Rencontres internationales du documentaire de Montréal
Montreal International Documentary Festival

PRESS RELEASE
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RIDM runs until November 29

Some must-sees for this second week of the festival!



Virages by Céline Carridroit and Aline Suter

Montreal, Wednesday, November 25, 2026 – The 29th edition of the **Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM)** has reached its halfway point, proving to be a particularly unifying event with several sold-out screenings, including the premieres of ***Ladies and Gentlemen, Brian Mulroney*** by **Matthew Rankin**, ***In The Sweet Arms*** by **Julian Flavin**, and ***LOUF*** by **Aziz Zoromba**. The coming week offers a second chance to see many of these films, while also providing new works to discover.

DAY 7 - Wednesday, November 25

Following a day marked by the premieres of three highly anticipated local films—***A Breath at a Time*** by **Steve Patry**, ***My Name is Tom*** by **André-Line Beauparlant**, and ***Inuguiniq*** by **Olivia Ikey**—all of which will be screened again before the festival comes to a close, Day 7 will showcase a selection of international films not to be missed this year.

First up is ***Virages***, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival and will be presented in its North American premiere at RIDM, in the presence of directors **Céline Carridroit** and **Aline Suter**. Inspired by Johanna's life and beautifully shot on film, this empowering story humorously reveals a car enthusiast forging her own path.

As part of the **Western Balkans Focus: Blurring the Lines**, filmmaker **Ivan Marković** will present his debut feature, ***Promised Spaces***, shot in Cambodia, where an imposing residential development takes shape as an emblem of a future that remains out of reach for those who are constructing it. Blending documentary observation and dreamlike fiction, the film becomes a quietly powerful reflection on class, desire, and the unequal landscapes produced by the promises of modernity. Also attending the festival, **Dea Gjinovci** will accompany the screening of ***The Beauty of the Donkey***, an intimate work that follows Asllan, the filmmaker's father, as he returns to his childhood village in Kosovo after many decades in exile. Between documentary and fiction, the film becomes a haunting meditation on exile, inherited memory and the possibility of reclaiming a past that history might have erased.

Visiting from Vancouver, filmmakers **Jessica Johnson** and **Ryan Ermacora** will take part in a discussion with the audience following the Quebec premiere of ***Concrete Turned to Sand***, a work that invites viewers to observe, and even experience, the ecosystem that connects oysters with a community of fishers and farmers. From Toronto, **Arijit Debnath** will present his short film ***A Hundred Years From Now***, which combines animation, poetry, and cinema through personal testimonies in which the grief of losing his mother intertwines with a renewed affirmation of cultural identity.

Other short films will also be in the spotlight, notably through a program bringing together the four films featured in the Panorama - Horizons section: ***When Janet Sleeps*** by **Laurence Ly**, ***May Our Voices Be Heard*** by **Marianne Khayat**, ***Hold Us, Once More*** by **Juliette Balthazard**, ***Born Under the Banana Tree*** by **Laura Kamugisha**, produced as part of the Conseil des arts de Montréal's *Regard sur Montréal* 2026 residency.

DAY 8 - Thursday, November 26

A feature will transport festival-goers to Durban, South Africa, where Lishana cares for her dying mother. Art becomes a way for her to begin grieving and make sense of the various family and national tensions that shaped her mother's life. Through reenactments, film manipulation and diary-style narrative, ***mother, you have not died yet. but you will. and when you do, you will finally be alive again.*** offers a thoughtful reflection on transmission, migration, and the many legacies that shape our lives. Filmmaker **Advik Beni** will be in Montreal for a discussion with the public. Also from the international scene, **Xisi Sofia Ye Chen** will present ***From Dawn to Dawn***, a portrait imbued with sibling love that immerses us in the Chinese diaspora in Spain, as the filmmaker turns her gentle, respectful camera toward her brother, a man with a troubled past.

Indigenous cinema will be in the spotlight, notably through ***Ceremony*** by **Banchi Hanuse**. The film takes us to the Bella Coola River valley, on Nuxalk territory, where the disappearance of the eulachon, a small fish essential to the community's way of life, illustrates the dispossession of the people who are now trying to reclaim the land that was taken from them. Combining archives, family stories, animation, traditional knowledge and scientific research, the film reveals a generation's resistance as their heritage anchors the present. RIDM, the daphne art centre, and Coop Vidéo de Montréal are co-hosting a discussion titled **Indigenous Cinema: Stories and New Forms**. This free event (reservation required) will bring together filmmakers Olivia Ikey (*Inuguinig*), Tyson Houseman (*Endless Sunlight*), and **Elayna Einish** (*Lethal Ethel*), alongside Vincent Careau of Présence Autochtone.

This eighth day of the festival will also feature the premieres of two Quebec films from the Panorama – The States of the World section. First is ***KUBANA***, which combines various stories of the Tutsi genocide in Rwanda. Breaking with the usual violent images associated with these events, director **Alunaya** opts for a resolutely poetic vision, where art, language, memory and bodies in motion come forward as models for collective healing. Next is ***O Fear, O Night***, in which filmmaker **Christine Chevarie-Lessard**, who has lived with anxiety since childhood, chronicles her personal investigation into this taxing condition, guiding us through an introspective and remarkably candid narration. With a well-judged touch of humour, this intimate and brave feature takes us on a personal and rigorous investigation of anxiety and its effects.

