

# PRESS KIT



**3<sup>e</sup>**  
**Festival**  
International  
**Film**  
**Haitien**  
Montréal

**19 au 23 SEPTEMBRE 2007**  
[www.festivalfilmhaitien.com](http://www.festivalfilmhaitien.com)

## **NFB CINEMA**

1564 St-Denis, Montreal

Showtimes 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

## **LEONARDO DA VINCI CENTRE**

8350 Lacordaire, St-Léonard

Showtimes 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.



**September 19 to 23, 2007**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MIHFF: A UNIQUE EVENT..... 3**

**OFFICIAL POSTER..... 3**

**MESSAGE FROM THE SPOKESPERSON ..... 3**

**MIHFF ACTIVITIES..... 4**

**TRIBUTES ..... 4**

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ..... 5**

**EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE MIHFF ..... 6**

    FESTIVAL INFO: ..... 6

    BOX OFFICE ..... 6

    PRICES ..... 6

    MERCHANDISE..... 6

    LOCATIONS..... 6

**WEBSITE ..... 6**

**AWARDS CEREMONY ..... 7**

**JURY MEMBERS ..... 7**

**FILMS IN COMPETITION ..... 8**

**FILMS OUT-OF-COMPETITION..... 8**

**MIHFF COMMUNICATIONS TEAM ..... 9**

**GOVERNMENT PARTNERS ..... 10**

**PRIVATE PARTNERS ..... 10**

**OTHER PARTNERS..... 10**

## **THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MIHFF: A UNIQUE EVENT**

The Fabienne Colas Foundation presents the Montreal International Haitian Film Festival (MIHFF) from September 19 to 23, 2007. This is the largest Haitian film festival to be held outside of Haiti. The 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, with the public and the media alike.

The MIHFF is proud to be able to illustrate the potential of Haitian cinema by creating a meeting ground that encourages cultural exchange. It's a unique event for movie-goers in Montreal who would like to discover the rich culture of an island through a variety of very diverse films and cultural activities.

This is the only festival in Quebec and Canada, and even on the international scene, that can present so many Haitian works. These films demonstrate the strength of a film industry able to surmount all sorts of difficulties (economic, geographic, political, etc.) in order to connect with the world and show us a complex and deeply rooted culture.

## **OFFICIAL POSTER**

The official poster is based on a photo by Claude St-Rome: a photo that is at once soft, dark and complex, and that represents Haiti in all its beauty, openness, sadness and pride. It is also a symbolic representation of the predominant theme of this edition: contemporary slavery. Claude St-Rome depicts Haiti through its nature, its tourist sites and its beautiful women... For further information, check out [www.haiti-domesarts.com](http://www.haiti-domesarts.com).

Design: Zaza Production

Graphic design: Emilie Castonguay, Bérengère Girard

Model: Karine Clersinvil



## **MESSAGE FROM THE SPOKESPERSON**

I am happy to be supporting the 3rd Montreal International Haitian Film Festival. I think that here, in Montreal, people are more familiar with Haitian music, poetry and literature than they are with Haitian cinema! This Festival helps keep us up to date! It's also an opportunity to get together and to meet Haitian screenwriters, directors and actors ... Haitians by descent and, like me, Haitians at heart should not miss this event, which will be held in Montreal from September 19 to 23, 2007.

Francine Grimaldi

Spokesperson for the 3<sup>rd</sup> MIHFF

## **MIHFF ACTIVITIES**

**Sept. 11: Press conference**, 10:30 a.m.  
NFB Cinema, 1564 St-Denis, Montreal

**Sept. 18: Slaves in Paradise Exhibition vernissage**, 6 p.m.  
Galerie MosaikArt, 4897 St-Laurent, Montreal

**Sept. 18 - Oct. 2: Slaves in Paradise Exhibition**  
Galerie MosaikArt, 4897 St-Laurent, Montreal

**Sept. 19: Blood, Sugar and Sweat Symposium** (free admission), 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
CBC building (Raymond David Theatre), 1400 René-Lévesque East

**Sept. 19: Official opening of the Festival + cocktail party**, 6:30 p.m.  
Leonardo da Vinci Centre (Mirella and Lino Saputo Theatre) 8350 Lacordaire, Montreal

**Sept. 20 - 23: Festival**, Showtimes: 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
NFB Cinema (1654 St-Denis) and Leonardo da Vinci Centre (8350 Lacordaire)

**Sept. 23: Closing film and awards ceremony**, 8 p.m.  
Leonardo da Vinci Centre (Mirella and Lino Saputo Theatre) 8350 Lacordaire, Montreal

## **TRIBUTES**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the MIHFF will pay tribute to actor François Latour and is dedicated entirely to director Raphaël Stines.

