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20 FÉVRIER  
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## 37<sup>th</sup> RENDEZ-VOUS QUÉBEC CINÉMA PLENTY OF FILMS IN ENGLISH AT THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL

**Montreal, February 21, 2019** – From February 20 to March 2, the 37<sup>th</sup> annual **Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma**, presented by **Hydro-Québec**, in collaboration with **Radio-Canada**, will include a significant number of Quebec-made films in English. Spanning a range of genres, including comedies, drama and thrillers, and tackling topical issues like sexual and cultural diversity, the program has something to please every cinephile. The Rendez-vous is an excellent opportunity to learn more about how our films are made, thanks to the many artists and other film professionals who attend the festival.

### A FINE SELECTION OF FICTIONAL FILMS

***Appiness*** by Eli Batalion will have its Canadian premiere at the festival, to be attended by the director and two of the film's actors, **Varun Saranga** and **Amber Goldfarb**. There will also be a number of first features, heralding a strong new generation of talent: ***Venus*** by Eisha Marjara; ***Touched***, a thriller by Karl R. Hearne; and ***Everything Outside***, written and directed by David Findlay. Other fictions include ***Birthmarked*** by Emanuel Hoss-Desmarais, starring Toni Colette; ***Allure*** by the Sanchez brothers, starring Evan Rachel Wood; ***Eye on Juliet*** by Kim Nguyen; ***Happy Face*** by Alexandre Franchi, starring Debbie Lynch-White; ***Summer of '84*** by the RKSS collective, starring Tiera Skovbye; and ***Impetus*** by Jennifer Allyen, with Pascale Bussièrès and Emmanuel Schwartz. **Several filmmakers and artists will attend the screenings, presented by Hydro-Québec.**

### BRILLIANT DOCUMENTARIES

The documentary section, presented by **Télé-Québec**, includes **two Quebec premieres** that will transport audiences to distant places: ***Wind Should Be Heard Not Seen*** by Claire Sanford and ***The Snowball Treasury*** by Kara Blake, who will attend the screening. Political and social themes are still inspiring to filmmakers, such as Dominic Gagnon with ***Going South***; Helgi Piccinin with ***Belief Disbelief***; and Mitchell Stafiej with ***The Devil's Trap***. **The three filmmakers will discuss their respective artistic visions with the audiences** at these screenings. An encouraging sign: the documentary category prioritizes equal representation of filmmakers with ***My Dearest Sister***, with director **Kyoka Tsukamoto** in attendance; ***New Memories*** by the late Michka Saäl; and ***Lida Moser Photographer: Odyssey in Black and White*** by Joyce Borenstein, **who will attend the screening**. The documentary section also features a number of Indigenous filmmakers, including ***Mommy Goes Race*** by Charlene McConini; ***Enhior'hén:'ne*** by Roxann Whitebean; and ***Qilliqtu*** by Kevin Tikivik, made through the Wapikoni Mobile initiative.

### SPOTLIGHT ON SHORTS

The roster of short films includes several premieres: the world premiere of ***Political Playgirl*** by Xenia Sin; the Canadian premiere of ***Bottom of the 6th Expos vs Mets July 3, 1973*** by Allan Brown; and the Quebec premiere of ***Plan Dreaming Deep*** by Charlotte Clermont. Other noteworthy entries include ***Anna*** by Kim Kielhofner; ***Constellations*** by Anne Maguire; ***Bone Mother*** by Dane

Hayward and Sylvie Trouvé; *Milk* by Santiago Menghini, who has recently secured funding to make a feature-length version of his film; and *The Monster Within* by Ghislain Ouellet, who took home the award for best horror short at the Hollywood International Moving Pictures Film Festival. Questions of identity and sexuality – hot-button social issues in today’s world – are broached by many of this year’s films. Collectively, these works help raise public awareness about life in several communities. Films in this vein include the world premiere of the comedy *Is Your Teen a Homosexual?* by Tamara Scherbak; *Sweet Affliction* by Jess Lee, winner of the audience award at the most recent Image+Nation festival; *Couleur du moment* by Jeremy Sandor; and *Mahalia Melts in the Rain* by Emilie Mannering and Carmine Pierre-Dufour. Two films explore liberated youth: *Amour is Love* by Joanna Chevalier and Harold Junior Julmice and *Skies Are Not Just Blue* by Lysandre Cosse-Tremblay, a film that follows several Muslims as they make a place for themselves in the LGBTQ+ community. **The public will have the opportunity to meet these filmmakers** to learn more about their vision. The short-film section is presented by **Royal Photo**.

The English-language films in this year’s festival will be shown in the original English, with French subtitles. The 37<sup>th</sup> annual Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma takes place from February 20 to March 2, 2019. Tickets are now on sale. The full program can be found at [quebeccinema.ca](http://quebeccinema.ca).

Stay up to date on the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma: **#RVQC**  
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#### **ESSENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS**

The Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma sincerely thanks Hydro-Québec, Presenting partner; Radio-Canada, Co-presenting partner; Bell, Starring role partner; Super Écran, MELS, the Cinémathèque québécoise and Cineplex, Lead role partners. The Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma also thanks its public sector and government partners: the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, Tourisme Québec, the le Secrétariat du Québec aux relations canadiennes (SQRC), the Secrétariat à la région métropolitaine, the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles (SODEC), the Canada Council for the Arts, Telefilm Canada and the Talent Fund. The Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma also thanks the Ville de Montréal, the Conseil des arts de Montréal and Tourisme Montréal. Bravo and thanks to our colleagues Ig2, Compagnie et cie, Annexe Communications and Akufen.

#### **ABOUT THE RENDEZ-VOUS QUÉBEC CINÉMA**

The Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma is the only festival dedicated exclusively to Quebec’s films. For 37 years, it has presented the widest possible range of cinematic genres and approaches, with works by new and established filmmakers. Featuring an annual program of more than 300 films, including some 100 premieres, along with an extensive line-up of free activities, for 11 days the festival is the ultimate celebration of Quebec’s films, with plenty of opportunities for audiences and filmmakers to meet.

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