these six episodes, the viewer is led on a journey of discovering hard truths, incredible resilience and empowerment and hope for a better future.

## EPISODES:

1. Talking with Elders
2. Confronting the System
3. The Power of Women
4. Our Youth
5. Hear Us
6. Finding a Path Forward

## TEAM BIOS



*Arnaapik Team on location (2024).*

### **Miali Buscemi** (Co-director)

**Miali** was brought up in Kimmirut, a small community south of Iqaluit that is filled with hunters, seamstresses and a dialect of Inuktitut as delicious as the prevailing winds that whip up the snowbanks into ephemeral creatures dancing to jazz. Miali grew up watching her parents make art, make camp and making family; she is as adept at living on the land as she is creating compelling performances. Theatre credits include: *Kiviuq Returns* (2016), *Qaggiq*, Northern Play Reading Series, Akpik Theatre. Film credits include: *The Grizzlies*, *Iqaluit, The Movie*, *Aviliaq: Entwined*, *Maina*, *Throat Song*, *Ce Qu'il Pour Vivre/Necessities of Life*. She has provided commentary in *Two Soft Things*, *Two Hard Things* and *The Mushuau Innu: Surviving Canada*. In television she has appeared on *Qanurli* and *Kenojuak Ashevak, Heritage Minute*.

### **Maia Iotzova** (Co-director)

**Maia Iotzova** is a visual artist, a filmmaker, and a graphic novelist. She uses a variety of mediums to explore our intimate connections in a world fragmented by social and political forces and personal turmoil. Her first documentary *Grass Through Concrete - The Struggle to Protect the Red Hill Valley* (72min, 2004) screened widely in Canada. Her second film *Green Dream* (50 min, 2015) opened the Sofia Biting Docs Film Festival in Bulgaria, screened in Canada, Australia, Malaysia, Switzerland, and was awarded Best Feature Film at the 6th International Eco Fest, Romania, 2016. Iotzova holds a BA in Fine Arts at the University of Guelph, Canada. She has been dedicated to bringing forward the

voice of women in film and visual art. She was a co-host at the radio show of the feminist new media centre AdaX (Formerly Studio XX), for 5 years. Since 2016 she has been a member of the Inuit led Isuma Collective. Their most notable work is *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*, winner of Camera D'Or in Cannes. The Isuma Collective represented Canada in the 58th Venice Biennale, 2019.

**Lucy Tulugarjuk** (Co-director)

**Lucy Tulugarjuk** is an award-winning actor, creative performer, and the Executive Director of Nunavut Independent Television Network (NITV), the owner of Canada's first 24/7 Inuit language television station, Uvagut TV. Lucy is well-known for her performances in feature films, and was awarded Best Actress from the American Indian Film Institute for her performance in *Atanarjuat The Fast Runner*, which won the Camerá d'Or and Genie Award for Best Picture in 2002. She is the co-writer and director of the 2018 feature film, *Tia and Piujuq*, which premiered at the Carrousel Children's Film

Festival and the Boston Kid's Film Festival, and won the Jean Malaurie Prize at Festival du Film Canadienne in Dieppe, France. Lucy was the co-writer and co-director of the feature film, *Tautuktavuk (What We See)* (2023), which was awarded the 2023 Amplify Voices Award (TIFF), the Sun Jury Award (ImagineNATIVE), Best Documentary from Umea International Film Festival, and named as one of "TIFF Canada's Top Ten" films for 2023. In addition to her work in film and television, Lucy is a skilled Inuktitut translator.

**Gillian Robinson** (Producer)

**Gillian Robinson** is a writer, editor and project manager. Over the past 23 years she has worked with the Isuma Collective, an Inuit filmmaking group and television network, as a writer, screenwriter, editor and project manager. In previous years, she was the Director of Arts, Culture and Education at Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation, Dawson City, Yukon; part of the collective at Groupe Intervention Vidéo (GIV), Montréal, Quebec, a video centre for production and distribution of documentary and art video by women; Assistant Editor at Fuse Magazine. She is the editor of *The Journals of Knud Rasmussen* (book), the Isuma Inuit Studies Reader, and *Atanarjuat The Fast Runner* (book), and collaborated with a curatorial board to create *The Isuma Book* (2019) for the 58th Venice Biennale. Gillian was a writer and editor on the feature film, *Tautuktavuk (What We See)* (2023), which was awarded the 2023 Amplify Voices Award (TIFF), the Sun Jury Award (ImagineNATIV), Best Documentary from Umea International Film Festival, and named as one of "TIFF Canada's Top Ten" films for 2023.

