Film at Lincoln Center and UniFrance present

Rendez-Vous with French Cinema

March 5–15

Tickets: filmlinc.org
Rendez-Vous with French Cinema returns with another edition that exemplifies the variety and vitality of contemporary French filmmaking. The films on display, by emerging talents and established masters, raise ideas both topical and eternal, and take audiences to entirely unexpected places. Highlights from recent editions of Rendez-Vous with French Cinema include Patricia Mazuy’s Paul Sanchez Is Back!, Mia Hansen-Løve’s Maya, Mikhaël Hers’s Amanda, Bertrand Bonello’s Nocturama, Justine Triet’s In Bed with Victoria, and Mathieu Amalric’s Barbara. Co-presented with UniFrance, the 25th edition of Rendez-Vous will demonstrate that the landscape of French cinema is as fertile, inspiring, and distinct as ever.

Organized by Florence Almozini with UniFrance.
The Best Years of a Life
New York Premiere
Claude Lelouch, France, 2019, 90m
Jean-Louis Trintignant and Anouk Aimée reprise their roles in this stirring sequel to Claude Lelouch’s classic 1966 Palme d’Or–winner A Man and a Woman. Jean-Louis (Trintignant) now struggles with dementia in a nursing home, unable to recall his glory days as a racecar driver. His son (Antoine Sire) seeks out his former lover Anne (Aimée), retired from producing films to maintain a fabric shop in Normandy, to remind his now prickly and standoffish father of the affair that once brought him so much joy.

Saturday, March 7 3:45pm
Q&A with Claude Lelouch and screenwriter Valérie Perrin

Burning Ghost
U.S. Premiere
Stéphane Batut, France, 2019, 104m
Winner of the prestigious Prix Jean Vigo, this smoldering feature debut from Stéphane Batut is an entrancing tale of love and loss. Juste (Thimotée Robart) drifts through a liminal Paris: able to see spirits of the dead, he guides them into the afterlife, while at the same time he’s unsettled in his own personal purgatory. When, entirely by chance, he runs into long-lost acquaintance Agathe (Judith Chemla), he falls into an entanglement that’s not quite compatible with his ethereal world.

Tuesday, March 10 1:45pm
Friday, March 13 6:30pm
Q&A with Stéphane Batut

Cuties
New York Premiere
Maïmouna Doucouré, France, 2020, 95m
Shy 11-year-old Amy (Fathia Youssouf Abdillahi) discovers that her neighbor Anjelica is part of a hip-hop dance troupe, the “Cuties.” She soon finds she fits in with the group, who are in training for a local competition. However, Amy's newfound talents conflict with her family’s traditional expectations for her. This vibrant debut feature, which screened at both Sundance and the Berlin Film Festival, is exceptionally attuned to the internal yearnings and external pressures of adolescence. A Netflix release.

Tuesday, March 10 6:30pm
Q&A with Maïmouna Doucouré

The Dazzled
New York Premiere
Sarah Suco, France, 2019, 99m
Actress-turned-director Sarah Suco’s debut feature is a mesmerizing slow burn set in an insular Catholic community. When promising 12-year-old acrobat Camille (a breakout Céleste Brunquell) performs in a sketch that seems to make light of prayer, the church’s leader—known only as “The Shepherd” (Jean-Pierre Darroussin)—asks her parents to withdraw her from circus training. Her mother has become emotionally dependent on the parish, while her father (Éric Caravaca) seems brainwashed; amidst this, covertly secular Camille and her younger brothers must come into their own.

Sunday, March 8 6:30pm
Q&A with Sarah Suco

Friday, March 13 4:15pm

#rendezvous
Deerskin
New York Premiere
Quentin Dupieux, France, 2019, 77m
Oscar-winner Jean Dujardin (The Artist) stars in this rollicking, lightly surrealistic take on the midlife crisis movie, directed by Rendez-Vous mainstay Quentin Dupieux (Keep an Eye Out!). Georges (Dujardin) drops several thousand Euros on an Easy Rider-style, 100%-deerskin jacket, then absconds to a country inn in a sleepy town far away from his wife. There, he starts experimenting with a mini-DV camcorder, enlisting the help of an aspiring film editor (Portrait of a Lady on Fire’s Adèle Haenel) to assemble a most unusual docufiction. A Greenwich Entertainment release.

