



DEC 12, 2019  
FOR MORE INFO, PHOTOS, INTERVIEWS  
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The Cultch and DanceHouse present

# Unikkaaqtuat

Artcirc (Igloodik) / The 7 Fingers (Montréal) / Taqqut Productions (Iqaluit)

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## WHEN: JAN 22–25, 2020

Showtimes:

Jan 22, 7PM: Opening

Jan 23–25, 7PM

Jan 25, 2PM

**WHERE:** Vancouver Playhouse Theatre, 600 Hamilton St.

**TICKETS:** Tickets from \$20. Single tickets on sale now through The Cultch's Box Office: 604-251-1363 or [tickets.thecultch.com](http://tickets.thecultch.com).

## DOWNLOAD IMAGES FROM:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/als52x4y0k3223h/AAAVXAcThTrtjq-hqxibVoZ7a?dl=0>

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***Unikkaaqtuat* blends music, theatre, video and circus arts in a groundbreaking performance.**

(Vancouver, BC) – The Cultch and DanceHouse, in the first year of an ongoing partnership, are thrilled to present *Unikkaaqtuat*, a co-production from Artcirc (Igloodik), The 7 Fingers (Montréal), and Taqqut Productions (Iqaluit). *Unikkaaqtuat* will run at the Vancouver Playhouse, January 22–25, 2020, on the unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Inspired by Inuit founding myths, with video illustrations by the world-renowned artist Germaine Arnaktauyok, *Unikkaaqtuat* is an unprecedented multidisciplinary production—with circus, storytelling, music, and video—highlighting the Inuit people, their traditions, and vision for the future. *Unikkaaqtuat* brings a cast of three Inuit musicians, four Inuit circus artists, and four Montreal-based circus artists to the stage, in a unique new cross-cultural collaboration inspired and influenced by throat-singing, Inuit drumming, traditional Inuit hunting techniques, and competitive games.

In an atmosphere shaped by video projections and a world of shadows, actors, live musicians, and acrobats will transport the audience to an ancient world when life had not known death, days had not seen light, and where Inuit had not met white people. Until...

***“When a culture loses sight of its own myths, it’s a sign that it’s in danger.”***

**—Guillaume Ittukssarjuat Saladin, Artcirc**

***“Taqqut Productions sets films of the north aglow.”***

**— Aboriginal Multi-Media Society**

***“The collective virtuosity of [The 7 Fingers] is something to see—and, crucially, to feel.”***

**—Boston Globe**

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Cast: **Alex Arnatsiaq** (Igloolik, Nunavut), **Charlie Gordon** (Kuuujuaq, Québec), **Gisle Henriët** (Montréal, Québec), **Marjorie Nantel** (Montréal, Québec), **Charlotte Qamaniq** (Ottawa, Ontario), **Joshua Qaumariaq** (Iqaluit, Nunavut), **Guillaume Ittukssarjuat Saladin** (Rawdon, Québec), **Levy Tapatsiak** (Igloolik, Nunavut), **Christine Tootoo** (Iqaluit, Nunavut), **Terence Uyarak** (Igloolik, Nunavut)

Musicians: **Felix Boisvert**, **Rita Claire Mike-Murphy**, **Charlotte Qamaniq**, **Joshua Qaumariaq**, **Christine Tootoo**, **Terence Uyarak**

Co-Artistic direction: **Neil Christopher** (Taqqut co-Director), **Patrick Léonard** (The 7 Fingers co-Founder), **Guillaume Ittukssarjuat Saladin** (Artcirq co-Artistic Director), **Terence Uyarak** (Artcirq co-Artistic Director)

Original Idea: **Neil Christopher**

Dramaturgic Consultation, Staging Support, illustrations: **Germaine Arnaktauyok**

