WILFRED BUCK'S STAR STORIES

by Lisa Jackson & the Macronauts narrated by Wilfred Buck

Canada | 2025 | 21' | Dome film

PRESS NOTES

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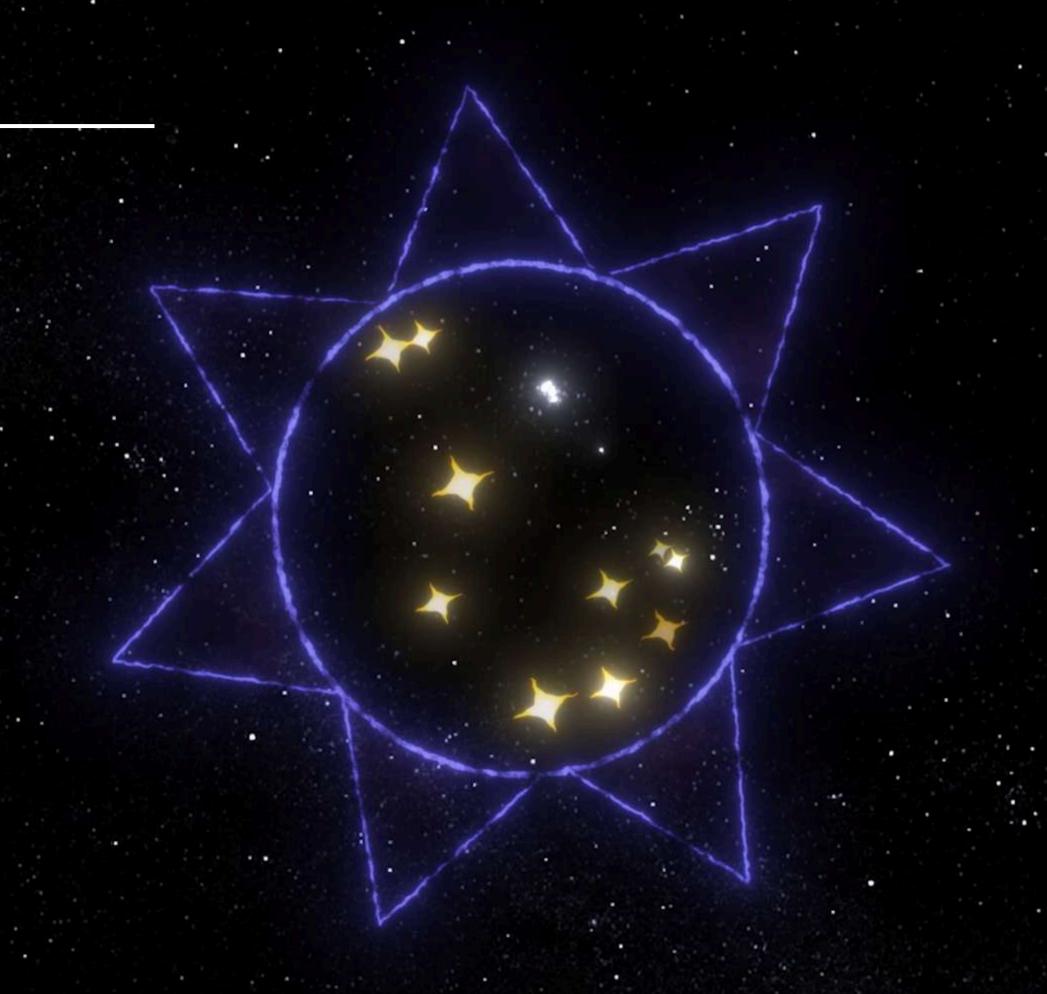
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Synopsis

Designed for presentation in domes and planetariums, this 21-minute XR work brings to life four star stories, gathered and told by renowned Ininew (Cree) astronomer/star knowledge expert and author Wilfred Buck. From the practical to the poetic, these "tellings" of the Northern night sky provide guidance on navigation, the earth's cycles, and how to live a good life with future generations in mind. WILFRED BUCK'S STAR STORIES offers a rarely heard perspective on astronomy and cosmology. Marvel at immersive night sky cinematography, cosmos CGI, and beautiful macro cinematography of meteorites set to a transporting soundtrack in this expansive yet intimate experience that combines the wonder of the universe with the warmth of listening to a wise Elder whose teachings can help us understand that the stars are in fact our oldest relatives.

This work is a sister project of the hybrid feature documentary *Wilfred Buck*, also directed by Lisa Jackson, which premiered in March 2024 at CPH:DOX in Copenhagen and was a top five audience pick at the 2024 Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival.

Lisa Jackson - Director/Producer

Lisa Jackson is one of Canada's premiere artists and an award-winning creator of film and television, VR, and multimedia installation work. As a director, her projects have screened at Sundance, Tribeca, SXSW, Berlinale, and Hot Docs, won two Canadian Screen Awards (Canada's Oscar), been nominated for a Webby and broadcast widely. In 2020, she launched Door Number 3 Productions and premiered feature documentary Wilfred Buck in 2024, with screenings at CPH:DOX (DOX:AWARD) and Hot Docs, where it was a Top 5 audience choice. She's received the prestigious Chicken & Egg Award (2022), and the Documentary Organization of Canada Vanguard Award (2021). She's Anishinaabe, lives in Toronto, has an MFA from York University, and attended the TIFF Talent Lab and Writers Studio. www.doornumber3.ca





Wilfred Buck - Narrator

Wilfred Buck is an Ininew (Cree) writer, educator and one of the foremost experts on Indigenous star knowledge. A member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Buck spent over a decade as a Science Facilitator at the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre, researching and consulting with elders about the astronomical knowledge of Cree, Anishinaabe and Lakota peoples. He has been recognized internationally for his efforts to share this knowledge through museum exhibits, films, panel discussions, and public lectures. For nearly two decades, Wilfred Buck has used portable planetariums to teach First Nations students about the stars ("achakosuk" in Cree) and is the author of two books exploring the night sky from an Indigenous perspective, including *Kitcikisik* (*Great Sky*). He was awarded the 2023 Qilak Award by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada for his significant contributions to astronomy communications.

