



RENCONTRES INTERNATIONALES
DU DOCUMENTAIRE DE MONTRÉAL
MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE
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RIDM announces opening and closing films

Montreal, Thursday, October 1, 2015 – The **Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM)** is pleased to announce the films that will open and close the festival's 18th edition, taking place from November 12 to 22. ***Les vaillants*** by Quebec director Pascal Sanchez will kick off the festivities with its world premiere, while ***Olmo and the Seagull*** by Brazilian director Petra Costa and Danish director Lea Glob will bring them to a close.

Opening Film – **LES VAILLANTS**

Les vaillants brings us into a public housing development in Montreal's Saint-Michel district. Intended as a counterpoint to the many (un)intentionally reductive reports about the infamous neighbourhood, this new film by **Pascal Sanchez** is a long-term project, a proud example of a patient, humanist documentary tradition capable of revealing the essence of a place and its people. Filmed over the course of more than a year, ***Les vaillants*** is an immersion in a complex community as it copes with the daily challenges encountered by the volunteers and workers in its local associations. Full of funny, touching characters, the film is a lively salute to the people hard at work in the shadows, fighting every day to change lives for the better. This is the second film by Pascal Sanchez to be selected for the RIDM, after *La reine malade* in 2010.

This invitation-only screening of ***Les vaillants*** will be presented in the original French version, with English subtitles, with the filmmaker in attendance. The screening will be held at Concordia University's Alumni Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 12. A second screening, open to the public, will take place during the festival. ***Les vaillants*** is distributed by Les Films du 3 mars and will be released in theatres in Quebec in the spring of 2016.

Closing Film – **OLMO AND THE SEAGULL**

The festival will close with the Canadian premiere of ***Olmo and the Seagull***, which had a successful premiere at this year's Locarno Festival. The film follows Olivia who, for more than ten years, has led an actress's bohemian life at the Théâtre du Soleil in Paris, where she met her boyfriend, Serge. Their relationship is now transformed by Olivia's pregnancy, which prevents her from performing in Chekhov's *The Seagull* and forces her to confront her deepest fears. As complex and intense emotions dominate the last six months of her pregnancy, and the couple's love is put to the test, the two artists turn to a game combining fiction and documentary, sharing their daily lives filled with doubt, worry and joy. The filmmakers, Brazilian director **Petra Costa** and Danish director **Lea Glob**, create an inspired hybrid work in which life and imagination are one and the same, fragile and luminous in equal measure. ***Olmo and the Seagull*** had its world premiere during this year's Locarno International Film Festival in the Filmmakers of the Present (Cineasti del presente) competition. The film is a co-production between Brazil, Denmark, France, Portugal and Sweden.

Olmo and the Seagull will be presented in its original in French, with English subtitles. The screening will be held at Concordia University's Alumni Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Saturday, November 21. Tickets for the closing night will go on sale on Tuesday, October 20.

Quebec's only film festival dedicated to documentaries, the Montreal International Documentary Festival presents the best reality-based films, including the works of established directors and new talents.

The 18th edition of the RIDM will take place from November 12 to 22, 2015.

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

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The RIDM's full program of nearly 140 documentaries from Canada and around the world will be announced at a **PRESS CONFERENCE on Tuesday, October 20 at 10 a.m. in the Fellini Theatre at Cinéma Excentris**. The line-up will be posted online the same day.

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