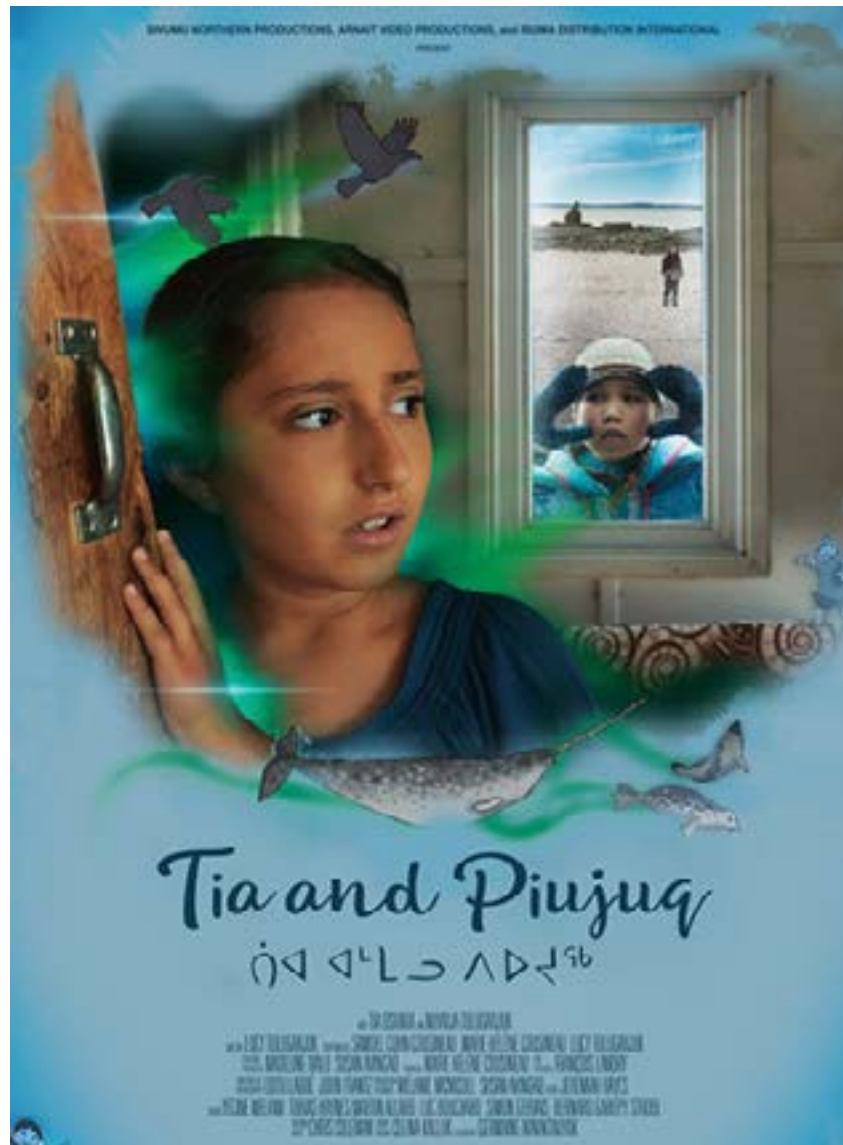


TIA ET PIUJUK



Original version: Inuktitut, French, Arabic, English (French subtitles)

Director: Lucy Tulugarjuk

Opening date (Québec): October 2018

Genre: Fantasy

Country of origin: Canada (Quebec)

Length: 79 minutes

Recommended for 10 years and older

SYNOPSIS

Tia, a young Syrian girl new to Montreal, longs for friends when she accidentally discovers a magic portal. Through this portal she meets Piujuk, an equally bored and lonely Inuk girl who introduces Tia to her world. Tia and Piujuk spend their time together connecting through games and Inuit stories when their blossoming friendship is threatened by a mysterious figure. This charming debut feature film will warm hearts and is an ideal cinematic treat for families and young people.

