

IKUMAGIALIIT HIGHLIGHTS

BWW Review: IKUMAGIALIIT Celebrates Self-Exploration And Strength In The Face Of Fear

by Isabella Perrone Dec. 16, 2019

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Presented as part of Harbourfront Centre's The Festival of Cool: Arctic, IKUMAGIALIIT (Inuktitut for "those that need fire") is an experiential journey presented by a four woman performance art band, who collectively go by the name Ikumagialit. Made up of Christine Tootoo, Cris Derksen, Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory and Jamie Griffiths, the 90-minute performance delves into their shared and individual experiences with their culture and their work to combat fear and oppression, both individually and as a community.



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EVENTS & CULTURE

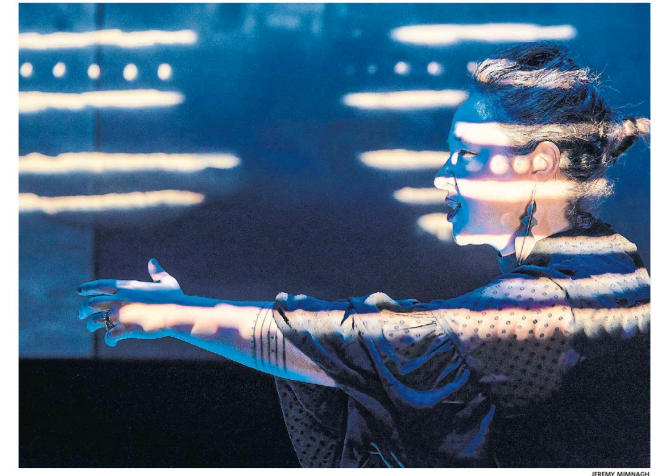


AUTHOR **SHEDOESTHECITY** | PHOTO **SILAUP PUTUNGA ILUANI** (INSIDE THE HOLE IN THE UNIVERSE) ©2018
JAMIE GRIFFITHS / LAAKKULUK WILLIAMSON BATHORY
 PHOTO BY **JAMIE GRIFFITHS**
LAAKKULUK WILLIAMSON BATHORY
RETURNS TO TORONTO FOR
IKUMAGIALIIT
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TORONTO STAR

YOUR WEEK

A curated guide to the week's best bets



Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory is part of Harbourfront Centre's Festival of Cool: The Arctic, which focuses on languages, cultures and issues of life in the Arctic Circle.

Cool enough to warm your heart

MONDAY
> Céline Dion
Watch this because: Her heart and her voice go on. Once upon a time in this fairy-tale story, Dion was the little girl from Quebec with the big voice, vowing to be an international star before age 30. Having beaten that projection over two decades ago, now she's singing that "Titanic" song of hers in a "Carpool Karaoke" session with James Corden. The approach has remained the same: she doesn't so much sing ballads as she embodies them, using that wondrous five-octave range to squeeze every last emotion out of them, no matter how true, no matter how many times you've heard it before. This Courage tour, her first since the death of her husband and manager René Angélil (and her first shows here in over a decade), will have plenty of those moments. (Scotiabank Arena, 40 Bay St., 7:30 p.m. also Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.)
 —Chris Young

TUESDAY
> Festival of Cool
Go to this if: It's not cold enough for you. As much as Toronto likes to complain about cold weather, humans have always managed perfectly well in the extreme temperatures of the North. The Harbourfront Centre's Festival of Cool: The Arctic dedicates six days to the languages, cultures and issues of those who live in the Arctic Circle, including installations from Finland-based Sami visual artist Marja Helander, Inupig-Ungax artist Nicholas Galanin from Alaska and a sewing group from Whitehorse. Nightly events include a one-night only performance of "Ikumagialit" from Dora Award-winning performer Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory along with Christine Tootoo, Cris Derksen and Jamie Griffiths, and a night of music, talks and DJ curated by Long Winter. (Harbourfront Centre, 235 Queens Quay West, 10 a.m. on until Sunday)
 —Early Magee

WEDNESDAY
> Hollerado
Watch this to: Bid a fond farewell. One of the most congenial, smart bands to ever hit local stages and beyond, including touring the world and starting their own record company, is calling it quits after a 12-year run. The foursome born just outside Ottawa came of age here in Toronto, necessitating adding

THURSDAY
> Les Misérables: The Staged Concert
Watch this if: Jean Valjean's bad times have always meant good times for you. What with Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Cats" back onstage in Toronto and soon to be on movie screens, it was already clear the mega-musicals of the '80s and '90s were enjoying a comeback. Now comes this special celebration of "Les Misérables," the blockbuster adaptation of Victor Hugo's classic novel about a poor schmuck who just wants a crust of bread. Last summer producer Cameron Mackintosh celebrated the show's 35th year on London's West End with a concert version featuring performers such as Michael Ball, Matt Lucas and Alfie Boe. You too can mark the big birthday with special performances at several theatres in the GTA. (Cineplex Scotiabank Theatre, Canada Square, Eglinton Town Centre, Empress Walk and Queensway, 3 p.m.)
 —Jason Anderson

FRIDAY
> Electric Messiah
Watch this if: You want to take your yuletide spirit underground. Handel's "Messiah" might be a classic holiday tradition, but Soundstreams is making its unconventional take on "Messiah" a tradition of its own. Now in its fifth edition, "Electric Messiah" blends Handel's orchestrations with jazz, blues, hip hop and more, with live music and singing from four soloists backed by a turntable. Staged by theatre director Rob Kempson, this immersive theatrical concert also features dancer Lybdo as part of the magic. (The Drake Underground, 150 Queen St. W., 8 p.m., also Wednesday and Thursday)
 —CM

SATURDAY
> Hot Docs for the Holidays
Watch this if: The season is not complete without Jimmy Stewart, Harold and Kumar is "It's a Wonderful Life" the one about the guy who is tormented by vivid hallucinations of a world in which he never existed, or is that "A Very Harold and Kumar Christmas"? No matter both flicks can be enjoyed for the low cost of nothing thanks to Hot Docs for the Holidays, a free series of seasonal flicks that kicks off this weekend. The program continues to Dec. 21 with the similarly cheery flicks of "A Christmas Story" and "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (which also screens free at the Royal on Dec. 10). Hot Docs' month of festive programming also includes humbug-free presentations of "The Nutcracker" on Dec. 22 and 26, Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, 506 Bloor St. W., 10:45 a.m.)
 —JA

SUNDAY
> Toronto I Love You
Watch this if: You want a classic story that's never been seen before and never will be again. If it's possible to feel nostalgic about an improv show, it's this one. Bad Dog Theatre brings back one of its beloved formats for a short run. Inspired by favourite neighbourhoods and places in the city, "Toronto I Love You" weaves together local storylines invented by a cast featuring performers like Paloma Nunez, Anders Yoles, Nigel Downer and Nadine Dipour, directed by Bad Dog artistic director Julie Dumais Osborne. An alternative title might be "Fall in Love with Toronto, Actually." (Bad Dog Theatre, 275 Bloor St. W., 8 p.m. on until Dec. 20)
 —CM