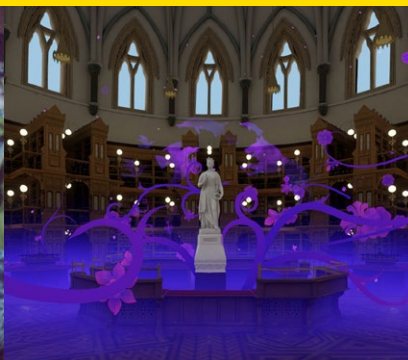


FREE NFB SCREENINGS

RENDEZ-VOUS DE
LA FRANCOPHONIE 2021

March 1 to 31





THE NFB AT THE RENDEZ-VOUS DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

**A VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE AND
FREE FILMS THAT MAKE SOME NOISE!**

For its 23rd edition, the Rendez-vous de la Francophonie (RVF) is honouring Acadia and its people, whose French-language culture has survived, strong and proud, through the years. The National Film Board of Canada (NFB) is taking part in the RVF for the 16th consecutive year, providing free programs of both new films and old classics for any group, organization, or institution that wishes to set up screenings either in theatres or online.

This edition of the RVF will be the perfect opportunity to screen some outstanding works from the Moncton Centre of the NFB's Canadian Francophone Studio (formerly Studio Acadie), which has helped produce numerous films from this culturally rich region. These include the latest documentary by the great Acadian documentary filmmaker Monique LeBlanc, **Plus haut que les flammes** (*Higher Than Flames Will Go*), a moving film adaptation of Louise Dupré's famous poem of the same title; and **Le grand Jack** (*Jack Kerouac's Road – A Franco-American Odyssey*), a portrait of Jack Kerouac by renowned Acadian author and director Herménégilde Chiasson. The programming also includes a look back at the history of a proud community with Paul Bossé's film **Kacho Komplo**, while Stéphanie David offers a delicious contemplation of Acadian language and culture with **Le goût des belvas** (*Bittersweet Blues*).

The idea of Acadia, with its inspirational free and resilient people, naturally connects to other NFB films about the Francophonie in motion, such as **Kenbe la, jusqu'à la victoire** (*Kenbe la, Until We Win*). This Will Prosper documentary paints a vibrant picture of Alain Philoctète, a Haitian-born artist, philosopher, and activist living in Quebec who dreams

about permaculture in his native land. Acadia's cultural resiliency is also evocative of the experience of Indigenous peoples, whose efforts to preserve and reappropriate their languages are a testament to their determination. The exceedingly beautiful and moving music video in Innu, **Innu-Aimun – La langue innue** (*Innu-Aimun – The Innu Language*), speaks to this determination.

All over Canada, Acadians have demonstrated a will to preserve their language and culture, and indeed New Brunswick is Canada's only officially bilingual province. A cornerstone of Canadian identity, bilingualism is central to the democratic undertakings at the Parliament of Canada in Ottawa. It is now possible to take a tour of this historic and highly symbolic building with **Parlement : l'expérience virtuelle** (*Parliament: The Virtual Experience*), marking the first time the NFB has included an interactive production in its RVF programming. The tour can be experienced on mobile phones, tablets, or VR headsets.

The programs for children are also inspired by the idea of Acadia in motion. The **Explorations** program is for young children, while the **Discovering Acadia and Other Places** is a selection of classics and animated vignettes about the Acadian people, aimed at ages 8 and up.

The NFB's programming for RVF 2021 is sure to make a *warwarie* (a "big noise" in Acadian French) in every province and territory.

