CARTOON LEGENDARY CHARACTER, MICHEL VAILLANT MAKES A GRAND COMEBACK AT LE MANS 24 HOURS WITH MOTUL AND REBELLION RACING

This year, Graton Éditeur, Motul and REBELLION Racing are joining forces to bring Michel Vaillant, the legendary fictional character, back to life for the Le Mans 24 Hours and throughout the FIA WEC World Endurance Championship. The three partners have come up with a highly original concept, at the crossroads of fiction and reality, to pay tribute to the most famous of all fictional racing drivers.

For the first time in twenty years and to honour the occasion, a new cartoon album will be released on 26th May: a living breathing Vaillante Rebellion team will be ready to race in two exclusive “Vaillantes” on the circuits of the World Endurance Championship starting with the legendary Le Mans 24 Hours.

MICHEL VAILLANT, THE MYTHICAL CARTOON RACING DRIVER

Michel Vaillant, the great hero of French cartoons and motor racing, was created by Jean Graton in 1957. 2017 will see his grand comeback to mark his 60th birthday!

The success of the series lays in the realism of the drawings, the places and the situations. Plus, not all the characters are fictional. As the series continues, we see Michel Vaillant meeting famous racing drivers such as Gilles Villeneuve and Jacky Ickx.

For sixty years, this legendary fictional character has been an inspiration for many racing drivers.

MICHEL VAILLANT, REBELLION RACING, MOTUL AND THE LE MANS 24 HOURS, A LONG HISTORY OF RACING ENTHUSIASTS!

10th year for REBELLION Racing, 13th album for Michel Vaillant, 63rd year for Motul... Le Mans holds no secrets for these three partners!

In fact, this is where Michel Vaillant launched his cartoon career 60 years ago in the first album entitled “Le Grand Défi”. Over 100 albums and 20 millions copies sold later, he is back with Rebellion.

As comfortable behind the steering wheel of an F1 car in Monaco as at the Le Mans 24 Hours or the Indy, or on the roads of Monte-Carlo or the tracks of Dakar, Michel Vaillant owes his exceptional success as much to his truly spectacular results on the track as to his human qualities such as courage and loyalty.

A UNIQUE CONCEPT AT THE CROSSROADS OF FICTION AND REALITY

An exceptional character and an exceptional concept! This year for the Le Mans 24 Hours, Michel Vaillant will step out of the pages of fiction and into the real world thanks to Motul and REBELLION Racing, the Swiss stable.

Philippe Graton, the writer of Michel Vaillant, revealed the cover of the next album in the Michel Vaillant series, which was produced in partnership with the international specialist manufacturer of high-performance lubricants Motul. Entitled Rébellion, its release is set for 26 May 2017.

The Vaillante Rebellion team – THE REAL ONE – will be on the starting line of the Le Mans circuit in two exclusive “Vaillantes”, an Oreca 07 Gibson LMP2 powered by a Gibson V8 engine lubricated with Motul 300V 5W30 Power Racing, and decked out in the colours of the legendary Vaillant stable for the occasion.

Mathias Beche and Nelson Piquet Jr. will wear the number 13 while Nicolas Prost and Bruno Senna will wear the number 31. Each duo will be joined by a third amateur driver: David Heinemeier Hansson (13) and Julien Canal (31).

I’M HAPPY AND PROUD OF BEING THE PILOT OF A “VAILLANTE” AT LE MANS 24 HOURS AND DURING THE FIA WEC WORLD ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP. IT MEANS A LOT TO ME, MICHEL VAILLANT IS A LEGEND IN MOTOR SPORTS FOR FRENCH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO DEFEND VAILLANTE COLOURS.

DID YOU KNOW? WHY THE NUMBER 13?

The number 13 was not chosen by chance for the Vaillant Rebellion team! In fact, it is a highly symbolic number in the life of Michel Vaillant as well as the world of motor racing.

It refers to the mythical album in the series entitled “Le 13 au Départ”.

In this album, Michel Vaillant dares to wear the number everyone else fears.

- The new Rébellion album will feature Michel Vaillant taking part in the Le Mans 24 Hours for the 13th time.
- For many years, REBELLION Racing has worn the number 13 in the LMP1 category.

Motul official partner of Le Mans 24 Hours

60 years of shared history between the Automobile Club de l’Ouest and Motul and will add a new dimension to their partnership in 2018: Motul is now the official supplier of lubricants at the World Endurance Championship and Le Mans 24 Hours.

In 2017, all LMP2 category vehicles will be uniquely powered by Gibson Technology, developed with Motul technical support. Motul will provide all the teams with its 300V 5W30 Power Racing oil.

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