



THEATRE RAYMOND KABBAZ PRESENTS

A WEEK OF FRENCH LANGUAGE CINEMA

March 18-23, 2022



Québec



CONSULATE GENERAL
OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM



-PROGRAM-

About the event "A Week of French Language Cinema"

March 18th - 23rd

For the thirteenth year, we work in collaboration with the Consulates of France, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada, the Quebec Government Office in Los Angeles, and Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles to present A Week of French Language Cinema, with nightly screenings of critically acclaimed French language films, from Friday, March 18 through Wednesday, March 23, 2022.

This collection of feature films celebrates the richness and diversity of the global French-speaking population, and relishes in the variety of stories told in one language across all five continents. A Week of French Language Cinema is celebrated every year in conjunction with International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF)'s annual celebration of French language and Francophone cultures on March 20th.

This evening Rwanda, Belgium and France are honored with the film *The Mercy of the Jungle*.

On-site exhibition of paintings and works on paper by **Renée Caouette**, a local artist of French descent.

Find out more about our **next screenings for this week**, our **sponsors**, and our **upcoming events** at the end of the program.



About tonight's film "The Mercy of the Jungle"

Belgium, France / 2018 / 1h31min

The Mercy of the jungle is a road movie that deals with wars in Congo through the eyes of two lost soldiers in the jungle by showcasing their struggle, weakness, and hope. The story takes place in 1998, just after the outbreak of the Second Congo War—which came hot on the heels of the First Congo War. As the alliance between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda disintegrates into a ruthless war, a Rwandan patrol wanders through the forest somewhere in eastern DRC. A career NCO, Sergeant Xavier (Marc Zinga), and a conscript, Faustin (Stéphane Bak), are separated from their unit. The two men are isolated in a region ravaged by paramilitary groups, theoretical allies of the Congolese government, who are mainly concerned with exploiting mineral resources by enslaving the population. *Mercy of the Jungle* does not portray the extermination of the Tutsis, but rather the endless chain reaction that it triggered.

As you travel alongside these soldiers, you will discover landscapes that are as beautiful as they are sublime. Nevertheless, the title speaks for itself "The Mercy of the Jungle", the jungle is beautiful but formidable and dreadful, because they face a lack of water, food, and threats from malarial fever and all the jungle wildlife. But also, the shooting was itself a hardship. The actor Stéphane Bak says that the strain on his face was real. "To be honest, it was very difficult," he says of the shoot, which took him 25 days. "I had

to learn my accent in two weeks." Prior to commencing, there was training with the Ugandan army for realism. Due to the ongoing conflicts in the DRC, the movie itself was shot in Uganda. Because of the altitude, the weather was also very cold.

The Mercy of the Jungle had its North American premiere at TIFF, and opens publicly in France in October 2018, along with screening at the Festival International du Film Francophone de Namur in Belgium.

-DETAILS-

Joël Karekezi, Director, writer and producer



Joël Karekezi (born December 12, 1985) is a Rwandese screenwriter, film director and film producer. Karekezi was born in Rubavu, Rwanda. His father died during the genocide, after this event he took refuge in the Congo, where he found one of his cousins. He learned screenwriting at the Maisha Film Lab in 2009, a Uganda-based non-profit training emerging East African filmmakers, and he holds a diploma in film directing from the Canadian online film school CineCours.

Tonight's film is the second movie by Karekezi about the 1994 Rwandan genocide against Tutsis. Indeed, in 2013 he wrote and directed *Imbabazi: The Pardon*, about Manzi, a prisoner accused of the the killing of ethnic Tutsis, who face the emotional and psychological consequences of his most personal crime: the murder of his best friend's family. The screenplay for *The Mercy of the Jungle* was an official selection at Cannes in 2013, and at the Locarno Festival in Switzerland in 2014.

