



**FOOD, FILM, AND CONVERSATION IN MONTREAL
AT THE CINEMANIA FILM FESTIVAL**

Thursday, November 3 - Sunday, November 6, 2016

CINEMANIA Film Schedule and Itinerary.

Bonjour à tous! What follows is a curated list of films and activities for our Montreal weekend. Please note that there are several **optional** films and conversations, to choose according to your interests and stamina. Film summaries are from the festival website, and you can see trailers at <http://www.festivalcinemania.com>.

THURSDAY, NOV 3

3:00 PM MEETING — We'll meet on the **mezzanine** at the **DELTA** for an orientation. We'll talk about viewing films and how to get the most from the weekend, pass out tickets, and orient you to our handy map. 475, Avenue Président Kennedy.

5:00 PM — GROUP DINNER at LE NIL BLEU. Wonderfully spiced dishes are served with injera, a sourdough flatbread, and the tasting menu accommodates vegetarians. The restaurant is about a 20 minute walk from the hotel, a 6-8 minute cab ride. 3706 Rue St Denis. <http://www.nilbleurestaurant.com>

8:00 PM — FESTIVAL GALA at the IMPERIAL THEATER. We'll attend the opening night film, the grand romantic saga **MAL DE PIERRES (FROM THE LAND OF THE MOON)** starring Marion Cotillard, presented by director Nicole Garcia. <http://www.festivalcinemania.com/films/land-moon?jour=>

10:30 — OPTIONAL NIGHT CAP CONVERSATION in the bar at the Delta after the film.

FRIDAY, NOV 4

8:30 AM OPTIONAL BREAKFAST MEETING — A conversation led by Andrea and Rick about French films - their history, their unique aesthetic, and our love for them. We'll be referring to some of the films on the list we emailed earlier, arranged more or less in chronological order. We'll meet in the restaurant at the Delta.

10:00 AM FILM — POISONING ANGEL/FLEUR DE TONNERRE. Brilliantly portrayed in adulthood by Déborah François, Hélène Jegado (1803-1852) was an adorable child who grew into what appeared to be a charming young woman. Born dirt-poor on a farm in uneducated and ultra-

superstitious Brittany in the early 19th century, she was isolated and unloved, her head filled with morbid thoughts that led her to be tormented and vengeful despite her outwardly calm demeanour. She became the worst serial killer in history, using first the wild blueberry-like Belladonna and later arsenic to poison people at random during her employment as a cook and housekeeper.

Director Stéphanie Pillonca-Kervern adapts Jean Teulé's recent biography of Hélène Jegado and re-creates the era with incredible authenticity.

12:00 PM OPTIONAL FILM — UPSTREAM/EN AMANT DU FLEUVE. Two guys in an old motor-launch, step- brothers Homer and Joe who hardly know each other, putt-putt up a gorgeous river landscape in the wilds of Croatia. Their goal is to find out what happened to their father. What was the real cause of his recent and sudden death? They reach impassable waterfalls and are forced to venture into the interior with backpacks, and finally encounter a wandering and enigmatic Irishman who may know more about their dead father than he admits.

Director and co-screenwriter Marion Hansel (with Médicis Prize-winner Hubert Mingarelli), brings us a unique and magnificently-filmed "boat movie".

12:00 LUNCH IS OPEN. Choose from the suggested list of restaurants, and continue the film conversations over lunch.

2:00 PM FILM — ROAD TO ISTANBUL. Elisabeth (Astrid Whettnall) and her 20-year- old daughter Élodie appear to live an idyllic existence in their cottage in the Belgian countryside. Elisabeth is not alarmed at first when Élodie fails to come home one night. It turns out that the young woman has been leading a double life and has departed to join ISIS in Syria, a shockingly incomprehensible turn of events for her mother.

Director Rachid Bouchareb, who gave us the memorable epic HORS-LA-LOI (CINEMANIA 2010), brings to life the extraordinary story of a desperate mother who sets out on her own, without official help, to cross the Turkish border into Syria and bring her radicalized daughter home. Don't miss this highly emotional and topical film.

