

A film by  
**Jean-François Pouliot**

# CLIMPSSES

*a human view of the living city*

*Direction, Script* **Jean-François Pouliot** *Visual Conception* **Normand Sarrazin** *Photography* **Serge Clément, Claude-Simon Langlois** *Music* **Androgyne**  
*Composed by* **Mario Leblanc** *Music Adaptation, Sound Design* **Normand Roger, Pierre Yves Drapeau, Denis Chartrand** *Computer Graphics Design* **Paul Boisvert**  
*Editing* **Vicky Daneau** *Line Producer* **Jean-Marie Comeau** *Producer* **René Chénier**

*A production of the National Film Board of Canada, Prestige Partner of the Canada Pavilion, presented by the Government of Canada, imagined and designed by Cirque du Soleil, on the occasion of the 2010 World Exposition in Shanghai.*

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Gouvernement du Canada



由太阳剧团™ 构想及设计  
Imagined and designed by / Imaginé et conçu par  
**CIRQUE DU SOLEIL.**





## CANADA AT EXPO 2010 IN SHANGHAI

**Better City, Better Life** is the theme for the 2010 Shanghai World Expo, which runs from May 1 to October 31. It is expected to be the largest Expo ever held, with more than 200 participating countries and organizations. The exposition expects between 70 and 90 million visitors, 95 percent of them Chinese.

The theme for the Canada Pavilion is **The Living City: Inclusive, Sustainable, Creative**. The 6,000-square-metre building is shaped like a giant C. It is inspired by public spaces in the country's great cities and can welcome up to 30,000 visitors a day. Working with the Government of Canada, Cirque du Soleil is responsible for the pavilion's design and management, as well as for creating the public presentations and organizing the cultural program.

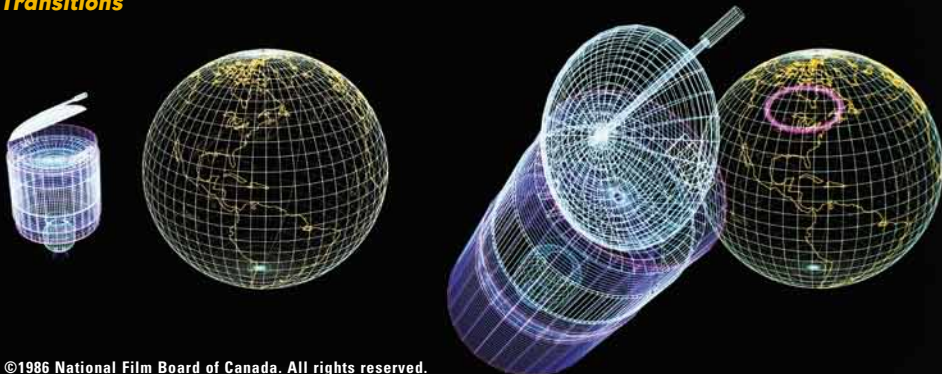
## THE NFB'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE CANADA PAVILION

The National Film Board of Canada (NFB), in collaboration with the Government of Canada, has made many significant contributions at previous World Fairs. The NFB produced striking films for the expos held in Montréal (1967), Osaka (1970), Vancouver (1986), and Seville (1992), among others.

In Shanghai, the NFB will accompany visitors along their journey throughout the Canada Pavilion. As they enter the pavilion they can screen about 20 NFB animation classics. Images from the NFB's extensive archives are integrated into the scenery designed by Cirque du Soleil, and at the end of their tour of the pavilion, visitors can watch the short film **Glimpses/Impressions**, directed by Jean-François Pouliot. It screens exclusively in the final room of the Canada Pavilion.



## Transitions



## GLIMPSES/IMPRESSIONS: ABOUT THE FILM AND ITS ARTISTIC APPROACH

*Glimpses/Impressions* depicts 24 hours in the life of an imagined city – a composite that draws on all Canadian cities. This imaginary day unfolds through the course of four seasons and reveals the nature of places and the people that make them so vibrant. The images in the film slowly come together with deft, impressionistic touches. Adopting the rhythm of someone strolling through the city, they intermingle and reply to each other – evoking a different story for each viewer.

The film uses a photographic approach to capture daily life in this imagined city. This technique creates an intimate relationship between viewers and the people of Canada. Photographers Serge Clément and Claude-Simon Langlois travelled the country with a small crew in order to capture close to 57,000 unstaged images of particular people and places shot over several hours, and sometimes even days.

The city is a mystery. It has its own life, and it envelops and transforms us. It is the environment we are in every day, as well as the vehicle for our aspirations. The city is a sea of solitary gazes looking for each other. I wanted to share this city – my city – from the inside. I wanted us to enter it and experience life in the city according to our own rhythms, emotions and desires. Most of all, I wanted to invite human beings from other parts of the world to participate in this dance of glimpses seeking to find each other.

Jean-François Pouliot



© Nicolas Bilodeau

## THE DIRECTOR

Born in Montréal, **Jean-François Pouliot** has worked in both film and advertising. He has directed more than 500 ad spots and won numerous awards for his commercial work. Pouliot earned critical and public acclaim for his first feature film, *La grande séduction (Seducing Dr. Lewis)*, released in 2003, and followed it up in 2006 with *Guide de la petite vengeance (The Little Book of Vengeance)*. Working with the NFB, Pouliot directed the groundbreaking 3D film *Facing Champlain (Champlain retracé)*, made in 2008 for the 400th anniversary of Québec City, and *NFB 70 Years (ONF 70 ans)* in honour of the institution's 70th anniversary.



© Jean-Marie Comeau



© Jean-Marie Comeau

## THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

**Serge Clément** lives in Montréal. He uses photography in a variety of artistic forms of expression, from documentary to installation, and is known for creating photographs that are disturbing and unusual, but not manipulated. Clément has also directed several short films, including *Fragrant Light/Parfum de lumière* (2002), filmed in Hong Kong and Shanghai and produced by the NFB. His work can be found in many collections in Asia, Europe and North America.

**Claude-Simon Langlois** was born in Boston and used a camera for the first time, as a child, while visiting Expo 67 in Montréal. He began his career in film, but then turned to professional photography – specializing in design, architectural and corporate photography. Over the past 20 years, his career has taken him throughout Canada, the United States and Europe.

## AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE AND ITS TECHNICAL CHALLENGES

The film is shown on a semi-circular screen that is 21 metres wide, 5 metres high and has a curvature of approximately 150 degrees. This creates a new relationship between viewer and film: As the images cannot all be grasped simultaneously, the eye is forced to wander. The challenge was to find the right rhythm, taking into account the size and curvature of the screen.



© Jean-Marie Comeau

The post-production process had to be reinvented for the animated montages consisting of hundreds of high-definition photos, as well as for the integration and superimposition of the images.

The film was edited on a screen smaller than the one on which it will be projected. This meant imagining how each montage would look on a much larger screen, while editing.

The team worked to ensure image quality, given the very particular constraints of the room in which the film screens (size, curvature, lighting).



© Claude-Simon Langlois



© Claude-Simon Langlois



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## ABOUT THE NFB

Canada's public film producer and distributor, the National Film Board of Canada is a creative laboratory world-renowned for its social-issue documentaries, auteur animation, alternative drama and digital content that provide the world with a unique Canadian perspective. Since the NFB's founding in 1939, it has created over 13,000 productions and won over 5,000 awards, including 12 Oscars and more than 90 Genies.