

THE GRIZZLIES

Press Kit



Running Time: 104 minutes

Producers: Stacey Aglok MacDonald, Alethea Arnaquq-Baril, Zanne Devine, Damon D'Oliveira and Miranda de Pencier

Director: Miranda de Pencier

Writers: Graham Yost, Moira Walley-Beckett

Cast: Emerald MacDonald, Ben Schnetzer, Paul Nutarariaq, Ricky Marty-Pahtaykan, Booboo Stewart, and Tantoo Cardinal

PR CONTACT:

Gabrielle Free

gabfree.publicity@gmail.com

416-220-0201

THE GRIZZLIES – PRESS KIT

Contents:

1. LOGLINE	4
2. SYNOPSIS	4
3. PRODUCTION NOTES – The Making of THE GRIZZLIES	4
a. Overview	
b. Development History of The Grizzlies	
c. Miranda de Pencier on Her Origins with THE GRIZZLIES	
d. Casting	
e. Collaboration Between North & South	
f. How The Grizzlies Changed a Town	
g. Director’s Statement	
h. About the Town of Kugluktuk	
i. Music	
j. Opening Title Sequence	
4. CHARACTER BIOS (in order of appearance)	14
a. RUSS (Ben Schnetzer)	
b. MIKE (Will Sasso)	
c. ZACH (Paul Nutarariaq)	
d. ADAM (Ricky Marty-Pahtaykan)	
e. ROGER (Fred Bailey)	
f. SPRING (Anna Lambe)	
g. JANACE (Tantoo Cardinal)	
h. MIRANDA (Emerald MacDonald)	
i. KYLE (Booboo Stewart)	
j. HARRY (Eric Schweig)	
k. TANNER (Brad Fraser)	
l. VINNY (Jamie Takkiruaq)	
m. JOHNNY (Seth Burke)	
n. SAM & LENA (Simon Nattaq & Madeline Ivalu)	
5. FILMMAKER BIOS	15
a. MIRANDA DE PENCIAER (Director/Producer)	
b. GRAHAM YOST (Writer)	
c. MOIRA WALLEY-BECKETT (Writer)	
d. ALETHEA ARNAQUQ-BARIL (Producer)	
e. STACEY AGLOK (Producer)	

- f. ZANNE DEVINE (Producer)
- g. DAMON D'OLIVEIRA (Producer)
- h. JAKE STEINFELD (Executive Producer)
- i. FRANK MARSHALL (Executive Producer)

6. ACTOR BIOS

23

- a. EMERALD MACDONALD
- b. BEN SCHNETZER
- c. PAUL NUTARARIAQ
- d. RICKY MARTY-PAHTAYKAN
- e. BOOBOO STEWART
- f. WILL SASSO
- g. TANTOO CARDINAL
- h. JAMIE TAKKIRUQ
- i. ANNA LAMBE
- j. FRED BAILEY
- k. ERIC SCHWEIG
- l. MIALI BUSCEMI

1. LOGLINE

In this inspiring true story, a group of Inuit students in a small, struggling Arctic community are changed forever through the transformative power of sport.

2. SYNOPSIS

THE GRIZZLIES is based on the inspiring true story of a group of Inuit students in a small Arctic town suffering from one of the highest teen suicide rates in the world. The classmates are initially resistant when the naive and culturally ignorant white teacher from the south introduces them to lacrosse—but gradually, as they begin to connect with each other as teammates, the students’ find inspiration to make profound shifts in their lives. Together as “The Grizzlies”, the players learn to lead each other, gain the support of a deeply divided town, and look to compete in the National Lacrosse Championships. The students’ ultimately discover that success doesn’t lie in the outcome of a lacrosse game, but instead in their awakened spirits and the awareness that even in the toughest of circumstances there is always the possibility of transformation and hope.

THE GRIZZLIES is more than an inspiring sports drama as it is set in one of the most unique places on earth, starring fresh, young actors in starring roles. Unlike many sports/coach/inspiring teacher films, THE GRIZZLIES is not just a story about a teacher who affected his student’s lives - it is a true story about a group of Inuit students who changed their teacher and eventually their whole community for the better.

3. PRODUCTION NOTES

A. Overview:

THE GRIZZLIES was nine years in the making and shot in Iqaluit, Nunavut, and Guelph, and Toronto, Ontario.

THE GRIZZLIES tells the extraordinary true story of a group of Inuit students from the remote hamlet of Kugluktuk, Nunavut whose lives are transformed when they are introduced to the sport of lacrosse. Set in one of the most distinctive places on earth, the Canadian arctic, the film highlights the ability of the human spirit to triumph in the face of adversity.

In North America, we are constantly faced with tragic stories in our news cycle reflecting the dark legacies of colonization. As we try to wrestle with these difficult subjects, stories of light emerging from the darkness become crucial to our collective healing and bridge-building. In THE GRIZZLIES – in a remote, tough and extremely challenging environment—both physically and emotionally—a group of kids were able to take an idea and build it into something they could be proud of. In doing so, they transformed the health of a whole town. The characters in THE GRIZZLIES represent every kid across North America who is struggling with structurally-imposed barriers and inter-generational trauma—and show that

there is always a way to stay in the game, overcome obstacles and gain confidence despite steep odds.

Though it could categorically be considered a sports movie, the drama at the centre of the piece transcends the genre. The result is a feature film experience that is at once a vivid celebration of Inuit life and culture, an elegy to the traumatic impact of European colonization on Inuit peoples, and an ode to the resilience of youth who find their power by facing deeply-rooted fears and vulnerabilities with grit and grace. It features tour-de-force performances by breakout Inuit and First Nations lead talent from an array of remote communities.

The story of THE GRIZZLIES is an extraordinary story about kids, for kids. All kids deserve a childhood filled with health, wonder and success—in whatever way they define it.

B. Development History of THE GRIZZLIES:

Fifteen years ago, ESPN SportsCenter produced a segment on an inspiring group of kids from the Canadian Arctic.

In a short profile, the story of the Kugluktuk Grizzlies was revealed: when a young teacher from Toronto, Russ Sheppard, decided to take a job in a remote arctic town plagued with suicide, he brought with him knowledge of lacrosse. The rest was history: the bonds formed between Sheppard and the courageous students whom he coached came to transform the tiny community. Despite the team never winning a competitive game, the suicide rate dropped to zero for several years in Kugluktuk.

The town of Kugluktuk was struggling with depression and among the highest teen suicide rates in North America before the Grizzlies program took hold. Fifty percent of kids never attended high school; graduating from high school was a huge accomplishment. Stacey Aglok MacDonald, a lead producer on the film, recalls, “I grew up in Kugluktuk before The Grizzlies came about and life was very challenging then. I remember always just thinking that I wanted to get out, I needed to get out of there. The Grizzlies started just in time for my younger sister to get involved in that program with all of her friends, and it changed the whole momentum of the town. Her high school was completely different than what I had experienced in our community. Everything changed. I’m so thankful for that and I know they’re all grateful for that because they’re beautiful women and men now doing amazing things. It’s scary to think about what if The Grizzlies had never started and what that would have meant for them.”

Director Miranda de Pencier remembers her first time seeing the ESPN news segment, “In general, I’m attracted to stories about human beings that struggle and overcome and any story about kids finding a way through that human struggle, I find worthwhile. THE GRIZZLIES was that for me.”

