

April 16th 2024

PRESS RELEASE for immediate release 19th EDITION CINERGIE's official programming

We're almost there! Festival CINERGIE is back, better than ever! The only one of its kind in Saskatchewan, the Saskatoon's International Francophone Film Festival will take place in a month, from May 9th to 12th, at the beautiful Roxy Theatre, on 20th St W, in Saskatoon, for its 19th Edition!

At the Roxy Theatre, in Riversdale, Saskatoon, you will be movie-immersed in a decorated cinema interior, one of the last cinematic palaces in Canada, covered with small balconies, and Spanish-style windows. While watching the movies at CINERGIE, perhaps you'll feel as if you are traveling to Moncton, Port-au-Prince in Haïti, or a small Quebec town through the different francophone dialects, but you'll never feel lost in translation, as all our movies have English subtitles for everyone to enjoy, no matter your level of French.

Read our press release now for all the fun activities, films not to be missed, and talented filmmakers, that we bring to you, for the happiness of all, adults and children alike.

For all interview and info requests:

Älva Jouband-Uusitalo (they/them) Executive director, **Festival CINERGIE** direction@cinergiesk.ca +1 306.952.6079









CINERGIE 2024's Official Program

Our selection committee team has handpicked for you the best quality Canadian and international francophone short and feature films that have come out recently and/or who have never been shown anywhere in Saskatchewan before. Before each feature film will be presented an excellent short film from young filmmakers, from different corners of the world - Congo, Morrocco, France, Switzerland - and from here, from Saskatchewan, Yukon, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and New-Brunswick (it's important!).

We have 13 film screenings in the program for the general public, from Thursday, May 9th to Sunday, May 12th. 6+ filmmakers & film discussions! 12 feature films and 30 short films in total. A program showing 17 nightly short films. 2 films for children (4 and 8 years old+) and several for the entertainment of the youth, adults and seniors.

The Opening Ceremony and Film:



Don't miss our opening ceremony presented by Radio-Canada, on May 9th at the Roxy Theatre at 5 p.m., open to all, with a 360° photobooth and a red carpet to mark the event in style. Don't hesitate to come in your best attire and party costumes.

You'll be immersed in a captivating Haitian-Canadian journey wrapped in mysticism and hope with our opening film *Kanaval* (2023, Henri Pardo), winner of the Amplify Voices Award and in the Top 10 Best Canadian Films at TIFF 2023. For our festival director and programmer, who was a member of the Youth Jury of the Americas at CINEMANIA 2023 and who has watched countless francophone movies, *Kanaval* is their all-time favourite film. The film will be followed by a video Q&A by director Henri Pardo. It's not to be missed!



CINERGIE 2024's Official Program

SASKATOON FANTASTIC

NEW PROGRAM: Spécial: Déjanté nocturne

CINERGIE's first short film program, co-presented by the Saskatoon Fantastic Film Festival, on May 9th at 9 p.m., featuring the best noir, goofy and satirical comedies, horror shorts, thrillers and captivating dystopian animations. Not to be missed for those who love thrills and frights!

The APERO FRANCO:

On Friday, May 10th starting at 5 p.m., you will be able to enjoy refreshments, food and music in French while meeting and chatting with other cinephiles, filmmakers and community members, during this special APERO FRANCO at the Roxy Theatre, presented by the Fédération des Francophones de Saskatoon. Afterwards, we will present our Spotlight on the West Screening.

The Spotlight on the West Evening:

The second highlight of the festival is a unique annual screening presented by <u>Unis TV</u> on May 10th at 6pm, highlighting francophone films and their filmmakers from Canada's Western and North Western regions. Canada's Prairies, West Coast and North holds some amazing, knowledgeable, talented francophone filmmakers that deserve to be known and to shine in their own rights. We provide an event open to the public where their works can be screened and where they are invited to share insight on their films in person.

We are honoured to present *Un paradis pour les abeilles (Gentle Hum of Spring)* by Fransaskois filmmaker Simon Garez, *Yukon Diaries* by Franco-Yukon filmmaker Florian Bosc and *Frontière verte* by Quebec-Yukon filmmaker Karine Genest. Simon Garez and Karine Genest will be with us in person to talk about their films after their screening.



FILMMAKERS present at Festival CINERGIE 2024



ISABELLE DEPELTEAU: Isabelle Depelteau has directed and written a dozen feature-length documentaries, several of which have been nominated and awarded prizes. Her artistic approach is part of the search for truth and symbology. She will present her short film *The House of the Raven* during the Short Film Program: *Spécial: Déjanté nocturne.*



SIMON GAREZ: award-winning Fransaskois actor and director. His first work, *Torch Narrows* (2021), won the SIFA Awards for Best Short Film and Best Technical Direction. His second work, *Gentle Hum of Spring* (2022), won Best Saskatchewan Short Film at RIFFA and Best Canadian Short Film at Cinéma sous les étoiles (Montreal).



KARINE GENEST: director, producer and animator of several documentaries with more than 20 years of experience in expedition guides. After the premiere of her first documentary *L'esprit des ours* at Festival CINERGIE in 2019, we are pleased to welcome her for the second time with her newest documentary *Frontière verte*.

