

Photo by Carlyle Routh



# Tanya Tagaq

**Ever Deadly**

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Saturday  
March 7, 2026  
7:30pm

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Colwell Playhouse



## Ever Deadly

Written and co-directed by Chelsea McMullan and Tanya Tagaq

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Throughout her ground-breaking career, Inuk throat singer Tanya Tagaq has always had an intimate relationship with the Nuna—the Land—a living, breathing organism present in her improvised performances. Winner of the Juno and Polaris Prize and collaborator of the Kronos Quartet, Saul Williams, and Björk, hers is a voice that, according to *The New York Times*, “demands full attention, whether she’s whispering in her softest register or howling at the sky.” *Ever Deadly* weaves together intimate concert footage of Tagaq alongside moving personal reflections, stunning sequences filmed in Nunavut, and hand-drawn animation by Inuk artist Shuvina Ashoona to seamlessly bridge history, landscapes, stories, and songs with pain, anger, and triumph—all through the expressions of one of the most innovative musical performers of our time.

“This process has been exhilarating and interesting. Bringing the crew up to Nunavut was the highlight for me. Realizing that’s how I feel in the South, in your culture. I am always cautious, not quite knowing how to behave, not having a handle on the rules. Watching the crew learn how to drive an ATV on the tundra and take in the majesty of the land gave me a sense of peace. Thank you to Chelsea and the crew for taking the time to film.” –Tanya Tagaq  
“Having the opportunity to participate in channeling

Tanya’s art, voice, and life into film has been the greatest creative endeavor of my life. *Ever Deadly* is meant to be an experience, to flood over you and take you on a journey guided by a live performance for the ages. In the process, we touch on many parts of who Tanya is—the unparalleled musical talent, the bold voice speaking truth to power, the poet and philosopher reaching deep into herself, how fiercely she loves her family and how relentlessly she fights. Immerse yourself, let it carry you away, but don’t for a second think the cinematic frame could ever hope to contain Tanya Tagaq. Not a chance.” –Chelsea McMullan

*Ever Deadly*, a 90-minute film, was released by the National Film Board of Canada in September 2022.



*The showing of Ever Deadly will be followed immediately by a recorded discussion between Tanya Tagaq and Renata Ryan Burchfield, Assistant Professor in the University of Illinois American Indian Studies Program.*

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# PROFILES

Photo by Robbie Harper



## TANYA TAGAQ

From Ikaluktutiak (Cambridge Bay, Nunavut), internationally celebrated artist Tanya Tagaq is an improvisational singer, avant-garde composer, and bestselling author.

A member of the Order of Canada,

a Polaris Music Prize and JUNO Award-winner, and the recipient of multiple honorary doctorates, Tagaq is one of Canada's most original and celebrated artists.

In 2014, she sent shockwaves through the music world with *Animism*. The album's Polaris Music Prize victory disrupted the music industry and contributed to a change in conversation about Indigenous artists. The follow-up, 2017's *Retribution*, brought Tagaq's inimitable and powerful artistic vision to even broader audiences. Tagaq's recent projects include her debut novel, *Split Tooth*, nominated for the Giller Prize and other awards, and the National Maritime Museum commission *Toothsayer*, a soundscape for the permanent "Polar Worlds" exhibit.

Tagaq's improvisational approach lends itself to collaboration across genres and forms. Her work includes numerous guest vocal appearances (Weaves, A Tribe Called Red, Fucked Up), original avant-garde classical compositions (Kronos Quartet, Toronto Symphony Orchestra), commissions (National Maritime Museum in London), and more. Her music appears in film soundtracks (*Thoroughbreds*, *Searchers*) and television (*Vikings*, *Sirens*).

In its many forms, Tanya Tagaq's art challenges static ideas of genre and culture, and contends with

themes of environmentalism, human rights, and post-colonial issues. In interviews, Tagaq stresses the importance of considering her work in the context of contemporary—not traditional—art. This statement is not just about sound, although her music is decidedly modern and technically intricate, but about deep-rooted assumptions about Indigenous culture in general.

