

22 years of French film in BC : Rendez-Vous French Film Festival
Les 22e Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois et francophone

Press release for immediate release

Vancouver, British Columbia (January 18th, 2016). - The film *Paul à Québec* by François Bouvier, based on the comic strip by Michel Rabagliati, will open the 22nd edition of Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois et francophone de Vancouver, on February 4, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. Exceptionally, the screening will take place in a special venue, the Evergreen Cultural Centre, located at 1205 Pinetree Way in Coquitlam, to mark the 125th anniversary of the City of Coquitlam. This is a co-presentation of the Provincial Association of Immersion Teachers and the Programme francophone of British Columbia (APPICC) with the collaboration of the Festival du Bois de Maillardville. The film will also be screened at the Jules Verne Auditorium on Sunday, February 7 at 7 p.m.

Michel Rabagliati was awarded the Audience Prize at Angoulême's prestigious international comic strip festival. This was the first time that a Quebec author had won such a prize, highlighting the immense popularity of the Paul albums that have sold over 250,000 copies worldwide. However, Paul is not a character with superhuman powers, apart from his ability to move his audience. With exceptional sensitivity and masterful graphic skills, Michel Rabagliati presents the comings and goings in the life of Paul, a veritable "Tintin québécois", loved by all, because these are comic strips in which we all have a role as heroes.

The closing night on February 14 in Vancouver, at the SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts (co-presented with SFU Woodward's) features a double bill with two award-winning films from last December's *ATFCiné*. The first is *Timbuktu*, also called *Le Chagrin des oiseaux*, a dramatic France-Mauritania co-production directed by **Abderrahmane Sissako** with Ibrahim Ahmed aka Pino and Toulou Kiki. This film won seven Césars in 2015, including Best Film and Best Director. The second screening is *Les Rayures du Zèbre*, directed by **Benoît Mariage** with Benoît Poelvoorde and Marc Zinga. It is presented in collaboration with the *Association des Trophées francophones du cinéma (ATFCiné)*, an association for the promotion of francophone film industry professionals. Located in Canada, this association is chaired by Henry Welsh (former producer of the Jutra awards event in Quebec) and coordinated by Nicole Gillet (General Delegate of the Festival International du Film Francophone de Namur, Belgium), Samuel Faure (Director of Partnerships at the Festival de Cannes, France) and Alain Rocca (Executive Director of the Académie des Césars, France). Also at SFU, two screenings will mark Black History Month, in collaboration with the newspaper La Source, and SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs.

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

Auto-Portraits, an audacious feature film by Danic Champoux, was made in the framework of a filmmaker in residence program. In this day of social media, 50 people expose part of their private lives and share their experiences in front of the camera. The film creates a large patchwork of interlacing motifs that draw the portrait of a collective life that we all recognise. These confessions, sometimes serious, often sassy, create a rich prismatic dramatic framework, similar to the human mosaic that unfolds before our eyes and tells a story, our story. It will be preceded by a screening of the NFB short animation film *Chute splendide* by Kyler Kelly.

Three shorts from the NFB will be screened that were selected by the prestigious Los Angeles Short Film Festival for their North American première. The first is *Si j'étais le bon Dieu* by **Cordell Barker**. Cordell Barker uses various techniques ranging from traditional animation to animated puppets, image by image, to create a short film in 3D with an artisanal appeal, just as imperfectly human as the universe that each of us fashions for ourselves. Michael Fukushima and David Christensen produced the film for the NFB.

The second is *Dans les eaux profondes*, a moving and poetic short film by **Sarah Van Den Boom** that tells the stories of three people affected by the in utero foetal death of their twin, a fairly frequent but rarely talked-about phenomenon. *Dans les eaux profondes* won the Festivals Connexion – Région Rhône-Alpes award, presented in partnership with Lumières Numériques at the 2015 Annecy Festival International du Film d'Animation. This short film is a France/Canada coproduction and produced by Richard Van Den Boom (Papy 3D) and Julie Roy (NFB).

The third is *Des ondes et des ombres* by Randall Lloyd Okita. Combining searing high-speed images, an impressive artistic direction and sequences of complex animation, the famous visual and cinematographic artist Randall Lloyd Okita has composed an elegy on belonging and survival. Okita's first venture into the realm of animation, the film won the Best Experimental Film award at the New York Film Festival, Best Canadian Short Film at the Toronto International Film Festival, and Best Short Film at the Montreal Festival du Nouveau Cinéma. The film was produced by Maral Mohammadian and Michael Fukushima for the NFB.

Also featured is the screening of *Pipelines, Pouvoir et Démocratie* by Olivier D. Asselin. This solidly documented film follows two years in the evolution of the anti-pipeline protest movement in Quebec.

From the NFB, the three-part documentary series *The Fight For Francophone Rights* will be co-hosted by Fédération des parents francophones de la C.-B. at Studio 16, at La Maison de la Francophonie. This part features the CSF/PPFCB case against the Government of British Columbia, the biggest case led by BC Francophones since the legal cases in the 1990s regarding education.

A special collaboration with the **Tournée du cinéma québécois** will give us the opportunity to welcome Winnipeg director **Ryan McKenna** at the screening of his film *Le cœur de Madame Sabali*, featuring Marie Brassard, Youssef Camara, Francis La Haye, Hugo Giroux and Michel Forget at the Jules Verne Auditorium in Vancouver on Sunday, February 7. Then, at SFU Woodward's, on Thursday, February 11, director **Anne Émond** will present her film *Les êtres chers*. Unveiled at the last Locarno festival, *Les êtres chers* is supported by very moving performances by Maxime Gaudette and Karelle Tremblay.