Says Aglok MacDonald: “I was in Rankin inlet in 2009 and Miranda de Pencier came running into town. I was in town facilitating a filmmaking workshop for youth and Miranda asked if any of our participants would want to audition for The Grizzlies. I was like ‘I know the Grizzlies, I’m from Kugluktuk!’ That meeting launched years of collaboration between Miranda and myself. I was pretty much involved since that day we met in Rankin Inlet.”

Today, the issue of appropriating First Nations and Inuit stories is a major concern in the Canadian cultural landscape. In a recent speech during the TIFF 2018 Canadian Press Conference, THE GRIZZLIES producer Alethea Arnaquq-Baril remembered her first encounters with Miranda and her ambitions to make a film about Inuit experiences, despite being a white filmmaker. “When Miranda first came north to explore the possibility of making this film, my first thought was: Who is this white lady? And who the heck is she to be telling this story? But Miranda started our conversation by asking questions. Stacey Aglok MacDonald, our fellow producer, is also Inuk and from the community where the story takes place. Miranda sat down with Stacey and me and explained that although she was fascinated and inspired by the story, she knew nothing about the Arctic or about Inuit, and needed our help. She always had a million questions, and she kept coming back, for years. And when she made mistakes, we pointed them out, and she *listened*. Her determination to include our community in the making of the film, at the time, was really not common, and it impressed us.”

Together, this eclectic band of producers (Aglok MacDonald, Arnaquq-Baril, Devine and de Pencier) and executive producers (Steinfeld, Marshall) spent nearly ten years developing and building talent capacity to realize THE GRIZZLIES in a way that honoured the original spirit of the real-life GRIZZLIES team.

“Seeing the movie come to life has been a surreal experience, it brings me back to all of the things that our community experienced and shared,” says Aglok MacDonald. “People from home, and I’m sure all over the world, will be able to connect with this story — I know that Inuit from Kugluktuk and from across the arctic will see a lot of themselves and their experiences reflected in the film. They know what it feels like. In Kugluktuk we had The Grizzlies, but in Pangnirtung, it might have been music programs, in Arviat it was a youth film society. All of our communities have had these beautiful stories of how it took just one spark and a few committed people and youth to inspire a town and change lives.”

C. Miranda de Pencier on her origins with THE GRIZZLIES

“When I first heard about the Kugluktuk Grizzlies via an ESPN news piece 10 years ago, I couldn’t believe there were young people all over Canada’s Arctic regularly experiencing the kind of pain that leads to suicide, and I was shocked to learn that suicide had become an acceptable escape route for so many Inuit youth,” said filmmaker Miranda de Pencier. “I knew that a film based on the Kugluktuk Grizzlies was not only something I *wanted* to make, but *had* to make. A group of kids in a tiny Arctic town riddled with one of the highest teen suicide rates in North America who were transformed by the power of community through sport — so much so that the suicide rate fell to zero — was both deeply moving and also

universally inspirational – the idea that hope is always alive even in the darkest moments of life and I knew immediately that it would make a remarkable film. Since I began the journey of making THE GRIZZLIES we’ve all become much more aware of the painful history of the north, including the legacy of white teachers since the start of colonialism. Nothing can change the past. But in one town a group of kids made a shift and continue to inspire their community. I feel honored to be telling their story – honored that they trusted me with their life rights – and I hope their openness, vulnerability and strength to expose a painful part of their history and make it public – inspires any kid struggling in any part of the world to know that there is always hope.”

D. Casting

“The process of finding and training young actors for THE GRIZZLIES was one of the most challenging, moving and exciting experiences of my life,” said director Miranda de Pencier.

We auditioned more than 500 youth in over 25 communities all over Nunavut and the North West Territories. Over 60 Inuit youth were then invited to attend our Arctic Youth Performing Arts Workshops in Iqaluit for training in acting and Inuit performing arts. It was important to the producers to give an experience at the workshop that would include training which could be carried forward even for the kids who didn’t end up getting cast in the film. So in addition to our professional acting classes with the brilliant teacher and coach Melee Hutton, we taught the kids to make their own films and shoot on cameras, and we brought in the best performing arts teachers in the north to teach traditional Inuit performing arts - including Johnny Issaluk (Drum Dancing), Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory (Inuit Mask Work), and Sylvia Cloutier (Throat Singing). Finding and training our indigenous youth actors – most of whom have never been on screen before – brings a level of authenticity and sensitivity to the screen. Suicide and the issues that touch the characters are the same issues that affect many of our young cast – so no one understands how to portray the truths of the north better.

E. Collaboration Between North & South

It was deeply important to the producers of THE GRIZZLIES to create an environment of collaboration between the south and the north – Inuit and non-Inuit – and also to ensure an atmosphere of inclusion and respect in the depiction of this true story of real people.

As part of this commitment, the producers of THE GRIZZLIES created a paid mentorship program that enabled Inuit crew, Inuit and Indigenous actors, Inuit musicians, and Inuit creative collaborators to work on the film in each and every department. THE GRIZZLIES has provided a training ground for future Inuit and Indigenous filmmakers with more than 91% of our cast and more than 33% of our crew being Inuit or Indigenous. THE GRIZZLIES ultimately hired Inuit/Indigenous actors from communities all across the North including: Kugluktuk, Iqaluit, Igloodik, Arviat, Rankin Inlet, Inuvik, Frog Lake, Gjoa Haven, Pangnirtung, Sanikiluaq and Yellowknife.

The script, storylines and dialogue in the movie continually needed to be altered or changed right up until picture lock in order to remain current in our cultural sensitivity. During the editing process we test screened for Inuit audiences during post production and did additional shooting.

F. How The Grizzlies Changed a Town

The real Grizzlies kids are a testament to the program they built and the success it bred. Today they are living healthy and productive lives – much more so than the generation before them in Kugluktuk. Ten years on and the real Kyle Aviak is studying to become a cop while working in a Diamond mine; the real Miranda Atatahak is a manager with the Nunavut government; the real Adam Kikpak is running the athletic centre in Kugluktuk; the real Spring (Wynter Kuliktana Blais) is a Senior Lands Officer with the local Kitikmeot Association; and the real Vinny (David Topilak) is studying to become a teacher with the Northern Teacher Education Program in Iqaluit. For a town that was riddled with depression and one of the highest teen suicide rates in North America before the Grizzlies program took hold, where 50% of kids never attended high school and where just graduating from high school is a huge accomplishment, these kids are extraordinary ambassadors for what is possible when you join together and choose wellness. As a side note, the real Miranda led an anti-alcohol march in Kugluktuk several years ago, directly inspired by her management of the Grizzlies high school program, and it changed the alcohol rules to limit imports. This has greatly reduced child, teen and adult alcohol abuse in the town. THE GRIZZLIES hopes to highlight the strength and resilience of Inuit youth all across North America – and in turn inspire and give hope to kids around the world from all walks of life.

G. DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I had never been to the Arctic, I knew nothing about lacrosse. Yet somehow I was immediately drawn to this story and the people in it. After optioning the rights, I flew to meet the real Russ Sheppard in order to secure his commitment to consulting on the development of the screenplay. We met in the Edmonton Airport for what I expected would be a brief meeting but we ended up closing down the airport bar. I was absolutely dumbfounded by Russ -- his outstanding character, his energy, smarts, insight, humor – and more than anything his willingness to be emotionally open with me, a relative stranger. He was vulnerable, humble and still very affected by his experiences in Kugluktuk and the love and deep respect he has for his students. I then flew to Kugluktuk where I met the real Kyle, the real Adam and real Miranda. They all opened their hearts and wowed me with endless funny and painful stories of their transformative years building Team Grizzly. I also met the mayor of Kugluktuk who confirmed that the original Grizzlies kids had completely and profoundly changed their community for the better.

