



RENCONTRES INTERNATIONALES
DU DOCUMENTAIRE DE MONTRÉAL
MONTRÉAL INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

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Nearly 120 guests from around the world at this year's RIDM

Montreal, Friday, November 13, 2015 – The Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM) has just opened its 18th edition. Nearly 120 guests from outside Quebec are expected to attend.

Heading the list of guests of honour is American filmmaker **Thom Andersen**, who will be on hand as part of the festival's retrospective of his work. Considered by many to be among the greatest essayists in the history of film, Andersen takes a documentary approach grounded in an exceptional talent for the use of archival materials. He will present eight films, including his most famous, *Los Angeles Plays Itself*, and his most recent, *The Thoughts That Once We Had*. He will also participate in a public discussion of architecture, a frequent theme in his films, at the Canadian Centre for Architecture on Sunday, November 15 at 3 p.m.

Danish filmmaker **Camilla Nielsson** will come to the festival to present *Democrats*, a particularly suspenseful political thriller documenting the dangerous struggle to draft a new constitution for Zimbabwe. The festival's guests from France will include the acclaimed **Claire Simon** presenting *Le bois dont les rêves sont faits*, a deeply humane look at the denizens of the Bois de Vincennes in Paris, and **Cyril Leuthy**, who takes us to Algeria with *La nuit s'achève*, an exploration of his father's *pied-noir* roots. The U.K.'s **Saeed Taji Farouky** will present his film *Tell Spring Not to Come This Year*, in which war is captured in all its absurdity from the point of view of an Afghani army unit fighting the Taliban after the withdrawal of NATO troops.

From the United States, the festival welcomes **Luke Meyer**, whose *Breaking a Monster* is a funny but insightful look at music marketing through the adventures of Unlocking the Truth, a metal band whose members are all pre-teens and African American. His countryman **Pacho Velez**, one of the co-directors of *Manakamana*, a well-received entry at the RIDM in 2013, will be here this year with his latest project, *The Reagan Shorts*: three hilarious short film about the Reagan administration's absurd activities and interviews. Also attending is **Billie Mintz**, who will present *Jesus Town, USA*, the amazing story of an amateur Passion Play, staged in rural Oklahoma, whose new Jesus is a chubby recent convert to Buddhism.

A diverse and talented group of filmmakers will come from Canada outside Quebec. **Isiah Medina's** *88:88* is a mind-bending experimental work exploring the lives of today's urban youth through the prism of Alain Badiou's philosophy. The well-known journalist **Michelle Shepard** will attend screenings of *Guantanamo's Child: Omar Khadr*, an absorbing chronicle of the struggles of Omar Khadr, who was imprisoned at Guantanamo at the age of 15. **Alison Rose** will discuss her encounter with the four astronomers featured in *Star*Men*, which documents the scientists' reunion in the U.S. Southwest, 50 years after a formative year together. Lastly, in the UXdoc section, **Brett Gaylor** will be on hand to demonstrate his webdoc series *Do Not Track*, whose seven episodes explore privacy in the digital age.

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 annual RIDM will take place from November 12 to 22, 2015

at Cinéma du Parc, Cinéma Excentris, the Cinémathèque québécoise, Pavillon Judith-Jasmin, Concordia University, UQAM and RIDM Headquarters (in the Ancienne École des beaux-arts at 3450 St. Urbain St).

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

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