

**FICFA 2008 – English program**  
**Description of films with English subtitles**

**Opening Night**

**Thursday September 25, Capitol Theatre, 7 pm**

**I Want to See (Je veux voir)**

Joana Hadjithomas / Khalil Joreige  
Lebanon / France 2007 (75 min) 2.35 Drama

July 2006. A war breaks out in Lebanon. A new war, but not just another war... A war that crushes any hope for peace and the dynamic of our generation. We no longer know what to write, what stories to tell, what images to show. We ask ourselves: "What can film do?" This is the question we decide to translate into reality. We will go to Beirut with an "icon", Catherine Deneuve, an actress who, to us, symbolizes cinema. She will meet our favourite actor, Rabih Mroué. Together, they will drive through regions devastated by the conflict. Through their presence, their meeting, we hope to find the beauty that our eyes no longer perceive. It is the beginning of an unpredictable, unexpected adventure...

*UN CERTAIN REGARD SELECTION - CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2008*

*Preceded by the short*

**Next Floor**

Denis Villeneuve  
Canada (Quebec) 2008 (12 min) 2.35 Drama

During an opulent and luxurious banquet, complete with hordes of servers and valets, eleven pampered guests participate in what appears to be a strange ritual of gastronomic carnage. In this absurd and grotesque universe, an unexpected sequence of events destabilises the endless symphony of abundance.

*AWARD FOR BEST SHORT FILM – CRITIC'S WEEK 2008 – CANNES FILM FESTIVAL*

**Friday September 26, Crystal Palace Cinema, 9 pm, Theatre 2**

**God's offices (Les Bureaux de Dieu)**

Claire Simon  
France / Belgium 2008 (122 min) 2.35 Dramatic comedy

**North American Premiere**

Djamila wants to start the Pill because things with her boyfriend are getting serious. Zoe's mother gives her condoms but calls her a whore. Nedjma hides her pills outside, because her mother searches her bag. Helen thinks she's too fertile. Clemence is afraid. Adeline wants to keep it and so does Margot. Maria Angela wants to find out who got her pregnant. Ana Marie has chosen love and freedom. Anne, Denise, Marta, Yasmine and Milena are counsellors to all these women who question the very existence of sexual freedom. Here, everyone laughs and cries and is regularly overwhelmed. They dance, smoke on the balcony and sneak in incognito to recount their stories, both common and incredible.

*SACD PRIZE FOR BEST FRANCOPHONE FILM - DIRECTOR'S FORTNIGHT 2008 – CANNES FILM FESTIVAL*

*Preceded by the short*

**The Partition (La Cloison)**

Maxime-Claude L'Écuyer

Canada (Quebec) 2008 (11 min 35) 16:9 Drama

In adjoining city hotel rooms, a woman and a man are separated by such a thin partition they can hear the slightest noise in each other's room. Based on these noises an unusual exchange unfolds, turning the unspoken dialogue into a passionate relationship. A sensual tension takes hold, where the grey area between each other's fantasy and reality is consumed, and imagination takes over.

**Saturday September 27, Crystal Palace Cinema, 7 pm, Theatre 2**

**All That She Wants (Elle veut le chaos)**

Denis Côté

Canada (Quebec) 2008 (105 min) 1.85 Drama

**North American Premiere**

In an isolated corner of the country where nothing seems to happen, an ex-mobster and his rebellious stepdaughter Coralie are looking for solutions to their money troubles and existential stagnation. Desperate, troubled by the recent disappearance of the mother/wife, and surrounded by intimidating crooks, the duo attempt to address their issues. Coralie is out for revenge in a cruel and male-dominated world. *All That She Wants* is a melodrama, populated with raw and dubious characters. A film filled with humour, where nothing seems to be happening on the surface, yet inside, emotions simmer.

*BEST DIRECTED FILM – LOCARNO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2008*

**Saturday September 27, Crystal Palace Cinema, 9 pm, Theatre 2**

**Borderline – 16 +**

Lyne Charlebois

Canada (Quebec) 2008 (110 min) 1.85 Drama

An erotic drama about a woman facing her 30th birthday who looks back at her life growing-up with her grandmother, crazy mother and her over-indulgence with men, sex and alcohol. *Borderline*, a film version of the novels *Borderline* and *La Brèche*, tells the story of Kiki at various stages of her life. With her mother institutionalized, raised by her grandmother and left to her own devices, she takes refuge in school. Her life before 30 is a far cry from a fairy tale. Sex and alcohol are her only outlets and her day-to-day reality. She goes through one man after another. But at 30, Kiki faces the hardest challenge of all: learning to love herself.