## CHELSEA MCMULLAN

Chelsea McMullan (they/them) is a leading voice in Canadian cinema. An award-winning director, writer, and producer, McMullan's visually striking and formally ambitious films are powered by their depth of storytelling and intimacy with characters. Their films have screened at Sundance, TIFF, the BFI London Film Festival, and Lincoln Center, among other international festivals. Their 2024 documentary feature and limited series *Swan Song* (TIFF Gala Premiere/CBC/STARZ) received the \$50,000 Toronto Film Critics Prize for Best Canadian Documentary, the DGC Prize for Best Direction, and *The Globe and Mail* named them Artist of the Year. Previous features include *Ever Deadly* (TIFF Premiere/Kino Lorber/NFB), *Crystal Pite: Angels' Atlas* (VIFF Premiere/CBC), *Michael Shannon Michael Shannon John* (True/False Premiere/NFB), and *My Prairie Home* (Sundance Premiere/NFB). They've directed episodic television for Netflix, Crave, and the CBC, including the forthcoming Beverly Glenn-Copeland children's pilot *Caring Cabin* (Criterion Channel). They've directed commercials for clients including Gucci, Vogue Italia, and Bulgari, including the current Icons in the Making campaign featuring Zendaya, Anne Hathaway, and Priyanka Chopra. They live in Toronto with their

## PROFILES

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partner and collaborator, Douglas Nayler Jr., and their dog-children Zeus and Ruby.

### RENATA RYAN BURCHFIELD

Renata Ryan Burchfield is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. She earned her PhD from the University of Colorado, Boulder, through the Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies and the English Department. And she holds a Master of Arts in literature and cultural theory with an emphasis on Indigenous film and new media from the University of Oklahoma.

Her work focuses on process and performative sovereignties within Indigenous creative cultural production. For Burchfield, Indigenous studies are inherently an interdisciplinary undertaking and, as such, her research is at the crossroads of story and technology. Her research is concerned with how indigeneity and indigenous sovereignty are expressed through various modalities of creative expression and how this lends itself to real-world effects for Indigenous communities.

Her current project looks at technological relationships and builds a theoretical framework that imagines our technological creations through reciprocity and kinship. This project expands on a term that she coined in her doctoral work, "Indigipunk," which builds off the idea of solarpunk but firmly grounds it in the relational world of Indigenous ecocriticism. This project explores Indigenous futurisms in the context of the singularity theory. How do we imagine redemptive futures that include technology? Can we imagine technology outside of extractive supply lines? This project also looks at how Indigenous media artists use Indigenous languages, virtual and augmented

reality, and visual and auditory mediums to disrupt settler understandings of located histories and reinscribe in a virtual space the lived realities of land memories and Indigenous cosmologies.



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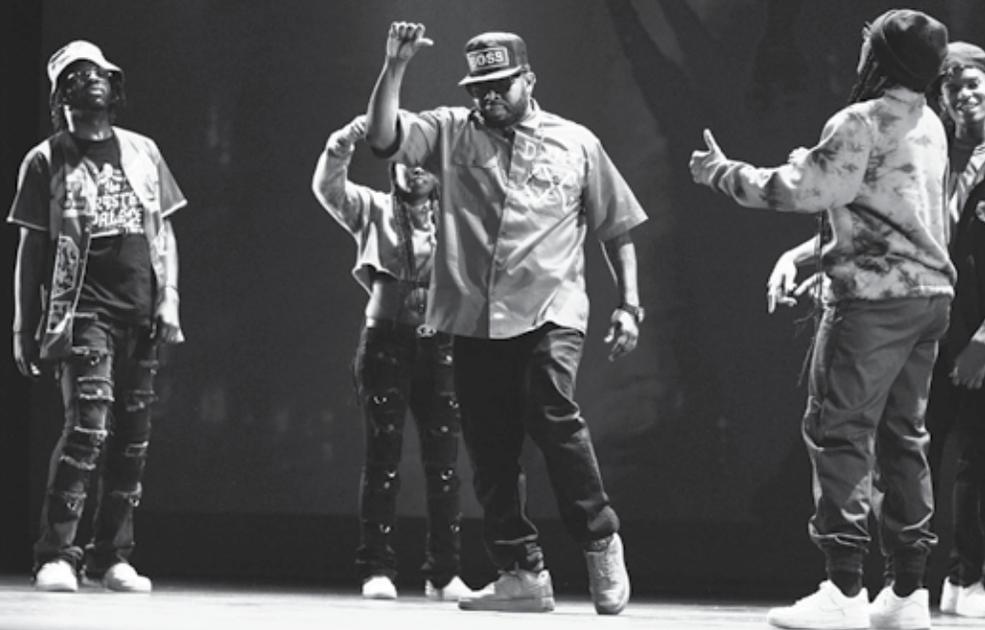




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As a Land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them. This acknowledgement and the centering of Native peoples is a start as we move forward.

Krannert Center affirms the commitment by the university to move beyond these statements, toward building deeper relationships and taking actions that uphold and preserve Indigenous rights and cultural equity.