His autobiography, *I Have Lived Four Lives*, recounts his journey from the trauma of state-sanctioned oppression to becoming a respected educator, marked by resilience and healing. In 2018, he received the Outstanding Indigenous Educator Award from the Canadian Teachers Federation. He also helped name the star Nikawiy and its exoplanet Awasis in Cree. Buck is a cultural icon whose remarkable life and work are chronicled in Lisa Jackson's 2024 feature documentary *Wilfred Buck*.

The Macronauts - Co-Directors

The Macronauts are a Montreal-based collective of multidisciplinary artists blending art, science, and exploration to tell the stories of life and the cosmos. From their expeditions across oceans to their nights under starry skies, they create immersive works that explore our connection to nature and celebrate its delicate beauty.

Their creations, such as the immersive work *The Ballet of Plankton* at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris or the 360° film *Total Eclipse* at the Montréal Planetarium, offer unique experiences where the infinitely small meets the infinitely vast, inviting contemplation and wonder. Explore their work at macronautes.com.



Brittany Ryan - Producer

Brittany Ryan (she/her) is a a Vancouver-based mixed race Chinese and Red River Métis producer and arts administrator living on the unceded territories of the xwməθkwəýəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Working across disciplines and roles, Brittany has dedicated her career to nurturing new works created by Indigenous and culturally diverse artists. Brittany is a Producer on Wilfred Buck's Star Stories and Associate Producer for Wilfred Buck as well as the B.C. Lead of Business Affairs for Bizable Media.

Amee Le - Co-producer

Amee Le is a Vietnamese-French-Canadian film producer and production manager with an MBA from the Schulich School of Business. Her career spans both arts administration and film production, including recent projects such as *Tales From the Rez* Season 2 and *Wilfred Buck's Star Stories*. Amee is also Project Manager for the Indigenous Cinema Alliance at Berlinale's European Film Market and coordinates the Arctic Indigenous Film Fund's Witness short film training program on climate change.

Jason Ryle – Co-producer

Jason Ryle is an Anishinaabe producer, curator & programmer, and story editor. He is currently the International Programmer for Australia, New Zealand, and Global Indigenous Cinema at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). Formerly the Executive Director of imagineNATIVE, he has supported Indigenous filmmakers and media artists for over a decade, including roles as an Advisor at Berlinale and overseeing the Indigenous Cinema stand at the European Film Market. In 2021, Jason received the Clyde Gilmour Award from the Toronto Film Critics Association for his contributions to Canadian film.

Door Number 3 - Production

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Door Number 3 Productions (D3) is Lisa Jackson's Torontobased company, known for creating innovative media content in collaboration with talented, diverse creatives to tell compelling and important stories.

With a reputation for out-of-the-box thinking and a commitment to positive change, story and accessibility are core to what D3 does. Working across and between genres, they assemble teams that deliver high-quality projects that are visually striking but never style over substance.



Credits

Created by

Lisa Jackson & The Macronauts

Based on the book *Kitcikisik (Great Sky)* by Wilfred Buck

Directors

Lisa Jackson

The Macronauts:

François Guinaudeau

Antonin Gaud (Acakos Iskwew / Star Woman)

Clotilde de Swarte (Kiwitin / Going Home Star)

Noé Sardet (Sisikwun / The Rattle)

Arnaud Mariat (Namiw / Sturgeon)

Written by

Lisa Jackson

Producers

Lisa Jackson Brittany Ryan

Co-Producers

Amee Lê Jason Ryle

English Narration

Wilfred Buck

Music By

Matthew Cardinal

Constellation Illustrations

Mistawasis Buck

Watercolors

Noé Sardet

Macro and microscopic imagery of meteorites filmed at the Royal Ontario Museum

Art Direction / 3D Artists

Antonin Gaud François Guinaudeau

Motion Designers

Arnaud Mariat Julien Lassignardie

Production Manager

Noé Sardet

Production Coordinators

Clotilde de Swarte Amee Lê

Co-Designer (Sturgeon)

Chloé Juillard

Astro-Photographers

Arnaud Mariat François Guinaudeau Antonin Gaud

Cinematography

Noé Sardet François Guinaudeau

Additional Camera

Clotilde de Swarte Richard Mardens

Editing

Clotilde de Swarte François Guinaudeau

Additional Editing

Arnaud Mariat

Sound Design

Benoît Dame Jérémie Jones

Sound Mix

Benoît Dame

Additional Post-Production Support

David Schmidt

Cree Translation & Narration

Randy Morin

Cree Sound Recording

Cosmic Pad Studios

French Translation

Amee Lê

French Narration

Sébastien Aubin

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Shaun Nakatsuru, Taien Ng-Chan, Jodie Williams, Pascal Pelletier,
Vincent Poulain, David Rose, Cameron Saville, David Schmidt, Patrick Pomerleau,
Mathilde Horvais, Anna Hudson, Sergio Romero, Chloé Juilliard,
Le Baluchon, Outdoor Club of Saint-Donat,
Fabienne Lucet & Pierre Tremblay.

Produced with the Assistance of Indigenous Screen Office

Filming took place on the traditional territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit, Anishnabeg, Chippewa, Haudenosaunee, Innu and Wendat peoples, and on the traditional territory of the Kanien'kehà:ka (Mohawk).