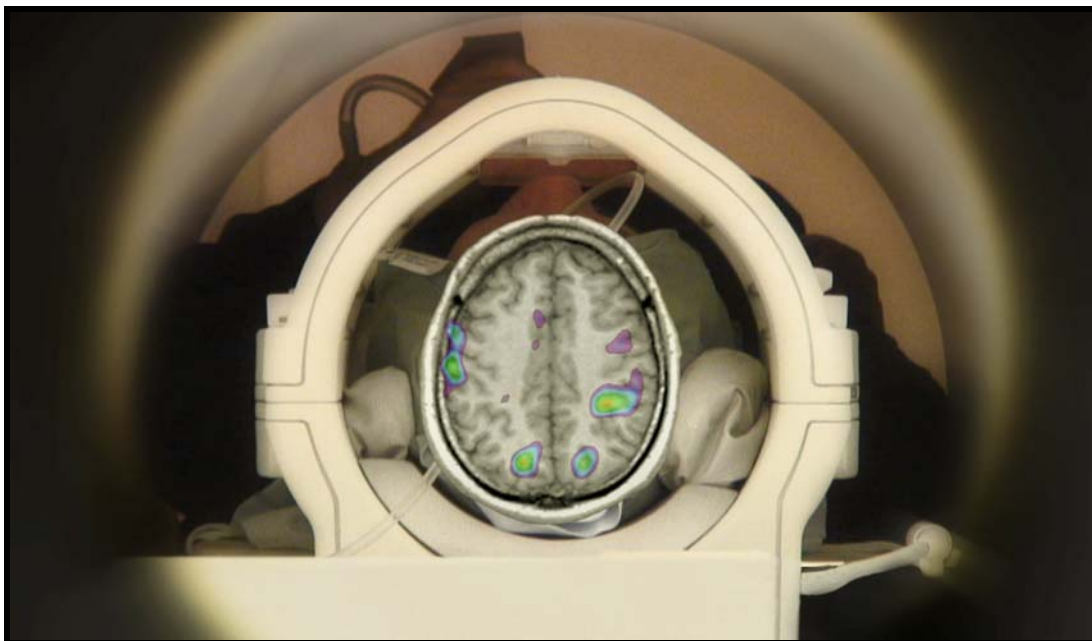


Mind in Motion

A film by Philippe Baylaucq,
Françoise Lindeman and Véronique Maison
produced by Nathalie Barton and Maurice Ribière



Taking us on an inward adventure, *Mind in Motion* probes the mechanisms that enable us to apprehend the world. Amazing experiments on perception, learning and attention reveal aspects of brain function that will transform how we understand human beings and society.

With the help of internationally renowned scientists at the leading edge of this new research, the film tries to pierce the mystery of consciousness and see what makes us different – or not – from other animals.

PRESS KIT

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A film by Philippe Baylaucq, Françoise Lindeman and Véronique Maison
produced by InformAction and La Compagnie des Taxi-Brousse

Credits

Québec/Canada – France, 2008, HD Digital Video, color, stereo, 52'

Research, Script and Interviews	Françoise Lindeman
Writing Collaboration	Philippe Baylaucq
	Catherine Fol
Original Idea	Catherine Fol
Directed by	Philippe Baylaucq
Photography	Nedjma Berder
Sound Recording	Patrick Mauroy
Edited by	Véronique Maison
Sound Editing	Benoît Dame
	Patrick Rioux
Sound Mix	Jean-Pierre Bissonnette
Digital Effects	Guillaume Millet
Music	Frédérique Lagnau
Production	Nathalie Barton (InformAction)
	Maurice Ribièrre (Taxi-Brousse)

Produced by
InformAction

in coproduction with

La Compagnie des Taxi-Brousse

with the participation of

Canadian Television Fund
created by the Government of Canada and the Canadian Cable Industry

Government of Québec
(Film and Television Tax Credit - Gestion SODEC)

SODEC
Société de développement des entreprises culturelles - Québec

Rogers Documentary Fund

Government of Canada
(The Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit)

Centre National de la Cinématographie

PROCIREP – Société des producteurs
ANGO A

With the collaboration of
Télé-Québec
TFO
and
ARTE France

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Long Summary

How is it possible for a blind person to see with his tongue? How can sight be used to alleviate pain in an amputated limb? There's a revolution happening in neuroscience with the exploration of brain dynamics: it's an upheaval that's as important as Galileo's discovery that the Earth is not the centre of the universe.

New experiments, confirmed by medical imaging, show that our brain is an organ that is always evolving, endlessly creating new circuits and constructing itself by constantly adapting to the external world. These stunning breakthroughs reveal aspects of brain function that will transform our understanding of human beings and society.