Any updates on guests and films will be communicated on our social media channels (Instagram and Facebook: **@festivalcinergie**) and on our website: www.festivalcinergie.ca/



FILMMAKERS present virtually at Festival CINERGIE 2024



HENRI PARDO: Canadian actor and filmmaker with parents from Haiti, his documentary film *Dear Jackie*, was nominated for the Donald Brittain Award at the 11th Canadian Screen Awards in 2023. His first feature film *Kanaval* won the Amplified Voices Award and Best Canadian Film at TIFF 2023 and the People's Choice Award at CINEMANIA 2023.



CARMEN JAQUIER: Swiss French-speaking director and screenwriter, known for *Wonderland* (2015), *Les Paradis de Diane* (2024), opening film at Solothurn Filmtage 2024 and *Thunder* (2022), opening film and winner of the Best Music Award at CINEMANIA 2023, winner of the Opera Prima Award at Solothurn Filmtage 2023 and winner of the Swiss Emerging Talent Award at the Zurich Film Festival 2022.



SOPHIE DUPUIS: Quebecois screenwriter and director known for her first feature film *Chien de garde* (2018), winner of the Best Director Award at the 2018 Saint-Jean-de-Luz International Film Festival, *Souterrain* (2020), winner of the Best Screenplay Award at the 2021 Gala Québec Cinéma, and *SOLO* (2023), Best Canadian Film at TIFF 2023.

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To close Festival CINERGIE 2024: the MYSTERY FILM THROWBACK

Rediscover one of the French cult films of the 2010s!



Examine the poster and find clues.

Those who correctly guess the title of the film will receive

CINERGIE goodies during the screening.



CINERGIE 2024 Recommendations

You'll find that our selection this year is a celebration of love, kinship, friendship, family - all leading up to Mother' Day on May 12th. On that note, our film on May 10th at 7:45pm highlights the important men in our mothers' lives with *Les hommes de ma mère* (My Mother's Men), a beautiful, sentimental Québécois film, where at the dawn of her thirties, Elsie must reconnect with her former stepfathers and her biological father in circumstances that are unexpected, to say the least; this journey strewn with pitfalls will help her tame some of her demons and launch herself, more serene, into a new stage of her life.

Festival CINERGIE will allow you to travel through space and time, such as on May 11th at 5pm with the scenic, and mysterious film *Foudre (Thunder)*, featuring Swiss village life in a lush, forested valley of the Alps in the early 1900s, which is co-presented by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver, and was the opening film at CINEMANIA 2023.

We also highly recommend attending, on May 12th at 5:30pm, the screening of the highly acclaimed *Ru*, presented by the Tournée Québec Cinéma, which had its world premier at TIFF 2023; a film adaptation of Kim Thúy's award-winning 2009 novel of the same name, following the coming-of-age journey of Tinh, a young Vietnamese girl adapting to Quebec culture and society with her family fleeing the aftermath of political instability, and persecution following the Vietnam War in 1975.

SOLO, which we are presenting on May 11th at 7pm, with En toute fierté and the Tournée Québec Cinéma, won Best Canadian Feature at TIFF 2023. It is a blazing, fantastically queer movie, featuring a fiery romance between a young emerging Québécois drag artist and an experienced mainstream French drag queen in Montréal. The film is an evocative and tender portrayal of a young queer man, striving to gain a better grasp of his own artistry and understanding of his own self-worth.



CINERGIE 2024 Recommendations

Speaking of queer romance, don't miss out on *Une histoire d'amour (A Love Story)*, adapted from a Parisian theatre play of the same name, on May 11th at 3pm; this sentimental movie with perfect acting and impeccable staging offers a wide selection of emotions, from love, humour and drama to anger and sadness... We promise it will make you cry and will most certainly warm your heart.

For the families, on May 11th at 1pm, let yourself be transported to the mystical forests of Northern Quebec in the 1940s, with Jules au pays d'Asha (The Adventures in the Land of Asha), presented by the Tournée Québec Cinéma; an endearing story of friendship and adventure between a mysterious Indigenous girl and a young French-Canadian settler boy, whose journey you'll want to follow through to the end. An excellent choice for young people, families, and general audiences!

On May 12th at 1pm, we're showing the all-time favourite cartoon of French-Canadian kids, for the very first time on the big screen: Toupie et Binou: le film (Toopy and Binoo: The Movie), featuring an inseparable duo that approaches life with pleasure and enthusiasm to the delight of the little ones. A perfect way to celebrate mother's day with your young ones!

Rendez-vous at www.festivalcinergie.ca for the entire program and ticket purchase!

THANKS

Thank you to the generous support of SK Arts, the City of Saskatoon, Sask Lotteries, Association Jeunesse Fransaskoise, Orano Canada, En toute fierté - Assemblée Communautaire Fransaskoise, Tournée Québec Cinéma, Consulate General of France in Vancouver, Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver, Unis TV, Radio-Canada, Roxy Theatre and the Fédération des Francophones de Saskatoon, and our other community partners.





















