



21st EDITION OF FIFEM FROM MARCH 3 TO 11, 2018

**THE 21st INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL OF MONTREAL
UNVEILS ITS PROGRAMMING**

**Press release
For immediate release**

MONTREAL, Tuesday, February 13, 2018 - The Montreal International Children's Film Festival (FIFEM) is pleased to unveil the complete program of its 21st edition, which will take place during March Break from March 3 to 11. The cuvée 2018 offers you two world premiere, some primeurs and some all-time favourites. Young moviegoers will discover the classics of tomorrow in this rich and varied program, which includes seven feature films and 20 short films directed by women.

Thanks to the films presented in "Official Competition", families will visit **China** with Zhang Wei's **BALLADE DU TIBET**, which follows a bunch of visually impaired children who embark on an incredible journey to discover the world and follow their dreams; **Belgium** with **ROSIE & MOUSSA** by Dorothee Van Den Berghe, presented in world premiere, a film about the young Rosie, who, having lost track of her father, befriends her new neighbour who will help her in her identity quest; **Italy** with Henry Rincón's **SUR LES TRACES DES HEROS**, an inspiring tale of the brave Edouardo who, despite his disability and thanks to the help of a devoted teacher, will find the strength to realize his dream; **Denmark** with **LES KIDNAPPEURS** by Frederik Meldal Noogard, an action-packed comedy with a catchy sense of humour featuring the Bertram family, who are drawn into the incredible combination of Uncle Georg, the eternal delinquent; **India** with **LE RÊVE DE PICHKU** by Nila Madhab Panda, a world premiere Bollywood movie that follows the adventures of little Pichku, who grows up in Delhi's largest slum and is terrified of having to poop in the open air like the other inhabitants; **Iceland** with **JUSTE POUR L'ÉTÉ** by Gudrun Ragnarsdottir, a moving film that follows two girls who decide to escape from the youth center where their mother abandoned them; and **Germany** with **WENDY LA CAVALIÈRE** by Dagmar Seume; about the special relationship between an injured rider and her horse, which she saved from the slaughterhouse.

For a second year in a row, there will also be a selection of short films in "Official Competition". This is **THE APE MAN** (France) by director Pieter Vandenabeele, a story of a small fat man and homebody who must venture out of his house when he hears strange noises at his neighbour's house; **NYMBUS THE CLOUD CATCHER** (Brazil) by Marco Nick, about the young Nimbus who catches clouds to produce water for his village, but is one day propelled into the sky; **LA MAISON DU HÉRISSON** (Canada) Eva Cvijanović, which tells the story of a hedgehog respected and envied by other animals, but whose devotion to his home irritates four wicked beasts; **VENT DE FÊTE** (Switzerland) by Marjolaine Perreten, which takes place in a small Swiss village as a big party gets ready; **MERLOT** (Italy) by Marta Gennari and Giulia Martinelli, who presents a granny whose grumpy mood will cause a series of unexpected incidents; **MÉMO** (France) by Julien Becquer, Éléna Dupressoir, Jules Durand, Viviane Guimarães, Inès Scheiber, who introduces Louis, retired, who wants at all costs to keep his independence from the overprotection of his daughter Nina; **AN OLD LADY STEPPED OUT TO GET SOME BREAD AND PASTRY** (Russia) by Anastasiya Jakulina, which emphasizes the unpredictability of everyday life; **ROUES LIBRES** (Belgium) by Jacinthe Folon, an animated film that announces with humour and freshness the return of cycling in our cities; and **THE ART OF COOKING** (Germany) by Stella Raith, who answers the question: what happens when the pancake becomes an opponent and a narcissist cook is about to lose his temper?

Let's not forget that it is the film **LE PETIT SPIROU**, an adaptation of the popular eponymous cartoon, which will be presented at the opening ceremony. The feature film is directed by Nicolas Bary (*Au bonheur des ogres*, *Les enfants de Timpelbach*) and stars Pierre Richard, François Damiens, Philippe Katerine, Natasha Regnier and Sacha Pinault.

