



Jean-Daniel Lafond, C.C., R.C.A., Ch.A&L

Filmmaker, writer

Co-founder, co-chair, executive director, Michaëlle Jean Foundation

Biography

Jean-Daniel Lafond was born in France, where he was a professor of philosophy and a researcher in educational sciences. Visiting Professor at the Université de Montréal in 1974, he opted for exile in Canada and became a Canadian citizen in 1981. He has since devoted his life to filmmaking and writing, with occasional forays into radio broadcasting and theatre.

Jean-Daniel Lafond is the author of some fifteen movies, part of a long lineage of creative documentary filmmaking that includes *Dream Tracks* (1985, nominated for a Genie Award as Best Documentary), *Le voyage au bout de la route* (1987), *Le visiteur d'un soir* (1989), *A State of Blackness: Aimé Césaire's Way* (1991), *Tropic North* (1994 - TV5 Award for best French language documentary), *Freedom Outraged* (1994), *Haiti in All Our Dreams* (1995 - Best Political Documentary, Hot Docs Festival, Toronto 1996), *Last Call for Cuba* (1999 - nominated for best documentary, Gémeaux Awards), *The Barbarian Files* (1999), *Salam Iran, a Persian Letter* (2002 – Gémeaux Award for best documentary), *Le faiseur de théâtre* (2002 - Les Films d'Ici, France), *The Cabinet of Doctor Ferron* (2003 – Gémeaux Award for best documentary), *American Fugitive or The Truth about Hassan* (2006 - nominated for four Gémeaux awards in 2007, selected in over 20 festivals around the world), and *Madwoman of God* (2008).

While pursuing his filmmaking career, Jean-Daniel Lafond has created original radio content (with France-Culture and Radio-Canada), published books, and ventured into theatre. He co-founded in 1998 and presided over until 2005 over the Rencontres internationales du documentaire de Montréal and the Observatoire canadien du documentaire. His films have garnered a number of national and international awards, including the Lumières Award, in 1999. In 2005, Jean-Daniel Lafond was named a Companion of the Order of Canada (C.C.), the highest civilian distinction awarded in Canada. In 2009, he was elected member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (R.C.A.). In 2013, he was appointed Chevalier des Arts et Lettres by the French government. From 2005 to 2010, Jean-Daniel Lafond worked steadfastly towards supporting his wife, The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, in her function as Governor General, Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

In 2010, Jean-Daniel Lafond became Distinguished Senior Fellow with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, at Carleton University in Ottawa, and the founder of Le pouvoir des arts/ Power of the Arts National Forum. Mr. Lafond is also co-chair and Executive Director of the Michaëlle Jean Foundation (www.fmjf.ca), as well as President of the Fondation pour l'avancement du théâtre francophone au Canada (FATFC).

Works

Films

- [*Dream Tracks* \(*Les traces du rêve*\)](#), feature film, production of the National Film Board of Canada, 1986. *
- [*Le voyage au bout de la route ou la Ballade du pays qui attend*](#), feature film, production of the National Film Board of Canada, 1987.
- [*Le visiteur d'un soir*](#), medium-length documentary, production of the National Film Board of Canada, 1989.
- [*A State of Blackness: Aimé Césaire's Way* \(*La Manière Nègre ou Aimé Césaire, chemin faisant*\)](#), feature film, co-production ACPAV (Québec) and RFO (Martinique), Canada-France, 1991. *
- [*Tropic North* \(*Tropique Nord*\)](#), feature film, production ACPAV, Canada, 1994. *
- [*Freedom Outraged* \(*La liberté en colère*\)](#), feature film, production of the National Film Board of Canada, 1994. *
- [*Haiti in All Our Dreams* \(*Haïti dans tous nos rêves*\)](#), feature film, co-production France-Canada, production of InformAction Films and Équipage, 1995. *
- [*Last call for Cuba* \(*L'heure de Cuba*\)](#), feature film, InformAction Films, co-produced with the National Film Board of Canada, 1999. *
- [*The Barbarian Files* \(*Le temps des barbares*\)](#), feature film, production Alterciné, co-produced with the National Film Board of Canada, Rogers Documentary Fund, with the participation of the Théâtre des Fédérés-Montluçon (France), Canada, 1999.
- [*Salam Iran, a Persian Letter* \(*Salam Iran, une lettre persane*\)](#), production of InformAction Films, with Télé-Québec and TV5, Canada, 2002.
- [*Le faiseur de théâtre*](#), medium-length documentary, production of Les Films d'Ici and INA, France, 2002.
- [*The Cabinet of Dr. Ferron* \(*Le Cabinet du Docteur Ferron*\)](#), feature film, production of the National Film Board of Canada, 2003.
- [*The American Fugitive or the Truth about Hassan* \(*Le Fugitif ou les vérités d'Hassan*\)](#), feature film, production of Télé-Québec, Radio-Canada, InformAction Films, Canada, 2006.

