

# Fantasia

***For Immediate Release***

**A taste of the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Fantasia International Film Festival!**

**Opening film: Takashi Miike's YATTERMAN**

*Montreal, June 15, 2009* – Fantasia Film Festival, the largest genre film festival in North America, will be returning to Concordia University's Hall Theater in Montreal for its 13<sup>th</sup> edition from July 9<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>. This year, the delirious YATTERMAN, from Japanese director Takashi Miike will mark the opening of the festivities. This eagerly awaited Canadian premiere will plunge its audience into a kitschy psychedelic universe taken straight from the popular '70s manga. Fantasia is the first North American festival to screen a Takashi Miike movie in 1997. The director went on to receive international renown with such films as AUDITION and ICHI THE KILLER.

This year, over 100 feature films mainly from Asia, the United States and Europe but also from South Africa and Brazil, will be presented. A diversified, entertaining, original and innovative lineup gives center stage to a display of eccentric and biting humor intended for a wide audience ranging from reinvented pop culture to *cinema d'auteur* and speculative fiction, horror flicks to martial arts and grand epics.

## **JAPANESE CINEMA AT ITS BEST**

With an imposing selection of 35 feature films, Japanese cinema is making a great impact at this year's festival and showcasing the vitality and diversity of the country's film industry. Sure-fire hits and delightful discoveries await you. One of the great masterpieces of this year's selection will undoubtedly be the exquisite LOVE EXPOSURE, an extravagant and touching four-hour opus to love from Sion Sono. This film has received several prizes at the Berlin International Film Festival, including the FIPRESCI prize.

## **VIBRANT QUEBEC SHORT FILMS**

The Quebec movie scene will once again be featured with the return of the FANTASTIC WEEKEND OF QUEBEC SHORTS, which will screen more than a hundred creations over three days, starting on July 24<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>, from established talents and up-and-comers alike. In

this way, the festival is hoping to encourage new trends and local young filmmakers by giving them a prestigious stage and an opportunity to develop precious contacts within the movie industry. Many feature-length films from Quebec will also be shown throughout the festival, including Robin Aubert's second film, an existential road movie filmed in the heart of modern-day India.

## **THIS YEAR'S EDITION WILL ALSO FEATURE A HAND PAINTED POSTER, PRIZES, TRIBUTE, CONFERENCES AND OUTDOOR SCREENINGS**

### **HEIDI TAILLEFER CREATES THE 2009 POSTER**

Artist and painter Heidi Taillefer is the creative force behind the official 2009 Fantasia poster. Her artwork is recognized internationally. Inspired namely by figurative art, surrealism and mythology, her extraordinary universe harmonizes perfectly with the spirit of the festival. In fact, this is the second time that Heidi Taillefer has lent her talent to Fantasia as she previously created the 2006 poster. Her work can currently be seen in an exposition in New York and her pieces were recently published in Metamorphosis Volume 2. ([www.heiditaillefer.com](http://www.heiditaillefer.com))

### **PRIZES AND PANELS**

Several panels composed of artists, artisans and various members of the Quebec and Canadian film industry will be on hand to award the following prizes:

- **Best Feature Film:** Jean-François Rivard (Director), Patrick Sénécal (Author and Screenwriter), Malajube (Musical Band), Jean-Philippe Duval (Director) and Sophie Cadieux (Actress)
- **Best First Feature:** Denis Héroux (Director), Scott Weinberg (Cinematical, Fear.net), Guy Danella (Producer), Ryan Bruce Levey (Vagrant Films Releasing), Larry Kent (Director) and Brenda Leiberman (President of the Calgary Underground Film Festival)
- **Best International Short Film:** Dennison Ramalho (Director), Colin Geddes (Toronto International Film Festival), Nicolas Renaud (Co-Founder of Hors Champ), Roadkill Superstar (filmmaking collective) and Jovanka Vuckovic (Editor in Chief of Rue Morgue Magazine)
- **Best Quebec Short Film:** Natalia Wysocka (Journalist and Critic for Ici Montréal), Geneviève Brouillette (Actress) and Vincent Morriset (Director)
- **Best DIY Short Film:** Al Kratina (Journalist for The Gazette), Alain Fournier (Director) and Jeanne Ostiguy (Actress)

### **TRIBUTE**

The festival will pay tribute to director and novelist **Buddy Giovinazzo** and to his powerful, honest and uncompromising body of work, and is honored to present the world premiere of his most recent film LIFE IS HOT IN CRACKTOWN as well as the original 16 mm work print of COMBAT SHOCK from the director's own private collection.

## CONFERENCES

In response to public demand, four conferences will be held between July 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. They will discuss Stage Direction, Video Game Creation (presented by Ubisoft), Movie and DVD distribution, and Micro-cinema or *How To Do A Lot With Almost Nothing*.

## OUTDOOR SCREENINGS

*Fantasia Under the Stars* is back this year for six days at the Parc de la Paix (St-Laurent boulevard between Ste-Catherine's and René-Lévesque). These free presentations will give you the chance to rediscover old Fantasia favorites or discover new ones you may have missed. A Diet Pepsi Max presentation in collaboration with La Société des Arts Technologiques.

## FANTASIA AT THE CINÉMATHÈQUE QUÉBÉCOISE AND AT THE FRINGE FESTIVAL

The Fantasia Film Festival is proud to present, in association with the Cinémathèque Québécoise and Ciné-Asie, a retrospective of the most memorable Japanese erotic films or *pinku eiga* ("Pink Movies") of the '60s and '70s, a genre that allowed many internationally respected artists to take their first steps in the world of cinema.

Fantasia is also pleased to present during the Fringe Festival, two incontestable musts of any genre cinema festival, ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE UNDEAD, from Jordan Galland, on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 p.m., and THE LAST AMERICAN FREAK SHOW, from Richard Butchins, on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 p.m. A great start to the summer.

The thrilling details of this year's line up as well as other compelling information about the festival will be revealed at the **Fantasia Film Festival Press Conference on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am**. Not to be missed!

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