

# The 26<sup>th</sup> Singapore French Film Festival 2010

30 SEPTEMBER - 10 OCTOBER

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## The 26<sup>th</sup> Singapore French Film Festival

For the past 26 years, The Singapore French Film Festival has brought the French language, arts, history, culture and daily lives to audiences in Singapore. This year, action, adventure and documentaries are added to a rich programme which will be kicked off with Luc Besson's humorous, brave and bold heroine on a quest - **The Extraordinary Adventures of Adèle Blanc-Sec** - a tale of a quest set in Paris in the years before and after World War I.

**Little Nicholas** by Laurent Tirard will be screened as the festival's closing film telling the story of a little boy's happy existence until it unexpectedly changed forever - his mother is pregnant!

## A Tribute to Jean-Pierre Melville

This year's festival will showcase a collection of works by Jean-Pierre Melville (October 20, 1917 – August 2, 1973), an independent French filmmaker known for his tragic, minimalist film noirs which included *The Samurai*, 1967 and *The Red Circle*, 1969.

Award-winning movies which will be screened during the festival include *Heartbeat Detector*, *Welcome*, and *Summer Hours*.

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## A Brief history of The Singapore French Film Festival

The Singapore French Film Festival was inaugurated in October 1985. It was then known as "*La Semaine du Cinéma*". The selection of films presented from 20 to 25 October 1985 did not focus on the latest films being screened exclusively at the Champs-Élysées. Rather, a selection of movies was made from the numerous productions of the three or four preceding years. It represented a general picture, subjective of course, of the French filmmakers of that time. "*La Semaine du Cinéma*" brought to the island-state French films which had never before been screened in Singapore.

Organisers:



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## Venues

The Alliance Française Theatre, The Cathay Cineplex & The Picturehouse

## Ticketing Information

Tickets for movies shown at the Alliance Française Theatre are available at all SISTIC outlets island-wide.

Tickets and programme booklets are available at all SISTIC outlets from 10 September 2010 and at The Cathay Cineplexes from 16 September.

## Pricing (inclusive of SISTIC fee):

\$10.00 and \$9.00 (concession tickets\*).

Please call the SISTIC Hotline for more information: 6348 5555 or visit [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)

Tickets for movies shown at The Cathay Cineplex and The Picturehouse are available at the Box Office at The Cathay Cineplex, 2 Handy Road, Singapore 229233.

\$10.00 and \$9.00 (concession tickets\*).

\* Concession tickets are available only upon presentation of valid membership cards from Alliance Française or the Singapore Film Society. One concession ticket per member per screening.

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OPENING FILM

ACTION

ADVENTURE

# LES AVENTURES EXTRAORDINAIRES D'ADÈLE BLANC-SEC

Thursday 30 September 7.30pm  
The Grand Cathay  
By Invitation Only

Friday 1 October 8.00pm  
AF Theatre



## The Extraordinary Adventures of Adèle Blanc-Sec

In French with English subtitles

Rating: TBA

Director: Luc Besson

France, 2010, 105mins

Cast: Louise Bourgoin, Mathieu Amalric, Gilles Lellouche,  
Jean-Paul Rouve, Jacky Nercessian, Philippe Nahon

The film takes place before The Great War in Paris 1912. A 136 million year old pterodactyl egg within the museum of natural history hatches and wreaks havoc on the citizens of Paris, and it's up to Adèle Blanc-Sec to investigate and stop it. Adèle has been on a quest to find a doctor to save her little twin sister. She must save a crazy expert who has brought the pterodactyl to life, so he can bring an Egyptian mummy back to life, and it can in turn use ancient magic to revive her sister, who has been dead or in a coma for four years following a bizarre tennis accident. This is a comic imbroglio adapted from the 1970's graphic novels of Jacques Tardi and brought to the screen by Luc Besson.

The Extraordinary Adventures of Adèle Blanc-Sec is featured at the 26<sup>th</sup> Singapore French Film Festival courtesy of The Cathay Organisation

In cinemas 4 November

# DIRECTOR OF THE OPENING FILM LUC BESSON



Luc Besson is perhaps best known in this part of the world for movies such as *Nikita*, *The Big Blue* and *The Fifth Element*. Born on 18 March 1959, he has worked on over 50 films, spanning 26 years, as writer, director, and/or producer. He was nominated for Best Director and Best Picture César Awards for his films *Léon (The Professional)* and *The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc*. He won Best Director and Best French Director for his film *The Fifth Element*.

The following is an extract on an interview with Luc Besson on *The Extraordinary Adventures of Adèle Blanc-Sec*.

## Meeting Jacques Tardi

"I first fell in love with his heroine, Adèle, about ten years ago. I tried to contact Tardi, but unfortunately he had agreed to do Adèle with another director. At the time, I was a bit saddened, but pleased that he had chosen a "great" director and wished him the best of luck. I waited impatiently to see the movie, which never came out. After three or four years, I called Tardi back and he told me he'd fallen out with that particular director and filmmakers in general. He rejected the whole idea of a movie adaptation. I had to convince him to reconsider. We met several times. We needed to reassure him, prove our credentials and wait another year to buy back the rights that his agent had sold to someone else. After six years of waiting and negotiating, Tardi finally agreed to sell me the rights to his Adèle."

## Adapting the comic book

"I wrote the first draft of the adaptation, staying very faithful to the comic book, Tardi's universe and the underlying characteristics of Adèle Blanc-Sec. I gave my script to Tardi in a state of undisguised anxiety. It was nerve racking in the sense that he wrote the comic book and I had made his character my own by adapting it. But I struck lucky because he read the script and said, "It's great!" He recognized his comic book and character, and at the same time discovered a film adaptation of them, not just the transposition of his story into moving pictures. That really won him over. The only change he asked for was to the name of one of his characters."

## The actors

"I was very lucky on this shoot. All the actors gave me everything they had and they all contributed so much."