*Preceded by the short*

**The Consultation (La Consultation)**

Frédéric Vin

France 2008 (13 min) Scope Comedy

The Fifties. In a doctor's office, a regular appointment will morph into a troubled and erotic game between practitioner and patient.

## **Sunday September 28, Crystal Palace Cinema, 7 pm, Theatre 3**

### **Animated short film program**

Presented in collaboration with Anne-Marie Sirois

#### **The Bridge (Le Pont)**

Vincent Bierrewaerts

France / Belgium 2007 (14 min) 1.85

A man and his son live high atop a steep peak. The only access to the outside world is by a bridge. Now that the latter has been destroyed, the two characters are completely isolated from the rest of humanity...

#### **Sequence 01 – Shot 02 (Séquence 01 – Plan 02)**

Rémi Durin

Belgium 2007 (8 min) 1.85

One night, while on the subway, a man sees the world stopping around him...

#### **Déjà Vu**

Collectif Zorobabel

Belgium 2008 (24 min) 1.66

It all starts like a common caper, an ex-cop detective, gangsters, a femme fatale and a dubious policeman. However, once the hero dies within the first few minutes, the narrative starts to follow its own set of rules...

#### **Their First Journey (Premier voyage)**

Grégoire Sivan

Switzerland / France 2007 (9 min) 1.66

Chloé begins her 293rd day on Earth. Her father begins his 10,935th. But today they will have their first conversation during a train ride. This will perhaps be an opportunity for the father to at last discover who this little being, that entered his life six months ago, is.

#### **Mister Cok (Monsieur Cok)**

Franck Dion

France 2008 (10 min) 1.78

Mister Cok owns a large bomb factory. In the name of efficiency and profit, he decides to replace his workers with sophisticated robots, but one brave worker does not accept being discarded so easily.

**Skhizein**

Jérémy Clapin

France 2008 (13 min) 16:9

As a result of a meteorite crashing into earth, Henry now sits 91 cm outside of his body. It's a little awkward.

**Rains (L'Ondée)**

David Coquard-Dassault

Canada (Quebec) 2008 (8 min) 16:9

In this animation, a sudden rainstorm is unleashed on a city. Everyone seeks refuge. Activity slows down and nearly stops. Some pedestrians wait in bus shelters, others are determined to risk it. When the clouds thin out, life continues. The downpour has been a moment's respite in never-ending human business.

**Drux Flux**

Théodore Ushev

Canada (Quebec) 2008 (5 min) 4/3

Partly figurative, partly abstract, **Drux Flux** is an animation film of fast-flowing images showing modern people crushed by industry. Inspired by *One-Dimensional Man* by philosopher Herbert Marcuse, the filmmaker deconstructs industrial scenes and their terrifying geometry to show the inhumanity of progress.

**Retouched (Retouches)**

Georges Schwizgabel

Switzerland / Canada (Quebec) 2008 (6 min) 1.77

A veritable visual trapeze artist, animator Georges Schwizgabel alters the balance between forms and plays with perception and representation in order to grasp the movement of the world. Retouched is a succession of fleeting visions that allow the artist to take on the progressive transformation of all things, including the flow of life.

**Sunday September 28, Crystal Palace Cinema, 7 pm, Theatre 3***Hänsel retrospective***Sounds of Sand (Si le vent soulève les sables)**

Marion Hänsel

Belgium 2006 (95 min) 1.85 Drama

On the one hand, there's the desert eating away at the land. The endless dry season, the lack of water. On the other there's the threat of war. The village well has run dry and the livestock is dying. Trusting their instinct, most of the villagers leave and head south. Rahne, the only literate one, decides to head east with his three children and Mouna, his wife. A few sheep, some goats and Chamelle, a dromedary, are their only riches. A tale of exodus, quest, hope and fatality. Rahne and his family travel across hostile lands under a lethal sun, walking endlessly onwards and frequently crossing paths with death. But *Sounds of sand* is also a parable about determination that takes us in the footsteps of Shasha, a nomad child full of the joys of life, whose tenacity and strength will conquer her father's love.

*SPECIAL MENTION, CICAÉ AWARD – SAN SEBASTIAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2006*

*Preceded by the short*

**One month (Un mois)**

Jean Malek

Canada (Quebec) 2008 (2 min 55) 16:9 Drama

One month after the departure of her love, a young woman melancholically remembers that sad day.

