



**Opening of the 10th Rencontres
internationales du documentaire de Montréal**
Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at 7 pm
Monument-National, 1182 St. Laurent Blvd.

Address by Tom Perlmutter
Junior, opening film, world premiere

LONG VERSION

1. Introduction

Distinguished guests, good evening!

It is a great honour to be with you this evening among so many representatives of the documentary, film and the arts. For many years I worked in the independent sector as documentary researcher, writer, director and producer. These last five years, I've been devoted to the advancement of documentary film, first as Director of the NFB's English Program and today as Commissioner.

2. RIDM and documentary culture

I want to emphasize the vital contribution made by the RIDM to the health of documentary film, which reflects the artistic health of a country. For the documentary to develop, films must be produced, they must be seen and they must trigger debate. For ten years, the RIDM has fuelled this culture by uniting in Montreal the best films from Quebec, Canada and abroad. It's a remarkable accomplishment, for which I thank the Festival founders, including Jean-Daniel Lafond, as well as the current chairman, Philippe Baylaucq, the director, Marie-Anne Raulet, and all the staff.

3. Role of the NFB

When I came to work at the NFB, that emblem of documentary film worldwide, I entered a dream come true. I discovered an institution that despite profound transformation over the years, remained a dynamic creative space, where the auteur documentary tradition was constantly being renewed both in

form and content. It was a place where talent could come into its own and where things became possible that were difficult elsewhere, especially where the **feature documentary** was concerned.

Presentation of *Junior* and its directors

You'll see some of these works during the Festival. This evening you'll watch the opening film, ***Junior***, produced by Johanne Bergeron and Yves Bisailon. This is the first feature documentary by Isabelle Lavigne and Stéphane Thibault, two new talents **representative of the type of emerging filmmakers we've been supporting for some years.** Isabelle Lavigne won the 1999 Norman McLaren Prize, awarded by the NFB at the Canadian Student Film Festival as part of the World Film Festival, and Stéphane Thibault has already made two remarkable documentaries at the NFB, one short, one medium length.

4. Future challenges and mention of Doc Circuit

The documentary culture is intertwined with **considerations of its form and its content.** Today more than ever we're confronted by the multiple challenges and possibilities of the audiovisual environment, which is changing radically and fast under the impetus of the digital revolution. The RIDM Doc Circuit is a perfect place to stimulate **thorough discussions, essential to the vitality of documentary film.** I shall be moderating a round table on this topic next Tuesday.

5. Conclusion

I hope you enjoy the screening and wish you a wonderful RIDM full of debate and discovery. Good evening!