

*ciné*SARNIA Winter 2009 presents:

No Hit, No Run Summer



Director: Francis Leclerc

Cast: Patrice Robitaille, Pierre-Luc Funk, Jacinthe Lague, Roy Dupuis

Year: 2008

Runtime: 104 minutes

Country: Canada

Language: French with English Subtitles

Distributor: Alliance Films

Ratings: ON NR / BC NR / AB NR / SK NR / MB NR / QC NR / Maritmes NR

A No Hit, No Run Summer *Un Ete Sans Point Ni Coup Sur*

During the fabled summer of 1969 in Montreal, the Expos gained wide exposure and families gathered around the television to watch the lunar landing. In the same vein as Jean-Marc Vallée's landmark film *C.R.A.Z.Y.*, *A No-Hit, No-Run Summer* renders a deeply personal story of adolescence while simultaneously depicting Quebec's own coming of age. The film is the newest work from acclaimed director Francis Leclerc, whose *Mémoires affectives* screened to great success at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival®.

The loss of childhood innocence and the transition into adulthood is a theme shared among a number of recent Quebec films. Painted in hues of wood paneling and sepia-toned film stock, the film looks back lovingly and longingly to a time and place where possibilities seemed endless. In suburban Montreal, twelve-year-old Martin (Pierre-Luc Funk) yearns to become a baseball whiz, and eagerly watches every Expos game he can. After trying out for the local softball league, Martin is disheartened to learn he did not make the cut. His father Charles (Patrice Robitaille, *Cheech, The Rocket*), however, has a plan. He starts up a separate team for all of those kids who need to find another route to the big league.

A No-Hit, No-Run Summer works so well because the Leclerc maintains control of a perfect tone. Charles's lack of baseball knowledge provides some of the humour, but it is his love for his son that drives him to create the oddball league. Buoyed by superb art direction – '69 was a beige-soaked year, often seen through a Super 8 camera – Leclerc brings Marc Robitaille's celebrated novel to the big screen with tenderness and respect.