**Sunday September 28, Crystal Palace Cinema, 9 pm, Theatre 3**

**I've Loved You So Long (Il y a longtemps que je t'aime)**

Philippe Claudel

France / Germany 2008 (115 min) 1.85 Drama

Juliette is released after having spent fifteen years in prison. She hasn't had any contact with her family during those years because they refused to have anything to do with her. Her younger sister, Léa, decides to take her in. She lives in Nancy with her husband Luc and two adopted daughters. Juliette's long imprisonment and the difference in age mean that the two women are more or less strangers. Nonetheless, when the social worker approached Léa about Juliette, she immediately agreed to let her sister come and live with her. Gradually, the two women succeed in rebuilding the trust that time has destroyed as they learn to conquer the secrets and things left unsaid that so brutally tore them apart.

*ECUMENICAL JURY PRIZE, READER JURY OF THE "BERLINER MORGENPOST" PRIZE – BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL*

*Preceded by the short*

**L'Amendement – No English Subtitles**

Kevin Papatie

Canada (Quebec) 2007 (4 min 55) Documentary

**Monday September 29, Crystal Palace Cinema, 9pm, Theatre 3**

*Rumba*

Dominique Abel / Fiona Gordon / Bruno Romy

Belgium / France 2008 (77 min) 1,85 Comedy

**CRITIC'S WEEK 2008 – CANNES FILM FESTIVAL**

Teachers in a rural school, happy couple Fiona and Dom have a common passion: Latin Dancing. One night, after a glorious dance competition, they have a car accident and see their lives turn upside down. Rumba or how optimism and humour can overcome fatality!

*PRECEDED BY THE SHORT*

## **Boulevard l'océan – No English Subtitles**

Céline Novel

France 2007 (19 min 30) 1,66 Drama

## **Tuesday September 30, Crystal Palace Cinema, 9 pm, Theatre 3**

*Hänsel retrospective*

### **Li – Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea**

Marion Hänsel

Belgium / France / UK 1995 (92 min) Scope Psychological drama

Adapted from the short story *Li* by Nikos Kavvadias, the film tells the story of a strange friendship between an adult, already on the returning end of his path in life, and a Chinese girl who's just beginning her journey. Nikos is the radio operator of a merchant ship and has just arrived in Hong-Kong. He is tired and smokes opium to forget his problems. Innocence and hope reach out to him in the person of Li, a Chinese girl who lives in a Sampan (a houseboat) and has to clean boats and empty trashcans to survive.

*SPECIAL MENTION PRIZE OF THE ECUMENICAL JURY – CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 1995*

*SPECIAL MENTION BEST BELGIAN FILM – BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 1996*

*Preceded by the short*

### **Corps d'argile – No English Subtitles**

Michel Lam

Canada (Quebec) 2008 (6 min) 1.85

## **Wednesday October 1st, Crystal Palace Cinema, 7pm, Theatre 2**

### **Welcome to the sticks (Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis)**

Dany Boon

France 2008 (106 min) 2.35 Comedy

Philippe Abrams is the director of the Salon-de-Provence post office. He's married to Julie, whose depressed state makes life impossible. To make her happy, Philippe plots to get transferred to the Côte d'Azur. But it backfires, and he is transferred to Bergues, a small town in northern France, instead.

For the Abrams, southerners through and through, the North is a ghastly, cold place inhabited by rustic folk, babbling on in an incomprehensible language, the language of the Sticks. Philippe will go alone. To his great surprise, he discovers a charming place, a warm team, and welcoming people. And he makes a friend: Antoine, the postman and village bell-ringer, with a possessive mother and a messy love life. When Philippe returns to Salon, Julie refuses to believe that he is happy up North. She even thinks that he's lying to smooth things over with her. To keep her satisfied and make life easier, Philippe allows her to believe that he is in fact living a nightmare in Bergues.

From then on, his life settles into a comfortable lie: he spends fifteen days having a ball with Antoine and his pals, and every other weekend, he is pampered by his wife who little by little becomes less depressed. All is going well, until the day that Julie decides to join Philippe in

Bergues to help him survive the trials and tribulations she believes he's going through. Philippe is obliged to admit to Antoine and his team that he has described them as barbarians to his wife. He begs them to behave as such to cover up his lie and to scare Julie into leaving quickly. Philippe's employees unwillingly lend themselves to the masquerade and put Julie through the worst trip of her life. But Julie discovers what's going on...

*Preceded by the short*

### **Missing**

Mathieu Donck  
Belgium 2007 (15 min) 1.85 Comedy

Bernard is missing. Was he ever really there?

