

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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PRESS SCREENINGS
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CINEMA QUEBECOIS DOMINATES MUSEUM'S JUNE FILM SCHEDULE

The phenomenon of Quebec cinema, growing out of a cultural context unique in North America in which 80 percent of the population speaks French, has produced a fresh, distinctive body of film, which New York's Museum of Modern Art will present during the month of June, in a 29-film survey organized by Larry Kardish, Associate Curator in the Department of Film.

Present for the opening of this series on June 1 will be Marcel Bergeron, Delegate General of Quebec in the U.S.A., Jean-Pierre Bastien, officer in charge of Canadian films for the Cinémathèque québécoise in Montreal, and five of the filmmakers: Jean Beaudin, André Brassard, Jean-Claude Labrecque, Jean-Guy Noël and Frank Vitale.

The program will include several films of special interest to New York audiences. Jean-Claude Labrecque, director of the official documentary on the 1976 Olympics, is represented by "The Vultures," about a newly orphaned seminary student confronted by the politics of inheritance. Hugues Mignault and Ronald Brault's "Nov 15," completed almost overnight, covers the 1976 election victory of Quebec's Premier René Lévesque and the Parti Québécois on a platform favoring independence for the province.

In addition, interviews conducted in New York last year with Betty Friedan, Kate Millet and Rita Mae Brown by three Canadian women filmmakers, Luce Guilbeault, Nicole Brossard and Margaret Wescott, are featured in "Some American Feminists." New York's country music audience will be interested in the Cajun and Creole music which Michel Brault and André

Gladu traveled to Louisiana to document.

Plus, parallels and contrasts with Greenwich Village may be drawn from André Brassard's "Once Upon a Time in the East," a comedy drama of Montreal's flamboyant East End demimonde. And connoisseurs of avant-garde cinema may already know Jacques Leduc's "Ordinary Tenderness," accompanied on this program by the North American premiere of Leduc's 4½-hour, eight-segment tapestry, "Chronicle of Everyday Life."

When The Museum of Modern Art first discovered and brought Quebec cinema to the attention of the American public seven years ago, it was already mature, with its own history, artists and masters. It is now twenty years old, having grown out of the documentary activities of the National Film Board of Canada in the late 1950s. This small but cohesive selection of films released since then will demonstrate its continued expansion and development.

Quebec poet Gaston Miron has called for "an American culture of French expression," and Quebec's filmmakers, militant advocates and gentle humanists alike, have answered his call with perceptive devotion--through the debate and friction that led up to the election of the Lévesque party, these filmmakers have maintained a clear and unswerving focus on specific situations and events.

This focus accounts for the moderation and discipline of their cinema; the documentary and collaborative impulses that inform their sense of drama, humor and romance; their ability to be colloquial without indulging provincialism. They are true to their roots even while expanding their sphere of operations to points as distant as Mexico and China.

While comparatively few of the filmmakers are overtly political, all share a deep commitment to the preservation and integrity of their French/

American heritage. In a situation that invites excess, their taste has been exemplary. If innovators on the order of Warhol and Godard have not emerged in Quebec cinema, it is because the innovations of such avant-garde directors are being utilized by Quebec's filmmakers in the service of a different and equally noteworthy objective: to retain their own sense of identity.

As the Western cinema most naturally and subtly in harmony with Third World values, Quebec cinema is a process of strikingly unself-conscious originality. Its alienation from commercial film is counter-balanced by its firm grounding in the everyday life and popular culture of the people of the province.

This program is supported in part by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C., a federal agency.

Please note:

PRESS AND PUBLIC SCREENING SCHEDULES ATTACHED

May 1978

For further information, please call Lillian Gerard, Special Projects Coordinator, or Kent Wittrup, (212) 956-7296, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. Photographs available on request.

PRESS SCREENINGS

- Thursday, May 25
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- SOME AMERICAN FEMINISTS (1978). Directed by celebrated Quebec actress Luce Guilbeault, filmed in New York City. Interviews with Rita Mae Brown, Kate Millet, Betty Friedan. 58 min.
REJEANNE PADOVANI (1973). Written and directed by Denys Arcand. With Luce Guilbeault. A sharp, political drama in the manner of Italian director Francesco Rosi. 90 min.
- Wednesday, May 31
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- 15 NOV (1977). By Ronald Brault and Hugues Mignault. Documentary photographed almost overnight during the 1976 elections which put the separatists, i.e. Parti Quebecois, into power. 105 min.
THE LAST BETROTHAL (1974). Written and directed by Jean-Pierre Lefebvre. The drama of an inseparable, elderly, loving couple. 84 min.
- Thursday, June 1
9:30 - 11:15 a.m.
THE FILMMAKERS
WILL BE PRESENT
- 11:30 - 1:00 p.m.
- J.A. MARTIN, PHOTOGRAPHE (1977). Written and directed by Jean Beaudin. With Monique Mercure, who won Best Actress award at Cannes last year for her performance as a 19th century woman who wants to accompany her photographer husband on his travels. 101 min. (to be shown at 6:00 p.m. in the Auditorium).
THE VULTURES (1975). Written and directed by Jean-Claude Labrecque. With Monique Mercure. Drama of a young man's rite of passage in the '50s. 91 min. (to be shown at 8:30 in the Auditorium).
- 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
- TI-CUL TOUGAS (1976). Written and directed by Jean-Guy Noël. A contemporary, light, cynical comedy about a young group of petty thieves. 83 min.
- Filmmakers present will include Jean Beaudin, Andre Brassard, Jean-Claude Labrecque, Jean-Guy Noel and Frank Vitale. Also present will be Jean-Pierre Bastien, officer in charge of Canadian films at the Cinémathèque québécois in Montreal.
- Friday, June 2
10:00 - Noon
THE FILMMAKER
WILL BE PRESENT
- ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE EAST (1974). By André Brassard, from a play by Michel Tremblay. With Denise Filatraut. A bizarre and outrageous comedy drama of several flamboyant characters in Montreal's East End. 100 min.