– Luc Besson

Interview courtesy of InnoForm Media Pte Ltd and Cathay Keris Films Pte Ltd

## LOUP

Sunday 10 October 2.30pm  
AF Theatre



## Wolf

In French with English subtitles

Rating: TBA

Director: Nicolas Vanier

France, 2009, 102mins

Cast: Nicolas Brioude, Pom Klementieff, Min Man Ma,  
Vantha Talisman, Bernard Wong, Gurgon Kyap,  
Kaveil Kem, Vassiliev Guerassine

16-year-old Sergueï is a nomadic reindeer herder, one of many who live in the wild mountains of eastern Siberia. Sergueï's clan is led by his father Boris and is made up of four families. Collectively, they own a herd of 3,000 reindeer which they drive from one pasture to another as the seasons change. The main threat is the wolf, for whom the reindeer is a delicacy. From an early age, Sergueï has been taught to chase and kill the wolves without pity. But one day, he has an encounter with his ancient lupine adversary that will shatter his certainties. How could he harm the helpless litter of wolf cubs? But Sergueï knows that by sheltering and protecting them he will be breaking with thousands of years of tradition, as well as betraying his father and his clan...

Wolf is featured at the 26<sup>th</sup> Singapore French Film Festival courtesy of Golden Village Pictures Pte Ltd



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CRIME

THRILLER

# BANLIEUE 13 : ULTIMATUM

Friday 8 October 9.15pm  
AF Theatre



## District 13: Ultimatum

In French with English subtitles

Rating: NC16 - Violence

Director: Patrick Alessandrin

France, 2009, 101mins

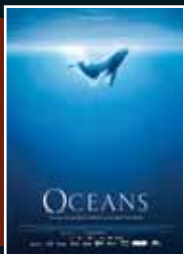
Cast: Cyril Raffaelli, David Belle, Philippe Torreton,  
Daniel Duval, Elodie Yung, MC Jean Gab'1,  
James Deano, Laouni Mouhid

Captain Damien Tomaso is framed at home with three kilograms of heroine after a successful mission against the drug lords. The drugs were planted by the police in his kitchen and he is arrested. Meanwhile a group of teenagers film the action of dirty agents led by Roland from the security agency executing policemen in their car and then leaving the car with the corpses in the 13th District to blame the gangs and begin a civil war. Behind these events, the corrupt chief of the security agency Walter Gassman had received a huge amount as kickback from the constructor Harriburton who wishes to construct buildings in the poor area and uses the situation to force the President of France to authorize to destroy five towers in the district. The teenager with the film is hunted by the police but he delivers the memory card to Leito. Damien calls him from the precinct asking for help. The friends team-up with five dangerous bosses to gather evidences to prove to the president that Gassman has provoked the conflict in their district.

District 13: Ultimatum is featured at the 26<sup>th</sup> Singapore French Film Festival courtesy of MVP Entertainment Pte Ltd

# Océans

Saturday 9 October 4.30pm  
AF Theatre



## Oceans

In French with English subtitles

Rating: PG - Some disturbing scenes

Directors: Jacques Perrin and Jacques Cluzaud

France, 2009, 103mins

Cast: Jacques Perrin (Narrator), Lancelot Perrin (Himself)

Oceans is an ecological drama/documentary, filmed throughout the globe. Devoting over 70 trips to 50 places and 4 years it captures more than 100 species. Jacques Perrin presents a tale of the mysterious ocean and the living with the latest cinematographic equipment, capable of taking miraculous images. The film penetrates the mysterious and fascinating marine world like never before.

Oceans is featured at the 26<sup>th</sup> Singapore French Film Festival courtesy of Golden Village Pictures Pte Ltd

DRAMA

# WELCOME

Sunday 10 October 6.45pm  
AF Theatre

Monday 4 October 9.30pm  
The Cathay Cineplex Hall 5



## Welcome

In French with English subtitles

Rating: PG - Some sexual references and coarse language

Director: Philippe Lioret

France, 2009, 110mins

Cast: Vincent Lindon, Firat Ayverdi, Audrey Dana

Bilal (Firat Ayverdi), a 17-year-old Kurdish refugee, has spent the last three months of his life travelling across Europe in an attempt to reunite with his girlfriend who recently emigrated to England. The journey has been difficult, but the end is in sight when Bilal finally reaches the far north coast of France, where he can literally see the white cliffs of Dover across the English Channel. But it is here that his journey comes to an abrupt halt as local authorities, and the immigration laws they are enforcing, prevent him from going any further. Not content with merely looking upon the country he desires to call his home, Bilal devises a plan to swim across the bitterly cold waters of the Channel, and heads to the local swimming pool to commence his training. It is here that he crosses paths with Simon (Vincent Lindon), a middle-aged swimming instructor with a dejected spirit, who is privately reeling in turmoil as he dreads an imminent divorce from his wife (Audrey Dana). Despite their differing ages, the two men discover that they have much in common, and their friendship develops into a strong bond that will prove necessary for both men to realise their dreams for a happy future. A huge box office success in its native France, writer-director Philippe Lioret (*Don't Worry, I'm Fine*) has created an absorbing story that speaks not only of the social issues of the day, but of the very nature of the human spirit.