SEVEN PROGRAMS IN THEATRES AND ONLINE

EACH PROGRAM MUST BE SCREENED IN ITS ENTIRETY

PROGRAM 1

POETIC DOCUMENTARY

A RENOWNED ACADIAN FILMMAKER ADAPTS LOUISE DUPRÉ'S
2011 GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD-WINNING BOOK OF POETRY

104 MIN (GENERAL PUBLIC, AGES 16+, REFERENCES TO CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY)

Plus haut que les flammes (*Higher Than Flames Will Go*) is a tour de force. Monique LeBlanc brings Louise Dupré's poem of the same title, which won the 2011 Governor General's Award, to the screen in its entirety, recited by actor Violette Chauveau. Shaken by a trip to Auschwitz and Birkenau, a grandmother tries to continue to live and care for her child. Because beyond the worst horrors produced by humanity, there is childhood, for and through which time marches on. Weaving connections between different histories, realities, and landscapes, from Auschwitz to Canada to Louisiana, Nicaragua and Ukraine, LeBlanc offers an anchor point for reflecting on an outcome and ensuring that those who will inherit the world are raised as high as possible—"higher than flames will go."

Plus haut que les flammes (*Higher Than Flames Will Go*) | Monique LeBlanc | 2019 | 104 min

PROGRAM 2

LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

78 MIN (GENERAL PUBLIC, AGES 16+, REFERENCES TO DRUGS AND SEXUALITY)

Driven from the outset by the poetry of language, Stéphanie David's documentary ***Le goût des belvas*** (*Bittersweet Blues*) draws us into a parallel between the evolution of Acadian French and family memories. The film is a sensitive look at the Acadian dilemma—should one adopt standard French in order to be better understood or continue to use one's own language, with its unique vibrancy and authenticity? Vibrant and unique also describe the writing of Jack Kerouac, the American author of French-Canadian heritage. Acadian filmmaker Herménégilde Chiasson's docufiction ***Le grand Jack*** (*Jack Kerouac's Road – A Franco-American Odyssey*) retraces the steps of this iconic Beat Generation figure, whose work, including the famous novel *On the Road*, profoundly influenced the cultural, sexual, and social revolution of the 1960s.

Le goût des belvas (*Bittersweet Blues*) | Stéphanie David | 2015 | 24 min

Le grand Jack (*Jack Kerouac's Road – A Franco-American Odyssey*) | Herménégilde Chiasson | 1987 | 54 min

PROGRAM 3

FRANCOPHONIE IN MOTION

83 MIN (GENERAL PUBLIC, AGES 13+)

The Acadian theme brings to mind other resilient peoples, whose pride in their culture inspires a will to keep it alive and current. Within the NFB's rich collection, Will Prosper's film ***Kenbe la, jusqu'à la victoire*** (*Kenbe la, Until We Win*) is an outstanding embodiment of this resilience. The film introduces us to Alain Philoctète, one of those people whose dreams inspire us, bring us together, and make our humanity blossom just a little more fully. Of Haitian origin and living in Quebec, this artist and activist returns to his native land to develop a permaculture project with local communities, sparking a touching reunion with his family and old activist friends, whose ideals have endured, intact, despite the 2010 earthquake and political instability. But Philoctète is also battling cancer and receiving treatment in Montreal, where his entourage shows him the same kindness and solidarity he found in Haiti. A long-time friend of Philoctète's, filmmaker Will Prosper paints an intimate, hope-filled portrait of this inspiring dreamer's journey, one that also reflects on the issues of exile, illness, and sharing. Set to a rousing soundtrack by Jenny Salgado, ***Kenbe la, jusqu'à la victoire*** is a journey that asks us to consider the importance of ideals and how they are conveyed.

Kenbe la, jusqu'à la victoire (*Kenbe la, Until We Win*) | Will Prosper | 2019 | 83 min 30 s

PROGRAM 4

CULTURE AND MUSIC

56 MIN (GENERAL PUBLIC, AGES 16+, REFERENCES TO SEXUALITY)

This music-filled program bridges two cultures that have been shaped by great resiliency: Innu and Acadian. In the film ***Innu-Aimun – La langue innue*** (*Innu-Aimun – The Innu Language*), by Carl Grégoire and Spencer St-Onge, the talented group Uashtushkuau sings movingly about the importance of preserving Indigenous languages. And Paul Bossé's documentary ***Kacho Komplo***, about the famous student bar at Université de Moncton, describes the political and social protests of the late 1960s in Acadia and the ensuing cultural explosion. Closed since 1996, the Kacho is brought back to life through a blend of archival footage and more recently filmed accounts. Marie-Jo Thériot and the band Les Païens let loose in this exuberant film that combines poetry and music.