### **François Latour**

A journalist, publicist and renowned actor murdered the night of May 22 to 23, 2007 in Port-au-Prince, François Latour has acted for the greatest filmmakers and theatre directors in Haiti: Raoul Peck, Raphaël Stines and Franck Étienne.

### **Raphaël Stines**

Seasoned director, who died August 25, 2007 after an illness. Among other films, Raphaël Stines directed Map Pale net (theatre), Pè Toma (television), Kraze Lanfè and Boukin Nan Paradi (cinema).



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The mission of the MIHFF is to support and promote the independent author's film industry through movie screenings, workshops, exhibitions, conferences and awards. **The MIHFF is now three years old!** It's still quite young, but it has grown. For example, this year, while continuing to focus on cinema, the MIHFF also wants to become a place where the major social issues of our time are debated.

Thus, on top of providing you with a diverse, quality program, this 3rd edition of the MIHFF will help you become particularly aware of the problem of modern-day slavery in the Dominican Republic through the following activities: film screenings, the North American premiere of the "Slaves in Paradise" photo exhibition by Céline Anaya Gautier, as well as the international "Blood, Sugar and Sweat" symposium.

The film "The Sugar Babies," screened for the first time in North America and in the presence of director Amy Serrano, will officially open the Festival at 7 p.m. on September 19. This highly controversial film will take you 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 close the Festival on September 23. It's a story of impossible love, disappearance and conspiracy.

Eagerly awaited and shot entirely in Haiti, the world premiere of this film will be held in the presence of Jean-Claude Bourjolly, who also directed "Sonson."

For its 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary, the MIHFF is very pleased to offer its ardent fans a passport package that provides access to all the films in the program (except for the opening night film) for only \$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. So why not take advantage of this great offer and come out with your friends and family for some thought-provoking fun!

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. I also couldn't go on without mentioning director Raphaël Stines, who died a few days ago, and who gave me my first opportunity to act in Haiti on a television series called Pè Toma and in a movie called Boukin nan Paradi. This 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Festival is entirely dedicated to him.

This 3rd edition of the MIHFF is the result of great teamwork, of a devoted, committed, passionate and tireless team. A team of which I am very proud. A special word to Emile Castonguay, Programming Director, and Nancy Roc, Exhibition and Symposium Coordinator, both of whom gave body and soul to ensure that the Festival would be a success! Thank you for your passion and devotion. I would also like to send out a very special thank-you to our volunteers who put all their hearts into the Festival and who give of themselves so freely and so graciously.

I would like to thank our spokesperson, our one and only Francine Grimaldi, who is in love with Haiti and its culture, and who spared no effort to help us promote this young festival to all those who had never heard of it before. Thank you for your generosity!

A special thank-you to all our partners, and especially to those who have been part of this journey from the very beginning, like Réseau Liberté and the Quebec Department of Culture and Communications. We welcome all our new partners and especially Rights & Democracy who is sponsoring the exhibition as well as the symposium. Thank you to Radio-Canada (CBC's French network) who is welcoming us in its buildings for the second year running, this time for the Blood, Sugar and Sweat symposium, and who will also be awarding the Best Feature Fiction Film prize.

A gigantic thank-you to the press in general, and especially to the Haitian and Quebec press, who has been helping us spread the word about the Festival to a wide audience since the very beginning. An enormous thank-you also goes out to the movie-goers who are always there to support us. What a passionate and friendly bunch (just like us, I might add)! We'll never give up as long as you're by our side. Long live Haitian cinema!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fabienne Colas".

Fabienne Colas  
President and Founder of the MIHFF

## **EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE MIHFF**

### **FESTIVAL INFO:**

**514-315-5393 or 514-265-5266**

[info@festivalfilmhaitien.com](mailto:info@festivalfilmhaitien.com)

[www.festivalfilmhaitien.com](http://www.festivalfilmhaitien.com)

### **BOX OFFICE**

**Passport Card** available at the

Festival Office:

235 A Fleury West, Montreal

Tel.: 514-315-5393 / 514-265-5266

NFB Cinema: 1564 St-Denis

Tel.: 514-496-6887

Leonardo da Vinci Centre: 8350 Lacordaire

Tel.: 514-955-8350

And at all fine Haitian stores and businesses.

