

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



The NFB at the 2026 Quebec City Film Festival

Strong showing by Quebec City–based filmmakers, with two short films in official competition and a feature film that blends documentary and visual art



(Images provided by the NFB)

August 19, 2026 – Montreal – National Film Board of Canada (NFB)

The [National Film Board of Canada](#) returns to the [Quebec City Film Festival](#) (FCVQ) with **three films in the official selection**. Two of the filmmakers have **strong ties to Quebec City**: **Catherine Lepage** was born and raised there, while **Martin Bureau** has lived and worked there for several years.

Two **animated shorts** will be featured in the festival's **competition** section: *[Ultra Strong](#)*, by Catherine Lepage, and *[Paradaiz](#)*, by Matea Radic. The feature-length *[All Things Are No Longer Equal](#)*, directed by Martin Bureau, will screen **out of competition**. In addition, **four animated shorts** from the NFB collection will be included in free outdoor screenings in **Place d'Youville**. **The festival will run from September 9 to 13, 2026.**

Quotes

"I'm happy to be presenting my film in my hometown. There are so many shout-outs to Quebec City in the background sets of ***Ultra Strong***: the Nordiques, the Winter Carnival, the Unisson practice studios... It was at the Colisée de Québec that I saw Iron Maiden as a teenager, and it was in Quebec City that we recorded Bruce Dickinson's voice 35 years later! If you'd told 15-year-old Catherine that, she'd never have believed you!" — **Catherine Lepage, filmmaker**

"I've been going to the FCVQ for a long time, both as an audience member and a filmmaker. I've shown two of my shorts there and in 2018, I won the Prix Cinéaste de la Ville de Québec. It's always an honour to be back, and this time I'm presenting this feature-length work, which I consider to be a synthesis of my concerns as an artist. I'm really looking forward to sharing this film with my community!" — **Martin Bureau, filmmaker**

Official Competition – Short Films

Ultra forte (*[Ultra Strong](#)*) by Catherine Lepage (NFB, 9 min 35 s) – **with the filmmaker in attendance**
Screenings: Thursday, September 10, at 6 p.m. and Saturday, September 12, at 6 p.m.
Short Films – Competition 3, Cinéma Beaumont

- Catherine Lepage's inspiration for ***Ultra Strong*** comes from her experience growing up in Charlesbourg, and the story is drawn from her books *Bouées* and *Voler au-dessus des trous*.
- **Special appearance by Bruce Dickinson**, legendary singer, songwriter and frontman of **Iron Maiden**, who plays an idealized version of himself in both the English and French versions of the film. **Dickinson recorded his lines** for the film at **Studio Expression** in Quebec City on **November 11, 2024**.
- **Original music by Régine** (founding member of **Arcade Fire**), marking her debut as a solo film score composer; she also **voices the narration** in English and French.
- The film received the **Jury's Special Mention – Canadian Competition** along with the **Audience Award** at the **2026 Sommets du cinéma d'animation de Montréal**.

Paradaïz by Matea Radic (NFB, 9 min 28)

Screenings: Friday, September 11, at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, September 12, at 8:30 p.m.

Short Films – Competition 4, Cinéma Beaumont

- In ***Paradaïz***, Matea Radic weaves **absurdist animation, family photos, wry humour** and her own **slippery memories** as she revisits **Sarajevo**, the **war-torn city she fled as a child** in the 1990s.
- The film has been selected by more than **35 festivals** worldwide and garnered **11 honours to date**, including **two Oscar-qualifying awards**.

Official Selection (out of competition)

***Plus rien n'est égal par ailleurs* (*All Things Are No Longer Equal*)** by Martin Bureau (NFB, 66 min) – **with the filmmaker in attendance**

Screening: Friday, September 11, at 9 p.m., Cinéma Beaumont

- **Blending documentary and visual art, this radical film dives deep into Western society**, steeped in crisis and captive to the excesses of capitalism but still **not lacking in collective solutions, which are revealed by philosopher Alain Deneault**.
- The film had a **sold-out screening** at the **International Festival of Films on Art** in Quebec City in March 2026 and was recently awarded the **Jury Grand Prize** at the **Festival de films pour l'environnement** in Saint-Casimir de Portneuf, Quebec.

Free outdoor screenings in Place d'Youville – “Cœur du FCVQ – Desjardins”

Saturday, September 12 | 3 p.m.

15 Years of Quebec Shorts – 2021 to 2026

- ***La jeune fille qui pleurait des perles* (*The Girl Who Cried Pearls*)** by Chris Lavis and Maciek Szczerbowski (NFB, 2025, 17 min 28 s)

The 2026 Oscar winner for Best Animated Short Film! A celebration of the **magic of stop-motion animation**, the film is a **meticulously crafted fable** about a girl overwhelmed by sorrow, the boy who loves her, and how **greed leads good hearts to wicked deeds**.

Thursday, September 10 | 3 p.m.

15 Years of Quebec Shorts – 2016 to 2021

- ***La pureté de l'enfance* (*Sweet Childhood*)** by Zviane ([Sacrebleu Productions](#)/NFB, 2017, 3 min)

Cartoonist Zviane is transported back to her childhood when she stumbles across a cassette she recorded back in the day. Using an **actual recording from the cartoonist's youth**, the film **hilariously captures the vivid imagination of a child**. A slice of everyday life, courtesy of the [Comic Strip Chronicles](#).

Wednesday, September 9 | 3 p.m.
15 Years of Quebec Shorts – 2011 to 2016

- **Vaysha l'aveugle** ([Blind Vaysha](#)) by Theodore Ushev (NFB, 2016, 8 min 13 s)

Nominated for the Best Animated Short Film Oscar in 2017, the film is a **metaphoric tale** reminding us of the **importance of living in the present moment**.

- [Bydlo](#) by Patrick Bouchard (NFB, 2012, 8 min 53 s)

The **music of Mussorgsky** provided inspiration for **Bydlo**, an animated short that depicts a **mighty ox** emerging from the rain-soaked earth, only to be **devoured by greedy, angry humans**.

– 30 –

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