

ULU THEATRE TROUPE, JENS HAVEN MEMORIAL SCHOOL, NAIN

presents

OUR LAND, OUR PEOPLE

A symbolic play using music, dance, & sound depicting a brief history of the Northern Labrador Coast.

CAST

Settler Male.....	Julius Barbour
Settler Female .....	Donna Webb
Girl .....	Paulette Winters
Dancers.....	Rex Holwell
.....	Pauline Angnatok
Pantomime.....	Cindy McKenna
Narrator.....	Elizabeth Angnatok

TECHNICIANS

Olivia Edmunds  
Robert Harris

TEACHER ADVISOR

Bill Wheaton

Melanie Cote, Gr. 5  
St. Michael's School  
Goose Bay



# OUR LAND OUR PEOPLE



An original play performed by:

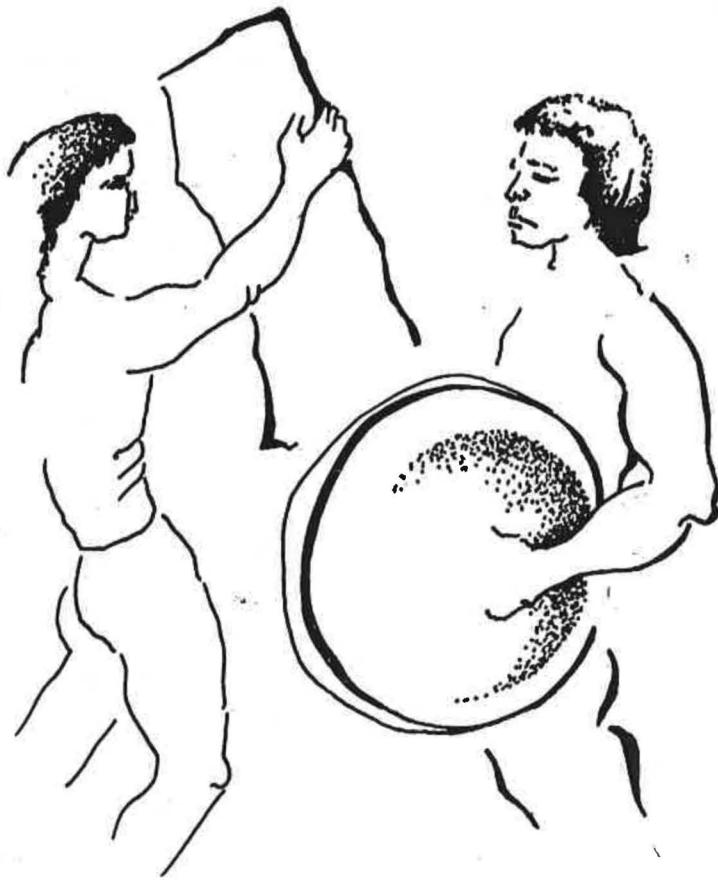
**TULU** THEATRE COMPANY. NAIN. LABRADOR

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DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: BILL WHEATON

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This production was adapted from the research done by Tim Borlase for Social Studies texts specifically produced for Labrador.



LIGHTS: OUT

STAGE: Narrator standing -  
Back to audience, head bowed -

LIGHTS: FLASHING

Dancers swirl on stage with percussion instruments

NARRATOR: Quickly turns and silences dancers  
(slide appears on screen)

## 1st there was the land

Ice has dominated Labrador for most of its existence. Pack-ice, pushing up on the shore, forming huge Ballicaters. Ice that was once the child of glaciers. Glaciers that flowed across the land like something alive, plowing up everything in their path.

Sheltered bays and valleys harbour patches of spruce, tamarack, and fir, which finally give way to substantial forests. Caribou, rabbit, partridge, porcupine, fox, lynx, and bear roam the coves and river valleys.

Back out along the ice-edge, sea life thrives.... ringed, grey, harbour, harp, hooded, and bearded seals.... stalked by Nanuk, the great white bear.... hunter of the north.

On the islands off the Labrador Sea, and along its coastlines, seabirds nestle in colonies. Murres, eider ducks, gulls and puffins. Shoals of Fish thrive, scattering to the break of the gigantic Bowhead whale.....

CHORUS: spring, summer, Fall....WINTER  
rain, wind, SNOW!

(3 times)

## PRECUSSION INSTRUMENTS

## Then the people

When the land was young, and the continents joined together, the 'people' came on their trek from Asia to North America. Moving ever eastward, the 'people' journeyed to Labrador, where for 8000 years they hunted animals for food, tools, and skins.

