

C'EST LA SAISON DES RENDEZ-VOUS



**LES RENDEZ-VOUS**

**DU CINÉMA QUÉBÉCOIS** 27<sup>e</sup> édition

MONTRÉAL\_ 18 -28.FÉVRIER.2009

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## THE 27<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE RENDEZ-VOUS DU CINÉMA QUÉBÉCOIS MID-WINTER BLAST

**Montreal, February 4, 2009 – The Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois** invites you, from **February 18 to 28, 2009**, to shake off those mid-winter blues in style and warmth at the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of its annual film festival. Sponsored by the **SAQ** for the ninth consecutive year, the Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois will raise the curtain on its most original, varied and jam-packed program ever: **350 films**, including approximately one hundred premiere presentations, and a refurbished **espace cocktail** that will host prestigious **film classes**, seductive **happy hours**, and the extended, swinging **Rendez-vous Nights** – not to mention the **Grand Rendez-vous with Television**, **professional workshops**, **exhibitions** and a series of free events for every one!

Dynamic film and television actress **Suzanne Clément**, the new spokesperson for the Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois, invites all Montrealers and visitors to forget about the winter and come participate in the 27<sup>th</sup> edition by visiting the **Cinémathèque québécoise**, the **NFB Cinema**, the **Cinéma Beaubien**, the **Cinéma du Parc**, the **Segal Centre**, and the **Grande Bibliothèque**, for ten days of unbridled festivity!

### FROM THE RED CARPET OPENING...

On **February 18**, the Rendez-vous will start things off in style with **Érik Canuel's** long-awaited feature film, **Cadavres**. Based on the novel by François Barcelo, and written by Benoît Guichard, this dark and cynical comedy stars **Patrick Huard** and **Julie Le Breton** in the roles of a brother and sister trapped by cruel fate. Also on opening night, the Rendez-vous is pleased to present the world premiere of Guy Édoin's short film, **La chambre d'à côté**, starring **Laurent Lucas**, **Céline Bonnier**, **François Papineau** and **Macha Grenon**. A red carpet evening for all...

### ... TO A SPECTACULAR CLOSING NIGHT!

On **February 28**, this grand celebration of home-grown cinema will come to a close with the world premiere presentation of the feature-length documentary **Les petits géants**, by **Anais Barbeau-Lavalette** and **Émile Proulx-Cloutier**. *Les petits géants* are five children in grades five and six who are faced with a colossal challenge: to perform Verdi's opera *A Masked Ball* in front of a capacity crowd. The perfect film to bring the curtain down in style on this 27<sup>th</sup> edition!

### A SNOWBALLING PROGRAM

The 350 films selected for the festival will be presented within different series or thematic programs, each of which, for the most part, will be shown at one particular location, in a fixed time slot. The Claude-Jutra and Fernand-Séguin theatres at the **Cinémathèque québécoise**, at the heart of the Rendez-vous, will host several series of feature-length fiction films (**Vues**

d'auteurs, Nouvelle vague, En première), documentary films (**Voir le monde/ici, Voir le monde/ailleurs, Les voix de la création**), the series **Our Most Beautiful Sports Films**, which features sports-related film classics, and intriguing programs of shorts, art and experimental films, animation, and student films. Next door, at the **NFB Cinema**, we will present the **100 % independent** series: an eclectic selection of independent films, two much anticipated documentary series (**Incontournables docs** and **Primeurs docs**), and various short film programs.

The **Cinéma Beaubien**, with its new screening rooms, will be presenting twice as many Rendez-vous films this year. The **Box-Office** series, which features ten of the year's most popular films, will be shown at the Beaubien 1. The Beaubien 2 will host the series **Premier Rendez-vous**, featuring the first feature-length films of ten innovative filmmakers. At the **Cinéma du Parc**, there will be the series **A Taste of Rendez-vous**, featuring Quebec films intended for English-speaking audiences: ten or so striking feature films and a program of short films in English or with English sub-titles. Finally, at the **Segal Centre**, we will present the series **Québec Pluriel**, a selection of feature films, short films and documentaries that portray the diversified character of today's Quebec society.