**Marcela Gomez** (Line Producer and Accountant)

**Marcela** was born in Argentina and raised in Paraguay. She is a mother of a daughter and a son. She studied Business Administration in Paraguay before immigrating to Canada in December 2005. She became a Canadian citizen several years ago. Marcela has been working with the Isuma Collective for the past 10 years. She has worked on various production projects over the years, taking on different roles such as accounting assistant, financial manager, line producer, and, most recently, as a producer for *Inuit Makers* and the ongoing production *Fierce Prayers*. Throughout this time, she has had the privilege of working closely with Inuit artists, producers, and community members, supporting their efforts to share their stories with the world. Marcela is passionate about empowering Indigenous communities through media. She values collaboration, cultural preservation, and ethical storytelling. She is deeply committed to working alongside Inuit creators and organizations to help amplify their voices and stories.

**Maegan Tessler** (Editor)

**Maegan Tessler** is a filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist living in Montreal. She finds the space between meaningful and absurd to be the most compelling. She currently works at Isuma Productions as a video editor and post-production coordinator. She believes in the power of art to inspire positive social change. She also loves chatting and farming.

**Angeline Ivalu** (Performer as “Mom, Uluriaq”)

**Savannah Mamgark** (Performer as “sister Annie”)

Greetings, I am Savannah Mamgark Lachapelle. Born 1989, Winnipeg, Manitoba and raised in Arviat, Nunavut. I am currently living in Drummondville, Quebec. Dedicated wife and mother of 5 beautiful children. Family life has been a priority in the last few years. Acting always has been a passion for me. I am very active on social media like Tik Tok and currently seeking a new adventure and making a comeback to school at the Arctic College.

**Alexa Morency Dubuc** (Performer as “young Annie”)

Alexa Morency Dubuc is a young Inuk child with family roots in Kuujjuarapik, Nunavik. She lives in southern Quebec and speaks French. Even from far away, she stays connected to her northern identity — through stories, culture, and the love passed down by her family. Alexa is growing up with pride in who she is, learning to honour both where she comes from and where she is.

**Clarissa Murphy Samson** (Performer as “young Elisapee”)

Clarissa is 11 years old. She is Inuk and French Canadian. She lives in Montreal and is fluent in English and French. She has a passion for acting and figure skating. She is an honor roll student, an accomplished competitive figure skater, also competes in gymnastics and is part of her school's drama club. She is the 2025 recipient of Yale University special prize for Native Actor under 18. In her spare time, she loves everything “girly” and spending time with her sister.

## ABOUT KINGULLIIT PRODUCTIONS

Incorporated in 2010, Kingulliit Productions is an Inuit-owned and operated production company dedicated to creating and sharing films and television series for Inuit audiences. Kingulliit (in Inuktitut: “*the next generation*”) is 100% owned by Zacharias Kunuk, one of Canada’s most successful artists, with a 30+ year career of writing, producing and directing award-winning film and television projects, including the internationally acclaimed Inuktitut feature film *Atanarjuat - The Fast Runner* (2001), winner of the Cannes Caméra d’or.

Our team includes elders, media creators, sewers, carvers, hunters, film and video producers, researchers and advisors who have years of experience in facilitating community discussion and delivering Inuit-created content to Inuit communities. Senior producers and project managers for Kingulliit have been working on award-winning projects in the Igloolik region for 35+ years, including *Maliglutit (Searchers)*, *Hunting With My Ancestors*, *One Day in the Life of Noah Piugattuk* (TIFF Canada’s Top Ten 2019), and *Angakusajaujuq: The Shaman’s Apprentice* (2021), winner of the FIPRESCI Award, TIFF Canada’s Best Short Film 2021, and shortlisted for the 2022 Oscars.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**For press inquiries**, please contact Cecilia Greyson at [cecilia@isuma.tv](mailto:cecilia@isuma.tv).

To watch interviews and learn more about the project, please visit [www.arnaapik.isuma.tv](http://www.arnaapik.isuma.tv)