

PRESS RELEASE #RVCQF2020  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver January 28, 2020

## **26 years of French film in BC**

The film **LE DERNIER NATAQ** (The Last Nataq) by Lisette Marcotte will open the 26<sup>th</sup> Edition of Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois et francophone de Vancouver, on February 5, 2020 at 6:00 pm at SFUW.

Richard Desjardins wrote a masterpiece— Nataq. In this documentary, Lisette Marcotte goes in quest of the spirit of the place where they were both born. The film is built on the breadcrumb trail of the mural created in tribute to the poetry of Desjardins in Rouyn-Noranda. Twenty years after *L'erreur boréale*, he shares his thoughts on the major environmental issues and his love for his homeland. Produced by Les Productions La vie devant soi Inc.

The closing night at Auditorium Jules-Verne features **VAILLANCOURT REGARDE SI C'EST BEAU** (Vaillancourt: Isn't beautiful?) a documentary by John Blouin

His monumental sculptures, often constructed as public performance, paved the way for contemporary art in Quebec. Born in 1929, Armand Vaillancourt is a towering figure of rebellion. A revolutionary and a tireless militant for the dream of a Quebec nation, Vaillancourt is also one of our pioneering ecologists, whose works explore the visceral connection between nature and creation. Treated with kid gloves by a deeply sympathetic documentarian, Vaillancourt has never been more voluble, sharing his love of materials and his astonishingly sharp, modern take on things. A portrait of a legendary force of nature. The film will be screened at Jules Verne Auditorium on Sunday, February 16 at 7:30 pm, preceded by a Master Class by Armand Vaillancourt at 6:30 pm.

This Rendez-vous edition will include some thirty films and will give us an opportunity to honor and promote the extraordinary talent of our filmmakers. The line-up features award winners from other festivals, selected for their aesthetic and artistic qualities.

This will also be the opportunity to discover and appreciate many Vancouver Première emerging from the international francophone world like **CEUX QUI TRAVAILLENT** by Antoine Russbach with Olivier Gourmet, Adèle Bochatay et Louka Minnella, winner of Best fiction, Best screenplay at the last celebration of Swiss cinema Prize.

**DIEU EXISTE, SON NOM EST PETRUNYA** (God Exists, Her Name Is Petrunya) by Teona Strugar Mitevska. Once a year, male swimmers compete to get their hands on a cross thrown in the water by a priest. But this year, Petrunya manages to snag the coveted object, to the shock and horror of her community and the religious authorities. The Macedonian filmmaker thumbs her nose at the patriarchy in this denunciation of gender inequality and the stranglehold of the clergy featuring a mould-breaking heroine: a 32-year-old intellectual living with her parents. A social and

political critique blending comedy and drama, Mitevka's third feature enthusiastically celebrates an invigorating power grab that feels overdue. The film will be screened in its original version with English subtitles on February 7 at 8:30 pm at SFU Woodward's.

"... this isn't just an engaging tale of one woman challenging the male-dominated church and state, but a movie making a smart, impassioned statement against widely accepted subjugation in many forms."

**LES PLUS BELLES ANNÉES D'UNE VIE**, (The Best Years of a Life) by French director Claude Lelouch, (*Un homme et une femme*, *Les uns et les autres*). The cast brings together Jean-Louis Trintignant (*Happy End*, *Amour*, *Z* et *Un homme et une femme*) and Anouk Aimée (*La Dolce Vita*, *8 femmes ½*, *Lola* et *Un homme et une femme*). It tells the story of a man and a woman who shared a wonderful love story during their youth. Anouk and Jean-Louis will resume their story where they left off. The film is produced by Les Films 13 and distributed by AZ Films, which will be presented Saturday February 8 at 8:30 pm at SFU Woodward's.

A special collaboration with the **QUÉBEC CINÉMA TOUR** gives us the opportunity to present five movies from Québec.

French-Canadian filmmaker **Denys Arcand** who won the Best Foreign Language Oscar for *The Barbarian Invasions* (2003) followed in 1986 by *The Decline of the American Empire* returns with **LA CHUTE DE L'EMPIRE AMÉRICAIN** (The Fall of the American Empire) with Alexandre Landry, Maripier Morin, Rémy Girard, Louis Morissette, Maxim Roy, Pierre Curzi. This film by Denys Arcand is a funny and touching reflection as only Arcand knows how to do about the predominance of money in our societies when all the other values seem to have collapsed. At Jules-Verne Feb. 12 at 7:30 pm.

