



RENCONTRES INTERNATIONALES  
DU DOCUMENTAIRE DE MONTRÉAL  
MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE  
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## Award winners at the 17<sup>th</sup> Montreal International Documentary Festival

**Montreal, Sunday November 23, 2014** – The Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM) closes this evening after presenting 145 films and numerous parallel activities and events. The award winners for the 17<sup>th</sup> annual RIDM were announced this evening during the closing ceremony at Concordia University's Alumni Auditorium.

### STUDENT AWARD

Presented in collaboration with the CSN, Telefilm Canada and the Montreal cultural development agreement between the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications and the Ville de Montréal, the Student award is presented to a documentary selected by the Student Jury from among the films in the Canadian Competition.

For his delicate direction that reveals a strong bond between the director and the characters, and because he offers a humble, poetic and powerful reflection on an artist's life, the student jury awards this prize to **L'OEUVRE DES JOURS** by Bruno Baillargeon.

For taking a bold approach, and having the courage to expose something very private with the intention of opening our eyes to a subject that remains taboo in the society, the student jury is proud to give this award to Karina Garcia Casanova for her film **JUANICAS**.

### WOMEN INMATES' AWARD

The Inmates Jury is comprised of five women from the Joliette Institution (Johanne, Julie-Chantal, Karine, Mélanie and Sylvie). The award is presented to the jury's favourite film from a selection of eight entries in the Official Competition and Panorama section. This year they chose Dieudo Hamadi's **EXAMEN D'ÉTAT**.

The award is presented in collaboration with Telefilm Canada, the Quebec chapter of the Elizabeth Fry Society and Fondation Solstice.

### MAGNUS ISACSSON AWARD

The Magnus Isacsson Award is presented by the ACIC/NFB, Cinema Politica, Doc Québec, the ARRQ and the RFAVQ. Created two years ago in honour of the beloved Montreal documentary filmmaker Magnus Isacsson, this award is presented to an up-and-coming Canadian director for a work demonstrating social consciousness.

The jury recognizes and salutes the quality of all 9 documentaries pre-selected for this prize – they are a quite remarkable world panorama – luminous, committed and accomplished films.

The recipient of the Magnus Isacsson prize is a film that takes place close to us, and that spoke to us on several counts: Through the urgency of its message; Through the perseverance and commitment of its director, and indeed the whole film team, who worked for 5 years to make the film, with no support other than crowdfunding; Through the courage it took to take on such a highly controversial issue, more or less ignored by the media – a reminder of the importance of point of view documentaries to a healthy democracy; because the author brings evidence against the Canadian government, which for its part doesn't seem too bothered by such details; for its creative and

dynamic approach. The jury awards the Magnus Isacson prize to **THE SECRET TRIAL 5**, directed by Amar Wala

The jury would like to award an honorable mention to a film that was also made over a long period of time and with very little support from the expected institutions. Far from the daily news feeds, it nonetheless reveals situations that are among the many currently targeted by our “captains of austerity”. For the relationship of trust that the director establishes with the film’s protagonists, who become more than simple characters; for the very true portrait it paints of a reality that touches many of us and often leaves us feeling powerless. The jury awards an Honorable Mention to **DE PRISONS EN PRISONS**, by Steve Patry.

The members of the Magnus Isacson Award jury were Jocelyne Clarke, Mary Armstrong, Martin Duckworth, Patricio Henriquez and Svetla Turnin.

### **BEST NEW TALENT FROM QUEBEC/CANADA**

Presented by Post Moderne, the award for Best New Talent from Quebec/Canada is presented to the director of the best first film in the Canadian Feature competition.

For a first time documentary director, the Canadian national feature jury acknowledges an absorbing observational look into a quickly fading world that was once a vibrant and intricate part of a Canadian city's fabric which is now selling out to high stakes real estate. The winner is Julia Kwan's **EVERYTHING WILL BE**.

The Canadian features national jury would like to acknowledge a courageous transparency exhibited in this gripping and all too often common social and familial problem of depression. This special mention goes to Karina Garcia Casanova's **JUANICAS**.

### **GRAND PRIZE FOR BEST CANADIAN FEATURE**

Presented by TV5.

In judging the eleven feature films entered in the National competition, we have noted several recurring themes. Predominantly, the subject matter deals with loss of identity, geographic and personal exile, the educational crisis, and the stranglehold that economic and political powers have on individuals including aboriginals, young students from Gaspé and immigrants - issues that can lead to suicide, serious psychological problems, or both. Aside from their artistic and cinematographic qualities and the depth of research, these films are often a cry for help. For the clarity of their vision, for the courage to transcend the sorrow and depression and introduce us to a person who is both unique and emblematic, for the beauty that lives in the Far North and the people living there, and finally, as someone in the film said, for “a who friend didn’t die from suicide, but died from a programmed assimilation in which he was sent to a boarding school where he had to speak a language different than his parents, leading to his loss of identity and way of life ...