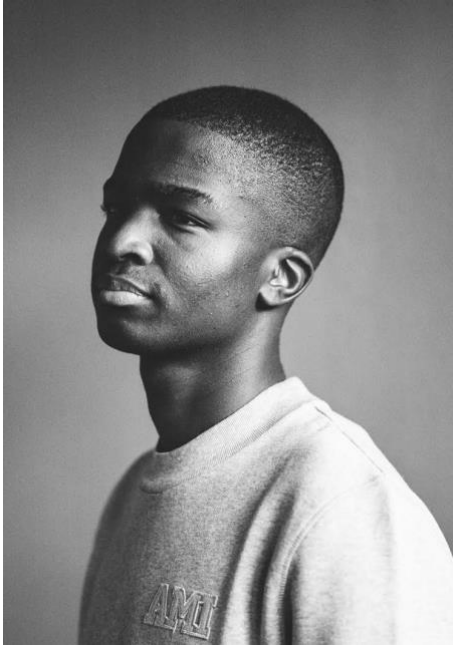
Marc Zinga, as Sergeant Xavier



Marc Zinga was born in 1984, in Likasi, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and is an actor and director. In 2014, his role in Benoît Mariage's *Les Rayures du zèbre* earned him the Magritte for best male hope, an award that brought him his current notoriety. In 2015, for the film *Qu'Allah bénisse la France* by Abd Al Malik, he was nominated for the César for best male hopeful at the 2015 César Awards, and for the Lumières Award for the Award for Most Promising Actor at the 2015 Lumières Awards. The same year, he has a role in the film of the James Bond saga, *007 SPECTRE*, and in *Dheepan* by Jacques Audiard, a role for which he is nominated for the Magritte for Best Supporting Actor at the Magritte du cinéma in 2016. Subsequently he played in *The Unknown Girl* by the Dardenne brothers, and he played the lead role in the Franco-Belgian film *Welcome to Marly-Gomont* by Julien Rambaldi, where he plays a Zairian doctor.

Tonight, he plays Sergeant Xavier who, under the threat of a malaria attack, remains a soldier. Although the fever brings back the ghosts and horrors of the past, he remains a block of violent rationality in the face of chaos.

Stéphane Bak, as Faustin



Stéphane Bak is a French actor and humorist of Congolese origin, born in 1996 in Villepinte (Seine Saint-Denis). Born into a large and modest family, with a migrant father, his career as precocious as dazzling testifies to an amazing talent, as much on the humorous side as in acting, since he is only 25 years old. At the age of 14, he was expelled from a college in Seine Saint Denis, urban area of France, but he obtained authorization to start working at such a young age. By continuing his schooling by correspondence, he made his debut in the comedy. In 2011 he presented his first sketch "Je m'appelle Stéphane Bak", in several cafés-theaters and small Parisian comedy clubs. This allows him to acquire notoriety in the field and earns him several solicitations, under the guise of "youngest comedian in France". The same year he participated in the famous Montreux Laughter Festival with the Chevaliers du Fiel and opened for Anthony Kavanagh at the Olympia. This rapid rise does not stop there because in May 2012, after training at the Cours Florent, he appears daily at the Grand Journal during the Cannes Festival, presenting short sketches co-written by Kyan Khojandi and Bruno Muschio.

His debut as an actor began in 2014. In 2016, he joined the cast of *Elle* by Paul Verhoeven (*Robocop*, *Total Recall*, *Basic Instinct*), which won the César for best film in 2017. Two years later, he lends his voice to Miles Morales, hero of *Spiderman: New Generation*, the film wins the Oscar for best animated film in 2019. The following years are for him the opportunity of first films outside of France. He first plays in Joel Karekezi's French-Belgian-Rwandan production *La Miséricorde de la Jungle*, multi-awarded at the 2019 African Movie Academy Awards. The film was first presented at the Toronto International Film Festival. On this occasion, the festival selected him as an actor to watch from the new generation within its "Rising Stars" program. In 2019, he shot for the first time entirely in English in *Roads* by Sebastian Schipper. He was described as an "actor to watch" by *Télérama*. In 2021, he appeared in *The French Dispatch* by Wes Anderson. In 2022, Stéphane Bak played the lead role in *Twist à Bamako*, a film by Robert Gédiguan.

When Stéphane Bak first got the script for *The Mercy of the Jungle*, he knew there was one person he had to consult: his father. "My dad did school me about this," he says. Indeed, his parents had emigrated from what was then Zaire in the 1980s—before the events of the movie, and not exactly in the same area, but close enough to be able to pass on firsthand knowledge of the simmering ethnic tensions that underpin the action.

