



The Rose Family

Félix Rose

2020 | 127 min 58 s

Q&A

1. What motivated you to make this film?

A- Félix Rose (Writer, Director and Producer):

It's hard for a child to understand that his father and uncle were involved in the death of a man. My whole life, I've wanted to understand the chain of events and motives that led to the October Crisis. *Les Rose* is the culmination of a personal journey. By telling the story of my working-class family, I hope to shed new light on this tumultuous period of Quebec's history.

2. Why release the film this year, on the 50th anniversary of the October Crisis?

A- Colette Loumède (NFB Producer and Executive Producer):

Fifty years later, we have some emotional distance.

For 50 years, we've seen the same reports over and over again. For the first time, the Rose family's point of view provides audiences with a new perspective—one that can help us better understand the social and historical context of their story.

3. What about the Laporte family's perspective on these events?

A- Colette Loumède (NFB Producer and Executive Producer):

The film is about the Rose family. It does not re-litigate the court cases but rather tells the story from one family's point of view, as they lived it.

Providing screen time to the Laporte family would make for a different film—one that would be just as interesting and that has yet to be made. But that film is not Félix Rose's to make. It is beyond the scope of his film. If another filmmaker were to undertake such a film, the NFB would be just as likely to produce it.

From the very beginning of the making of *Les Rose*, it was understood that we would contact members of the Laporte family.

4. If there's one thing you'd like audiences to take away from the film, what would it be?

A- Félix Rose (Writer, Director and Producer):

The Rose family's story provides an opportunity to relate various facets of Quebec's history from a working-class perspective. When you understand the social conditions and the repression experienced by French Canadians, you can see how FLQ violence was a reaction to the injustices and police brutality of the time. Unfortunately, when people are prevented from taking to the streets to express their ideals, there are those who will feel that violence is the only way left to make their voices heard. It's important that governments maintain dialogue with youth and keep lines of communication open so that events like those of October 1970 never happen again.

5. Why did the NFB co-produce *Les Rose*?

A- The NFB:

The NFB has long provided a space for filmmakers to understand and analyze history through their films, enabling them to express their points of view in complex and rigorous creative works—from Denys Arcand (*Cotton Mill, Treadmill, Comfort and Indifference*) to Richard Desjardins (*The Hole Story, The Invisible Nation*), and from Patricio Henríquez (*Under the Hood: A Voyage into the World of Torture; Uyghurs: Prisoners of the Absurd*) to Alanis Obomsawin (50+ films), Loïc Darses (*Where the Land Ends*) and, now Félix Rose. These films are certainly not neutral, nor do they pretend to be. Instead, they give the viewer space to form an opinion. Documentaries provoke discussion and open the door to debating ideas, and this film is no exception.