

Directors' Fortnight prompts complaint

MONTREAL — In a strongly worded protest, the directors of the International Festival of New Cinema and Video (FNCV) are objecting to World Film Festival director Serge Losique's intention — reported in *La Presse* Jan. 24 — of bringing to Montreal the entire Quinzaine des réalisateurs (Director's Fortnight) section of the Cannes Film Festival as part of the WFF.

Claiming that "the decision is patently offensive to Quebec and to Canada, suggesting as it does that Canadians are incapable of creating cultural events of their own but have to import them 'pre-packaged,'" the April 7 statement, signed by Claude Chamberlan and Dimitri Eipides, also alleges harassment of the FNCV by Losique, including "attempting to take away from the FNCV films that have been promised it, demanding exclusive rights, and exerting undue pressure in every field — including journalists, who are threatened with loss of accreditation, theatre owners who lease their cinema to our Festival, government funding agencies, etc."

The FNCV directors stated they would officially protest to the French Ministry of Culture, the Board of Directors of the Cannes Festival and the Société

des réalisateurs de films de France.

Chamberlan and Eipides claim that Pierre-Henri Deleau, the Quinzaine's director, "receives a fee from the World Film Festival" and they ask "if (he) has not abused his privileges by adding to the contract signed by filmmakers whose

films have been selected for the Quinzaine a clause granting him the exclusive right to present their films at the World Film Festival. This move deprives directors of their legitimate right to choose festivals for their films in North America, and also deprives the Festival of New Cinema, as well as

all other Canadian festivals, of its right to select from Cannes, traditionally a source of films for every festival in the world."

FNCV director Chamberlan told *Cinema Canada* "for four years now he (Losique) has tried everything to force us into a public debate. Well, now he has succeeded."

World Film Festival spokesperson David Novek, who was travelling in Vancouver, was reached by *Cinema Canada* and asked to respond to the statements made by the FNCV. He had no comment.

Losique could not be reached for a statement.



Unions federate

MONTREAL — A new federation of cinema and television directors has been formed in Montreal, comprising the association of Quebec film directors, l'Association des réalisateurs et réalisatrices de films du Québec (ARRFQ), as well as the director's associations of Radio-Canada, Radio-Québec, Télé-Métropole, Télé-Capitale, CKSH-TV and Télé-7 (Sherbrooke), CKTM and CHEM (Trois-Rivière), CFER (Rimouski) and CKRS (Jonquière).

The director's association for the Francophone section of the NFB, le Syndicat général du cinéma et de la télévision (SGCT), ONF section, was also approached to be part of the federation. But as spokesperson Pierre Letarte told *Cinema Canada*, "the problem with our joining is that the SGCT is multi-disciplinary, involving more people than simply directors. In my opinion, our directors should join the ARRFQ and thereby be represented in the federation."

The formal announcement of the federation of 11 associations was expected to become

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