

NATIONAL POST

NEWS • FULL COMMENT • SPORTS • CULTURE • LIFE • MORE • DRIVING • CLASSIFIEDS • JOBS • SUBSCRIBE • FINANCIAL POST • VIDEO

ALL NEWS • NATIONAL • WORLD • TORONTO • POLITICS

If The Searchers was a western, Inuit film Maliglutit is a northern

Chris Knight: Drawing loosely on the same story of a man in pursuit of kidnappers, Inuk filmmaker Zacharias Kunuk sets his story of vengeance in the frozen Far North



Scene from the movie Maliglutit (Searchers), directed by Zacharias Kunuk. An Inuit take on the 1956 John Ford western The Searchers, and tells of a man's hunt for his kidnapped wife and daughter.



CHRIS KNIGHT

January 12, 2017
3:28 PM EST

Filed under
[Culture](#) [Movies](#)

Comment

Facebook

MALIGLUTIT

Rating:

Director: Zacharias Kunuk **Writing Credit:** Zacharias Kunuk **Cast:** Benjamin Kunuk **Rated:** Not rated, but contains subtitled swearing, violence and mature themes. **Genre:** Drama **Duration:** 94 minutes **Synopsis:** When a man's wife is kidnapped, he goes in pursuit.

If John Ford's acclaimed 1956 film The Searchers is a western, then it only makes sense to call this one a northern. Drawing loosely on the same story of a man in pursuit of kidnappers, Inuk filmmaker

LATEST MOVIES

What is so attractive about the terminal romance genre and its obsession with love and youth?

How Level 16's Danishka Esterhazy fought to bring her genre film to fruition

Level 16's brilliant narrative strategy makes for an enthralling viewing experience

3 Faces is both suicide-mystery and social critique

TORONTO WEATHER

3°C

Partly cloudy
Feels like -1 °C



Thursday	9 °C
Friday	9 °C
Saturday	1 °C
Sunday	2 °C

[Complete Forecast →](#)

NATIONAL POST

NEWS • FULL COMMENT • SPORTS • CULTURE • LIFE • MORE • DRIVING • CLASSIFIEDS • JOBS • SUBSCRIBE • FINANCIAL POST • VIDEO

ALL NEWS • NATIONAL • WORLD • TORONTO • POLITICS

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

Daily horoscope for
Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Christie Blatchford: Tina
was 5-3, 78 pounds and
invisible to those who
should have helped her

Chris Selley: For the
NDP in Quebec, the
dream is over

'More stupid than
criminal': Canadian
brothers responsible for
12-hour standoff at U.S.
border free after three
months in prison

Andrew Coyne: It was
Wilson-Raybould's
decision to make, as
long as she decided it
their way

Immaroitok) and her daughter, and kill the others. When the woman's husband, Kuanana (Benjamin Kunuk), and son return from a caribou hunt and see what has happened, they set off in pursuit on dogsleds.

As much ethnography as drama, Maliglutit – the title translates as “searchers” – spends a good deal of time illustrating the customs and rhythms of the Inuit. We see them tending fire, preparing food, building shelters and managing their dogs. The timeframe is never specified, but a few lanterns, a spyglass and, crucially, a rifle with only a few bullets, place this story sometime after European contact. It might even be 1868, the same year that Ford's film unspools, 4,000 kms to the south.

Certainly there are parallels in the cinematography, including one shot of ice-covered rocks that looks like Arizona's Monument Valley if it were given a liberal coat of vanilla frosting. Kunuk also delivers a powerful mix of close-ups and wide shots, the latter sometimes so vast that the human figures in them are reduced to mere specks in an otherwise tranquil and indifferent landscape.

SEE ALSO

Crafted by director Cristi Puiu, Sieranevada presents 'a deep current of symbolism' beneath its plain veneer

In the key of Alfred Hitchcock, Pedro Almodóvar's Julieta offers suspense, sex and trauma

But this is not a remake. Where Ford's film examined tensions between the First Nations and European settlers, Kunuk's is strictly about the Inuit – though like all good stories, it is instantly relatable to viewers of any ethnicity. Kuanana receives a loon totem that he hopes will help guide him to the kidnappers, and the ghostly call of the bird mixes with a sparse, spooky score that sometimes includes human voices, as if spirits were howling or panting along with the music.

The effect is dreamlike, with long stretches of gorgeous northern tundra interrupted by bursts of violence. Kunuk has created another timeless fable of the Far North; a simple struggle played out on a vast canvas.

Maliglutit screens Jan. 13 at the Lightbox in Toronto as part of the Canada Top 10 Film Festival, and opens Jan. 20 for a week-long run

NATIONAL POST

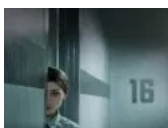
NEWS • FULL COMMENT • SPORTS • CULTURE • LIFE • MORE • DRIVING • CLASSIFIEDS • JOBS • SUBSCRIBE • FINANCIAL POST • VIDEO

ALL NEWS • NATIONAL • WORLD • TORONTO • POLITICS

MOVIES



What is so attractive about the terminal romance genre and its obsession with love and youth?



How Level 16's Danishka Esterhazy fought to bring her genre film to fruition



Level 16's brilliant narrative strategy makes for an enthralling viewing experience



3 Faces is both suicide-mystery and social critique



Why Hollywood's de-aging technologies are terrifying in more ways than one



From The Fly to Stranger Things, why a 60-year-old mind-control program has become a persistent pop culture trope

TOP STORIES



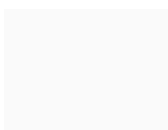
Jordan Peterson: With new technology comes great power – and great responsibility

In this occasional series, Jordan Peterson writes from his international speaking tour for his book, 12 Rules for Life



Watch Stephen LeDrew: Justin Trudeau should resign over SNC-Lavalin

Comment Nation: Stephen LeDrew discusses the aftermath of Jody Wilson-Raybould's testimony and the state of the PMO



Watch Gary Clement: Jody Wilson-Raybould and the SNC-Lavalin affair

Let Me Illustrate: Gary Clement's take on the SNC-Lavalin scandal that's embroiled the Liberal Party

NATIONAL POST

NEWS FULL COMMENT • SPORTS • CULTURE • LIFE • MORE • DRIVING • CLASSIFIEDS • JOBS • SUBSCRIBE • FINANCIAL POST • VIDEO

ALL NEWS • NATIONAL • WORLD • TORONTO • POLITICS

THIS WEEK'S FLYERS

COMMENTS

Postmedia is pleased to bring you a new commenting experience. We are committed to maintaining a lively but civil forum for discussion and encourage all readers to share their views on our articles. We ask you to keep your comments relevant and respectful. Visit our [community guidelines](#) for more information.

Sign in to Comment



Classifieds

Remembering

Celebrating

Classifieds Marketplace

Careers

FlyerCity

Post a Classifieds ad

Local Directory

Advertise with Us

Partnerships

Appointment Notice

Solutions

Resources

Content Works

Sales Directory

About Us

My Account

Subscriber Self-Serve

ePaper

Contact Us

Stay Connected