

News Release – For immediate distribution

Toronto, ON (5 March 2019)

THE GRIZZLIES Northern Tour is now underway!

Prior to the nation-wide release of THE GRIZZLIES on April 19th, the film is now touring 33 remote Indigenous communities in the north. THE GRIZZLIES is the inspiring true story of a group of Inuit students in Kugluktuk, Nunavut that is forever changed through the transformative power of sport. In addition to winning multiple awards, THE GRIZZLIES is deeply resonating with audiences across the continent. Reactions from Twitter include: “One of the most moving stories of hope and resilience I’ve ever encountered”, “Exquisitely filmed”, “Brilliantly cast”, “Will resonate with viewers on a deep emotional level”, “Moving, devastating, funny, beautiful film”, “Dealt with its heavy subject matter with such care and left us feeling hopeful”, “Honest, soulful and touching”, “The most original and moving movie I’ve seen in ages”, “I couldn’t have loved it more.”

On March 6th, a SPECIAL GALA screening will be held in Kugluktuk – home of the original Team Grizzly – the lacrosse team that was formed in 2001 which totally transformed their town and inspired the feature film. And now remote communities across Canada will be inspired by the epic journey of these incredible Indigenous youth on the big screen! This unprecedented tour is the largest of its kind in the Arctic.

“The Grizzlies is not just an amazing story about how a sports team started in the Arctic, it’s also a story of a community in transition,” said Stacey Aglok MacDonald, Producer of THE GRIZZLIES. “The incredible journey of these youth will empower and inspire people around the world – just as they continue to inspire my own community of Kugluktuk.”

The tour is scheduled through May 2019 in remote Inuit and First Nations communities across Canada. Screenings are free of charge and include a Q & A in each community with an actor, real Team Grizzly member, and/or producer/director from the film. At each screening, there will also be a local mental health worker available for support. This will be a unique and unforgettable experience for every community THE GRIZZLIES touches! And we will be documenting the impact the film is having to include in accompanying educational curriculum on mental health that will be rolled out later in 2019 with the Educational release.

“Our community suffers from all kinds of intergenerational trauma but the true story of the Grizzlies teaches us all that while we must grieve our losses, it’s okay to keep moving forward and enjoy life,” said Alethea Arnaquq-Baril, Producer of THE GRIZZLIES. “THE GRIZZLIES reminds audiences to find your passion, work hard at it, and don’t let sad events in your life stop you from achieving your goals. We are so excited to bring this film to the north, and to the entire country.”

Miranda de Pencier, Director of THE GRIZZLIES says: “I’m thrilled we’re able to share THE GRIZZLIES with so many northern and remote communities that don’t have movie theatres prior to the commercial release of the film. These young actors have humbled and moved me more than I can ever express. I know the film will do the same for all who get to see for themselves the awesome resiliency of the real original Team Grizzly through the extraordinary performances of the young Indigenous cast. There are already young people in the north who have told us that seeing the movie has been a lifeline for them and others who say the film makes them want to be the Indigenous leaders of tomorrow.”

NORTHERN SCREENING TOUR 2019
Nunavut...Nunavik...Labrador...Northwest Territories...and More

THE GRIZZLIES
BASED ON A TRUE STORY

In Over 30 Communities!

CANADIAN NORTH

NUNASI CORPORATION

Opens Nationwide April 19th 2019

Mongrel TELEFILM CANADA CBC Rocket Fund THE HAROLD GREENBERG FUND Ontario M

Photo: Communications

Highlights:

- Over 600 kids from the Arctic auditioned for roles, including two cast members who are now 2019 CSA nominees (lead actor Paul Nutarariaq and supporting actress Anna Lambe) and up-and-comer Emerald MacDonald, all of whom play students in the film. The actors have experienced many of the same challenges as their characters, bringing a level of authenticity and sensitivity to the screen.
- One third of the crew was Inuit and the production paid local Nunavut-based mentees in each and every crew department.
- The tour began on February 19th in Rankin Inlet and has so far played to passionate audiences in Arviat, Cape Dorset, Igloodik, and Gjoa Haven. After the Gala Screening in Kugluktuk, the tour will continue to Yellowknife, Iqaluit, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, Nain, Natuahish, Salluit, Quaqtaq, Wakeham Bay, Kangirsuk, Kuujuaq and more. (For a complete list please contact I Love First Peoples).
- The film features original music by Indigenous hip hop artists including three 2019 CSA nominated artists Hyper-T, 666God and DJ Shub for their song, Trials.
- Two of the producers (Stacey Aglok MacDonald, who grew up in Kugluktuk, and Alethea Arnaquq-Baril) are from Nunavut.

I LOVE FIRST PEOPLES is dedicated to facilitating this Tour within communities struggling with inter-generational trauma and its effects. Audiences that have the opportunity to see the film will be uplifted by the healthy messages and affirmation that *transformation is truly possible and achievable*. The Tour is made possible through the generosity of our partners, in a continued commitment to further the work of healing in Canada:

“CANADIAN NORTH is proud to enable our communities to be among the first to see this inspirational film. Youth mental wellness and suicide prevention are issues we care about deeply.” – Steve Hankirk, President

“NUNASI CORPORATION is pleased to have the opportunity to provide an elite sponsorship toward this true story as it not only continues to spread awareness of impact of colonization of Inuit but also teaches our youth determination and resiliency.” – Harry Flaherty, Interim President & CEO

A Mongrel Media Release, THE GRIZZLIES is produced by Northwood Entertainment in association with Puhitaaq, written by Graham Yost and Moira Walley-Beckett, and directed by Miranda de Pencier. Producers are Stacey Aglok MacDonald, Alethea Arnaquq-Baril, Miranda de Pencier, Damon D’Oliveira and Zanne Devine. Executive producers are Jake Steinfeld and Frank Marshall. Since premiering at TIFF in September, THE GRIZZLIES has won the Audience Awards at the Palm Springs and Calgary International Film Festivals, the People’s Choice Award in Kingston, as well as the Directors Guild of Canada Award for Best Direction of a feature film. The film was a finalist for the prestigious Humanitas prize and is currently nominated for a Writer’s Guild of Canada Award. THE GRIZZLIES will be released nation-wide in over 100 Canadian cinemas on April 19th.

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