

For immediate release

THE 36th ANNUAL RENDEZ-VOUS QUÉBEC CINÉMA CELEBRATING OUR MOVIES!

Montreal, Monday, February 12, 2018 – The **Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma** is proud to announce its program for 2018. This 36th edition of the festival will thrill the city with more than **300 films**, including **90 premieres**, as well as **more than 30 free events**. From **February 21 to March 3**, the Rendez-vous, presented by **Hydro-Québec**, in collaboration with **Radio-Canada**, will be a prime gathering place for artists and movie lovers, and above all an opportunity to see the year's very best films on the big screen. Spokesperson Patrick Huard joins the RVQC in inviting artists, industry professionals and the movie-going public to celebrate our movies in style!

"While the Rendez-vous has a refreshed name to underscore its membership in the wider Québec Cinéma family of events, the festival remains the same wonderful celebration of Quebec's films that we all know and love. It's the festival that showcases all the voices in our film community, the one that brings audiences closer to the films and the people who make them, and that lets us take stock of the state of our film industry," said Dominique Dugas, director of the Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma.

The festival's screenings and activities will take place at the **Cinémathèque québécoise**, **Cinéplex Odeon Quartier Latin**, the **Auditorium de la Grande Bibliothèque (BAnQ)**, the **Salon orange at Centre Pierre-Péladeau** and **Cinéma Impérial**. The **Bistro SAQ**, located in Norman McLaren Hall at the Cinémathèque québécoise, returns as the festival's hotspot for lively happy hours, fun evenings and great parties late into the night. **Espace Rendez-vous**, now located in the heart of the Cinémathèque québécoise, will be home to the festival's interactive section and an exclusive exhibition.

"Hydro-Québec is very proud to work with the Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma as presenting partner. Our financial support reflects the corporation's desire to put culture in the spotlight and keep it vital, and to support the local artists who do Quebec proud around the world. Our cinema's reputation is now firmly established, and we invite everyone to come enjoy the Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma, where you will discover the diversity and richness of our films," said Élise Proulx, VP Communications and government affairs at Hydro-Québec.

LES SOIRÉES TAPIS BLEU

Presented by **Bell**, the festival's **SOIRÉES TAPIS BLEU** are a series of gala premieres, open to all, with the filmmakers present and available to meet the public. The world premiere of Bernard Émond's *Pour vivre ici* opens the festival in style on February 21. The film stars Élise Guilbault, Sophie Desmarais, Amena Ahmad, Danny Gilmore and Marie Bernier. The gala opening night, co-presented by **MELS**, will be held at Cinéma Impérial. The Soirées Tapis bleu include two more world premieres: *Isla Blanca*, directed by Jeanne Leblanc, and *Ce silence qui tue*, a documentary by Kim O'Bomsawin, as well as the Montreal premiere of *Grand Cru* by David Eng. Lastly, *Chien de garde*, directed by Sophie Dupuis, will close the 36th Rendez-vous on March 3 at Cinéma Impérial, part of the closing festivities co-presented by **Cinéplex**. The film stars Jean-Simon Leduc, Théodore Pellerin, Maude Guérin, Claude Laberge, Paul Ahmarani and well-known singer Marjo.

FICTIONAL FEATURES

This year, the Rendez-vous will present a total of **46 FICTIONAL FEATURES**, presented by **Hydro-Québec**. More than ever, the year's new films run the full gamut of genres, appealing to moviegoers of every stripe. **4 SPECIAL SCREENINGS** presented by **La Presse +** will include a restored print of *Au clair de la lune*, directed by André Forcier, in celebration of the film's 35th anniversary. *Blade Runner 2049*, by Denis Villeneuve, and *Chuck* by Philippe Falardeau will also be screened. And, as part of Black History Month, the **Momentum** collective will present a special program exploring an afro-centric vision of Quebec cinema.

