



Press Release

**LES NOUVEAUX CINÉMAS :
A FCMM PRESENTATION IN LOS ANGELES
FEBRUARY 5 -9**

Montreal, Thursday February 5, 2004 – The Montreal international Festival of new Cinema and new Media is proud to present **LES NOUVEAUX CINÉMAS**, a five day selection of films and videos culled from and inspired by the 2003 edition of the Festival. As a result of the partnership with the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) and curated by Bérénice Reynaud, the program will be presented February 5 – 9 at the Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater part of the prestigious Walt Disney Concert Hall.

The FCMM goes to Los Angeles! According to CalArts Curators, the FCMM is a pioneer in showcasing independent film and video and creativity in new media from around the world. The association with CalArts was natural as it is the only school in L.A. that offers a program aimed at developing artists rather than training them for the market. **LES NOUVEAUX CINÉMAS** is an initiative to promote cinéma d'auteur in Los Angeles, the kingdom of mainstream film production. The event is made up of three sections:

NEW CANADIAN CINEMA

NEW CANADIAN CINEMA was developed to introduce Los Angeles audiences to Canadian filmmakers whose work is representative of our filmmaking.

In 2000, the FCMM presented a retrospective of Animation Filmmaker Michèle Cournoyer's work. Cournoyer will be in Los Angeles to present 8 of her films to Californian audiences: *Papa! Papa! Papa! (L'Homme et l'enfant)* (1969), *Alfredo* (1973), *Spaghetтата* (co-directed by Jacques Drouin) (1976), *La Toccata* (1976), *Old Orchard Beach P.Q.* (1981), *Dolorosa* (1988), *A Feather Tale (La Basse-cour)* (1992), *An Artist (Une Artiste)* (1994) and *The Hat (Le Chapeau)* (2000). This retrospective is presented in collaboration with the National Film Board of Canada.

A series of experimental Canadian films by renowned or emerging artists will complete the program: *Locke's Way* by Donigan Cumming (2003), *Imitations of Life* by Mike Hoolboom (2003) and *Léo* by Nicolas Roy (2003).

NEW DOCUMENTS FROM IRAN

Culled from the Iranian Insight selection presented at FCMM 2003 and curated by Shohreh Shashani and Caroline Masse, NEW DOCUMENTS FROM IRAN is an 8 film program offering new documentary works from Iran – some shot digitally, in cinema vérité style, some a mixture of documentary and fiction. Alongside FCMM Curator Shohreh Shashani, two Iranian filmmakers will be in Los Angeles to present their work: Moslem Mansouri, Winner of the Best Documentary at the 2003 Tribeca Film Festival for *Trial (Mohakeme)* (Iran/USA, 2002) and Yassamin Maleknasr, who directed *Afghanistan, The Lost Truth (Afghanistan, Haghighat-e Gomshodeh)* (Iran, 2003). These films will be presented for the first time in Los Angeles, along with *Our Times (Ruz-e Gar-e Ma)* (Iran, 2002) by Rakhshan Bani-Etemad and *Zinat, A Very Special Day (Zinat, Yek Rouze Bekhosous)* (Iran, 2000) by Ebrahim Mokhtari. Mahnaz Afzali's *The Ladies (Zananeh)* (Iran, 2003) and Maziar Bahari's *And Along Came a Spider (Va Ankaboot Amad)* (Iran, 2002) will be presented as West Coast premieres, while Sepideh Farsi's *Journey of Maryam (Safar-e Maryam)* (Iran/France, 2002) and Mohammad Ahmadi's *Captive, Waiting (Asir, Entezar)* (Iran, 2002) will premiere in the US.

FCMM PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

FCMM and CalArts are particularly happy to present **LES YEUX SECS**, a first feature by Moroccan director Narjiss Nejjar. Casting an unflinching gaze on issues of sexual politics, the film received the Volkswagen People's Choice Award at the Festival in Montreal. Located in Tizi, a small Berber village inhabited by a community of prostitutes, the film explores the emancipation of women and men's control over their destiny. Tizi is a real place that still exists. At first, Nejjar wanted to make a documentary about the village, but soon fiction became necessary.

The FCMM would like to thank: Luc Bourdon, Bérénice Reynaud, Thom Andersen, Steve Anker, the National Film Board of Canada, Ebrahim Mokhtari, Maziar Bahari, Mohammad Atebbai, Sylvie Brenet, Sepideh Farsi, Shohreh Shashani, Caroline Masse and Christiane Ducasse at Communications Virtuelles.

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The 33rd edition of the FCMM will take place in Montreal, October 14-24, 2004

INFORMATION :

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