

KUNUK COHN PRODUCTIONS  
IGLOOLIK ISUMA PRODUCTIONS  
*PRESENT*  
A FILM BY THE ARNAIT VIDEO COLLECTIVE

# BEFORE TOMORROW

Directed by  
MARIE-HÉLÈNE COUSINEAU  
AND MADELINE PIUJUQ IVALU

93 mins. • 2008 • Canada

For more info. and images:  
[www.isuma.tv/fastrunnertrilogy](http://www.isuma.tv/fastrunnertrilogy)

**NY PUBLICITY CONTACT:**  
Susan Norget Film Promotion  
198 Sixth Ave. #1  
New York, NY 10013  
(212) 431-0090  
[susan@norget.com](mailto:susan@norget.com)

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## “BEFORE TOMORROW”

STARRING  
MADELINE PIUJUQ IVALU  
PAUL-DYLAN IVALU  
PETER-HENRY ARNATSIQAQ  
MARY QULITALIK  
TUMASIE SIVUARAPIK

BASED ON THE NOVEL  
“FØR MORGENDAGEN” BY JØRN RIEL

SCREENPLAY  
MARIE-HÉLÈNE COUSINEAU  
MADELINE PIUJUQ IVALU SUSAN AVINGAQ

MUSIC  
KATE AND ANNA MCGARRIGLE

DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY  
NORMAN COHN FÉLIX LAJEUNESSE

PRODUCTION DESIGN  
SUSAN AVINGAQ

COSTUMES  
ATUAT AKITTIRQ MICHELLINE AMMAQ

EDITORS  
NORMAN COHN MARIE-HÉLÈNE COUSINEAU  
FÉLIX LAJEUNESSE LOUISE DUGAL

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS  
ZACHARIAS KUNUK NORMAN COHN

PRODUCER  
STÉPHANE RITUIT

DIRECTED BY  
MARIE-HÉLÈNE COUSINEAU  
AND MADELINE PIUJUQ IVALU

PRODUCED WITH THE FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION OF  
TELEFILM CANADA SODEC  
QUÉBEC TAX CREDIT  
NUNAVUT FILM CANADIAN TAX CREDIT

WITH THE COLLABORATION OF  
NUNAVUT INDEPENDENT TV NETWORK ISUMA.TV

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FIRST AIR AIR INUIT

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BEFORE TOMORROW is the third and final chapter in THE FAST RUNNER TRILOGY, beginning with Zacharias Kunuk's arthouse hit ATANARJUAT THE FAST RUNNER (2001) and followed by festival favorite THE JOURNALS OF KNUD RASMUSSEN (2006).

These three groundbreaking Inuit films express the dramatic history of one of the world's oldest oral cultures from its own point of view. In 2002, New York Times critic A.O. Scott called THE FAST RUNNER "A masterpiece.... The first national cinema of the 21st century."

See [www.isuma.tv/fastrunnertrilogy](http://www.isuma.tv/fastrunnertrilogy)

BEFORE TOMORROW is set in 1840, a time when many Inuit had yet to meet white people, and thus maintained their traditional way of life. The ballads of Kate and Anna McGarrigle set the tone for this tender, affecting tale of a small boy (Paul-Dylan Ivalu) and his beloved grandmother (co-director Madeline Piujuq Ivalu), caught between the harsh Arctic wilderness and first contact with the outside world. BEFORE TOMORROW is based on the novel "Før Morgendagen" by celebrated Danish writer Jørn Riel, and has been translated into 8 languages.

## **The Story**

Two isolated families meet for a summertime celebration. Food is abundant and the future seems bright, but Ningiuq, a strong and wise old woman, sees her world as fragile and moves through it with a pervasive sense of dread.

Ningiuq and her grandson Maniq are dropped off on a remote island, where every year, the family dries the catch and stores it for winter.

The task is soon finished. As summer turns to fall, they wait in vain for the others to pick them up.

## **Synopsis**

The story is set circa 1840, when some Inuit tribes had yet to meet white people, although rumors were circulating about where they came from and why they traveled.

