

CONTI- NENTAL

UN FILM SANS FUSIL



Press Release

Stéphane Lafleur's debut feature, *Continental, A Film Without Guns*, heads to the 64th Venice International Film Festival and is the only Canadian feature to be presented in the prestigious "Venice Days" program

(Montreal - Tuesday, July 24, 2007) – Venice will host the World Premiere of Canadian filmmaker Stéphane Lafleur's ***Continental, A Film Without Guns*** in the festival's illustrious "Venice Days" program.

The first feature film from writer/director Lafleur is the latest collaboration by **micro_scope** producers **Luc Déry** and **Kim McCraw**, whose previous works include the critically acclaimed *Familia* and *Congorama*.

Following its screening in Venice, the film will be presented at the preeminent 32nd annual Toronto International Film Festival.

Like Cannes' "Director's Fortnight" and Berlin's "Panorama", "Venice Days" mandate is to focus on discovering original works, providing a venue for experimentation and artistic innovation. "Venice Days" has previously programmed such films as *C.R.A.Z.Y.*, *Le Petit Lieutenant* and *13 (Tzametj)*. This year, ***Continental, A Film Without Guns*** is the only Canadian feature to be presented in this section of the festival. It will be in the company of 15 other films, among them *Un baiser, s'il vous plait!* by Emmanuel Mouret (*Changement d'adresse*).

A Man wakes up on a bus. Everyone has left. Night has fallen. He gets off the bus, and finds himself alone. The bus has stopped at the edge of a forest. On either side, the road is veiled by darkness. From the forest, he hears sounds – night-time forest sounds. After much hesitation, the Man enters the forest, disappearing into the darkness.

Continental, A Film Without Guns features four characters whose lives will be affected by that Man's disappearance. Lucette (**Marie-Ginette Guay**), his wife, who anxiously awaits his return. Louis (**Réal Bossé**), a young father whose relationship with his wife is becoming increasingly tumultuous. Chantal (**Fanny Mallette**), a hotel receptionist who dreams of sharing her life with someone else. And Marcel (**Gilbert**

Sicotte), an ex-gambler confronted by the realities of aging. Unraveling in parallel narratives, these stories ultimately intersect and mirror each other.

A bittersweet dark comedy, *Continental* takes a playful look at individual vulnerability and the fragile bonds that connect us to our fellow human beings.

Stéphane Lafleur has directed a number of acclaimed short films including **Karaoké** (recipient of a special jury mention at the Toronto International Film Festival), **snooze** (which opened at *Les Rendez-Vous du cinéma Québécois*), and the critically acclaimed **Claude**. He is also an editor who has worked on various documentaries and television programs such as **François en série** and **Les Francs-Tireurs**, as well as music videos for **Les Trois Accords**, **Les Cowboys Fringants** and **Malajube**.

Along with the leads **Gilbert Sicotte**, **Fanny Mallette**, **Réal Bossé** and **Marie-Ginette Guay**, the supporting cast includes **Marie Brassard**, **Gary Boudreault**, **Pauline Martin**, **Dominique Quesnel**, **Denis Houle** and **Marika Lhoumeau**. Key crew consists of **Sara Mishara** (director of photography), **André-Line Beauparlant** (art director), **Sophie Lefebvre** (costumes) and **Sophie Leblond** (editor).

The production of **Continental, A Film Without Guns** was financed by **SODEC**, **Telefilm Canada**, the **Cogeco Program Development Fund** and the **Harold Greenberg Fund**, along with **Christal Films** and **Télé-Québec**. The film, distributed by **Christal Films**, will open this fall in Quebec.

www.venice-days.com

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