



# Pierre Hébert

## Film director and multidisciplinary artist

Pierre Hébert was born in Montreal in 1944. In 1965, he abandoned his studies in anthropology and joined the National Film Board of Canada as film director. In 1996, he became producer and director of the animation/youth studio of the French program until 1999 when he left the NFB. He is now an independent filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist.

From 1965 to 1971, he directed experimental animation films that explore perception phenomena. Later, although remaining faithful to an experimental outlook, his works focused more on social and political concerns. By 1983, his films started to develop from multidisciplinary projects with musicians, choreographers and writers. From 1991 to 1996, he worked on a feature film, *La Plante humaine*, which was released in Montreal and Paris, and which won the AQCC/SODEC award for the best Quebec feature of the year.

By 1986, he invented an unusual kind of performance (live scratched animation) which takes him to performances in many countries in Europe and North America with musicians such as Fred Frith, Robert Marcel Lepage, Jean Derome, René Lussier, and Bob Ostertag whom he met in 1989. Since then Ostertag and Hébert have collaborated on many projects, the most recent being *Between Science and Garbage* in which computers are used to process live animated images.

He writes regularly in a number of art and film magazines, and in 1999 published a book *L'Ange et l'automate* (Les 400 coups, Montreal). He was awarded several important prizes, including The Norman McLaren Award (1988), a Bessy award (New York Dance and Performance Award) (1987), Melkweg Cinema Award for Reality Research, Amsterdam (1985), and the Prix Aqec-Olivieri (1993), for the best theoretical article on cinema.

### Main films.

**La Plante humaine** (1996, 78min.), **The Love letter** (1988, 16 min.), **Adieu bipède** (1987, 16 min.), **O Picasso – tableaux d'une surexposition** (1986, 20 min.), **Songs and Dances of the inanimate world – The Subway** (1986, 14 min.), **Étienne et Sara** (1984, 15 min.), **Memories of War** (1982, 16 min.), **Entre chiens et loup** (1978, 22 min.), **Santa Claus is coming tonight** (1974, 12 min.), **Around Perception** (1968, 16 min.), **Opus 3** (1967, 7 min.), **Op Hop** (1965, 3 min.)

### Main live scratched animation projects:

**Fleuve, (River)** 2000/01, with video artist Éric Gagnon ☐ **Sooner or later** 1990/91, ☐ with Bob Ostertag, Taktlos festival, Switzerland, and San Francisco,; **La Plante humaine** 1990-91, ☐ with Robert Marcel Lepage, Montreal et other cities in Canada and abroad; **Adieu Leonardo** 1987, with Jean Derome, Robert Marcel Lepage and René Lussier,; **Conversation** 1987, with Louise Bédard, Robert Marcel Lepage and Sylvie Massicotte.

### Musical shows and dance projects:

**Météore** (in progress) choregraphy by Louise Bédard with Louise Lecavalier; **Entre basura y ciencia** 2000, with Bob Ostertag et Baltasar Lopez,; **Spiral** 1996, with Bob Ostertag; **Braise Blanche** 1991, choregraphy by Louise Bédard; **In Memory** 1989, with Fred Frith; **The Technology of Tears** 1987, choregraphy by Rosalind Newman; **Timber** 1986, choregraphy by Ginette Laurin; **Confitures de Gagaku** 1986, ☐ with Jean Derome.