AWARDS

Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAA), 2019: Best Director Prize, Best Achievement in Make-Up Prize, Best Achievement In Costume Design Prize

Panafrican Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou: Golden Stallion of Yennenga

Nominated for:

10th Magritte Awards, 2020: Best Actor

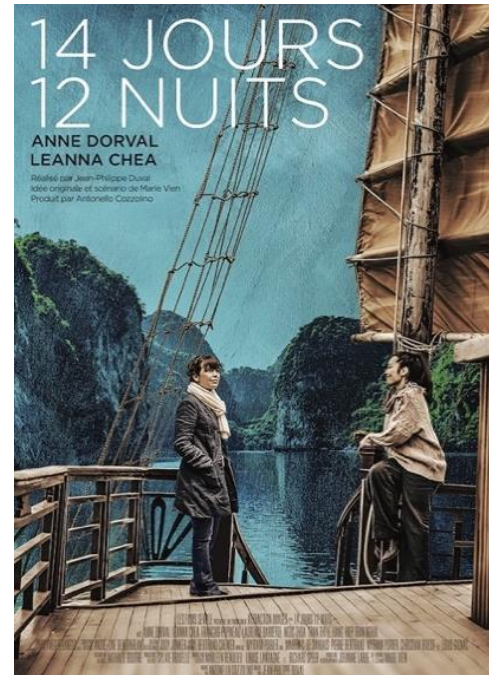
Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAA), 2019: nominated in 5 other categories

NEXT SCREENINGS FOR A WEEK OF FRENCH LANGUAGE CINEMA

NIGHT 5 - QUEBEC - Tuesday, March 22nd

14 Days 12 Nights

This moving drama follows Isabelle Brodeur (Anne Dorval) as she embarks on a journey to Vietnam, her adopted daughter's birthplace. During the trip, Isabelle learns the existence and whereabouts of her daughter's biological mother. Throughout this stunningly beautiful journey in the Vietnamese countryside, Isabelle discovers her daughter's country through the eyes of the woman who brought her into this world.



NIGHT 6 - BELGIUM - Wednesday, March 23rd

Two children, Abel and his little sister Nora, are starting a new school. Soon, Abel falls prey to a small gang of children who bully him day after day. To his sister who first tried to alert the adults, Abel urged her to not say a word, and she obeyed at first. When she finally decides to speak out, she too finds herself being bullied by the school bullies.

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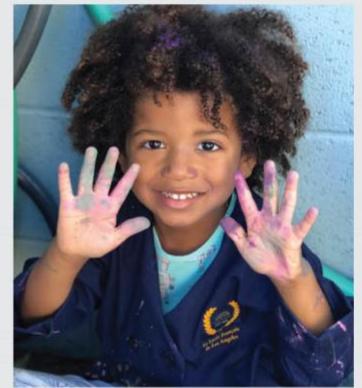