After many years of isolation, the summer celebration is a time when young people get married, plans are made for the future and food is abundant. In these joyful surroundings, strange artifacts from the outside world, a steel knife and wooden pulley, are examined. Kukik, an elder, describes the curious customs of white people he has met, who greet everyone with powerful handshakes and drink a burning liquid that makes them all fall down.

Ningiuq is worried about something she cannot quite put her finger on. Is it the illness of her lifelong friend, Kutuujuk? Her own impending mortality? Or something about the new and curious objects arriving in camp?

The season's catch is to be taken to a remote island, where Ningiuq will dry and store it in a cave until winter. Her young grandson, Maniq, is eager to go along to help. Maniq's father, Apak, takes them to the island together with Kutuujuk, who soon after succumbs to her old age. Ningiuq and Maniq finish the task themselves. They wait some time for Apak to pick them up. The season grows dark and grey.

When the first snow falls, Ningiuq and Maniq make their way back to the main camp to discover all the others dead in their tents. Among their bodies

are artifacts from white men who had visited and spread disease.

Ningiuq and Maniq go back to the island, only to discover the weather has turned against them. They barely survive an attack of wild dogs. As harsh winter sets in, they take shelter in the cave, putting a set of oars at its entrance to signal their presence to anyone who might pass by. Drawing on her deep spirituality and mustering all her survival skills, Ningiuq does her best to protect Maniq from solitude – brightening their time together and making his short life an object of great pride. In the darkest winter, Ningiuq realizes the cave will be her final resting place.

### **Statement from Co-Directors Cousineau and Piujuk Ivalu**

Our aim was to create a production process that is in harmony with the lives of all the women depicted as well as those creating the film. Our production values reflect the cultural values of the participants, which are anchored in deep respect for Elders, hunting and fishing seasons, community events and family traditions. We work as a team to write each script, to create costumes and accessories, and to shape performances.

The whole of our work is the expression of research into traditional and contemporary Inuit narrative styles. We seek to create innovative stories for our time by respecting and rediscovering our traditions.

### **About Arnait Video Productions**

The goal of **Arnait Video Productions** (Women's Video Workshop of Igloolik) is to value the voices of Inuit women in debates of interest to Canadians and to all people everywhere, addressing lifetime experiences at the dawning of the third millennium in a small Inuit community that is going through fundamental political and social changes.

Since its beginnings in 1991, Arnait has persevered through adverse social conditions – community and family problems as well as precarious financial situations. The sheer endurance required for the women who video-document their lives testifies to the important place Arnait has in their hearts. For more information, please go to: [arnaitvideo.ca](http://arnaitvideo.ca).

## About the Cast



**Madeline Piujuq Ivalu** (Ningiuq) has been a key elder participant in all projects by Arnait Video Productions since 1991. She appeared as a featured player in Zacharias Kunuk's "Atanarjuat The Fast Runner" and Zacharias Kunuk and Norman Cohn's "The Journals of Knud Rasmussen."



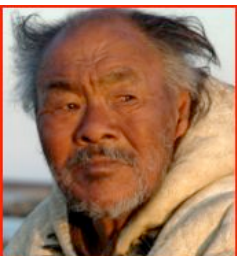
**Paul-Dylan Ivalu** (Maniq) is Piujuq Ivalu's actual 12-year-old grandson. "Before Tomorrow" is his first leading role. He has made appearances in films by Igloolik Isuma Productions including "The Journals of Knud Rasmussen." He lives with family in Igloolik where he goes to school and enjoys hunting with his father, grandfather and uncles.



**Peter Henry Arnatsiaq** (Apak), is an experienced hunter from Igloolik as well as a well-known actor. He starred as Oki, the jealous rival in "Atanarjuat The Fast Runner," and Natar in "The Journals of Knud Rasmussen" and had a supporting role in Charles Martin Smith's "The Snow Walker." In 2003, he presented at L'École Nationale de Théâtre in Montreal a unique reenactment of the contemporary Inuit legend of "Kaukjakjualuk," co-directed with his brother Laurentio Arnatsiaq.



