

Visual Story for the Relaxed Performance of
Kiinalik: These Sharp Tools



PuSh
*INTERNATIONAL
PERFORMING ARTS
FESTIVAL*

Friday, February 1st at 7PM

About Kiinalik: These Sharp Tools

Performance time

- The performance will aim to start at **7pm**
- The performance is approximately **1 hour and 30 minutes**. It will finish around **8:30pm**.
- There is no intermission

Chill-Out Zone

- If you want to leave the Theatre at any time, there is a Chill-Out zone in the lobby you can visit
- An usher can help you go there
- There will be a TV so you can still follow the show
- You can go back into the theatre any time

What to expect

- The lights above you will always stay on, it may be a bit dark sometimes, but **never all dark**
- It is ok to move
- It is ok to make noise
- It is ok to react
- The lights in the foyer and washrooms will flash on and off a few times before the show starts: **10 minutes, 5 minutes, and 2 minutes**
- This is a reminder that the show is about to start

The Set and the Performers

Here is a picture of the set with Evalyn and Laakkuluk



Here are pictures of all the performers



This is Evalyn



This is Laakkuluk



This is Chris

About the Story

Kiinalik: These Sharp Tools is a concert and a conversation between two artists: Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory, an Inuk artist who lives in Iqaluit, Nunavut, and Evalyn Parry, a queer artist who lives in Toronto, Ontario.

In the show Laakkuluk and Evalyn talk about how they met on a ship in the Arctic and got to know each other. They explore many other topics including their family histories and traditions, their relationship to the Arctic, and the idea of Canada as a nation. The show also uses poetry, music, projection, and dance to explore these ideas.

Music

The show has both singing and instruments in it. You will hear Cris Derksen playing the cello and Evalyn playing the guitar and squeezebox. Laakkuluk and Evalyn both sing, and Evalyn also uses a looping pedal – a device that allows her to record live and play back short segments of music or words.

Projections

During the performance, many different images will be projected on the screens behind the stage. Sometimes, these will show information like maps or dates that relate to what is being talked about. Sometimes there will be images of different places, and sometimes there will be more abstract animations.

Things You Might Find Intense

Uajeernejq

During the show, Laakkuluk paints her face with black and red makeup and performs a Greenlandic dance called Uajeernejq. She will become a sort of character that she has been performing for many years. The character is a sexual being and it can sometimes be scary or funny and push boundaries. She will come very close to people. No one will be hurt and she will become herself again when she is finished. If you need space or are worried about touching, you can always raise your hand to tell her not to come closer.



Knives

At one point in the show Laakkuluk will be sharpening knives. She will make noise while she sharpens them. She will never take the knives off the stage. When she finishes sharpening them she will put them safely on the floor.

Lights and Sounds

There will be no flashing lights or fireworks.

The lights have been adjusted to not be too intense.

The sound has been adjusted to not be too loud.

Maybe you will like the play, and maybe not, that is ok.
It's alright to feel happy or sad after seeing a show.

At the end of the play, people will clap. That is a way
to say thank you to the people who made the show. It
is also a way to say you like the show.

It's ok to cover your ears if that is too loud.
You can also wave your hands instead of clapping.

Kiinalik: These Sharp Tools Visual Story

SPOILER ALERT : The visual story tells you everything that happens in the show.

At the beginning of the show Laakkuluk, Evalyn and Cris enter and take their positions on stage. They begin to play and sing a song called Compass, about their internal compass. Evalyn plays the shruti box, Laakkuluk is throat singing, and Cris plays cello.

Then Laakkuluk and Evalyn talk about how they met on a ship in the arctic. They are artists in residence on an environmental education expedition travelling from Nunavut to Greenland. They describe all the different kinds of people on board, their daily routine and being surrounded by ice. They are learning about Inuit life and mythology, as well as the effects of climate change on the Arctic. In the background we see images and maps of where they went.

Later Evalyn sings a song about being sea-sick and overwhelmed. They talk about where they come from. Evalyn comes from Toronto and Laakkuluk from Nunavut and Greenland. They start to become friends on the ship.

After that Laakkuluk speaks a mourning poem for her father who has recently passed, while Evalyn and Chris play their instruments. Evalyn sings more about being seasick.

Then Laakkuluk speaks in Inuktitut about the Vagus Nerve, which passes through the whole body. Evalyn repeats in English and starts to play her guitar. She uses a loop pedal to record what she plays so it can keep playing while she and Laakkuluk talk about how everything is connected.

Evalyn sings 'Northwest Passage' by Stan Rogers. She talks about growing up with music in her house and how this song always connected her to the land, it's people, and being Canadian.

Then Laakkuluk goes through many Inuktitut words relating to land. They talk about early explorers of the Canadian Arctic, the harsh conditions, and how it was all in the name of capitalism.

Later Laakkuluk picks up her ulu, a moon shaped knife, and tells the audience about it.

Then Evalyn and Laakkuluk come forward and stand right in front of the audience. They go back and forth, reading cards with important Canadian dates and events, and important dates and events in their own lives. These dates are projected behind them. They then ask everyone in the audience to talk to the people around them, meet someone new, and discuss their own connections with the North. After a few minutes, they put a map up of Canada and ask where people have been. They point out where these places are on the map. They then go back to their flash cards and tell the audience about themselves and each other.

They then turn to each other and sing a song. The lights go down and Laakkuluk lights her face with a flashlight. She whispers a poem while Cris plays the cello, sounding like a powerline.

Laakkuluk then sits beside an overhead projector and draws her tattoos while she talks about them and the importance of names. She speaks in Inuktitut and English.

After that, she begins the Greenlandic Ice dance called Uajeerneq. She paints her face red and black. She becomes a sort of character that she has been performing for many years. The character is a sexual being and it can sometimes be scary or funny and push boundaries. She comes very close to people and interacts with them. Evalyn and Cris play music. At one point Laakkuluk goes back to the stage and starts sharpening her knives. She puts them back on the stage and enters the audience again. When the dance is done, she becomes herself again.

While Laakkuluk is taking off her makeup, Evalyn tells a true story of how the government took control of the North in the cold war, how they gravely mistreated the people who lived there, and forced them to relocate. Laakkuluk then tells the audience about the Uajeerneq and how it is an act of defiance and facing fear.

Evalyn sings a song called Breathe It In while Laakkuluk is throat singing. They then talk about how they decided to do a show together, ending with a conversation they first had over Skype.

End of show