

PRESS RELEASE

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Photo : Jean-François Gagné | design : Julien Berthier

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FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL
DE CINÉMA ET D'ART
DE PERCÉ

LA NUIT DU CINÉMA À PERCÉ – BACK AGAIN WITH ANOTHER EXCITING EVENT!

Percé, January 5, 2009

Percé and its iconic rock will be home once again to the second edition of *LA NUIT DU CINÉMA À PERCÉ* – SATURDAY JANUARY 17, 2009, 7 p.m. to Midnight.

This outdoor presentation near the beach of films projected on the wall of the historic La Neigère building in the heart of Bonaventure Island and Percé Rock Park will include mulled wine, fire barrels and a festive ambiance! Admission to this unique cinematic event is free of charge. Take your place under the stars and enjoy a thrilling cinema event in a larger-than-life setting! **At the first edition in January 2008, hundreds of spectators showed up for the inaugural outdoor *Nuit du cinéma* event in Percé.**

This nocturnal presentation will consist of animated films, documentaries and dramas. The films are projected directly onto the wall of the LA NEIGÈRE building, a former warehouse used for storing ice for the cod fishing industry. It is located on the waterfront near the wharf in Percé.

Among the movies presented that evening will be that masterpiece of Inuit culture and legends ATANARJUAT, THE FAST RUNNER. Directed by ZACHARIAS KUMUK, it won the *Caméra d'Or* award in Cannes in 2001 and stars the great Inuit actor Natar Ungalaaq (*Necessities of Life*, Quebec, 2008). Filmed in the community of Igloolik in Nunavut, this powerful and sensitive film is based on an ancient legend of the nomadic Inuit peoples. This tour de force by the director led to international recognition and awards.

LA NUIT DU CINÉMA À PERCÉ - SATURDAY JANUARY 17, 2009

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ATANARJUAT will be preceded by HOW TO BUILD AN IGLOO, a film by Douglas Wilkinson. Produced in 1949 by the National Film Board of Canada, it shows two Inuit building an igloo in less than 90 minutes. The architecture of the igloo calls for adherence to precise rules regarding choice of site, the cutting and assembly of snow blocks and proper ventilation for a snug and cosy refuge!

QUEBEC AND WORLD CINEMA

The *Nuit du cinéma* program also includes several short films, including the recent NEXT FLOOR by Quebec director DENIS VILLENEUVE, which has won several awards including Best Short Film at the International Critics' Week at Cannes in May 2008. Also on the program is the film MIRRORS by Montreal filmmaker ÉTIENNE DESROSIERS, a poetic take on an adolescent's homosexual awakening. The presentation includes the short film LES JOURS, starring GILDOR ROY and directed by the talented young Quebec filmmaker MAXIME GIROUX. Winner of the Short Cuts Canada award at the 2006 Toronto International Film Festival, it deals with the theme of a father's desire for revenge.

Also on the program is NOCTURNE (1980), by the celebrated Danish director LARS VON TRIER. This student film foreshadows the feature film that would make him famous, namely THE ELEMENT OF CRIME (1984), which inaugurated a long series of successful films leading to the Palme d'Or award in Cannes in 2000 for DANCER IN THE DARK.

JOURNEY TO THE STARS

In addition to a stargazing activity organized in conjunction with the Baie des Chaleurs astronomy club, LA NUIT DU CINÉMA will be presenting several films in honour of the festivities marking the International Year of Astronomy (2009). Decreed by UNESCO in recognition of our shared heritage of the universe, the IYA is designed to help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the universe and to highlight global cooperation for peaceful purposes.

This section begins with the first science fiction film, A TRIP TO THE MOON, by French filmmaker GEORGES MELIES. Made in 1902, it was inspired by the famous novel by Jules Verne *From the Earth to the Moon*. This silent film showcases Méliès' talents as an illusionist. It tells the tale of six scientists, members of an astronomy club, who journey to the moon. They build a space capsule that is fired from a cannon and lands in the eye of the Man in the Moon.