After that first trip, I started spending time in the stunning Arctic in 2008 – developing the screenplay, scouting, holding acting & casting workshops, making friends, eating raw whale

meat and eventually directing THROAT SONG in 2011 with an almost entirely local Inuit crew who trained for one week and then went to camera the next.

THE GRIZZLIES is gut wrenching, shocking, painful, funny, inspirational and full of heart. It's also true – and the real kids are success stories and an inspiration to this day. Change can happen when we least expect it and in the most surprising ways – as it did for Russ and the kids of this town. These were kids that felt they had no hope and nothing to live for. When Russ Sheppard comes into their lives they were suffering from abuse, many are drinking heavily, using drugs, and all had been touched by suicide. It took Russ looking deeply into himself and coming to terms with his own vulnerability and ignorance before he could connect with the kids. When he finally did, they ended up transforming him – as well as themselves and their whole community. Russ maintains to this day that the kids changed him much more than he did them and that the kids are the real heroes of this story. They are the ones who were up against all odds and became the teachers and leaders in their community. Russ and the students also ensured that The Grizzlies program always remained student-led so that the kids themselves would be able to take charge of the team, their own choices and their destinies.

I fell in love with the idea of directing THE GRIZZLIES because it is an important, powerful and emotional journey about the extraordinary ability of the human spirit to overcome adversity in the toughest of situations. THE GRIZZLIES will introduce audiences to contemporary life in one of the most unique and remote places on earth - and yet the themes apply to anywhere in the world where children suffer. I look forward to introducing audiences to these very real characters in all their splendid humanity navigate their intimate struggles, their awakening spirits and their ultimate joy.

H. About the Town of Kugluktuk

Kugluktuk is an Inuit community located north of the Arctic Circle in Nunavut. It sits at the mouth of the Coppermine River where it feeds into the Coronation Gulf, which is part of the Northwest Passage.

The Canadian Government began to establish their sovereignty over this area of the arctic by opening an RCMP station in the early 1930s. By the 1940s Inuit children from the central arctic region were being taken from their families and sent away to residential schools across the country.

Kugluktuk, like many Inuit communities, has a fairly recent history of contact with settlers. Many Elders grew up on the land, many living adults born in iglus and caribou skin tents. The history of colonization is held within the lifetime and memory of many Inuit and the transition has not always been an easy one.

Today, Kugluktuk is home to 1,400 Inuit. It is the proud home of many artists, leaders and of course, The Grizzlies.

I. Music

From an early stage of development, we knew it was vital to feature Inuit music in the film, both woven into the narrative itself and as a complement and enhancement to the score. Elements of traditional Inuit music—particularly katajjaq, or throat singing—have entered popular culture thanks to the work of artists like Tanya Tagaq, The Jerry Cans and Silla + Rise, and we were able to license several works by these and other talented artists. Even still, we felt there was room to contribute to the breadth and variety of Inuit music available by commissioning and recording original works by lesser-known, incredibly talented artists, and weaving the Inuktitut language into our score.

Due to a lack of available funding and opportunity, as well as limited access to recording equipment and facilities for Northern artists, there is a dearth of contemporary, professionally recorded Inuit music available for license compared to the deep well of talent that exists in northern communities. It became a major priority for us to conduct a comprehensive talent search and engage artists who could benefit from time in-studio. The score and soundtrack for the film presented ripe opportunity for us to incubate collaborations between Northern and Southern talents, just as we had sought out to do with the cast and crew of the film.

We partnered with the Juno-nominated music producer **DJ Shub**, a Mohawk DJ and member of the Six Nations of the Grand River, to produce backing tracks for up-and-coming Inuit hip hop artists **Hyper-T**, **666God**, **Nelson Tagoona** and **Mister Lee**. The Inuit artists travelled to the south for a week-long session with Shub at the Orange Lounge, a revered recording studio in Toronto where engineer Jason “Metal” Donkersgoed (known for work with Drake, Madonna, The Weeknd, Nelly Furtado, Ron Sexsmith, Sloan and k-os, among other iconic artists) committed their original works to tape. This was an emotional and humbling experience for everyone involved—the incredible passion, ability, and bravery possessed by the MCs exploded before us in studio, resulting in tracks that we couldn’t have dreamed of before embarking on these collaborations. The track “Trials”—a joint effort between DJ Shub and 666God—is featured in our press clip and features **Tanya Tagaq’s** throat singing. It’s a perfect manifestation of this experiment: by bringing together experienced and emerging Inuit and First Nations artists, we could platform incredible developments in the arts coming out of the North and hopefully stir momentum for these extremely promising talents.

In addition to the commissioned needle-drops featured in THE GRIZZLIES, we collaborated with Canadian-born, New York-based composer **Garth Stevenson** on the film’s score. Following a wide search for the right fit, discovering Garth made our entire team buzz with excitement. A double bassist by training, Garth’s musical ethos is rooted in the natural world, which serves as his primary inspiration and the common thread between his life and music. His solo albums are often recorded in situ, from the woods, to the desert, beach and tundra. Miranda knew she needed a composer whose work had a deeply felt sense of place,

and Garth was perfectly able to meld his composition training with an innovative experimental approach to creating aural soundscapes.

For the opening title sequence, Garth was charged with creating a haunting piece of music that evoked the pain and trauma of Inuit communities brought to the North by colonization and its efforts to achieve a cultural genocide via residential schooling. Tanya Tagaq and Garth connected in studio to record a moving throat singing session, serving as a tender and sorrowful anchor to open the film.

Artists featured in THE GRIZZLIES

666God

<https://soundcloud.com/wunderworld/666-god>

Considered to be the Godfather of PowWowStep, DJ-producer **Shub** continues to pioneer a growing genre of electronic music. Born Dan General, Shub began his career with nationally-acclaimed electronic music trio A Tribe Called Red, performing across North American stages with some of the biggest recording artists in today's industry and winning a Juno Award in 2014. Shub is Mohawk of the Six Nations reserve located in Ontario, Canada, as well as a husband and father. Since the creation of PowWowStep, he has grown more aware of the Indigenous way of life through his music, merging his heritage with his craft.

Mister Lee Cloutier Ellsworth is a young Inuk MC and rapper born and living in Iqaluit. He has collaborated with other artists including rappers in the Tundra, as well as performed in multiple Northern Artist showcases including the Alianait Arts Festival, the Jaboola Black History Month Show in 2016, and the Nunavut Court of Justice.

Josh Finlayson, a musical veteran, is one of the founding members of the Canadian roots rock band Skydiggers. Formed with Andy Maize in 1989, the band has been celebrated with a slew of awards including a Juno Award. Josh is an active member of the Canadian charity Artists Against Racism.

<https://soundcloud.com/the-skydiggers>

Kelly Fraser is a young Performer, Musician, Dancer and Actor born and raised in Sanikiluaq. Kelly takes influence from contemporary pop, EDM, and hip-hop to both sing and rap in English and Inuktitut. Kelly hopes to strengthen Inuit culture and language, using both to regain pride and motivate Inuit to do what they love. Kelly also teaches songwriting, does motivational speaking, and teaches music workshops to underprivileged youth helping them with creative expression and technical skills. Her northern concerts attract large crowds, in addition to 250,000+ views on YouTube and an impressive 9,500+ followers on various platforms, including SoundCloud.

