

## **FRANCINE GRIMALDI, SPOKESPERSON FOR THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MIHFF!**

**Montreal, August 4, 2008** – The Montreal International Haitian Film Festival (MIHFF) promotes independent author’s films from here and abroad and provides an opportunity for professionals from all walks of life who work in the film industry to meet.

Pleased with her experience last year with the MIHFF, Francine Grimaldi has accepted to be the spokesperson for the 4th edition of the Festival, which will deal with the topic of **VOODOO**. Francine Grimaldi, well-known and very popular cultural reporter at Radio-Canada (CBC’s French network), says that she discovered voodoo culture and ceremonies in Haiti in the 1960s and admits that she has already been a godmother in a voodoo ceremony. “We shouldn’t be afraid of voodoo. It’s not black magic or witchcraft... Rather, it’s an outlet, a way of life, and a crutch like all other religions. It’s a way to release the bad stuff inside, a way to let off steam!” explains Francine.

### **THE FESTIVAL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT**

Created by the Fabienne Colas Foundation (FCF), a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and promoting Haitian cinema, art and culture both here and abroad, the Montreal International Haitian Film Festival is becoming a major player in the arena of cultural diversity in Quebec. The Festival needs everyone’s support in order to continue to operate, and Francine Grimaldi understands this very well:

“The MIHFF helps keep us up to date! It’s an opportunity for Haitians by descent and for Haitians at heart like me to get together. It helps us connect, learn that we are not so different after all... understand that, underneath it all, we all have the same concerns and the same problems... It’s a great opportunity to build bridges. Do not miss out on this event!” And so, Francine is pleased to once again be representing the Festival, and she would like to invite all Quebecers and in particular anyone who has preconceived notions about voodoo to come out and support the Festival, which runs from September 17 to 21, 2008.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE MIHFF**

The MIHFF wants to promote 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... films that depict the Haitian reality in all its complexity, all its diversity and all its richness.

The Haitian Film Festival wants to steer clear of convention so that it can continue to open up to the world and provide opportunities for new encounters and new discoveries, for sharing, interculturalism and entertainment!

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**The Montreal International Haitian Film Festival**  
**From September 17 to 21, 2008**  
**[www.festivalfilmhaitien.com](http://www.festivalfilmhaitien.com)**

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