Taking us on an inward adventure, *Mind in Motion* probes the mechanisms that enable us to apprehend the world. Amazing experiments in perception, learning and attention raise questions about who we are. How is thought formed? How is consciousness related to the body and the environment? In the transmission of knowledge, how much is genetic and how much is cultural?

With the help of internationally renowned scientists at the leading edge of this new research, the film tries to pierce the mystery of consciousness and see what makes us different – or not – from other animals.

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The Scientists

Professor **Walter J. Freeman** has taught neuroscience at the University of California, Berkeley for 50 years and is the head of its Neurophysiology Lab and Laboratory for Nonlinear Neurodynamics. A medical doctor, mathematician and philosopher, he conducted pioneering research on the neural mechanisms of perception. He argues that everything we know is constructed by brain dynamics.



Brains are not fixed, hard-wired organs, a sort of black box with stimuli going in and out. They are dynamic systems that create meaning through interactions with the environment and with each other. His numerous publications include *Societies of Brains* and *How Brains Make up Their Minds*.

Professor **Maurice Ptito** teaches at the Université de Montréal School of Optometry, where he holds the prestigious Harland Sanders Research Chair in Vision Sciences. Dividing his time between Denmark and Quebec, he is engaged in prolific research on development and plasticity of the visual system in humans and animals. Carrying on the revolutionary though long-disparaged work of Paul Bach-y-Rita (who died in 2007), he is experimenting with an electro-tactile device that enables congenitally blind subjects to “see” with their tongues.

Lionel Naccache is a neurologist at Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris and a researcher in cognitive neuroscience with the INSERM Cognitive Neuroimaging Unit in Orsay. His clinical and scientific practice focus on researching the foundations of consciousness and investigating consciousness disorders in his patients. He is the author of the acclaimed book *Le Nouvel Inconscient* (“The New Unconscious,” 2006).

Professor Vilayanur S. Ramachandran

is a neurologist and Director of the Center for Brain and Cognition at the University of California, San Diego. Dubbed “the Marco Polo of neuroscience,” he brings great practical sense and creativity to his field of study and has had remarkable success with elegantly simple treatment methods, such as visual feedback for resolving pain in



phantom limbs or accelerating recovery after paralysis from stroke. He also does work on autism. Questioning the fixed modular approach to brain function, he argues that the functions are in a state of dynamic equilibrium, a radical new approach that has a profound impact on our understanding of consciousness disorders and mental disorders. He is the author of *Phantoms in the Brain* and *A Brief Tour of Human Consciousness*.

Dr. Bruno van Swinderen ran a research lab for nine years at the Neurosciences Institute in San Diego, California, where he studied mechanisms of perception and cognition in fruit flies and how they are affected by phenomena such as selective attention, sleep and general anaesthesia. He is currently pursuing the same line of research in his Visual Perception Laboratory at the Queensland Brain Institute in Australia.

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The Production Company

InformAction, founded in Montreal in 1971, produces single documentaries and mini-series on social issues, international affairs, art, world cultures and human rights. Many have won awards and all are distributed internationally.

InformAction produces on a regular basis for Canadian prime-time television (Radio-Canada, CBC, Télé-Québec, Canal D, TV5, Artv, Bravo) and has done several successful international coproductions, in particular with France. Several projects are currently in development with La compagnie des taxi-brousse.

Latest titles include **Shock Waves** by Pierre Mignault & Hélène Magny (*Film Most Likely to Change the World Award @ Detroit Docs 2007, CIDA Award for best Canadian documentary on international development @ Hot Docs 2008*), **A Dream for Kabul** by Philippe Baylaucq and **Afghan Chronicles** by Dominic Morissette, both coproduced with the National Film Board of Canada, **American Fugitive: The Truth about Hassan** by Jean-Daniel Lafond (Hot Docs 2006, Marseille 2006, FNC Montreal 2006, Dubai 2006, DocuDays - Beirut 2006), **The Magic Touch** (3 *Gémeaux Awards* 2005, including *Best Cultural Documentary*), **Lifelike** by Tally Abecassis (3 nominations at the *Gemini Awards* including *Best Science/Nature Documentary*, Vancouver VIFF 2005, Hot Docs 2005, SXSW 2006), **The Genocide in Me** (*Best International Feature @ Staten Island 2006; Finalist for the Pierre and Yolande Perrault Award 2005 – Best emerging documentary director – and for the Ruth and Alex Dworkin Award for Tolerance 2005, Finalist for the Golden Sheaf Award for Best Point of View Documentary 2006*).

InformAction was founded by Alain d'Aix, Jean-Claude Bürger and Nathalie Barton, who still run the company. Nathalie Barton, producer, was documentary representative and member of the Executive of the Association des producteurs de films et de télévision du Québec from 1994 to 2002.