

For immediate release.

Vancouver, January 23, 2018. From February 1 to 11, 2018, Visions Ouest Productions (VOP) presents the 24th edition of the Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois et francophone. Some thirty films from the national and international Francophonie, coming from here and abroad, will be presented at the Auditorium Jules-Verne, 5445 Baillie St, Vancouver (between Cambie and Oak at the corner of 37th Ave.), and from February 6 to 10, 2018, at the Goldcorp Centre for the Arts (SFU Woodward's, 149 W Hastings St, Vancouver).

The movie VINO VERITAS, by film maker Pascal Obadia will officially launch the festivities. « VINO VERITAS is a strong, informative and sensitive film that shows us the life and work of wine-growers who succeeded on giving change a chance. It leaves us richer and renewed! ». (Christine Balta). Pascal Obadia invites us on a viticole road movie where responsible wine-growers, guided by a true respect for life, make a different wine. The evening will continue with a wine tasting of natural wines and a reception. The event is organised in partnership with VINO Vancouver and the Consulat général de France in Vancouver.

The following day, on February 3, an Open house day will be held, free entrance. From 1pm to 3pm, we offer in collaboration with Réseau-Femmes Colombie-Britannique (RFCB) and the Fédération des parents francophones de Colombie-Britannique, a family matinee with entertainment for the little ones – and a special presentation of the film **ERNEST ET CÉLESTINE EN HIVER**.

At 5.30 pm, the audience is invited to come and meet the artisans of the new tv series, **TERRES D'EXPLORATION** produced by TV5, and to attend the première of the first episode. A cocktail buffet will round off the evening.

Then at 8.30 pm, the National Film Board of Canada will present the première outside Québec, of the film **LABRECQUE, UNE CAMÉRA POUR LA MÉMOIRE**. The director Michel La Veaux will be present to meet the audience and talk about his two passions in life : his superb work as a director of photography and his love for Québec cinéma. He also was the director of photography on **IQUALUIT**, a film by Benoit Pilon, featuring Marie-Josée Croze, Natar Ungalaaq and François Papineau. This film will be presented at the Centre de la Francophonie de l'Université de la Colombie-Britannique thanks to a special collaboration with the Tournée du cinéma québécois. Furthermore, the Tournée makes it possible for us to present two of the finalist features for the seventh **Prix collégial du cinéma québécois** : we present **LES AFFAMÉS**, a zombies movie, written and directed by Robin Aubert. The producer Stéphanie Morissette will be present (six nominations at the Prix Écrans canadiens 2018, including an interpretation award to the actress Brigitte Poupart). Among the other guests, we welcome the actor Christian Bégin (who stars in **LE PROBLÈME D'INFILTRATION** by Robert Morin). He will be in Vancouver with *Les Éternels Pigistes*. A collaboration with Le Théâtre la Seizième.

The rich and diverse Québécois programming is a tribute to the quality of the artisans of our cinema. François Girard's comeback with **HOCHELAGA, TERRE DES ÂMES** (Canadian selection at the 2018 Oscars, plus 8 nominations for the Prix Écrans canadiens 2018's week; Félix Leclerc's opus **PIEDS NUS DANS L'AUBE** is revisited by his son, Francis Leclerc, who directs the film - the script was co-written with storyteller Fred Pellerin; **LA PETITE FILLE QUI AIMAIT TROP LES ALLUMETTES** by Simon Lavoie, a tragic and confusing tale, freely inspired by Gaétan Soucy's novel, that garnered seven nominations at the Prix Écrans canadiens 2018; **LE CYCLOTRON** by Olivier Asselin, a black movie nominated at the Prix Écrans canadiens for best visual effects.

