

Montreal International Haitian Film Festival - MIHFF PROGRAM

From September 19 to 23, 2007

www.festivalfilmhaitien.com

Montreal, September 12, 2007 – The Fabienne Colas Foundation presents the Montreal International Haitian Film Festival (MIHFF) from September 19 to 23, 2007. This is the largest Haitian cinema festival to be held outside of Haiti. This event, which is only three years old, has already gained prestige amongst professionals working in Haitian cinema and is developing quite a following in Quebec. The MIHFF wants to promote quality independent cinema as well as films from Haiti, while encouraging cultural diversity within Quebec. The Festival will present a selection of 35 fiction and documentary, short and feature-length films from many countries, including Haiti, Canada, United States, France, Cuba and Brazil.

This year's edition of the MIHFF, whose spokesperson is Francine Grimaldi, is not only synonymous with cinema. This year, the Festival is taking on a new challenge, that of dealing with themes that are critical to Haitian society and to developing countries, in general. For the first time in North America, from September 18 to October 2, 2007, the Festival will present Céline Anaya Gautier's international "Slaves in Paradise" photo exhibition at Galerie Mosaïkart. This exhibition will raise public awareness of the conditions of modern-day Haitian slaves working and living on sugar cane plantations in the Dominican Republic. The exhibition will lead to the international "Blood, Sugar and Sweat" symposium, a debate amongst national and international experts on the problem of the *bateys* in the Dominican Republic. The debate will be held at the CBC building on September 19.

The North-American premiere of "The Sugar Babies," screened in the presence of director Amy Serrano, will officially open the Festival on September 19, at 7 p.m., in the Mirella and Lino Saputo Theatre at the Leonardo da Vinci Centre. This highly controversial film will take viewers into the lives of several hundreds of thousands of Haitians living and working in sordid conditions on sugar cane plantations - *Bateys* - in the Dominican Republic.

To the great pleasure of all, the film "Le Chauffeur" will be closing the Festival on September 23, once again, in the Mirella and Lino Saputo Theatre at the Leonardo da Vinci Centre. It's a story of impossible love, disappearance and conspiracy. Highly anticipated and shot entirely in Haiti, the world premiere of this film will be screened in the presence of Jean-Claude Bourjolly.

As a special tribute to renowned actor Francois Latour, who was murdered in Haiti last May, we will be screening "L'Homme sur les Quais" in his honour. We will also be paying a special tribute to director Raphaël Stines, a visionary filmmaker who has left his mark on the history of Haitian cinema, and who passed away on Saturday, August 25, 2007.

This year, we will be presenting three awards at the closing ceremony: Best Feature Fiction Film, Best Feature Documentary Film and Best Short Film.

For the second year running, Radio-Canada will be distributing the Best Feature Fiction Film award and Réseau Liberté will be presenting the Best Short Film award. The Jury consists of Sacha Parisot, Director (Los Angeles), Claude Lévesque, B.A. in Communications (Quebec) and Ralph Boncy, Radio Host and Film Critic (Quebec).

In celebration of its third anniversary, the MIHFF is pleased to offer movie-goers a passport package good for all the films in the program (except for the opening night) for a mere \$40. This is unprecedented! It's a way for us to thank all those movie-goers who supported us in the past and helped us grow.

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Source: Montreal International Haitian Film Festival

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