



PRESS RELEASE  
For immediate distribution

## The Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM) 3 stimulating weeks of documentaries and discussions

### Announcing the complete program for the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual festival

**Montreal, Wednesday, October 21, 2020** – The **Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM)** is proud to announce the program for its 23<sup>rd</sup> edition. This year, the festival will run for three weeks, **from November 12 to December 2**. 109 films, including 48 features, and numerous remote discussions and workshops will, more than ever, make November a grand celebration of documentary film.

This year, the festival's program will be available online everywhere in Quebec via [enligne.ridm.ca](https://enligne.ridm.ca), the festival's streaming platform powered by CineSend. To make the most of the flexibility enabled by the web while creating a festival experience that encourages a dialogue among the works, a subset of the program will be available each week. The weekly line-ups will be organized around **8 thematic sections** with equal weighting for short, medium and feature-length films. In addition to the films, the sections will be enhanced with **complementary content** such as video discussions and podcasts. All films and other content will be accessible with reduced-cost passes and subscriptions. The films in this year's festival come from **45 countries** and once again underscore the superb work being done by women – **who made 52% of the films in the official selection**. As a space for discovering new documentary voices, the festival will include **18 first features** alongside works by festival favourites like Frederick Wiseman, Claire Simon, Dieudo Hamadi, Laura Huertas Millán and Kazuhiro Soda.

**TRAILER 2020:** [vimeo.com/470252359](https://vimeo.com/470252359)

Meeting the many challenges of 2020, the RIDM has designed its sections as explorations of issues and responses to current realities.

#### **NOVEMBER 12 TO 18, the RIDM invites audiences to:**

**DISRUPTING HISTORY:** 11 films that use cinema to shed light on little-known historical episodes, critique official narratives or reflect on the enduring impact of key figures. Collectively, these essays, broadsides, performances and archival explorations form a fascinating set of works that, from Canada to Afghanistan, Colombia and Nigeria, encourage us to rethink our relationship with the past:

[84](#) by Daniel Santiago Cortés

[499](#) by Rodrigo Reyes

[A Bright Summer Diary](#) by Lei Lei

[The American Sector](#) by Courtney Stephens and Pacho Velez

[Bicentenario](#) by Pablo Alvarez-Mesa

[Histoire d'un regard](#) by Mariana Otero

[The Forbidden Reel](#) by Ariel Nasr

[\*Inconvenient Indian\*](#) by Michelle Latimer

[\*the names have changed, including my own and truths have been altered\*](#) by Onyeka Igwe

[\*Ouvertures\*](#) by Louis Henderson and Olivier Marboeuf

[\*Une image, deux actes\*](#) by Sanaz Sohrabi

**EXPLORING NATURE:** 11 films about our multifaceted relationships with nature and the environment: the impacts of climate change, spiritual and mystical connections with the natural world, animal's-eye-view perspectives and observations of the socio-cultural impacts of our relationship with nature:

[\*À perte de vue\*](#) by Marie-Chloé Racine and Sarah Salem

[\*Cenote\*](#) by Kaori Oda

[\*Icemeltland Park\*](#) by Liliana Colombo

[\*Jiíbie\*](#) by Laura Huertas Millán

[\*Lichen\*](#) by Lisa Jackson

[\*małni – towards the ocean, towards the shore\*](#) by Sky Hopinka

[\*Piedra Solo\*](#) by Alejandro Telémaco Tarraf

[\*Stray\*](#) by Elizabeth Lo

[\*The Magnitude of All Things\*](#) by Jennifer Abbott

[\*The Two Sights\*](#) by Joshua Bonnetta

[\*Un fleuve l'hiver\*](#) by Félix Lamarche

**SEEKING COMMUNITIES:** 11 films that observe and examine politics, identity issues and social reintegration. From observational grand narratives to autobiographical testimonials, this section is all about how we engage with others:

[\*City Hall\*](#) by Frederick Wiseman

[\*Clean With Me \(After Dark\)\*](#) by Gabrielle Stemmer

[\*Communicating Vessels\*](#) by Maïder Fortuné and Annie MacDonell

[\*Dark City Beneath The Beat\*](#) by TT The Artist

[\*Film About a Father Who\*](#) by Lynne Sachs

[\*Home, and a Distant Archive\*](#) by Dorothy Cheung

[\*In the Shadow of the Pines\*](#) by Anne Koizumi

[\*Les livres\*](#) by Nicolas Lévesque

[\*Merry Christmas, Yiwu\*](#) by Mladen Kovacevic

[\*Monologues du Paon\*](#) by Matthew Wolkow

[\*Ndagukunda déjà\*](#) by Sébastien Desrosiers and David Findlay

Presented in collaboration with **Radio-Canada**.

