

Press release - for immediate release.

Vancouver, January 27, 2014.

20 years of film in French in B.C.

The film *La Maison du Pêcheur* will open the 20th Edition of the *Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois et francophone de Vancouver*, on February 7th, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Jules Verne Auditorium, with director Alain Chartrand present. The film tells the story of a tumultuous summer in 1969 in Percé and the meeting of the two Rose brothers and Francis Simard, who all played an important role in the events of 1970. Two other films related to October 1970 and the language question will be screened: the masterful film *Les Ordres* by Michel Brault (February 9), which places us at the heart of the of the War Measures Act decreed by the Trudeau government, and *La Langue à Terre*, a film by Jean-Pierre Roy and Michel Breton (March 6th, as part of the *Salon du cinéma*), a reflection on the state of the language in Quebec but more particularly, in Montreal and in France. The *Salon du cinéma* will also host a lecture by anthropologist Serge Bouchard, on his most recent book *Les Images que nous sommes* (60 years of Quebec film). Serge Bouchard takes a thoughtful look at works that are characterised by our quirks, our shortcomings, but also our humour and our inventiveness. He holds up a mirror to our memory of the people, artisans and stories that have left their mark on Quebec cinematography.

During the first weekend of the Festival, from February 7th to 10th at the Jules Verne Auditorium, a dozen films are on the program, including *Le chant des ondes /The Wavemakers* (which plunges us into the musical and human universe of the most sensitive of all electronic instruments: Martenot waves), *La Pirogue* by Moussa Touré (which recounts the odyssey of a group of Africans who undertake the dangerous crossing of the Atlantic in a pirogue), *Le Démantèlement (The Auction)* by Sébastien Pilote, with the masterful Gabriel Arcand and the magnificent images of Michel La Veaux, *Une Jeune Fille* by Catherine Martin (an intimate and contemplative drama of luminous beauty), *Grigris* by Mahamat Saleh Haroun (Bayard d'Or for Best Photography), *Alphée des Étoiles* by Hugo Latulippe (Audience Prize for Best Documentary – Festival de Namur), *Il était une fois les Boys* by Richard Goudreau, for the “Boys” in us, and *Yukon parle français* by Jean Baillargeon, the encounter between an endless landscape and a few Francophones who have come from all over to find fulfilment there.

This edition includes some fifty films in celebration of our artisans: films that have garnered praise and won awards at other festivals for their aesthetic and artistic qualities. Ten days of film, a time to explore aspects of the soul of Quebec through its makers of stories and images who, each in his or her own way, shed light on an aspect of the places we live in, and which also live in us. This will be the opportunity to discover, appreciate and question some of the recent productions coming out of the international francophone community. In particular, a section will highlight Black History Month, providing a unique opportunity to see film from the biggest francophone continent.

On February 11th, at Studio 700 of CBC-Radio-Canada, there will be a special screening of the documentary *Heroes of the Sun/Noir Soleil* by Fabienne Lips-Dumas, with a repeat screening on February 21st at the Auditorium of the École Gabrielle-Roy in Surrey. The documentary was filmed in the community of Cité Soleil in Haiti. In spite of the poverty and violence, the documentary shows hope and resilience.

On closing night, February 16th, a screening will take place at SFU Woodward's of the film *Triptyque* by Robert Lepage and Pedro Pires, a sensitive and profoundly moving exploration on the themes of memory and identity.