Sunday, March 8  9:15pm
Saturday, March 14  9:00pm

An Easy Girl
North American Premiere
Rebecca Zlotowski, France, 2019, 92m
Sixteen-year-old Naïma (Mina Farid) passes languid summer days on the beaches of Cannes working in a restaurant and preparing for acting auditions. When her glamorous cousin Sofia (Zahia Dehar) arrives for an extended stay, Naïma begins to shadow her seemingly thrilling lifestyle, which gets complicated when Sofia becomes entangled with two art dealers (Nuno Lopes and Benoît Magimel). Rebecca Zlotowski’s fourth feature taps into the universal hunger of adolescence, and imbues an empathetic coming-of-age story with a sharp class critique. A Netflix release.

Saturday, March 7  9:00pm
Q&A with Rebecca Zlotowski
Thursday, March 12  4:00pm

Happy Birthday
New York Premiere
Cédric Kahn, France/Belgium, 2019, 101m
This buoyant and bittersweet ensemble piece directed by Cédric Kahn and headlined by Catherine Deneuve tests the ties that bind a family. Deneuve is matriarch Andréa, whose family comes together to celebrate her 70th birthday. Everything seems in order until her mentally unstable daughter Claire (Emmanuelle Bercot) reappears and old resentments surface, not least from the teenager (Portrait of a Lady on Fire’s Luàna Bajrami) Claire abandoned. Kahn coaxes mood swings of warmth and vitriol from his cast in a film that takes place over the course of one hectic day.

Thursday, March 12  9:15pm
Sunday, March 15  6:15pm

Isadora’s Children
North American Premiere
Damien Manivel, France/South Korea, 2019, 84m
Dance legend Isadora Duncan responded to the tragic death of her children by choreographing a three-part piece called Mother. In Isadora’s Children, Damien Manivel depicts a trio of characters engaging with Duncan’s work: an introspective choreographer (Agathe Bonitzer) feeling her way through the piece’s movements; a dance teacher and her student rehearsing for a recital; and a member of the audience (renowned dancer and choreographer Elsa Wollaston), who carries the memory of the performance through a solitary evening.

Friday, March 6  4:00pm
Saturday, March 14  2:00pm
Papicha
New York Premiere
Mounia Meddour, France/Algeria/Belgium/Qatar, 2019, 106m
Nedjma (Lyna Khoudri) is a university student during the Algerian Civil War. Although she's studying French, her passion is fashion design: defying religious conservatism, she custom-makes dresses for her peers that are examples of individual expression. Attacks on civilians are on the rise from fundamentalist Islamist sects, and a shocking incident drives Nedjma to stage a unique protest: a fashion show centered around repurposing the haik, a traditional veil, into secular garments. Papicha tells an unflinching story of resistance and resilience. A Distrib Films release.

Friday, March 6  1:15pm
Thursday, March 12  6:15pm
Q&A with Mounia Meddour

Perfect Nanny
New York Premiere
Lucie Borleteau, France, 2019, 100m
Young parents Myriam (Leïla Bekhti) and Paul (Antoine Reinartz) think they've found the perfect nanny in Louise (Karin Viard). She comes with glowing references from multiple families, and she immediately takes a shine to their two young children. But as Myriam reimmerses herself in her legal job, Louise entrenches herself deeper and deeper into their family life, her behavior growing ever stranger. This adaptation of Leïla Slimani's best-seller is a vividly detailed, unsettling thriller that probes our tendencies to trust those we barely know. A Distrib Films release.