### **NOVEMBER 19 TO 25, the RIDM will focus on:**

**CONTEMPLATING DYSTOPIA:** 12 films that confront the strangeness of our world. An unlikely road movie with the spokesman for a death cult, an imagined world without people, futuristic architecture and nocturnal odysseys. These creative films reframe our reality:

[\*A Machine to Live In\*](#) by Yoni Goldstein and Meredith Zielke

[\*A Shape of Things to Come\*](#) by Lisa Malloy and J.P. Sniadecki

[\*Armour\*](#) by Sandro Aguilar

[\*Bile\*](#) by Ira A. Goryainova

[\*FREM\*](#) by Viera Cákanyová

[\*Hole\*](#) by Jaakko Pallasvu

[\*Los Conductos\*](#) by Camilo Restrepo

[\*Me and the Cult Leader\*](#) by Atsushi Sakahara

[Shānzhài Screens](#) by Paul Heintz  
[Signal 8](#) by Simon Liu  
[Tension Structures](#) by Adrian Duncan and Feargal Ward  
[The Foundation Pit](#) by Andrey Gryazev

**BECOMING ONESELF:** These 12 films are profiles and self-portraits about our relationship with the world – a series of inspiring and poetic existential quests that affirm the many definitions of self:

[Lointain](#) by Aziz Zoromba  
[Mazzarello](#) by Carmen Rachiteanu  
[Métamorphoses](#) by Nicolas Renaud  
[My Mexican Bretzel](#) by Nuria Giménez  
[No Ordinary Man](#) by Aisling Chin-Yee and Chase Joynt  
[Passage](#) by Sarah Baril Gaudet  
[Petite Fille](#) by Sébastien Lifshitz  
[Prière pour une mitaine perdue](#) by Jean-François Lesage  
[Six Pieces in Stargazer Album](#) by Jiyang Zhang  
[The Plastic House](#) by Allison Chhorn  
[Trees in Summer](#) by Suyu Lee  
[Wintopia](#) by Mira Burt-Wintonick

**CHALLENGING POWER:** These 12 films, running the gamut from activist cinema to highly experimental pieces, confront past and present injustices while paying tribute to many brave and committed people:

[Stateless](#) by Michèle Stephenson  
[Downstream to Kinshasa](#) by Dieudo Hamadi  
[Impardonnable](#) by Marlén Viñayo  
[Invasion](#) by Michael Toledano and Sam Vinal  
[Landfall](#) by Cecilia Aldarondo  
[Les femmes du soleil: une chronologie du regard](#) by Hamed Zolfaghari  
[Mother-Child](#) by Andrea Testa  
[Nardjes A.](#) by Karim Aïnouz  
[Oil & Water](#) by Anjali Nayar  
[Peugeot pulmonaire](#) by Samy Benammar  
[Quelque chose brûle](#) by Victoria Maréchal, Nicolás Tabilo and Macarena Astete  
[Softie](#) by Sam Soko

Presented in collaboration with the **CSN - Confédération des syndicats nationaux.**

**NOVEMBER 26 TO DECEMBER 2, the RIDM will ask viewers to:**

**REDEFINING INTIMACY:** 13 films with an intimate side, exploring everything from family relationships and romantic entanglements to the state of healthcare. These very personal stories question the relationship between the individual and their society and time:

[CHSLD](#) by François Delisle  
[CHSLD, Mon Amour](#) by Danic Champoux  
[Goodnight Goodnight](#) by Mackenzie Reid Rostad  
[Le Fils de l'épicière, le Maire, le Village et le Monde](#) by Claire Simon  
[Life of a Dog](#) by Danae Elon and Rosana Matecki  
[Mon Amour](#) by David Teboul  
[Sayōnara](#) by William Andreas Wivel  
[Southern Sorceresses](#) by Beto Amaral, Carla Caffé and Eliane Caffé

[Tandis que je respire encore](#) by Laure Giappiconi, Elisa Monteil and La Fille Renne

[Teeth](#) by Jennifer Martin

[Thanadoula](#) by Robin McKenna

[The Metamorphosis of Birds](#) by Catarina Vasconcelos

[Zero](#) by Kazuhiro Soda

**SURVIVING VIOLENCE:** 12 activist films that testify powerfully to some of today's most distressing violence: exploitation of Indigenous peoples, the tragedies faced by migrants, countries at war, state repression and violence against women:

[3 Logical Exits](#) by Mahdi Fleifel

[Ankebût](#) by Ceylan Özgün Özçelik

[Aswang](#) by Alyx Ayn Arumpac

[Errance sans retour](#) by Mélanie Carrier and Olivier Higgins

[Extractions](#) by Thirza Cuthand

[La Maison Bleue](#) by Hamedine Kane

[La mort blanche du sorcier noir](#) by Rodrigo Ribeiro

[Night Shot](#) by Carolina Moscoso

[Purple Sea](#) by Khaled Abdulwahed and Amel Alzakout

[Sous un même soleil](#) by François Jacob

[The Earth Is Blue as an Orange](#) by Iryna Tsilyk

[Unarchive](#) by Cecilia Araneda

## **AWARDS & JURIES**

This year's RIDM will have the same competitive sections as always, but the student and women inmates' awards unfortunately cannot be presented this year.

