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Simply the best

As it always does, this year's edition of the Festival du nouveau cinéma presents its fans with the film year's greatest critical hits. Canada's oldest and most limber of cinematic events – at 35 years young – scopes 189 cutting-edge films over 11 days, starting with Wednesday night's gala premiere of Congorama.

JOHN GRIFFIN
GAZETTE FILM CRITIC

At the age of 35, the Festival du nouveau cinéma can claim to be the oldest event of its kind in the country. In 2006, it is also among the very best. This year's anniversary edition opens Wednesday with the gala local premiere of Philippe Falardeau's Congorama, and continues with a further 188 films from 39 countries, screening in four downtown locations until Oct 28.

The FNC has long been praised for its commitment to young, forward-thinking filmmakers, and programs that stretch our very understanding of how film functions as a medium of communication.

Increasingly, it also serves as a kind of clearing house for the rest of the year in the global festival circuit, a high-end "greatest hits" package.

In October, when people in northern climes retreat inwards to hearth and home, festivals do, too. The FNC is among the last celebrations of film culture in the calendar year. It takes advantage of its position and selects some of the strongest work from earlier events like Cannes, Venice, Rotterdam, Berlin and Toronto.

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION DAVID FITZPATRICK THE GAZETTE

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Andrew Carter
Weekday Mornings
5:30 to 9:00

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