

# ArtMattan Films New Acquisition KUESSIPAN by Myriam Verreault (TIFF) Gets Virtual Theatrical Date Set to March 26, 2021

*This award-winning drama was adapted from the acclaimed novel Kuessipan and co-written with the novel's First Nation Canadian author Naomi Fontaine.*

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[ArtMattan Films](#), the film distribution arm of ArtMattan Productions, has announced the acquisition and virtual theatrical release of award-winning drama [Kuessipan](#) by Myriam Verreault, adapted from the acclaimed novel Kuessipan and co-written with the novel's First Nation Canadian author Naomi Fontaine. Kuessipan means "your turn" in the Innu language, a title chosen to mark the notion that it is the Innu people's turn to tell their story.



“

Kuessipan is quiet and mesmerizing and tragic and full of hope. It is a triumph, and a privilege to spend time with.”

*Globe and Mail*

The story follows two girls who grow up as best friends in a Quebec Innu community. While Mikuan has a loving family, Shaniss is picking up the pieces of her shattered childhood. As children, they promised each other to be lifelong friends. But as they mature, their lives take different paths, and their personal ambitions diverge leading them to a cultural and identity clash that tests their bond.

Over 20 US independent theaters have signed up to participate in the March 26 virtual release of KUESSIPAN. Audiences will be able to choose which theater to support when they purchase tickets by going to <https://artmattanfilms.com/kuessipan>. The virtual release will be followed by a digital and home-video release.

KUESSIPAN had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival and received multiple awards in Canada and beyond including the Best Director Award at the Windsor

International Film Festival and the Quebec City International Film Festival. KUESSIPAN had its virtual New York Premiere screening at the 2020 [African Diaspora International Film Festival](#).

"Kuessipan is quiet and mesmerizing and tragic and full of hope. It is a triumph, and a privilege to spend time with." ~ Globe and Mail

"Myriam Verreault excels at crafting a film told through an Indigenous lens that discusses universal themes of friendship, identity, love, and heartbreak." ~ Exclaim!

"Kuessipan is a beautiful, un-sensationalized look at young womanhood, friendship and community." ~ NOW Toronto

"Heartbreakingly exploring Indigenous identity and the bonds that root us to a community, Kuessipan is a bold ode to young womanhood." ~ MUBI



Myriam Verreault grew up in Loretteville, a Quebec City suburb. After completing her studies in journalism, history and cinema. she worked as a props person, director and editor in the television and film industry. In 2009, she made a name for herself by co-directing, scripting, producing, and editing *West of Pluto*, her critically acclaimed debut feature film, which went on to be screened at some 50 festivals around the world. Myriam started her research and writing for *KUESSIPAN* in 2012 in collaboration with the writer of the book by the same name, Naomi Fontaine, and spent five hardworking years on it, during which she made multiple immersion trips to the Innu community before beginning to shoot.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND SCREENERS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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#### ABOUT ARTMATTAN FILMS

ArtMattan Films celebrates in 2021 twenty nine years of exposing US audiences to a large variety of films about the human experience of people of color in many parts of the world. Films released by ArtMattan Films include *Kirikou and the Sorceress*, *The Tracker*, *Gospel Hill*,

Scheherazade, Tell Me a Story, The Pirogue, Tango Negro: The African Roots of Tango, White Lies, The Man Who Mends Women, The Citizen, Mama Africa: Miriam Makeba and most recently The Last Tree and Made in Bangladesh. More info at [www.AfricanFilm.com](http://www.AfricanFilm.com)

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