**Grand Prize For Best International Feature** - presented by TV5

**Grand Prize For Best National Feature** - presented by Studios St-Antoine

**Special Jury Prize International Feature**

**Special Jury Prize National Feature** - presented by PRIM

**New Visions Award** - presented by the SCAM and Post-Moderne

**Best International or Medium-Length Film**

**Best National Short or Medium-Length Film** - presented by Télé-Québec and SLA location

**Magnus Isacson Award** - presented in collaboration with ARRQ, DOC Québec, Funambules Médias, Cinema Politica and Main Film

**People's Choice Award** - presented by the Canada Media Fund (NOUS | MADE)

## **INTERSECTIONS**

Once again this year, the RIDM will host numerous discussions, round tables and activities to complement and enrich the festival's film programming.

### **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

**La soirée de la relève Radio-Canada** will be back with first films by up-and-coming directors. The event will be livestreamed by Radio-Canada on November 22 at 5 p.m., after which the films will be available on ICI Tou.tv.

**8 x Wapikoni mobile:** the RIDM and the **Wapikoni mobile** are working together again this year to present eight short films online; they will be shown in rotation before all films in the Canadian competition.

Once again this year, the **Public Listening Session** gives festivalgoers the chance to immerse themselves in a world of sound. The program comprises three short audio works – winners of Le Réel à l'écoute competition – and a feature-length work. An event organized by Les Soirées d'écoute publique and CHOQ.ca, presented by the PRIM centre.

## **ROUND TABLES AND DISCUSSIONS**

**Diversity in French-language production:** presented with the support of the **Consulate General of France in Quebec**, this round table moderated by Yanick Létourneau will include filmmakers Amandine Gay and Miryam Charles and producer and programmer Hicham Falah. The panellists will discuss diversity issues in French-language documentary production.

**Film and theatre: production during a pandemic:** presented in collaboration with **Espace libre, Wapikoni mobile and Cinéma Moderne**, this round table is moderated by Aude Renaud-Lorrain. The panellists, François Bernier and Hubert Lemire (DuBunker) and Marie-Kristine Petiquay (Wapikoni), will discuss their creative and logistical experiences and challenges during the pandemic.

**New reality-based narratives: a checkup:** presented in collaboration with **Inis** and the **labdoc** (laboratoire de recherche sur les pratiques audiovisuelles documentaires) at UQÀM, this round table moderated by Matthieu Dugal will look at the state of affairs in the digital media ecosystem and new narrative approaches in documentary.

**RIDM Dialogues:** video discussions with filmmakers who have a work in this year's festival.

**The RIDM Podcast:** multiple episodes focusing on interviews with Quebec filmmakers. Produced in partnership with **24 images** magazine.

## **PRICING FOR PASSES AND SECTION SUBSCRIPTIONS**

This year, the RIDM box office is exclusively online, via the [festival's website](#). To keep access to the entire program simple and affordable, there are only two purchasing options:

**RIDM Pass – \$70 +tx:** the pass is good for all festival programming

**Section Subscription – \$15 +tx:** good for all films in one of the 8 sections

All films in the official selection will be available at all times during the festival weeks listed at [enligne.ridm.ca](#). The viewing platform will be accessible as of November 9, with the films available starting November 12 at 8 a.m.

**Please note that if public health conditions permit, several in-theatre screenings may be announced in early November. In this case, single tickets will be sold through the RIDM website.**

## **THANKS TO THE RIDM'S PARTNERS**

In these uncertain times, the RIDM wishes to acknowledge the remarkable support and encouragement our partners have provided. It is a sign of trust and a testament to the resilience of our institutions and community. Thanks to the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, SODEC, the Secrétariat à la région métropolitaine, the Canada Council for the Arts, Ville de Montréal, Telefilm Canada, the Conseil des arts de Montréal, the Consulate General of France in Quebec, Bell Media, Canal D, the Canada Media Fund, Télé-Québec, CSN, TV5, Radio-Canada, Post-Moderne, the Société civile des auteurs multimédia (SCAM), Studios Saint-Antoine, PRIM, BDO, the Cinémathèque québécoise and Chop Chop studio.

**About RIDM**

*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 23<sup>rd</sup> annual RIDM will take place from November 12 to December 2, 2020.**

**Information:** [ridm.ca](http://ridm.ca) | [info@ridm.ca](mailto:info@ridm.ca)

[Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Instagram](#)

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**For interview, Vimeo links or visual material requests, please contact:**

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**Accreditation / Online Form (to fill out before October 30):** [ridm.ca/en/press-accreditation](http://ridm.ca/en/press-accreditation)

**All 2020 Press Releases are available here:** [ridm.ca/en/press/press-releases](http://ridm.ca/en/press/press-releases)

**Press Area / Downloads (Photos, Official Trailers, etc)\*:** [ridm.ca/en/press-log-in](http://ridm.ca/en/press-log-in)

*\*Please ask us for the access code if needed.*