As we gather to experience this performance, we have an opportunity to reflect on the ways that systems of oppression have shaped our society. We can work together to create systems that support human dignity, establish equity, strengthen cross-cultural relationships, and draw upon the creative capacity of all people that make up this community, state, nation, and world.



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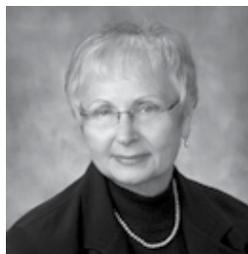
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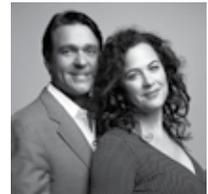


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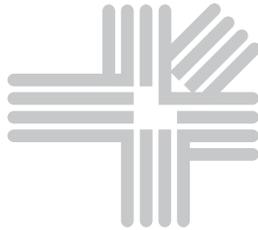


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Ann & Ronald Webbink in memory  
of Maxine G. Kaler  
Jane & Walter Myers in memory of  
Shozo Sato  
Peter T. Tomaras in memory of  
Ina Tomaras  
Karin & David Zink in memory of  
James J. Kraatz  
Vicki & Robert Patton in memory of  
Jean F. Patton  
Elizabeth Scheid & Bruce Hajek in  
memory of Bernardine Scheid  
Jennifer Sandefer in memory of  
Charles J. & Joanne J. McIntyre  
Elon Slaughter in memory of

Bessie Ziegler  
Stephen Follis & Daniel Jensen in  
memory of Jennifer Dillavou  
Martha & Rhanor Gillette in memory  
of Harriett E. Gillette  
Jannette & Donald Helfrich in  
memory of Annette H.  
Schoenberg

# KRANNERT CENTER VOLUNTEERS

## **Krannert Center Community Volunteers**

K. Rae Ambroz  
Rick Balsbaugh  
Jane Barry  
Ann Bergeron  
Deborah Bramowicz  
George Brock  
Jonne Brown  
Julian Carrero  
Felix Chan  
Molly Chartrand  
Yvonne Chen  
Kathy Cimasky  
Pamela De Ley  
Karen Decker  
Lori Deyoung  
Sun Dieker  
David Dorman  
Debra Eichelberger  
Roger Epperson  
Pat Fang  
Judy Federmeier  
Roger Fredenhagen  
Robin Goettel  
Barbara Gordon  
Gene Grass  
Katherine Hansen  
Sophia He  
Kathleen Henry  
Jill Hieronymus

Marcy Joncich  
Mary Ann Judd  
Carl Kagawa  
Bruce Kruger  
Rudy Leon  
Lynda Lopez  
Penny Lopez  
Pezz Lopez  
James McEnerney  
Linda Meachum  
Brenda Mehnert  
Kathleen Metcalf  
David Mies  
Sharron Mies  
Carol Miles  
Carol Miller  
Julie Mills  
Patrick Mills  
Frank Modica  
Heather Munro  
Christina Myers  
Marjorie Olson  
Natalia Ospina-  
Munoz  
Brenda Pacey  
Jane Pica  
Jerry Pica  
Renee Potter  
Rosa Pullen  
Carol Sato  
Barbara Schleicher  
Christel Seyfert  
Lei Shanbhag

Carrie Storrs  
Neil Sullivan  
Alice Taylor  
John Taylor  
Rodney Vanous  
Yuankun Wang  
Kelly Warner  
Jay Weber  
Jean Weigel  
Liesel Wildhagen  
Benjamin Williams  
Douglas Williams  
Julie Wirth  
Krystal Ye  
Hahwi Yoon  
Joseph Zumalt

## **Krannert Center Student Ambassadors**

Kaitlyn Adaya  
Fiyin Adekoya  
Saksham Aggarwal  
Emily Aldrich  
Smaya Anand  
Aditya Barman  
Zuzana Bielak  
Ann Biju  
Thomas Bobitz  
Zoe Bohannon  
Zach Bottoms  
Lexi Cao

Kayla Cash  
Xixi Chen  
Leon Chien  
Iyesha Childress  
Rachel Choi  
Leanna Cui  
Nooriyah Doriwala  
Nicole Dudek  
Joseph Edamala  
Nia Ellis  
Maricruz Figueroa  
Myra Gallant  
Andros Gao  
Shuoyuan Gao  
Jada Giddens  
Finn Gray  
Vedansh Gupta  
Jiho Han  
Grace He  
Atalhea Herman  
Kaye Hidalgo  
Yanshu Hou  
Justin Huff  
Hemanth Itte  
Uma Iyer  
Fasih Javed  
Hyorim Jin  
Yixuan Jin  
Jade Johnson  
Rachana Kanathur  
Asheera Kaul  
Sophie Kim  
Ellen King

