



RENÉ LÉVESQUE—THREE-PART DRAMA LOOKS AT THE PERSONAL AND POLITICAL LIFE OF ONE OF CANADA’S MOST CHARISMATIC POLITICIANS, THURSDAY, SEPT. 7, 14 AND 21 ON CBC-TV

He was revered and, at times, reviled by Canadians. He was also one of the most influential and charismatic politicians in Canadian history. But who really was this chain-smoking charmer, this passionate, eloquent former Premier of La Belle Province, whom many regard as the spiritual leader of sovereignty and the father of the modern Quebec nation?

CBC Television presents a three-part, six-hour dramatic miniseries that shines the spotlight on René Lévesque. **RENÉ LÉVESQUE** will telecast over three consecutive weeks, beginning Thursday, Sept. 7, continuing Sept. 14, and concluding Sept. 21, all at 8 p.m.

Emmanuel Bilodeau stars as René Lévesque. Playing the women in his life are Pascale Bussières (Louise L’Heureux, his first wife), Lucie Laurier (Corinne Côté, his great love) and Marie Tifo (his mother). The miniseries also features Gilles Renaud (Jean Lesage), Pierre Gendron (Pierre Elliott Trudeau), Pierre Brassard (Robert Bourassa), Frank Schorpion (Eric Kierans), Roc Lafortune (Gérard Pelletier), Roger Léger (Jean Marchand) and Patrice Godin (Jacques Parizeau).

The story begins in 1958, with Lévesque at the peak of his career as one of the most highly respected television journalists in Quebec, and ends with the October Crisis of 1970, and the murder of Quebec Labour Minister Pierre Laporte. The miniseries closely examines the tumultuous relationship between Lévesque, then Premier Jean Lesage and the provincial Liberal party, as Quebec emerges from the dark days of Duplessis into the light of the Quiet Revolution.

The drama covers the pivotal moments of his political career—Lévesque’s intelligence and foresight in nationalizing electricity, his engagement in social reform, his growing bitterness toward the federal government, and, finally, his role in the founding of the Parti Québécois.

The series also looks at Lévesque’s relationships—in his personal life, and with such key figures as Jean Marchand, Gérard Pelletier, Jacques Parizeau, Robert Bourassa, Eric Kierans, and his never-ending battle with Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Filmed simultaneously in both English and French, the series is produced by Claudio Luca (*Il Duce Canadese, The Last Chapter I and II, The Boys of St. Vincent*) and directed by Giles Walker (*Il Duce Canadese, Princes in Exile*). Written by Geneviève Lefebvre (*Hommes en quarantaine, Freddy, Tribu.com III*), the miniseries draws on Pierre Godin’s official biographies of René Lévesque. Godin acted as a consultant on the screenplay.

RENÉ LÉVESQUE is produced by Ciné Télé Action in association with CBC Television and Radio-Canada.

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