



RENCONTRES INTERNATIONALES
DU DOCUMENTAIRE DE MONTRÉAL
MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE
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Montreal International Documentary Festival From November 12 to 23

Opening and closing films: Kim Nguyen's *Le Nez* and Nicolas Wadimoff's *Spartiates*

Montreal, Monday September 29, 2014 – The Montreal International Documentary Festival is happy to announce the films that will open and close the festival's 17th edition: *Le nez (The Empire of Scents)* by Quebec director Kim Nguyen will kick off the festivities while *Spartiates (Spartans)* by Nicolas Wadimoff will bring them to a close. Both films will have their world premiere at the fest.

Nguyen's first documentary work, *Le nez (The Empire of Scents)* asks fundamental questions regarding our relation to smell in an original way: Can we paint a smell or live without the sense of smell? To what extent is smell linked to our emotions? Does the smell of saffron make us fall in love? Can the smell of a woman after love making be recreated? Inspired by sommelier François Chartier's *Papilles et molécules, la science aromatique des aliments et des vins*, *Le nez (The Empire of Scents)* explores these questions and more during a fascinating olfactory journey. Visually poetic, inventive and energetic, the film is also an invitation to discover all the secrets of one of our most mysterious, powerful and essential senses.

Academy Award nominee Quebec director Kim Nguyen has made four feature films, including *Le marais*, *Truffe* and *La cité*. His most recent feature, *Rebelle (War Witch)*, received worldwide acclaim and picked up numerous international awards, among them the Silver Bear for Best Actress (given to Rachel Mwanza) at the 2012 Berlinale as well as an Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Film in 2013.

Le nez (The Empire of Scents) is distributed by FunFilm Distribution and will be released in theatres in Spring 2015.

Spartiates (Spartans), follows the tragi-comic tribulations of Yvan Sorel, the strict young head of a mixed martial arts school located in the suburbs of Marseille. A believer in a particular teaching for the physically weaker, he becomes a role model for many youth in need of direction.

A native of Geneva now settled in Montreal, Nicolas Wadimoff already has 14 films to his credit, shot in many different locations: Libya, Algeria, Palestine, Israel, Yemen, Rwanda and Chiapas. He co-directed *Clandestins* with Denis Chouinard in 1997 and went on to create the documentary *L'accord* in 2005. In 2010, he was recognized with the Ecumenical Jury Prize at the Berlinale for his 2009 film *Aisheen – Still Alive in Gaza*, filmed in the Gaza Strip. His most recent fictional film *Opération Libertad* was presented at the 2012 Directors' Fortnight.

Quebec's only film festival dedicated to documentaries, the Montreal International Documentary Festival presents the best reality-based films, including the works of established directors and new talents.

The 17th edition of the RIDM will take place from November 12 to 23, 2014.

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