DAY 9 - Friday, November 27

Bringing together a diverse range of visual archives in a creative interplay, ***An Incomplete Calendar*** by **Sanaz Sohrabi** revisits the unfinished solidarity project of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its member states. Having premiered at Cinéma du Réel, where it won the First Film Loridan-Ivens Award and the GNCR - Young Jury Award, this rigorous and fascinating feature continues its remarkable festival run as it is presented to Quebec audiences for the first time on this ninth day of the festival.

Two Quebec films will have their world premieres, followed by an in-depth discussion with the filmmakers. The documentary ***Sprouting From Ruins*** by **David Sanchez** follows the citizen-led movement in Quebec City that is organizing to reclaim a space the city ceded to a techno-industrial centre. Through voices and urban sounds, ***Cranes and Voices*** by **Simon Plouffe** explores intimate and collective soundscapes that shape the act of listening through a visual representation of sound. The worlds of these two films will intertwine during the **Double Launch Party: Nos échos dans les ruines**. The program features a citizens' assembly, where the public will be invited to discuss ways to bring local democracy into action and strengthen citizen power, as well as an audiovisual performance combining VJing, music and poetry.

DAY 10 - Saturday, November 28

Festival-goers will have one last chance to visit the installation ***Platforms*** by **Karl Lemieux**, presented at the artist-run centre OBORO in partnership with the NFB. This experimental film project documents the decommissioning of offshore oil platforms, transforming an industrial process into a sensory experience where image, sound, and materiality converge.

In addition to this work, which opens up a space for reflection on our relationship to territory, time, and the irreversible transformations of the contemporary world, fans of short-form cinema can enjoy a program featuring three other films from the National Short and Medium-length Competition: ***Living Containers*** by **Kara Hansen**, ***Teleplasm*** by **Kate Solar**, and ***The holoRazutis of Saturna*** by **Guillaume Vallée**.

Several feature films that proved to be audience favourites will be presented a second time: ***LOUF*** by **Aziz Zoromba**, ***My Name is Tom*** by **André-Line Beauparlant,** ***Nowhere, Everywhere*** by **François Jacob**, and ***Crossings: Kaleh Ziyarat*** by **Rouzbeh Akhbari**.

The announcement of the **winning films for the 29th edition** will take place at 5 p.m. in the Norman McLaren Space at the Cinémathèque québécoise. This awards ceremony will be followed by a screening of the Canadian documentary ***Ba's Book*** by **Ashley Da-Lê Duong**, who will be in attendance. First unveiled at TIFF, this touching and inspiring film recreates scenes from a book written by the filmmaker's father, as she and her family examine the impacts and the intergenerational legacy of the Vietnam War.

DAY 11 - Sunday, November 29

On the final day of the festival, a special **Ciné poupon** screening, co-presented by La Lune Sitters and designed for parents with babies and young children, will take place at the Cinémathèque québécoise. In suitable conditions—soft lighting, reduced volume, a babysitting service, and creative workshops—the feature documentary ***Gabin*** by **Maxence Voiseux** will be presented, for a friendly, soothing, and carefree movie experience.

RIDM invites young people to watch captivating clips from ***La parole aux enfants!***, a series of short films directed by André Melançon for the International Year of the Child in 1979. The filmmaker asked children about a wide range of topics: anger, joy, work, even aliens! In a workshop open to children aged 5 to 12,

participants will then learn how to make their first documentary interview as a team. This activity is co-presented by Tënk.

Cinephiles can look forward to a final day of screenings, bringing this 29th edition to a close. Highlights include three films from the International Feature Competition: ***Alea Jacarandas*** by **Hassen Ferhani**, ***Hanabi*** by **Ana Vaz**, and ***Revolutionaries Never Die*** by **Mohanad Yaqubi**. Joining this selection are three works from the Panorama – Against the Grain section: ***Tropical Fractals*** by **Leonardo Pirondi**, ***The Wind Blows Wherever It Wants*** by **Ivan Boiko**, and ***Tristan Forever*** by **Tobias Nölle** and **Loran Bonnardot**.

To learn more about the 2026 program and to buy tickets: ridm.ca

PRICES - PASSPORTS AND TICKETS
RIDM Passport: $150 (Students and 65+ = $125)
Individual ticket: $15 (Students and 65+ = $12.50)
Individual ticket - Forum RIDM Talks: $10
Family activity ticket: $12.50
5-ticket package: $60

The 29th annual RIDM runs until November 29, 2026.
at the Cinémathèque québécoise, the Maison Théâtre, Cinéma du Parc, Cinéma du Musée, the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), BAnQ, the Concordia Auditorium, the artist-run centre OBORO, the artist-run centre daphne, and the Centre Pierre-Péladeau.

Information: ridm.ca / info@ridm.ca
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For interview requests, screener links or press materials, please contact:
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