Thanks to the partnership with SFU Woodward's, four great film nights will run from February 13th to 16th, with *La Fille du Martin* by Samuel Thivierge (filmed in its entirety on the Pourvoirie des Laurentides region, located 42 kilometres west of La Doré, at Lac-Saint-Jean), *Chi* by Anne Wheeler (*This feature documentary follows Canadian actress Babz Chula to Kerala, India, where she undergoes treatment by a renowned Ayurvedic healer in an effort to manage her 6-year battle with cancer. Chi shows us that not shutting down, not shutting off, can be the most healing experience of all*), *Vic + Flo ont vu un ours* by Denis Côté (Bayard d'Or for Best Screenplay), *Yam Dam*, a Belgian film by Vivian Goffette (Prix Cinevox – Belgian Feature Film), *Sarah préfère la Course* by Chloé Robichaud (the well crafted first work by this promising scriptwriter-filmmaker), *Gare du Nord*, Claire Simon's latest film, (Bayard d'Or for Best Actor: **Reda Kateb**), *Amsterdam* by Stefan Miljevic and *Érection Canada* by Mélanie Ladouceur and François Gourd (the story of the Rhinoceros Party of Canada from 1963 to 2013). A *Les Films du Cygne* special with *Electric Indigo* by Jean-Julien Colette, *Le Maillot de Bain* by Mathilde Bayle and *Argile* by Michaël Guerraz will complete the program.

On February 14th, the film *L'Enfant d'en Haut* by Ursula Meier will be screened, with the collaboration of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver. Winner of a Silver Bear at the Berlinale, Golden Swan for Best Actress for Léa Seydoux at the Rendez-vous de Cabourg, Switzerland's selection for the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, *L'enfant d'en haut* by Ursula Meier is a little gem of refinement and ellipses, in which the director wades into troubled waters with the ease of a master mariner.

On February 14th and 15th, at the invitation of the Winterruption Festival, we will present two days of film at the Waterfront Theatre on Granville Island, starting with the Matinées scolaires on Friday. On Saturday, February 15th, a family screening will take place (6 years of age and older): *Ernest et Célestine*, a Franco-Belgian-Luxembourg animation film made by Benjamin Renner, Stéphane Aubier and Vincent Patar, which won the César for Best Animation film, and *Louis Cyr*:

L'homme le plus fort du monde, directed by Daniel Roby. Louis Cyr is an exceptional human being who was catapulted into the realm of legend by his many exploits.

Also on February 15th, at 12:30, we invite you on a free 60-minute tour of Granville Island with historian Maurice Guibord, President of the SHFCB. As early as 1889, work was underway to transform a dangerous sandbank in the middle of False Creek into what was called Industrial Island, which from 1916 became the heart of this industrial zone. Beginning in the 1970s, a revitalisation of the area began that created the urban and touristic paradise we know today. Come and stroll through the streets of this island to discover their francophone connections – with the entrepreneur Edgar Vachon, the Giroday sawmill, the rue Duranleau, the Olympic francophone site and others. The film *Louis Cyr, l'homme le plus fort du monde* will be screened at 2 p.m. for families (12 years of age and over).

Still in the framework of Winterruption, in the evening: *Grigris* by Mahamat-Saleh Haroun (Senegal-France) and *Louis Cyr, l'homme le plus fort du monde* will be screened, as well as a series of four short films *Anxious Oswald Greene* by Marshall Axani, *I did it for Love* by Quinn Spiker, *Under the Bridge of Fear* by Mackenzie Gray and *Lapsus* by Karim Ouaret.

The *6th Salon du Cinéma* will follow, from March 5th to 9th, 2014, in Studio 16 of the Maison de la Francophonie. Workshops, encounters and film screenings, including *Gabrielle*, by Louise Archambault, *Héliosols* by Gabriel Tougas and *La Langue à terre*, will be presented with a special event hosted by the NFB. Also, next March 8th a very special evening will be dedicated to the memory of Nelson Mandela, Arthur Lamothe, Michel Brault, Frédéric Bach and friend Mark Harris, at which poets and musicians, under the direction of Paul Plimley and Victoria Gibsons, will pay their tribute. An entertaining innovation will be the *ÉCRAN OUVERT*: a cabaret of images and sound, an invitation to creators to share the fruits of their research, experimentation, discoveries and passions. Presented late in the afternoon every day from March 5th to 9th, this laboratory will present first works that have been finished or are in the process of becoming.

So it is with renewed pleasure that we welcome you to this TWENTIETH edition of the Rendez-vous. The rest is up to you! Join us in inviting others to come out to share this window on the francophone world.

Enjoy the films!

Source: Régis Painchaud
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