



RENCONTRES INTERNATIONALES  
DU DOCUMENTAIRE DE MONTRÉAL  
MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE  
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## From November 12 to 23, the RIDM presents three major retrospectives: James Benning, Kazuo Hara and “Of Men and Beasts”

**Montreal, Thursday, September 4, 2014** – For its 17<sup>th</sup> edition, which will be held in Montreal from November 12 to 23, the **Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM)** is proud to pay tribute to several filmmakers with major retrospectives.

First, the festival will celebrate American experimental filmmaker **James Benning**. James Benning has made nearly 50 films over the course of a career lasting more than four decades. His work has been presented by countless museums and film festivals worldwide, including the Jeu de Paume in Paris, the Berlin and Toronto film festivals and the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York. Benning is also a full-time film professor at the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). This event – which includes screenings, two installations (presented in collaboration with VOX, centre de l'image contemporaine), a workshop and an academic seminar – is the largest of its kind ever presented in Canada. The retrospective also includes the premiere of Benning's latest film, *Natural History* (Venice 2014). Film critic and director **Gabe Klinger** (*Double Play*, a documentary about the friendship between Benning and director Richard Linklater, that will also be presented), is the retrospective's guest programmer.

The RIDM will also present a retrospective of the legendary Japanese filmmaker **Kazuo Hara**. For the occasion, Mr. Hara will pay his first visit to Quebec to present his four documentaries (*Goodbye CP*, *Extreme Private Eros: Love Song 1974*, *The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On* and *A Dedicated Life*). It is a great honour to host Mr. Hara as we present his works on the big screen. These films have profoundly influenced many filmmakers, and Michael Moore and Errol Morris cite them as among their favourite documentaries. Each screening will be followed by a discussion with the filmmaker and his producer, Sachiko Kobayashi. Mr. Hara will also give a master class during his visit. This retrospective is presented with the support of the Canada Art Council and the Japan Foundation.

Lastly, the festival will present a retrospective focused on animal films, “**Of Men and Beasts**”. Comprising both shorts and features, this special program will show how a number of filmmakers have pushed the envelope and reinvented the animal documentary. For this program, the RIDM is proud to present several works by **Jean Painlevé**, including films at the intersection of science and experimental documentary filmmaking, considered founding works of the genre. Also on the program are several well-known filmmakers who have explored the animal kingdom, including **Barbet Schroeder** with *Koko: a Talking Gorilla*; **Frederick Wiseman** with *Primate*; **Chris Marker** with *Vive la baleine*; **George Franju** with *Le sang des bêtes*; and **Pierre Perrault** with *L'oumigmag ou l'objectif documentaire*. Come rediscover the world of animals through the eyes of some of the world's finest documentary filmmakers.

The festival is also pleased to announce that its guests will include **Michel Fano**, the greatest film sound designer France has ever produced, who will present *Le territoire des autres* and *La griffe et la dent*, two landmark animal documentaries for which he created remarkable soundtracks. Mr. Fano will also lead two workshops during his stay (one open to the public and professionals, the other for university students). Mr. Fano's visit will provide an opportunity for a deeper exploration of the role of music and sound in documentary cinema.

The three retrospectives are presented in collaboration with the Cinémathèque québécoise.

*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 17<sup>th</sup> annual RIDM will take place from November 12 to 23, 2014.  
Information: [www.ridm.qc.ca](http://www.ridm.qc.ca) / [info@ridm.qc.ca](mailto:info@ridm.qc.ca)

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