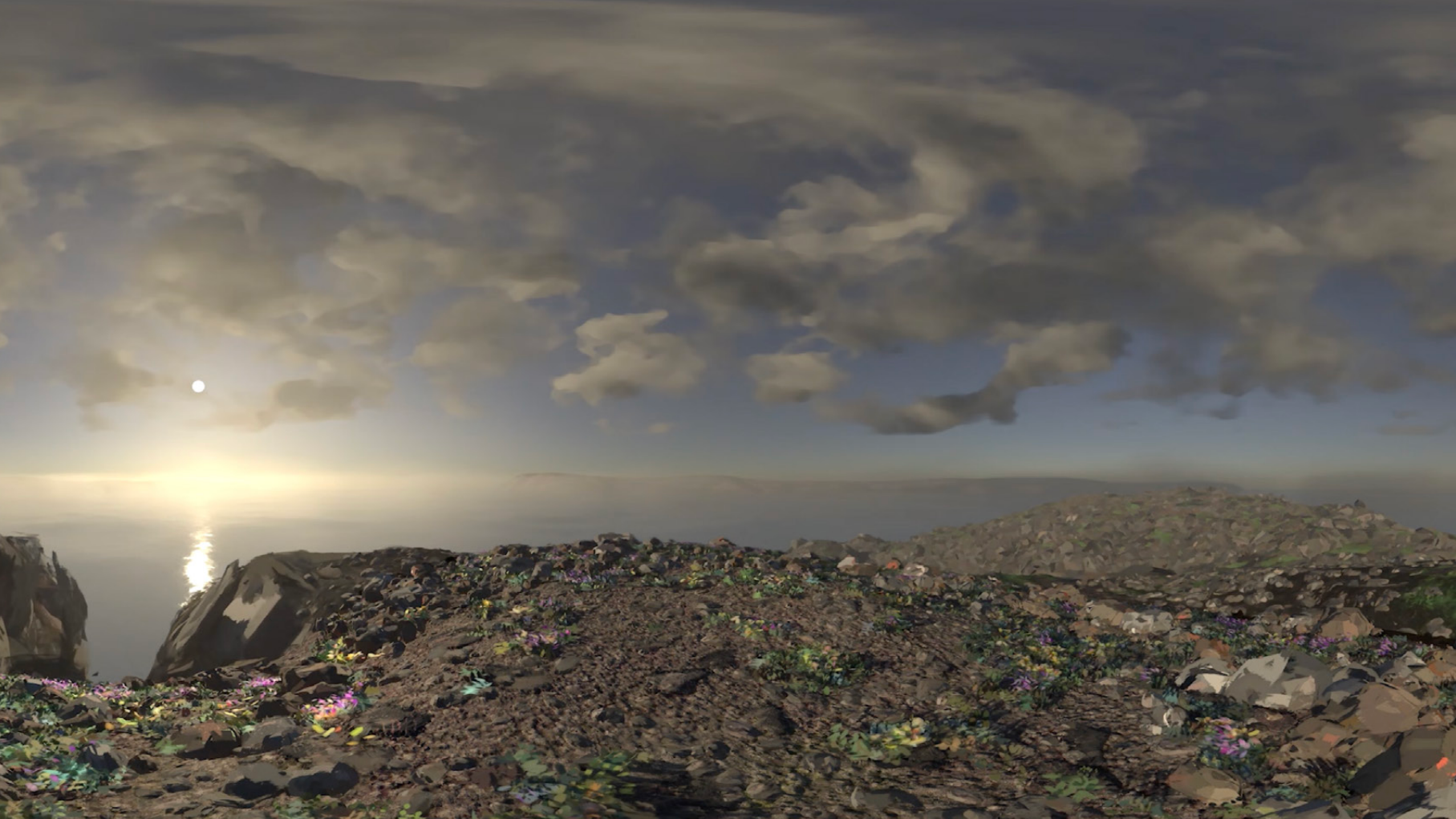
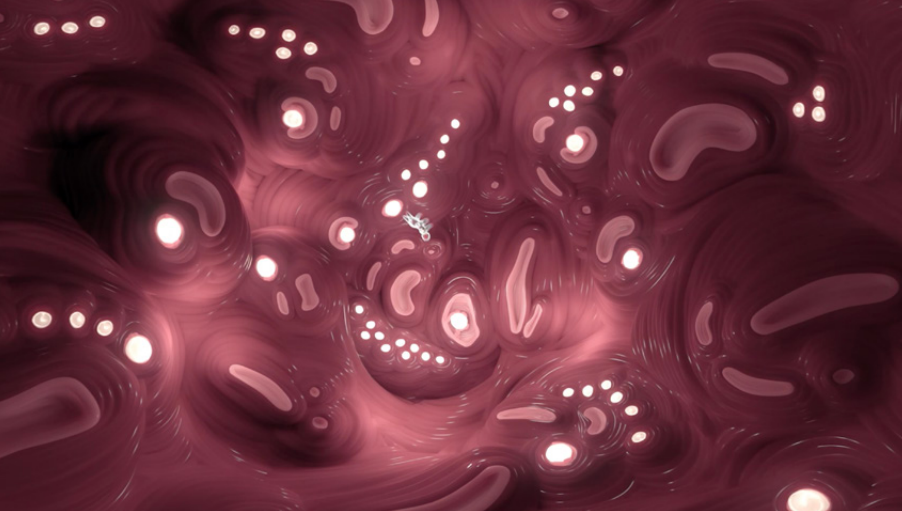


