



Communiqué for immediate release

The Montreal Human Rights Film Festival (MHRFF)
presents under the auspices of the **2nd Rendez-Vous on Human Rights**

***The Age of Stupid* by Fanny Armstrong**
Tuesday October 6, 2009, at 7 pm at the NFB Cinema
(Montreal, 1564 St. Denis St.)

Screening: \$7 (Adults); \$5 (Students and Seniors)

Tickets on sale only at the NFB box office

<http://www.ffdpm.com>

Montreal, September 2009 – The docu-fiction **The Age of Stupid** of the British film maker, **Fanny Armstrong**, is **premiered in Quebec** under the auspices of **the 2nd Human Rights Encounters, Tuesday October 6, 2009, at 7 pm at the NFB Cinema**, in cooperation with Metropole Films. The screening will be followed by a meeting with the film maker Hugo Latulippe.

The film will be screened at the NFB Cinema from October 7th to 10th, 2009 at 4 pm.

***The Age of Stupid*, by Fanny Armstrong**

United Kingdom, 2008, 92 min. English, French, Spanish, English subtitles.

Direction and Camera: Fanny Armstrong – **Montage:** David Hill -- **Mus:** Chris Brierley

Production: John Battsek (Passion Pictures, Lizzie Gillett (Spanner Films Ltd.)

Official release in Australia, Great Britain and The United States, September 15, 2009

The website of the film www.ageofstupid.net is remarkably well documented, with excerpts, advertising notices, impressive press reviews and noteworthy quotes.

Press Releases of the film: http://www.ageofstupid.net/press_reviews?pages=1

Selected quotations: http://www.ageofstupid.net/press_quotes

A cross between fiction and documentary, the film takes place in 2005, while the earth is dying. The last human being, played by actor Pete Postlethwaite, a survivor of that catastrophe, registers his memoirs. In front of his screen, he review the cause and effect of the events that have led humanity to its demise and he asks himself why we did not save the planet, why did we not intervene and did not stop climate changes while there was still time? He says that the destruction of the earth results from the choices we have made before 2015. He proposes solutions and draws conclusions supported by scientific data.

The Filmmaker – Fanny Armstrong

Born in London, in 1973, she denounces at an early age the impact of our lifestyles on climate changes. After graduation, following her writing a thesis on “Is the Human Being a Suicidal Species?”, she launches her cinematic career. In her film, *McLibel*, made between 1997 and 2005, she reveals the dark history of the MacDonald trial that led to the closing of many outlets of that giant of “fastfood.” This documentary was recently added to the list of **The Ten Films that Change the World** of the British Institute of Film. Her second project, **Drowned Out**, made in 2002, allows her to follow the daily life of an Indian family, and earns her a nomination for the “Best Documentary” at the British Independent Film Award 2004. After a few alarming films on climate changes and human folly, she worked full time on ***The Age of Stupid***, enabling her to sensitize the public to issues with which she is involved. In all, Fanny Armstrong’s films have been seen by more than 56 million people.

The Film's Protagonist – Pete Postlethwaite

After a brief career teaching in a boarding school for young women, Pete Postlethwaite chose to dedicate himself to his passion for comedy and joined the Everyman Theatre Company, in Liverpool. At the age of 32 he appeared on the big screen for the first time in Ridley Scott's *The Duelists*. This was followed by numerous appearances in made-for-TV films as well as secondary roles in feature films like *The Plot* (Agnieszka Holland, 1988), *Alien 3* (David Fincher, 1992) or *The Last of the Mohicans* (Michael Mann, 1992).

Pete Postlethwaite achieved notoriety in 1993. At the age of 43 he was nominated for the Oscar for Best Supporting Role for his character of the martyred hero in *In the Name of the Father*, by Jim Sheridan. His career took flight. He was the mysterious Kobayashi of *Usual Suspects* (Bryan Singer, 1995), Father Laurence in *Romeo + Juliette* (Baz Luhrmann, 1996), then the orchestra conductor of *Virtuosos* (Mark Herman, 1997).

He broke new ground, in 1997, when he was asked by Steven Spielberg to play in *Lost World* and *Amistad*. A staple of supporting roles, very popular on television and on the British stage, he is increasingly courted by Hollywood and in different genres; witness his appearances in the credits for the drama *Newfoundland* (Lasse Hallström, 2001) and the fantasy *Dark Water* (Walter Salles, 2004). In 2004, Pete Postlethwaite was promoted Officer of the British Empire (OBE). Married and the father of two children, he lives in England.

The Montreal Human Rights Films Festival (MHRFF) launched on September 8 its 2nd edition of the Human Rights Encounters by programming screenings at the NFB Cinema in Montreal and at the Cultural Centre of the Université de Sherbrooke under the auspices of the series Authors' Views. Each screening was preceded by a short film on human rights, produced by the NFB, and was followed by a meeting with invited guests.

NEXT SCREENINGS

NFB Cinema, Montreal

Tuesday, November 10, 7 pm –The Reckoning, the Struggle for the International Penal Court, by Pamela Yates, follows during 3 years and on 4 continents the prosecutor and her team in pursuit of those responsible for crimes against humanity. Followed by a meeting moderated by Rights and Democracy.

Tuesday, December 8, 7 pm – Undesirable Witness, by Juan Jose Lozano, tells the fight of the Colombian journalist, Hollman Morris, recipient of the *Human Rights Watch Defender Award* for his denunciation of the barbarism of the conflict that afflicts his country. Followed by a meeting moderated by Reporters Without Borders—Canada.

Cultural Centre of the Université de Sherbrooke, 7 pm

Monday, October 19, Faces. Followed by a discussion.

Monday, October 26, The Reckoning. Followed by a meeting moderated by Rights and Democracy.

The 5th edition of the Montreal Human Rights Film Festival (MHRFF) will be held March 11 to 21 2010. Registration of films for the 2010 edition is open until November 22, 2009. Like major metropolises (New York, Paris, Prague, London, Geneva...), the MHRFF, a member of the Human Rights Film Network (www.humanrightsfilmnetwork.org), wishes to foster through an engaged, vital and diverse 7th Art the importance of respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms that are always threatened, and to denounce attempts against human dignity.

The MFRFF thanks its partners, Images Interculturelles, NFB Cinema, the Cultural Centre of the Université de Sherbrooke, CIDIHCA, Amnesty International –Canada Francophone, Rights and Democracy, Reporters Without Borders—Canada, and the Portal of Environment of Quebec.

Medias – Marie Marais, press officer – 514-845-2821 –marais@cooptel, qc.ca
DVDs are available, on request, from the press officer.