**Mary Qulitalik** (Kutuujuk) has appeared in several films from Igloolik Isuma Productions, including "The Journals of Knud Rasmussen," "Atanarjuat The Fast Runner" and the 1994-95 television series "Nunavut (Our Land)."



**Tumasie Sivuarapik** (Kukik) is an experienced hunter who resides in Puvirnituk, where the film was shot. He previously played a supporting role in Jacques Dorfman and Pierre Magny's "Shadow of the Wolf" (1992).

## About the Filmmakers

Co-Director **Marie-Hélène Cousineau** formed the collective Arnait Video Workshop, and is its coordinator/trainer as well as an active collaborating producer. Cousineau has written about the experiences of women making video in Igloolik and curated several exhibitions of their work. Her video work has been widely exhibited in Canada, the U.S and Europe. With an MFA in Communications from University of Iowa, Cousineau was also associate professor of Communications at Concordia University in Montreal (1997-1999).

Co-Director and lead actress **Madeline Piujuq Ivalu** has been a key elder participant in all projects by Arnait projects since its inception. She was cultural advisor and interviewer for the Arnait productions "Women/Health/Body" and "Itivimiut" as well as storyteller, musician, actor and writer for "Qulliq," "Ataguttaluk Starvation," "Piujuq and Angutautuq" and "Unikausiq." She presented the videos of the Workshop at the 1996 Qaigit Symposium in Ottawa. She represents Igloolik women to Pauktutit, the Pan-Canadian Inuit Women's organization.

Production Designer and Co-Screenwriter **Susan Avingaq** has been a regular participant in Arnait projects since its inception. She was a key member of the production team for "Qulliq," "Ataguttaluk Starvation" and "Piujuq and Angutautuq" as writer, actor and musician. A renowned seamstress/artist in the Baffin region, she is also active locally in teaching sewing traditions to younger Inuit women. Susan was born on the land and moved into town in Igloolik in the mid-1970s. Her family still hunts and camps on the land part of the year.

**Kate and Anna McGarrigle** made their recording debut in 1976 with the highly acclaimed album "Kate & Anna McGarrigle." They have released nine albums to date. The sisters have written music and songs for numerous films and television dramas and their songs have been covered by Linda Ronstadt, Maria Muldaur, Emmylou Harris, Rufus Wainwright, Dido, Chloé Ste-Marie, Billy Bragg, Marie-Michèle Desrosiers, Xavier Caféine, The Wailing Souls and Allison Moorer, among others.

Kate and Anna are recipients of the Order of Canada and the Governor-General's Award. Their song "Heart Like a Wheel" was this year awarded a place in the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Producer **Stéphane Ritu** joined Igloolik Isuma Productions in 2002. Line producer on Zacharias Kunuk's documentary "Kiviaq versus Canada" and Zacharias Kunuk and Norman Cohn's feature "The Journals of Knud Rasmussen", he produced Zacharias Kunuk's last documentary "Exile" and a short film featuring the Inuit singer Tanya Tagaq Gillis, "Tungijuq." He has also produced several shorts initiated by Igloolik's Artcirq collective.

Executive Producers **Norman Cohn and Zacharias Kunuk** formed Igloolik Isuma Productions in 1990. Internationally recognized video artists before the release of their 2001 Cannes prize-winning feature, "Atanarjuat The Fast Runner," Kunuk-Cohn's signature dramatic style combines the authenticity of modern digital documentary production with the ancient art of Inuit storytelling.

Isuma's cross-over work has been showcased at film festivals and art museums throughout the world, from Cannes and Telluride to Documenta 11, The National Gallery of Canada and New York's Museum of Modern Art. Cohn and Kunuk won the 1994 Bell Canada Award for Outstanding Achievement in Video Art. Kunuk is the recipient of a National Arts Award, the National Aboriginal Achievement Award and the Order of Canada. In 2008 Isuma launched the first Internet portal for indigenous filmmakers worldwide at [www.isuma.tv](http://www.isuma.tv).