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### Awards

2009 : Won: "Label Europa Cinemas" and "Prize of the Ecumenical Jury" at the Berlin International Film Festival

2009 : Won: "Best Screenplay" and "Special Prize of the Young Jury" at the Gijon International Film Festival

2009 : Won: Grand Prize for Dramatic Feature at the Heartland Film Festival

2009 : Won: The Audience Award at the Warsaw International Film Festival

2009 : Won: The Lux Prize from the European Parliament

THRILLER

DRAMA

# LA QUESTION HUMAINE

Saturday 2 October 4.00pm  
AF Theatre

Tuesday 5 October 9.30pm  
The Cathay Cineplex Hall 5



## Heartbeat Detector

In French with English subtitles

Rating: TBA

Director: Nicolas Klotz

France, 2007, 143mins

Cast: Mathieu Amalric, Michael Lonsdale, Edith Scob,  
Lou Castel, Jean-Pierre Kalfon, Valérie Dréville

Simon Kessler works as a psychologist in the human resources department of the French branch of a long established German petrochemical corporation. The firm has recently dismissed 50% of its workforce on criteria devised by Kessler. Rose, the vice-president of the company, requests Kessler to look into whether Jüst, the CEO, is fit to do his job. The CEO discovers that Kessler is investigating him and tells him that Rose, whose previous name was Kraus, has a Nazi past. Kessler then discovers that Jüst's father headed a Nazi extermination group on the Eastern Front during World War Two. Jews placed in the back of a closed truck were killed with the truck's exhaust gas. A device called a "heartbeat detector" was then applied to discover any survivors. During the investigation, Kessler's perception goes disturbingly chaotic and cloudy. The experience affects his body, his mind, his personal life and sensibility. The calm assurance he is famous for starts to falter. Tormented by the memory of mass murder, Jüst attempts suicide. From company politics, the film changes its focus to the Holocaust. An analogy is drawn between company downsizing and extermination.

### Awards

2007 : Won: Golden Swan - Best Actor (Mathieu Amalric) Copenhagen Film Festival (Denmark)

2008 : Nominated: César Awards (France) Best Actor – Supporting Role (Michael Lonsdale)

2007 : Gijón Film Festival (Spain)

Won: Best Actor (Mathieu Amalric)

Won: Best Art Direction (Antoine Platteau)

Nominated: Grand Prix Asturias - Best Feature (Nicolas Klotz)

2007 : Won: Critics Award - São Paulo Film Festival (Brazil) International (Nicolas Klotz)

DRAMA

# LA FILLE DU RER

Saturday 2 October 6.45pm  
AF Theatre

Saturday 2 October 7.15pm  
The Cathay Cineplex Hall 5



## The Girl on the Train

In French with English subtitles

Rating: M18 - Sexual scenes and some violence

Director: André Techiné

France, 2009, 105mins

Cast: Emilie Dequenne, Michel Blanc, Catherine Deneuve, Mathieu Demy, Ronit Elkabetz

Jeanne is a young woman, striking but otherwise without qualities. Her mother tries to get her a job in the office of a lawyer, Bleistein, her lover years ago. Jeanne fails the interview but falls into a relationship with Franck, a wrestler whose dreams and claims of being in a legitimate business partnership Jeanne is only too happy to believe. When Franck is arrested, he turns on Jeanne for her naivety; she's stung and seeks attention by making up a story of an attack on a train. Is there any way out for her? In a subplot, Bleistein's grandson, Nathan, prepares for his *bar mitzvah* and, through an encounter with Jeanne, experiences intimations of manhood.

DRAMA

# KHAMSA

Monday 4 October 9.15pm  
AF Theatre

Thursday 7 October 9.30pm  
The Cathay Cineplex Hall 5



## Khamisa

In French with English subtitles

Rating: M18 - Sexual scenes and coarse language

Director: Karim Dridi

France, 2008, 110mins

Cast: Marc Cortes, Raymond Adam, Tony Fourmann,  
Simon Abkarian, Magalie Contreras

Khamisa is the story of a half-Gypsy, half-Arab street kid, Marco, 11 years old, who is also otherwise known as Khamisa. He comes back to his camp after an umpteenth runaway. He gets the name "Khamisa" from the Hand of Fatima necklace he wears around his neck - his only keepsake from his Algerian mother who has passed away. As a member of not just one, but two despised ethnic groups, Marco occupies probably one of the lowest social rungs in French society. He re-bonds with his long time friends and cousins. They plunge into the fragile world of thefts, scams and violence. They make money out of the financial system. Marco and his friends are not protected by the police. They do not go to school. They dream of dogfights and burning caravans.

DRAMA

# L'HEURE D'ÉTÉ

Sunday 3 October 6.45pm  
AF Theatre

Sunday 10 October 3.00pm  
The Cathay Cineplex Hall 5



## Summer Hours

In French with English subtitles

Rating: PG

Director: Olivier Assayas

France, 2008, 103mins

Cast: Juliette Binoche, Charles Berling, Jérémie Renier,  
Edith Scob

Hélène is a family matriarch of a small town who has devoted her life to preserving the legacy of her artist uncle. However, while her eldest son, Frédéric, wants to preserve her home after her passing, she harbors no such illusions as she prepares her legacy. After her death, her children realize what she anticipated as they come to terms with their inheritance's place in their own lives. In the resulting disposition of their mother's assets, treasured heirlooms of a romantic family past drift away even as their changing modern world confronts the value of their memories.

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### Awards

2010 : Nominated: Best Ensemble Cast, Chlotrudis Awards

2010 : Won: Best Foreign Language Film, National Society of Film Critics Awards, USA

2010 : Nominated: Best Film Not in the English Language, Online Film Critics Society Awards

2010 : Won: Best Foreign Language Film, Vancouver Film Critics Circle

2009 : Won: Best Foreign Language Film, Boston Society of Film Critics Awards

2009 : Nominated: Best Foreign Language Film, Chicago Film Critics Association Awards

2009 : Nominated: César for Best Supporting Actress, Edith Scob

2009 : Won: Best Foreign Language Film, Los Angeles Film Critics Association Awards

2009 : Won: Best Foreign Film, New York Film Critics Circle Awards

2009 : Won: Best Foreign Film, Southeastern Film Critics Association Awards

2009 : Nominated: Best Foreign Film, Washington DC Area Film Critics Association Awards

DRAMA

# LE CHANT DES MARIÉES

Sunday 10 October 4.30pm  
AF Theatre

Sunday 3 October 3.00pm  
The Cathay Cineplex Hall 5



## The Wedding Song

In French with English subtitles

Rating: TBA

Director: Karin Albou

France, 2008, 100mins

Cast: Lizzie Brocheré, Olympe Borval, Najib Oudghiri,  
Simon Abkarian, Karin Albou

Tunisia, 1942. Nour and Myriam, 16 years-old, are childhood friends. They share the same house in a modest district where Jews and Muslims live in harmony. Each one desires the life of the other: where Nour regrets not going to school like her friend, Myriam dreams of love. She envies Nour's engagement to her cousin Khaled, kind of a shared fantasy of Prince Charming. Unfortunately, Khaled does not find a job. The engagement is prolonged and the prospect of a union slips further away. In 1942, the German army enters Tunisia. Following the politics of Vichy, the Nazis place a heavy fine on the Jewish community. Tita, Myriam's mother, no longer has the right to work. Crippled by debts, she decides to marry off her daughter to a rich doctor. In one stroke Myriam sees her dreams of love fade away...