4:00 PM OPTIONAL COFFEE/TEA AND PASTRIES AT FOU D'ICI — We'll gather around small tables to talk about the day's films; a snack will keep us going until dinner. 360, blvd De Maisonneuve Ouest

4:00 PM OPTIONAL FILM — THE WAIT/L'ATTENTE. Grief-stricken Anna is inconsolable at the sudden death of her son, Giuseppe. She is disturbed by a phone call from, Jeanne (Lou de Laâge), who reveals that she is Giuseppe's girlfriend. Jeanne has accepted his invitation to spend Easter weekend at his family home and Anna cannot bring herself to tell her the truth about Giuseppe's fatal accident. And so, Jeanne arrives as a guest at the villa. In an unusual tale of hope and denial, the two women share intimate moments and memories, waiting out the weekend together for Giuseppe's supposed return — or is it his resurrection?

Juliette Binoche (Anna) displays incomparable grace in this beautifully-filmed drama set deep in the Sicilian countryside.

6:00 PM FILM — HEAL THE LIVING/REPARER LES VIVANTS. Three accomplished surfers in stormy seas. A few hours later, a road accident. One of the surfers ends up on life-support in a hospital in Le Havre, his life hanging by a thread. And, in Paris, a woman awaits a transplant that just

may save her life. Director Katell Quillévéré adapted Maylis de Kerangal's eponymous bestselling novel into a moving, meditative, and instructive film. Quillévéré paints an intimate portrait of panic and patience in a tense and metaphysical adventure played out by a star-studded and incredibly talented cast including Quebec's Anne Dorval and Monia Chokri. One could say that it's literally full of heart-stopping suspense.

"... a moving and masterful film that conveys power and sensitivity from its very first frames."

"... will send chills down your spine and draw tears from even the most cynical viewer."

Nathalie Petrowski – La Presse

8:15 PM GROUP DINNER AT CAFE DU NOUVEAU MONDE — We'll go directly from the theater to the restaurant, where we'll enjoy French food and share impressions of the festival. 84 Sainte-Catherine Ouest @ St Urbain, (514) 866-8669. The restaurant is a 5 minute walk from the theater.

SATURDAY, NOV 5

9:30 AM OPTIONAL FILM — WULU. The storyline recounts the misfortunes of Ladji (Ibrahim Koma), young, poor and ambitious, who can't resist the siren-call of a lucrative life in organized crime in pre-2012 Mali. TIFF's take on Wùlu – "a pulse-pounding political thriller about a low-level transit worker turned drug trafficker, whose rapid ascent in Bamako's criminal underworld entangles him with the military, the government and even rebels."

Director Daouda Coulibaly filmed Wùlu in both Senegal and Mali itself, a landlocked former French colony in West Africa wherein half the population of 14 million live below the poverty line (defined as under \$1.25 a day) – it is one of the poorest countries in the world.

11:15 AM FILM — MOKA. An elegantly psychological Chabrol-esque thriller, Moka gets its name from the colour of the vintage automobile that struck and killed Diane Cramer's son in a hit-and-run accident. Diane (Emmanuelle Devos in one of her finest roles), still deep in mourning and furious at the inability of police to trace the guilty party, is confined to a lakeside sanatorium in Lausanne, Switzerland. She investigates on her own, the only clues – a mocha Mercedes with a blonde at the wheel. Her obsessive and vengeful hunt leads her to Marlène (Nathalie Baye), who runs a perfume shop across the lake in Evian, France. Director Frédéric Mermoud brings us a superb adaptation of Tatiana de Rosnay's eponymous novel.

1:15 PM — DISCUSSION WITH MATTHEW HAYS. Montreal film teacher and critic Matthew Hays will share his thoughts about Moka and film criticism over lunch at the **Delta**.

6:00 PM FILM — A WOMAN'S LIFE. Normandy, 1819. Freshly graduated with a convent education, Jeanne le Perthuis des Vauds, an over-protected and innocent young woman filled with naive dreams, marries the Vicomte Julien de Lamare who swiftly proves himself to be violent, unfaithful and a skinflint to boot. Jeanne quickly loses her childish illusions.

