

FILM ZONE PRESENTS THE 23rd EDITION OF THE

FICFA

FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DU CINÉMA
FRANCOPHONE EN ACADIE



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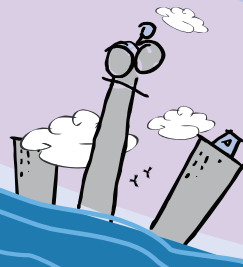
INFO-FESTIVAL : 506.855.6050

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EMPIRE
THEATRES

English program

Description of films with English subtitles



Friday September 25, Crystal Palace Cinema, 9 pm, Room 3

NOTHING PERSONAL (RIEN DE PERSONNEL)

Mathias Gokalp, France 2009 (91 min) Satirical comedy
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

In order to launch its top secret new product, the Muller pharmaceutical company throws an extravagant party where directors, managers and employees are all invited. During the course of the evening, the guests are asked to participate in a role-playing game which, it turns out, is actually a massive training simulation for the management team. Rumours soon circulate that the company is up for sale, and the panic has everyone trying to save their own skin.

OPENING FILM – international critics week – Cannes Film Festival 2009



Preceded by the shorts
WU (NO ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

Cécile Vernant, France 2009 (13 min) Comedy **CANADIAN PREMIERE**

THE NEGOCIATOR (LE NÉGOCIANT)

Joachim Weissmann, Belgium 2008 (20 min) Comedy **NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**

My name is Martial and I'm a negotiator. You know, someone they call when a person is threatening to blow the place up. Tonight, I'm dealing with Valentine, a poor loser who locked himself up in his convenience store...

Saturday September 26, Crystal Palace Cinema, 11 am, Room 2

Free presentation in collaboration with Stars & Stuff Festival

STARS AND MEN (DES ÉTOILES ET DES HOMMES)

Samuel Albaric, Pierre François Didek, France 2009 (47 min) Documentary
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

On the occasion of the World Year of Astronomy in 2009, this documentary offers to enter the wings of one of the biggest European Services of Astrophysics (the SAP) and to discover, behind research, those who are in charge of it. For one year, we follow the everyday life of scientists who are living the countdown to the launch of the Herschel satellite, the biggest space telescope created to this day.

Saturday September 26, Crystal Palace Cinema, 3 pm, Room 2

ENCIRCLEMENT (L'ENCERCLEMENT – LA DÉMOCRATIE DANS LES RETS DU NÉOLIBÉRALISME)

Richard Brouillette, Canada (Québec) 2008 (160 min) Documentary

Drawing upon the thinking and analyses of renowned intellectuals, this documentary sketches a portrait of neo-liberal ideology and examines the various mechanisms used to impose its dictates throughout the world. But behind the ideological smokescreen, behind the neat concepts of natural order and the harmony of interests in a free market, beyond the panacea of the "invisible hand," what is really going on?

GRAND PRIZE SWITZERLAND POST – VISIONS DU RÉEL 2009

JOHNNIE WALKER PUBLIC AWARD – BEST FEATURE FILM – INDIELISBOA 2009

SPECIAL JURY MENTION – AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AWARD – INDIELISBOA 2009



Saturday September 26, Crystal Palace Cinema, 9 pm, Room 2

CARCASSES (CARCASSES)

Denis Côté, Canada (Québec) 2008 (160 min) Documentary

For more than 40 years now, Jean-Paul Colmor has been collecting hundreds of automobile carcasses on his lot. More than just recycling and selling car parts, Colmor has created an unthinkable site, full of memories. Every day he visits his lot, carts scrap iron, inventories his parts and other rusting gems. His little house is no less strange: a kind of shelter where one can make out the kitchen, bathroom and bedroom in the jumble. One day, others arrive, eager to share some of Jean-Paul's solitude and eccentric fringe existence.

IN COMPETITION – DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT CANNES 2009



Preceded by the short

POUSSIÈRE BLEUE (NO ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

Julien Cadieux, Canada (Acadie) 2009 (9 min) Experimental
WORLD PREMIERE

TÊTE BLANCHE (NO ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

Patrick Boivin, Canada (Québec) 2009 (28 min) Drama
WORLD PREMIERE

DANSE MACABRE (NO DIALOGUE)

Pedro Pires, Canada (Québec) 2008 (9 min) Artistic/Dance

For a period of time, while we believe it to be perfectly still, lifeless flesh responds, stirs and contorts in a final macabre ballet. Are these spasms merely erratic motions or do they echo the chaotic twists and turns of a past life? BEST EXPERIMENTAL SHORT FILM - WORLDWIDE SHORT FILM FESTIVAL TORONTO - JURY'S CHOICE FOR SHORT FILM - PUCHON INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL BUCHEON, KOREA - BEST INTERNATIONAL DISCOVERY AWARD - RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PROVIDENCE, USA



Sunday September 27, Crystal Palace Cinema, 3 pm, Room 3

ANIMATED SHORTS PROGRAM

Twelve of the best animated short films of the year from Canada, France and Belgium.

