



PAMYUA

PAMYUA (pronounced bum-yo-ah) is a Yup'ik Inuit word meaning ENCORE or DO IT AGAIN

Study Guide



Capitol Kids is the Capitol Theatre's way of ensuring that children from all walks of life have access to the one-of-a-kind experience of live theatre arts. Capitol Kids programs are entertaining and engaging, inspiring children to wonder, imagine and dream. Presented by professional touring companies, each Capitol Kids show is specially designed to appeal to young audiences and present them with learning opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom.

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PAMYUA

A CAPITOL THEATRE
STUDY GUIDE



Pamyua Founders: (left to right) Stephen "Qacung" Blanchett, Aassanaaq "Ossie" Kairaiuak, Phillip Blanchett

WHO ARE PAMYUA

Pamyua was formed in April 1995 by brothers Phillip and Stephen Blanchett.

The brothers stumbled upon a musical concept to blend Inuit drum/dance melodies with R&B vocal styling and arrangements. The duo immediately began sharing their performance around Alaska and collaborating with like-minded artists.

Later that year Ossie Kairaiuak permanently joined the group and in the spring of 1996 Karina Moeller permanently joined. Today the quartet works with world-class musicians from Alaska and Denmark and travels the world sharing their blend of cultural harmony.

Pamyua showcases Inuit culture through music and dance. The show is a platform to share indigenous

knowledge and history. Their style derives from traditional melodies reinterpreted with contemporary vocalization and instrumentation. Often described as "Inuit Soul Music," Pamyua has discovered their own genre.

Band members are proud to represent Indigenous culture. The group believes unity is possible through music and dance. Together, each member works to interpret Inuit traditions masterfully with joy and sincerity. The response to this message is tremendous as the group is a symbol of pride for Alaska's indigenous people and to all who see them perform.

Pamyua's performances aim to honor and share indigenous traditions through ceremony, songs, and dance.

ABOUT THE SHOW PAMYUA

Pamyua's music is self-described as "tribal funk", "world music" and "Inuit soul music", drawing inspiration from Russian Orthodox chants, traditional Inuit music, R&B and most notably South African male choral group, Ladysmith Black Mambazo. An early influence was the African American gospel played in their father's church in Wasilla, Alaska. Most of their songs are based on traditional Yupik, Inuit and Greenlandic chants, but the

group is well known for reinterpreting them in modern styles, such as the song "Cayauqa Nauwa", which has been performed a cappella (mengluni, 1998) and with Pacific Islander influences (Caught in the Act, 2003), as well as traditionally (Drums of the North, 2005). Integral to their staged performances is instrumentation, such as the Cayuqa drum, and mask dancing which evokes and honors traditional Yup'ik dancing.

MEET THE ARTISTS



Phillip is an original co-founder of Pamyua. Originally from Mamterilleq (Bethel), he has family ties to Nunapitchuk, in addition to many communities throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. A proud husband and father, he now lives in Anchorage with his family.

Phillip takes great joy in his identity as a Yup'ik performing artist and his work to share the knowledge of his ancestors through music and dance.



Qacung (Stephen) is an original co-founder of Pamyua. He is the son of a strong Yup'ik Inuit mother who brought him up in the traditional ways of his Yup'ik ancestors; and a strong African-American father who taught him to be proud of his Black heritage. Qacung considers himself to be a global citizen whose Yup'ik and Black roots guide his leadership and artistic vision.



Ossie - aka, Aassanaaq - is a hilarious Yup'ik dancer and prolific composer of Pamyua's most popular songs. The fun-loving Bubble Gum music video is his latest hit. Ossie was raised in Chefnak (pop. 418) and now lives in Anchorage.

He is a master Yup'ik drum maker and illustrator, leads a traditional Yup'ik dance group, and is a well known for his work throughout the greater Alaska Native community.



WHAT TO DO AFTER THE SHOW

Here are a few post-performance activities you can share with your students.

Discuss the Show:

After seeing Pamyua, discuss the show with your students. Here are some suggested discussion questions:

- Were there any songs sung in the performance that caught your attention?
- What was the most exciting or interesting part of the performance for you? Why did it stand out?
- How did the performance make you feel? Did it make you laugh, cry, or feel excited? Explain.
- What is something new that you learned from watching the performance?
- Were there any unexpected moments in the performance that caught you by surprise?
- What would you tell a friend about the performance that would have them want to see it?