Acclaimed director Stéphane Brizé (winner of the Grand Prix Mel Hoppenheim for MADEMOISELLE CHAMBON), inspired by a Guy de Maupassant novel, traces the life of Jeanne le Perthuis des Vauds from ages 18 to 45 during the first half of the 19th century. Brizé tracks the tragic "death of innocence", and unveils an earlier history of women's travails than that of Madame Bovary.

DINNER IS OPEN. It was our hope that small groups might gather around food interests or restaurants. It will be Restaurant Week in Montreal, and you can choose something special if you'd

like. <http://www.tourisme-montreal.org/mtlatable/restaurants-en.php> . Or choose Indian, French, or dumplings a short distance from the Imperial. We'll talk about dinner via email before we go, and Karen can reserve where needed.

8:30 PM OPTIONAL FILM — SLACK BAY/LA LOUTE. Bruno Dumont's most beautiful and memorable film yet, is a stylized period piece and satirical murder mystery set in 1910 Northern France. Weirdly eccentric, unorthodox and inventive, the film leaves one pleasantly perplexed but tremendously entertained.

On one side of the great class divide are André (Fabrice Luchini who steals the movie!), decadent lord-of-the-manor and total nitwit, and his sister Aude (Juliette Binoche), an unbearable airhead. On the other side, the poverty-stricken local fishermen folk are half-wits. All these characters play out against a strange tale of wacky policemen, buffoons among the dunes, investigating mysterious disappearances of people visiting the marshes. You've never seen a film quite like this one.

SUNDAY, NOV 6

9:00 AM OPTIONAL CONVERSATION AND DIM SUM at **Maison Kam Fung**, 1111 Rue St Urbain.

9:15 OPTIONAL FILM — THE OUTSIDER. Before the subprime mortgage crisis began unfolding in 2008, causing chaos in world markets and misery among millions of homeowners, another financial apocalypse was already underway at one of France's most prestigious banks. Christophe Barratier ('The Chorus') tells the true story of France's greatest financial scandal.

11:30 OPTIONAL FILM — HEAVEN CAN WAIT/LA CIEL ATTENDRA. Two parallel stories, two teenage girls, one an easily influenced potential Jihadist, the other an excellent student brainwashed by an on-line relationship with a Muslim man. Sonia, 17, almost commits terrible acts in order "to guarantee her family a place in heaven", while Melanie, 16, a cellist out to change the world, falls in love on the internet with "a prince". At first, radicalization takes shape as a revolt against Western values, in anti-capitalism and a rejection of hedonistic consumerism. Director Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar (LES HÉRITIERS) puts together a star-studded cast in a penetrating study of the gestation of Western jihadism, with textbook cases on how to deal with on-line indoctrination and radicalization of young people.

1:45 PM OPTIONAL FILM — FANNY'S JOURNEY. 1943. Nazi-occupied France. Jewish parents have entrusted their children to the care of remote boarding schools. Madame Forman (Cécile De France) is the headmistress of one such school that unfortunately doesn't remain a safe haven for long. Intrepid 12-year-old Fanny assumes the leadership of a small band of eight children, and resourcefully prepares to flee with them across France to the safety of Switzerland. It's a frightening journey for these eight kids, as collaborationist French police and Gestapo agents lie in wait.

Director Lola Doillon has our hearts pounding in overtime, from beginning to end. Based on the autobiography of 86-year-old Fanny Ben-Ami, who now lives in Israel.

3:45 OPTIONAL FILM — CEZANNE AND I. Guillaume Canet and Guillaume Gallienne play two of France's most famous 19th century cultural figures in Daniele Thompson's period drama. What appears to be one of the greatest bromances in cultural history has finally been brought to the screen in *Cezanne and I* (*Cezanne et moi*), writer-director Daniele Thompson's flowery, fictionalized account of the affectionate if caustic friendship between the titular French painter and his lifelong bestie, the writer Emile Zola.