



UVANGA

ARNAIT VIDEO PRODUCTIONS – KUNUK COHN PRODUCTIONS PRESS RELEASE

UVANGA PREMIERES AT THE FESTIVAL DU NOUVEAU CINÉMA

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Arnait Video Productions and Kunuk Cohn Productions announce the Quebec premiere of *Uvanga*. The film will be competing in the FOCUS section of the Festival du Nouveau Cinéma, which exclusively features Quebecois and Canadian films that reflect the richness of emerging new cinema.

Uvanga was shot in Nunavut by a talented team from both Quebec and the Arctic. Directed by Marie-Hélène Cousineau and Madeline Piujuq Ivalu, *Uvanga* is the second feature film produced by the Arnait Video Collective, the same team that won the Best Canadian First Feature Film award at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival for *Before Tomorrow*.

Uvanga stars Montreal actor Marianne Farley, who is known for her roles in Daniel Roby's *La Peau blanche* (2004) and Charles-Olivier Michaud's *Snow & Ashes* (2010), as well as Lukasi Forrest, a newcomer to the big screen. The film also features a group of actors who have appeared in numerous films shot in Nunavut.

Uvanga was selected to be a part of the prestigious FOCUS section, where it will compete against other features by filmmakers from diverse backgrounds.

Co-director Marie-Hélène Cousineau says she is happy that her film is showing at the Festival. "It's important for us to show the film to a Montreal audience, to share our vision, our expression and certain northern realities."

Uvanga tells the story of Anna, who returns for the first time to Igloolik, a small and close-knit community in the Canadian Arctic, with her 14-year-old son, Tomas. Anna had a brief affair with Tomas's Inuk father when she previously worked in Igloolik. Over the course of two weeks that blend into one long day under the midnight sun, Anna and Tomas strive to reconnect with a family that they can no longer ignore.

The film will also be screened at the closing of the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival in Toronto, at the opening of the Yellowknife International Film Festival, and as part of the Alice in the City section that runs parallel to the Rome International Film Festival.

Uvanga is a Quebec-Nunavut co-production made possible through financial contributions from the Canada Media Fund, Telefilm Canada, SODEC, Nunavut Film and First Air, and with the collaboration of the Nunavut Independent Television Network.

Uvanga is distributed by Mongrel Media in Canada and by Métropole Films in Quebec.

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