A man and a woman are shown from the chest up, wearing elaborate costumes. The man on the left has long dark hair, blue eye makeup, and a small goatee. He is wearing a white fur hood and holding a large, curved, light-colored antler. The woman on the right is wearing a large, white fur hat with a pom-pom and a dark fur coat. She is also holding a large, curved, light-colored antler. The background is dark and out of focus.

TARTUPALUK

A VR Inuit utopia created and directed by
LAAKKULUK WILLIAMSON





SYNOPSIS

TARTUPALUK is an interactive virtual reality experience that brings viewers into the imaginary Republic of Tartupaluk, set on a tiny real-world Arctic island located within the territorial waters of northernmost North America and Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland).

Created and directed by acclaimed Greenlandic-Canadian performance artist and writer Laakkuluk Williamson, the work features her as the larger-than-life, newly inaugurated President of the Republic.

Guided by the President's trilingual narration in Kalaallisut, Inuktitut, and English, viewers tour the island and earn their stripes as citizens of the Republic, encountering a place shaped as much by imagination as by geopolitics.

Through a collage of 360° live-action footage, motion-capture animation, and visual effects, TARTUPALUK unfolds as a poetic and at times satirical Inuit utopia. Reimagined as a nation of circumpolar lovers, the island's long history of political dispute gives way to a call to embrace, gather, and connect.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I come from a world of storytelling and live performance. From falling asleep at my childhood cabin to the sound of my parents recounting their young years in Kalaallit Nunaat and what is now Nunavut, to touring the world with award-winning theatre shows, I am immersed in poetry that creates imagery. The project pulls apart the three main themes of the cornerstone of my performance career: uajaerneq - the Kalaallit mask dance that traverses humour, celebration of sexuality and a study of fear to create a rich collage.

I bring the stories I carry in my body to a joyful connection between polar bear fur and the Insta360 Pro 2 camera, seal liver and gaussian splatting, Arctic trilingualism and vivid animation, internationally renowned Inuit artists and avant-garde film studios. TARTUPALUK is a calling to borderlessness for Inuit - a political utopia as well as

personal, internal desire for love as an impetus for existence.

TARTUPALUK is based on a series of short stories told by a performance character I created. I was inspired to write about Tartupaluk as an Inuit republic after hearing an interview with an Inuk hunter who helped the Canadian army arrive at the real island of Tartupaluk in the early 2000s. The reporter asked, "What would you do if you saw foreigners hunting polar bears in Canadian territory in the region?" The hunter replied, "I would ask how the family is."

The real Tartupaluk is located in the middle of Nares Strait, just south of the North Pole. It is 1.3 square km and, as the Inuktitut name suggests, kidney shaped. Its colonial name is Hans Island. Both the governments of Canada and Denmark have tried to assert sovereignty over the island. Both countries' armies have

made expeditions to Tartupaluk to plant flags. In actuality, neither army can reach Tartupaluk without the help of Inuit. Inuit have always used the region around Tartupaluk as polar bear hunting ground and are related to each other across so-called international borders.

In the face of renewed imperialist pressures in the Arctic, the experience asserts the right of Inuit to a good life rooted in our homelands and to unconditional self-determination. TARTUPALUK functions as a political commentary that nurtures hope and unity.