Innu-Aimun – La langue innue (*Innu-Aimun – The Innu Language*) | Carl Grégoire, Spencer St-Onge | 2009 | 4 min

Kacho Komplo | Paul Bossé | 2002 | 52 min

PROGRAM 5

CANADIAN BILINGUALISM

15 MIN (GENERAL PUBLIC, AGES 8+, VIRTUAL TOUR OF PARLIAMENT)

Officially adopted by New Brunswick thanks to the determination of the Acadian people, bilingualism is also a cornerstone of the democratic process at the Parliament of Canada in Ottawa. While this historic building is closed for major renovations, **Parlement: l'expérience virtuelle** (*Parliament: The Virtual Experience*) utilizes innovative immersive technology to give people a tour via a mobile phone, tablet, or VR headsets. This interactive NFB production will transport you to the most emblematic Centre Block locations: the Senate, the House of Commons, the Library of Parliament, and the Peace Tower. Each stop shows Parliament in a new light—its history, the works of art on display, and its role in the lives of Canadians, today and in the future.

Parlement : l'expérience virtuelle (Parliament: The Virtual Experience)

Creative team: Émilie F. Grenier, David Drury, Dpt., and Stéphane Poirier | 2020 | 15 min

PROGRAM 6

EXPLORATIONS

56 MIN (GENERAL PUBLIC, AGES 3–7)

In this children's program, kids discover new places and explore the world. Created especially for young children, Kaj Pindal's animated shorts **Les aventures de Piou-Piou** (*The Peep Show*) and **Pit et le vaste monde** (*Peep and the Big Wide World*) feature a chick who, lacking a mother hen for guidance, is forced to learn everything for himself. Peep ultimately finds his place in the universe and sets off to conquer the world with his friends. In Co Hoedeman's **Tchou-tchou**, created using wooden building blocks, a girl and a boy entertain themselves in a city of cubes, cylinders, and cones that they build themselves. When a dragon emerges to upset their world of blocks, they employ a variety of tricks to turn their enemy into their best ally. This film without words explores the imaginary world of children.

Les aventures de Piou-Piou (The Peep Show) | Kaj Pindal | 1962 | 9 min

Pit et le vaste monde (Peep and the Big Wide World) | Kaj Pindal | 1989 | 34 min

Tchou-tchou | Co Hoedeman | 1972 | 13 min

PROGRAM 7

DISCOVERING ACADIA AND OTHER PLACES

51 MIN (GENERAL PUBLIC, AGES 8+)

This program of films about Acadia and short films for children of all ages evokes discovery and movement. The program kicks off wonderfully with ***Pimp ma botte*** (*Pimp My Boat*), an amusing parody of the popular TV show Pimp My Ride, featuring an unlikely encounter between the traditional Acadian lobster trap and global-village pop culture. The hilarity continues with ***Ta parole est en jeu – Les Acadiens du Nouveau-Brunswick***, ***Ta parole est en jeu – Les Acadiens de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard***, and ***Ta parole est en jeu – Les Acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse***. These animated vignettes, part of a series on Canada's Francophonie by Will Cyr, take an entertaining look at some of the provinces with the most Acadians. This already rich program is further enhanced with three NFB classics: Ron Tunis's ***Le vent*** (*Wind*), in which a child discovers the wind—the silent, invisible something that tickles his fancy, ruffles his hair, and ripples the grass around him; Ernest Reid's ***Le petit voisin***, in which Jacques meets his new anglophone neighbour Jimmy; and Thomas Vamos's ***Le jongleur*** (*The Juggler*), in which a juggler, trying to impress some children, loses one of his balls and embarks on an adventure around the city to retrieve it.