The final feature is **LES ROIS MONGOLS**, Luc Picard's fourth film, that garnered six nominations at the Prix Écrans canadiens 2018. Based on Nicole Bélanger's novel, the film has a clear political bias. The quality of the music and the costumes do successfully respect the period. The young actors's acting is excellent, and Mylia Corbeil-Gauvreau's presence is remarkable (Revelation, Prix Geneviève Bujold 2017). The film is packed with humour and emotion. Luc Picard turns out to be an excellent director. The film has been selected by the Berlin Film Festival where it will be presented immediately after Vancouver.

France is being honoured.

A new collaboration with distribution company MK2 Mile-End gives access to European productions that will give us the opportunity to discover, appreciate and question a part of the recent production from the Francophonie internationale and particularly from the French cinema. To begin with, the popular comedy **LE SENS DE LA FÊTE** by the Eric Toledano and Olivier Nakache duo (Intouchables); the magnificent **BARBARA** by Mathieu Amalric with Jeanne Balibar (the opening film in the selection *Un certain regard* of the Cannes Film Festival 2017), the erotic thriller **L'AMANT DOUBLE**, a French-Belgian film directed by François Ozon, presented in the official competition at the Cannes Film Festival in 2017. **RETOUR EN BOURGOGNE** by Cedric Klapisch (L'auberge espagnole, Les poupées russes, Casse-tête chinois); **PATIENTS** by Grand Corps Malade and Mehdi Idir, a comedy-drama packed with empathy, sincerity and ridicule : a great cinema experience; **LA SOCIOLOGUE ET L'OURSON** by Etienne Chaillou and Mathias Théry, an entertaining and intelligent questioning, and an accessible demonstration of inventivity and creativity for anyone who wants to make movies!

A collaboration with Vues d'Afrique will make us discover surprising and inspiring short films, with a program of four award-winning short-films last year at Vues d'Afrique : **NIRIN** by Josua Hotz. Nirin is 6 years old and his two younger brothers receive from their mother the promise of a big trip that will not turn out the way Nirin imagined; **L'ISLAM DE MONGI** by Fouad Sassi. The Al-Omah Al-Islamiah Mosque stands in the heart of Montreal's Red Light district, cohabiting with a strip club and an erotic cabaret. Mongi Shaïb watches over this cult place and tells us about his Québec, the one he has been living in for 50 years; **DEBOUT KINSHASA**, a film directed by Sébastien Maitre. Samuel is 10 and he lives in Kinshasa. Because he does not have shiny shoes, he cannot go to school. Inspired by his father and Pretty Kin, he learns how to cope and manage in every (im)possible situation; **ICI PERSONNE NE MEURT** directed by Simon Panay. Benin, Perma gold mine. Five types of people : those who dream of finding gold, those who realised there was nothing to be found. Those who dig, hoping they'll become rich. Those who died thinking of becoming rich. And the ones who say that nobody dies here.

A Matinées scolaires programming that offers sublime films : **ERNEST ET CÉLESTINE EN HIVER** by the Vincent Patar, Stephane Aubier and Benjamin Renner trio, for the little ones. An adorable film where everything is beautiful; **MA VIE DE COURGETTE**, directed by Claude Barras, deeply moving in its humanity, Oscar-winning for best animation film; **TOUT EN HAUT DU MONDE** a French-Danish film by Rémi Chayé for intermediate students, Prix du public at the Annecy International Animated Film Festival, a great adventure film.

With its annual festival, the Matinées scolaires during fall and winter, the Beaux Jeudis du cinéma and its precious collaborations with universities, *Les Rendez-vous du cinéma* is at the heart of a French cinema season that runs from November to March. We are proud to be part of the cultural programming of the SFU Woodward's, and to be associated to the BAFF-SFU (le Printemps de la Francophonie, and The Bureau des affaires francophones et francophiles de la C.-B.), as well as to the Centre de la francophonie de l'Université de la Colombie-Britannique, and the Conseil scolaire francophone de la C.-B. We thank all the volunteers, supporters and collaborators for their commitment.

All the films are presented in their original version with English subtitles.

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