* One of six films in the DVD box set "*Truth and Controversy*".

- [*Truth and Controversy \(Vérité et controverse\)*](#), box set of 3 DVDs and 6 films, with interviews with the filmmaker, coproduction with the National Film Board of Canada and Imavision, Canada, 2006.
- [*The Madwoman of God, \(Folle de Dieu\)*](#), feature film, production of the National Film Board of Canada, 2008.
- *A Woman of Purpose, (Un film avec toi)*, Production of InformAction/National Film Board of Canada/Majda Films International, 2015 (to be released April 2016).

Theatre

- *Près du sol* (based on a novel by Émile Guillaumin, 1900), adaptation, script and dramatization : Jean-Daniel Lafond, Olivier Perrier, Angela Serreau. Director: Olivier Perrier, in collaboration with J.-D. Lafond (also actor in the play). Produced by Théâtre des Fédérés-Montluçon/Centre national Dramatique (France). Created in July 2000 as part of the 25th edition of the Rencontres Théâtrales d'Hérison (France).
- *Marie ou la Déraison d'Amour* (based on the writings of Marie Guyart, also known as Marie de l'Incarnation). A theatre proposal, in collaboration with Marie Tifo (2005). Production: Théâtre du Trident (Québec), Théâtre du Nouveau Monde (Montréal) with Marie Tifo. Director: Lorraine Pintal. Performed at Théâtre du Trident (October 2008), Théâtre des Célestins (Lyon), Espace- Legendre (Compiègne). Toured Canada, France and Italy in 2010-2011. Toured in Québec and Canada in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014.

Radio

- *Robert Flaherty, prospecteur et cinéaste ou le rêve d'un prince*, radio drama (4 hours), Atelier de Création radiophonique, Radio-France, 1983.
- *Jacques Cartier, le voyage imaginé*, a series of 13 one-hour broadcasts, a Radio-Canada and Radio-France co-production, 1984.
- *Vol AF033 Paris-Montréal via Fantômas ou Georges Franju, le rêveur immobile*, radio drama, ACR-Radio-France production, 1985.
- *Subsonique*, radio poem with original score by Francis Dhomont, ACR-Radio-France production, 1985.
- *Les traces du rêve ou Pierre Perrault, cinéaste, chasseur et Québécois*, ACR-Radio-France production, 1988.
- *Trois voyages à l'Acadie*, series of three, two-hour broadcasts, ACR-Radio-France production, 1988.
- *Mystère*, original soundtrack created for an animated film series (produced by Animathon, Leduc and Awad), 1987 (Pierrot d'or at the 29th Cannes Festival, Critics' Week, 1990).
- *Chili, la mémoire et l'oubli*, radio drama in 10 episodes, a SCAM (Paris) and Radio-Canada co-production, 1992 (selected for the Grand Prix Paul-Gilson, 1992).
- *La Manière Nègre, genèse d'un film*, radio storytelling production in three, one-hour episodes, 1993.
- *Cinq ballades acadiennes*, radio sequel in five, one-hour episodes, new version of "Trois voyages à l'Acadie", 1994.
- *Tiroirs sonores: des bruits et des voix* ("Fou de la radio", CIBL, April 1996, 90 min.)
- *Les quatre saisons de Pierre Perrault*, conversations, Radio-Canada, 1996.

Books and writings

- *Images d'un doux ethnocide*, (co. Arthur Lamothe), AAVQ, Montréal, 1979.
- *Le film sous influence*, Édilig, Paris, 1983.
- *Les traces du rêve*, Hexagone, Montréal, 1989.
- *La Manière Nègre, Aimé Césaire, chemin faisant*, Hexagone, Montréal, 1993.
- *La liberté en colère, le livre du film*, Hexagone, Montréal, 1994.
- "Au matin du sens" in *Les tours de Babel, la paix après le 11 septembre*, edited by Jean Pichette, Éditions les 400 coups, Montréal, 2002.
- "Écrire avec une caméra", in *L'écriture cinéma au Québec*, Stéphane-Albert Boulais et al., Fides, 2006.
- "Les utopies nécessaire", in *Métier réalisation*, Éditions les 400 coups, 2006.
- *Iran les mots du silence* (contrib. Fred Reed), Éditions Les 400 coups, 2006.
- *Conversations in Tehran* (contrib. Fred Reed), Talon Books, 2006.
- "Le Nègre en soi" in *Ainsi parla l'Oncle*, Jean-Price Mars, Mémoire d'encrier, 2009.
- *La déraison d'amour*, Théâtre, Leméac, 2009.
- *Un désir d'Amérique, fragments nomades*, Éditio-Gallimard, 2015 .

updated: March 2016