### **AN AVALANCHE OF PREMIERES**

The Rendez-vous is pleased to present the world premiere of **Carcasses** by **Denis Côté**, the story of an eccentric scrap-metal dealer who receives some unexpected visitors. We also have the world premiere presentation of **À trois, Marie s'en va**, by **Anne-Marie Ngô**, the stunning first feature film of an up-and-coming filmmaker. Add to these, **Bar Code** by **Neil Kroetsch**, a vivid look at downtown Montreal, and **Fossé** by **Charles Barabé**, an offbeat musical comedy that was directed and produced in Victoriaville.

The documentary category also features its list of premieres. Must see presentations include: **De l'Office au Box-Office** by **Denys Desjardins**, a passionate documentary on fiction films that invites us to reflect on the privatisation of the filmmaking industry; **Ex Machina en Russie** by **Jocelyn Langlois**, which follows playwright Robert Lepage to the country of the Soviets; and the moving **Terre d'asile** by **Karen Cho**, an intimate look at the challenges confronted by political refugees.

Finally, there is an endless succession of short film premieres. Of special interest: **L'ordre des choses** by **Anne Émond**, **Le temps des récoltes** by **Jeanne Leblanc**, **Janine** by **Myriam Magassouba**, **Un petit goût de sel** by **Danny Glimore**, **Barcelona** by **Christian Laurence**, and **Emma Fire** by **David Latreille**, with Karine Vanasse in the title role.

### **VERY SPECIAL SCREENINGS**

The cinema 2 of the NFB will be hosting a rendez-vous with history from February 19 to 28 with the Montreal premiere of **Champlain retracé, une œuvre en 3 dimensions** by **Jean-François Pouliot**, which will be presented free of charge. A brilliant mix of live images, animation techniques, blue screen and digital special effects, it is the first stereoscopic fiction film produced by the National Film Board of Canada. A very generous gift from the NFB to mark its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and, above all, a historic occasion for Montreal film lovers! There are also other special events and screenings. The **Tip of the Hat** series celebrates various anniversaries: *Christian Laurence and 10 years of creative freedom*, *the 10 years of Amazone Film*, *the 10 years of Off-Courts in Trouville*, *the 5 years of the Wapikoni-mobile*, and the premiere of **Guy Édoin's** trilogy **Les affluents**. Lastly, on February 21, mature adults will not want to miss the

very special presentation of **Bianca Beauchamp All Access 2: Rubberized**, a very hot documentary by **Martin Perreault** on the high priestess of latex.

### **HEAT WAVE: FOCUS ON MEXICO**

Speaking of heat and special screenings, the RVCQ is pleased to present **Focus on Mexico**, from February 19 to 22, as part of an exchange program between the Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois and the Festival Internacional de Cine in Guadalajara. Six remarkable Mexican films are on the program: **Párpados azules**, the first feature film by **Ernesto Contreras** (February 19); **Desierto adentro**, the second feature film by **Rodrigo Plà** (February 20); and a preview presentation of **Lake Tahoe**, a film by **Fernando Eimbcke**, recipient of the FIPRESCI Award at the 58<sup>th</sup> Berlinale and official selection at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Critics' Week in Cannes, and presented at the Rendez-vous in collaboration with Festivalissimo (February 21). Also presented on February 21 will be **La Frontera Infinita**, the first feature-length documentary by **Juan Manuel Sepúlveda**. February 22 will see the Quebec preview presentation, in collaboration with Festivalissimo, of **Los Bastardos**, a feature film by **Amat Escalante**. Finally, on that same day, we'll have **Lucia Gaja's** documentary **Mi vida dentro**, presented at Critics' Week in Cannes and the recipient of numerous international awards. Focus on Mexico: a passionate look at the cream of the crop of young Mexican filmmakers!