Monday, March 9  6:15pm
Wednesday, March 11  1:45pm
SCHEDULE

All screenings take place at the Walter Reade Theater.
* Free Talks take place in the Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center Amphitheater.
○ In-Person Appearance

THU March 5
5:00  Special Event: A Conversation with Juliette Binoche and Ethan Hawke ○
6:30  Opening Night: The Truth ○
9:15  Opening Night: The Truth

FRI March 6
1:45  Papicha
4:00  Isadora’s Children
6:00  Who You Think I Am ○
8:45  On a Magical Night ○

SAT March 7
1:00  Alice and the Mayor ○
3:45  The Best Years of a Life ○
5:00  Free Talk: Exploring Space on Film* ○
6:15  Proxima ○
9:00  An Easy Girl ○

SUN March 8
1:00  School Life ○
3:00  Free Talk: Serge Toubiana on Helen Scott* ○
4:00  Spellbound ○
6:30  The Dazzled ○
9:15  Deerskin

MON March 9
2:00  Who You Think I Am
4:15  On a Magical Night
5:00  Free Talk: From Book to Film* ○
6:15  Perfect Nanny ○
9:00  Someone, Somewhere ○

TUE March 10
1:45  Burning Ghost
4:00  School Life
6:30  Cuties ○
9:15  Proxima

WED March 11
1:45  Perfect Nanny
4:00  South Terminal
6:15  Joan of Arc ○
9:30  Alice and the Mayor

THU March 12
2:00  Cuties
4:00  An Easy Girl
6:15  Papicha ○
9:15  Happy Birthday

FRI March 13
1:30  Joan of Arc
4:15  The Dazzled
6:30  Burning Ghost ○
9:15  Spellbound

SAT March 14
2:00  Isadora’s Children
4:00  The Specials
6:30  Someone, Somewhere
9:00  Deerskin

SUN March 15
1:30  Spread Your Wings
4:00  South Terminal
6:15  Happy Birthday
8:45  The Specials

Screening Tickets
$12  Members, Students, Seniors (62+), and Persons with Disabilities
$17  General Public

The Truth Tickets:
Opening Night & Conversation
$20  Members, Students, Seniors (62+), and Persons with Disabilities
$25  General Public

SPECIAL STUDENT SAVINGS!
$50  All-Access Pass (valid ID required, excludes Opening Night and March 5 Conversation)

Tickets: filmlinc.org

#rendezvous
Proxima
New York Premiere
Alice Winocour, France/Germany, 2019, 107m
Sarah (Eva Green), an astronaut living in Cologne, is selected for a yearlong spaceflight. Before liftoff, she must spend a grueling year at a training facility in Moscow, separated from her young daughter, who’s left in the care of her ex-husband (Lars Eidinger). The only woman involved in the mission, Sarah tries to stay focused and stoic, suppressing any weaknesses her condescending captain (Matt Dillon) might notice, and trying to soothe her daughter’s loneliness from afar. Alice Winocour’s poignant film is set to an atmospheric score from Ryuichi Sakamoto. A Vertical Entertainment release.

Saturday, March 7  6:15pm
Q&A with Alice Winocour
Tuesday, March 10  9:15pm

School Life
North American Premiere
Grand Corps Malade and Mehdi Idir, France, 2019, 111m
The new vice principal of a middle school in Parisian suburb Saint-Denis, Samia (Zita Hanrot) is warned by her fellow teachers that the students are unmotivated and hard to discipline. She sees things differently, however, when she gets to know the students, especially Yanis (Liam Pierron), who’s sharp and driven but disillusioned by a world that seems to have turned its back on him and his family. Slam poet Grand Corps Malade and Mehdi Idir’s second collaboration after Step by Step (2016) is a rousing look at the importance of encouraging untapped potential despite institutional odds. A Netflix release.

Sunday, March 8  1:00pm
Q&A with Mehdi Idir
Tuesday, March 10  4:00pm

Someone, Somewhere
New York Premiere
Cédric Klapisch, France/Belgium, 2019, 110m
In this almost-romance from Cédric Klapisch, warehouse employee Rémy (François Civil) and research assistant Mélanie (Ana Girardot) have never met, but they live parallel lives: they reside in neighboring buildings, ride the same subway route, and are troubled by bouts of insomnia and depression. As they stumble through psychotherapy, dating apps, fainting spells, and family visits, the seemingly star-crossed duo orbit around each other but remain just out of reach. Klapisch spins a delicate “what-if” story, exploring our increasingly hermetic modern urban life. A Distrib Films release.