With the aim of reaching every audience and in response to the enthusiasm for the screenings in this new section, the RVQC presents screenings for new immigrants, using film as a bridge to foster acculturation and integration. Another much appreciated annual activity is a special screening hosted by La Maison du Père; this year's film is *De père en flic 2*, to be screened with director Émile Gaudreault as well as actors Patrice Robitaille and Mathieu Quesnel present; he will meet some of the institution's clients.

DOCUMENTARIES

The 36th Rendez-vous includes **25 DOCUMENTARY PREMIERES** – short, medium and feature length – presented by **Télé-Québec**. Women directors are particularly prominent this year, with several films by women having world premieres: **1999** by Samara Grace Chadwick, **Ce silence qui tue** by Kim O'Bomsawin, **Exil au Far West** by Sophie Fortier and **La Maison des Syriens** by Nadine Beaudet and Christian Mathieu Fournier. **Louis! Louis! Louis! Louis!** by Philippe Frenette-Roy will also have its world premiere. Quebec and Canadian premieres include **A Great Day in Paris** by the late Michka Saäl (Canadian premiere), **Comme un caillou dans la botte** by Hélène Choquette (Quebec premiere), **Modifié** by Aube Giroux (Quebec premiere) and **Nos hommes dans l'Ouest** by Renée Blanchar (Quebec premiere).

The RVQC will also provide excellent opportunities to catch big-screen showings of documentaries that made their mark in 2017, including *Esprit de cantine* by Nicolas Paquet, *Destierros* by Hubert Caron-Guay, *Combat au bout de la nuit* by Sylvain l'Espérance, and the not-to-be-missed *Labrecque : une caméra pour la mémoire* by Michel La Veaux.

SHORTS GALORE!

With 215 films, including 73 premieres, 54 films in competition and 24 programs in every genre presented by Unis TV, the RVQC is the world's biggest showcase of Quebec's short films. The premieres include *La chute* by Olivia Boudreau, *Encore fiancés* by Catherine Therrien, *Garrincha* by Jeanne Leblanc, *L'innommable* by Raphaël Bélanger, *Marguerite* by Marianne Farley, *Reste, je ne veux pas être toute seule* by Gabriel Savignac, *Vétérane* by Pier-Philippe Chevigny and *La visite de Charles de Gaulle* by Anaïs Barbeau-Lavalette. A number of shorts that got people talking last year are also part of this impressive 2018 crop, including *Auto Portrait* by Louise Bourque, *Ballet Jazz* by Maxime Robin, *Black Friday* by Stephan Moukarzel, *Crème de menthe* by Jean-Marc E. Roy and Philippe David Gagné, *Lost Paradise Lost* by Yan Giroux and *Tesla lumière mondiale* by Matthew Rankin, to name just a few. The festival's significant emphasis on shorts also provides a showcase for up-and-coming filmmakers: 34 student films including 8 premieres will be shown, presented by Unis TV.

To showcase Quebec's thriving short-film community, the Rendez-vous will once again host the eagerly anticipated annual celebration of our talented short-film artists, the *Prends ça court!* short-film gala. Julie Le **Breton** and **Rémi-Pierre Paquin** will host the 15th edition of the awards ceremony on February 27 at 7 p.m. at the Cinémathèque québécoise. Each year, the event organized by Prends ça court!, in collaboration with the RVQC, is an essential and lively gathering for our artists.

THE 2018 RVQC AWARDS

As well as being synonymous with the recognition of their talent and encouragement to pursue their cinematic dreams, the **RVQC Awards** have a tangible impact on the winning filmmakers' careers. A total of **11 awards** will be presented on February 28, for films in official competition at the Rendez-vous, including the prestigious **Prix Gilles-Carle** for Best first or second fictional feature, presented by **Bell**, and the **Prix Pierre et Yolande Perrault** for Best first or second documentary feature, presented by **Hydro-Québec**. The jury for 2018 is made up of 15 professionals from the cultural industry in Quebec and francophone communities across Canada, including 11 women active in the film industry.

