

The Montreal International Documentary Festival's 24th edition successfully reconnects with audiences



Montreal, December 14, 2021 – The 24th edition of the **Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM)** drew to a close on November 25. For its first hybrid edition, Quebec's largest festival dedicated exclusively to documentary film presented **120 documentaries** for film-lovers both in Montreal and across Canada. The festival team is proud to announce that these two audiences—physical and virtual—reached **80% of the total audience of 2019's pre-pandemic edition**.

By screening documentaries from **44 different countries**, the RIDM aimed to give an insight into the lived experiences of people the world over. Activities running alongside the program offered festivalgoers even greater insight into these experiences via screenings and discussions with filmmakers; for instance, during his time in Montreal, prolific Russian director **Vitaly Mansky** gave a masterclass complementing the RIDM's retrospective of his work.

Always keen to blaze a trail for equal representation, the RIDM offered programming of exceptional quality, **over 50%** of which was created by **women filmmakers**. The selection was also designed to amplify the voices of often underrepresented **communities** in documentary film—for example, *Dear Jackie* by Henri Pardo sketches a history of Little Burgundy's Black community; meanwhile, in *Kímmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy*, Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers turns the camera on her own community, the Kainai First Nation, at the forefront of the struggle against the ravages of opioid addiction.

The festival's great diversity of voices was also visible in the prominence given to **young filmmakers**, particularly with the return of **La soirée de la relève Radio-Canada**, short films produced by **Wapikoni mobile**, and the inclusion of **14 first-time filmmakers** in the program. The RIDM was also a platform for **all documentary formats**: as well as many feature-length films, 48 shorts were screened along with five medium-length films.

Reflecting the wealth of talent within our local scene, close to **50 films from Quebec and elsewhere in Canada** were screened, making up **42% of the entire program**. Especially popular this year were films reflecting a deep sense of humanity, including *Upstairs* by **Martin Fournier** and **Pier-Luc Latulippe**, *Alone* by **Paul Tom**, *Dear Audrey* by **Jeremiah Hayes**, *One of Ours* by **Yasmine Mathurin**, and *Gabor* by **Joannie Lafrenière**.

The RIDM took great pride in bringing audiences together this year through both its on-site screenings and its accessible virtual edition. Since its introduction in 2020, the online screening platform has allowed a growing audience from **outside Montreal** to enjoy the films on offer; this year, they accounted for **37% of total viewers**.

Forum RIDM in numbers

Forum RIDM's 17th edition took place in hybrid format from November 13 to 17. Over five days, the event played host to nearly **300 accredited guests including 120 professionals**. The resounding success of Forum RIDM was due in no small part to the roundtables and the virtual One-on-One, which—attended by guests from **11 different countries**—was host to **538 business meetings**. The hybrid format of this edition allowed Forum RIDM to maintain and strengthen its position as a key event on the local and international documentary scene.

This year's Forum focused particularly on collaborations and encounters. Attending professionals had access to 7 workshops and conferences, 7 networking activities, 5 grants, and 2 pitch activities. The much-loved **Rough Cut Lab** was a chance to hear from a panel of seasoned experts who shared their views on the *L'Histoire les jugera* project (working title) directed by German Gutierrez and produced by Carmen Garcia. Collaboration was the watch-word of this 8th edition of the **Talent Lab**, presented by Netflix, in which **16 emerging filmmakers** were able to enjoy individual mentorship alongside workshops grouped around the theme of "Partners in Creation."

Forum RIDM 2021 was a resounding success, thanks to both its participants and its partners: prizes awarded to the Forum winners totalled **\$27,000** in grants and support.

Thank you to all partners of the RIDM and Forum RIDM

The **RIDM** gratefully acknowledges the support of its valued partners: the Gouvernement du Québec, the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, SODEC, the Secrétariat à la région métropolitaine, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ville de Montréal, Téléfilm Canada, the Conseil des arts de Montréal, Tourisme Montréal, the Centre des Services aux Entreprises - Intégration en emploi (Emploi-Québec), the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation, Crave, Canal D, the Canada Media Fund, Télé-Québec, the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN), TV5, Radio-Canada, Post-Moderne, the Société civile des auteurs multimédia (SCAM), PRIM, BDO, the Cinémathèque québécoise, and Studio Chop Chop, as well as Benoît Parent and Arthur Gaumont-Marchant.

Forum RIDM wishes to thank its major institutional partners, whose support made this 17th edition possible: The Société de développement des entreprises culturelles (SODEC), Téléfilm Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts, Ville de Montréal, the Conseil des arts de Montréal, Netflix, the Bell Fund, the Canada Media Fund, Canal D, the Office national du film du Canada, and the National Film Board of Canada.

The 25th edition of the RIDM will take place in November 2022.

Information: ridm.ca / info@ridm.ca

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Contact: Caroline Rompré | pixelleX communications | 514-778-9294 | caroline@pixelllex.ca