



Press release

UNDER EMBARGO

Until Friday, March 12, 6:00 am ET

The International Festival of Films on Art (FIFA) will open its 39th edition at the Imperial Cinema with a live audience, as well as online across Canada. It is thus the first Montréal film festival to reopen in theatres, after being the first to close down live attendance.

*Montréal, March 11, 2021* - One year ago, on March 12, 2020, four days after opening, the International Festival of Films on Art (FIFA) had to announce that it was closing the theatres at which the festival was supposed to take place. FIFA was among the first affected by the pandemic, and it would be the first festival in the Americas to go online, offering a program of more than 180 films available across Canada.

On March 16, 2021, FIFA will become the first Montréal film festival to reopen a theatre for screening films, after having been the first to have to shut down live attendance.

FIFA will present two major films in the theatre during this edition.

**Beijing Spring** by Andy Cohen and Gaylen Ross (2020)

North American premiere

SCREENING AT THE IMPERIAL CINEMA: TUESDAY, MARCH 16 AT 5:15 PM

United States - Running time: 1 hr 40 min

V.O. Chinese / French / English - Subtitles: English

Film available online at [lefifa.com](http://lefifa.com) from March 16, 7:00 pm to March 28, 2021, 11:59 pm.

**Synopsis:**

Following the extraordinary discovery of unseen archival footage, which had escaped Chinese censors for over four decades, filmmakers Andy Cohen and Gaylen Ross explore a key moment in China's history that led to the Democracy Wall. Drilling down into the political context of the time, this feature-length film traces a fascinating art movement launched after a long period of censorship. Accompanied by the moving testimonials of appealing and eloquent artists, this fascinating documentary immerses us in a pivotal period in Chinese cultural history.

***Big Giant Wave*** (titled *Comme une vague* in its French subtitled version) by Marie-Julie Dallaire (2021)

World premiere

SCREENING AT THE IMPERIAL CINEMA: FRIDAY, MARCH 19 AT 5:15 PM

Canada - Running time: 1 h 27 m

V.O. English / French / Spanish / Dari / Italian - Subtitles: French

Film available online at [lefifa.com](http://lefifa.com) from March 17, midnight to March 28, 2021, 11:59 pm.

Synopsis:

*Big Giant Wave* is an ode to music, the invisible abstract and fleeting sequence of sounds that creates the same reaction in the brain as chocolate, sex, or drugs. Conceived as a cinematographic wave, this documentary takes us from Canada to Italy via Sweden, Mexico, and the American West Coast to meet fascinating scientists and artists who, from their various perspectives, illustrate our essential connection with rhythm, music, our planet, the brain, daily life, and our collective humanity.

Both sessions will be free. Tickets for the opening night will be drawn via the [FIFA Facebook event](#) starting Friday, March 12 at noon.

39th International Festival of Films on Art

March 16 to 28, 2021

Online at [lefifa.com](http://lefifa.com) and [arts.film](http://arts.film)

Single passport and program available to view everywhere in Canada

**Programming accessible via the FIFA 39 Passport valid across Canada**

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.

FIFA thanks the Gouvernement du Québec, the Government of Canada, Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, Telefilm Canada, SODEC, the Secrétariat à la région métropolitaine, the City of Montréal, and the Conseil des arts de Montréal for their generous support.

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Source:

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