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All the accents of creativity

10 to Watch

10 rising talents to watch

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They have made a name for themselves in major international festivals during 2022 and will be on screens all over the world in 2023. They are the new faces of French cinema.

Selected for the excellence of their work by international journalists Rebecca Leffler (*Screen International*), Fabien Lemerrier (*Cineuropa*), Elsa Keslassy (*Variety*), and Jordan Mintzer (*The Hollywood Reporter*), these 10 to Watch 2023 embody the reinvigoration of our cinema through the freedom and singularity of their artistic choices, their ambition, audacity, and openness to the world.

Unifrance is proud to honour this new generation of directors and actors, who contribute so fully to the effervescence of French cinematographic creation, and to enhance the distribution of their works beyond French borders.

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© GUILLAUME LANDRY

Dali Benssalah

In 2012, Dali Benssalah left college and moved to Paris to focus on his acting career. In 2017, he revealed his talent in The Blaze's clip, *Territory*. He then worked with Mabrouk El Mechri (*Nox*), Louis Garrel (*A Faithful Man*), Kery James and Leïla Sy (*Street Flow*), and Rebecca Zlotowski (the series *Savages*). In 2021, he was among the cast of the latest James Bond, *No Time to Die*. He was next seen in 2022 in Yohan Manca's *My Brothers and I*, selected for Un Certain Regard, Manuel Schapira's *Tropic of Violence*, and Romain Gavras' *Athena*, in the Venice Film Festival selection. In 2023, he will be seen in Ursula Meier's *The Line* (Berlinale 2022), Jeanne Herry's *Je verrai toujours vos visages*, and *The Last Queen* by Damien Ounouri and Adila Bendimerad (presented in the Giornate degli Autori section of the Venice Film Festival).



Bastien Bouillon

Bastien Bouillon began his career in 2009, acting in the series *RIS*, *Central Nuit*, and *Boulevard du Palais*. His role in *Declaration of War* was the beginning of a lasting collaboration with Valérie Donzelli, with whom he would work again in *Hand in Hand* (2012) and *Marguerite et Julien*, in Competition at Cannes in 2015. In 2014, his role in Julie Lopes-Curval's *High Society* earned him a Lumières Award nomination for Most Promising Actor. A loyal actor, he has worked notably several times with Dominik Moll, in *Only the Animals* in 2019 and in the lead role of *The Night of the 12th*, presented in the Cannes Première strand at Cannes 2022. A role for which he has again been nominated, three years after Sébastien Betbeder's *Up the Mountain*, for a César Award for Most Promising Actor.



© JULIEN LIENARD

Davy Chou

Davy Chou directed his first feature film *Golden Slumbers* in 2011. This documentary about the birth of Cambodian cinema and its brutal destruction by the Khmer Rouge in 1975 was presented at the Berlinale, among other film festivals. His next feature, *Diamond Island* was awarded the SACD Prize at Critics' Week in 2016. In 2022, his film *Return to Seoul*, which received an excellent critical reception, was selected for Un Certain Regard and in many leading festivals (Toronto, Busan, New York, Morelia, Seville, etc.). It will represent Cambodia at the Oscars in 2023. In parallel, Chou also pursues a career as a producer. For example, he co-produced *Onoda, 10,000 Nights in the Jungle* by Arthur Harari, as well as films by Cambodian filmmakers, including Kavich Neang.



© VINCENT PRADES

Céline Devaux

Céline Devaux joined the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs de Paris in 2007, where she directed *Life and Death of the Illustrious Grigori Yefimovich Rasputin*, which won awards at the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival and the Premiers Plans Festival. Her second short, *Sunday Lunch*, was selected in Official Competition at Cannes in 2015. Presented in nearly 40 festivals around the world, it won the César for Best Animated Short. Her next title, *You Will Be Fine*, won the Golden Lion for Best Short Film at the Venice Film Festival in 2017. In 2022, her first feature film, *Everybody Loves Jeanne*, was presented in the Special Screening strand at Critics' Week in Cannes and released in French theaters in September 2022.



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Lyna Khoudri

After a striking performance in Sofia Djama's *The Blessed* (2017), for which she won the Orizzonti Award for Best Actress at Venice, Lyna Khoudri then played the lead role in *Papicha*, by Mounia Meddour. Her performance led to the César for Most Promising Actress and to international renown. She then took on a series of leading roles for the small and big screen: Rebecca Zlotowski's *Savages*, Olivier Nakache and Éric Toledano's *The Specials*, Wes Anderson's *The French Dispatch*, Fanny Liatard and Jérémy Trouilh's *Gagarine*, Cédric Jimenez's *November*, and Rachid Bouchareb's *Our Brothers*, which was presented at Cannes in 2022. In 2023, Khoudri will star in the highly anticipated films *Houria* by Mounia Meddour, *The Three Musketeers: Milady* by Alexandre de La Patellière and Matthieu Delaporte, and *The Empire* by Bruno Dumont.