NARRATION

TARTUPALUK allows viewers to enter the beauty of nuna (the land, the world) that Inuit performance is born from since time immemorial. It is an invitation for Inuit to explore what it would be like to be unencumbered by colonial relationships and to be free to create new modern self-determining lives, in a humorous, sexy and impassioned way. It celebrates Inuit feeling comfortable in our own skin and working together to create a good life. The experience bids viewers in an interactive way, to question who they are, what they are doing visiting Tartupaluk and if they intend to become a part of the republic.

This project, in its content, composition and process, is groundbreaking. It brings together the best of Inuit theatre and Arctic

cinematography with state-of-the-art VR. The Nunavut-based team is made up of artists, writers, singers, hunters, seamstresses, neighbours and family members that have created an idiosyncratic arts scene that is recognized around the world. Making art “Inuit-style” means a lot of collaboration, maximizing generalism rather than specialization, flexibility, comradery and equality.

The addition of VR is an enhancement and an augmentation to this unique and bustling ecosystem. TARTUPALUK is a gift from the Inuit art world to Virtual Reality as much as it is a gift from Virtual Reality to Inuit art.

CREW BIOS



LAAKKULUK WILLIAMSON - WRITER, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR

An internationally acclaimed Kalaaleq (Greenlandic Inuk) artist, Laakkuluk Williamson is the recipient of the inaugural 2018 Kenojuak Ashevak Memorial Award, the 2021 Sobey Art Award and the 2024 University of Calgary Alumni Award, amongst many others. She is a performance artist, poet, actor, curator, storyteller, and writer, widely recognized for her contemporary practice of uaqjeerneq (Greenlandic mask dancing) and her collaborative approach to making art. Laakkuluk examines Inuit feminism, food systems, storytelling, climate change, humour, sexuality, language reclamation, Inuit sociopolitical circumstances, hidework and beading. Laakkuluk is a strong advocate for Inuit artists. She lives and works in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

FILMOGRAPHY

North of North Netflix series (actor 2025)

Tartupaluk Prototype (writer, director, producer, actor 2023)

Inissaliortut, a multimedia installation (director, co-writer, performer 2022)

The Contamination Is Hidden in the Ground, an augmented reality experience (Writer, co-director and performer 2022),

AATOOQ (co creator, actor 2021)

Nannuppugut!, a multimedia sculpture (Director, sculptor and actor 2021)

The Unforgotten, a 5-part film (Writer 2020)

I am the Light of Happiness, a video poem for Tunirrusiangit, a retrospective exhibition of Kenojuak Ashevak and Tim Pitseolak at the Art Gallery of Ontario (Writer, director, performer 2018)

The Grizzlies feature film (actor 2018)

Silaup Putunga, multimedia art piece acquired by the Art Gallery of Ontario (Writer, co-director, actor 2018)

The Ogress of Gravelbank animated short (actor 2016)

Little Folk of the Arctic animated short (actor 2016)

Timiga, Sikulu, Nunatu short film (Writer, director, actor 2016)

Kiinamit, Kiinamut, short film (Writer, director and actor 2016)

Retribution, music video for Tanya Tagaq (Performer 2016)

Amautalik animation short (actor 2015)

Throat Song (actor 2011)

Dancing with Spirit animation short (actor 2007)



CHARLES S. ROY – PRODUCER

C.S. Roy is a Film + XR Producer, Director, and co-Founder of the Montreal-based, artist-driven immersive studio SCINTILLA. He's been involved in projects that have been presented at Cannes NEXT, the Venice Biennale, Berlinale, Toronto, Prague and Sheffield. Roy is an alumnus of EFM Startups, IFFR Lightroom, Storytek, Propellor Film Hub, ideaBOOST and Atelier Grand Nord XR.



EMILE HERTLING PÉRONARD – PRODUCER

Emile Hertling Péronard is an award-winning and Oscar-nominated Greenlandic film producer operating out of both Nuuk and Copenhagen. A 2023 Cannes Producer on the Move, his films have screened at Cannes, Venice, Berlinale, Sundance and more. He is the Chair of Arctic Indigenous Film Fund, on the Board of Directors at ARTEF - the Anti-Racism Taskforce for European Film, the Executive Director of Nuuk International Film Festival, and in 2023, he was awarded the Greenlandic film prize, Innersuaq, for his work.



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