### **THE GRAND RENDEZ-VOUS WITH TELEVISION**

The Rendez-vous is innovating this year by presenting a mini-festival within the main festival. Now more than ever, our television industry is overflowing with creativity, and talented directors, writers and actors who continue to make names for themselves. Yet no Quebec film festival has ever paid tribute to TV...until today. **The Grand Rendez-vous with Television** will be held every evening from February 23 to 27 in the Auditorium of the Grande Bibliothèque, offering the public an opportunity to see, on the big screen, episodes of their favourite TV series – some shown for the first time! – and also a chance to meet the remarkable creators and actors of **Tout sur moi**, **Les Invincibles**, **François en série**, **Nos étés** and **Le Négociateur**. The screenings and discussions are free of charge and open to everyone, and will be hosted by **Marie-Christine Trottier** and **Josée Bournival**.

From February 18 to 27, free of charge in room R-515 of the Grande Bibliothèque, be sure not to miss **Les Invincibles: au cœur de New Big City**, a new presentation of original drawings by **Jean-Sébastien Duberger**, aka *Dub*, that were featured in the cult TV series *Les Invincibles*. The well-known graphic artist will also be giving a workshop-lecture on the art of graphic novels on February 21 in the Auditorium of the Grande Bibliothèque.

### **HAPPY HOURS AT THE RENDEZ-VOUS**

It has now become a tradition: every day, after 5:00 pm, hard-core film buffs and one-day visitors alike are all invited to participate in these unique encounters with some of our best-known film artists and filmmakers. Come discover more about **Les stars de l'underground** (February 20), **Un écran trop blanc pour un Québec métissé?** (February 21), **Un enfant, ça vous décroche un rôle...** (February 22), **De l'écrit à l'écran** (February 23), **La Nouvelle vague québécoise** (February 24), **Festivals au bord de la crise de nerfs** (February 25), **Fiction au féminin** (February 26), et **Passeurs de cinéma** (February 28). Featuring **Anaïs Barbeau-Lavalette**, **Patrick Boivin**, **Fabienne Colas**, **Denis Côté**, **Philippe Falardeau**, **Izabel Grondin**, **Micheline Lanctôt**, **Antoine L'Écuyer**, **Didier Lucien**, **André Melançon**, **Rafaël Ouellet**, **Patrick Sénécal** and **Guillaume Vigneault**, with our host, **Marie-Louise Arsenault**.

On February 27, there will be a break in the schedule for **Fais ça court Special!** Everyone is invited to the taping of the two semi-finals of the winter 2009 season of the popular Télé-Québec television show, which includes a screening of the short films produced by finalists during the Rendez-vous.

### **HOT NIGHTS AHEAD**

What better way of shaking off the mid-winter blues than by prolonging those festival evenings into the wee hours? That is precisely what the *Rendez-vous Nights* proposes to do: no less than ten free events featuring musical, cinematographic and multi-media performances that will beguile the senses. **With All Due Respect + thisisnotdesign** will regale the ears and eyes of electronic rhythm lovers on February 19. The **SeXXX and Cinema Cabaret** will melt all inhibitions and taboos on February 20 with its sweet and salty menu. Next day, we'll keep the heat up with the **Fiesta Mexicana** and the band **Sonido Nordico**. On February 23, Tekstyle, Timo, Jacobus and Lekx of **Radio Radio** drop in on the Rendez-vous to rock the house. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, it's hockey night with the boys from **Sportnographie**. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, make way for **Cinédanse**, featuring choreography set to film projections. And finally, on February 27, **Coming to a Party Near You** promises to be an intergalactic musical journey with the crew from *Dans une galaxie*, including **Didier Lucien, Sylvie Moreau, Stéphane Crête** and **Réal Bossé**.

