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Isuma flick opens in Nuuk, Igloolik

Last week, the people of Nuuk and Igloolik were treated to the world première of short film from Isuma Igloolik Productions called "Issaittuq."

Greenlander Kenneth Rasmussen, who works for Isuma Igloolik, returned to Greenland to promote "Issaittuq," a film directed by Bruce Haulli of Igloolik and filmed by Rasmussen in Igloolik with local actors.

"Issaittuq" (waterproof in English) is about a young man whose life is torn apart by his violent past. One day he beats up a man and after spending a night in jail, is charged with assault and sentenced to two months in an outpost camp.

After seeing the ghost of his dead girlfriend, he flees the camp. The man sent to find him shows him the grave of his great-great grandfather.

"After hearing a story about his great-great grandfather, he starts seeing the better side of life," Haulli told Nunatsiaq News. "The message is if that terrible moment hadn't occurred this beautiful thing wouldn't have happened."

After the screening in Nuuk, Rasmussen seized the opportunity to slam Greenland for its lack of support to filmmakers.

Greenland only offers \$100,000 in subsidies to filmmakers through its culture department, although there are many filmmakers in Greenland, Rasmussen said.

"It is really frustrating that the Greenland government is not supporting filmmakers in Greenland," Rasmussen told the audience in Nuuk.

Politicians must do something about economic support to filmmakers in Greenland, he said.

"If Zacharias Kunuk hadn't invited me to work with him in Nunavut, I guess I would have become alcoholic in Greenland, and maybe even had ended in prison, because a year and half year ago I didn't have a job, I couldn't even get work at Greenland television, and was really frustrated. Now I am making films in Nunavut," Rasmussen said. "I would have ended up like [the hero of] Issaittuq."

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