REVIEWS

The story, full of wonderment and positivity, is an exceptional collaboration between talented indigenous artists and a young refugee who recently arrived in Quebec. A film whose innocent charm will delight kids and adults alike.

The real joy here is in watching the two girls spend time together in what feels like a hands-off, natural manner. There's an awkwardness and acceptance to their interaction that feels true to the ways children play, and it centres a film about the ways wildly different cultures can come together.

— *Letterboxd*

DETAILS

LANGUAGE

There are no rude or insulting words in this film whose subtitles are in French.

Tia's family members speak Arabic to each other. Those in Piujuk's family speak Inuktitut. Tia speaks French and English. Piujuk speaks Inuktitut and English.

VIOLENCE

Piujuk's grandmother tells a legend, beautifully illustrated with animated images, of a woman whose cut fingers and wrists become seals, narwhals and walruses.

NUDITY

None

SEXUAL ACTIVITY

None

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT/THE MESSAGES

This movie contains many scenes where the love of Tia's and Piujuk's families as well as the two girls' beautiful friendship are obvious and omnipresent. The scenes described below are short and filmed in a subtle way, and without explicit violence.

In a very brief scene, three young children sitting at a table in a park laugh when they see Tia walk by. Tia looks embarrassed and does not look at them.

In their bedroom, Tia's parents watch a newscast on Syria on their laptop while Tia is drawing in her

notebook. Her mother asks where people can go (because of the destruction) and her father says it's sad. We then see some brief images of war, bombing and destruction in Aleppo in a neighborhood that the mother knows well - she sobs. Tia did not see anything and falls asleep.

A short full-screen panoramic scene of large destroyed buildings. We hear a helicopter and an explosion. Three hardly visible people walk in the deserted streets.

Tia wakes up because she heard noises coming from the street. She realizes that she is not in Aleppo as in her nightmare but that workers are doing major repairs in the street.

Tia is a bit scared when she walks through the magic door and ends up in the tundra.

Tia's mother (who is pregnant) is worried because her mother who lives in Syria has just been admitted in a hospital. Her father tries to reassure her that everything will be fine. Tia hears their conversation.

Piujuk is afraid of something when she looks through the window outside the "haunted" cabin.

Tia's dad informs his wife that her mother just died. She cries. Tia doesn't quite understand but is aware of their deep sadness.

Tia tells her father that she is sad and wants to return to Syria. He answers that this is not possible and that after a while she will find happiness in Canada.

Tia sees a young man in the distance. He disappears as Piujuk looks in that direction. He follows her when she goes back to the cabin to return to Montreal. He is not threatening.

Towards the end of the film, the young man reappears and waves his hand to the two girls, who run away. A bit later, they realize he's not mean or dangerous.

Piujuk's grandmother tells a legend beautifully illustrated with animated images of a woman whose cut fingers and wrists become seals, narwhals and walruses.

Suddenly the girls see an Ijirat in the distance. Frightened at first, they run away and burst out laughing. Piujuk explains that he is a magic creature who is not mean.

Piujuk's grandmother tells the girls to be careful "in case there is a Qallupilluq" when they go fishing for jellyfish. Near the sea, a barely distinct human form appears and scares them. He wants to take them away with him. They run away. The grandmother tells them to not go back to this place. Tia was frightened and says she doesn't know when she will come back.

When Tia returns home, her uncle tells her that her mother has been unwell and that she is in the hospital, but that she will be fine. That night, she sleeps at her uncle's and aunt's house.

Tia has a nightmare in which her father who looks for her shouts her name desperately. Her father hears her and reassures her.

When Tia returns to the cabin, she realizes that the door has disappeared. She panics, as she thinks she can not go back home in Montreal.

PHOTOS OF THE FILM



Tia laughs when she sees the wig that Piujuk is wearing.



Piujuk is afraid of something when she looks through the window outside the "haunted" cabin.



Piujuk looks at Tia's drawings in her grandmother's tent.



Tia reads a book of Inuit legends that her mother's doctor gave her.



The young man who appears and disappears in the tundra.



An Ijiraat appears. It's a mysterious creature that is not harmful.