



PRESS RELEASE
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The play *Aukkauti* heads back to Nunavik

Kuujjuaraapik – Aaqsiq Nunavik Inuit Theatre Company, is hitting the road again to present its play *Aukkauti* to Nunavimmiut. In this second phase of the Nunavik Tour, the troupe will stop in Kuujjuaraapik and Inukjuak and conclude in Akulivik, a community bordering Kuuvik Bay where the true story of *Aukkauti* took place more than 125 years ago.

Aukkauti was written in Inuktitut by Lisa Koperqualuk, Adamie Kalingo, and Daniel Kudluk Gadbois. This drama invites us to reflect on choices and destiny, while depicting an important historical moment in Nunavik and Inuit culture. This story, one well-known by Nunavimmiut, is brought to the stage by eight Inuit actors and directed by Akinisie Sivuarapik and Lisa Koperqualuk.

PERFORMING IN THE PLACES WHERE THE TRUE STORY TOOK PLACE

Aaqsiq is particularly thrilled to present the play in Akulivik, very close to where the story unfolded in 1899, bringing the historical figure of *Aukkauti* back. Aaqsiq President and co-author/co-director of the play, Lisa Koperqualuk: *“The two preparatory excursions we made out to Kuuvik Bay allowed us to view the actual environment and listen to Inuit stories passed down through generations. We hoped to remain authentic to how Aukkauti and Kumainnaq lived, to the places that Aukkauti knew. I am excited for Akulivimmiut to see Aukkauti the play in their own community.”*

During the play’s creation, two excursions were made to Kuuvik Bay: One in July 2021 to allow the writers to immerse themselves in this true story’s environment, and the other in April 2024 to record video and audio footage to incorporate into the show.

ACTORS VISIT SCHOOLS

This second phase of the tour takes place during the school year and will allow the actors to visit high school students. The troupe will offer students introductory workshops on theatre and the story of *Aukkauti* before they attend the performance. Actor Lucassie Iyaituk had the opportunity to lead a workshop with young people during the troupe’s visit to Tasiujaq last June: *“When they arrived at the gym, the kids were really shy, but by encouraging them and explaining the different games to them in Inuktitut, they gained confidence and had a lot of fun. It was so much fun that I didn't want the activity to end,”*

SCHEDULE OF PLANNED PERFORMANCES

- **Kuujuaraapik** - October 17 and 19
- **Inukjuak** - October 23 and 24
- **Akulivik** - October 29 and 30

Additional performances will take place in the winter of 202 and the spring of 2027, with the goal of bringing the show to all 14 villages in Nunavik. The play was performed in Kuujuuaq, Quaqtaq, and Tasiujaq in the spring of 2026.

ABOUT AUKKAUTI

The play that presents a series of tragic events following the accidental death of a child made its world premiere in March 2025 at the Puvirnituq Snow Festival in front of an audience of 700 people. This success marked the fulfillment of nearly 15 years of work, as the creative journey began during a theatre workshop in Salluit in 2011. In subsequent years, interviews with relatives were conducted, versions of the story were compiled, a writing committee was formed, and various language and terminology consultations with elders were held. After this rigorous process of research and linguistic revision, Aukkauti took form as a feature-length play thanks to the creative work of a large team of Inuit artists.

ABOUT AAQSIQ THEATRE COMPANY

The mission of Aaqsiq Theatre is to produce and present theatre productions that reflect and enrich Inuktitut and Inuit culture. Through its programs and activities, Aaqsiq fosters the creation and production of professional plays, while developing a repertoire in Inuktitut by drawing on Inuit history, stories and legends as well as contemporary Inuit life. Along with supporting the creation of professional plays by artists from Nunavik, the organisation also offers theatre workshops in schools, summer camps and training for young Inuit artists.

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Aaqsiq Theatre : <https://www.aaqsiq.org/>