



**Food, Film, and Conversation in Montreal
at the Cinemania Film Festival**

Friday, November 6 - Sunday, November 8, 2015

Film Schedule and Itinerary*

* For a list of additional suggested activities and lunch spots, addresses and a map, see our Oct 22 group email titled "Montreal Cinemania information and addresses."
You can watch festival film trailers at <http://www.festivalcinemania.com>.

Friday, Nov 6

12:30 PM MEETING — We'll meet in the restaurant on the mezzanine at the **DELTA** for a short orientation. We'll talk about viewing films, pass out tickets, and orient you to our handy map. The Delta is located at 475, Avenue Président Kennedy.

1:45 PM FILM — First film, at the IMPERIAL THEATER: **THE SWEET ESCAPE (COMME UN AVION)**. Fiftyish computer graphics designer Michel, (director-actor Bruno Podalydes) daydreams of adventure. He's obsessed with vintage Aeropostale planes but he's not a pilot, so a secretly assemble-yourself kayak will have to do -- "like a plane without wings". His wife Rachel, (Sandrine Kiberlain) is supportive, once she discovers his desire to break free of life's monotony, and Michel eventually sets-out on a minor odyssey along small local Loire rivers. Amusing encounters with irascible and irresistible characters he meets along the way help him to evolve, especially his discovery of innkeeper Laeticia and waitress Mila at their secluded waterside tavern. The film is a tone poem, light as air, suggesting that the unpretentious search for happiness can actually be profound.

4:00 FILM — **UN PEU, BEAUCOUP, AVEUGLÉMENT** directed by and starring the multi-talented Cornillac in the lead role was the deserving winner of the Audience award at last month's **COLCOA** French film festival in Los Angeles. It's a romantic comedy with a dark, distinctly Gallic flavour which has an old-fashioned feel while dealing with a distinctly modern theme – how modern technology is fundamentally changing the way individuals communicate. Fortunately Cornillac's deft comic touch avoids rhetoric and the film is ultimately a delightful love story set to the stirring music of Chopin. Although there is nothing new in the basic 'opposites attract' plot line, Cornillac throws in an interesting mix of secondary characters and some whimsical set pieces which raise the film to a new level..

6:15 PM — **GROUP DINNER at BISTRO BEAVER HALL**. We'll go directly from the theater to the restaurant, where we'll enjoy wonderful French food and share initial impressions of the festival. 1073, Côte du Beaver Hall, (514) 866-1331. The restaurant is about a 10 minute walk from the Imperial.

8:00 OPTIONAL FILM – WHITE KNIGHTS. President of an NGO in a war-torn African country, Jacques Arnaud (Vincent Lindon) misleads local authorities into believing that he and a team of devoted volunteers are saving children by sending them to a well-organized orphanage in France, where they will enjoy a bright future. In reality, for substantial fees, he runs an operation aimed at helping French families experiencing difficulties in adopting children. When he is faced with a 30-day deadline to find 300 children, things start to go very wrong. Belgian director Joachim Lafosse (**OUR**

CHILDREN) modeled this extraordinary film after the 2007 Zoé's Ark scandal in France, which involved charges of child-trafficking and humanitarian infractions in Chad, where this extraordinary film was shot.

Saturday, Nov 7

9:00 AM FILM – PARIS-WILLOUBY. The Guilby-Lacourts are typical of today's blended families — a clutch of stepsisters, step-uncles, mothers-in-law, etc. One day, upon the death of an estranged grandfather that no one had seen in over a decade, they decide to all cram into the family car to attend the funeral. It comes as no surprise that this fractured and fractious family faces a multitude of hilarious challenges in this wonderfully absurd farce, fresh from Official Competition at the 2015 Festival du Film francophone d'Angoulême. There's great comedic chemistry between the two stars, Isabelle Carré and Stéphane De Groodt, in this highly-praised road movie co-directed by Quentin Reynaud and Arthur Delaire.