Learn about Indigenous Games with Pamyua:

Learn from Pamyua member Phillip about the tradition of Indigenous games in Alaska as you and your students watch the YouTube Video *Indigenous Games with Pamyua* located on Youtube at <https://youtu.be/Qyw5aESlpWA?si=OmUUtNTTOMKFcTt4>.

Find the Words:

Challenge the students to find all the Pamyua Song Title names in the provided word find.

Write a letter to the Capitol Theatre:

In their letters, encourage them to express what they enjoyed about the performance and how it made them feel.

THE CAPITOL THEATRE

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INUKTITUT WORDS

Ullaakuut; oo-laa-koot

Ullaakuut means “good morning” and is used as a general greeting. You can also say *ullukuut* (oo-loo-koot) for “good afternoon.”

Qanuippit?; kha-noo-ee-peet

“How are you” or “what’s up?”

Qanuingittunga; kha-noo-ee-neet-toon-gah

The answer to *qanuippit*, this long word means simply, “I’m fine.”

Nakurmiik; na-koor-meek

A very important word in any language: thank you.

Qamutik; kha-moo-tick

A wooden sled that is pulled by sled dogs or snowmobiles.

Ulu; oo-loo

A crescent-shaped knife that can come in various sizes and makes a great gift.

Kamiik; ka-meek

The word means “boots” but most commonly refers to handmade sealskin boots.

Mamaqtuq; ma-makh-too

A really fun word to say; it means “delicious.”

Alianait; ah-lee-ah-nite

Meaning “wonderful”.



THEATRE VOCABULARY

Act: A major division within a play, usually comprising multiple scenes.

Backdrop: A large painted cloth or set piece hung at the back of the stage to represent scenery.

Curtain Call: The bows at the end of a performance when actors come forward to acknowledge the applause from the audience.

Dialogue: The conversation between characters in a play, typically delivered as lines by the actors.

Ensemble: A group of actors working together as a whole rather than focusing on individual performances.

Set: The physical surroundings on stage that represent the location where the story takes place.

Green Room: A backstage room where actors wait before and after their scenes.

Intermission: A break between acts or scenes in a performance, allowing the audience and actors to rest.

Monologue: A long speech or a solo performance by one character in a play.

Props: Items or objects used by actors during a performance to enhance the storytelling.

Rehearsal: Practicing and preparation sessions undertaken by the cast and crew before a performance.

Fourth Wall: An imaginary barrier between the actors on stage and the audience, which is usually maintained to create the illusion of reality.

Stage Left and Stage Right: Refers to the actor's left and right when facing the audience.

Stage Manager: Person responsible for coordinating the technical and artistic elements of a theatrical production during rehearsals and performances.

Upstage and Downstage: Upstage refers to the area farthest from the audience, while downstage is closest to the audience.

Wings: Offstage areas to the sides of the acting area where actors wait to make their entrances.

House: The area of the theatre where the audience sits.



PAMYUA

WORDFIND

T	N	U	H	L	A	E	S	U	N	N	A	I	T
E	G	N	I	N	N	G	E	R	N	E	A	R	I
I	Y	U	E	U	A	N	N	E	T	U	G	N	N
Y	O	P	N	N	A	Y	R	E	T	S	Y	M	R
R	U	K	I	S	L	L	A	A	A	A	N	U	A
B	U	B	B	L	E	G	U	M	B	E	N	N	N
N	I	A	B	R	M	A	I	A	H	R	D	U	A
A	P	R	A	Y	E	R	D	A	N	C	E	G	A
H	R	E	Y	A	R	P	N	A	E	C	O	A	R
P	N	U	B	H	A	L	I	B	U	T	B	A	A
R	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	A	U	B	N	A
D	E	I	Y	Y	I	O	O	D	T	R	U	G	V
A	Y	A	C	K	A	P	U	T	I	I	N	A	I
C	U	L	K	E	E	S	E	A	M	U	L	U	U

BUBBLE GUM

HALIBUT

SIKU

OCEAN PRAYER

SEAL HUNT

REINDEER

INGERNEA

UNUGAANGA

PRAYER DANCE

MYSTERY

KAPUTIIN

UIVAARAANA



RED & CAROLYN
RAMSEY



Blaine & Preciosa
Tamaki Foundation



The Capitol Theatre Committee wishes to honor our Capitol Kids underwriters for their community leadership and commitment to our Theatre and its role in the quality-of-life of our valley.