VIRTUAL REALITY AND INTERACTIVE WORKS

This year's Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma invites you to explore the world of **VIRTUAL REALITY** and **INTERACTIVE WORKS** made in Quebec. The program features the latest practices and presents **7 works** available for free from February 22 to March 3 in the **Espace Rendez-vous**. The virtual reality component includes *La 3^e roue* by André Roy, *Jonkonnu/Gens inconnus* by Olivia McGilchrist, *State of Mind* by the Fantazem collective, *Territoires et identités* by Serge Bordeleau and *Théâtre d'automne* by Mathieu Barrette and Myriam Coulombe. The interactive section includes *A Truly Magical Moment*, an interactive installation by Adam Basanta, and *Uchronia I What if?*, a collective online exhibition by the Lab NT2 collective, featuring 11 hypermedia works.

FREE EXHIBITION

While visiting the Espace Rendez-vous, the public will see the exclusive **storyboard** exhibition *Les Affamés* : **décomposition en images**, and learn all about the stunning new film by Robin Aubert. The storyboards are by illustrator **Jean-Philippe Marcotte**, an artist who has also worked with Denis Arcand and Xavier Dolan.

THE RENDEZ-VOUS IN YOUR HOME

From February 21 to March 3, *Les Rendez-vous chez vous* will allow audiences everywhere in Quebec to enjoy a selection of films from this year's festival on their computer or TV. Several fictional features will be available on-demand through **Bell Fibe TV**, including, among others, *Les Affamés*, *Et au pire, on se mariera*, *Pieds nus dans l'aube*, *Le problème d'infiltration* and *Les rois mongols*. A fine selection of shorts will also be available for free on ICI TOU.TV. Movie lovers can also catch several RVQC events, live or delayed, through Québec Cinéma's Facebook page. It's a chance to experience the festival anywhere, any time on your platform of choice!

Les Rendez-vous chez vous is a **Bell** presentation, in collaboration with **ICI TOU.TV** and **Livetoune**. The program is also made possible by the support of **Telefilm Canada** and the **Talent Fund**.

HAPPY HOURS - THE PLACE TO MEET OUR FILMMAKERS

As it does every year, the festival will start each evening on a high note with a 5 p.m. rendezvous at the Bistro SAQ in the Cinémathèque québécoise, for a series of get-togethers, discussions and chats with artists and industry professionals. The two **PRELUDES** will be privileged moments for festivalgoers. While we await the forthcoming *LA BOLDUC* biopic, the public is invited to celebrate the legendary singer with actress **Debbie** Lynch-White, actor Émile Proulx-Cloutier and the film's music director Marc Beaulieu in a discussion moderated by Matthieu Dugal. Meanwhile, director **Ricardo Trogi**, actors Jean-Carl Boucher and Juliette **Gosselin** and producer **Nicole Robert** will sit down with Marie-Louise Arsenault for a look behind the scenes at *1991*, the third instalment in Trogi's autobiographical series. Don't miss it!

There will be four **ROUND TABLES** on current issues in our film industry. **Michèle Rouleau**, **Sonia Bonspille Boileau**, **Kim O'Bomsawin** and **Natasha Kanapé Fontaine** will explore issues surrounding **INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATION ON SCREEN**, with moderator Matthieu Dugal, with the aim of finding ways for cinema to help break the silence and counter prejudices. **Y A-T-IL UN PROBLÈME DE SCÉNARIO AU QUÉBEC**? (Does Quebec have a script problem?) will look at all things scriptwriting: what is a good script? Do we put enough emphasis on this essential part of filmmaking? **Philippe Falardeau**, Éric K. Boulianne and **Marc-André Lussier**, will discuss the issues with Marie-Louise Arsenault. **LA PARITÉ**, **LA SUITE**? (Equity: what's next?) is a round table where **Isabelle Hayeur**, **Francine Descarries**, **Johanne Larue**, **Carolle Brabant**, **Sophie Desraspe**, **Coline Serreau** and **Chantale Pagé**, with moderator Marie-Louise Arsenault, will debate a crucial issue. Afterwards, there will be a 10th anniversary party for Réalisatrices Équitables, with Brazilian tunes and **DJ JF Beaudoin. AU CŒUR DE LA ZONE (Deep inside La Zone)**, will look at the making of a film/web experience conceived and created by filmmaker Denys Desjardins, who ventures deep into his memories, digitizing and mapping them. Lastly, **LE CINÉMA EN MODE COOP** (Cooperative filmmaking) brings together **Catherine Benoît**, **Louis Bélanger**, **Caroline Galipeau** and moderator Daniel Racine for a discussion of the rise of production and exhibition cooperatives in video and digital production in Quebec.