DRAMA ROMANCE

# LE PREMIER VENU

Sunday 3 October 4.00pm  
AF Theatre

Friday 8 October 7.00pm  
The Cathay Cineplex Hall 5



## Just Anybody

In French with English subtitles

Rating: M18 - Sexual references and coarse language

Director: Jacques Doillon

France, 2008, 121mins

Cast: Clémentine Beaugrand, Gérald Thomassin,  
Guillaume Saurel, Gwendoline Godquin

A girl in her twenties tries to bring a little light and levity to her life that she finds inadequate, futile and lacking in the intensity that she requires. She decides to give her love--not to the most seductive guy, nor the most deserving or most admirable one. No, they don't need her. She will give her love to just anybody.

COMEDY

# LES BUREAUX DE DIEU

Sunday 3 October 9.15pm  
AF Theatre

Friday 8 October 9.30pm  
The Cathay Cineplex Hall 5



## God's Offices

In French with English subtitles

Rating: M18 - Mature theme

Director: Claire Simon

France, 2008, 122mins

Cast: Anne Alvaro, Nathalie Baye, Michel Boujenah,  
Rachida Brakni, Isabelle Carré, Lolita Chammah

Djamila, Ana Maria, Zoé and the others; Anne, Marta, Pierre are a group of women struggling with their sexuality. They all meet in 'God's offices', or in less metaphysical terms, in the premises of the Family Planning centre. The former are women or teenage girls who have trouble with their sexual lives; the latter are counselors or doctors, who support and help them when families, partners or even the whole society tend to complicate matters. They speak openly with the female counselors who wonder if such a thing as "sexual freedom" is truly possible. This story speaks of the incredible hidden aspects of mundane events.

ROMANTIC COMEDY

# COMME LES AUTRES

Saturday 2 October 9.15pm  
AF Theatre

Wednesday 6 October 9.30pm  
The Cathay Cineplex Hall 5



## Baby Love

In French with English subtitles

Rating: R21 - Mature theme

Director: Vincent Garenq

France, 2008, 90mins

Cast: Lambert Wilson, Pilar López de Ayala, Pascal Elbé

Manu, a gay pediatrician in his forties, would be perfectly happy if he could adopt a child and bring him or her up with his partner, Philippe, a lawyer. However, Philippe is pleased with his present life and the last thing he wishes for is the invasive presence of a wailing brat. Unable to come to a compromise, the two lovers part. Though heartbroken, Manu focuses on finding a surrogate mother who would be willing to carry his child. Fina, a beautiful illegal immigrant from Colombia might do the job for him in exchange for a marriage of convenience.

DRAMATIC COMEDY

# TOUT CE QUI BRILLE

Tuesday 5 October 9.15pm  
AF Theatre



## All That Glitters

In French with English subtitles

Rating: TBA

Directors: Géraldine Nakache and Hervé Mimran

France, 2010, 100mins

Cast: Leila Bekhti, Géraldine Nakache, Virginie Ledoyen,  
Linh-Dan Pham, Simon Buret, Audrey Lamy, Daniel  
Cohen, Manu Payet, Nanou Garcia

Ely and Lila are as close as sisters. They have known each other since their childhood – they share everything and dream of a different life together. They live in the same suburb ten minutes away from Paris. They tell big lies and get into scrapes – they do everything in order to try and go into a world which is not theirs, where everything seems possible. But everything that glitters is not gold. The film is a charmingly warm and studied portrait of two saucy young ladies who sacrifice friendship to penetrate the elitist realm of Paris' upper classes. Both chick-pic-with-a-heart and socially smart dramedy, this debut effort from scribe-helmets Géraldine Nakache (who also co-stars) and Hervé Mimran is packed with wit and youthful energy.

All That Glitters is featured at the 26<sup>th</sup> Singapore French Film Festival courtesy of Golden Village Pictures Pte Ltd

DRAMATIC COMEDY

# LES ENFANTS DE TIMPELBACH

Wednesday 6 October 9.15pm  
AF Theatre

Friday 1 October 7.15pm  
The Cathay Cineplex Hall 5



## Trouble at Timpetill

In French with English subtitles

Rating: PG

Director: Nicolas Bary

France, 2008, 95mins

Cast: Raphaël Katz, Adèle Exarchopoulos, Léo Legrand,  
Baptiste Bétoulaud, Martin Jobert, Lola Créton,  
Léo Paget, Ilona Bachelier, Julien Dubois, Florian Goutiéras

Welcome to Timpelbach, a small, serene village. Well, not really that serene... Indeed, for several weeks, the children have been playing multiple practical jokes and nasty tricks. The victims are, of course, other children... but also, and most of all, the parents. Overwrought, they decide to leave the village for what they think will only be one day. But nothing happens as planned: on the way back, they are taken prisoner by a group of soldiers. In Timpelbach, the news of a village without parents makes Oscar and his gang of thugs happy! But that isn't the case of a few daredevils who decide to side with Manfred and Marianne to regain control of the village.

