



FESTIVAL DE CINÉMA DE LA VILLE DE QUÉBEC
(FCVQ)

SPEAKING NOTES FOR
MICHEL ROY,
CHAIR OF THE BOARD, TELEFILM CANADA

DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE GALA SCREENING
OF FRANCIS LECLERC'S
PIEDS NUS DANS L'AUBE
AND THE FESTIVAL'S AWARDS CEREMONY

PALAIS MONTCALM, RAOUL-JOBIN ROOM,
CITY OF QUÉBEC, QUEBEC
SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

I am honoured to be here with you this evening and to have the opportunity to say a few words.

Not only an honour but a great pleasure, because it has allowed me to return to the city where I grew up and in which I spent some 52 years of my life. And I'm particularly touched because my remarks this evening are probably the last I will make on behalf of Telefilm Canada, given that my second five-year term as Chair of Telefilm's Board ends in a few weeks' time.

Québec City is an ideal place to host a major film festival. Indeed, the city can be for Quebec what Cannes is for France. Let's not forget that the prestigious Cannes Film Festival takes place in a city of no more than 75,000 people!

Your festival—which benefits from Québec City’s history, cultural assets and tourist attractions, as well as from the passion, spirit of innovation and dynamism shown by its Executive Director, Ian Gailer, and by his entire team—has an enviable future.

In a few minutes, we’ll be watching the premiere screening of *Pieds nus dans l’aube* by Francis Leclerc, who was born and, like me, grew up in Québec City.

I’d also like to take the opportunity to salute another distinguished creative artist, one who identifies strongly with Québec City and who is also a member of the film’s cast, Robert Lepage.

Finally, I’d like to salute the film’s two screenwriters: Francis Leclerc himself and Fred Pellerin.

All of these artists—the director, the writers, the actors—have made a movie that already has built-in public appeal.

That's because it explores one aspect of the childhood of the great Félix Leclerc.

Encouraging the production of films that have wide public appeal, which can attract a variety of audiences, has been Telefilm's mandate for the past 50 years—50 years this very year. This mandate has also meant supporting the emergence and development of film creators, artists and craftspeople working in our homegrown film industry.

Over the last 10 years, I have had the privilege of going on a truly wonderful journey, certainly one of the most rewarding of my professional life.

An experience during which I saw first-hand how our industry evolved, became increasingly diversified and proudly asserted itself as one of the most vibrant in the world.

I've said many times that we need our creative artists. We need the images they shoot, the stories they have to tell.

To entertain us, to make us think, to stir our emotions, and to help us better understand the world we live in.

In the movie you're about to see, you'll be taken back to a time in Quebec between the two world wars, to the summer of 1927. To La Tuque, Félix Leclerc's birthplace.

That's the magic of cinema! The magic of artistic creation.

Artistic creation is an act of freedom, of openness and discovery. To my mind, creating something is as essential as the air that we breathe.

Thank you to the Festival de cinéma de la ville de Québec for allowing us to experience the magic of film once again.

Long live this great festival!