Meanwhile, this year's **GRAND RENDEZ-VOUS RADIO-CANADA** features the dramedy series *TROP*. With the second season premiering on March 21, festivalgoers are invited to join **Evelyne Brochu**, **Alice Pascual**, **Éric**

Bruneau, Anne-Marie Cadieux and directors Louise Archambault and Chloé Robichaud to talk about the making of the series, with Katerine Verebely. The Rendez-vous will also host a reception for the directors and other crewmembers of the finalists for the PRIX COLLÉGIAL DU CINÉMA QUÉBÉCOIS (PCCQ) and cegep students from across Quebec. The event, emceed by Marie-Louise Arsenault, will be live-streamed on Québec Cinéma's Facebook page so that students from all 54 participating cegeps can join in the discussion wherever they are. Whether in person or online, students will be able to ask questions about the films, which they will go on to judge in the Quebec-wide deliberation process for the PCCQ in March.

The **Rendez-vous gourmand** is also returning! Cinephiles will enjoy a proudly Québécois take on happy hour, where they can taste some of our finest food before quaffing a cinematic grand cru and chatting with producers **Gamins gourmands**, **Bristol Chai**, **Les minettes**, **Domaine des 15 lots**, **La pincée**, **La pimenterie**, **Dinette nationale**, **Avanaa** and **Alvéole**.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE OUR MOVIES

Festivalgoers are sure to appreciate the **5 MASTER CLASSES** offered this year – the Rendez-vous has put together quite a program! The public is invited to an intimate conversation with a director and actor who doesn't care much for convention, **Robin Aubert**, who will give a talk in his own inimitable style. The RVQC also invites audiences to spend some time with **Alanis Obomsawin**, a true national treasure and a filmmaker who released her 50th film this year, for a talk that will bring indigenous memory and resistance to life. The prolific and creative costume designer **Renée April**, whose excellent recent work can be seen in *Blade Runner 2049*, will give a master class featuring previously unseen sketches and a close look at her work process. The Rendez-vous' spokesperson, the actor, producer, director and screenwriter **Patrick Huard**, will also give a master class, covering the recipe for success behind *Bon Cop Bad Cop 2*. Last but not least, cinephiles are invited to get together with a hugely successful artist who has risen to become one of the world's top directors, **Denis Villeneuve**. This is your chance to hear about his journey first-hand, from the Course Europe-Asie to *Blade Runner 2049*.

EVENINGS AT THE RENDEZ-VOUS

UQAM's D.E.S.S. program in screen music and the Rendez-vous will present the closing of the 4th annual Montreal International Film Scoring Competition, where the public can celebrate the unique and essential marriage of music and motion pictures with Montréal Brass. And, after last year's successful table reading of *Ding et Dong, le film*, director Rafaël Ouellet will return for a similar event featuring a Quebec film classic, *LA BÊTE LUMINEUSE* by Pierre Perrault. It's sure to be a memorable evening, with Fabien Cloutier, Vincent Leclerc, Stéphane Breton, Robin-Joël Cool and Jean-François Provençal. The RVQC also presents a reading of excerpts from unproduced scripts by Marie Vien, Martin Girard, Raymond Saint-Jean, Émilie Rosas and several other writers during the BIENTÔT SUR LES ÉCRANS (Coming soon to our screens) event. Festivalgoers can also test their knowledge of Quebec movie trivia by competing with the Rendez-vous' all-star team at the QUIZ DES RENDEZ-VOUS, hosted by Patrick Dupuis and Fabrice La Roche-Francoeur. After the screening of the documentary *Louis! Louis! Louis!*, the public is invited to CANADIEN/FLYERS: ON VOUS ÉCOUTE!, an evening hosted by comedian and hockey superfan David Beaucage, with Louis Grégoire, Richard Z. Sirois and director Philippe Frenette-Roy, with the participation of Émile Bilodeau and DJ JF Beaudouin.

