

## The RIDM improves youth access to documentary cinema



**Montreal, Wednesday, February 26, 2020** - Since 2012, the **Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM)** has worked with high schools to introduce young people to documentary cinema. This year, the RIDM is proud to offer a series of fun 75-minute workshops for the students of the Jeanne-Mance secondary school as part of the **RIDM Youth Program**.

Between February 18 and the end of May, the RIDM will host weekly sessions that will include encounters with filmmakers and other cinema professionals, creative exercises, introductions to different types of documentary, and extracts from features and short films.

Through these exclusive meetings with film professionals, students have the chance to discover the craft of filming real life and to learn by doing. The goal of this innovative after-school activity is to capture the imagination and to spark a love for film among young audiences.

By offering workshops to the Jeanne-Mance high school this year, the RIDM hopes to strengthen the school's connection with documentary cinema and the community, thus contributing to the revitalization of neighbourhood public schools.

### **RIDM Youth Program - Classroom screenings**

Every year, **RIDM Youth Program** complements its school-based projects by organizing classroom film screenings. Since 2012, more than 2,000 young people have seen films and met visiting filmmakers at their CEGEP, high school, or youth centre.

### **RIDM in Prison**

Alongside this project, the RIDM has also been developing a program of documentary screenings in several detention centres: Leclerc, Bordeaux, Joliette, and the Thérèse-Casgrain halfway house. Each screening is followed by a discussion between the inmates, a cultural facilitator, and the filmmaker. In a second session, the writing workshop provides a space for critical reflection on the film. As part of the **RIDM in Prison** program, a jury of five women chooses the best film among eight documentaries selected at the festival to receive the **Women Inmates' Award**.

Thanks to this initiative, the RIDM was awarded the [Prix de l'Action culturelle](#) from the Ville de Montréal in 2014.

### **Thank you to the RIDM's partners**

The RIDM wishes to highlight the support of its partners, who are a key part of our cultural outreach activities. Our thanks to the Médiations culturelles MTL project, funded as part of the Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal agreed between the Ville de Montréal and the Quebec government; to the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications; to Telefilm Canada; and to the Quebec chapter of the Elizabeth Fry Society.

*Quebec's only film festival dedicated to documentaries, the Montreal International Documentary Festival presents the best reality-based films, including the works of established directors and new talents.*

**The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual RIDM will take place from November 12 to 22, 2020.**

Information: [ridm.ca](http://ridm.ca) / [info@ridm.ca](mailto:info@ridm.ca)

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- 30 -

**For interview requests or press materials, please contact:**

Caroline Rompré | [pixellex communications](#) | 514-778-9294 | [caroline@pixellex.ca](mailto:caroline@pixellex.ca)