

For immediate release

LE FANTÔME DE L'OPÉRATRICE is off to Europe and Asia

Montréal, November 15, 2004 — after its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival and a warm reception at the Vancouver International Film Festival, **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERATOR** will next be in international competitions in Amsterdam's (IDFA) and Taiwan's (TIDF) Documentary Film Festivals.

Reviewed as « a documentary full of imagination... an hour of visual and intellectual stimulation » by Variety magazine, and already on the list for the selection of Canada's Top 10 productions of the year, **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERATOR** is a unique montage film. This first independent feature by Montréal filmmaker **CAROLINE MARTEL** is crafted from almost 150 rarely seen industrial films produced in North America between 1903 and 1989. The director and her collaborators spent 50 weeks in the editing room over a period of four years.

Fantastic remnants from our era, a dreamlike documentary, **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERATOR** proposes a wry yet ethereal portrait of human society in a technocratic age. It unveils the little-known history of the telephone operators — an invisible workforce without which the 20th Century would never have been the same. **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERATOR** brings out of the shadows not only the «Voices with a Smile», but also amazing 20th century corporate films, as well as a strange musical instrument: the **ONDES MARTENOT**, played by **SUZANNE BINET-AUDET**. Adding to the mood, the voice of well-known actor **PASCALE MONTPETIT** accompanies us on this voyage of science and fiction.

One of the biggest documentary film festival in the world, the **INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL IN AMSTERDAM** (IDFA) presents **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERATOR** in its first feature competition *First Appearance*, between November 20 and 26, 2004. Caroline Martel will also be present at the *Emerging Visions* round table coordinated by Peter Wintonick and moderated by well-known Dutch journalist Raymond van den Boogaard. The **TAIWAN INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL** (TIDF) is presently titling the film to include it in its international competition taking place in mid-December. **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERATOR** was chosen alongside 29 other films from over 1000 submission! In the company of Jay Rosenblatt and Asian filmmakers, the director will participate in a public discussion about archival cinema.

CAROLINE MARTEL is a documentary artist born in Montréal in 1973. *Hold the Line* (*Dernier Appel*, 52 min, National Film Board of Canada, 2001) was her début in professional filmmaking. She produced **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERATOR** 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.

Visit the web sites of the documentary festivals in Amsterdam and Taiwan:

http://www.idfa.nl/idfa_en_filmdescription.asp?filmid=20136

<http://www.tidf.org.tw>

Canada, 2004, 65 minutes, Colour and Black and White, English with subtitled French narration.

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Film images and the latest news about **LE FANTÔME DE L'OPÉRATRICE**: www.artifactproductions.ca

The **PHANTOM**
of the **OPERATOR**

Le **FANTÔME**
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