



4th Montreal Human Rights Film Festival

March 12-22, 2009

Cinema du Parc, NFB Cinema, Cœur des Sciences

www.ffdpm.com / www.cinemaduparc.com / www.onf.ca/cinerobothèque

TAKE ACTION!

Montreal, Wednesday February 25, 2009 — Real meeting place around the committed and sensitive works of filmmakers from all over the world, the **Montreal Human Rights Film Festival** will hold its **4th edition March 12 through 22, 2009** in Montreal, at **Cinema du Parc and the NFB Cinema**, during the 10th Action Week Against Racism. Five films from the programme will also be presented at the **Musée de la Civilisation in Québec City** March 15- 21.

Laure Waridel, author, ecosociologist, and a pioneer in Fair Trade and responsible consuming in Québec, is the spokesperson for this **edition**.

This year, the MHRFF will host at the Coeur des Sciences an **exhibition of photojournalism on human rights**, organised by **Anthropographia**.

The MHRFF will open with the screening, in North-American première of "**8**", a film directed by par **Jane Campion, Gael Garcia Bernal, Jan Kounen, Mira Nair, Gaspar Noé, Abderrahmane Sissako, Gus Van Sant** and **Wim Wenders**, and produced by **Lissandra Haulica and Marc Oberon** (*Cinema for Peace Award for its contribution to UN – Millenium Development Goals*). **These eight renowned filmmakers** rallied to sensitise public opinion and remind politicians that in 2000, 191 countries established eight "Millennium Development Goals" and committed to halve global poverty by 2015. What about this engagement? **TAKE ACTION!**

The festival will close with the documentary film ***D'une seule voix (With One Voice)*** by **Xavier de Lauzanne**, presented in Canadian première. In relation to the political Israel-Palestine antagonisms, music is here an instrument for peace. The film tells about the French tour of a group of Israeli and Palestinian musicians, Jewish, Muslim and Christian artists. **TOGETHER, THAT'S ALL!**

72 WORKS FROM 22 COUNTRIES, 48 PREMIÈRES

9 fictions, 56 documentaries and 7 animated films

The **Official International Selection** (at Cinema du Parc) gathers **45 films** competing for the Audience Prize, among them, eight for the Documentary Grand Prize. The **Quebec Official Selection** (out of competition, at the NFB Cinema), initiated last year to salute Quebec filmmakers' engagement, comprises **nine documentaries** recently directed and produced in Québec.

Most screenings will be followed by debates, in the presence of the guest filmmakers, human rights advocates and experts in topics addressed by the authors.

"The 450 films received this year show once more the frail situation of human rights in the world, and the emergency to take action", says **Diya Angeli**, program director. Whether captured on the spot or under the guise of a personal meditation, with either a poetic or geopolitic character, these films give voice to those we almost never hear, too often victims of barbarity or social, economic or political inequalities. These great discoverers of humanity, have known through their art, their generosity, their boldness and their persistence, how to turn toward others and call us onto the field of inequalities, but also of hope to share an earth without contempt or danger. **NO LOSS OF VOICE!**

With the screening of several films, and its new **youth program** for the 7-17 years old, the MHRFF will mark the 20th anniversary of the Convention for the **Rights of the Child**. Too many children are still excluded from our engagements: child miners in Bolivia, war victims in the Sudan and Afghanistan or soldiers in Uganda, remind us that childhood is still in danger.

So many countries at war brand the 21st century's actuality, thus creating real earthquakes in the daily lives of civilians. This year the MHRFF trains its spotlights on **conflict zones** and on the stakes of collective and individual destinies.

On March 20, 2009, **day marking the 6th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq**, the MHRFF will screen two films on the civil war impact on the daily lives of Iraqis and the consequences of the escalate in the interreligious conflict, and six short films produced between 2004 and 2007, by students of the Independent Film & Television College of Baghdad. Film against all odds!

It is through the lens of **art** that we shall address the **Israel-Palestine conflict**. The works presented are a testimony of Palestinian and Israeli painters, poets and musicians to show their resistance to conflicts by the means of artistic expression, symbol of peace. What if art could create new ideas in matters of conflicts? What an audacious bet!

The MHRFF will also recall **the horror of violence** in Darfur and Kashmir, and the past and present **political repressions**, in Albania, the Philippines and Chile, and against the Tibetan people.