DOCUMENTARY

# ROCK 'N' ROLL... OF CORSE!

Saturday 2 October 2.30pm  
AF Theatre

Saturday 9 October 5.30pm  
The Cathay Cineplex Hall 5



## Rock 'n' Roll... Of Corse!

In French with English subtitles

Rating: NC16

Directors: Lionel Guedj and Stéphane Bébert

France, 2009, 90mins

Cast: Sting, Kim Wilde, Henri Padovani, Stewart Copeland, Miles Copeland

Rock 'n' roll...of Corse! charts the musical journey of Henri Padovani, guitarist, co-founder of The Police with Stewart Copeland. The young 24 year old Corsican arrived in London in December 1976. Actor and witness of a period when the alternative and revolutionary trend, the punk movement, arose, this self taught guitar player went through the 80' like a meteorite falling from nowhere. From The Police he founded with Stewart Copeland in January 77, until his reunion on stage thirty years later in front of 80,000 people, from The Clash to the Sex Pistols, from The Who to The Pretenders, from REM he signed up to Zucchero whom he manages, with everyone, Henri shared a little bit of their music and a lot of their lives. This documentary features rare footages of The Police as well as interviews with band's members and other stars.

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Official Selection: Festival de Cannes

## DIRECTOR JEAN-PIERRE MELVILLE



Jean-Pierre Melville's films are steeped in tragedy and confront the darker side of human nature. Influenced by American cinema, his films glamourised weapons, clothes and especially hats. Yet the recurring themes in all his films are neither violence nor crime – the themes are that of loyalty to one's comrades and a self-imposed code of honour.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Singapore French Film Festival pays tribute to Jean-Pierre Melville, a major influence on the French New Wave film movement and considered to be the godfather of the modern French gangster film and film noir.

Jean-Pierre Melville, born Jean-Pierre Grumbach on 20 October 1917 to a family of Alsatian Jews in Paris, served in World War II and was part of the French Resistance. This is when he took on the name of Melville, in tribute to the famous American novelist. He became an independent filmmaker when his application for a license to become assistant director was refused, something he attributed to party politics. He decided to direct his films by his own means. He set up his own film production company in 1946, with a studio in Paris, the famous Studio Jenner, which gave him total independence, something many film-makers were dreaming of but never dared to do.

Melville's earlier successes include *Le silence de la mer* (Silence of the Sea, 1947), a highly innovative and intimate piece on the horrors of World War II. It was the adaptation of the eponymous novel written in early 1942 by Jean Bruller under the codename Vercors which had been published secretly in Nazi-occupied France and had quickly become a symbol of mental resistance against German occupiers. Melville used unknown actors and the filming was done by a skeleton crew. Its dark, claustrophobic sets and bottom-lit close-ups heralded the setting for a new style of cinema.



*Le cercle rouge*

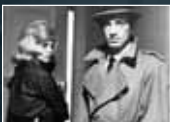
He first stepped into the underworld with *Bob le Flambeur* (Bob the Gambler) a crime thriller which set the style that will later be adopted by the New Wave directors in their thrillers of the 1960s.

Melville gained critical acclaim with *Léon Morin, Prêtre* (The Forgiven Sinner, 1961), an intense drama that explores the sexual tension between priest and parishioner, with an uncommonly forthright approach for the early 1960s. Melville's detailed, observant portrait instills the film with a unique credibility, and his leading man Belmondo gives a sexy, charismatic performance that enhances the film's thematic disparities. *Léon Morin* is also uncommon for the early 1960s in its zealous case against anti-Semitism. Few films before or after have examined spirituality and religion in so convincing a manner, and Melville established a reputation as a serious director.



*Bob le flambeur*

That next year he made *Le Doulos* (The Finger Man, 1962), another gangster movie in which his trademark technique of filming and storytelling became even more personal. Quentin Tarantino famously called *Le Doulos* his "favourite screenplay of all time" .



*Le doulos*

In 1967, he made his most well-known film, *Le Samourai* (The Samurai). This film is classic Melville and once again places loyalty and the code of honour before everything. His own experiences in the resistance featured heavily in his next film, *L'Armée des ombres* (The Army of Shadows, 1969). Presenting a bleak, unromantic view of the French Resistance, it was hailed as his greatest cinematographic

achievement and it remains as one of the greatest French movies about World War II.

*Le Cercle rouge* (The Red Circle, 1970) considered by many to be the ultimate crime thriller, brought together no less than three acting legends of French cinema (Alain Delon, Yves Montand and Bourvil).

Jean-Pierre Melville's career spanned a period of 25 years. He made 14 full length films which were regarded as genuine triumphs of French cinema. He died of a heart attack in 1973 at the age of 55. Aside from Jean-Luc Godard and François Truffaut (famous French New Wave directors), celebrity directors such as John Woo, Quentin Tarantino, Michael Mann, Volker Schlöndorff, Johnnie To and Martin Scorsese have pointed to him as a key influence.



*Le silence de la mer*

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Singapore's Premier Arthouse Cinema

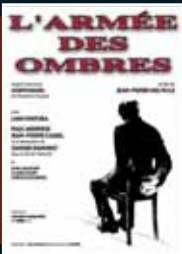
DRAMA

TRIBUTE TO JEAN-PIERRE MELVILLE

# L'ARMÉE DES OMBRES

Monday 4 October 6.30pm  
AF Theatre

Saturday 2 October 3.00pm  
The Picturehouse



## Army of Shadows

In French with English subtitles

Rating: TBA

Director: Jean-Pierre Melville

France, 1969, 140mins

Cast: Lino Ventura, Paul Meurisse, Jean-Pierre Cassel,  
Simone Signoret, Claude Mann

France, 1942, during the German occupation - Philippe Gerbier, a civil engineer, is one of the French Resistance's chiefs. Given away by a traitor, he is interned in a camp. He manages to escape, and joins his network at Marseilles, where he ensures the execution of the traitor... The film shows rigorously and austerey the everyday-life of the soldiers of the French Resistance: their solitude, their fears, their relationships, the arrests, the forwarding of orders and their carrying out...