Fourth Floor Screening Room

21 West 53rd Street

Cinéma Québécois, 1972 - 1978

June 1 - June 29, 1978

- 1 ONCE UPON A HUNT. 1972. Francis Mankiewicz. June 1, 2:30/June 3, 5:00. 92 min.
- 2 J.A. MARTIN, PHOTOGRAPHE. 1977. Jean Beaudin. June 1, 6:00/June 2, 2:30. 101 min.
- 3 THE VULTURES. 1975. Jean-Claude Labrecque. June 1, 8:30/June 4, 2:30. 91 min.
- 4 TI-CUL TOUGAS. 1976. Jean-Guy Noël. June 3, 2:30/June 5, 2:30. 83 min.
- 5 15 NOV. 1977. Ronald Brault & Hugues Mignault. June 6, Noon at Donnell Library/
June 6, 6:00. 105 min.
- 6 BAR SALON. 1973. André Forcier. June 8, 2:30/June 24, 5:00. 84 min.
- 7 LE SOLEIL SE LEVE EN RETARD. 1977. André Brassard. June 8, 8:30. No subtitles.
111 min.
- 8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE EAST. 1974. André Brassard. June 8, 6:00/June 16, 2:30.
100 min.
- 9 REJEANNE PADOVANI. 1973. Denys Arcand. June 10, 5:00/June 12, 2:30. 90 min.
- 10 LES ORDRES. 1974. Michel Brault. June 10, 2:30. 108 min.
- 11 DREAM LIFE. 1972. Mireille Dansereau. June 11, 2:30. 90 min.
- 12 SOME AMERICAN FEMINISTS. 1978. Luce Guilbeault, Nicole Brossard, Margaret Wescott.
June 12, Noon/June 13, Noon at Donnell Library/June 13, 6:00. 58 min.
- 13 GLIMPSES OF CHINA. 1974. Marcel Carrière. June 13, Noon/June 19, Noon. 69 min.
- 14 MY NAME IS SUSAN YEE. 1976. Beverly Shaffer. June 15, 2:30. 12 min.
- 15 NIGHTCAP. 1974. André Forcier. June 15, 2:30/June 24, 5:00. 36 min.
- 16 LES CREOLES (de LE SON DES FRANCAIS D'AMERIQUE). 1976. Michel Brault & André Gladu.
June 15, 6:00. No subtitles, 28 min.
- 17 NTESI NANA SHEPEN: ON DISAIT QUE C'ETAIT NOTRE TERRE (de CARCAJOU OU LE PERIL BLANC)
Arthur Lamothe. June 15, 6:00. No subtitles, 63 min.
- 18 C'ETAIT UN QUEBECOIS EN BRETAGNE, MADAME. Pierre Perrault & Bernard Gosselin. June
15, 8:30. No subtitles, 58 min.
- 19 MA CHERE TERRE (de LE SON DES FRANCAIS D'AMERIQUE). Michel Brault & André Gladu.
June 15, 8:30. No subtitles, 27 min.
- 20 PRIMERA PREGUNTA SOMBRE LA FELICIDAD. Gilles Groulx. June 17, 2:30. In Spanish,
100 min.
- 21 MONTREAL MAIN. 1974. Frank Vitale. June 17, 5:00/June 23, 2:30. 83 min.
- 22 LES DERNIERES FIANCAILLES. 1974. Jean-Pierre Lefebvre. June 9, 2:30/June 18, 2:30.
No subtitles, 84 min.
- 23 BEAT. 1976. André Blanchard. June 19, 2:30/June 24, 2:30. 64 min.
- 24 HAPPY PEOPLE DON'T HAVE STORIES. 1976. Paul Tana. June 20, Noon/June 25, 2:30.
39 min.
- 25 STEEL BLUES (aka DAY OF STEEL). 1976. Jorge Fajardo. June 20, Noon/June 29, Noon
at Donnell Library/June 27, 6:00. 35 min.
- 26 JEAN CARIGNAN, VIOLINIST. 1975. Bernard Gosselin. June 20, Noon at Donnell Library/
June 20, 6:00. 88 min.
- 27 ORDINARY TENDERNESS. 1973. Jacques Leduc. June 22, 2:30/June 25, 2:30. 82 min.
- 28 CHRONICLE OF EVERYDAY LIFE. 1978. Jacques Leduc. June 22, 7:00, complete, 4½ hrs.
June 26, 2:30, first three parts, 140 min. June 29, 2:30, last five parts, 130 min.
- 29 A FOREST--SO WE MAY LIVE. 1977. Collective Armeuro. June 27, 6:00/June 29, Noon
at Donnell Library. 38 min.