



RENCONTRES INTERNATIONALES
DU DOCUMENTAIRE DE MONTRÉAL
MONTRÉAL INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE
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The 18th Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM) starts tomorrow!

***Les vaillants* kicks off a strong line-up of topical films**

Montreal, November 11, 2015 - The 18th annual Montreal International Documentary Festival, which runs from November 12 to 22, opens tomorrow. ***Les vaillants*** by Quebec director Pascal Sanchez will kick off the festivities with its world premiere, launching a festival filled with films that explore some of today's biggest and most controversial issues.

Les vaillants brings us into a public housing development in Montreal's Saint-Michel district. The film is a lively salute to the volunteers and workers in local associations, fighting every day to change lives for the better. The film will be open the festival on November 12 at 7 p.m. at Concordia University's Alumni Auditorium, followed at 10 p.m. by the opening party at RIDM Headquarters. The party is presented in collaboration with the artists' agency Heavy Trip and Les films du 3 Mars, distributor of ***Les vaillants***. The bands *Mozart's Sister* and *Heartstreets* and DJ sets by *KenLo Craquques* and *Jeanson* will keep festivalgoers up and dancing late into the night.

As always, the festival's program is brimming with works that investigate some of today's biggest issues. ***Homeland (Iraq Year Zero)*** and ***Coma***, presented in official competition, transform our perception of the disastrous invasion of Iraq and the current situation in Syria respectively, while ***Guantanamo's Child: Omar Khadr***, in the Special Presentations portion of the Panorama section, gives voice to the high-profile recently paroled prisoner. In the Panorama section's State of the Planet series, ***Tell Spring Not to Come This Year*** immerses us in an Afghani army unit fighting against the Taliban, while the contemplative ***Killing Time – Entre deux fronts*** takes a look at the lives of American soldiers stationed, between deployments, in the desert town of Twentynine Palms, California. The festival's roster of Quebec-made films includes ***À la poursuite de la paix***, focusing on activists who venture into war zones to try to change the course of conflicts.

The world's ongoing migrant and refugee crises are also explored this year with films such as ***Callshop Istanbul***, filmed in the callshops of Istanbul, creating a powerful and dignified testament to the migrant's condition in the 21st century, and ***Llevate mis amores***, which documents the everyday lives of the Patronas, a group of Mexican women who provide meals to migrants riding the train to the U.S. border. In addition to these films, the UXdoc program includes the interactive project ***Life On Hold***, which presents ten first-person accounts of Syrian refugees' lives in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, environmental issues are front and centre in ***The Chinese Mayor***, which shows us the intricacies of Chinese municipal politics through a profile of an extraordinary politician, while ***Pipelines, pouvoir et démocratie*** presents an intelligent, nuanced account of the biggest environmental battle in recent years in Quebec, the struggle against the Energy East and 9B pipelines. In addition, a virtual reality project called ***Polar Sea 360°***, the world's first 360° documentary, will be presented in the UXdoc Space.

Closer to home, the films ***Pouding chômeurs*** and ***Police Académie*** tackle hot local issues. The first is a look, from the victims' perspective, at the consequences of the government's a major reform of the employment insurance program in January 2013. The second documents police training in Montreal.

Lastly, the festival will present ***They Will Have to Kill Us First - Malian Music in Exile, Democrats, Je suis le peuple*** and ***La fiancée du Nil***, which explore ongoing stories affecting Africa.

The 18th edition of the RIDM will take place from November 12 to 22, 2015 at Cinéma du Parc, Cinéma Excentris, Cinémathèque québécoise, Concordia University, Pavillon Judith-Jasmin Annexe (UQAM) and RIDM Headquarters (3450 St. Urbain Street).

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

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