Who were these people? There were tales of giants who could break the backs of bears with their hands. Giants who were so heavy that they cracked the sea-ice upon which they walked.

Then came the smaller people.... those with dogs and huge sleds that caught animals with their magic weapons.

Life was ruled by spirits, and these spirits had to be obeyed if life were to continue.

Seals were life to the first peoples of the land. In winter seals were found at blow holes in the smooth ice, and in summer could be found in bays and fiords. In early spring the caribou called the hunters to the great migration. The hills undulated as herds of thousands moved across the land, the air dancing with their breath.....

And in the times of darkness, people watched the dancing Northern Lights.

CHORUS: Dancing, Dancing.... Dancing Northern Lights (repeated)

SLIDES: Inuit life

DANCER: dances and pantomimes narration.





## Then came the OTHERS

Two actors spotted on stage:  
Settler male/female

NARRATOR:

One thing that drew Europeans to Labrador was the fishery, another was the fur trade. These people settled along the entire length of Labrador. Over the centuries the settlers combined their own knowledge with hunting, travelling, and living skills of native peoples, to make their home in this harsh land.

SETTLER (MALE):

I went North and worked for the Newfoundland Rangers for a while and we stayed in the Bay. My father died in the Bay, then we moved to Hebron and spent a few years there. In 1943 we moved back to Nutak and later we went up in the Bay again. One fall my wife and the children and I lived there all alone. We didn't find it lonely. It was a life we were used to. Hunting, fishing, trapping. We didn't want for anything. We didn't have much, couldn't afford it, but we were never hungry. We had enough clothing for our children. We didn't send them to school. There was none. Same as myself, I got no education. The reading and writing I got was taught me by my aunts.

SETTLER (FEMALE)

Some nights it would be thirty or forty degrees below zero. We only had wood stoves and no oil heaters. When the fires went out after eleven o'clock, it got pretty cold. I always kept a diaper under my pillow to change the babies during the night in winter. My babies slept in a heavy wrapper that covered them right from the shoulders to the feet. The fires were made about six o'clock in the morning. We would have to make about three fires and it would be an hour before the house was warm enough to take the children out of bed. I often got up in the morning and had to break the ice on top of my water bucket.



Teen-age figure, dressed in 'Black Leather', swinging chain... leaps on stage from audience:

Hey man! chill out! Enough of this crap! Hey out there... youse guys.... have a good look man! I'm now! I'm the present.... enough of this 'old time' drama junk!

Female figure (young girl) enters from audience:

I don't think so!

Who are you babe?

I'm Paulette Winters, and I'm the future! Wind, rain, come and take him away!

(Dancers remove teenager)

I'm the youngest of the ULU Theatre Company and I'd like to thank you for coming to see our play.... and THESE ARE my FRIENDS!

THEME SONG  
BOWS

# THE END

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## CAST

LIZ ANGNATOK : Narrator  
PAULINE ANGNATOK: Dancer  
REX HOLWELL: Dancer  
CINDY MCKENNA: Mime  
DONNA WEBB: Settler (female)  
JULIUS BARBOUR: Settler (male)  
ED MAGGO: Teenager  
PAULETTE WINTERS: self

\* ADDITION

SETTLER (female)

Once we were stranded on an island for days, surrounded by ice. I thought for sure we were going to die. The weather never cooperated much with us. Some days it would be nice, other days you couldn't see a thing because of the blizzards. Yes boy! Times could be hard!





\* CHANGE TO ENDING



CHORUS:

AND THEIR GRANDCHILDREN  
BEGAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN  
WHO FLOWED THROUGH THE LAND  
LIKE A RIVER

..... LIKE A RIVER

AND THE RIVER CALLED FORTH  
A GIRLCHILD, THE FUTURE

.....THE FUTURE

WIND + RAIN DANCE TO END OF STAGE

BRING UP YOUNG GIRL WHO DANCES AROUND CAST, BRINGING  
THEM FORWARD FOR BOW

THEMESONG: LET THE RIVER RUN

THE END

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**CAST**

LIZ ANGNATOK: Narrator

PAULINE ANGNATOK: Dancer

REX HOLWELL: Dancer

CINDY MCKENNA: Mime

DONNA WEBB: Settler

JULIUS BARBOUR: Settler

PAULINE WINTERS: Girl

OLIVIA EDMUNDS: Technician