**MAD DOG & THE BUTCHER: THE LAST VILLAINS** immerses us in filmmaker **Thomas Rinfret's** journey to direct a documentary on the lives of the famed Vachon wrestling family. His protagonist is the last living member of the dynasty: Paul "The Butcher" Vachon. Best First Feature | Festival de Cinéma de la Ville de Québec, Canada, Coup de coeur du public, Mention spéciale du Jury | FICFA, Canada. A special evening at *La Fabrique St-George* located at 7 East 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue with director Thomas Rinfret in attendance.

Three other events will take place at SFU Woodward's : **UNE MANIÈRE DE VIVRE**, the latest creation of Quebec director **Micheline Lanctôt** (*Pour L'amour De Dieu*, *Sonatine* and *L'homme à tout faire*) which features Laurent Lucas (*Haut les cœurs!*, *Harry, un ami qui vous veut du bien*, *Sur la trace d'Igor Rizzi* and *Contre-enquête*), Rose-Marie Perreault (*Le monstre*, *La chute de l'empire américain*, *Nous sommes Gold*, *La Bolduc* and *Les faux tatouages*), and Gabrielle Lazure (*Passer l'hiver*, *Un heureux événement* and *Arbitrage*). **UNE MANIÈRE DE VIVRE** tells the story of Joseph, a Spinoza aficionado who teaches at a university in Belgium. Invited to Montreal to participate in a round table on this philosophical subject, his life is turned upside down after meeting Gabrielle, a bulimic young woman and high-class escort in luxury hotels. The film is produced by Lycaon Pictus and distributed by Maison 4:3.

As well, **Annie St-Pierre** co-producer of **WILCOX** by **Denis Coté** will be with us to introduce her film about a man who goes into the woods alone. We know nothing about him, apart from his military-style attire with a nametag indicating he might be called Wilcox. Is he a traumatized veteran, a survivalist, a desperate man or even a philosopher-hermit? A documentary-style fictional film, a minimalist adventure yarn haunted by reality, Wilcox is both simple and mysterious. With encounters whose dialogue is inaudible, a sound design that transports reality into the world of the

mind, and strangely filtered images to distance us from Wilcox, the latest film by Denis Côté is a nonjudgmental perspective on people who decide to remove themselves from the world, giving no clues as to why.

Also featured is the screening of **ALEXANDRE LE FOU** by **Pedro Pires**. Fifteen years after a psychotic crisis in the China Sea tipped his life, Alex, a refined and sensitive schizophrenic, is at a crossroads. At the insistence of his grandmother and confidante, who wishes to die the spirit in peace, he sets out in search of a lover. Her encounter with a psychotic young woman gives birth to an incandescent passionate relationship that gradually drifts her emotional boundaries. As the troubled waters of the Chinese Sea resurface in him, he is isolating himself more and more, at the risk of being sucked into the unfathomable abysses of paranoia. An intimate, disturbing and sublime odyssey.

Many festive evenings are in store, starting with the screening of three movies featuring the French actor Fabrice Luchini, nominated 11 times for the Cesar: **LE MEILLEUR RESTE À VENIR** by Mathieu Laporte et Alexandre de la Patellière with Patrick Bruel **ALICE ET LE MAIRE** by Nicolas Parisier with Anaïs Demoustier, and **L'EMPEREUR DE PARIS** by Jean-François Richet with Vincent Cassel, Olga Kurylenko, Freyda Mavor, Auguste Dieh, Denis Levant.

Other film nights include the superb **KUESSIPAN** by Myriam Verreault, presented in the film series at UBC Centre de la Francophonie, as well as **ANTIGONE** by Sophie Deraspe with the young fabulous actress Nahéma Ricci, at Auditorium Jules-Verne : **LA RIVIÈRE SANS REPOS** by Marie-Hélène Cousineau, **IL PLEUVAIT DES OISEAUX** by Louise Archambeault, **JEUNE JULIETTE** de Anne Émond at UBC Centre de la Francophonie. And to finish in style, a selection of three films in the March 2020 program, for *Printemps de la Francophonie* presented by SFU-BAFF, including the much-awaited **EDMOND** by Alexis Michalik with Thomas Solivères, Olivier Gourmet, Mathilde Seigneur, Tom Leeb and **CELLE QUE VOUS CROYEZ** by Safy Nebbou avec Juliette Binoche, François Civil, Nicole Garcia,

We are very proud to welcome you once again to this 26<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Rendez-vous French Film Festival! The rest is up to you! Join us in inviting others to this international Francophone showcase.

The complete schedule and tickets at [www.rendez-vousvancouver.com](http://www.rendez-vousvancouver.com)

Films will be shown at Jules Verne Auditorium, 5445 Baillie Street, Vancouver.

Goldcorp Centre for the Arts (SFU Woodward's), 149 West Hastings Street, Vancouver.

UBC Centre de la Francophonie and SFU/BAFF:

La Fabrique St-George located at 7 East 7th Avenue

Source: Régis Painchaud

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