Those who love looking at the stars will no doubt enjoy a film by the American director JEANNE LIOTTA. Entitled OBSERVANDO EL CIELO, it will be making its Gaspé première. Previous showings include screenings at the WHITNEY BIENNIAL in New York. Her film features more than seven years' worth of field recordings from her astronomical observations, everything from accelerated night skies in over a dozen distinct locations to stars streaking by or stars frozen in time, enriched by a soundtrack that is an ultra high frequency collage of broadcasts, shortwaves and interference – the sound of the universe.

Another Gaspé première is SKHIZEIN, LOIN DE MOI by the young French director JÉRÉMY CLAPIN. It received awards at both the recent Festival du Film Francophone in Namur, Belgium and the annual Sommets du Cinéma d'Animation at the Cinémathèque québécoise. This well-designed and directed animated film explores the fantastic universe of a character who flees from reality after being hit by a 15-tonne meteorite.

PRIDE OF PLACE TO ANIMATED FILMS

Not to be missed at this event is the Oscar-winning masterpiece of animation THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA, a Russia/Canada/Japan co-production directed by ALEXANDER PETROV. Inspired by the Ernest Hemingway novel of the same name (which was written in Cuba), the film consists of some 29,000 oil paintings used magnificently to recount the fable of an old Cuban fisherman and a young boy named Manolin.

Another eagerly awaited animated film at the LA NUIT DU CINÉMA event is the hilarious film THE TOURIST by the young Canadian director MALCOLM SUTHERLAND, which features a collection of zany characters on the beach under the blazing sun.

Another Gaspé première is the award-winning animated film SAINTE BARBE, directed by CÉDRIC LOUIS and CLAUDE BARRAS. It is the story of an imaginative, bald little boy named Léon who loves the bushy black beard of his grandfather, which seems to be endowed with magical powers. The film won a "Best of Sessions" audience award in Australia at the MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION FILM FESTIVAL (2008).

DOCUMENTARIES

The *Nuit du Cinéma* event will also feature two documentaries dealing with the theme of local identity. The first is PENSER EN AMONT, by two young Rimouski filmmakers, GENEVIÈVE B. GENEST and NICOLAS MARTEL. It is a sensitive portrait of Daniel St-Pierre, a longboat builder in the Lower St. Lawrence region – an artisan, a farmer, a thinker and a lover of nature.

Another realistic and clear-headed film, produced in association with the Wakiponi Mobile project and the National Film Board of Canada, is SASKASHTEU USSINUN by MELYSA PINETTE and KANAPEUSH VOLLANT. It relates the difficulties faced by young Aboriginals living on reservations in Quebec and their attachment to nature.

EXPERIMENTAL FILMS

There will also be a special program of 16mm experimental films: a collaboration with the Quebec program planner and director KARL LEMIEUX, 2008 winner of the *Prends ça court !* event for his film PASSAGE.

LA NUIT DU CINEMA A PERCE IS FREE OF CHARGE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

**LA NUIT DU CINEMA A PERCE IS PRESENTED BY
LES PERCEIDES - FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE CINEMA ET D'ART DE PERCE**

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Biographical Notes - François Cormier, General and Artistic Director

FRANÇOIS CORMIER was born and raised in the Gaspé region. He divides his time between Montreal and Percé. After studying urban planning at the University of Montreal (1985), he pursued inter-disciplinary arts studies at Laval University in Quebec City (1982). He worked in France as a project manager for the Paris subway system (RATP), conducting design and research on integrating new approaches in urban architecture (1987-1989). Upon returning to Montreal, he was actively involved in the cultural milieu as an organizer, programmer and collaborator for the Festival des Grandes Écoles de Cinéma du Monde, the Festival Vues d'Afrique and the Festival international du Jeune Cinéma de Montréal (1990-1991). In 1992 he founded Champ Libre - www.champlibre.com – a Montreal-based nomadic electronic arts and architecture organization, and was the artistic director from 1992 to 2007. His work was recognized in 2005 by the Ordre des Architectes du Québec (OAQ), when Champ Libre was a finalist for their architectural award of excellence, an acknowledgement of its expertise in presenting in situ artistic events.

In 2008 he founded and directed a new cinema and contemporary art event – Les Percéides – Festival international de cinéma et d'art de Percé, whose 2nd edition will take place from August 19 to 23, 2009.

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