



Press Release
For immediate release

FNC eXPlore **From 8th to 15th October at Montreal's Festival du nouveau cinema**

Montreal, Tuesday 27 september 2016 – For its 45th edition, the Festival du nouveau cinema is very happy to announce the creation of **FNC eXPlore, a section exploring trends in new technologies from October 8 to 15**. This new section investigates various new storytelling avenues displayed across a variety of thematic circuits optimising audience experience, interactive artworks using virtual reality, installations, immersive and interactive movies in theatres. In an effort to democratize these new avant-garde mediums, these circuits will be free. The experience will be enhanced and completed by a conference and a workshop which will aim at developing a critical vision and insight on these new trends, while the interactive and immersive movies will propose a new collective approach to storytelling and hypothesis on the future of cinema. FNC eXPlore will take over four venues: the *Grande-Place* at Complexe Desjardins, the Société des arts technologiques (SAT), the Espace culturel Georges-Émile-Lapalme located in the hall of Places des arts and at Cinéma du Parc.

Interactive Journeys

For the first time in 45 years, FNC takes over the *Grande-Place* at Complexe Desjardins (45 000 visitors per day) located at the heart of Quartier des spectacles, presenting 12 virtual reality (VR) pieces, inviting a mainstream audience to discover and get accustomed to these new technologies in a circuit named "Virtual Playground". 6 additional works will be presented at Société des arts technologiques (SAT), expanding our sensorial perceptions in a circuit called "VR & Beyond".

Virtual Reality

Among the works presented as part of "Virtual Playground" in Complexe Desjardins, 5 will be part of the competition, 3 of which will be world premieres: **The Rose and I**, by *Penrose Studios* (USA); **Mars 2030**, by *Julian Reyes* (USA); **Invisible**, by *Darren Emerson* (UK); **Invisible World**, by *Tyler Enfield and Galen Scorer* (Canada) and **Virtual Oddity**, by *Raphael* (Canada). The remainder of the 12 pieces presented is comprised of 7 works not in competition, 2 of which are world premieres: **Sequenced**, by *Apelab* (Switzerland); **Notes on blindness**, by *Arnaud Colinart, Amaury La Burthe, Peter Middleton and James Spinney* (France, UK); **I am Ewa**, by *Mads Damsbo and Johan Knattrup Jensen* (Denmark); **I, Philip**, by *Pierre Zandrowicz and Rémi Giordano* (France); **Jours de tournage de Ma Loute**, by *Fouzi Louahem* (France); **Clip à 360° Jeune fille trois étoiles de JB Dunckel**, by *David Guiraud and Sébastien Aubert* (France) and **Don't Go – The purest of all sounds**, by *Mativa and Knor* (Switzerland).

Among the works presented as "VR & Beyond" at SAT, 5 will be in competition, amongst which 2 will be world premieres: **Be Boy Be Girl**, by *Frederik Duerinck and*

Marleine Van Der Werf (Netherlands); **Break a leg**, by *Apelab* (Switzerland); **In my shoes**, by *Jane Gauntlett* (UK); **La Péri**, by *Balthazar Auxiètre* (France) and **Patterns**, by *Pierre Friquet* (Québec / Canada). **Le Vertige des autres**, by *Guillaume Perreault Roy* (Québec / Canada) will constitute the single out of competition addition to the program.

Interactive and Immersive Films

As part of its programming, FNC eXPlore will also feature 3 interactive and immersive movies presented in theatre giving the opportunity to its audience to get an insight into the future of cinema. Among the works presented, will be featured *Tobias Weber's* **Late Shift, the world's first interactive movie** presented for the first time in Canada in its entirety. This piece offers the possibility to the audience to choose the outcome of the several parts of the scenario; 7 possible endings will be decided according by movie-goers choices during the feature presentation. In a similar way, Gilles Porte's **Tantale** (world premier) places spectators in role of the story's hero and allow them to choose from 5 different endings and the 25 different ways to get to them. Finally, *Pierre Friquet's* **Patterns** will lead the audience into an immersive, horrific and poetic tale of the journey following the emergence of a repressed past.

La Garde

This installation, presented in Place des arts' Espace culturel Georges-Émile-Lapalme, will offer an introduction to the DADA movement celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Inspired by the interactive project Dada-Data.net (2016 Numix award for best artwork), this installation pays tribute to dada artist Sophie Taeuber and its reflexing on last century's mechanised war.

Conferences and Workshops

To round up the journey, FNC eXPlore has set up a conference and a workshop aiming at offering festival goers a reflexive accompaniment into these new forms and a way to answer or address the questions of concerns.

VR: buzz, bluff or bijou?

This conference will offer critical thoughts on virtual reality (VR) shedding light on the medium's assets, strengths and weaknesses as well as its impact on storytelling. It will features renown influencers like William Uricchio (thinker and director of M.I.T.'s Open Doc Lab in Boston), Harold Goldberg (journalist at the New York Times), Maurice Boucher (communications and marketing director at Canada Media Fund), Yann Breuleux (audio-visual artist), Louis Dugal (Philosophy professor in CEGEP), Ana Serrano (Chief Digital Officer at the Canadian Film Center) and Charles Huteau (creative director of Ubisoft's VR game Eagle Flight).

The conference will be held on October 13, from 1 to 4PM, at the Grande-Place in Complexe Desjardins, free and open to everyone.

Gesamt Salon

This workshop, in collaboration with collective MAKROPOL (awarded the Prix Innovation des Nouvelles Écritures at 2015 Festival du nouveau cinema for *Doghouse*) and CPH:DOX, will allow selected artists to take part in a reflexion on the several issues of virtual reality's place in arts. Following this workshop, some artists will be selected to join the Gesamt Lab for a 10 days residencies organized by MAKROPOL in Iceland in 2017 aiming at the developing new pieces.

The workshop will take place on October 14, from 9AM to 3PM at Agora Hydro-Québec du Coeur des sciences de l'UQAM following a call to submissions.

Three new awards

All virtual reality's work in competition will be eligible to receive one of three awards created specifically to celebrate the birth of this new section: the **Grand Prix innovation** presented by *Prim* and awarded to the most innovative works destined to new platforms, the winner will be given \$10,000 in production and artist residency funds. The **Prix immersion** presented by *Geneva International Film Festival Tous Écrans* will be awarded to the most immersive work and the **People's Choice Award**, presented by *Téo Taxi*, will feature a \$1,000 grant.

This initiative was made possible by two new partnerships with the Geneva International Film Festival Tous Écrans (Switzerland) and Forum des images (France), as well as through the help of SODEC, Canada Media Fund, Complexe Desjardins and Société des arts technologiques (SAT).

The FNC likes to especially thank David Dufresne (director of interactive documentaries like *Prison Valley* and *Fort McMoney*), the documentary director Anita Hugi (Dada-Data's director and *Undine* – producer of *Le projet d'aimer*) and Voyelle Acker (Nouvelles Écriture, France Television) for their valuable collaboration.

The 45th Festival du nouveau cinéma de Montréal will run from October 5 to 16, 2016.

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FNC Media Contact:
Mélanie Mingotaud/Communications Mingo2wo
514.582.5272 / melanie@mingo2.ca