

## RIDM 2021: the documentary festival enters its second week

**Montreal, Monday, November 15, 2021** — The **Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM)** enters its second week with many new films on offer. The festival will be held **in theatres until November 21** and **online until November 25** on the [enligne.ridm.ca](https://enligne.ridm.ca) platform, accessible everywhere in Canada.

### Masterclass and screenings attended by Vitaly Mansky

As part of his visit to Montreal until November 19, **Vitaly Mansky** will give a free masterclass (reservation required) on **Wednesday, November 17 at 5 p.m.** at the Cinémathèque québécoise. This second week of the festival is also an opportunity to revisit his filmography with a screening of seven of his films, five of which will be attended by the filmmaker. Full details of Vitaly Mansky's visit to Montreal can be found on the dedicated [retrospective](#) page.

### Local films not to be missed

Today, **Monday, November 15**, RIDM will be showing [Dropstones](#), the first film by Toronto filmmaker **Caitlin Durlak**. Sonya, a mother who is retaking control of her life after a difficult relationship, returns with her two children to the picturesque island where she was born. The screening will be followed by a discussion with the filmmaker and the protagonist.

Showing on **Tuesday, November 16**, [Stray Ducks](#) by **Bruno Chouinard** follows the surreal and epic story of 90 rubber ducks dropped by NASA into Greenland's glaciers as part of an experiment on climate change. The same day, [zo reken](#) by **Emanuel Licha** offers a view on the ground in Haiti, exposing the neocolonialism and paternalism inherent in the white "saviour" figure.

On **Wednesday, November 17**, **Luke Gleeson's** [DƏNE YI'INJETL | The Scattering of Man](#) presents the perspectives of his community, the Tsay Keh Dene Nation, who continue to suffer the repercussions of a dam built by BC Hydro in 1968.

On **Thursday, November 18**, filmmaker **Bogdan Stoica** transports viewers to Romania with [They Sleep Standing](#). As they enter their thirties, three friends linger between fragility and discovery, facing the many uncertainties of life.

**Friday, November 19** brings **Sylvain L'Espérance's** latest project, [Animal Macula](#), a rich and thought-provoking experience and a tribute to film as well as to animalkind; and [The End of Wonderland](#) by **Laurence Turcotte-Fraser**, a first feature deftly interweaving intimacy and appearances in its portrait of Tara Emory, a trans artist and pioneer of online erotic photography. The same day, RIDM presents [Dear Audrey](#) by **Jeremiah Hayes**. The film follows documentary filmmaker Martin Duckworth as he supports his wife, photographer and activist Audrey Schirmer, through the final stages of Alzheimer's disease.

On **Saturday, November 20**, **Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers** sensitively turns the camera on her own community, the Kainai First Nation, in [Kímmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy](#), highlighting the community's collective struggle to confront the opioid crisis and heal the wounds left by colonialism. Also on Saturday, **Jenny Cartwright** takes an inside look at Montreal's Park Extension neighbourhood: [Je me souviens d'un temps où personne ne joggait dans ce quartier](#) captures the atmosphere of a richly diverse community just as the relentless onset of gentrification threatens the social fabric of the neighbourhood.

### International documentaries: A window on the world

Presented as part of the RIDM international program, [Aleph](#) by **Iva Radivojević** will be shown today, **Monday, November 15**. The filmmaker, recognized for her masterful editing on *A Machine to Live In* (RIDM 2020), returns with a strange and delightful creation loosely inspired by the literary work of Jorge Luis Borges.

On **Tuesday, November 16**, **Andrea Arnold** (*Fish Tank*, *American Honey*) presents [Cow](#), a first documentary that observes the bovine life cycle on an industrial dairy farm, focusing on one cow and her calves. Meanwhile, [Eastwood](#) by **Alireza Rasoulinejad** is a unique film that uses Clint Eastwood's charismatic aura to explore the American cultural dominance that reaches as far as a remote Iranian city, revealing a diverse and modern society.

On **Wednesday, November 17**, film-lovers can enjoy [Taming the Garden](#) by **Salomé Jashi**, in which the forced migration of enormous trees to the private garden of a wealthy Georgian man brings up environmental, economic, and social issues. Showing the same day will be [A Night of Knowing Nothing](#) by **Payal Kapadia**, winner of the Golden Eye award at Cannes. The film explores the student movement in India through correspondence between two university students separated by an archaic caste system.

In [The Last Shelter](#) by Malian filmmaker **Ousmane Zoromé Samassékou**, two teenagers heading north from Burkina Faso strike up a friendship with Natacha, a migrant several years their elder who is losing hope of ever seeing her home again. [The Invisible Mountain](#) by **Ben Russell** is a compelling philosophical journey exploring the possibilities of cinematic language. Both films will be shown on **Saturday, November 18**.