Also, a panoply of favourites and INÉDITS ?????? films will be presented at Cinéma Beaubien as part of the "Panorama" section of the festival. This is the case for the films **ALISE & TRIGGER** by Gunnar Vikene, winner of the Public Choice Award at FIFEM 2008, which tells the touching story of an 11-year-old girl who meets a fleeing wild horse; **LES AS DE LA JUNGLE** by David Alaux, a wacky story of a Kung Fu pro penguin who has to appeal to the vigilante team The Ace of the Jungle to save his kingdom; **LE GRAND MÉCHANT RENARD ET AUTRES CONTES** by Patrick Imbert and Benjamin Renner, to whom we owe the popular film *Ernest et Célestine*, the film, nominated for the Césars, offers three crazy stories featuring characters with a quirky personality: a Fox who thinks he's a chicken, a stork bunny and a duck that wants to replace Santa Claus; **AVENTURES EN PLEINE NATURE** by Simon Van Dusseldorp, a charming comedy full of laughter and songs that follows a group of young friends who go in search of their mouse called Peepeep; **NELLY ET SIMON: MISSION YÉTI** by Pierre Greco and Nancy Florence Savard, who follows two adventurers who go to the heart of the Himalayas to prove the existence of the Yeti; and **WILLY ET LES GARDIENS DU LAC** by Zsolt Palfi, an animated film that tells the story of Willy Whistle, who will have to use genius to brave his enemies and bring peace; and finally Nick Park's **CROMAN**, the story of a courageous caveman, Doug, and his best friend Crochon, who join together to save their tribe from a mighty enemy.

For the first time, **FIFEM** offers a selection of films specifically for teenagers with its "Ciné-ado" section. There is the feature film **CHARLOTTE A DU FUN** directed by Sophie Lorain, which features a young girl who is struggling to recover from a breakup in love and who decides to let go of her desires; **GARDE LE SOURIRE** by Sean Cisterna, inspired by real life experiences, the film follows a young figure skater who sees her world crumble when she learns that she has cancer; **SOLEIL DE MINUIT** by Kirsten Carthew, about a teenager who decides to run away from her grandmother's house after her mother's death.

These last two films will also be presented in English (**KISS & CRY** and **THE SUN AT MIDNIGHT**) at Cinéma du Parc, which offers again this year a program in English. Young moviegoers will be able to discover **LITTLE GREY FERGIE 1 & 2** films by Peder Hamdahl Nass, who follows the adventures of a curious kid named Gustav and his funny friend, the Fergie tractor; a selection of short films and a retrospective of Aardman studios, including their most recent feature film, **EARLY MAN** by Nick Park.

Once again, films accessible from two years old will be offered in the section "Mini-cinephiles", including **LA CABANE À HISTOIRES** by Célia Rivière, presented in North American premiere, this hybrid film (1/3 of live action and 2/3 of animation) features four friends who discover the joys of reading and **LA FORÊT ENCHANTÉE DE OUKYBOUKY** by Rasmus A. Sivertsen, a colourful film about the joyful inhabitants of the forest Oukybouky, who must unite to defend yourself against two nasty neighbours.

FIFEM is once again partnering with the **Montreal Museum of Fine Arts** to offer children and their families a special opportunity to view the best works of world production. Award-winning films and favourites from the latest editions of FIFEM will be offered free of charge at the Maxwell-Cummings Auditorium. The selection includes Anne van der Heide's **MONSIEUR GRENOUILLE**, presented in French and English; **LE CŒUR EN BRAILLE** by Michel Boujenah; **ANTBOY 3: THE FINAL COMBAT** by Ask Hasselbalch, and a short film program from the UK.

Three free activities will also be offered at Cinema Beaubien. First of all, comic book lovers will be able to discover the first three episodes of the television series **LES LÉGENDAIRES**, which will soon be broadcast on Télé-Québec. Also, festivalgoers will be able to discover **EN ROUTE POUR PERSEIGNE**, a documentary that takes us to one of the oldest holiday camps in France. Finally, with **LE COMBAT DES COURTS**, young people will discover a compilation of short films selected by other young people of their age. Indeed, as part of the Montreal Program of Cultural Action, primary classes were called to play the role of programmer, analyzing panoply of films to finally select their favourites.

On March 7 and 8, 2018, free workshops will be given by the animators of **L'OEIL CINEMA**, educational program of the Quebec Association of Parallel Cinemas. Presented at La Maisonnée, the **MÉTIERS DU CINÉMA** workshop, which covers the main stages of the production of a film, will be offered in the morning and the **JE M'ANIME** workshop, which explores the technique of pixilation (recording image by image), will be proposed in the afternoon.



-30-

Single rate: \$ 9

Family Passport (10 tickets): \$ 80

Special price for groups

Tickets are available at participating cinemas or online at: www.fifem.com

Info-festival: 514 967-8893

Source:

Jo-Anne Blouin

CEO & Artistic director FIFEM

Contact Média:

Marie-Christine Pouliot

Brigitte Chabot Communications

514 861-7870 poste 224

marie-christine@bchabotcom.ca