Pallavi Kochar  
Kyle Krisdakumtorn  
Amelia Lamis  
Maddie Lawson  
Irie Lee  
Isabella Lee  
Julianna Lee  
Jungeun Lee  
Leo Lee  
Tristan Lee  
Zachary Lee  
Ava Lendman  
Tavisha Lijhara  
Hanning Lin  
Sara Lin  
Marlo Lindquist  
Chenzhi Liu  
Chunyu Lu  
Yamini Malli  
Julian Martinez  
Maddie McCammon  
Margaret Meagher  
Daniel Mend  
Zixiang Meng  
Audrey Miller  
Francis Moffatt  
Emily Murawski  
Samuel Naatz  
Ruka Nakatani  
Stuti Pai  
Dhairya Vibhav  
Parikh

Diana Patiño- Carreon	Lixin Wu Sissi Wu
Karol Penuelas	Lily Xie
Christopher Perez	Ziruo Yang
Niranjan Pillai	Qingping Ye
Adithya Raman	Haelly Young
Carolina Rosas	Qihao Zhan
Sukhbir Singh Saggi	Canwen Zhang
Ava Saldana	James Zhang
Eva Santoyo	Jie Zhang
Ellie Schmidgall	Qi Zhang
Santino Schrieber	William Zhang
Carissa Schultz	Xinyu Zhang
Megna Sivakumar	Yijia Zhang
Julia Stern	Jiesheng Zheng
Cliff Sun	Ryan Zhou
Aiki Suzuki	Yifna Zhu
Mann Talati	Margaret Zywicki
Greyson Talkington	
Thomas Valerius	
MacKenzie Van Ryne	
Alex Von Holten	
Connor Waddell	
Rebekah Wakayama	
Archie-Em Walker	
Tess Walker	
Jiaxin Wan	
Xile Wang	
Elodie Ward	
Ari Warner	
Jastina Washington	
Trey Weitner	

# KRANNERT CENTER STAFF

Mike Ross, Director  
Cheryl Snyder, Director of Advancement  
Terri Anne Ciofalo, Associate Director for Production  
Maureen V. Reagan, Associate Director for  
Administration and Patron Experience  
Lindsay Dalrymple, Assistant Director for Operations  
Julianne Ehre, Assistant Director for Programming  
and Engagement  
Craig Miles, Assistant Director for Marketing and  
Communications

## EVENTS

Andrew Almeter, Senior Production Coordinator  
for Events  
Bree Brock, Production Coordinator for Events  
Rebecca Russell, Assistant Technical Director for Events  
Rachel Gladd, Performing Arts Events Coordinator

## PROGRAMMING AND ENGAGEMENT

Julianne Ehre, Assistant Director for Programming  
and Engagement  
Jason Finkelman, Artistic Director of Global Arts  
Performance Initiatives  
Emily Laugesen, Director of Community Engagement  
Sam Smith, Director of Civic Engagement and Social  
Practice  
Nick Wurl, Engagement and Programming Coordinator

## ADVANCEMENT

Cheryl Snyder, Director of Advancement  
David Drake, Advancement Team Assistant

## OPERATIONS

Lindsay Dalrymple, Assistant Director for Operations

### Director's Office

Vanessa Lane, Office Manager  
Zia Moon, Krannert Center Showcase Director, Office  
and Communications Support Specialist

### Building Operations

John O. Williams, Facility Manager  
Tony Mapson, Assistant Facility Manager  
Joe Butsch, Building Electrician  
Steven Lessor, Assistant Chief Building Operations  
Engineer  
Scott Butler, Eric Carr, Emmett Catlin, Austin Dearth,  
Sara Dietrich, John Ekstrom, Jessica Fancher, Bryan  
Franzen, Salatheo Kindle, Jacob Lerch, Chabu Nsokoshi,  
Chad Schwenk, Robert Shaw, Attendants

## MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Craig Miles, Assistant Director for Marketing and  
Communications  
Sean Kutzko, Assistant Communication Director  
Nicholas Mulvaney, Art Director

## **ADMINISTRATION AND PATRON SERVICES**

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Maureen V. Reagan, Associate Director for  
Administration and Patron and Patron Experience

### **Food Services**

Amy Thomas, Food Services Director  
Michael Bunting, Hospitality Supervisor  
Elizabeth Henke, Stage 5 Bar Manager  
John Ingalls, Intermezzo Kitchen Lead

### **Ticketing and Patron Services**

Whitney Havice, Ticketing and Patron Services Director  
Ann-Marie Dittmann, Patron Services Assistant Director  
Ty Mingo, Assistant Ticket Services Director  
Jon Proctor, Ticket Sales Supervisor  
Adrian Rochelle, Front of House Performance Supervisor