CRIME

THRILLER

TRIBUTE TO JEAN-PIERRE MELVILLE

# BOB LE FLAMBEUR

Tuesday 5 October 6.30pm  
AF Theatre

Saturday 2 October 5.45pm  
The Picturehouse



## Bob the Gambler

In French and English with English subtitles

Rating: TBA

Director: Jean-Pierre Melville

France, 1956, 98mins

Cast: Isabelle Corey, Daniel Cauchy, Roger Duchesne,  
Guy Decomble, André Garet

In Paris's Montmartre district, everyone knows Bob, a middle-aged, well-dressed compulsive gambler. He's generous, moralistic, drives a two-toned convertible coupe, lives in a swank apartment, and has the respect of the police. But he's on a losing streak, and even when he hits it big at the track, he loses at the Deauville Casino. He hears through a friend that the Deauville Casino holds undreamed-of quantities of cash, vulnerable in the early morning hours. Bob develops a complicated scheme to steal it, bringing in a tough but naive young protégé and an ace safecracker into his scheme, along with a few other underworld characters.

CRIME

THRILLER

TRIBUTE TO JEAN-PIERRE MELVILLE

# LE CERCLE ROUGE

Wednesday 6 October 6.30pm  
AF Theatre

Sunday 3 October 7.00pm  
The Picturehouse



## The Red Circle

In French with English subtitles

Rating: TBA

Director: Jean-Pierre Melville

France, 1970, 140mins

Cast: Alain Delon, André Bourvil, Gian Maria Volonté,  
Yves Montand, Paul Crauchet, Paul Amiot

Corey is a cool, aristocratic thief, released from prison on the same day that Vogel, a murderer, escapes from the custody of the patient Mattei, a cat-loving police superintendent. Corey robs Rico, his mob boss, then enlists Vogel and an ex-police sharpshooter, Jansen, in a jewel heist. While Corey is harried by the vengeful Rico, Mattei pressures Santi, a nightclub owner and pimp, to help him trap the thieves. Over all hangs the judgement of the police director, that every man is guilty.

CRIME

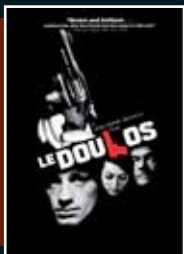
THRILLER

TRIBUTE TO JEAN-PIERRE MELVILLE

# LE DOULOS

Thursday 7 October 8.00pm  
AF Theatre

Tuesday 5 October 7.15pm  
The Picturehouse



## The Finger Man

In French with English subtitles

Rating: TBA

Director: Jean-Pierre Melville

France, 1962, 108mins

Cast: Jean-Paul Belmondo, Serge Reggiani, Jean Desailly, René Lefèvre, Marcel Cuvelier, Philippe March, Fabienne Dali, Monique Hennessy

Burglar Maurice Faugel has just finished his prison sentence. He murders Gilbert Vanovre and steals the loot of a break-in. He is also preparing a house-breaking, and his friend Silien brings him the needed equipment. But Silien is a police informer. The police appear and he tries to run but the police shoot at him and he is wounded. He loses consciousness and awakes in his friend Jean's apartment. He believes that his friend Silien told the police about his plans. Silien is questioned by the police about the murder of Gilbert and the robbery before the police collect Maurice from a bar where he is reading a newspaper report about his girlfriend, Therese's death. Therese has been found in her car at the bottom of a quarry. Silien is released and goes to meet his ex-girlfriend Fabienne. With Fabienne's help, Silien frames someone else for the murder and robbery, leaving Maurice in the clear. Maurice is released from prison and discovers that it was Therese who told the police about the robbery and Silien and Jean who killed her. Maurice reveals that he killed Gilbert because Gilbert killed his girlfriend Arlette four years ago to keep her quiet. Silien returns home but once Silien has left, Maurice remembers that he hired a man to kill Silien because he thought he had betrayed him and chases after him. Through Maurice and Silien's actions, the film explores just how deeply qualities such as friendship and loyalty run.

DRAMA

TRIBUTE TO JEAN-PIERRE MELVILLE

# LE SILENCE DE LA MER

Friday 8 October 6.45pm  
AF Theatre

Sunday 3 October 5.15pm  
The Picturehouse



## The Silence of the Sea

In French with English subtitles

Rating: TBA

Director: Jean-Pierre Melville

France, 1949, 88mins, Black and White

Cast: Howard Vernon, Nicole Stéphane, Jean-Marie Robain, Ami Aarøe, Georges Patrix

In a small town in occupied France in 1941, the German officer, Werner Von Ebrennac is lodged in the house of the uncle and his niece. The uncle and niece refuse to speak to him, but each evening the officer warms himself by the fire and talks of his country, his music, and his idealistic views of the relationship between France and Germany. That is, until he visits Paris and discovers the reality of the occupation.

DOCUMENTARY

# SOUS LE NOM DE MELVILLE

Saturday 9 October 2.00pm  
AF Theatre

Monday 4 October 7.15pm  
The Picturehouse

Both screenings will be held in the presence of director Olivier Bohler and will be followed by a Q&A Session



## Code Name: Melville

In French, Japanese and Cantonese with English subtitles

Rating: TBA

Director: Olivier Bohler

France, 2008, 76mins

Cast: Michel Dreyfus-Schmidt, Leo Fortel, Pierre Grasset, Laurent Grousset, Rémy Grumbach, Masahiro Kobayashi, Johnnie To, Volker Schlöndorff, Bertrand Tavernier

Combining interviews of Johnnie To, Masahiro Kobayashi, Volker Schlöndorff, Bertrand Tavernier and others with rare archival footage of Jean-Pierre Melville himself and extracts of his films, *Code Name: Melville* shows how Melville's works were impacted by what he experienced as a young man during World War II, and how it structured his whole approach to cinema, not only in its thematic but also in its aesthetics. Indeed, Melville spent a total of eight years of his life (1937-1945) in the French army and then escaped through the South of France to Spain, to join the Free French Forces. Although his family name was Grumbach, as a Resistance fighter, he adopted the name of Melville (after Herman Melville), and would never go back to his original family name, remaining as Melville throughout the post war years. Significantly, his first feature film was the adaptation of one of the most prestigious novels written about the French Resistance, *The Silence of the Sea*. Twenty years later, he directed what still remains as the ultimate movie about the French Resistance, *Army of Shadows*. Resisting the structures of the film industry, his own original approach to filmmaking was that of a highly independent man who did not want to have to rely on any existing system or network. This attitude earned him the reputation of being the precursor of the French New Wave.

