

## eKantipur: Canadian films hit Kathmandu

Contributed by POST REPORT

The temperature is low, but the spirits of moviegoers are high as more film festivals continue to hit town, the latest being the three-day Canadian Film Festival that will be held at Kumari Hall from January 23 to 25. This batch will be the latest films from Canada since KIMFF's feature of Banff Mountain Film Festival films. The films that will be screening are Saint Ralph, A Simple Curve and La Neuvaïne.

The film festival here in Kathmandu is organized by the TIFFG (Toronto International Film Festival Group) Film Circuit as part of their tour of Nepal and India and sponsored by POA Educational Foundation. The press release issued by POA has also stated that an interaction session between the organizers, the Trade Commissioner, representatives of the film industry and the media is on the works.

POA adds that its primary objective is to help the Nepali Film Industry, and that proceeds earned through voluntary donations received at the screenings will be donated to Pashupati Briddha Ashram.

### FILMS SHOWING:

#### A Simple Curve (2005)

Written and directed by Aubrey Nealon

Rebelling against one's parents is generally considered a right of passage for teenagers. Twenty-seven-year-old Caleb (Kris Lemche), however, has somehow missed this crucial step. Maybe it's because he was raised in British Columbia's majestic Kootenays by laid-back, hippie parents who didn't give him much to rebel against. But his growing dissatisfaction with his life and his relationship with his father has Caleb making up for lost time. In his first feature, A Simple Curve, Aubrey Nealon tells the tale of Caleb's quiet revolt.

#### Saint Ralph (2004)

Written and directed by Michael McGowan

Ralph Walker is on the verge of becoming an orphan: his father is dead and his mother, Emma, is critically ill in the

hospital. When Emma slips into a coma, as Ralph is describing one of his frequent disasters at school, he panics. Nurse Alice, who has been caring for his mother, remarks that only a miracle will improve her health and Ralph, irrational in his despair, decides to make that miracle happen. He doesn't know the 'how' of it until the grimly punitive Father Fitzpatrick metes out punishment for Ralph's latest escapade in school.

La Neuvaine (2005)

Written and directed by Bernard Émond

What does the word "faith" evoke? Can one believe in humankind the way one believes in God? In his third feature film, Bernard Émond masterfully engages with the difficult matter of how to retain any sense of faith when faced with death and senseless violence. La Neuvaine beautifully weaves together the stories of Jeanne Jeanne (Élise Guilbault) and François (Patrick Drolet), two strangers brought together by chance but absorbed in their individual journeys into the true meaning of belief.

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