### **PRICES**

Regular ticket.....\$10

Opening night + cocktail party.....\$20

Passport Card.....\$40

(Unlimited access to films except on opening night)

Children 10 and under.....free

(except opening night / proof of age at the door)

Blood, Sugar and Sweat Symposium...\$35

(Free admission for everyone; first come, first served.)

### **MERCHANDISE**

Official poster.....\$ 5

Official catalogue.....\$ 3

Men's t-shirt.....\$20

Women's t-shirt.....\$20

### **LOCATIONS**

#### **NFB Cinema:**

(Sept. 20 - 23)

1564 Saint-Denis, Montreal

(Berri UQAM metro)

Tel.: 514-496-6887

#### **Leonardo da Vinci Centre:**

(Sept. 19 - 23)

8370 Lacordaire (Cadillac metro, bus 32 north)

Tel.: 514-955-8350

#### **Galerie MosaikArt:**

Photo exhibition

(Sept. 18 – Oct. 2)

4897 St-Laurent, Montreal

Tel.: 514-849-3399

## **WEBSITE**

The Montreal International Haitian Festival website ([www.festivalfilmhaitien.com](http://www.festivalfilmhaitien.com)) provides journalists, as well as the public at large, with the latest programming information as well as an Archives section. The MIHFF site is very simple and easy to use.

## AWARDS CEREMONY

Since one of the goals of the MIHFF is to encourage and celebrate excellence, it will be awarding three prizes during the closing ceremony on Sunday, September 23 at 8 p.m. in the Mirella and Lino Saputo Theatre at the Leonardo da Vinci Centre. The following prizes will be awarded:

- Best Feature Fiction Film (trophy + \$1,000 bursary awarded by Radio-Canada)
- Best Documentary (trophy + \$1,000 bursary awarded by the Fabienne Colas Foundation)
- Best Short Film (trophy + \$300 bursary awarded by Réseau Liberté)

## JURY MEMBERS

### **Sacha Parisot**

Sacha's 1<sup>st</sup> feature film, *Skin Deep*, which he executive produced, co-wrote and directed, received 6 international film festival awards, including Best Director, Best Film, and Best Actor. In 2006, Sacha completed his 2<sup>nd</sup> feature film, *La Rebelle*, which won 2 international film festival awards, including Best Film at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Montreal International Haitian Film Festival (MIHFF). He produced, directed, co-wrote, and edited *La Rebelle*, which was shot in Haiti. These 2 feature films have been screened in over 30 international film festivals. Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and raised in Monterey, California, Sacha Parisot's path to filmmaking was also quite a journey. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science in 1984 from Polytechnic University in New York. He later studied filmmaking at various universities and colleges, while pursuing his first career in software development. He made his career change from engineering to filmmaking in 2001.

### **Claude Lévesque**

Claude Lévesque studied law at McGill University and has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Communications from the University of Ottawa. With this diverse education and more than 10 years of experience as a consultant, Claude Lévesque has set up a successful communications and public policy firm. Claude is an adventurous man who has completed several large-scale project management and public relations projects as well as many strategic and communications planning projects. But it's his love for Haiti (his place of birth) and for the arts that inspired him to get involved with our festival.

### **Ralph Boncy**

Ralph Boncy, a native of Haiti, trained in journalism, began as a movie critic for the newspaper "Le Nouvelliste," in Port-au-Prince and soon became a point of reference in his field. He went on to become the musical director at Radio Métropole, at MusiquePlus-Musimax and at Radio Couleur Jazz since its launch in Montreal in December 2004. As a man involved in culture and music, between 1999 and 2002, he produced video clips and records as well as a series called "Rythmes du monde," dedicated to images of the South. He has been a jury member for several festivals, including Festival Vues d'Afrique. Today he works at Espace Musique at Radio-Canada (CBC's French network).

## FILMS IN COMPETITION

### Feature Fiction Films

Jean-Alix Holmand	<b>Amours, mensonges et conséquences</b>	80 min
Jean-Claude Bourjolly	* <b>Le chauffeur</b> (closing film)	90 min
Mireille and Telio Deetjen	<b>Kidnapping</b>	86 min
Arnold Antonin	<b>Le Président a-t-il le sida?</b>	110 min

### Documentary Films

Brian McKenna	<b>L'Empire du Sucre (Big Sugar)</b>	90 min
Amy Serrano (opening film)	* <b>Les Enfants du Sucre (The Sugar Babies)</b>	90 min
Karen Kramer	<b>Les Enfants esclaves (Children of Shadows)</b>	52 min
Rod Paul	<b>Failing Haiti</b>	90 min
Bill Haney	<b>Le Prix du Sucre (The Price of Sugar)</b>	90 min

