



LES MAINS SALES
KATSHINAU

SYNOPSIS

IN NEW FRANCE BEFORE THE BRITISH CONQUEST, MARIE, AN INDIGENOUS SLAVE, SERVES THE LOCAL SURGEON. HER DAILY LIFE OF HOUSEHOLD CHORES IS BLEAK AND ALIENATING. THE ENCOUNTER WITH A YOUNG GIRL SHE PRESUMES TO BE HER CHILD WILL GIVE HER MOTIVATION TO UNDERTAKE RADICAL ACTIONS.



FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

-2023-

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL *BEST CANADIAN SHORT AWARD
FESTIVAL DU NOUVEAU CINÉMA
TIFF'S CANADA'S TOP 10



LES MAINS SALES / KATSHINAU

NARRATIVE SHORT | CANADA | 2023 | 16MIN | COLOR | FRENCH, ENGLISH,
INNU-AIMUN & ABENAKIS | 1:37.1 | DCP/QUICKTIME | 5.1/STEREO

CAST

SOLEIL LAUNIÈRE
FRED-ÉRIC SALVAIL
DOROTHÉ GAUTHIER-NOLETT
GENEVIÈVE BOIVIN-ROUSSY
JULIAN BAILEY
RYAN BOMMARITO
BENOÎT MAUFFETTE
ADRIEN LESSARD

CREW

DIRECTED BY
JULIEN G. MARCOTTE & JANI BELLEFLEUR-KALTUSH

WRITER
JULIEN G. MARCOTTE
IN COLLABORATION WITH JANI BELLEFLEUR-KALTUSH

PRODUCED BY
GENEVIÈVE GOSSELIN-G. (LE FOYER FILMS)

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
NICOLAS POITRAS-GAMACHE

ART DIRECTION
REBECCA DORY

EDITING
PIER-PHILIPPE CHEVIGNY

SOUND DESIGN
PATRICE LEBLANC

SOUND MIXING
ISABELLE LUSSIER

MUSIC
MAYA BELSITZMAN ET MATAN EPHRAT



DIRECTORS BIO

JULIEN G. MARCOTTE IS A WRITER AND DIRECTOR BASED IN MONTREAL. AFTER EARNING A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN FILM STUDIES, HE DIRECTED HIS FIRST SHORT FILM, LOUISE DE 9 À 5 (2021), STARRING FANNY MALLETTE AND HUBERT PROULX. THE FILM HAD ITS WORLD PREMIERE AT THE OFF-COURTS TROUVILLE FESTIVAL AND ITS CANADIAN PREMIERE AT THE FESTIVAL DU NOUVEAU CINÉMA. HIS NEXT FILM, KATSHINAU (2023), CO-DIRECTED WITH JANI BELLEFLEUR-KALTUSH, DEALS WITH SLAVERY IN 18TH-CENTURY NEW FRANCE. IT HAD ITS WORLD PREMIERE AT THE VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, WHERE IT WON BEST CANADIAN SHORT FILM.

ORIGINALLY FROM THE INNU COMMUNITY OF NUTASHKUAN, JANI BELLEFLEUR-KALTUSH IS A DIRECTOR, ARTIST, AND TRANSLATOR. SHE HAS DIRECTED SEVERAL SHORT FILMS, ONE OF WHICH WON AN AWARD AT THE IMAGINATIVE FESTIVAL IN TORONTO. NIKA TSHIKA UITEN MISHKUT WAS PRESENTED IN OFFICIAL COMPETITION AT THE INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY MEETINGS OF MONTREAL (RIDM), AT THE RENDEZ-VOUS DU CINÉMA QUÉBÉCOIS IN MONTREAL AND AT THE FESTIVAL REGARD SUR LE COURT-FILM IN SAGUENAY. HER LATEST FILM TSHIMA IT (AMEN) WAS SELECTED AT SEVERAL FESTIVALS. IN 2017, SHE PARTICIPATED IN A COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ENTITLED KUSHAPETSHEKAN / KOSAPITCIKAN. IN 2022, SHE MADE LA FORGE - ÉDITION 2022 AND IS IN THE MIDDLE OF WRITING SEVERAL PROJECTS.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

KATSHINAU IS THE STORY OF THE ENSLAVEMENT OF MARIE, AN INNU WOMAN, HER REVOLT AGAINST AUTHORITY IN THE NAME OF LOVE, AND THE PLACE OCCUPIED BY VIOLENCE WITHIN THE INTERSECTIONAL RELATIONSHIP OF DOMINATION THAT UNITES HER TO HER MASTER, A SETTLER FROM NEW FRANCE.

OUR FILM IS SET IN SEPTEMBER 1759 - SHORTLY BEFORE NEW FRANCE BECAME A BRITISH COLONY - AS ENGLISH SHIPS BOMBARD QUEBEC CITY AND THEIR SOLDIERS MARCH ACROSS THE LAND, BURNING FARMS AND TERRORIZING THE INHABITANTS. BY PRECISELY SITUATING OUR FILM WITHIN THIS BRIEF TIME FRAME, WE WERE ABLE TO BRING TOGETHER THE THREE MAIN ETHNIC GROUPS OF THE TIME IN A COMPLEX POWER STRUGGLE: THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, THE FRENCH SETTLERS AND THE ENGLISH SOLDIERS.

IN THIS SENSE, WE WANTED TO ADDRESS CANADIAN COLONIALISM. OUR STORY IS THEREFORE BASED ON TWO HISTORICAL FACTS LITTLE KNOWN TO QUEBECERS: THE PRESENCE OF SLAVES IN THE TERRITORY OF NEW FRANCE, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM WERE NATIVES FORCED INTO DOMESTIC SERVICE, AND THE HIGH PROPORTION OF FRENCH-CANADIAN OWNERS, EVEN AFTER THE CONQUEST. IN THE WORDS OF HISTORIAN MARCEL TRUDEL, THE LEADING AUTHORITY ON THE SUBJECT: «WE, WHO HAVE TAKEN OURSELVES FOR A PEOPLE OF MISSIONARIES AND SPIRITUALISTS, CANNOT ADMIT THAT WE HAVE KNOWN A COLONIAL PAST SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE UNITED STATES.» IN WHAT IS NOW THE TERRITORY OF QUEBEC, 4,200 SLAVES WERE OFFICIALLY RECORDED OVER A PERIOD OF TWO CENTURIES (1629-1820).

THROUGH THE EYES OF ITS PROTAGONIST, KATSHINAU EXPLORES THE DAILY LIFE OF AN INNU WOMAN IN THE TUMULT OF A LARGE-SCALE, MAINLY EUROPEAN CONFLICT, THE REPERCUSSIONS OF WHICH HAVE SHAPED THE COUNTRY WE LIVE IN TODAY.



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