<https://soundcloud.com/kelly-fraser>

Hyper-T

<https://soundcloud.com/hyper-t>

The Jerry Cans create music inspired by their hometown of Iqaluit, Nunavut, and life in the Canadian Arctic. With a unique mix of traditional Inuit throat singing and roots-rock sung in the Indigenous language of Inuktitut, The Jerry Cans are a distinctly Northern sound. The band is passionate about helping to preserve the Inuktitut language and are committed to challenging common misconceptions about life in the North. Their high energy performances have thrilled audiences in countries all across the globe including Australia, Scotland, Greenland, Cuba and Norway.

Joshua Qaumariaq is an inimitable baritone guitarist and Inuit songwriter from Iqaluit. He is best known as the Frontman for the blues rock band The Trade Offs, a Writer/Producer for the hit Inuit language TV Comedy show Qanurli, and an actor in Kim Nguyen 's 2016 Two Lovers and a Bear. On the soundtrack for THE GRIZZLIES, Qaumariaq's voice can be heard on the acoustic cover of Buffy Sainte Marie's classic song "The Dream Tree".

Yassin '**Narcy**' Alsalman, formerly known as the Narcicyst, is a musician, actor, professor and multi media artist based out of Montreal, Canada. Being a pioneer of the Arab Hip-Hop movement through his Iraqi trio Euphrates in the early 2000s, Yassin Alsalman was a seminal member of a growing voice in the public sphere. Currently teaching one of Canada's only Hip-Hop courses at Concordia University in Montreal, Narcy's ethos has been to blend performance with education, media with literacy and creativity with cultural heritage. Yassin is also currently heading an international body of artists WeAreTheMedium, a family of independent creatives that come together for curation, performance, consultation and product based creation.

<https://soundcloud.com/thenarcicyst>

Nelson Tagoona improvises with traditional throat singing and beat-boxing, developing a technique he has termed "throat boxing." This unique performance has garnered Tagoona high praise throughout Canada including being awarded at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and was named one of the "Top 10 Canadian Artists under 20" by CBC Music. Tagoona performed during the opening of the Northern Scene Festival at the National Arts Centre, Toronto's Pan Am Games, and at numerous other festivals and events Canada-wide.

<facebook.com/NelsonTagoona>

Tiffany Ayalik is an Inuk performer, born and brought up in Yellowknife. Tiffany combines her learnings from her indigenous elders with her Bachelor in Fine Art in Acting from University of Alberta to create unique and powerful performances that include theatre, storytelling & music.

Tiffany's latest endeavour – the highly successful singing duo Quantum Tangle, won Indigenous Album of the Year at the Juno Awards in 2017.

www.quantumtangle.com

Silla + Rise blend Inuit throat-singing and futuristic dancefloor beats. Silla are Cynthia Pitsiulak (Kimmirut, NU) and Charlotte Qamaniq (Igloodik, NU) their name comes from the Inuktitut word "Sila" meaning weather. Sila is what surrounds us; it is what connects us to our land, to the moon, sun and stars, the ocean and the air we breathe. In respecting and honouring the need to preserve Inuit culture and paying homage to our land and the strong connection to its spirituality, they experience and perform the sounds of traditional and contemporary throat songs. Rise is Ottawa's Rise Ashen, a Juno Award nominated global-grooves producer, DJ and dancer who has spent his life pursuing the intersection of traditional and futuristic music.

<https://soundcloud.com/sillarise>

Arctic Soul, **The Trade-Offs'** iconic brand, is distinguished by the deep brooding voice of Josh Qaumariaq and soulful background of Jeff Maurice set against blues and rock and roll sounds echoing from the depth of the Northern tundra. In a blend of Inuktitut and English lyrics, The Trade-Offs sing the Arctic blues about universal themes of light and darkness and closeness and isolation. While the band is a staple of the Iqaluit music scene, they have played across Canada on big and small stages alike, including mainstage performances at major festivals and at the iconic Cameron House in Toronto.

<https://soundcloud.com/thetradeoffs>

Tanya Tagaq is an experimental vocalist and artist, and survivor of Canada's genocidal Residential School System. Her aggressive, political, challenging, spine tingling, and powerful music has achieved international success, having played major festivals and packed houses all over the world. Also an actor, Tanya started in the 2009 film Tungijuuq. In 2014, she won the Polaris Prize for best Canadian album for her record, Animism. Her other accolades include multiple WCMA Awards, a Juno for Aboriginal Album of The Year in 2015, a 2014 Canadian Folk Music Awards, multiple Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, and an ECMA Awards. She has over 28,000 followers on Facebook, and her performances have received hundreds of thousands of views on Youtube.

<https://soundcloud.com/tanya-tagaaq>

J. Opening Title Sequence

Miranda de Pencier's grandfather was an explorer who regularly flew his plane across the vast Canadian Arctic when it was still scattered with iglous in the 1920s and 1930s. He was a fur trader for the Hudson's Bay Company and had a deep respect for the Inuit people he came into contact with. de Pencier's earliest understanding of the north come from the footage he shot on his 16mm camera – grainy images of majestic glaciers and Inuit families in seal skin parkas living traditional nomadic lives off the land. Some of this footage is used in the opening sequence of *The Grizzlies*.

In order to help set up the place and time for *THE GRIZZLIES*, de Pencier wanted to show in the Opening Titles a brief history of the more recent Inuit experience of the past century -

From healthy northern culture to the introduction and influence of residential schools - with white teachers dominating Inuit classrooms due to colonialism.

4. CHARACTER BIOS (in order of appearance)

A. RUSS (Ben Schnetzer)

An inexperienced teacher who stumbles into a situation he has no idea how to handle or help with, goes with his gut and shares the one thing he really knows: lacrosse.

B. MIKE (Will Sasso)

A burnt out teacher who rekindles his passion for life and learning because of the team.

C. ZACH (Paul Nutarariaq)

A wily, combative kid who is old beyond his years, Zach has endured a difficult childhood and dreams of a better life for himself and his little brother.

D. ADAM (Ricky Marty-Pahtaykan)

Raised by his traditional grandparents and no longer in school, Adam risks playing the sport in secret so as not to displease his elders.

E. ROGER (Fred Bailey)

An affable guy and a hopeless romantic, Roger is head over heels in love with Spring and desperate to spend his life with her.

F. SPRING (Anna Lambe)

A self-possessed aspiring artist, Spring refuses to live an ordinary life with typical gender boundaries.

G. JANACE (Tantoo Cardinal)

The beleaguered high school principal who is trying to make a difference.

H. MIRANDA (Emerald MacDonald)

A bright, shy student who tries to walk through life unnoticed, Miranda becomes a leader on the team and in the community.

I. KYLE (Booboo Stewart)

A sensitive kid and a natural athlete, Kyle lacks confidence because of his abusive father.

J. HARRY (Eric Schweig)

Kyle's father and a troubled residential school survivor.

K. TANNER (Brad Fraser)

The youngest of the players, Tanner is a little boy with a big attitude.

L. VINNY (Jamie Takkiruq)

A sweet, gentle giant, Vinny has to learn to dig deep to be a team player.