### **FOUR FILM CLASSES**

Each year, the Rendez-vous' Film Classes have proven to be a great success. And this year will be no exception. The RVCQ will be offering four major film classes, two in English and two in French, for film professionals and film lovers alike, given by nationally and internationally recognized artists.

Things start off with a bang on February 21 with a **Double-barrelled Film Class** given by filmmaker **Arturo Ripstein** and his wife, screenwriter **Paz Alicia Garciadiego**. The famous Mexican couple will take you through their 23 years collaboration in filmmaking and reveal some of their creative secrets (in English). On February 22, on the heels of his performance at l'Hexagone, renowned musician and composer **Jean-Michel Bernard** will be giving a magisterial **Leçon de musique** (In French). Following the class, this close collaborator of filmmaker Michel Gondry will give an intimate performance of his work for the Rendez-vous audience. On February 25, **Bernard Émond** will give a **Leçon de scénario** (in French). An anthropologist by training and a prolific filmmaker, he also wrote the script for *Ce qu'il faut pour vivre* by Bernard Pilon, one of the nine finalists for the 2009 Oscar for best foreign-language film.

And finally, the last class that the Rendez-vous will be presenting, on February 28, will be a remarkable **Film Production Class** (in English) given by none other than the highly acclaimed, non-conformist American film producer **Christine Vachon**. She has produced more than thirty films including *Velvet Goldmine*, *Far from Heaven* and *I'm not There* by Todd Haynes, *I Shot Andy Warhol* by Mary Harron, and *Happiness* by Todd Solondz. She is also the author of two books on independent film production.

### **PLAYING WITH THE PROS**

What do the creators of cinematographic art have in common with the creators of video games? How can they feed off each other's experiences? In collaboration with Ubisoft, the Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois has invited artists and workers in the film and video game industries to share their thoughts in four **Film and Video Game Workshops**, hosted by **Bruno Guglielminetti**, director at Radio-Canada and a specialist in new technologies. On the program: *Créer l'illusion de*

*la réalité ou l'art de jouer*, with actress **Pascale Bussières** and 3D animator **Jean-François Malouin**; *Créer un univers esthétique*, with filmmaker **Kim Nguyen** and level designer **Vincent Monnier**; *Redéfinir les limites du divertissement numérique*, with film director **Érik Canuel** and game designer **Philippe Therien**; *Construire un univers par l'image*, with director of photography **Claudine Sauvé** and video game artistic director **The Chinh Ngo**. The workshops are open to the general public and admission is free (February 19 and 20 at the Cinémathèque québécoise).

### **MUST SEE EXHIBITIONS**

The Rendez-vous' love affair with **Jocelyn Michel** continues. For a fourth consecutive year, the RVCQ will devote an exhibition to the work of its favourite photographer. Presented in collaboration with **galerie [sas]**, from February 12 to March 7, the new exhibition, entitled **Admission – Points de vue**, brings together sixteen large-scale photographic compositions – eight of which have never before been exhibited – featuring some of our best-known film artists. The exhibition will be launched at the **galerie [sas]** on February 12 with special guests **Suzanne Clément, Michel Côté, Rémy Girard, Marianne Fortier, Jean-Nicolas Verreault, David Boutin, Sylvie Léonard, Gaston Lepage, Catherine Trudeau, Sophie Cadieux, Hélène Bourgeois Leclerc, Maxime Denommée** and **Fanny Mallette**.

And from February 19 to 26, as part of this 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the Rendez-vous, the Cinémathèque québécoise presents **Lèche-vitrines**, a light-hearted and poetic exhibition of photographs by filmmaker and director of photography **Thomas Vamos**.

### **A 3rd PETIT RENDEZ-VOUS WITH FRANCOPHONE CANADA**

This winter, the Rendez-vous will once again welcome a delegation of Franco-Canadian filmmakers from across the country, who will share their stories and dreams. The program includes eight films, accompanied by their directors, a Rendez-vous Night featuring the new sensation **Radio Radio**, and three professional get-togethers with francophone filmmakers from outside of Quebec: **Fabienne Lips-Dumas** (Vancouver), **Carol Ann Pilon** (Ottawa) and **Laurence Véron** (Prince Edward Island), part of the *Reserved Seat* project.