## **PRODUCTION**

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Terri Anne Ciofalo, Director of Production  
Maria Miguens, Production Manager

### **Audio Department**

Rick Scholwin, Audio Director  
Alec LaBau, Associate Audio Director and Video Director  
Tyler Knowles, Assistant Audio Director, Live Stream  
Engineer

### **Costume Shop**

Andrea Bouck, Costume Director  
Richard Gregg, Costume Rentals Director and Associate  
Costume Shop Director  
Paige Stewart-Rankins, Hair and Makeup Supervisor  
Julianna Steitz, First Hand  
April McKinnis, EB McTigue, Cutters/Drapers

Kari Little-McKinney, Theatrical Stitcher  
Chantel Renee, Costume Crafts

### **Lighting Department**

Lisa Kidd, Lighting Director  
David Krupla, Associate Lighting Director  
Nicole Rataj, Assistant Lighting Director

### **Properties Department**

Adriane Binky Donley, Properties Director  
Kira Lyon, Assistant Properties Director

### **Scene Shop**

Ryan Schultz, Technical Director  
Tatsuya Ito, Associate Technical Director  
Bill Kephart, Office Administrator  
Bobby Reynolds, Theatrical Scene Shop Coordinator  
Anna Atkinson, Theatrical Scene Shop Assistant  
Rebecca Russell, Acting Crew Head  
Kayley Woolums, Theatrical Scene Shop Assistant

## **PERFORMING ARTS BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER**

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Jenell Hardy, Director of Business Services  
Macauley Allen, Business Services Specialist  
Debbie Delaney, Accounting Staff  
Angela Wang, Business Services Specialist

# WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE AT THE CENTER

**We work to create the best possible setting for the experiences you seek and find here.**

## Necessaries

Restrooms are located in the foyers of Foellinger Great Hall, Tryon Festival Theatre, and Colwell Playhouse; the east entrances on the Lobby level; and in each elevator lobby on Level 1 and Level 3. Lobby restrooms and one restroom in each elevator lobby are fully accessible and contain baby-changing stations.

Ushers will be happy to provide you cough drops courtesy of St. Joseph Apothecary, or disposable foam earplugs if the place starts rockin'.

If you or a companion needs medical assistance, contact an usher or other staff member.

Please take a moment before the performance to note the theatre exits nearest to you. If it becomes necessary to evacuate the theatre, please remain calm, follow the instructions of the house staff, and exit in an orderly fashion to the appropriate safe meeting location which will be announced to you.

## Phones and Devices

The use of cell phones, cameras, and recording devices during performances is prohibited unless otherwise announced from the stage.

## Late Arrivals

As a courtesy to performers and audience members, latecomers will be seated only at times selected in advance by the artist. Should you find that you've arrived late to a performance, our Patron Services staff will keep you informed about the earliest seating opportunity.

## Lost Items

If you are in need of Lost and Found, please visit the Patron Services counter. We will do our best to reunite object and owner!

## Ticket Returns

If you find you can't attend a performance, please contact the Ticket Office in advance, preferably by 6pm the day before the performance (kran-tix@illinois.edu or 217.333.6280). We never charge a handling fee on ticket transactions.

## Accessibility

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts is committed to making experiences accessible for all patrons, and we are delighted to provide a number of services to assist you. Krannert Center is equipped with an assisted listening system, wheelchair-accessible and no-step/few-step seating, and large-print programs, Braille programs, and American Sign Language interpreters are available with three weeks' advance notice.

For assistance regarding your visit please contact patronservices@krannertcenter.illinois.edu or 217.333.9716 or visit go.KrannertCenter.com/Accessibility.

Para ayuda en relación con su visita, favor de enviar un email a:

Pour vous aider dans votre visite, prière de nous envoyer un courriel à:

欢迎! 如若您对您的造访需要帮助, 请发送电子邮件至:

स्वागत हे! अगर आपको अपने रहने के लिए मदद चाहिए, ईमेल कीजिए:

환영합니다! 방문에 관해 도움이 필요하실 때에는...  
에게 이메일로 문의하시기 바랍니다:

**PATRONSERVICES@KRANNERTCENTER.ILLINOIS.EDU**  
**217.333.9716**



# COME BE MOVED.

Art at Krannert Center isn't something you just watch—it's something you feel.

COME ON IN.  
WE'LL SAVE A SEAT FOR YOU.



 krannert center

FR MAR 27 AT 7:30PM



# DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM

 krannert center