

RIDM's 25th edition: Celebrating a quarter-century of encounters



Montreal, Thursday, December 15, 2022 - The **Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM)**'s 25th edition ended on November 27. After two pandemic years, this anniversary edition allowed audiences to enjoy the festival entirely on the big screen. Film enthusiasts and the documentary community once again had the opportunity to gather around **157 screenings, 3 listening sessions and 5 virtual reality installations**, but also during **9 festive evenings, 8 networking activities, 4 workshops, and 11 conferences**. **More than 15,000 entries** were recorded for all combined activities.

Held over an 11-day period, the 25th edition of the RIDM offered **134 feature-length, medium-length, and short** documentaries hailing from **49 countries**. Bookended by two important works, the moving *Rewind & Play* by **Alain Gomis** and *Wochiigii lo: End of the Peace* by **Heather Hatch**, the festival proved itself to be a space for free expression for filmmakers from traditionally marginalized communities. Once again this year, short films directed by indigenous filmmakers were screened with each of the seven films in the National Feature Competition, thanks to a longstanding **collaboration with the Wapikoni**.

With programming comprising **more than 55% of films made by women**, the festival is proud to present female perspectives from all around the world. The RIDM also once again showed its support for the next generation: **58 emerging filmmakers** presented their first or second works in 2022. The Soirée de la relève Radio-Canada was back and awarded **Isabelle Kanapé** for her film *Milik* "tshishutshelimunuau", this time with a cash prize of \$10,000.

Enriching encounters took place thanks to the participation of **27 international guests**, as well as **57 filmmakers from Quebec and Canada**, gathered in Montreal to present their works and exchange with the public.

This year, the festival presented a retrospective highlighting a territory; **Focus Brazil: Navigating the Future**. Festivalgoers had the opportunity to immerse themselves in a selection of this country's national cinema, which was at the heart of the news this fall, with a number of feature films from the last twenty years, as well as a program of short and medium-length films directed by Brazilian indigenous filmmakers. The popularity of this regionally-focused retrospective has guaranteed its return for future editions.

Another successful new initiative, the **Unframing documentary** program, gave a special place to documentaries that draw on artistic forms outside the realm of cinema. Live performance was brought to the forefront with narration by director **Courtney Stephens** during the screening of her film **Terra Femme**; audio creation was represented by three listening sessions, including the premiere of **Projet Polytechnique : Faire face**; while the music and documentary projection came together to form **What now?**, a performance by **Philippe Léonard and C.H.R.I.S.T.** This edition also marked the return of **UXdoc**, the extended reality component of the RIDM, which offered a free experience of five virtual reality documentary works and attracted nearly 600 festivalgoers.

The RIDM's programming was able to engage and resonate with audiences: **17 screenings were sold out**. Among this number is the People's choice **Big Fight in Little Chinatown** as well as the premieres of **The Myth of the Black Woman, Bloom, On the Other Side**, and **Geographies of Solitude**. In light of the very positive results of this edition, the RIDM has the wind in its sails for the next quarter century.

The return to an in-person Forum RIDM

For its 18th edition, **Forum RIDM** reacquainted itself with its audience by welcoming **more than 400 accredited guests**, including **120 industry professionals**. With its almost fully in-person format, Forum RIDM once again offered participants both a space for encounters as well as professional, practical, and strategic content. With a total of **24 activities** on the agenda, guests were able to re-engage with the documentary industry by taking part in practical workshops, discussions, and several formal and informal networking activities.

International guests were certainly in attendance this year, most notably thanks to the Forum's flagship activity, the **One-on-One Pitches, which took place over two days: the first in a virtual format, and the second in-person**. This hybrid formula enabled local filmmakers and producers to showcase their projects and set business partnerships in motion. Presented in collaboration with the Alliance des producteurs francophones du Canada (APFC), the **One-on-One Pitches** welcomed **71 industry representatives** from **22 countries** as well as **92 participants**, thus facilitating **768 business meetings**. For the 9th year, **Forum RIDM** also hosted the **Talent Lab**, the emerging talent incubator presented by **Netflix**. Selected through a call for proposals, a cohort of 16 emerging Francophone and Anglophone filmmakers were provided with a uniquely tailored three-day program of activities. A total of **\$51,000** in grants and support was awarded during the 2022 Forum RIDM.

To review the best moments of this 25th edition: vimeo.com/780390579

Thanks to the RIDM and Forum RIDM's partners

The **RIDM** wishes to acknowledge the support of the following institutional, main, and associate partners, who have contributed to the success of this 25th edition. Thanks to the Government of Québec, the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, SODEC, the Secrétariat à la région métropolitaine, Telefilm Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts, the City of Montreal, 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, Télé-Québec, Crave, the Canada Media Fund, Radio-Canada, the CSN, TV5, Post-Moderne, the Société civile des auteurs multimédia (SCAM), PRIM, the Cinémathèque québécoise, as well as Benoît Parent and Arthur Gaumont-Marchand.

The 18th edition of **Forum RIDM** has been made possible thanks to the support of our partners and collaborators. Forum RIDM particularly wishes to thank the Government of Quebec, the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles (SODEC), Telefilm Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts, Netflix, the Bell Fund, the Canada Media Fund, the Office national du film du Canada (ONF), the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), the Alliance des producteurs francophones du Canada, CineGround, and DOC Québec.

The 26th edition of the RIDM will take place in November 2023.

Informations : ridm.ca / info@ridm.ca

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