Three events will take place at the Alliance Française de Vancouver, located on Cambie Street, as part of the Rendez-vous program: The film by **Fabienne Lips-Dumas**, entitled *Le Souffle de la Guerre Chimique* to be screened on February 9, and the film by **Claudine Pommier: La Voix de**

la Kora on February 10. On February 16, a presentation entitled *Dans les yeux des femmes 2*, a collaboration between Réseau-Femmes C.-B., Visions Ouest Productions and Alliance Française, will screen a program of short films with perspectives from African & Francophone women on a number of complex realities.

Some festive evenings are in store, starting with the screening of the magnificent *Hotel Louisiane*, in the presence of director **Michel La Veaux** on February 12, and a wonderful overview of recent production in Quebec with *Le bruit des arbres* by **François Péloquin**, *Le mirage* by **Ricardo Trogi**, *Guibord s'en va-t-en guerre* by **Philippe Falardeau**, *Le journal d'un Vieil Homme* by **Bernard Émond** and *Ville-Marie* by **Guy Edoin**.

This will also be the opportunity to discover, appreciate and question a sampling of recent production emerging from the international francophone world, for example in the latest film by **Philippe Le Guay**, *Floride*, featuring Jean Rochefort and Sandrine Kiberlain, and *Le journal d'une Femme de Chambre* by **Benoit Jacquot** with Léa Seydoux and Vincent Lindon.

A special on *Comédies Belges* with the films *Le Tout Nouveau Testament* by Jaco van Dormael, *La Famille Bélier* by **Eric Lartigau**, *Astérix Le Domaine des Dieux* by **Louis Clichy**, *Les Rayures du Zèbres* by **Benoit Mariage** and *La Brabançonne*, the film by **Vincent Bal** *A film 50% Walloon, 50% Flemish, 100% Belgian...*

Our selection of documentaries: From Wapikoni mobile: *Les Indiens, L'Aigle et le Dindon* made by **Iphigénie Marcoux-Fortier**, **Karine van Ameringen** through the mobile digital studio created by **Manon Barbeau** that has criss-crossed the roads leading to First Nations communities in Quebec over the past decade. As a testimony to its outcomes, this documentary is a portrait of five young artists who have found their way thanks to this initiative, and who attempt to define the contours of their aboriginal identity. It is followed by a montage of short films produced by this unique studio.

All in all, ten days of cinema to take the time to explore some of the depths of the soul of Quebec through its creators of stories and images, each of which expresses, in its own way, something about the landscapes in which we live, and that live within us!

A searing documentary by **Jasmin Roy**: *Bitch – Les filles et la violence*: “Verbally, they are machines of mass destruction”, as one person interviewed in the documentary has said. *Police Académie*, made by **Mélissa Beaudet**, is a fascinating and dynamic documentary that explores police academy training in Quebec, for the first time observed acutely from the inside and over the longer term in the outcomes for its graduates. Next, *Maman, Non Merci!* by **Magenta Baribeau**, a refreshing film that rejects taboos as it tackles an uncommon topic in the media, a tribute to childless women who have led happy lives. (CS)!. Finally, shorts from the collective **TRAVELLING**, including the superb *Viaduc* by **Patrice Laliberté**.

Other wonderful film nights include the superb *Tom à la ferme* by **Xavier Dolan**, presented in the film series at the UBC Centre de la Francophonie, as well as *L'Empreinte* by **Carole Poliquin** and **Yvan Dubuc**, in which actor **Roy Dupuis** explores the Québécois identity and posits that it is the fruit of an important blending between the cultures of French colonisers and First Nations. Also, the exquisite film *Timbuktu* directed by **Abderrahmane Sissako**.

To finish in style, a selection of four films that will be included in the March 2016 program for *Printemps de la Francophonie* presented by SFU-BAFF, including the much-awaited *Chasse-*

galerie: La légende by **Jean-Philippe Duval**, with an impressive line-up: Caroline Dhavernas, François Papineau, Vincent Guillaume Otis, Samian, Francis Ducharme.

So we are very happy to welcome you once again to this 22nd edition of the Rendez-vous. The rest is up to you! Join us in inviting others to this showcase on the francophone world.

Locations:

February 4: Coquitlam Evergreen Cultural Centre, 1205 Pinetree Way.

February 5 to 8: Jules Verne Auditorium, 5445 Baillie Street, Vancouver.

February 9-10 & February 16: Alliance française, 6161 Cambie Street, Vancouver.

February 11, 12 & 14: SFU'S, 149 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, Woodward's Complex

February 13: NFB Special at Studio 16 in the Maison de la Francophonie, 1555 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver.

UBC: Series at Centre de la Francophonie

SFU_BAFF: Series at Printemps de la Francophonie

Enjoy the screenings! Thank you!

-30-

Source: Régis Painchaud
604-876-2294

VOP
Visions Ouest Productions

50 films w E subt.

RENDEZ-VOUS
FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

Les 22^e Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois et francophone

Feb. 4-14, 2016

Paul à Québec (François Bouvier)



@RVCQF_FilmFest @CinemaVancouver VisionsOuestProductions

Admission: \$10 adults / \$5 students (w valid card) + Membership \$3



rendez-vousvancouver.com



Visions Ouest Productions



406-1111 BEACH AVENUE VANCOUVER BC V6E 1T9 / TÉL. : 604-876-2294 / TÉLÉC. : 604-876-6589
WWW.RENDEZ-VOUSVANCOUVER.COM / INFO@RENDEZ-VOUSVANCOUVER.COM