



FRENCH TEAMS AND PROJECTS- US & FRENCH CONNECTION 2018

A ROOSTER ON THE FIRE ESCAPE directed and written by Guetty Felin and produced by Danielle Dreis and Murielle Thierrin. **FEATURE FILM**

Synopsis: Hector Celestin uproots his family from Haiti to protect them, but can he really keep them safe in America as past secrets threaten to destroy them. (Drama)
Leaving behind them the Duvalier dictatorship's spiral of violence, the Celestin clan settles into an apartment between Black and Spanish Harlem in New York City. The aftermath of the Vietnam War, the women's rights movement, Black is Beautiful, high unemployment, youth culture, the power of television, drugs and political cynicism make 1970s America a place of great confusion and chaos for this close-knit family. Hector, the father, lives in the hope of soon returning home and makes no effort to integrate or assimilate. But when he finds out his house in Haiti has been firebombed and that the violence there is far from abating, he is forced to reconsider his life in America. Unable to find work as a lawyer, he eventually accepts his brother's offer to work as a clerk in a bottle factory in Long Island. As the parents wallow in nostalgia and accept their condition as political exiles, America, for the children, becomes a place for new encounters and enriching experiences. Life in America is not easy for the Celestins, but it is filled with love and a strong sense of loyalty towards one another, until one day a character from the past interrupts their lives.

Bios:

Guetty Felin, writer, Director.

Born in Port-au-Prince Haiti, raised in New York and came of age cinematically in Paris, Guetty Felin is an award-winning writer/director/producer of both documentaries and narrative films. "Ayiti Mon Amour", her feature narrative debut premiered international at the Toronto International Film Festival and is currently touring the festival circuit. The film was recently bought by Orange Studio for distribution in France in the fall of 2017. The documentary "Broken Stones" on selfrecovery in post quake Haiti has been selected in over two dozen festivals around the world. It garnered two grand prize awards at the Belize International Film Festival and at the FEMI in Guadeloupe. In the fall of of 2003 she moved to Haiti where she was head

programmer for Festival Film Jankel and director of the first cinema workshops; which planted the seeds for the creation of Cine Institute Haiti's only film school on the southeastern coast of the island. In 2008 she co-directed with her husband Hervé Cohen "Obama, Closer to the Dream" on the historical democratic primary campaign. This hour film made for French TV was the most watched documentary in all of France's television history. Guetty's first film "Hal Singer, Keep the Music Going" portrait of the father of rhythm and blues Hal "Cornbread" Singer, a movie about African-American Jazz unsung hero in self-imposed exile in Paris won her a special Kodak award in 1999, toured the festival circuit world-wide and garnered several prizes. She also wrote, directed and produced a short documentary : "Uptown" about the Apollo Theater and the gentrification of Harlem. She is the co-founder of BelleMoon Productions. When she is not working on her own films Guetty is producing and/or showcasing/distributing the works of her colleagues. She was honored by the Women's Film Institute in 2014 as one of the most vital figures in film, television and media in the San Francisco Bay Area. Guetty is currently packaging and casting her upcoming narrative project "A Rooster On The Fire Escape", a story of family.

Murielle Thierrin, Producer:

Screenwriter and producer, Murielle Thierrin studied management and finance in Paris, then cinema at the University of California (UCLA). Back in France, she created her own production company, ALDABRA Films. Producing movies like "In Gold We Trust" by Eric Besnard and "L'Homme de Chevet" by Alain Monne. She also worked with Sophie Marceau on a movie in Colombia in 2008. In 2007, she wrote her first feature film along with Barthélemy Grossman. "13m2" was released in July 2010 and selected in many major festivals (Hong Kong 2008, Singapore 2009, Taormina). In 2014 and 2015 Murielle successively produced with director Virginie Khan two short films about raising awareness on the systems set up by the Observatory of the violence against the women. In 2016 Murielle was the co-producer for "The jungle's law", a long feature film directed by Antonin Peretjatko, shot in French Guiana with Mathieu Almaric, Vimala Pons, Vincent Macaigne. It was released in June 2016. With her associate Florent Lamy, in 2014, they have founded the first talent management company in France, Elevate Artist Management, representing foreign actors in France, then Europe, becoming the first management agency.

MOOCHIE directed by Samuel Collardey and produced by Martine Dorin. *Moochie* is a six-part documentary miniseries about a murder case, shot as events unfold, from police investigation to the jury's final verdict.

Synopsis: The series follows the case of Dayonte Resiles, a young black man accused of the murder of Jill Halliburton Su, a wealthy heiress living in Forst Lauderdale, Florida. Through the eyes of six main characters, all having a different look on the case, the troubling personality of the character unfolds.

About the writer/director: Samuel Collardey is an award winning French Director and cinematographer, known for his work in the docufiction genre (A Polar Year, The Apprentice,

Land Legs) and for his directing work on the critically acclaimed political thriller television series The Bureau.

About Geko Films: Geko Films is a French Films company specialized in art house movies as well as international co-productions. Recent productions include: *Sheherazade* (Cannes Film Festival), *A polar year* (Sundance), *Land Legs* (Venice Mostra), *Gente de Bien* (Cannes)