# 12THANNUAL

## AUCONTRAIRE DE STIVAL SALA OCTOBER 28, 2024

**#INSIDEOUT** 

OCTOBER 2024



The **Au Contraire Film Festival** on mental health raises funds to support **UP House** and to destigmatise long term mental health conditions. This year's theme is **#insideout** helping you to shift your thinking about mental illness and people living with mental health challenges.

**Paradis Urbain** is the founding organisation of **UP House**, a community and organization in Montreal that aims to eliminate social isolation and rebuild the confidence, purpose, and community of adults living with mental health challenges.

We are 900 members strong, and yearly we have over 250 active members! **UP House** is part of an international network of over 350 Clubhouses in 32 countries that are based on a successful evidence-based model of psychosocial rehabilitation.



12th ACFF

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GALA2024

Join us for an unforgettable evening of inspiration and artistic exploration at the 12th annual edition of the ACFF!

DATE MONDAY OCT. 28, 2024 - 7PM ENJOY APÉRITIFS AND DESSERT RECEPTION VENUE HILTON GARDEN INN MIDTOWN ADDRESS 6939 DECARIE BLVD, MONTREAL, QUE., H3W 3E4 DRESS CODE RELAXED CHIC GETTING THERE NAMUR METRO & COMPLEMENTARY PARKING



### **Empowering Minds, Inspiring Change.**

Join ACFF in our mission to promote mental health awareness. Our digital festival engages audiences in Montreal, Quebec, and Canada, providing unparalleled perspectives on mental health issues.

Partner with us as we go beyond a one-time event. Together, we collaborate with corporations and community organizations, leveraging our film library to enhance their goals and offer on-line and in-person programs.



This year's ACFF Mental Health Film Festival delves into the theme Inside Out, Outside In.

We focus on the complex network of relationships that shape mental health: how individual well-being intertwines with social dynamics. The impact of accessible care, the nurturing power of our environments, how we nurture ourselves, and the strength found in community support. Mental health is a collective responsibility, and it is time to end the stigma that isolates people and absolves society of its responsibility. Through compelling narratives, we shed light on the connections between our inner worlds and the broader society, emphasizing that fostering mental health and caring for individuals is a shared journey.

# LACOUPE



La Coupe Lumière, made of lacquered film strips and crafted by internationally known Quebecker Colin Schleeh, is an annual award of appreciation from the hundreds of organizations within the Montreal mental health continuum.

It recognizes the valuable contribution made by an individual to ultimately alleviate the suffering of those that live with Long term mental health conditions, through programs, policies, facilities and innovation.



#### This year, we are delighted to announce that the recipient of the esteemed Coupe Lumière award is the **Echo Foundation.**

For over two decades, The ECHO Foundation has been dedicated to grantgiving, supporting organizations offering frontline services aimed at enhancing the quality of life for individuals grappling with serious and persistent health issues. These initiatives include drop-in centers, residential facilities, reinsertion programs, family support services, and pilot projects aimed at enhancing care and services for vulnerable individuals facing mental health challenges.



12th ACFF

### A NOTE FROM CYBILGERACIMO ACFF CURATOR & PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

The films that make the cut do so because they resonate on both a personal and universal level. After all, mental health is part of the human condition, inextricably linked to health in all its forms: physical, spiritual, societal, environmental. The films speak of pain, courage, resilience, humour, healing, love, family, connection, and community.

Mental health is not an isolated concept. It is fostered through healthy dynamics both inside and outside of ourselves.

We, individually, and the planet, globally, are organic beings that influence and affect each other through a type of osmosis. Art, in general, and the medium of film, in particular, can be used as a type of conduit to foster awareness and change, dispel stigma, and promote healthier dynamics within the self and without. And, of course, to offer fun and entertainment. And, this, in turn, can help foster a stronger and healthier self, community, and world.

I hope you will appreciate the films as much as we do!





### **Devon Reid** Senior Director, Paradis Urbain devon.reid@paradisurbain.org



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