



RENCONTRES INTERNATIONALES
DU DOCUMENTAIRE DE MONTRÉAL
MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE
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Resounding success for the RIDM, with 34% more paid admissions

Montreal, December 7, 2015 – The 18th annual Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM), which ended on November 22, was a resounding success. Audiences, filmmakers, industry professionals and the festival’s partners attended in large numbers, making this “coming of age” year one to remember!

A SUCCESSFUL 18th EDITION

With a 34% increase in paid attendance and total attendance of 63,200, the festival included **many sold-out screenings**, including the three screenings of *Homeland (Iraq Year Zero)* by Abbas Fahdel, a 6-hour epic that won both the audience award and the Grand Prize of the international feature competition. **Quebec-made works were very popular**, as shown by full theatres for screenings of *Bienvenue à F.L.* by Geneviève Dulude-De Celles (Best New Talent Quebec/Canada), *Un amour d’été* by Jean-François Lesage (Grand Prize, Canadian feature competition), *Retour aux sources* by Jean-Sébastien Francoeur and Andrew Marchand Boddy (Magnus Isacson Award and Women Inmates’ Award), *Police Académie* by Mélissa Beaudet, *À la poursuite de la paix* by Garry Beitel, *Maman? Non merci!* by Magenta Baribeau and *Pipelines, pouvoir et démocratie* by Olivier D. Asselin.

The RIDM paid tribute to **Chantal Akerman**, an eminent filmmaker who passed away on October 5, by presenting her final film, *No Home Movie*, and Marianne Lambert’s documentary *I Don’t Belong Anywhere - Le cinéma de Chantal Akerman*, plus a special screening of Akerman’s *De l’autre côté* (2002). Through **two major retrospectives**, the festival showcased the work of American filmmaker Thom Andersen, and illustrated the fascinating relationships between still and moving images with a selection of documentaries made by great photographers – films whose aesthetic is influenced by still photography.

In all, the RIDM presented 143 films in 178 sessions. The works came from 41 countries and included 25 world and international premieres, 24 North American premieres, 23 Canadian premieres and 42 Quebec premieres. Festivalgoers had the opportunity to meet 135 international guest filmmakers and industry professionals who attended to present films, give lectures and help make the festival an exciting forum for discussion.

The RIDM presented **11 awards including prizes worth more than \$20,000** thanks to the support of its loyal partners.

Parallel to the festival’s film program, the discussion between **Icelandic composer Jóhann Jóhannsson and director Denis Villeneuve** delved into issues around the composition of movie music. Another highlight was the presentation, by the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, of the Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec to **filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin** during the festival. The honour was presented in recognition of Obomsawin’s remarkable contributions to the advancement, promotion and success of Quebec arts and culture.

For the fourth year, the **UXdoc section** revealed festivalgoers’ intense interest in interactive works and virtual reality, with projects such as *Le photographe inconnu*, *Do Not Track* and *En attendant Bárðarbunga*.

The **festival's Headquarters** at the Ancienne École des beaux-arts de Montréal welcomed more than **34,000 people**, making it the undisputed favourite gathering place for festivalgoers from morning to night. The space featured cocktails, installations, informal gatherings, the activities of Doc Circuit Montreal and the Beat Dox Sessions live music series.

DOC CIRCUIT MONTREAL

Doc Circuit Montreal (DCM) took place from November 14 to 18, with **total attendance of 4,000**. DCM included 5 pitch sessions, 6 specialized workshops, 9 round tables, 33 presentations, 10 networking activities, 142 guests and 1,260 business meetings. The market also made a mark with its Talent Lab, which led to the awarding of a mentorship grant of \$10,000 presented by Canal D to a Canadian francophone project. DCM was more popular than ever, attracting not only a diverse group of professionals but prominent guests such as Brett Gaylor (*Do Not Track*), Philippe Müller (ARTE GEIE), Pamela Cohn (True/False), Michael Kronish and Patrick McGuire (VICE Canada), and Hajnal Molnar-Szakacs (The Sundance Institute), as well as delegations from Brazil and Bavaria.

BEYOND THE FEST

The RIDM has a rich and original year-round program. In January 2016, we will launch the fifth annual series of monthly screenings, at Cinéma du Parc.

THE FESTIVAL RETURNS IN NOVEMBER 2016

The 19th edition of the Montreal International Documentary Festival will take place from November 10 to 20, 2016.

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.

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

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