



Lights! Camera! Fairbanks! TV pilot filmed at UAF features all-Indigenous cast

The recent filming of a TV pilot included a very special guest star: Fairbanks.

The Fairbanks community played the part of a live studio audience for the pilot of the TV show “Tumyaraq-qaa,” which was shot in Salisbury Theatre at the University of Alaska Fairbanks on March 31, April 1 and April 2.

“This has been 10 years in the making,” director and writer Kavelina Torres said of the project, which features an all-Indigenous cast.

“Tumyaraq-qaa” is an hour-long sci-f comedy that centers around an Indigenous group of space travelers preparing to journey to a distant star. “They must come together to stall the federated Earth’s countries and kings government while their missing crew member races to the ship with the last part for near light speed travel,” is how the pilot is described.

“It is the privilege of a lifetime to be here and with an all Indigenous cast,” Torres said. “It’s been my dream for a very long time.”

Torres is an Indigenous media professor at UAF and was assistant director for the films “Mining for Ruby” (2017) and “The Messenger” (2012). She also wrote and directed the short film “Yugumalleq” (2013).