**Friday, November 19** sees **Shengze Zhu's** [A River Runs, Turns, Erases, Replaces](#) unfold in the filmmaker's hometown of Wuhan. The film offers an urban symphony in which the inevitability of change echoes the current global pandemic. [Apenas el sol](#) by Paraguayan filmmaker **Arami Ullón** focuses on the Elders of an Indigenous community. Forced out of the forests they once called home, they now live on arid land that is incompatible with their way of life.

A stand out on **Saturday, November 20**, [Brotherhood](#) by **Francesco Montagner** (Golden Leopard, Locarno 2021) is filmed over a period of four years and explores the lives of three Bosnian brothers. As they transition into adulthood, things become complicated when their authoritarian father, a war veteran, is sentenced to two years in prison for terrorism. [The First 54 Years - An Abbreviated Manual for Military Occupation](#) by **Avi Mograbi**, meanwhile, breaks down the mechanics behind the occupation of the Palestinian territories, in the form of a manual.

### Short and medium length competition films

Screening this week as part of the Best National Short or Medium-Length Film competition, [Love Me](#) by **Romane Garant Chartrand** steps inside the world of a teenage girl for whom seduction and self-image play a central role. In [Babushka](#), filmmaker **Kristina Wagenbauer** delves into her past in an attempt to reconnect with her grandmother during a stay in her native Russia. **Charles Duquet**, winner of the Prix de la Relève in 2019, returns to RIDM with [Under the Sleeping Mountain](#), an intimate work of great artistic maturity that looks at how his parents' relationship has eroded over time. Also not to be missed, [Wash Day](#) by **Kourtney Jackson** is a first step toward healing and liberating the present from centuries of patriarchy, white domination, and the silencing of Black peoples.

Films from the Best International Short or Medium-Length Film competition can also be seen this week, including [All of Your Stars are but Dust on my Shoe](#), which unpacks and deconstructs the evolution of lighting from its whale-oil origins to its many uses as a means of repression or control. **Nikita Yefimov** turns his camera on a high-security detention centre in Russia in [Strict Regime](#), with a particular focus on one of the guards. Meanwhile, [La fin des rois](#) by **Rémi Brachet** is a gutsy documentary presenting a kaleidoscopic portrait of Clichy-sous-Bois on the outskirts of Paris, in a film far removed from stereotypes.

## 50 years of Vidéographe

To highlight the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vidéographe, artist and filmmaker **Luc Bourdon** has put together [Le devoir de mémoire](#), a selection of five films exploring dramatic and controversial events from recent history, chosen from the artist centre's 2,300-title catalogue. True to the activist roots of independent film, the artists seek to deepen our awareness of the world and to offer a personal, poetic, and powerful alternative to the standardized versions of stories in mainstream media. This screening will be followed by a discussion hosted by Luc Bourdon, who is joined by **Pierre Hébert, Félix Lamarche, Eduardo Menz, and Nayla Dabaji**.

## Closing night

The **award ceremony** for the competition sections of the RIDM program will take place on **Saturday, November 20 at 5 p.m.** at the Cinémathèque québécoise. To close the festival, [Gabor](#), the first feature film from **Joannie Lafrenière**, will be presented at **8 p.m. at the Cinéma du Musée** (by invitation only). This intimate and offbeat documentary revisits the career of Gabor Szilasi, a photographer of great creative depth, as well as his fascinating life story.

## Box office

To ensure that access to the program is simple and affordable, several ticketing options are available. Tickets for theatre screenings are \$13 each; a \$2 discount per ticket applies to purchases of five or more tickets. These tickets can be purchased via the [online box office](#) or at the festival's physical box office at the Cinémathèque québécoise.

For online-only viewing, at \$85, the RIDM Passport allows viewers to watch the vast majority of the festival's films via the [enligne.ridm.ca](#) platform from November 14 to 25. Subscriptions for a single block, which covers one third of the online program, are also available at \$30. All the details are available on the festival website.

## THANK YOU TO THE RIDM'S PARTNERS

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.

**The RIDM's 24<sup>th</sup> edition is held in theatres until November 21**  
at the Cinémathèque québécoise, Cinéma du Parc, Cinéma du Musée,  
Centre Pierre-Péladeau, and Cineplex Odeon Quartier Latin,  
**and online everywhere in Canada until November 25, 2021**

Information: [ridm.ca](#) / [info@ridm.ca](mailto:info@ridm.ca)

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**To request interviews, Vimeo links, or press material, please contact:**

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