### Short Films

Martine Chartrand	<b>Ame noire</b>	9 min 47
Geneviève Poulette	<b>Amitié multicolore</b>	2 min 30
Judith Leconte	<b>La Perte</b>	4 min
Emage	<b>Pop Voz Culture</b>	5 min
Ella Turenne	<b>Woodshed</b>	16 min

## FILMS OUT-OF-COMPETITION

### Feature Fiction Films

Rigoberto Lopez	<b>Chêne parfumé</b>	123 min
Raoul Peck	<b>L'Homme sur les Quais</b>	106 min
Laurent Cantet	<b>Vers le Sud</b>	115 min

### Documentary Films

Iren Lichtenstein	<b>An Ale</b>	70 min
Maxence Denis	<b>L'Arbre de la Liberté</b>	65 min
Fabio Altman	<b>Brazil Was Here (Brezil te la)</b>	73 min
Richard Nicol	<b>Haïti, un peuple d'arbres debout</b>	60 min
Karen Kramer	<b>Haitian songs</b>	52 min
Claude St-Rome	<b>Haïti, mon rêve mon amour</b>	65 min
Mario L. Delatour	<b>Haïti, Vyolens ou lapè?</b>	52 min
Karen Kramer	<b>Legacy of the Spirit</b>	52 min
Michel Régnier	<b>Sucre Noir</b>	58 min
Mario Delatour	<b>Un certain bord de mer</b>	52 min

### Short Films

Yves Langlois	<b>Le Batey</b>	30 min
Gérard Maximin	<b>Batey Zero</b>	26 min
Jeremy and Magali Damas	<b>Brooklyn Racine</b>	11 min
Arnold Antonin	<b>Enfants en danger</b>	10 min
Michel Régnier	<b>Grande Saline</b>	26 min
Frantz Voltaire	<b>Pèlerinage Thomassin</b>	26 min
Félix Vigné	<b>Port-au-Prince Goutte à Goutte</b>	25 min

## **MIHFF COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

Created and organized entirely by the Fabienne Colas Foundation

Festival Programming Director:

**Émile Castonguay**

[e.cast@festivalfilmhaitien.com](mailto:e.cast@festivalfilmhaitien.com)

Media Relations Officer (newspapers, radio):

**Roberto Tassinario**

[presse@festivalfilmhaitien.com](mailto:presse@festivalfilmhaitien.com)

Development Assistant - Trainee:

**Stéphanie Blanchet**

[s.blanchet@fondationfabiennecolas.org](mailto:s.blanchet@fondationfabiennecolas.org)

Medial Relations Officer (ethno-cultural and community media): **Bérénice Kossowski**

[berenice.kossowski@gmail.com](mailto:berenice.kossowski@gmail.com)

Exhibition and Symposium Coordinator:

**Nancy Roc**

[projets@fondationfabiennecolas.org](mailto:projets@fondationfabiennecolas.org)

Programming and Communications Assistant (television): **Linda Ainouche** :

[adprog@festivalfilmhaitien.com](mailto:adprog@festivalfilmhaitien.com)

Symposium Logistics Coordinator:

**Marie Lachance**

[marielachance@reseauliberte.com](mailto:marielachance@reseauliberte.com)

Exhibition and Symposium Press Contact:

**Nancy Roc**

[projets@fondationfabiennecolas.org](mailto:projets@fondationfabiennecolas.org)

### **For Further Information**

Festival logistics and information:

[info@festivalfilmhaitien.com](mailto:info@festivalfilmhaitien.com)

[www.festivalfilmhaitien.com](http://www.festivalfilmhaitien.com) or [www.fondationfabiennecolas.org](http://www.fondationfabiennecolas.org)

Tel.: **514-315-5393** or 514-265-5266

Fax 514-858-1624

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Culture  
et Communications

Québec 

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internationales

Québec 

Montréal 

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LOTO  
QUÉBEC



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canadien

Canadian  
Heritage



## PRIVATE PARTNERS

  
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La référence culturelle des montréalais

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## OTHER PARTNERS



Droits et Démocratie  
Rights & Democracy

Centre international des droits de la personne et du développement démocratique  
International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development

 Oxfam  
Québec

 Alternatives  
... pour un monde différent



AMNISTIE  
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nagua  
signature de coopération internationale



 CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE ET  
D'INDUSTRIE HAITIANO-CANNADIENNE