*Code Name: Melville* has been presented in numerous festivals around the world, in Taipei, Torino, Biarritz, Amiens, Angers, Brighton, Cambridge, Tokyo, etc.

*Code Name: Melville* is featured at the 26<sup>th</sup> Singapore French Film Festival courtesy of Nocturnes Productions

## DIRECTOR AND FILMOGRAPHY OLIVIER BOHLER



Born in Marseilles (France) in 1972, Olivier Bohler completed his PhD thesis on Jean-Pierre Melville in 2000. He has also written numerous articles for books and magazines about various aspects of the history of French cinema. Since 2005, Olivier has been writing scripts for films and TV series in France. In 2007, he co-founded Nocturnes Productions with Raphaël Millet. Code Name: Melville is his first full length documentary. Olivier is currently working on a documentary about Jean-Luc Godard's relationship to modern and contemporary art.

CLOSING FILM

DRAMATIC COMEDY

# LE PETIT NICOLAS

Saturday 9 October 8.30pm

AF Theatre  
By Invitation Only

Sunday 10 October 9.15pm

AF Theatre



## Little Nicholas

In French with English subtitles

Rating: PG

Director: Laurent Tirard

France, 2009, 91mins

Cast: Maxime Godart, Valérie Lemerrier, Kad Merad,  
Sandrine Kiberlain, François-Xavier Demaison,  
Michel Duchaussoy, Daniel Prévost

For Nicholas life is perfect: loving parents, terrific pals and no desire for anything to change. Then an overheard conversation leads him to believe his mother is pregnant. He imagines the worst: his parents will no longer have time for him. Maybe they'll even abandon him. Something has to be done.

Nicholas and his gang come up with all kinds of plans - plans that lead them into increasingly crazy adventures...

Le petit Nicolas (Little Nicholas) is a French children's book which started out as a cartoon in Moustique, a weekly Belgian publication. It was created by René Goscinny and illustrated by Jean-Jacques Sempé. It was published for the first time in 1959. Nicholas is an illustration of an ideal childhood and a nostalgic memory of the 1950s.

Little Nicholas is featured at the 26<sup>th</sup> Singapore French Film Festival courtesy of The Cathay Organisation

**Opens 14 October Exclusively at The Picturehouse**

## DIRECTOR OF THE CLOSING FILM LAURENT TIRARD



Laurent Tirard, born in 1967, grew up admiring American films, such as those by Steven Spielberg. He studied film making at New York University and graduated with honours. After a year as a script reader for the Warner Bros. studio in Los Angeles, he became a journalist for the French film magazine *Studio* for seven years. In 1997, he left the magazine and began writing scripts for film and television, while directing two short films, in 1999 and 2000. He wrote and directed his first feature, *The Story of My Life*, in 2004, co-wrote the hugely successful *Prête-moi ta main* (*How to Get Married and Stay Single*) for Alain Chabat in 2005, then wrote and directed his second film, *Molière*, the following year. *Molière* was screened as the opening film of the 23<sup>th</sup> Singapore French Film Festival, in the presence of its director Laurent Tirard, at The Grand Cathay.

The following is an extract on an interview with Laurent Tirard on *Little Nicholas*.

### How was the project born?

"Marc Missonier and Olivier Delbos, the producers, wanted to adapt *Little Nicholas* and they thought I was the right person for it. They contacted me. It didn't begin as a personal project but quickly became one. I grew up with *Little Nicholas*. I read it as a teenager. The books are relevant to me, they talk to me. I immediately knew what the film would look like."

### What were your links with LITTLE NICHOLAS?

"*Little Nicholas* is universal, everyone can relate to him. He sent me back to my own childhood – even if it took place in a different era. He made me laugh, with a hint of nostalgia. I like the second degree – one level for children, one level for adults. *Little Nicholas* is also poetic. The scene where he decides to leave home at night with his bundle really struck me – I had planned to do the same thing myself! I even got as far as a few hundred meters! And later it became an example: if I was angry I'd threaten to leave with my suitcase, using the same line as *Little Nicholas*: "I'll come back one day with tons of money and everyone will feel really awful". It was a way of not taking myself too seriously."

### What made you the happiest during this experience?

"There are lots of positive points. From a personal point of view I have the feeling that it is getting easier for me to tell a story. I don't know if this is due to the fact that I know more what I want, or because I struggle less and less to obtain it, but I feel more serene. I feel more in synch with what I'm doing and what I feel. I ask myself fewer questions, I feel less anxious. This doesn't mean my two preceding films were painful, but it seems that I simplify things in a positive way. I need fewer shots to reassure myself for example. I tend to simplify."

