

THE MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL HAITIAN FILM FESTIVAL FIVE YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG!!

Montreal, September 9, 2009 - The Montreal International Haitian Film Festival (MIHFF), which will henceforth be presented by the Montreal International Black Film Festival, unveiled the program for its 5th edition, today, at the NFB Cinema. This year, film buffs will be treated to an ambitious program that will be presented from September 23 to 27, 2009 at NFB Cinema, at Cinéma du Parc and at the Leonardo da Vinci Centre.

This fifth edition of the MIHFF is an important milestone for Fabienne Colas, the President and Founder of the Festival, and she plans on celebrating it to the max along with all Montrealers: "Our success belongs to everyone who has supported us over these past five years: the directors and actors, our ever-increasing loyal public, the media, our sponsors and all levels of government."

Francine Grimaldi, the MIHFF's faithful Spokesperson, will be joining us once again for the third year in a row: "The MIHFF is an opportunity to discover films that we wouldn't have seen elsewhere, films that would not necessarily have had the chance to grace the big screen. It's also an opportunity for Haitians by descent and for Haitians at heart like me to get together." "Francine Grimaldi has been a remarkable spokesperson for the Festival. Her generosity and her passion are such that it would have been unthinkable to celebrate this fifth anniversary without her," added Ms. Colas.

A FIFTH EDITION FULL OF DISCOVERIES AND SURPRISES

The Organizing Committee is very proud of the program it will be presenting to Montreal movie buffs in the next few days. This anniversary edition of the Festival will also feature several special events, including a tribute to **Dany Laferrière**, the great Haitian writer who has seen many of his works adapted for the big screen. An intimate evening with the writer will be held at Complexe Cristina on September 22, which will include the screening of a powerful documentary film on this great author, followed by an interview of Dany by **Frantz Voltaire** and **Sophie Faucher**. At the end of the evening, attendees will receive a copy of Dany Laferrière's latest novel, *L'Énigme du retour*.

The Festival will open this year with a real treat for the public: the screening of *La Première Étoile* by **Lucien Jean-Baptiste** (*Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award winner at the Alpe d'Huez International Comedy Festival*). This Martinican director will be on hand on Opening Night to present the international premiere of his hilarious and disconcerting comedy about an endearing family.

Jimmy Jean-Louis, a Hollywood actor of Haitian origin, will also be joining us at the Festival this year. With a starring role in two of the films at this year's MIHFF, *Life Outside of Pearl* and *Soul Sisters*, the actor insisted that it was very important for him to take part in the festivities surrounding the inauguration of the Montreal International Black Film Festival and to celebrate the 5th edition of the Montreal International Haitian Film Festival, at the same time. Programming Director, **Émile Castonguay**, decided on *Soul Sisters* by American director **Rahman Olagdigbolu** to close this year's edition of the MIHFF. Starring **Jimmy Jean-Louis** (of *Heroes* fame), this is an inspiring and touching story about friendship.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...

Five years is something to celebrate!! And so, in addition to our line-up of films, there will also be a huge closing show on September 26 to cap off this outstanding edition of the Festival. The show will take place at El Caballero, and will feature **Zèklè** (*in their Canadian premiere*) and **Mizik Mizik** (*regulars on Montreal stages*). These two legendary Haitian bands never fail to get the crowds moving wherever they go. According to Columnist and Critic, **Ralph Boncy**, we're really lucky to have the opportunity to get these two groups together in their Montreal premiere. This will be a historic event!

The complete program for the 2009 MIHFF is available at www.festivalfilmhaitien.com.

For further information and for all interview requests with Fabienne Colas, Francine Grimaldi, Dany Laferrière, Émile Castonguay, the directors, the actors or the musicians, please contact Carla Beauvais.