The jury awards the prize for best feature film in the national competition to **SOL** from Marie-Hélène Cousineau and Susan Avingaq.

By immersing us in the turbulence of adolescence, this film gave us a touching and subtle look at the trials and tribulations of the progression into adulthood. Taking the focus away from authority figures in the film, the director gave a voice to young people who are looking for their identity in a society that often overlooks the fact that they represent our future.

The award for special mention goes to **LA MARCHÉ À SUIVRE** from Jean-François Caissy.

The jurors for the Canadian Feature competition were Teddy Grouya, Hannah Horner and Michka Saäl.

#### **BEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM**

Presented by Super Channel.

How does one make a documentary film about a lost world? Using simple means—a mirror, a local song, a literary reference, a reflection—the mythological is shown to be very much part of the everyday in the winning film in the Short-Length category: **ATLANTIS** by Ben Russell.

#### **BEST INTERNATIONAL MEDIUM-LENGTH FILM**

Presented by Super Channel.

For a haunting, poetic view of the changing political eras of Portugal beautifully told through the letters and momentos of a brother and sister, the jury gives the award in the medium-length competition to **METAPHOR OR SADNESS INSIDE OUT** by Catarina Vasconcelos.

The jurors for the international short and medium-length competitions were Livia Bloom, Dominic Gagnon and Veton Nurkollari.

#### **BEST EDITING IN AN INTERNATIONAL FEATURE**

This is a film that established for itself not only a structure, but also a grammar where different source materials co-exist and complicate each other, maintaining a tension between sensation and meaning. It's editing is rigorous, balancing concepts and filmic experience, image and discourse, appearing as an intricate and eloquent object, which is also generous enough to let us understand its own process. In this way, the film offers us a deep and surprising experience of a territory, a history and an imaginary, that has been invisible for most of us. The award goes to **LETTERS TO MAX** by Éric Baudelaire.

#### **BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY IN AN INTERNATIONAL FEATURE**

One film in competition announced itself for its powerful perspective. The jury was unanimous in our appreciation. Using a camera much loved but no longer manufactured, a simple spring wound machine chosen not for a nostalgic effect, but for its precision, not for its practicality, but for its radical potential for expression, an artist with the discipline it demands and an uncompromising vision is able to collapse the distance between the filming and the watching of the film, making this celluloid not a surface, but a space for transmission of experience. The award goes to **FOR THE LOST** by Pierre-Yves Vandeweerd.

#### **GRAND PRIZE FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE**

For the courage of constructing a film, that is both testimony and an accomplice in the struggles of its characters, for the political pertinence of a cinematographic gesture that is just, touching real questions that cannot must be confronted, for realizing the beauty and poetics in extreme situations and avoiding condescension, for the fragility of a cinema that still wants to try to change the course or things... The grand prize for best international feature goes to **ONCE UPON A TIME** by Kazim Öz.

It was an incredible story that this jury had simply never heard before, it captured a completely singular series of events with discipline while celebrating absurdity and humor. This film was a discovery. We laughed. We quoted scenes to each other. It is a film that examined the fallibility of an institution at the same time as it introduced characters full of unforgettable joy. It presented itself in a simple form, but begged further discussion and consideration and revealed its real strength upon

reflection. For this accomplishment, the jury gives a Special Mention to **EXAMEN D'ÉTAT / NATIONAL DIPLOMA** by Dieudo Hamadi.

The jurors for the International Feature competition were Christopher Allen, Lynn Fainchtein, Cintia Gil, Luciano Rigolini and Nicolas Wadimoff.

#### **PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD**

Presented by CBC's Documentary Channel, the winner of the Audience Award is chosen by festivalgoers from among all films in the Official Competition and Panorama sections. This year's winner is Laura Poitras' **CITIZENFOUR**

During the festival, Télé-Québec's Fabrique Culturelle online portal presented a program of short and medium-length films selected specially by the RIDM's programming team. From November 6 to 20, a competition, "La Fabrique culturelle et les RIDM craquent pour les courts," invited the public to view a selection of five Quebec-made short and medium-length films on [lafabriqueculturelle.tv](http://lafabriqueculturelle.tv). Viewers then voted for their favourite work. *À trois pas de la scène*, a short film by Judith Plamondon, emerged as this year's winner of the Télé-Québec Fabrique Culturelle Award, which includes a \$500 grant. Congratulations to all the participants.

*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)**

-30-

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