– Laurent Tirard

Interview courtesy of Cathay Keris Films Pte Ltd

# FILM SCHEDULE

## Alliance Française

Day	Date	Time	Alliance Française
Friday	1 Oct	8.00pm	<b>Les aventures extraordinaires d'Adèle Blanc-Sec</b> TBA
Saturday	2 Oct	2.30pm	<b>Rock 'n' Roll...Of Corse !</b> NC16
		4.00pm	<b>La question humaine</b> TBA
		6.45pm	<b>La fille du RER</b> M18 - <i>Sexual scenes and some violence</i>
		9.15pm	<b>Comme les autres</b> R21 - <i>Mature theme</i>
Sunday	3 Oct	4.00pm	<b>Le premier venu</b> M18 - <i>Sexual references and coarse language</i>
		6.45pm	<b>L'heure d'été</b> PG
		9.15pm	<b>Les bureaux de Dieu</b> M18 - <i>Mature theme</i>
Monday	4 Oct	6.30pm	<b>L'armée des ombres</b> TBA
		9.15pm	<b>Khamsa</b> M18 - <i>Sexual scenes and coarse language</i>
Tuesday	5 Oct	6.30pm	<b>Bob le flambeur</b> TBA
		9.15pm	<b>Tout ce qui brille</b> TBA
Wednesday	6 Oct	6.30pm	<b>Le cercle rouge</b> TBA
		9.15pm	<b>Les enfants de Timpelbach</b> PG
Thursday	7 Oct	8.00pm	<b>Le doulos</b> TBA
Friday	8 Oct	6.45pm	<b>Le silence de la mer</b> TBA
		9.15pm	<b>Banlieue 13 : Ultimatum</b> NC16 - <i>Violence</i>
Saturday	9 Oct	2.00pm	<b>Sous le nom de Melville</b> TBA
		4.30pm	<b>Océans</b> PG - <i>Some disturbing scenes</i>
		8.30pm	<b>Le petit Nicolas</b> (Closing Film) PG By Invitation Only
Sunday	10 Oct	2.30pm	<b>Loup</b> TBA
		4.30pm	<b>Le chant des mariées</b> TBA
		6.45pm	<b>Welcome</b> PG - <i>Some sexual references and coarse language</i>
		9.15pm	<b>Le petit Nicolas</b> PG

# FILM SCHEDULE

## Cathay

Day	Date	Time	Cathay
Thursday	30 Sept	7.30pm	<b>Les aventures extraordinaires d'Adèle Blanc-Sec</b> (Opening Film) TBA By Invitation Only
Friday	1 Oct	7.15pm	<b>Les enfants de Timpelbach</b> PG
Saturday	2 Oct	7.15pm	<b>La fille du RER</b> M18 - Sexual scenes and some violence
Sunday	3 Oct	3.00pm	<b>Le chant des mariées</b> TBA
Monday	4 Oct	9.30pm	<b>Welcome</b> PG - Some sexual references and coarse language
Tuesday	5 Oct	9.30pm	<b>La question humaine</b> TBA
Wednesday	6 Oct	9.30pm	<b>Comme les autres</b> R21 - Mature theme
Thursday	7 Oct	9.30pm	<b>Khamsa</b> M18 - Sexual scenes and coarse language
Friday	8 Oct	7.00pm	<b>Le premier venu</b> M18 - Sexual references and coarse language
		9.30pm	<b>Les bureaux de Dieu</b> M18 - Mature theme
Saturday	9 Oct	5.30pm	<b>Rock 'n' Roll...Of Corse!</b> NC16
Sunday	10 Oct	3.00pm	<b>L'heure d'été</b> PG

## The Picturehouse

Day	Date	Time	The Picturehouse
Saturday	2 Oct	3.00pm	<b>L'armée des ombres</b> TBA
		5.45pm	<b>Bob le flambeur</b> TBA
		9.15pm	<b>Le cercle rouge</b> TBA
Sunday	3 Oct	5.15pm	<b>Le silence de la mer</b> TBA
		7.00pm	<b>Le cercle rouge</b> TBA
Monday	4 Oct	7.15pm	<b>Sous le nom de Melville</b> TBA
Tuesday	5 Oct	7.15pm	<b>Le doulos</b> TBA



# Olio

Restaurant & Cafe

Olio Café at the  
Alliance Française de Singapour

## Promotion date:

01 Oct 10 – 10 Oct 10

## Set Meal Promotions:

3 course set meal @ \$13.90++ (Entree)

All set meal comes with soup of the day and regular coffee or tea  
Customer who presents the ticket stub will only enjoy on the set meal.

Set Menu Choices:

- Soup Du Jour

## Choice of:

### Entree

Baked Tempura Hoki Fillet with Orange – Peeled Sauce  
serve with Tomato Rice & Boiled Vegetables

or

### Entree

Teriyaki Chicken with Penne Pasta  
sauteed with Capsicum and Onion

Coffee\* or Tea Infusion

\*Choice of Coffee: Espresso, Double Espresso, Long Black, Flat White, Cappuccino.



A Film by Luc Besson

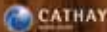
Louise  
Bourgoin

LES AVENTURES  
EXTRAORDINAIRES  
D'  
**Adèle**  
BLANC-SEC  
Rise of The Mummy

**IN CINEMAS 4 NOV**

RATING TO BE ADVISED

Available in both French (with English subtitles) and English versions. Check cinema listings for details.



INNOFORMmedia

# THE CAR PARK

With effect from 1 July 2009, the Alliance Française de Singapour car park is no longer operational. The plot of land which constitutes the car-park has been returned to the Singapore Land Authority for the purpose of the construction and expansion of the Newton station in the new MRT Downtown Line. The car-parks closest to the Alliance Française building are at Newton Circus, Balmoral Plaza and Prudential Building. The Alliance Française de Singapour has established a collaboration with Prudential Building for use of its parking spaces. The charges are as follows:

	0800 to 1759 hrs	After 1800 hrs
Mondays to Saturdays	\$2.00 for the 1 <sup>st</sup> hour, \$1.00 for the subsequent ½ hr or part thereof	\$2/- per entry
Sundays & Public Holidays	\$3/- per entry	
10 minutes grace period free		

You are advised to use the FREE valet parking services provided by Prudential. The Alliance Française de Singapour sincerely regrets any inconvenience caused.



Bus Services: Bukit Timah Road & Dunearn Road  
 Bus Nos: 48, 66, 67, 170, 171, 700, 700A, 960  
 MRT: Newton Station

The image features a solid light blue background. On the left side, there are five film reels of different colors: orange, red, silver, and dark grey. A black and white film strip extends from the top left, passing through the center of the reels, and ends with the Air France logo. The logo consists of the word "AIRFRANCE" in a white, sans-serif font, followed by a red chevron symbol.

AIRFRANCE

Air France official partner  
of the 26<sup>th</sup> French Film  
Festival in Singapore

[www.airfrance.sg](http://www.airfrance.sg)