NIGHTS AT THE RENDEZ-VOUS

To put a perfect cap on each day, festivalgoers are invited to party at the festival's **9** Nights, a series of exciting parties presented by **Canal D**. To kick off the celebrations for this 36th annual RVQC, the DJs of **Qualité de luxe – Poirier, Mr. Touré!** and **Kyou –** and **VJ BenaBALLah** will rock the Bistro SAQ immediately after the screening of the opening film. After last year's success, the one and only Jean-Sébastien Girard will once again host a cabaret tribute to Quebec's films with guests Pierre Curzi, France Castel, Ricardo Trogi and **Karine Gonthier-Hyndman**. Jean-François Provençal and Julien Corriveau of Les Appendices will provide the music. Don't miss it! For the fifth year in a row, the **GRANDE FÊTE DES WEBSÉRIES**, hosted by actor and comedian **Richardson Zéphir**, is a fun and funny celebration of webseries creators. The Rendez-vous also invites movie lovers to celebrate the 40th ANNIVERSARY OF COOP VIDÉO with an evening of images and music produced by Brigitte Poupart, with Guy Bélanger, Robin-Joël Cool, Viviane Audet, Érik West Millette, Claude Fradette and Sandra Dumaresq. The whole gang from UN SHOW LA NUIT will also return for a laughter-filled evening, with everything from satire to slapstick, built around Christian Bégin and

masterfully performed by a large roster of actors who've never even heard of taboos. For the fifth year, the RVQC will celebrate **COURTS CRITIQUES** – critical shorts, the socially conscious short films made outside the mainstream industry – with an evening of opinion and performance. There's another great night in store with virtuoso performer **Pilou** (**Pierre-Philippe Côté/Peter Henry Philips**), who will play some of his compositions for film and television (*Les Affamés, Les scènes fortuites, Le règne de la beauté* and *Hubert et Fanny*), along with songs from his repertoire. The event will be followed by a DJ set by **Yaya** (**OBSOLETE**), **Fresco** and **Empress**.

To mark the end of the 36th RVQC and stay in the musical groove of the closing film, *Chien de garde* by Sophie Dupuis, the Rendez-vous invites festivalgoers to an amazing evening of hip-hop and a wild **Nuit blanche** with **DJ Tiestostérone**, the pussy-core kitsch-hop of **Donzelle** and the crazy rhymes of **Alaclair Ensemble**.

RENDEZ-VOUS POPCORN

On February 25 at 9:30 a.m., the **RENDEZ-VOUS POPCORN** invites kids ages 5 and up for an amazing day of movies, games and creativity, all for **FREE**! The movies reveal their hidden side, and the popcorn never stops popping. There are tons of activities, like a **special screening** of **Ballerina** by Éric Summer and Éric Warin, and a **special program of 7 shorts** for the whole family. **Creative workshops** in **Stop Motion** for iPad and **art direction with Les Spirographeuses**, **animated storytime** with Iris la raconteuse under the **Grôa Tent**; the **Caravane ludique (fun caravan)** with all kinds of games from **Randolph**; the **Zone des petits de radio-canada.ca**, for watching favourite videos and playing games with the kids' zone team; a **makeup booth** for kids who want to look like their favourite movie character; and much more! Fans of **LE CHALET** are invited to a very special get-together with **Antoine Pilon**, **Catherine Brunet**, **Sarah-Jeanne Labrosse**, **Julianne Côté**, **Karl Walcott** and **Félix-Antoine Tremblay**, where they'll get a sneak preview of a new episode! Rendez-vous popcorn is presented by **Hydro-Québec**, in collaboration with **Vrak** and **Radio-Canada**.

