

PRESS RELEASE
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Two new documentaries by Indigenous creators premiering in Montreal next month
Malaya Qaunirq Chapman's *Nirilaurta: Let Us Eat* and Jessie Ray Short's *Moon Noonk Edouard* featured August 6 at the International First Peoples Festival



(Images provided by the NFB)

July 21, 2026 – Montreal – National Film Board of Canada (NFB)

Two new [National Film Board of Canada](#) (NFB) documentaries by **Indigenous creators** will premiere together on **August 6 at 7 p.m.** at the NFB's **Alanis Obomsawin Theatre** as part of the [Présence autochtone International First Peoples Festival](#) in Montreal.

The festival will host the **world premiere** of [Nirilaurta: Let Us Eat](#), with Inuk filmmaker **Malaya Qaunirq Chapman** in attendance. In this documentary, **Chapman** explores how the people of Taloyoak, Nunavut, **strengthen food security and sovereignty through Inuit culture and community**.

Screening at the festival in its **Quebec debut** is [Moon Noonk Edouard \(My Uncle Edouard\)](#) by Regina Michif filmmaker **Jessie Ray Short**, a documentary that **reclaims the story of Edouard Beupré, the "Willow Bunch Giant."**

And **Sinakson Trevor Solway**, a Blackfoot filmmaker from Siksika Nation, is eligible for the festival's **APTN Award** for outstanding achievement in Indigenous cinema for his multi-award-winning feature documentary [Siksikakowan: The Blackfoot Man](#), currently streaming on [NFB](#).

The NFB will also act as a festival host for other events and screenings at the Alanis Obomsawin Theatre, located in **Îlot Balmoral** in the **heart of the Quartier des Spectacles**.

Official selection

***Nirilaurta: Let Us Eat* by Malaya Qaunirq Chapman (52 min 10 s)**

Inuktitut and English, with French subtitles

Press kit: mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/nirilaurta

- On the **edge of the Arctic Ocean**, the community of **Taloyoak, Nunavut**, is working to **feed its families**. Soaring **grocery prices** and the **high cost of hunting and travel** in the North leave many households facing **food insecurity**. Harvesting **traditional foods from the land** is central to Inuit culture and has kept families fed for **countless generations**. From breathtaking landscapes to intimate meals around the table, the **beauty of Arctic life** shines through as **food brings together family, neighbours and community**.
- **Malaya Qaunirq Chapman** is an Inuit actor, producer and emerging director from Iqaluit whose work bridges storytelling and cultural identity. She starred in *Restless River* (2019) and *Aviliaq: Entwined* (2014) and served as executive producer on *Heaven's Floor* (2016), inspired by her own life. From early roles on the comedy show *Qanurli* to hosting acclaimed series and, most recently, her role as Auntie Eva on the hit TV show *North of North*, Chapman brings Northern voices to the screen with authenticity and passion. *Nirilaurta* is her first documentary.

***Moon Noonk Edouard* by Jessie Ray Short (35 min 27 s)**

French and English with French subtitles

Press kit: mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/moon-noonk-edouard

- ***Moon Noonk Edouard*** is written and directed by the great-grandniece of **legendary strongman and circus performer Edouard Beaulieu** (1881–1904)—also known as the “**Willow Bunch Giant**” and one of the **tallest men in recorded history**. Jessie Ray Short retraces her **great-granduncle's journey** from his hometown in **Saskatchewan** to his tragic death at the **St. Louis World's Fair**, and his bizarre **posthumous voyage**. In an **act of healing**, Beaulieu's loved ones share **emotional memories and stories** to restore his identity and **reclaim his Michif heritage**.
- Jessie Ray Short's artistic process explores a variety of themes to examine the history and memories of Michif communities on the Prairies. Based in Regina, Short is a bilingual filmmaker descended from Michif lineage in Willow Bunch, Saskatchewan. Drawing on accounts from her/their family and the Michif community, ***Moon Noonk Edouard*** is the filmmaker's attempt to mend the damage caused by dehumanizing stories about Beaulieu that have been told and retold over the past century.

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Media Relations

Jennifer Mair

NFB Publicist

C.: 416-436-0105

j.mair@nfb.ca | [@NFB_Jennifer](https://twitter.com/NFB_Jennifer)

Magalie Boutin

Director, Communications, Public and Cultural Relations, NFB

C.: 514-233-8646

m.boutin@nfb.ca | [@NFB_Magalie](https://twitter.com/NFB_Magalie)

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