M. JOHNNY (Seth Burke)

Zach's little brother, Johnny is a sweet kid who looks up to Zach.

N. SAM & LENA (Simon Nattaq & Madeline Ivalu)

Adam's grandparents who cherish the old ways and live a traditional life.

5. FILMMAKER BIOS

A. MIRANDA DE PENCIER – Director/Producer/Executive Producer

Award-winning film and television producer Miranda de Pencier makes her feature film directing debut with THE GRIZZLIES. Her first foray into directing was with THROAT SONG which won numerous international awards including the Best Live Action Short at the Canadian Screen Awards in 2013. Her many producing credits include ANNE WITH AN E, currently streaming Season Two in 190 countries on Netflix and premiering on CBC this fall. At the 2018 Canadian Screen Awards, ANNE WITH AN E was the most nominated show with 13 nominations and won Best Drama Series. Prior to that, de Pencier produced THANKS FOR SHARING, written and directed by Academy Award nominee Stuart Blumberg and starring Mark Ruffalo, Gwyneth Paltrow, Tim Robbins, and P!nk; BEGINNERS directed by Mike Mills and starring Ewan McGregor and Christopher Plummer. Produced with Olympus Pictures and released by Focus Features. BEGINNERS earned Christopher Plummer numerous awards including the 2012 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor as well as the Golden Globe, Independent Spirit Award, BAFTA Award and SAG Award for Best Supporting Actor. The film also won the 2011 Gotham Award for Best Picture of the year. Other producing credits include ADAM starring Hugh Dancy, Rose Byrne, Peter Gallagher and Amy Irving and Pu- 239 for Beacon Pictures and HBO, and executive produced by Steven Soderbergh and George Clooney.

Prior to founding Northwood Productions, de Pencier was the Director of Development for both divisions of Robert Redford's company, Wildwood Enterprises and Southfork Pictures where she helped develop THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES with Walter Salles, and SPY GAME for the late Tony Scott. de Pencier began her career as an actress and singer performing in numerous productions on stage, television and screen including performing on stage in the Canadian premiere productions of LES MISERABLES and Andrew Lloyd Webber's ASPECTS OF LOVE.

B. GRAHAM YOST - Writer

Graham Yost, 58, says he knew from the age of 18 that he wanted to be a filmmaker. He attributes his early love of film to his father, the late Elwy Yost, who hosted a weekly film show on TV Ontario. "In our family, everything was about movies and books," says Yost.

After completing a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Toronto, Yost moved to New York. Already working on his own screenplays, he took a job as a technical writer and published several non-fiction titles, including *Spy-Tech*.

Yost began writing for television in 1989 on the Nickelodeon series *Hey Dude*. Next, he joined the writing staff of *Full House* (where he only lasted nine-and-a-half weeks). The day after he quit, he learned that his script for *Speed* had been sold to Paramount (it was later produced by 20th Century Fox). In 1991, Yost wrote for Norman Lear's *The Powers that Be*, where he worked with the show's creators, Marta Kauffman and David Crane (later of NBC's *Friends*). His comedy series writing credits also include *Herman's Head*.

His feature film credits include *Broken Arrow*, starring John Travolta, *Hard Rain*, *Mission to Mars* and *The Last Castle*.

As a producer, Yost won Emmy® and Golden Globe® Awards for the HBO miniseries *From the Earth to the Moon*. In addition, Yost garnered an Emmy® nomination for writing the episode *Apollo One*, and he directed the fifth segment of the critically-acclaimed series. Yost later wrote/co-wrote two installments of the Golden Globe® and Emmy® Award-winning HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*.

In 2002, Yost created the critically-lauded TV series *Boomtown* for NBC. Cancelled in the fall of 2003, the late-lamented *Boomtown* was honored with a Peabody Award and two Television Critics Association awards. In 2006, Yost created *Raines* starring Jeff Goldblum for NBC. It aired in spring 2007. Yost won an Emmy® Award for *The Pacific*, HBO's epic miniseries following three Marines through the Pacific theater of World War II. Yost directed and co-wrote an episode and served as co-executive producer.

Yost was an Executive Producer on the FX series *The Americans*, the critically-lauded spy drama created by Joe Weisberg (who worked with Yost on the first season of TNT's *Falling Skies*). Until the spring of 2015, Yost was the show runner on *Justified*, the Sony-produced series on FX, starring Timothy Olyphant, based on a character created by America's pre-eminent crime novelist Elmore Leonard.

Yost was the show runner on the first two seasons of *Sneaky Pete* for Amazon. Starring Giovanni Ribisi, Margo Martindale, and Marin Ireland, the show was created by David Shore and Bryan Cranston.

C. MOIRA WALLEY-BECKETT - Writer

Moira Walley-Beckett is a multiple award winning screenwriter. She is currently the Series Creator and Executive Producer of the Netflix/CBC drama "Anne With An E" which received thirteen Canadian Screen Award nominations—the most of any series—and won the 2018 CSA for Best Drama Series. Moira also won a 2018 WGC Award for writing.

Ms. Walley-Beckett is very proud of *The Grizzlies*, a feature film she spent several years researching and developing with Miranda de Pencier of Northwood Entertainment and Kennedy/Marshall.

Previously, Moira created “Flesh and Bone,” a critically acclaimed Limited Series for STARZ. The drama received multiple nominations (including a GOLDEN GLOBE and a WGA nod) and won a SATELLITE AWARD, a GRACIE AWARD, and a WOMEN’S IMAGE Award.

Before creating “Flesh and Bone,” Moira spent six years as a writer and Co-Executive Producer on the critically acclaimed AMC series “Breaking Bad.” For her work on that show, Moira has won a total of three EMMY AWARDS, three WRITERS’ GUILD AWARDS, three AFI AWARDS, three SATURN AWARDS, two PGA AWARDS, a GOLDEN GLOBE, a PEABODY, and received a PEN LITERARY AWARD nomination.

In 2014, Ms. Walley-Beckett received an EMMY AWARD for OUTSTANDING WRITING FOR A DRAMA SERIES for her final “Breaking Bad” episode entitled “Ozymandias.”

Before her tenure as a writer on “Breaking Bad,” Ms. Walley-Beckett wrote on the NBC dramas “Raines” and “Eli Stone” and “Pan Am” for ABC.

Ms. Walley-Beckett hails from Vancouver, Canada but resides in Los Angeles.

D. ALETHEA ARNAQUQ-BARIL – Producer

Alethea is an Inuit filmmaker from the Canadian arctic where she has run Unikkaar Studios Inc. since 2005. Alethea directed and produced the award-winning *Angry Inuk* (Unikkaat/NFB co-production in association with EyeSteelFilm) a feature documentary for broadcast on Superchannel and CBC about how Inuit are coming up with new and provocative ways to deal with international seal hunting controversies. *Angry Inuk* premiered at Hot Docs 2016, taking home the Audience Choice Award, was selected as one of the TIFF Canada’s Top Ten for 2016. *Angry Inuk* has continued to win several other prestigious awards since. In 2016, Alethea was presented with the Meritorious Service Cross by the Governor General of Canada, having been nominated for contributions to the arts and the craft of documentary filmmaking. Also in 2016, Alethea was bestowed the “DOC Vanguard Award” by the DOC Institute, for “a keen artistic sensibility and forward-thinking approach to the craft, with the potential to lead the next generation of doc-makers.”

