

“THESE QUEBECKERS FROM OTHER LANDS”

Interculturalism, integration and immigration at the centre of the 5th Montreal International Haitian Film Festival

Montreal, July 20, 2009 – The 5th Montreal International Haitian Film Festival (MIHFF), organized by the Fabienne Colas Foundation, will put the spotlight on interculturalism, immigration and integration through a multi-dimensional project called “These Quebeckers from Other Lands.” Together with Quebeckers of diverse origins, the Fabienne Colas Foundation has been working on this project for over a year now. One of the Foundation’s most outstanding achievements, this project will be completed in September 2009.

ARE QUEBECKERS OPEN?

This what some people have to say: “They come out in droves to the Carifesta parade, they love to eat Creole, Italian or Chinese food, speak Spanish, dance the salsa or the samba, celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day, learn about voodoo and jam with Africans. That’s all very good, but... how well do they really know the different cultural communities living around them? Are they contributing to their integration? Are they really aware of how these New Quebeckers are helping to build modern-day Quebec?”

“THESE QUEBECKERS FROM OTHER LANDS”: EXHIBITION, BOOK, CONFERENCES, WEBSITE, CINEMA

For several decades, immigrants have been enriching Quebec in many different ways through the work they do in many different fields. However, their contributions have not always been recognized and, in some instances, even go unnoticed. Through the camera lens of 10 different photographers, the *These Quebeckers from Other Lands* exhibition will show 100 personalities hailing from 40 different countries and working in 10 different fields who have helped build modern-day Quebec. 100 large format photos (36 x 48) for an unprecedented event!

The goal of this exhibition is to celebrate diversity, encourage interculturalism, show newcomers and the public at large successful role models from our immigrant communities, promote integration and help create harmonious relations between cultural communities, immigrants and the general Quebecois public!!! This exhibition will be accompanied by a book, a conference series with some of the personalities selected for the exhibition, an interactive Website and films dealing with these topics. A television series will follow. The location of the exhibition will be revealed in August 2009.

A MOST DARING 5TH EDITION!!!

The MIHFF raises public awareness. It promotes a different kind of cinema, cinema that hails from another place and another time, cinema from here that does not have the opportunity to grace the big screen, groundbreaking cinema that moves us, that raises awareness and takes us all by surprise! The Haitian Film Festival wants to continue to deal with issues and to present works that raise questions, that provoke, that make us smile, that leave us perplexed, that shock us... a most daring festival!!!

In addition to film screenings, the MIHFF also holds international conferences and exhibitions on major social and cultural issues through themes that spark debate, make us think and raise our awareness. The theme this year will revolve around 4 topics: **interculturalism, cultural diversity, immigration and integration!**

Several thousand movie-goers are expected to turn out for the 2009 edition of this Festival filled with diversity, which is now going all out to prepare for the event and promises to offer an even richer and more varied program than in previous years. A 5th edition that goes out on a limb! Make it a date not to be missed!

The 5th MIHFF will run from September 23 to 27, 2009
These Quebeckers from Other Lands: September 15 to October 12, 2009

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