Several works will shed light on the **humanitarian workers** in the field, the never-ending **struggle of journalists** in Colombia, Burma and Belarus to denounce, without regard to their lives, the exactions of their governments, and the battle of the International Criminal Court against war criminals' impunity.

Whether it is to form the first female football team in Afghanistan or to show the role they play during wars and their contribution to the peace process, **women** must constantly take up the challenge to gain respect from both civilians and militaries. Several films will bear witness to their courage in facing the **religious, moral and social prejudices** and will let us hear their point of view.

And closer to us, in Québec, three films will follow **marginalised or homeless women** in an urban context and show their imagination in their fight for survival.

Other films will tell us of struggles for better working conditions, discrimination against gays, consequences of environmental catastrophes and the relocation of Inuit families...

PRIZES AND MEMBERS OF THE JURY FOR THE 4th MHRFF

The MHRFF Documentary Grand Prize (with a \$2500 grant) will be remitted by the International Center for Information and Documentation on Haïti, the Caribbean and the Afro-Canadian Community (CIDIHCA).

The jury, composed this year of **Annika Gustafson**, producer, director and winner of the 3rd MHRFF Documentary Grand Prize for her film *Temps mort (Killing Time)*; **Diego Briceno-Orduz**, script writer, director, producer and editor, and **Peter Leuprecht**, PhD. in Law from Innsbruck University and part of a committee of four "wise persons" whose mission is to prepare a Human Rights program for the European Union.

The MHRFF Audience Prize (with a \$2000 grant) will be remitted by Amnistie internationale.

THE 4th MHRFF'S GUESTS

(see document for dates of stay)

The MHRFF will welcome several international guests this year. Among them:

Lissandra Haulica, French co-producer of the opening film "8", who gave carte blanche to eight directors and their vision of the Millennium Development Goals; the French filmmaker **Xavier de Lauzanne**, who brings us on the surprising French tour of Israeli and Palestinian musicians gathered to sing and play **With One Voice (D'une seule voix)**; **Hollman Morris**, the famous Colombian journalist, who received the prestigious *Human Rights Watch Defender Award* and character of the film **Témoign indésirable** (Unwanted Witness) by Juan Jose Lozano which tells his fight to denounce the barbarity of the conflict striking his country; **Hector Salgado**, the Chilean co-director and subject of **Special Circumstances**, about his return to Chile, after a 30 year-exile, and after having been tortured by Pinochet's men; **Marc Berrebi**, the French producer of **Faces**, a film by Gérard Maximin (Gmax), and initiator of the greatest illegal exhibition in the world showing gigantic portraits of Israeli and Palestinian men and women making faces, portraits posted on either sides of the "security wall"; **Jim Browne**, the American producer of **Fire Under The Snow**, directed by Makoto Sosa, which tells the story of a monk who spent 33 years in prison and in a labour camp in China for having committed the "crime" of peaceful demonstration; the Pakistani-American filmmaker **Senain Kheshqi**, who directed with Geta V. Patel (of Indian origin), **Project Kashmir**, a moving chronicle on the suffering of the Hindu and Muslim population in Kashmir; Dara Kell, crew member of **The Reckoning, la lutte pour la Cour pénale internationale (the Battle of the International Criminal Court)**, a deft thriller that follows during 3 years and on 4 continents the prosecutor and his team, in pursue of persons responsible for crimes against humanity; the Italian directors **Gustav Hofer** and **Luca Razzi** for **Suddenly Last Winter**, which tells with great humour the social-political saga surrounding the issue of gay rights in the Italian family Code; the Iranian-Austrian **Arash T. Riahi** for his feature film **Pour un instant la liberté** (starting in theatres after the festival) which follows men and women desperately waiting to cross to Europe, land of freedoms.

Several Quebec filmmakers will also participate in the festival; among them **Lise Bonenfant** (*L'Errance invisible*), **Marie Boti and Malcolm Guy** (*Philippines, a War against the People*), **Myriam Fehmiu** (*Ni vues, ni connues*), **Lila Ghobadi** (*Forbidden Sun Dance*) for films presented in premiere at the MHRFF.