RENDEZ-VOUS PRO

The big event for industry professionals is the sixth annual Rendez-vous Pro, from February 28 to March 2. The **One-on-One** talks bring together a seasoned professional and young talents for an exploration of the special guest's work. Writing, production, musical scores and webseries are this year's featured topics. The first day will be dedicated to production, with discussions of independent film production with Anne-Marie Gélinas of EMAfilms, the producer behind such films as *Turbo Kid* and *Radius*; international co-production with Pierre Even of Item7, who produced *Brooklyn* and *Bon Cop Bad Cop 2*. Also on the program: a look at the profession of location manager and a meeting with an expert in fictional content management and strategies. The second day of the Rendez-vous Pro will focus on composing music for motion pictures. It starts with a look at the steps involved in creating music for a feature film with composers Viviane Audet and Robin Joël Cool. Next, a workshop on budgeting and contract negotiations, presented in collaboration with the SPACQ, will be led by Michel Corriveau (winner of the 2017 SOCAN screen composer of the year award). The second day closes with a discussion of film programming with Laurence Kardish, formerly Senior Film Curator at the MoMA in New York. Participants can also attend a session on scriptwriting with François Létourneau and a panel discussion on scripts presented by SARTEC.

The usual networking activities, always popular with young industry professionals, will be on the program once again, from Le Grand Flirt for screenwriters, Speed-Dating for screen music composers to The (web)series sessions, the Rendez-vous Pro's pitch activities have a well-earned reputation as catalysts for productive working relationships. As in past years, the Rendez-vous Pro will also give exposure to Quebec-made films on international markets thanks to the presence of more than 20 foreign programmers for the Écrans du Québec event. It's a unique opportunity to connect with guest professionals from abroad.

AN ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY RENDEZ-VOUS

Sustainability and the reduction of its environmental impact are important concerns for the RVCQ. In order to remain a zero-emissions festival, guest transportation will be provided by the hybrid and electric cars of **Communauto**, official transportation provider of the Rendez-vous, and by **VIA Rail**. Festivalgoers who are Communauto members can also receive 2-for-1 tickets for the festival's regular screenings. Those who visit the Bistro will receive **SAQ** glasses as well as reusable, deposit-based **Ecocup** glasses. The use of products made or grown in Quebec is also a shared goal of the **SAQ** and the RVCQ.

TICKETS GO ON SALE TODAY

Festivalgoers can now view the **2018 program** online and in hard copy at the Cinémathèque québécoise. It is possible to create a **custom schedule** on the RVQC website by creating an account or by signing in with Facebook.

Tickets for the 36th annual Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma are on sale now, without service charges, at <u>quebeccinema.ca</u>!

Cinephiles can also purchase tickets from lavitrine.com.

For all the latest on the 36th annual Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma: **#RVQC** <u>Facebook I Twitter I Instagram I Vimeo I YouTube I quebeccinema.ca</u>

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ESSENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma sincerely thanks Hydro-Québec, its new Presenting partner; Radio-Canada, Co-presenting partner; Bell, Starring role partner; SAQ, MELS, the Cinémathèque québécoise and Cineplex, Lead role partners. The Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma also thanks its public sector and government partners: the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, Tourisme Québec, the Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes (SAIC), the Secrétariat à la région métropolitaine, the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles (SODEC), the Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, Telefilm Canada and the Talent Fund. The Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma also thanks to our colleagues Ig2, Annexe Communications and Akufen.

ABOUT THE RENDEZ-VOUS QUÉBEC CINÉMA

For the last 36 years, the Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma has been an important talent incubator and unique gathering place. For **11 days**, some **400 artists and industry professionals** join movie lovers to celebrate Quebec's films. With nearly **300 films**, including **100 premieres**, and **more than 30 free activities**, the festival is an essential event on Quebec's cultural and film calendars.

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