Monday, March 9  9:00pm
Q&A with Cédric Klapisch
Saturday, March 14  6:30pm

South Terminal
U.S. Premiere
Rabah Ameur-Zaïmeche, France/Algeria, 2019, 96m
The haunting, experiential latest from Rabah Ameur-Zaïmeche centers on a doctor (Ramzy Bedia) in nineties Algeria, which is rapidly becoming a war zone. He spends his days tending to the wounded and comforting the suffering, yet maintains a stoic neutrality toward the ambiguous conflict, resolving that his job is simply to help those in pain. But once he starts receiving death threats and horrors begin to encroach on his own life, his moral position is shaken. The inhumanity of the violence pushes him to question whether or not more drastic action might be called for.

Wednesday, March 11  4:00pm
Saturday, March 15  4:00pm
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spread Your Wings</strong></td>
<td>Sunday, Mar 15</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Sulky teenager Thomas (Louis Vazquez) dreads spending summer with his father (Jean-Paul Rouve), an environmentalist in a rural, wifi-less hamlet. Much to his surprise, he grows attached to his father’s new project: an ambitious plan to train a flock of endangered geese to follow a new migratory path, avoidant of pollution and human-made threats. Nicolas Vanier (Loup) channels his passion for nature into this tale of our responsibility to protect it, a freewheeling adventure of both suspense and civic action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who You Think I Am</strong></td>
<td>Friday, Mar 6</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>Juliette Binoche balances impulsiveness, determination, and vulnerability as only she can as philosophy professor Claire (Binoche), who, heartbroken after a breakup, begins using a Facebook profile for a 24-year-old alter ego named Clara so she can browse her ex-boyfriend’s account. When her ex’s good friend Alex messages her, Claire’s plans veer into uncharted territory. In this adaptation of Camille Laurens’ best-seller, Safy Nebbou turns a romantic comedy premise into a dizzying and dangerous game of mirrors. A Cohen Media release.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Specials</strong></td>
<td>Sunday, Mar 8</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Olivier Nakache and Éric Toledano, France, 2019, 114m This heartfelt comic drama from the directing duo behind The Intouchables targets structural neglect in the French medical system. Bruno (Vincent Cassel) runs a shelter for autistic young people turned away by hospitals, while his friend Malik (Reda Kateb) mentors underprivileged youths seeking employment. Both men, based on real-life people, are constantly frustrated by the lack of consistent funding and institutional support—which eventually leads them to confront the government head-on. With help from a spirited ensemble, The Specials crackles with fiery commitment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday, Mar 14</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Q&amp;A with Pascal Bonitzer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday, Mar 15</td>
<td>8:45pm</td>
<td>Q&amp;A with Pascal Bonitzer and Juliette Binoche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday, Mar 13</td>
<td>9:15pm</td>
<td>Q&amp;A with Safy Nebbou and Juliette Binoche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spellbound</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, Mar 14</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Pascal Bonitzer, France, 2019, 90m An uncanny triangle emerges in this update of Henry James’s short story “The Way It Came.” Book critic Coline (Sara Giradeau) is assigned a profile of a reclusive, brooding painter (Let the Sunshine In’s Nicolas Duvauchelle), who claims to have seen his mother’s spirit just before her death. Curiously, Coline’s close friend (Anabel Lopez), also an artist, says she witnessed an apparition of her father on the brink of his sudden passing, as well. An ethereal brew of lust, grief, and jealousy propels this transfixed story of invisible frequencies and mortal hungers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday, Mar 15</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Q&amp;A with Pascal Bonitzer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. Premiere</strong></td>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>Who You Think I Am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>The Specials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>9:15pm</td>
<td>Spellbound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>9:15pm</td>
<td>Spread Your Wings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Spellbound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>8:45pm</td>
<td>Spread Your Wings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
L’Amie américaine. A legendary figure for film buffs on both sides of the Atlantic, Helen Scott is perhaps best known for her passionate work and friendship with François Truffaut, but she led a fascinating and mysterious life all her own. A book signing with Toubiana will follow the talk. Presented in collaboration with Albertine Books.