TICKETS [\$7 per screening]

Cinema du Parc: on sale as of March 5, 2009 at the cinema and on line

www.cinemaduparc.com - 3575, avenue du Parc, Montréal • T. 514-281-1900

NFB Cinema: On sale at the cinema only - 1564, rue St-Denis - **www.onf.ca/cinerobotheque**

Coeur des Sciences: Photojournalism on Human Rights – 175, Président-Kennedy ave

INFO-FESTIVAL: www.ffdpm.com

Programme, schedule, film synopses can be consulted on the MHRFF website – www.ffdpm.com

The official programme will be sold \$1 as of March 5, 2009 at Cinema du Parc and at NFB Cinema.

MHRFF on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=13797491210>

MEDIAS

THREE PRESS SCREENINGS AT CINEMA DU PARC

Wednesday, March 4, 2009, 10 AM – 8, opening film

Thursday, March 5, 10 AM – *Pour un instant la liberté* by Arash T. Riahi

Wednesday, March 11, 10 AM – *Faces* by Gérard Maximin (Gmax)

PICTURES, FILMS ON DVD, ACCREDITATIONS

High definition pictures: <http://www.ffdpm.com/2009/fr/dl.html>

Media accreditation on line: www.ffdpm.com – Press Section, as of February 25

Several films can be sent on DVD to journalists who will ask the Press officer

Marie Marais – 514-845-2821 – marais@cooptel.qc.ca

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE 4th MHRFF

NFB Cinema -1564, rue St-Denis

YOUTH PROGRAMMES FOR THE 7-17 YEARS OLD

The 4th Montreal Human Rights Film Festival is initiating this year in collaboration with the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), a section dedicated to the young audience to sensitise them to human rights.

For children from 7 to 12. - Free of charge – The program will be moderated by UNICEF

Sunday, March 15, 3 PM: *Droits au cœur* byThérèse Descary

A collection of seven animated films inspired by the Convention on the Rights of the Child whose 20th anniversary will be celebrated in November 2009. This program is in French.

For the 13-17 years old - \$5 - Interactive program moderated by Equitas - In French.

Thursday, March 17, 1:30 PM: *Des marelles et des petites filles* by Marquise Lepage.

Wednesday, March 18, 1:30 PM: *Des billes, des ballons et des garçons* by Marquise Lepage.

CONFERENCE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST JOURNALISTS IN LATIN AMERICAS

Thursday March 19, 2009, 6 PM, Cœur des sciences (UQAM)

175 Président-Kennedy ave, close to St-John the Evangelist church (red roof). Metro Place-des-Arts.

Speakers: **Hollman Morris**, journalist who has been covering for over 15 years, the armed conflict in Colombia, (in Montréal March 16 through 21), and **Ingrid Bejerman** from Concordia's department of journalism and former director of the Foundation for a New Iberian-American Journalism in Colombia, founded by Gabriel García Márquez.

Moderator: **Dennis Trudeau**, Vice-president, Reporters without Borders Canada.

This activity will be in English and is organised in collaboration with Reporters without Borders Canada

EXHIBITION OF 32 PHOTOJOURNALISM ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Information: <http://anthropographia.org>

During the festival, le Cœur des Sciences (UQAM) and Cinema du Parc will host an original exhibition of about twenty photo-reports on human rights (selected out of 300 candidacies - 5200 photographs from 61 countries) organised by **Anthropographia**. [Vernissage on Friday, March 13, 6 PM, Cœur des Sciences. Free of charge]. Some photographs will be shown in slideshows at Cinema du Parc on Friday March 13 at 9 PM. A **workshop on photojournalism with Jacques Nadeau**, photographer at Le Devoir, will take place on March 15 and 22, from 3:30 PM to 5 PM at le Cœur des Sciences. [\$75, in collaboration with Reporters without Borders Canada].

A jury comprising **François Bugingo** (journalist and animator, president and spokesperson for Reporters without Borders Canada), **Benoît Aquin** (photographer, winner of the 2008 Pictet Prize), **Pierre Pascal** (Chief Editor of the francophone magazine *Passe-Frontières*), **Mary Ellen Davis** (committed documentary film director) and **Roy Hartling** (photographer), will remit two prizes:

The **Jury Grand Prize of Photojournalism on Human Rights** [A \$1000 grant offered by ethnopolis.ca and a publication in the *Passe-Frontières* magazine]; and the **Montrealer Reporter Prize** [publication of the winning photograph in *Photo solution*, and a photograph book offered by Magnum photos].

The audience will also be asked to contribute by voting for the **Audience Prize for Photojournalism on Human Rights** [Collection of 12 portfolios offered by Reporters without Borders Canada].