Pimp ma botte (*Pimp My Boat*) | Marc Daigle | 2005 | 5 min 12 s

Ta parole est en jeu – Les Acadiens du Nouveau-Brunswick (*The New Brunswick Acadians*) | Will Cyr | 2012 | 2 min 18 s

Le vent (*Wind*) | Ron Tunis | 1972 | 9 min 23 s

Ta parole est en jeu – Les Acadiens de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard (*The Prince Edward Island Acadians*) | Will Cyr | 2012 | 1 min 22 s

Le petit voisin | Ernest Reid | 1962 | 18 min

Ta parole est en jeu – Les Acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse (*The Nova Scotia Acadians*) | Will Cyr | 2012 | 2 min 17 s

Le jongleur (*The Juggler*) | Thomas Vamos | 1980 | 12 min 35 s



ORGANIZING PUBLIC SCREENINGS

WHO can organize theatrical or online public screenings?

- Anyone!

WHAT can we screen?

- The seven programs described above. Hyperlinks to each title are provided to help you select, as you can watch each film or a clip from each film. For more information, please feel free to contact the programming agent, Florence François, at f.francois@nfb.ca or at 514-914-9253.

HOW MUCH does it cost to organize public screenings?

- Everything is free: the films and promotional materials will be made available to you.

WHERE do we organize public screenings?

- You could organize a public screening in a community hall, a school gymnasium, a school, a parish hall, a seniors' residence, a library, a classroom—even your living room or kitchen (popular venues nowadays).

HOW do I go about this?

Steps:

1. Download the registration form or request one at rvf@nfb.ca.
2. Select your program(s).
3. Find a venue and set the screening dates for between March 1 and March 31, 2021.
4. E-mail the completed registration form to rvf@nfb.ca or fax it to 514-841-3500 by no later than January 31, 2021.
5. If you can, find a guest speaker to discuss the films after the screening. This often attracts a larger audience and stimulates discussion.
6. You will receive the DVD, downloadable link, or hyperlink (depending on what you requested), along with the promotional materials.
7. Promote your screenings in your community to attract as many people as possible. For example, by putting up posters of the event in strategic locations at least three weeks in advance, by using social media, sending out e-mails, making use of local media, or placing ads if it is a public event (see checklist provided in the registration form for tips).

YOU AGREE TO...

1. Hold your screenings **only** during the RVF, i.e., between **March 1 and March 31, 2021**.
2. Present each program **in its entirety** (let us know beforehand if this is not possible).
3. Perform the necessary **technical testing** as soon as you receive the DVDs, hyperlinks, or have downloaded the files.
4. Provide the NFB with an **audience data report** for each screening by no later than **April 5, 2021**.
5. Return or destroy the DVDs provided or delete the downloaded files. If you elect to destroy the DVDs or delete the downloaded files, please inform the NFB at rvf@nfb.ca.

THE NFB AGREES TO...

1. Provide you with the films in the programs you have selected on DVD, via a download link, or by hyperlink
2. Give you online access to all available promotional materials so you can promote the event in your networks.
3. Send you posters in French for each program upon request (max. 4 posters).
4. Promote your screenings on the RVF and NFB websites and blogs.
5. Promote public screenings in the press release announcing the NFB's participation in the RVF.

ON THE WEB AT OTHER TIMES

In addition to public screenings, you can also watch films year-round on our [page dedicated to the Francophonie](#), which offers a list of curated works that honour the diversity of Canada's Francophonie.

Please forward this information so that as many people as possible can enjoy the NFB's free RVF 2021 program.

The Francophonie is as close as the nearest screen!

CONTACT

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