

QUEBEC CINEMA CLUB

As outlined in the September *National Bulletin*, the Quebec Cinema Club 2011 will begin this month with the film *The Rocket: The Maurice Richard Story*. After *The Rocket*, films will be presented in chronological order as follows: *Mon oncle Antoine*, *La Grande Séduction*, *C.R.A.Z.Y.*, and *Un été sans point ni coups sûr*. As previously noted, all include English subtitles and are easily obtainable via mail-order through Archambault in Montreal at [www.archambault.ca]. Many, if not all, are also available through [Amazon.com] or [Amazon.ca] and other sources.

In presenting each film, suggestions will be offered examining the distinctive features and universal themes of Quebec cinema as well as other guidelines for showing the film in class. Although these films offer a representative view of various aspects of Quebec life, and can be used in high school classes, teachers should understand that mainstream Quebec films differ from their American counterparts in theme, vocabulary, and sexual content. I will advise club members in advance of any scenes which might cause negative reactions from school administrators or parents. As always, teachers should view the film in its entirety before showing it in class.

A Web site has been developed for the club at [https://sites.google.com/site/aatfqc]. The site will include references to other Quebec films more suited to college and university classes and for personal enjoyment and appreciation. It will also include the text of past articles in the *National Bulletin*, on-line references to Quebec cinema, and a bibliography contributed by myself and other members. The site will contain as well an article by Heinz Weinman who views Quebec cinema from an historical and political perspective, with Quebec cinema maturing as the province does. Club members are encouraged to submit articles, film titles and references to me at [mrquebec@gmail.com]. References will be added to the site as received.

Our first film, *The Rocket: The Maurice Richard Story* is perhaps the first one I recommend to high school teachers. Interestingly, the film has three titles. The French language title was *Maurice Richard*. It was released in English-speaking Canada as *The Rocket: The Maurice Richard Story*. It was released in the U.S. as *The Rocket: The Legend of Rocket Richard*. There is a great cast, a pertinent perspective on a particular time in Quebec history, a character

known to all *Québécois*, and terrific cinematography.

The star of the film, Roy Dupuis, is one of Quebec's most well known young actors, having appeared in more than fifty movies and television series in Quebec and as Michael Samuelle in the American TV series *La Femme Nikita* broadcast on the USA Network. Other award-winning performances are turned in by Julie Le Breton as Lucille Richard and Stephen McHattie as *Canadiens* coach Dick Irvin.

Through the prism of the sport of hockey, the film offers a view Anglophone/Francophone relations in a pre-“Quiet Revolution” Quebec emerging from the *grand noirceur*. It was chosen for its appeal to a multigenerational audience of both sexes, but will be even more appealing to the boys, particularly those who are hockey fans. Most of the hockey scenes were filmed with professional hockey players. They are listed in the credits, and fans should be encouraged to try to identify them in the film.

This Cinema Club has been created as a labor of love for all those films which have passed before my eyes for all these years. I have found great joy in discovering all the *cinéastes*, actors and actresses who remain largely unknown outside of Quebec.

See you at the movies.

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