FIVE FILMS AT THE MUSÉE DE LA CIVILISATION IN QUÉBEC CITY

Five films of the programme will be shown at the Musée de la Civilisation in Québec City, March 15-21, 2009. <http://www.mcq.org>

Pour un instant la liberté by Arash T. Riahi

The Reckoning, The Battle of the International Criminal Court by Pamela Yates

Triage : Le dilemme humanitaire du Dr James Orbinski by Patrick Reed

Témoin indésirable by Juan José Lozano

Birmanie, la révolution par l'image by Claude Schauli

THE MHRFF'S GUARDIAN ANGELS

LAURE WARIDEL, spokesperson for the 4th MHRFF

Sociologist specialised in international development and environment, Laure Waridel is considered to be one of the pioneers of Fair Trade and responsible consuming in Québec. She is the co-founder of Équiterre, an organisation dedicated to the promotion of ecologist and socially equitable choices. Woman of wit and of good heart, inspired and inspiring, this young ecosociologist transforms words into tools for social and environmental change, and has been very often called a new leader by the major media.

Author and columnist, she published numerous essays among them *Coffee with a Cause: Moving Towards Fair Trade* (1997), which allowed her to strongly launch Fair Trade in Québec, *Acheter c'est voter, le cas du café* (2005), *L'envers de l'assiette* (1998, 2003). She now dedicates herself to writing a new book and directing a first film, with the filmmaker Hugo Latulippe.

Laure Waridel was elected to the "Cercle des Phénix de l'environnement"; she is honorary member of the *Golden Key Honour Society at McGill University* and has received as "Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Pléiade" by the "Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie". In acknowledgement of her work, Équiterre and the "Caisse d'économie solidaire" created the Laure Waridel Grant to contribute to the development and the diffusion of concrete solutions related to the great number of environmental and social challenges.

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The MHRFF is supported by a **Board of Governors** constituted in 2006; it gathers personalities known for their social, political, economic and cultural engagement, and concerned by topics related to human rights.

The Board has recently remitted an honorary award to Arthur Lamothe, for his major contribution to Quebecois cinema. Through his works and social engagement, Arthur Lamothe has shown the living conditions of the North-Eastern Quebec First Nations, giving voice to their sufferings and requests. He also denounced the workers' exploitation and the denial of their rights, and has opened in the 70's new perspectives in the strife for workers' rights.

CO-PRESIDENTS: **Honey A. Dresher**, President, Culture, Diversité, Communications and **André Paradis**, Amnistie internationale.

HONORARY MEMBERS: **Michèle Asselin**, President, Fédération des femmes du Québec; **Charles Binamé**, filmmaker; **Michèle Boisclair**, President, Centre international de solidarité ouvrière (CISO); **Gaétan Cousineau**, President, Quebec Human and Youth Rights Commission (CDPDJ); **François Crépeau**, Scientific Director, CÉRIUM, Université de Montréal; **Ellen Gabriel**, President, Fondation Alter-Ciné; **Dany Laferrière**, writer and filmmaker; **Hugo Latulippe**, filmmaker; **Janet Lumb**, Director, Festival Accès Asie; **André Melançon**, filmmaker, actor; **Maria Luisa Monreal**, General Director, AQOCI; **Brenda Paris**, Director, CA and president to the social and ethnic diversity committee of the Montreal Transit Society (STM); **Dominique Peschard**, President, Ligue des droits et libertés; **Raymonde Provencher**, filmmaker, producer; **Patricia Rimok**, President, Conseil des relations interculturelles; **Hubert Sacy**, Senior Partner, BleuBlancRouge; **Alexandre Trudeau**, filmmaker, former chairperson, Canada World Youth; **Shuni Tsou**, musician, Program Officer (Equity), Canadian Council for the Arts; **Laure Waridel**, Author, ecosociologist co-founder of Équiterre.

MHRFF MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS FILM NETWORK

The MHRFF was co-founded by its present chairman, **Alix Laurent**, member of the Board of Directors of Culture Montréal and co-director of l'École supérieure de ballet contemporain de Montréal and is currently under the direction of **Diya Angeli**.

Since January 2007, the MHRFF has been a member of the **Human Rights Film Network** (HRFN, www.humanrightsfilmnetwork.org), an international network created in Prague in 2004 to promote committed films and make them accessible to a larger public, and to enhance the circulation of films dedicated to human rights in festivals.

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