## **Prizes**

**Grand Prize Teueikan and Jury Mention's for Best Photography:** Film Festival *Présence autochtone*, Montreal 2009

**Public Choice Prize:** Trento Festival, Italy 2009

**Best Feature Film:** Weeneebeg Aboriginal Film & Video Festival 2009

**Best Canadian Feature:** Victoria Film Festival 2009

**In World Cinema - Dramatic Competition:** Sundance Film Festival 2009

**Canada's Top Ten 2008:** Toronto International Film Festival Group

**Honour from the Jury:** Whistler Film Festival in Borsos' competition 2008

**Best Feature Film:** Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival 2008

**Best Film:** the 33 Annual American Indian Film Festival San Francisco

**Best Feature Film:** ImagineNATIVE Film+Media Arts Festival 2008

**Best Canadian First Feature :** Toronto International Film Festival 2008



## Screening History

### *Upcoming 2010*

Mar 5, Llanberis Mountain Film Festival, UK.

Jan 15, Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach

### **2009**

#### **U.S. Theatrical Premiere:**

#### **Dec. 2 - 15, 2009: Film Forum, New York**

Nov 12, 32nd Starz Denver Film Festival

Oct 3, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C

Sep 24, Milwaukee Film Festival

Sep 19, 7th Vladivostok International Film Festival

Sep 17, 2ème Festival Planète Honnête, France

Aug 20, Native Cinema Showcase in Santa Fe

July 24, 26th Jerusalem International Film Festival

July 23, Era New Horizons IFF, Poland

July 15, Indianapolis International Film Festival

July 15, Riddu Riddu International Film Festival, Norway

July 10, New Zealand Film Festival

Jun 11, Film Festival Présence autochtone , Montreal

*Grand Prize Teueikan and Jury Mention, Best Photography*

Jun 7, Sedona Native American Film Festival, Arizona

May 13, 8th annual High Falls Int'l Film Festival, Rochester

May 7, Message Sticks film festival, Sydney, Australia.

Apr 21, Trento Int'l Film Festival, Italy

*Public Choice Prize*

Apr 16, 2009 Nashville Film Festival, Narrative Features Competition

Apr 14, 22nd Singapore International Film Festival

#### **March 27, 2009: Canadian Theatrical Release**

Mar 25, Beyond Borders, Minneapolis

Mar 18, Festival du cinéma Nordique de Rouen, France

Mar 11, 17th Environmental Film Festival, Washington DC

Mar 4, 8th Annual Palm Springs Festival of Native Film and Culture

Feb 18, Rendez-Vous du Cinéma Québécois, Montreal

Feb 18, Yukon Film Festival, 7th annual Available Light Film Festival

Feb 17, Weeneebeg Aboriginal Film & Video Festival, Moose Factory

*Best Feature Film*

Jan 30, 2009 Victoria Film Festival

*Best Canadian Feature.*

Jan 22, 24th Santa Barbara International Film Festival

Jan 15, Sundance Film Festival  
*World Cinema - Dramatic Competition*

Jan 10, Toronto International Film Festival Group (TIFFG), Canada's Top Ten

Jan 6, Palm Springs International Film Festival  
**2008**

Dec 4, Whistler Film Festival  
*Borsos Competition, Honour from the Jury*

Nov 19-23, 2008: Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival  
*Best Feature Film*

Nov 7, 33rd Annual American Indian Film Festival, San Francisco  
*Best Film*

Oct 15, ImagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival  
*Best Feature Film*

Oct 8, 37th edition of the Festival du Nouveau Cinema, Montreal

Oct 2, Pusan Film Festival, Korea

Sep 25, Reykjavik International Film Festival, Competition

Sep 4, World Premiere, Toronto International Film Festival  
*Best Canadian First Feature*

For more information, please go to:

[www.isuma.tv/tomorrow-press](http://www.isuma.tv/tomorrow-press)

and

[www.isuma.tv/fastrunnertrilogy](http://www.isuma.tv/fastrunnertrilogy)

Public Relations: Lucius Barre [lucius@rcn.com](mailto:lucius@rcn.com) +1-917-353-2268