LIFF IS A BEACH

Xavier Etchepare, Vincent Kawnick
France 2009 (2 min)

INGÉNUÉ

Dominic Étienne Simard
Canada (Québec) 2008 (2 min)

DE SI PRÈS

Rémi Durin
France/Belgium 2009 (13 min)

L'HOMME QUI DORT

Inès Sedan
France 2009 (12 min)

JE CRIAIS CONTRE LA VIE. OU POUR ELLE

Vergine Keaton
France 2009 (12 min)

ROBE DE GUERRE

Michèle Courmoyer
Canada (Québec) 2008 (6 min)

REGARDER OANA

Sébastien Laudenbach
France/Belgium 2009 (16 min)
North American premiere

MÉMOIRE FOSSILE

Arnaud Demuyneck, Anne-Laure Totaro
France 2009 (10 min)
world premiere

VIVE LA ROSE

Bruce Alcock
Canada (Québec) 2009 (5 min)

AU PAYS DES TÊTES

Claude Barras, Cédric Louis
Canada (Québec) 2008 (6 min)

TRAGÉDIE GROUICK

Matthieu Van Eckhout
France 2009 (8 min)

MASQUES

Jérôme Boulbès
France 2009 (8 min)
Followed by the making-of Masques

Tuesday September 29, Crystal Palace Cinema, 7 pm, Room 3

FAREWELL GARY (ADIEU GARY)

Nassim Amaouche, France 2009 (75 min) Dramatic comedy

In the middle of nowhere, an inner city neighborhood that has been deserted by its inhabitants several years ago. And yet, some people have decided to stay, more by choice than necessity, because they were either born, or grew up there. Amongst them is Francis, a conscientious factory worker who continues to repair the machine that he has worked on all his life; Samir, his son, who returns after a long absence; and also Maria, the neighbor, who lives alone with her son José, who believes his father is Gary Cooper. Everyday he waits for him in the street of this modern no man's land, which resembles uncannily a Western movie set...

GRAND PRIZE - INTERNATIONAL CRITICS WEEK CANNES 2009

Preceded by the shorts

THE BED BY THE WINDOW (LE LIT PRÈS DE LA FENÊTRE)

Michaël Barocas, France 2008 (13 min) Dramatic comedy

In a hospital room where three old men share their last years together, Max has the best spot: the bed by the window. Maurice, the one closest to the door, is dying to have it...



PLATFORM SUN (LE SOLEIL DES TERNES)

Éric Bu, France 2008 (22 min) Fantastic drama **NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**

Since Antoine is dead, he lives again. The final family dinner. The wake, not all that sad, and which gives him the opportunity for a devastating and cruel assessment. But a surprise guest will at last give meaning to his death, life and life of a living dead.

FRANCE 2 PRIZE – SHORT FILM CORNER CANNES 2009

Wednesday September 30, Crystal Palace Cinema, 9 pm, Room 2

DADDY GOES PTARMIGAN HUNTING (PAPA À LA CHASSE AUX LAGOPÈDES)

Robert Morin, Canada (Québec) 2008 (91 min) Drama
Vincent Lemieux, a notoriously successful fraud artist wanted by police, goes ptarmigan hunting in the taiga of northern Québec as a pretext for skipping the country. Along the way, he shoots a video diary as a means of apologizing to his two young daughters for subjecting them to the ignominy of having a criminal for a father. A complex character, irreparably corrupt and very endearing, this corporate daddy can both coldly explain the machinations of an economic system founded on contempt and recount the painful experiences of his youth via the extraordinary adventures of the fictional "le p'tit Sicotte" (Li'l Frankie). Over the course of his confessions, Lemieux gets literally bogged down in a struggle that ends up somewhere between true repentance and a clean conscience.



Preceded by the short

BEN VOYONS CAMILLE! (NO ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

Carole Ducharme
Canada (British Columbia) 2008 (23 min) Comedy

Wednesday September 30, Crystal Palace Cinema, 9 pm, Room 3

ELDORADO

Bouli Lanners, Belgium / France 2007 (85 min) Dramatic comedy

Yvan, a quick-tempered, 40-year-old vintage car dealer, surprises young Elie trying to burgle him. But he doesn't beat him up. Instead, he develops a strange affection for him and takes him home to his parents in his old Chevrolet. It's the start of an odd journey by two ne'er-do-wells through a magnificent but no less flipped-out country.