Alethea also previously directed and produced award-winning APTN mid-length documentary *Tunniit: Retracing the Lines of Inuit Tattoos* (ImagineNATIVE 2011 premiere), in which she traveled across the arctic to speak with elders about Inuit tattoo practices and the causes of their near disappearance, before getting her own traditional face tattoos. Alethea directed the well-traveled ICSL short “Inuit High Kick”, and the NFB animation “Lumaajuuq: The Blind Boy and the Loon” (Best Canadian Short Drama - imagineNATIVE 2010, Golden Sheaf Award for Best Aboriginal - Yorkton 2011). Alethea was also executive

producer on Miranda de Pencier's award-winning short, Throat Song, produced by Stacey Aglok MacDonald (TIFF 2012 premiere, Canadian Screen Award – Best Live Action Short Drama, Academy Awards shortlist 2014).

E. STACEY AGLOK – Producer

Stacey Aglok is originally from Kugluktuk, Nunavut. She is a writer, producer & director of the groundbreaking Inuktitut comedy series, QANURLI, now in its seventh season. The series is broadcast on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network.

Founder of Puhitaaq and President of Qanukiaq Studios Inc. Stacey is one of Nunavut's leading television producers today. Previously she worked with the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation writing and producing a number of their Inuktitut language documentary series broadcast on APTN, including ILINIQ and one season of the current events live call in show, QANUQ ISUMAVIT.

In addition to her work in television, Aglok is a producer of the feature film, THE GRIZZLIES, directed by Miranda de Pencier. She also produced de Pencier's short film THROAT SONG which went on to premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival and won numerous awards including ImagineNative's Best Short Film and the Canadian Screen Awards Best Live Action Short Drama.

She has worked with award winning filmmaker Alethea Arnaquq-Baril on a number of Unikkaar Studios Inc. projects including as an assistant editor on TUNNIIT: RETRACING THE LINES OF INUIT TATTOOS and as a development producer for ANGRY INUK and Production Manager for AVILIAQ.

Stacey currently lives in Iqaluit, Nunavut with her daughter.

F. ZANNE DEVINE – Producer

Zanne Devine is a Producer and consultant for Film, Television, and Multimedia companies.

Devine heads into TIFF 2018 for the world premiere of THE GRIZZLIES, based on the inspiring true story of a group of Inuit students who transform their lives through the power of team sports. Devine produced the film, which was shot entirely in the small Arctic town of Kugluktuk, casting entirely Inuit talent.

Devine is in post-production on two features: the live-action adaptation of the beloved Disney Channel animated series, KIM POSSIBLE; and NEEDLE IN A TIMESTACK, the independent feature written and directed by Oscar® winner John Ridley. The film stars Leslie Odom Jr., Freida Pinto, Cynthia Erivo, and Orlando Bloom.

Devine also serves as a consultant with various content creators, new platforms and investor groups, including on the upcoming Formula-E electric vehicle racing documentary presented by Leonardo DiCaprio.

Most recently, Devine was Head of Film & Television at Miramax. Launched in 2014 under her leadership, the studio's revamped new content division produced original content, as well as sequels and adaptations from Miramax's rich film library. During her tenure, Miramax partnered with Universal, Disney, Sony, Lionsgate, Blumhouse, Hulu, Netflix, HBO, Sky, and Fox.

Under her leadership at Miramax, Devine revitalized the studio and the company's pipeline grew to feature a number of pedigree-rich Film and TV projects: the Academy Award® and Golden Globe® winning I, TONYA; WHITNEY, the Whitney Houston documentary from Oscar® winning filmmaker Kevin Macdonald; the upcoming Blumhouse reboot of HALLOWE'EN; CITY OF LIES, starring Johnny Depp, following the investigation into the Tupac Shakur and Notorious B.I.G. murders; BRIDGET JONES'S BABY; and SOUTHSIDE WITH YOU, which imagines Michelle and Barack Obama's first date. On the television front, Devine oversaw three seasons of Robert Rodriguez's "From Dusk Till Dawn: The Series."

Prior to joining Miramax, Devine served as a creative consultant and strategic advisor for the company. She is a seasoned industry professional who has produced and executive produced over a dozen feature films including: EASY A, starring Emma Stone; CINEMA VERITE starring Diane Lane, James Gandolfini, and Tim Robbins; A LOT LIKE LOVE starring Ashton Kutcher; and THE GUARDIAN starring Kevin Costner, among others.

Devine has held leadership positions at several studios and production companies, including: Beacon Pictures, The Kennedy/Marshall Company, PolyGram Filmed Entertainment, and Universal Pictures.

Devine currently serves as President of Pacific Northwest Pictures (PNP), an independent, Vancouver-based entertainment company specializing in the development, financing, production and distribution of feature films for domestic and international markets. PNP recently successfully released the successful documentary THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ANDRE, starring Andre Leon Talley. In 2016, PNP distributed Hannes Holm's A MAN CALLED OVE, nominated for two Academy Awards® including "Best Foreign Language Film."

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Devine is an active member of Women in Film, the Academy Nicholl Fellowships Committee, and the Sundance Institute's ReFrame project, committed to closing the gender gap in Hollywood. She participates in mentorship programs through WIF and the Producer's Guild of America with an aim to support women within the industry and beyond. She is a member of Film Independent, the PGA, and was inducted into the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences in 2016. Devine resides in Los Angeles with her husband and two daughters.

G. DAMON D'OLIVEIRA – Producer

Under the banner of production companies, Conquering Lion Pictures and Flimshow Inc., Damon D'Oliveira's films have been distributed internationally and have been selected for

festivals around the world. Damon's recent miniseries adaptation of *The Book of Negroes*, the best-selling novel by Lawrence Hill (Commonwealth Writer's & Canada Reads Prizewinner) had its world premiere as the Opening Night Selection at MIPCOM in October 2014. The series debuted to historic ratings on the Canadian Broadcasting Network (CBC) in January 2015, marking a twenty-five year high for a one-hour drama premiere. Its US premiere also drew landmark ratings for BET Networks. *The Book of Negroes* stars Oscar-winners®, Cuba Gooding Jr. & Louis Gossett Jr., along with Aunjanue Ellis (Quantico, The Help) and 3-time Oscar® nominee – Jane Alexander. The miniseries won 12 Canadian Screen Awards, earned two nominations for U.S. Critic's Choice Television Awards, an NAACP Image Award and was a finalist for the prestigious 2016 Peabody Award.

D'Oliveira's first feature, *RUDE*, had its world premiere in Official Selection, Un Certain Regard, at the 1995 Cannes Film Festival. Since then, Damon has produced some of Canada's most innovative feature films, including *Ce Qu'on A / What We Have* (Winner of Best Feature prizes at Rendez-vous du Cinema Quebecois 2015, Inside Out 2015 and Barcelona Film Festival 2015); *Poor Boy's Game* starring Danny Glover (Special Presentation at the 2007 Berlinale and TIFF 2007). In 2005, D'Oliveira's provocative sexual romance, *Lie With Me*, sold internationally to over 40 countries after causing a stir at the Toronto International Film Festival and the 2006 Berlin Film Festival. His other titles include *Love Come Down* (Berlinale 2001 & TIFF 2000), *H* (Locarno, TIFF 1990) and, the upcoming 2018 features, *The Grizzlies* starring Ben Schnetzer and Will Sasso and *Natalie* starring Julia Sarah Stone and Martha Plimpton.

