Tumyaraq-qaa: An Indigenous Odyssey

From Friday, March 31st to Sunday, April 2nd, Tunyaraq-qaa premiered for three days of fully reserved shows. The viewers of this production had the opportunity to peek behind the scenes of a television pilot by playing the role of live studio audience.

Tunyaraq-qaa is written and directed by Kavelina Torres. In their Director's Notes, they describe .the production in their own words as "an indigenous futurisms situation comedy that explores the link between land and Peoples. It signals that we (Indigenous Peoples) are here in the past, the present, and the future". The production team is proud to note that they embedded seven Indigenous languages into the script. Kavelina Torres goes on to explain the fundamental questions of the work, writing, "Tumyaraq-qaa asks the question: `Is this the trail?' And in a more meta way: `Is this the way?'...as we question our lives, if we are following the right trail, and our time spent on earth, I hope we can come together and laugh for this bit".

Tumyarap-qaa follows an indigenous bridge crew of a futuristic ship preparing to venture ihto the outer reaches of space.Before their departure, they have to deal with the General, played by Jaden Daniel Reed, along with various world leaders, and the Tax Drone, played by Charlotte Gray, all of whom interact with the actors on stage from a screen projected above the set. The crew also awaits a crucial piece of technology, which is being retrieved back on earth by the Chief Engineer, Tekitua, played by Canaan Chanar. To retrieve the tech, Tekitua must beat the clock and thwart the "Squad", resulting in some action packed

On the ship, Captain Ellalluk, played by Misty "Too Oozhrii" Nickoli, grapples with her leadership role. The Captain can frequently be seen practicing speeches that she hopes will inspire her crew. Equipped with her stepping stool and a great team supporting her, Ellalluk is able to overccme self-doubt and lead her crew into the outer reaches. Nickoli is and later her strength in owning her role as a leader.

Acting alongside the Captain is Kyle Moore as Atauciiq, the First Mate who accepts the title of Number Two given to him by the Captain, but strives for the title of Number One (which he deems more appropriate). Where the Captain is easygoing, the First Mate is strict, however above all he is loyal to the Captain and the mission of the ship. Moore perfects a soldierly stoicism amidst any and all antics that ensue onboard the Tumyaraq-qaa.

The crew is also supported by Suupaaq, the Spiritual Advisor, played by David Leslie. Suupqqu acts as an anchor for Ellalluk, always remindering her of where they've come from and where they are headed, while also keeping things lighthearted. Their spouse, Dr. YuungTr(Theblc0