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DONOSTIA ZINEMALDIA
FESTIVAL DE SAN SEBASTIAN
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FELIX AND MEIRA

a film by **Maxime Giroux**

A movie poster for the film 'Felix and Meira'. The background is a photograph of a man and a woman in a doorway. The woman, on the left, has long brown hair and is looking down, wearing a dark jacket and a patterned scarf. The man, on the right, is shown in profile, looking towards the woman. The title 'FELIX and MEIRA' is centered in the upper half. Below it, the word 'SYNOPSIS' is written in a smaller, teal font. Two paragraphs of text describe the plot: Felix is an eccentric, penniless French Canadian whose wealthy father is dying; Meira is a Hasidic woman married with a child, searching for something new. They fall in love despite their differences. A final paragraph states that the film tells their miraculous love story.

FELIX and MEIRA

SYNOPSIS

Felix is an eccentric and penniless French Canadian whose wealthy father is dying. Meira is a Hasidic woman married with a child, searching for something new. They were not meant to meet, let alone fall in love.

Felix and Meira tells the miraculous love story between two separate beings from two distinct communities, who attempt to love each other despite what separates them.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Maxime Giroux

In Montreal, Mile-End is a multiethnic neighbourhood next to Outremont, accommodating one of the most significant Ultra-Orthodox communities in the world, after Jerusalem, New York and London. At the start of the 20th century, Montreal was called "little Jerusalem."

In my late twenties, as I was preparing to shoot my first feature film, I moved to this neighbourhood and was immediately intrigued by its inhabitants, particularly the Hasids. Through research and observation, my interest in them only increased until it became a fascination, a fascination that has led to Felix and Meira.

Felix and Meira is a wide-ranging film that takes us to Montreal, New York and Venice. The film forays into the universe of Hasidism, whose people are dispersed throughout the world. It tells an unexpected encounter between two distinct communities, closed and open in their own way, that border each other without actually communicating. Above all, the film is an encounter between two marginalized people; two fragile beings who are attracted by the unattainable, the forbidden fruit.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (Contd.)

Maxime Giroux

Felix and Meira is Felix, a child at heart who resists becoming a man; Felix, atheist, bereaved and solitary, looking for love for all the wrong reasons and understanding too late the seriousness of his actions. And it is Meira, the bright Hasidic Jewish wife and mother, who allows herself to explore other places of knowledge; Meira, who risks being disowned by her community by tasting this forbidden freedom; Meira who fervently finds, through Felix, the lightness of a childhood she never had.

The film is also an encounter between the Quebecois Francophone society and the Ultra-Orthodox Jewish community of Montreal. Due to its diverse and numerous contrasts, the film explores this surprising cohabitation that reaches outside the boundaries. I filmed with the themes of vulnerability and febrility in mind, and above all, wanted the camera to find the characters' humanity.

Felix and Meira is the madness of Felix and the poetry of Meira, two opposite people who mutually enter into an impossible love story at the risk of losing everything. The film is rooted in this cinematic archetype, with a naturalistic formal varnish.



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Maxime Giroux has directed several short films, including *Red (Le Rouge au sol)* and *The Days (Les Jours)*, which have been shown at over fifty festivals. The films have won some fifteen international awards, including best short film at TIFF and the FNC, and a 2007 Genie Award for best short film.

Tomorrow (Demain), his first feature film, was selected for official competition at Torino and earned a special jury mention at Tübingen. *Jo for Jonathan (Jo pour Jonathan)*, his second feature film, had its world premiere at the Locarno International Film Festival in 2010. It then screened at some forty film festivals. Along the way, it won the Prix Gilles-Carle for best film at the RVCQ, the Prix AQCC for best film at the FNC, the Cinema and the City Award at Thessaloniki, the best film award at the Gotham Film Festival and two best actor awards for Raphaël Lacaille at Gotham and Whistler. He directed a short film called *Head Down (La Tête en bas)* in 2013, before shooting his third feature film *Felix and Meira*.



CAST

FELIX	Martin Dubreuil
MEIRA	Hadas Yaron
SHULEM	Luzer Twersky
CAROLINE	Anne-Élisabeth Bossé
THÉODORE	Benoît Girard
ISAAC	Josh Dolgin (Socalled)
RUTH	Melissa Weisz

CREW

Producers	Sylvain Corbeil Nancy Grant
Screenwriters	Alexandre Laferrière Maxime Giroux
Director	Maxime Giroux
Director of Photography	Sara Mishara
Editor	Mathieu Bouchard-Malo
Costume Designer	Patricia McNeil
Artistic Director	Louisa Schabas
Sound Design	Frédéric Cloutier
Music	Olivier Alary
Make-Up & Hairdresser	Audray Adam

Canada - 2014 - 105' - 2.35 - 5.1 - 24fps - Color - French / English / Yiddish



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