Damon has also been Executive Producer in residence for the Feature Film Producing Program at The Canadian Film Centre since 2011. Damon is actively involved in the Canadian film community, sitting on the Board of Directors of Bell Media's The Harold Greenberg Fund – a key-financing partner for feature film in Canada. He is a past member of TIFF's International Advisory Committee and Damon is an active member of A.C.E. – The Atelier de Cinema European, the Canadian Media Producer's Association and the Academy of Canadian Cinema & TV.

H. JAKE STEINFELD – Executive Producer

Jake "Body by Jake®" Steinfeld is the fitness industry's reigning icon. Creating the personal fitness training industry over 38 years ago, Jake has been the guiding light for health & wellness in lifestyle, sports, and entertainment ever since. Jake was the dominant force in direct retail sales of home fitness equipment for over a decade. He had the most profitable string of hits in the infomercial business and spent fifteen years on Home Shopping Network promoting his Body by Jake brand. Utilizing his entrepreneurial street-smarts and fitness knowledge, Jake created the first 24-hour fitness lifestyle network, FiTTV®, which he later sold to News Corp.® Following the sale of FiTTV, Jake launched another multi-media innovation, ExerciseTV®, the first On-Demand fitness television network with partners Comcast® and Time Warner®.

Jake's business acumen extended to the world of sports through his founding of Major League Lacrosse® (www.majorleaguelacrosse.com), the nation's first professional outdoor lacrosse league. In its eighteenth season, the MLL consists of nine teams: Atlanta Blaze, Boston Cannons, Charlotte Hounds, Chesapeake Bayhawks, Denver Outlaws, Florida Launch, New York Lizards, Ohio Machine, and Rochester Rattlers. Jake's newest lacrosse venture is the Warrior World Series of Youth Lacrosse presented by the Coca-Cola Company and Nissan (www.worldseriesofyouthlacrosse.com) which provides (U13) youth players the ultimate lacrosse experience. This global event features teams from the US, Europe, Canada, Israel, Iroquois Nation and others competing with the dream of making it to the Championship game. The top two teams get the chance to play at Denver Broncos Mile High Stadium LIVE on ESPN2 on the Fourth of July.

Teaming with Universal Music Enterprises (UME), a division of Universal Music Group®, Jake formed a fresh inventive label called Body by Jake Music (<http://bodybyjake.com/>). Every fitness routine needs a soundtrack to keep you motivated. Follow the beat of Body by Jake's music compilations featuring artists The Black Eyed Peas, Ne-Yo, Ellie Goulding, David Guetta and many more.

In addition to music, Jake is an avid film and television producer. He is currently in post production for his film *The Grizzlies*, an inspiring true story of an Inuit Community in the Arctic ravaged by abuse, alcoholism, and an epidemic of teen suicide. This film is about HOPE and what is possible when human beings are no longer limited by fear or the challenges of their circumstances.

Jake is a NY Times and Wall Street Journal best-selling author with his I've Seen a Lot of Famous People Naked and They've Got Nothing on You! His other titles include Take a Shot, A Remarkable Story of Perseverance, Friendship and a Really Crazy Adventure about the creation of Major League Lacrosse; Get Strong! Body by Jake's Guide to Building Confidence, Muscles and a Great Future for Teenage Guys; PowerLiving by Jake, Eleven Lessons to Change Your Life; and his instructional fitness books DON'T QUIT!® and Body by Jake.

Understanding that childhood obesity was becoming an epidemic in America, Jake declared war on the disease and vowed to make a real difference. He became Chairman of the California Governor's Council on Physical Fitness & Sports® under Governor Schwarzenegger in 2006 and served until 2011 under Governor Brown. By inspiring millions to live life with a "DON'T QUIT!" attitude, he established California as the nation's first fitness state.

Named Chairman of the National Foundation for Governors' Fitness Councils® (www.natgovfit.org) in 2012, Jake brought his "DON'T QUIT!" attitude to the national level following his belief that "academics and fitness go hand in hand." Through the cooperation of public and private partnerships with companies such as The Coca-Cola Company®, NIKE®, and the Anthem Foundation®, the NFGFC rewards brand new "DON'T QUIT!" fitness centers to elementary and middle schools who show innovative ways to promote fitness and nutrition in their schools and community. The NFGFC has already dedicated DON'T QUIT!

fitness centers in twenty-four states with the newest planned for Kansas, South Carolina, Tennessee and Utah in 2018 and the goal of rewarding "DON'T QUIT!" fitness centers to every state in the USA.

Recognizing Jake's leadership in promoting health and fitness as a model for the country, Jake was chosen to be an official Olympic torchbearer, one of only 22 Americans selected to carry the inspirational flame for the 2012 Olympic Games in London, England.

Jake also served as Honorary Mayor of Pacific Palisades, CA.

I. FRANK MARSHALL – Executive Producer

With a career spanning almost 50 years and over 80 films, Frank Marshall has helped shape American cinema, producing some of the most successful and enduring films of all time. Starting as a location manager on Peter Bogdanovich's *The Last Picture Show*, by 1981 Marshall was working as a producer on *Raiders of the Lost Ark* with Steven Spielberg and future wife Kathleen Kennedy. Shortly thereafter, the trio formed industry powerhouse Amblin Entertainment, and together produced movies such as *Gremlins*, the *Back to the Future* trilogy, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*, *Hook*, *Empire of the Sun*, and the *Indiana Jones* trilogy.

In 1991, Marshall and Kennedy left Amblin to form their own production company, The Kennedy/Marshall Company, where they produced *The Sixth Sense*, *Signs*, *Seabiscuit*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *War Horse*, and all four films in the *Bourne* series. In 2012, Marshall took over as sole principal of the company when partner Kathleen Kennedy became Chairman of Lucasfilm. Currently, his productions include the summer blockbuster *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom*, the Emmy nominated documentary *What Haunts Us*, and the finishing of Orson Welles final film, *The Other Side of The Wind*.

Marshall has 5 Academy Award nominations for Best Picture, including *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *The Color Purple*, *The Sixth Sense*, *Seabiscuit*, and *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*.

In addition to his prolific producing career, Marshall is also an acclaimed director, having helmed *Arachnophobia*, *Eight Below*, *Alive*, *Congo*, an episode from the HBO miniseries "From the Earth to the Moon," the award-winning ESPN documentary *Right to Play*, and an upcoming documentary for the Olympic Channel series "Five Rings Films".

Marshall's interests also extend beyond film. For over a decade, Marshall was a vice president of the US Olympic Committee; in 2005, he was awarded the Olympic Shield and was inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 2008 for his service to the Olympic movement. In addition to his service to sports organizations, he is also involved in the educational arena through LA's Promise, the UCLA School of Theatre, Film and Television, and The Archer School for Girls.

His many honors include the UCLA's Alumni Professional Achievement Award, the 2015 ACE Filmmaker of the Year Award, and most recently, the 2016 CinemaCon International Filmmaker of the Decade Award.

6. ACTOR BIOS

A. EMERALD MACDONALD (Miranda) – First time actor. Emerald graduated high school as is currently working the night shift as a security guard at the Kugluktuk jail.

