

Press release

For immediate distribution

UNVEILING OF THE JURY FOR THE 39TH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FILMS ON ART (FIFA)

Montréal, February 11, 2021 - The International Festival of Films on Art (FIFA) is pleased to reveal the names of the members of its prestigious jury for its 39th edition, which will take place online from March 16 to March 28, 2021, across Canada. "With their prolific creativity, professional experience, and their careers that have had an exceptional influence on the Canadian and international scenes," stated Philippe U. del Drago, Executive and Artistic Director of FIFA, "these ambassadors of the Festival will be enrich the discussion about art, bringing their expertise and wealth of enlightenment to the works presented in the Official Competition, in a context that underlines the essential capacity of culture to entertain us, make us reflect, and help us face adversity."

FEATURE-LENGTH FILM JURY



Photo credit: Julie Artacho

**CHRISTINE
BEAULIEU**
Artist, playwright,
and actor
Montréal

Since she graduated from theatre school, in 2003, Christine Beaulieu has appeared in a number of films, including *La mise à l'aveugle* (Simon Galiero), *Enfin l'automne* (Patrick Boivin), and *Mesrine: L'instinct de mort* (Jean-François Richet). She then gave a brilliant performance in Patrick Gazé's *Ceci n'est pas un polar* and was nominated for two awards (Canadian Screen Awards et Gala du cinéma québécois) for playing the role of Roxane in Ricardo Trogi and Louis Morissette's film *Le mirage*. She was in the cast for André Forcier's most recent feature, *Les fleurs oubliées*, and Martin Laroche's film *Le rire*. She has also acted in more than twenty plays. Since 2015, she has toured Québec presenting her first play, *J'aime Hydro*, a documentary project about the relationship between Québécois and Hydro-Québec, for which she received the Prix Michel Tremblay. She has excelled in a number of TV series, including *Les Pêcheurs*, *Mon ex à moi*, *District 31*, and *Lâcher prise* - the last of which earned her a Prix Gémeaux in 2020. She won the Bayard for best actor in a short film at the FIFF de Namur for her performance in the film *Un jour de fête* (2020).



EUNICE BÉLIDOR
Director of
FOFA Gallery,
Concordia
University
Montréal

Born in Montreal, Eunice Bélidor is the director and administrator of the FOFA Gallery at Concordia University, where she did her undergraduate studies in art history (2008-11). She is a curator, letter-writer, critic, and researcher and the 2018 recipient of the TD Bank Group Awards for Emerging Curator from the Hnatyshyn Foundation. Her practice focuses on contemporary Haitian art, fashion, design, and correspondence; she is interested in researching post-Black studies, feminism, and architecture. She questions everything, believing that asking the right questions is the best way to come up with creative and thoughtful answers. She holds an MA in art history and visual culture and a graduate diploma in curatorial studies from York University (Toronto). She has organized and curated various exhibitions nationally and internationally, and her writing has been published in various publications.



ROBERTO PISONI
Director
Sky Arte,
Milan, Italy

Roberto Pisoni is director of Sky Arte Italia and head of the Sky Arts Production HUB, an international hub for production of cultural content. He joined Sky Italia in 2003, working first as a producer then as creative and editorial manager for all the cinema channels, helping to define the brand and network identity. He took on overall responsibility for Sky Arte in 2012, and since then he has commissioned and produced programs ranging from *Master of Photography* to *Hansa Studios - By the Wall 1976-1980*, from *Wagner Ring Cycle* to *Why Do We Dance* (Emmy Award nomination). Sky Arte is also the production unit that made *Vatican Museums, Florence and the Uffizi Gallery, Caravaggio - The Soul and the Blood, Tintoretto - A Rebel in Venice*, and other successful theatrical releases. Before Sky, Pisoni directed a movie magazine, *Close-up*, and worked for the Studio Universal channel as author, promo producer, and director of documentaries.



**BRIGITTE
POUPART**
Filmmaker and
director
Montréal

A 1990 graduate of the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Montréal, Brigitte Poupart has worked on more than 30 productions and numerous international tours. She is the co-founder of the Transthéâtre theatre company. She directed the Cirque du Soleil show *Luzia*. Her first feature film, *Over My Dead Body* (2011) was presented at the closing of the Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois, on the list of candidates at MoMA in New York, and shown at Hot Docs in Toronto, the Raindance Festival in London, the Antenna Festival in Sydney, and other events. She received the Prix Jutra (Québec cinema award) for best documentary for this film, as well as the Grand Prix de la création artistique from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec. She played the character of Sabrina in the European tour (Spain, Germany, France, Belgium) of Dave St-Pierre's *Un peu de tendresse bordel de merde!*, and her role in the sitcom *Catherine* on Radio-Canada earned her a nomination for a Gemini Award. She has also worked in film. Recognized for her direction and large-scale design of music shows and concerts (Montréal Jazz Festival, Festival d'été de Québec, Francofolies de Montréal), she has worked with, among others, Patrick Watson and the Barr Brothers.



YU SHIMIZU
Film Programmer.
Visual Industry
Promotion
Organization
(VIPO)
Tokyo, Japan

Yu Shimizu is a Tokyo-based film programmer. She started her career in production staff for independent films. While working as a hall manager at the Auditorium Shibuya and later Euro Space, which are the art-house theatres in Tokyo, she started programming. From 2017, she became a programmer for the Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions, organized by the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, the Tokyo City Government, and others. She joined Aichi Triennale 2019 (organized by Aichi Prefecture and others) as an assistant curator for the film program. She is also a contributor to Sheffield Doc/Fest 2020 & 2021 as a program consultant for Japan. Currently she works at Visual Industry Promotion Organization (VIPO), Film and Video Department.