## **Thursday October 2nd, Crystal Palace Cinema, 7pm, Theatre 3**

### **Lost Song**

Rodrigue Jean  
Canada (Quebec) 2008 (102 min) 1.85 Drama

*BEST CANADIAN FEATURE FILM  
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2008*

Pierre and Elisabeth have recently become parents and decide to rent a lakeside cottage to take advantage of their first summer as a family. Despite the beauty of the place, Elisabeth feels isolated. Between Pierre's comings and goings to the city, and the hospitality of well-meaning neighbours, Elisabeth struggles to find the serenity she so wanted with her child. The neighbours start to worry but no one detects the depth of the new mother's distress. Listening to her instinct, Elisabeth knows she must leave the countryside and the family that holds her prisoner.

*Preceded by the short*

### **Papillons noirs – No English Subtitles**

Yan Lanouette-Turgeon  
Canada (Quebec) 2008 (21 min) 16:9 Drama

## **Friday October 3, Crystal Palace Cinema, 7 pm, Room 2**

### **Coquelicots**

Philippe Blasband  
Belgium 2007 (78 min) 1.85 Drama  
**North American Premiere**

Christmas day. Three characters are spending time at the "Coquelicots" massage parlour: Rachel, a young girl who, unbeknownst to her family, works as a prostitute, Fabrice, who recruits classy girls and Xenia, for whom life has no more surprises. On this particular day their roads will cross, leaving a mark on each of them. They will all have to face their conscience and live a day like none before, a day on which their destinies will forever be transformed.

Preceded by the short

**Between Dogs and Wolves (Entre chiens et loups)**

Jean-Gabriel Périot

France 2008 (29 min 45) 1.85 Psychological drama

A young man, looking for a job ...

*SPECIAL MENTION JURY PRIZE – CÔTÉ COURT PANTIN*

**Friday October 3, Crystal Palace Cinema, 7 pm, Theatre 3**

**That Day (1 Journée)**

Jacob Berger

Switzerland / France 2007 (95 min) 1.85

At 5:30 am Serge hits someone with his car. At noon he makes love to Mathilde in the room he shares with his wife, Pietra. At 8 pm, he's in a holding cell.

At 8:00 am Pietra watches her son Vlad spread yoghurt all over his face. At 10:30 am her head impacts on glass and she falls to the ground. At 9:00 pm she's preparing to leave for halfway around the world.

At 11:00 am, Vlad, 8 years, says "I love you" for the first time. At 2:00 pm he understands why his family is coming apart. At 9:00 pm he kisses a woman.

A day like any other day.

A day like no other.

*BEST DIRECTED FILM – MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2007*

*Preceded by the short*

**Passage**

Karl Lemieux

Canada (Quebec) 2007 (15 min) 1.66 Experimental Drama

In a car, two young men and two young women drift across the countryside. In a motel at night, an improvised orgy lets their sexual impulses run free. However, one person in the group is suddenly disturbed...

*BEST MUSIC IN A SHORT FILM – HAMBURG SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 2008*

**Saturday October 4, Crystal Palace Cinema, 3 pm, Theatre 3**

**Wonderful! (Formidable!)**

Dominique Standaert

Belgium 2008 (90 min) 2.35 Comedy

**North American Premiere**

Mathieu and Marc were just not meant to get along. As a result of an incident he caused in front of the school at which he was supposed to be guarding the entrance, Mathieu manages to latch

on to Marc like a parasite, and discovers the flaws hidden by the suit and tie his "host" wears. To avoid impending bankruptcy, Marc has one last hope, to participate in the Ardennes police association's annual ball to give a rotating siren light demonstration that could boost sales. Mathieu, who wants to help, offers to go with him. The escapade is just as much a disaster as it is an opportunity to drop pretences and sum up differences. Marc and Mathieu were really not meant to meet. Yet, dropping one's guard and being vulnerable for an instant can also have a few advantages. It's by getting to know each other better that sometimes we manage to connect... Wonderful, isn't it?

*Preceded by the short*

**The Suitcase (La Valise)**

Kaveh Bakhtiari

Switzerland 2007 (12 min) 1.85 Dramatic comedy

Jeanne is about to leave for a three-week holiday on her own. Michel doesn't like the idea and locks himself in the bathroom. Jeanne and Michel have been married for 50 years...

*BEST SWISS SHORT PRIZE – CINÉMA TOUT ÉCRAN (GENEVA)*