B. BEN SCHNETZER (Russ)

Ben just wrapped production on David Raboy's *The Giant*. Recent film credits include Jose Padilha's *7 Days in Entebbe*, Andrew Neel's *Goat*, Oliver Stone's *Snowden*, Lone Scherfig's *The Riot Club*, Brian Percival's *The Book Thief*, and Matthew Warchus' *Pride*, which received a Golden Globe Nomination for Best Picture, Musical or Comedy in 2015. Ben will next be seen in Xavier Dolan's *The Death and Life of John F. Donovan*, and is heading to Broadway this fall to star in Dan Sullivan's production of *The Nap* at MTC.

C. PAUL NUTARARIAQ (Zach) – Miranda de Pencier discovered Paul in a student centre playing pingpong. His passion was evident then. She cast him in his first role in her short film *Throat Song*. Paul has gone on to act in *IQUALUIT* and *Aviliaq: Entwined*. He recently shot a role for CBC's *Little Dog*.

D. RICKY MARTY-PAHTAYKAN (Adam) – First time actor. He's First Nations (Plains Cree and Nakota Stoney Canadian decent) and lives on Frog Lake Nation Reserve in Alberta. His brother Tristen was the lead in *Indian Horse*.

E. BOOBOO STEWART (Kyle) – Booboo Stewart was thrust into the spotlight with his winning the coveted role of Seth Clearwater in the *The Twilight Saga: Eclipse* (2010) and reprising the role in both *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1* (2011) and *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2* (2012). At age 10 Booboo began his career as a model, participating in numerous campaigns. He received a record deal at the age of 12 with Walt Disney records-touring with acts such as The Jonas Brothers, Miley Cyrus and The Cheetah Girls. Booboo first worked on camera as a stunt person in films like *Beowulf* (2007) and then was captured by the acting bug after watching Heath Ledger's performance as the 'Joker' . Booboo strives to play interesting roles and he can be seen in *Spiderman* (TV series), *Westworld*, *White Frog* , *The Last Survivors*, *Space Warriors*, *Christmas in Balsam Falls* and *Descendents 1, 2 and 3*. Booboo is an accomplished martial artist - winning two World Championships and being inducted into the Jr Blackbelt Hall of Fame. Booboo is an American actor of Scottish, French, Native American (Blackfoot - undocumented), Chinese, Japanese and Korean descent.

F. WILL SASSO (Mike)

Will Sasso recently reunited with Director Peter Farrelly in the role of "Ben," opposite Ron Livingston on the series *Loudermilk* from AT&T's flagship Audience Network. He first worked with the Farrelly Brothers as "Curly" on the 20th Century Fox feature, *The Three Stooges*, alongside Sean Hayes as "Larry" and Chris Diamantopoulos as "Moe."

Sasso just wrapped *Boss Level* opposite Mel Gibson, Naomi Watts, and Frank Grillo and is now filming *Inside Game*. He will soon be seen in the much anticipated Jake Scott thriller *The Burning Woman* joining Christina Hendricks, Aaron Paul, Sienna Miller and Jacki Weaver. He also plays "Mountie Ray Archambault" in *Super Troopers 2*.

He starred in Amazon's pot comedy, *Budding Prospects*, as well as recurred on Comedy Central's *Another Period*, ABC's *Kevin Probably Saves the World*, with further recent credits include the films, *Hit By Lightning*, opposite Jon Cryer and *Army of One*, starring Nicolas Cage and directed by Larry Charles, appeared opposite Larry David in the new season of *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, as well as Showtimes's hit series, *Shameless* and ABC's *Modern Family*, and NBC's *Great News*.

Sasso's affinity for comedy was inspired from a young age by such iconic television shows as *SCTV*, *Saturday Night Live*, and *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, along with a heavy dose of *the Kids in the Hall* through his adolescent years. Growing up in Ladner BC, a suburb of Vancouver, he booked roles in television and film as a teenager, making his small screen debut on the CTV series *Neon Rider*. While still in his teens, Sasso starred as the quirky "Derek Wakaluk" on the award-winning Canadian dramatic series, *Madison*, and soon landed big screen roles in *Happy Gilmore* and *Beverly Hills Ninja*, starring Chris Farley. Eventually, Sasso moved to Los Angeles where he would ultimately join FOX's sketch comedy series, *MADtv*, where he starred for five seasons.

Sasso enjoys taking part in social media across various apps on the internet. He also has a podcast as well as a YouTube channel because that's in a bio and you just read it.

G. TANTOO CARDINAL (Janace)

Tantoo Cardinal is a Member of the Order of Canada, recognizing her contributions to the growth and development of Aboriginal performing arts in Canada. Tantoo has appeared in numerous plays, television programs, and films, including *Legends of the Fall*, *Dances With Wolves*, *Black Robe*, *Loyalties*, *Luna*, *Spirit of the Whale*, *Unnatural & Accidental*, *Marie-Anne*, *Sioux City*, *Silent Tongue* and *Mother's & Daughter's*. Her stirring performance in *Loyalties* earned her a Genie nomination, American Indian Film Festival Best Actress Award, the People's Choice Award at the Toronto Film Festival plus Best Actress Awards at International Film Festivals in Zimbabwe and Portugal. Her television credits include recurring roles on the series: *Penny Dreadful*, *Longmire*, *Strange Empire*, *Blackstone*, *Arctic Air*, *The Guard*, *North of 60*, *Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman*, *The Lightning Field*, *Street Legal*, *The Campbell's*, *Gunsmoke*, *Tom Stone*, *Myth Quest*, *Lonesome Dove* and *Renegade* Press.com. MOW's include *The Englishman's Boy*, *Dreamkeeper* and the PBS documentary *Nobody's Girls*. Back to back feature films *Shouting Secrets*, *Eden*, *Maina* and

Chasing Shakespeare were followed by Tantoo playing the role of Regan in the production of King Lear at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa followed by a production of The Rez Sister's at the Belfry Theatre. Tantoo's most recent project is Godless, a limited Series for Netflix, produced by Steven Soderbergh and written and directed by Scott Frank.

H. JAMIE TAKKIRUQ (Vinny) – First time actor. Attending law school in Nunavut. From a tiny fly-in community of about 500 people – he was the only kid in his town to audition (on his cell phone).

I. ANNA LAMBE (Spring) – First time actor. Just graduated high school in Iqaluit.

J. FRED BAILEY (Roger) – First time actor. Fred is a road laborer who works the summers building roads in Inuvik, NWT.

K. ERIC SCHWEIG (Kyle's Father: Harry Aviak): Born in Inuvik, NWT, Eric is an Inuit and Ojibwe/Anishinaabe Indigenous Canadian actor best known for his role as Chingachgook's son Uncas in The Last of the Mohicans. His other credits include: Blackstone, Elementary, Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee and Into The West. Eric's fame as an actor gives him the opportunity to share his life's experience in numerous speaking engagements in Canada and the [US](#). He is able to make audiences aware of aboriginal issues, including adoption, the foster care system, addictions, and suicide.

K. MIALI BUSCEMI (Kyle's Mother: Lenore Aviak): Miali was brought up in Kimmirut, a small community south of Iqaluit. She is as adept at living on the land as she is creating compelling performances. Her film credits include: The Grizzlies, Iqaluit, Aviliaq: Entwined, Maina, Throat Song and the Necessities of Life. On television she has appeared in Qanurli and Kenojuak Ashevak, Heritage Minute and she starred at the 2017 Stratford Festival in The Breathing Hole and in Treasure Island.