10:45 AM OPTIONAL FILM – JOURNEY TO CHINA. Liliane, (Yolande Moreau of WHEN THE TIDE COMES IN, CINEMANIA 2005) travels to China to recover the body of her son, killed in a car accident. She is suddenly plunged into a totally foreign culture, and her voyage re-tracing her son's life in China sets in motion a re-invigoration of her own life despite her grieving. It's a journey of self-discovery. First-time director/screenwriter Zoltan Mayer started his career as a photographer and his deep love of China and its people are reflected in the beautiful images he captures. Highly talented Belgian actress Yolande Moreau is well-known for her starring role in SÉRAFINE, for which she won Best Actress awards in 2009 from both the L.A. Film Critics and the Césars. **PLEASE NOTE: if you see this film, you won't have time for lunch before the next film.**

12:30 PM FILM — I AM A SOLDIER. A down-on-her-luck 30-year old who moves back with her mother in provincial Roubaix, Sandrine (Louise Bourgoin) earns respect working for her uncle in the seedy all-male milieu of dog-trafficking. While acquiescing in her daily work, she cannot help but rebel against the scandalous conditions and illegal nature of the business. Sandrine is a tough yet vulnerable heroine in this extraordinary story, a unique thriller set in a violent and dishonest world. A stunning performance by two-time CINEMANIA guest Louise Bourgoin prompted co-star Jean-Hughes Anglade to compare her talent to that of iconic Isabelle Huppert. Screened at Un Certain Regard 2015 in Cannes, this Dominique Besnehard production received great critical acclaim. **Followed by discussion with Montreal film critic Matthew Hays at the Delta.**

4:45 FILM — THE ANARCHISTS. A tale of love and revolution, Paris 1899. Sergeant Jean Albertini, (Tahar Rahim, UN PROPHET) has been chosen to infiltrate a group of potentially dangerous anarchists. It's an opportunity for him to move up in the ranks but he soon becomes conflicted in his assignment -- he dutifully files his police reports yet begins developing deep sympathy for the anarchist's causes. Some of those early ideas and goals still resonate today -- feminism, vegetarianism, and free love. But, one of the players preaches violence... And, the real danger may yet come from falling in love with an anarchist's girlfriend. Director Elie Wajeman (ALIYAH, 2013), filmed this historical costume drama entirely in Paris. It was chosen as Opening Film, Critics' Week, Cannes 2015.

7:15 GROUP DINNER at QING HUA DUMPLING, where 40-odd varieties of dumplings are served in huge portions of 15. We'll go directly from the theater to the restaurant, and Mathhew Hays and his partner Steven will join us. The restaurant is about a 10 minute walk from the Imperial. 1019 Blvd St Laurent, (438) 288-5366.

8:30 PM OPTIONAL FILM – FAMILIES (optional). Director Jean-Paul Rappeneau (memorable THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF - CINEMANIA 1996), assembled a star-studded cast for this exceptional film that opened the 2015 Festival du film francophone d'Angoulême. A French businessman, living in Shanghai for the past 10 years, Jérôme Varenne (Mathieu Amalric), is passing through Paris when he learns that his family home in Aubray, where he grew up, is the subject of

controversy. He quickly decides to investigate, in an attempt to mediate the quarrel and to ease the tension between family members. He plans a brief visit but the situation becomes complicated by a burgeoning love affair with his charming step-sister Louise, (the breathtaking Marine Vacth, *YOUNG & BEAUTIFUL*, CINEMANIA 2013). But other women are also interested in him... This detour into provincial France will forever change his life.

Sunday, Nov 8

10 AM OPTIONAL FILM – 10%. For the first time ever in the annals of French cinema, *10%* immerses us in the crazy intense world of artists' agents - four impresarios struggle to save their agency's reputation after the founder's death. The agency partners have to juggle difficult and conflicting responsibilities arising from their chaotic personal lives with the needs of the celebrities they represent. Cécile De France, Françoise Fabian and Line Renaud play themselves in a highly original comedy that has been the Fall season's entertainment event in France. *10%* bridges the gap between artistic endeavours and financial rewards, the daily life of celebrity agents and the agencies in which they work: it's a movie version reminiscent of *Mad Men*, produced by Dominique Besnehard, and, (cherry-on-the-cake) Cédric Klapisch and his wife Lola Doillon are co-directors.

1:30 FILM – THE WAKHAN FRONT. Afghanistan, June 2014. Captain Antarès, (Jérémy Renier, *SAINT LAURENT*, CINEMANIA 2014) of the French NATO forces, is responsible for a reconnaissance and terrorist-control mission in the rugged and mountainous Wakhan corridor, near the Pakistan border. Despite their efforts, Antarès and his troops are losing control of the sector. A creepy desert night in September marks the beginning of the mysterious disappearance of Antarès men, one by one. Eerily enough, the Taliban cannot be held responsible because they, too, are losing men. What strange phenomenon is at work here and can the mystical ever be reconciled with the military? First-time director Clément Cogitore's suspenseful war drama screened at the 2015 Semaine de la Critique, in Cannes.

4:00 For those departing Montreal, safe travels. To those staying on, *bon cinéma!*