

## Award-Winning Feature Documentary Home for First Time

Montreal, May 4, 2005 – On the heels of a successful international festival tour, **LE FANTÔME DE L'OPÉRATRICE** will finally appear on Montreal theatre screens. The Quebec première for local filmmaker **CAROLINE MARTEL**'s unique documentary will feature at the HTMIles Festival on May 21, then screen at Ex-Centris' Cinéma Parallèle from May 27 to June 2. Press screenings will be held Wednesday May 18 and Tuesday May 24.

The 20th Century had its invisible workforce: telephone operators. Not just "voices with a smile", they starred in managerial dreams of infinite progress. **LE FANTÔME DE L'OPÉRATRICE** reveals their fate in a unique montage film crafted from 150 rarely-seen industrial, publicity and scientific management films produced in North America between 1903 and 1989. The voice of celebrated Quebec actress **PASCAL MONTPETIT** accompanies us on this voyage of science and fiction. Director Caroline Martel and her collaborators spent 50 weeks over four years splicing together fantastic remnants from an industrial era into this dreamlike documentary. **LE FANTÔME DE L'OPÉRATRICE** proposes a fascinating portrait of human society in a technocratic age.

*"an enormously imaginative documentary... an hour of non-stop visual and intellectual stimulation."* – **VARIETY**  
*"...the kind of intelligent and dedicated work that will live on for much longer than the flavors of the moment."* – **Village VOICE**

Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) – World Première  
Brooklyn Underground Film Festival – BEST EXPERIMENTAL FILM AWARD  
Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) – Canadian Front  
Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) – Canadian Images  
International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam (IDFA) – First Appearance Competition  
Taiwan International Documentary Festival (TIDF) – International Competition  
Full Frame Documentary Film Festival – Competition  
Tampa International Film Festival – Closing Night Film

**CAROLINE MARTEL** made her début in professional filmmaking with *Hold the Line (Dernier appel, NFB, 2001)*. She produced **LE FANTÔME DE L'OPÉRATRICE** with the vital support of the Programme d'aide aux jeunes créateurs (SODEC), the Canadian Independent Film & Video Fund, and the Aide au cinéma indépendant of the National Film Board of Canada, thanks to whom this unusual production was possible.

### **LE FANTÔME DE L'OPÉRATRICE**

**Caroline MARTEL** (QUE/CAN, 2004) 65 min. French narration with French subtitles  
Press screenings : Wednesday May 18 and Tuesday May 24  
10 am, Cinéma Parallèle (Ex-Centris)  
3530 St-Laurent

Film images and the latest news about **LE FANTÔME DE L'OPÉRATRICE**: [www.artifactproductions.ca](http://www.artifactproductions.ca)

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