Sunday, March 8  3:00pm

From Book to Film

Cinema and literature are deeply interconnected art forms that keep inspiring each other. What are the challenges and implications of adapting a book to the screen, and how does literature nurture cinema? How do films allow creators and audiences not only to revisit but also reimagine familiar narratives? What are the concrete steps one must take to adapt a book? And how can the power of literature and words influence screenwriting and filmmaking? A selection of French and American filmmakers and writers will join to discuss these topics. Presented in partnership with French in Motion and IFP.

Monday, March 9  5:00pm

Special Event

A Conversation with The Truth Stars Juliette Binoche and Ethan Hawke

Over the past thirty years, Juliette Binoche and Ethan Hawke have been icons of French and American film acting, respectively. They have collaborated for the first time on The Truth, Hirokazu Kore-eda’s follow-up to his Palme d’Or-winning Shoplifters and the Opening Night selection of this year’s Rendez-Vous with French Cinema. In this intimate, in-depth conversation between professional peers, Binoche and Hawke will discuss the experience of working with Kore-eda on his first French-language film, and the process of probing the dynamics of married life and intergenerational family drama in the context of hyperconnected 21st-century life.

Saturday, March 7  5:00pm

Serge Toubiana on Helen Scott

Celebrated author Serge Toubiana, president of UniFrance and former director of the Cinémathèque française, will discuss the life and work of Helen Scott, subject of his latest book, Two Ways to Win a Trip to Paris!

Free Talks

Presented by HBO

Free Talks take place in the Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center Amphitheater. Registration opens March 5 at noon: filmlinc.org/free

Exploring Space on Film

At a moment when we are increasingly looking to the stars for a vision of a future and a path forward, filmmakers around the world have responded by transposing timeless themes of love, loss, family ties, and spiritual transcendence from the earth to the realm of outer space. In this talk, Alice Winocour, director of the astronaut drama Proxima, will explore the variety of approaches that artists have taken to crafting such stories, and how those perspectives differ across countries, genres, genders, and production contexts.

Saturday, March 7  5:00pm

TWO WAYS TO WIN A TRIP TO PARIS!

Cast Your Vote for the Inaugural Air France Audience Award

Air France, the company that connects France, the country of cinema, to cities around the world, is partnering this year with Rendez-Vous with French Cinema to create the Air France Audience Award. The awarded film will be selected by audience members. At the end of the festival, whoever voted will get a chance to win a round-trip ticket from New York to Paris for two! Don’t forget to cast your ballot after each screening.

Enter Rendez-Vous with French Cinema’s Review Contest

Are you an aspiring or emerging critic under 30? UniFrance and Film at Lincoln Center invite all attendees under 30 years of age to submit a review of a Rendez-Vous film of their choice. The best critique will win a round-trip ticket to Paris and a free one-year subscription to TV5MONDE. For contest guidelines and to learn more: filmlinc.org/RDVcontest
COMING SOON to Film at Lincoln Center

Series & Events

March 13-19  Mapping Bacurau
March 25–April 5  New Directors/New Films
April 8–12  Spike Lee Retrospective
April 27  46th Chaplin Award Gala honoring Spike Lee

New Releases

Opens March 6  Bacurau—Cannes prizewinner!
Opens March 20  The Truth

Members save $5 on all movie tickets! Become a Film at Lincoln Center member for 365 days of savings and perks.

Learn more and see the full lineup: filmlinc.org
Rendez-Vous with French Cinema is sponsored by

LACOSTE  AIRFRANCE  PIPER-HEIDSIECK

TV5MONDE  JCDecaux

UniFrance receives generous year-round support from

CNC  PROCIREP

Film at Lincoln Center receives generous year-round support from

The New York Times  National Endowment for the Arts  New York State Council on the Arts

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.