SHORT FILM JURY



DAVID COMBE
Editor-in-chief of
the cultural
program
Tracks
ARTE France

With a master's degree in political science and a master's degree in information and communication from Université de Paris X in Nanterre, David Combe began his career as a journalist in 1992 working for several TV magazine programs - *Premières Loges, City Rock, Cannes Dernière*, and *Rive Droite Rive Gauche* on Paris Première - then worked for TF1, TV5 and Fréquence Paris Pluriel. In 1997, he started to report for the ARTE France magazine *Tracks*, and he became its co-editor-in-chief in 2001. At the same time, he co-directed the documentary *L'apocalypse, ça va bien se passer* for Arte, and the events *Tracks Cirkus* and *La Nuit Immersive*.



Brittany Shaw is a curatorial assistant in the Department of Film at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. She most recently co-organized the gallery exhibitions *Private Lives Public Spaces*, an exploration of home movies and small gauge films in the Museum's permanent collection, and *What Price Hollywood*, which examined gender roles in Hollywood movie posters. She co-organizes the short film programs for *New Directors/New Films*.

BRITTANY SHAW
Curatorial
Assistant, Film
Department,
MoMA
New York



Photo credit: Olivier Jean

MANI
SOLEYMANLOU
Quebec actor,
playwright, and
director
Artistic director for
French theatre at
the National Centre
for the Arts,
Ottawa, as of
September 2021

Since graduating from the National Theatre School of Canada in 2008, Mani Soleymanlou has been very active on the Montréal theatre scene. He has participated in several remarkable theatrical productions, such as *Projet Andromaque* (Serge Denoncourt), *l'Opéra de Quat'sous* (Brigitte Haentjens), and *Les trois mousquetaires* (Serge Denoncourt). In 2011, Mani founded *Orange Noyée*, a theater company with which he writes, directs, and performs. He created the triptych *UN, DEUX, and TROIS*. After Montréal, the trilogy was staged in Paris with 40 performers. Mani then created a new cycle: *Ils étaient quatre, Cinq à sept, Huit, Neuf* (Titre provisoire). He concluded with his solo show *ZÉRO*. He has appeared in television series such as *O', Marche à l'ombre, Lâcher Prise, La Faille, C'est comme ça que je t'aime, and Épidémie*. He can also be seen in the feature films *À tous ceux qui ne me lisent pas* by Yan Giroux and Monia Chokri's *La femme de mon frère*. In 2021, he will also be in the cast of *Virage*, a new drama series on Noovo, and will return to the stage at Theatre du Nouveau Monde in *Abraham Lincoln va au théâtre*.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Following its call for submissions for the 39th edition, FIFA received more than 600 works last fall. To judge their quality and exclusivity, **Jacinte Brisebois**, director of programming of films on art at FIFA, surrounded herself with a selection committee composed of enthusiastic, recognized experts: **Pablo García Conde**, film programmer (Spain); **Dominique Ferré**, director, program advisor, and rigger (France); **Françoise Gazio**, film programmer, Salto et Solera Films, Idéale Audience (France); **Leila Khalilzadeh**, filmmaker (Québec); **Nicolas Gingras**, head of programming for FIFA Experimental, independent curator, author, and lecturer in the Faculty of Fine Arts at Concordia University (Québec); **Maxime Labrecque**, year-round activities programmer at FIFA, theatre critic, college professor, radio commentator, and author (Québec); and **Sarah Pialeprat**, director of the Centre du Film sur l'Art and artistic director of the Brussels Art Film Festival (Belgium).

NEW JURY PANEL

Something new this year: a jury composed of **college-level film students from seven CÉGEPs** will award the **Prize for Best Canadian Short Film**. They are **Marianne Bousquet** of Collège André-Grasset, **Émile Crevier** of Collège de Maisonneuve, **Élie Jonathan Okounou** of Cégep Édouard-Montpetit (Longueuil), **Marianne Richard** of Cégep du Vieux Montréal, **Jorge Contreras Portillo** of Cégep Marie-Victorin, **Coralie Ford** of Cégep Garneau (Québec City), and **Vincent Dallaire** of Cégep de l'Outaouais. These students will gain experience on a professional jury and cast a fresh look at the wide variety of Canadian works in competition.

AWARDS

Seven awards will be handed out by the jury: **Grand Prize, Jury Prize, Prize for Best Essay, Prize for Best Portrait, Prize for Best Canadian Feature-length Film, Prize for Best Short Film, and Prize for Best Canadian Short Film.**

ABOUT FIFA

Founded by René Rozon, the International Festival of Films on Art (FIFA) is dedicated to the international promotion and distribution of films on art and media arts. For nearly four decades, it has presented an annual event in March, which allows discovery of the latest documentaries on art. With its various year-round activities and programming, distributed through a vast cultural and educational network, FIFA is committed to increasing the knowledge and appreciation of art among the public, promoting the work of artists in the fields of cinema, music video, and visual arts, and encouraging the production and dissemination of art films. The 39th edition of FIFA will take place from March 16 to March 28, 2021.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Isabelle Huiban, Director of
Communications, Marketing et Partnerships
The International Festival of Films on Art
(FIFA)
lefifa.com

Press Relations :

Laurence Rajotte-Soucy
RuGicomm
Tel.: 514-512-1235
laurence@rugicomm.ca