Paul Kircher

In 2019, at just 18 years old, Paul Kircher made his cinema debut in the comedy *How to Make Out*, by Adeline Picault. He then played opposite Lætitia Dosch and Pierre Deladonchamps in Ève Deboise's *A Little Lesson in Love*. He followed this, in 2022, with the lead role in Christophe Honoré's *Winter Boy*, alongside Juliette Binoche and Vincent Lacoste. Widely noticed for his magnetic and luminous embodiment of a high school student coming to grips with life changes and confronted with grief, his performance earned him the Silver Shell for Best Actor at the San Sebastian Film Festival, as well as the Best Actor Award at Cinemania in Montreal. He is also among the 2023 Revelations of the César Academy. In 2023, he will next star in Thomas Cailley's *Animal Kingdom*, alongside Romain Duris and Adèle Exarchopoulos.



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Charlotte Le Bon

Charlotte Le Bon grew up in Quebec before moving to Paris. As an actress, she worked with directors such as Michel Gondry and Jalil Lespert. She also worked in the United States with Lasse Hallström, Robert Zemeckis, and Sean Ellis. As a visual artist, Charlotte Le Bon explores strange phenomena through painting, drawing, and lithography. A fan of genre cinema, she wrote and directed the short film *Judith Hotel*, selected in the Cannes 2018 lineup. In 2022, she wrote and directed *Falcon Lake*, her debut feature, presented in Directors' Fortnight and awarded the Louis-Delluc Prize for Best First Film.



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Annabelle Lengronne

Of Senegalese descent, Annabelle Lengronne left Martinique at the age of 18 and went to Paris to become an actress. After several stage roles, she appeared for the first time on screen in 2011 in the series *The Money Shot*. She then participated in the prison drama *Ombline*, by Stéphane Cazes, and Franck Gastambide's comedy *Kaira*, before playing the boxing champion Aya Cissoko in the TV movie *Danbé, la tête haute*. In 2016, she played the main female character in Magaly Richard-Serrano's *La Fine Équipe*, followed in 2019 with one of the three main roles in *Working Girls*, directed par Frédéric Fonteyne and Anne Paulicevich. In 2022, she appeared on television in *Elle's Kitchen* by Louis Farge, as well as in cinema in Léonor Serraille's *Mother and Son*, presented in Competition at Cannes.



© ARNO LAM

Rebecca Marder

Rebecca Marder made her first steps on screen at the age of five, in *The Roundup*, by Roselyne Bosch, and in the TV movie *Emma*. She joined the Comédie-Française in 2015 while continuing her career in film and television. In 2018, she performed in *A Man in a Hurry*, by Hervé Mimran, and in Philippe Faucon's mini-series *Proud*. The following year, she starred in *Someone, Somewhere* by Cédric Klapisch and *Mama Weed* by Jean-Paul Salomé, and then, in 2020, in Suzanne Lindon's debut feature, *Spring Blossom*, as well as Arnaud Desplechin's *Deception*. Sandrine Kiberlain offered her the lead role in *A Radiant Girl* (Critics' Week 2021). In *Simone: A Woman of the Century*, by Olivier Dahan, she played Simone Veil. After Michel Leclerc's *Not My Type* in 2022, we will see her again in 2023 in François Ozon's *The Crime Is Mine*, Noémie Lvovsky's *The Great Magic* and Sylvain Descloux' *Grand Expectations*. She is also among the 2023 Revelations of the César Academy.



© FRED GERVAIS-DUPUIS

Nadia Tereszkiewicz

In 2019, Nadia Tereszkiewicz debuted in Dennis Berry's *Wild*, but it was her role in Dominik Moll's *Only the Animals* that launched her career, with a César Award nomination for Most Promising Actress and the Best Actress Award at the Tokyo International Film Festival. She also made her mark on television in Thomas Vincent's CANAL+ series *Possessions*, also starring Reda Kateb. In 2022, she lit up screens in Monia Chokri's *Babysitter*, Fabienne Berthaud's *Tom*, and Valeria Bruni Tedeschi's *Forever Young*, the latter selected in Competition at Cannes. She is also one of the 2023 Revelations of the César Academy. She will soon be seen in *The Last Queen* by Damien Ounouri and Adila Bendimerad (presented in the Giornate degli Autori section of the Venice Film Festival), *White People* by Robin Campillo, and *The Crime Is Mine* by François Ozon. She is currently shooting *La Rosalie*, directed by Stéphanie Di Giusto.