

LAB QUÉBEC CINÉMA AND YOUTH FUSION: A LASTING PARTNERSHIP

Montreal, Tuesday, February 2, 2021 – **Lab Québec Cinéma** is pleased to confirm the sixth edition of its valued partnership with Youth Fusion, which will once again help the organization enrich its film program.

Through hands-on workshops and mentorship sessions led by film professionals from Quebec, Lab Québec Cinéma offers young people a unique opportunity to be guided by highly experienced professionals as they work on making their own group films, the ultimate goal of the program.

The 2019-20 season was cut short by school closures in the spring, but Lab Québec Cinéma was still able to present 15 film workshops to 200 participants, allowing the students to work with filmmakers **Denis Côté**, **Myriam Guimond**, **Éléonore Goldberg** and **Alexis Durand-Brault**, cinematographers **Isabelle Stachtchenko** and **Daniel Villeneuve**, writers **Marie-Hélène Dubé** and **Guillaume Fournier**, sound designer **Sylvain Bellemare** and actress **Sarianne Cormier**. These special sessions gave the students positive role models and encouraged them to form stronger connections with Quebec's culture.

"I am thrilled that we are continuing the consistently productive collaboration between Québec Cinéma and Youth Fusion. The initiative is based on our respective organizations' shared fundamental goals, and focused on our young people's success and cultural enrichment. We are proud to support at-risk youth through our cinema, giving them the opportunity to meet acclaimed artists in a safe and hopeful setting. I want to thank Youth Fusion for this renewed opportunity. We are very pleased to be back this year to help hundreds of young people through all the steps involved in making their short films," said Sylvie Quenneville, deputy executive director of Québec Cinéma.

This exceptional sixth edition will include both online and in-person sessions for the 21 scheduled workshops. The series was launched in December with two fascinating screenwriting workshops led by **Myriam Guimond** and **Martin Laroche**. In keeping with their goals of making Quebec's films more accessible and fulfilling their shared educational mission, the joint Lab Québec Cinéma–Youth Fusion film program has added a new school in Mashteuiatsh. The school's students will join their peers in benefitting from the expertise of some of our film industry's most talented professionals.

"Film is a powerful pedagogical tool for young people. Since our program was launched, I've been impressed again and again by the creativity of our participants' films. And in this unusual year, if I were talking to a demoralized child I would tell them: 'You're going to change the world. You're going to be creating or doing the jobs of tomorrow, maybe even some that don't exist yet! Do you want to become a filmmaker? Do you want to work in film? If you do, write to us! But whatever you do, don't give up. Persevere.' We thank Québec Cinéma for agreeing to this partnership with Youth Fusion. Our combined efforts allow us to offer high-quality

programs that help young people through expertise and empathy, as they work on their projects,” said Gabriel Bran Lopez, the founding president of Youth Fusion.

All the latest on Lab Québec Cinéma: #LabQcC

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ABOUT YOUTH FUSION

Youth Fusion is an award-winning charity that contributes to the persistence in school, employability and civic engagement of youth by developing innovative experiential learning projects that create ongoing links between school systems and the community. Every week, Youth Fusion works with 13,000 young people in over 200 schools in rural, urban and Indigenous communities across Canada. In January 2019, the organization extended its activities internationally with its first pedagogical pilot project in France, involving 225 young people. www.fusionjeunesse.org

ABOUT LAB QUÉBEC CINÉMA

With the aim of educating and sensitizing young people to Quebec’s films and the work of our artists, Québec Cinéma created the Lab, a series of school-based educational activities presented in Quebec and across Canada. Through its awareness-raising activities, each year the Lab gives more than 15,500 young people a space for experimentation, creation and discovery, helping them develop their critical faculties and see the world and the images around them from an informed perspective. The initiative also includes a commitment to giving young people positive role models and contributing to the fight against dropping out. Since its inception, Lab Québec Cinéma has reached more than 113,000 young people, who have learned from hundreds of industry professionals. www.quebeccinema.ca

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