Video Element & Animation: **Neil Christopher**, **Taqqut Productions Inc.**, Video animation Taqqut Productions: **Matt Hoddy**, **Leslie Pulsifer**, **Amanda Sandand**, Costumes: **Kilue Cie**, inspired by the drawings of **Germaine Arnaktauyok**, Direction of Creation: **Geneviève Dupéré**, Lighting Design: **Bruno Raffie**, Sound Design: **Félix Boisvert**, Props & Mask realisation: **Claude Roussel**, Set & acrobatics props: **Patrick Léonard**, **Guillaume Ittukssarjuat Saladin**, Set, props & costumes collaboration: **Cloé Alain-Gendreau**, Scenography Consultant: **Anna Cappeluto**

Production Manager: **Peter Balov**, **Antoine Protat**, Production Coordinator: **Florence Cardinal-Picard** (Artcirq), **Eva Patenaude** (7 Fingers), Tour Director: **Jacynthe Racine**, Technical Director: **Peter Balov**, **Olivier Gaudet-Savard**, Head Rigger, Head carpenter: **Stéphane Beauchet**, Acrobatic Coach: **Francisco Cruz**, Costumes adjustments: **Olivia Watson**

DEVELOPED WITH SUPPORT FROM Canada Council for the Arts (New Chapter), National Arts Centre (National Creation Fund), Quebec Arts Council, Montreal Arts Council, Qikiqtani Inuit Association (Ilagliktunut Fund), Government of Nunavut (Department of Economic Development and Transportation), First Air Power Corporation of Canada, Telus

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#### **ABOUT ARTCIRQ:**

Artcirq has grown into an Inuit performing arts collective with the mission to bridge traditional Inuit culture to modern artistic practices by creating meaningful and original work through the performing arts, music, and video. Artcirq members have created a rich body of work featured on a national and international scale, through which Inuit artists express and redefine themselves in their changing world.

#### **ABOUT THE 7 FINGERS:**

7 artistic directors, 7 visions: The 7 Fingers is a collective that is at once unified and multi-faceted. In 2002, 7 circus artists came together and became The 7 Fingers. Over the course of 16 years, the collective has grown. Every year, projects have given way to new opportunities, as diverse as the very artists themselves: original productions, Broadway shows, artistic collaborations, project direction, custom designed events, performances for Olympic ceremonies, televised creations, immersive performance experiences, and much more.

Ambassadors of diversity, the artists have consistently spread their horizons, mixing genres to better tell their stories. Fascinated by the human condition, The 7 Fingers create performances that speak about our world and our time.

#### **ABOUT TAQQUT PRODUCTIONS:**

Taqqut Productions is an Inuit-owned film production company located in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Taqqut is committed to bringing the stories of the North to the world. The company's first three short films have

screened at festivals in eighteen countries and have won more than twenty international awards. With its film and television projects, Taqut has established itself as an innovative leader in Northern youth and children's productions.

#### **ABOUT DANCEHOUSE**

DanceHouse connects Vancouver audiences and the local arts community to the international world of dance by presenting exceptional companies that are recognized for their excellence, innovation, and international reputation. Over the past eleven seasons, DanceHouse has presented vibrant and inspiring companies from Canada and around the world. In addition to the performances on stage, DanceHouse offers a suite of engagement opportunities and a chance for members of the general public and the local artistic community to engage with the presented artists and their work.

#### **ABOUT THE CULTCH:**

Since 1973, The Cultch (formally the Vancouver East Cultural Centre) has been one of Vancouver's most diverse and innovative arts and cultural hubs. The organization operates three theatrical venues, a gallery, and various ancillary spaces in the heart of East Vancouver. The Cultch offers dynamic contemporary programming in theatre, dance, music, and the visual arts, bringing world-class cultural presentations to thousands of citizens each year through its own programming and through providing rental opportunities for community users. Our purpose is to provide a venue for performance that serves a diverse and engaged public and provides space for artistic experimentation and development, building an audience for local companies and presenting cutting-edge national and international work.