

Montreal International Documentary Festival Special events 2011

Montreal, Wednesday, October 26, 2011 – The Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM) is holding numerous parallel activities alongside its regular programming from November 9 to 20, 2011, including fascinating get-togethers with local and international filmmakers, roundtable discussion, and debates, and a long list of special events. These offerings are sure to appeal not only to cinephiles, but anyone with a healthy sense of curiosity or a desire to connect with the real world.

Master classes

This year, RIDM is proud to host four master classes given by internationally renowned filmmakers. Each one is an excellent chance to engage with great creative minds who are eager to share their expertise, process and career insights, plus film excerpts.

The series begins with the incomparable **Frederick Wiseman**, who will honour us with a Skype teleconference in connection with his retrospective. This is a golden opportunity to interact with the director of *Titicut Follies* and *Crazy Horse*, whose 40 films represent one of the most important bodies of work in the history of film. The great Czech documentarian **Helena Třeščíková**, whose latest film, *Katka*, won two awards at RIDM in 2010, will discuss her approach to cinema, her exceptional talent for editing and her intense, long-term relationships with her subjects. A major figure in Danish cinema, **Jørgen Leth** has built a body of work that defies categorization, and impressed none other than Lars Von Trier. His resolutely atypical approach to filmmaking and dry wit will be front and centre in a discussion about his career and working method. Lastly, Mexican filmmaker **Natalia Almada**, who won an award at Sundance in 2009 for *El general* and was selected for this year's Directors' Fortnight at Cannes with *El velador*, will give a master class hosted by the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema at Concordia University.

Roundtables and workshops

Two roundtables will provide an opportunity for filmmakers to engage in an in-depth exploration of topics raised by films on the program. **The Other America** features Matt Porterfield (*Putty Hill*), Tristan Patterson (*Dragonslayer*) and Lee Anne Schmitt (*The Last Buffalo Hunt*) addressing the following question: "What is left of the American Dream? How should we film the United States today?" For **Filming Haiti**, Aïda Maigre-Touchet (*Élégie de Port-au-Prince*), Charles Najman (*Une étrange cathédrale dans la graisse des ténèbres*) and Jørgen Leth (*Haiti. Untitled*) explain why they are so attached to this unique country, and discuss the importance of documentary filmmakers as historical and cultural witnesses.

The **Music Composition** workshop will provide a behind-the-scenes look at collaboration between a director and a musician, through the experiences of filmmaker Yung Chang (*Up the Yangtze*) and his composer, Olivier Alary. The session will include a special sneak preview of excerpts from Chang's new film, *China Heavyweight*, currently in post-production.

After seeing *La BM du Seigneur*, a **one-on-one with Jean-Charles Hue and Denis Côté** is a natural follow up. The two share not only a deep interest in the representation of marginal characters, but enjoy walking the line between documentary and fiction. It promises to be a fascinating discussion on the nature of POV cinema.

Screenings and debates

Four screenings and debates open the floor for audience members to discuss hot topics and ideas. The screening of *Impunidad* (Juan José Lozano and Hollman Morris) will be followed by a discussion on **the language of war** and its socio-political implications in Colombia. **Is sustainable logging possible?** That is the question the experts will tackle after the screening of *Rainforest* (Richard Boyce). *Les États-Unis d'Afrique* (Yanick Létourneau) provides a starting point for a debate on **music and social activism**, featuring hip-hop artists and activists. Lastly, *L'or des autres* (Simon Plouffe) asks tough questions about natural resource exploitation at the expense of human well-being, followed by the debate **The Mine or Life: the Case of Malartic**. Details about participants can be found at www.ridm.qc.ca

Events

Trivial Everyday Things

Jørgen Leth is also a leading figure in contemporary Danish poetry. For the first time, a major collection of his poems will be published in English. Come watch a poem and read a film! RIDM and BookThug are joining forces to present an exclusive reading at local bookstore Le port de tête.

The MSSO, 10 years on

In 2001, ten filmmakers reacted to the crisis in documentary production at the National Film Board of Canada by making a film titled *Les dernières minutes du patrimoine*. Ten years later, what has come of the coalition called the *Mouvement spontané pour la survie de l'ONF*. This informal gathering over drinks includes a screening of the film.

INIS - Portraits croisés

Every year, *Portraits croisés* gives students and recent graduates from INIS the opportunity to shoot a film abroad. With support from a host institution, participants make a short documentary about a person little-known to the general public. This event presents the films made by students participating in exchanges between INIS and ESCAC (Barcelona) and INSAS (Brussels) in 2010-2011.

RBARCODE.TV@RIDM

BARCODE.TV explores identity through the stories of the everyday objects around us, and creates films based on their bar codes. The Rallye (scavenger hunt) is an intensive event in which teams, made up of professionals and members of the general public, will spend six days creating a series of photographs and a documentary on the stories behind objects. Details: www.codebarre.tv/rallye

The 14th edition of RIDM will take place from November 9 to 20 at the Cinémathèque québécoise, Cinema ONF, Cinema Excentris, Grande Bibliothèque, Goethe-Institut and Université Concordia. With the aim of extending its reach beyond Montreal, RIDM will also present selected documentaries in Quebec City from November 26 to December 2, in collaboration with Cinéma Cartier.

Information: www.ridm.qc.ca / info@ridm.qc.ca

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