Preceded by the shorts

CINÉ-SIESTA (NO ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

Alia Nakhli, Tunisia 2008 (10 min) Comedy **NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**

LE PLEIN D'AVENTURE (NO ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

Dominique Reding, Belgium 2009 (23 min) Dramatic comedy

Thursday October 1, Crystal Palace Cinema, 7 pm, Room 3

ON YOUR BIKE! (UNE CHAÎNE POUR DEUX)

Frédéric Ledoux, Belgium 2008 (92 min) Comedy
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

What would you do to save your job? As its owner is very ill, the Granville bicycle factory is taken over by "New Deal", a big corporation working in media and communications. Corinne, a young executive, is sent by the new owner to restructure the company and eliminate one of the two production lines.



Preceded by the short

LE TECHNICIEN (NO ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

Simon-Olivier Fecteau, Canada (Québec) 2009 (7 min) Comedy

Thursday October 1, Crystal Palace Cinema, 9 pm, Room 2

MEN FOR SALE (HOMMES À LOUER)

Rodrigue Jean, Canada (Québec) 2008 (144 min) Documentary

Men for Sale follows eleven sex-trade workers over the course of a year, recounting their struggles to survive alcohol and drug-related addictions, abuse and stigmatization – and, their troubled pasts. Trapped in a vicious circle of prostitution and drug, they pursue their hardscrabble lives, knowing their prospects for the future are dim. An unflinching portrait with neither voyeurism nor false sympathy, *Men for Sale* acknowledges those society prefers to ignore.



Saturday October 3, Crystal Palace Cinema, 1 pm, Room 3

THE FORTRESS (LA FORTERESSE)

Fernand Melgar, Switzerland 2008 (100 min) Documentary

For the first time, a camera unrestrictedly penetrates into the universe of a Swiss reception centre for asylum seekers. It presents a human gaze at an austere transition place, where 200 men, women and children, torn between doubt and hope, are awaiting the state's decision on their behalf. Empathy and distrust punctuate the exchanges between the residents and the staff of the centre in charge of applying the most restrictive asylum law in Europe. With emotion, though also with humour, *LA FORTERESSE (THE FORTRESS)* immerses us into the heart of this daily sorting process of human beings.



GOLDEN LEOPARD – LOCARNO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Saturday October 3, Crystal Palace Cinema, 3 pm, Room 2

1981

Ricardo Trogi, Canada (Québec) 2009 (110 min) Comedy

In spring of 1981, the Trogi family move into their brand new home, in a suburb of Quebec City. No sooner installed in their dream house, than inflation and an economic downturn shake the foundations of their new existence. As the interest rates continue to climb, so does their mortgage and their blood pressure. Young Ricardo, 11, doesn't know what the word mortgage means but he knows it's a menace. And, as a poor ethnic newcomer in a school where most of the kids are from well-off old line families, Ricardo must rely on his wits to survive. On his wits and his imagination. He fantasizes that his father could have been a rich lawyer had Hitler's soldiers not set young's Benito's school ablaze. And to win the approval of his classmates, he promises them copies of Playboy. He pretends not to recognize his father playing the accordion in a restaurant, argues with his mother over the cost of living and consumerism, and lies to Anne Tremblay, a smart classmate on whom he has a crush. You have to be inventive to survive and Ricardo is nothing if not inventive. But it all has to stop somewhere...



OPENING FILM – MONTREAL WORLD FILM FESTIVAL 2009

Preceded by the short

WHERE THE BUTTERFLIES GOES...

(VERS OÙ S'ENVOLENT LES PAPILLONS)

Julie Voisin, France 2009 (11 min) Dramatic comedy **WORLD PREMIERE**

A corridor. A young woman and a young man are sitting right in front of each other. They're sharing glances, without a word. A door gets open, it's their turn...

Saturday October 3, Crystal Palace Cinema, 8 pm, Room 3

A PROPHET (UN PROPHÈTE) CLOSING FEATURE

Jacques Audiard, France 2009 (145 min) Drama

Condemned to six years in prison, Malik El Djebena cannot read nor write. Arriving at the jail entirely alone, he appears younger and more fragile than the other convicts. He is 19 years old. Cornered by the leader of the Corsican gang who rules the prison, he is given a number of "missions" to carry out, toughening him up and gaining the gang leader's confidence in the process. But Malik is brave and a fast learner, daring to secretly develop his own plans...



GRAND PRIZE – CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2009

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