### **THE RENDEZ-VOUS IN SCHOOLS**

From February 5 to 17, just before the big winter festival begins, and for a fifth consecutive year, the Rendez-vous will organize encounters with students from elementary schools, high schools, and colleges. On the schedule are stimulating pedagogical workshops, meetings with popular professionals, and unimaginable cinematographic discoveries, designed to encourage the film lovers, and filmmakers, of tomorrow. These educational events are made possible with the support of the Régie du cinéma.

### **AWARDS BY THE SHOVELFUL!**

The Rendez-vous will be awarding several prizes this year: the Pierre and Yolande Perreault Award for best first documentary, the Prix à la création artistique du Conseil des arts et lettres du Québec for best art and experimental film, the Coop Vidéo Award, the NFB Innovation Award, the Prix Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse (OFQJ) / Rendez-vous for best fiction short films, and the Prix Vox – Premières vues for best student production. Once again, this year, the Rendez-vous is honoured to welcome the Association québécoise des critiques de cinéma (AQCC), which will be awarding its annual prizes. The award ceremony will take place February 27, at 11:00 am, at the Cinémathèque québécoise.

## **THE RENDEZ-VOUS TACKLES WINTER...**

Under the banner heading “It is the Season of the Rendez-vous”, the advertising campaign for the 27<sup>th</sup> edition will extend throughout the Metro and the snow-covered streets of Montreal, on 500 movie screens across the province, and on the Télé-Québec, Vox and Super Écran channels. On the festival site itself, the newly revamped **espace cocktail** will welcome festival-goers in the Norman-McLaren hall of the Cinémathèque québécoise, the focal point of the Rendez-vous. And just next door, everyone is welcome at the SAQ Bistro in the Café-Bar of the Cinémathèque.

## **... AND WE WISH TO THANK OUR PARTNERS**

The Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois wishes to thank the **SAQ** for its financial support and for being the official sponsor of the festival for the past nine years. The **Société des alcools du Québec** has been generous enough to extend its involvement with the RVCQ until 2011.

We would like to thank our primary partners, most of whom have given us their support for many years. These include the **APCCQ**, the **Cinémathèque québécoise**, at the heart of the Rendez-vous, and **Super Écran**. The Rendez-vous extends its thanks also to **Vision Globale**, a recent partner and sponsor of the *Happy Hours at the Rendez-vous*, whose technical and technological expertise have been of immense value to this 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois.

And last, but not least, the RVCQ would like to thank our supporting partners, who include **Caméos** and **Médias**, especially the **Journal Métro**, sponsor of the short films, **Télé-Québec**, sponsor of the documentaries, **Ubisoft**, sponsor of the film and video game workshops, and the **Société de développement du quartier latin**, new sponsor of the *SeXXX and Film Cabaret*. Thanks go out also to **Canadian Heritage** and **AV Trust** for sponsoring the series *Our Most Beautiful Sports Films*, in collaboration with the **Cinémathèque québécoise**. A final note of thanks to our **Public and Government partners**, particularly the **Government of Quebec**, and the many collaborators who have helped to make this 27th edition of the festival possible.

## **IT IS THE SEASON OF THE RENDEZ-VOUS!**

From February 18 to 28, 2009, the 27th edition of the biggest celebration of national cinema and film artists will take place. It is the season of the Rendez-vous! Information on festival programming and schedules is available on-line at **rvcq.com**. Advance tickets are available as of today through the Admission network (admission.com, 514 790-1245 or 1 800 361-4595) and tickets will be on sale at the central ticket office at the Cinémathèque québécoise starting February 18. The Rendez-vous info line: 514 526-9635, local 21.

– 30 –

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