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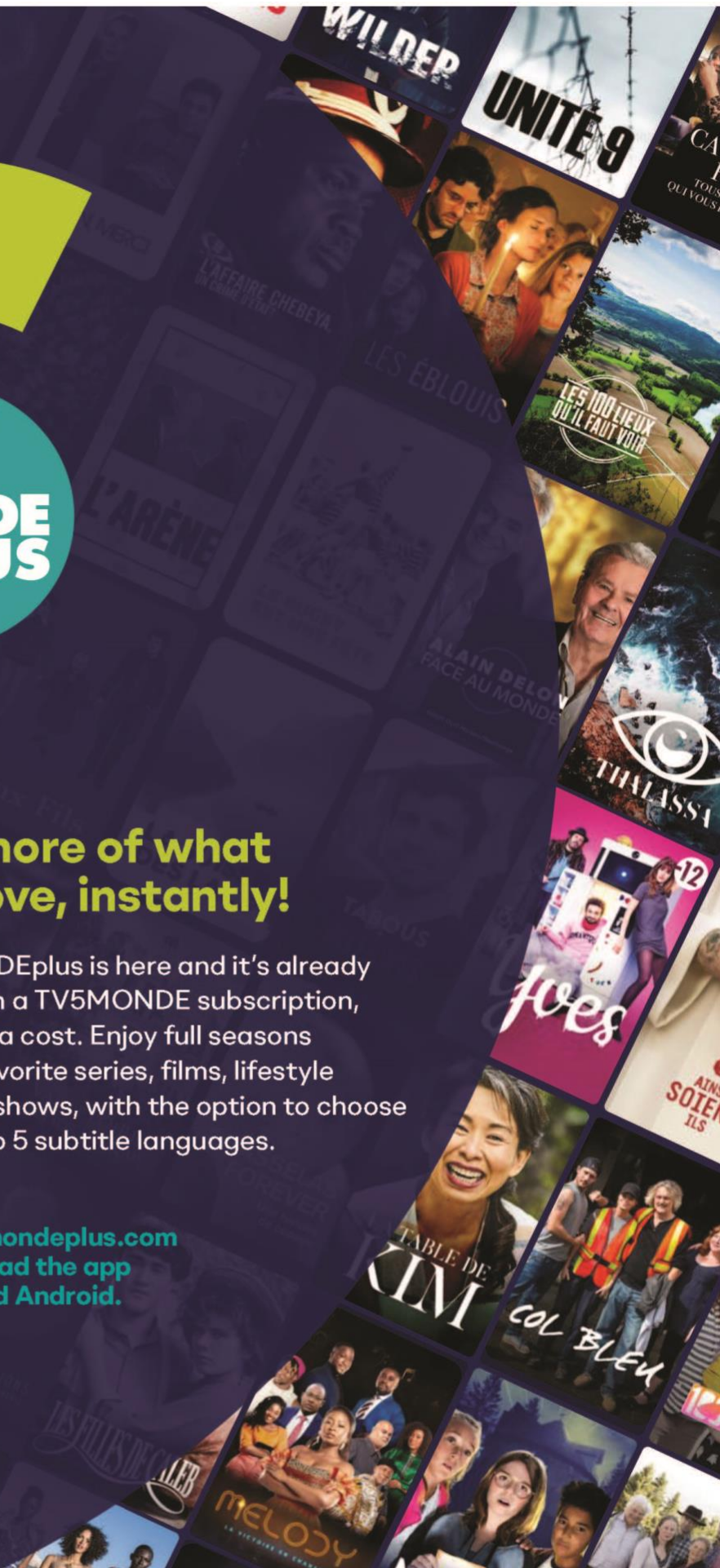
The logo for TV5 MONDE PLUS is centered in the upper left. It features a large, stylized letter 'C' composed of two segments: a light green outer ring and a teal inner segment. The text 'TV5 MONDE PLUS' is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters within the teal segment of the 'C'.

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-UPCOMING EVENTS-

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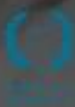
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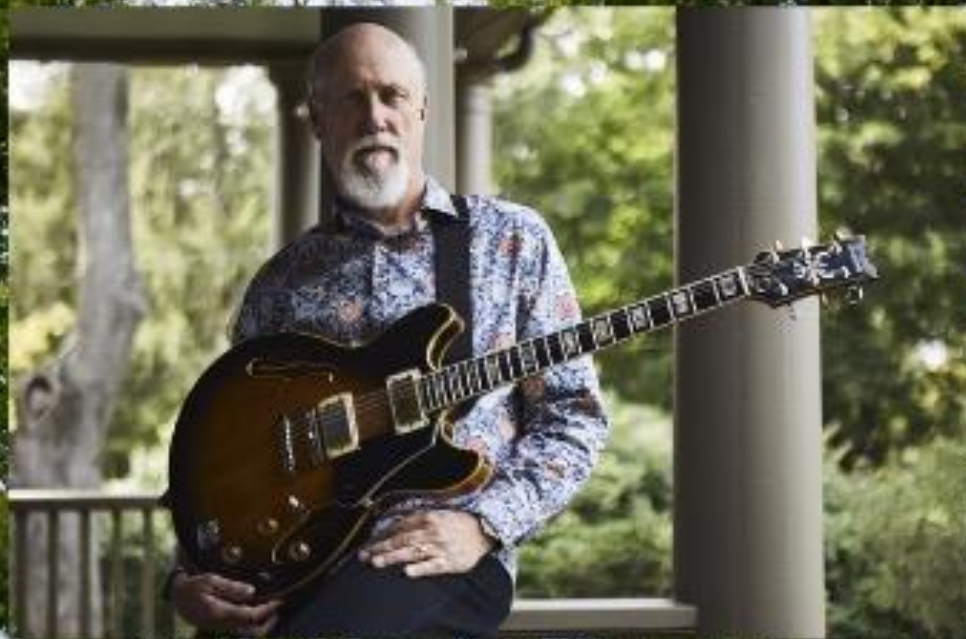


A still from the film Elsewhere. Directed and Choreographed by Mike Tyus & Madison Olandt, 2021.

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**CHECK BACK FOR DETAILS MID-
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