

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL UK

La fête du
CINEMA



1 November to
14 December
2023

golden girl

www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

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Now entering its fourth decade, the French Film Festival UK embraces the richness and diversity of francophone cinema and seeks to expand cultural horizons. Mutually appreciative links have been forged over the last 12 months with like-minded Festivals in Dinard and Angoulême.

The organisers of the French Film Festival UK pay tribute to the legion of loyal audiences, sponsors and funders, as well as passionate and committed individuals, who every year ensure the festival comes to vibrant life – not only in November and December, but also as part of film events throughout the year.

This year a new section **Showcase** spotlights films that already have a UK distributor and are either on release in the UK and Ireland or are about to make their bows over the next few weeks. Watch out for UK launch premieres and exclusive Q&As. The overall cast list is *magnifique*: from Isabelle Huppert, Juliette Binoche, Agnès Jaoui to Romain Duris, from Danny Boon to Laure Calamy via Belgian rapper Baloji to Kristin Scott Thomas.

The 31st edition features many award-winning titles, including this year's Palme d'Or winner *Anatomy of a Fall* with previews before its general release in November. Among other guests director Justine Triet will appear at London Ciné Lumière on 2 November while Pierre-Henri Gibert presents an exclusive show of his Agnès Varda documentary in Edinburgh at Institut Français d'Écosse on 17 November.

Other highlights include Golden Bear Winning documentary *On the Adamant* by Nicolas Philibert; France's Oscar contender *The Taste of Things* which won Vietnamese film-maker Trần Anh Hùng the Best Director Award at the Cannes Film Festival and *Four Daughters*, the latest from Oscar-winning Tunisian director Kaouther Ben Hania. Seminal crime classics *The Big Risk* and *The Sicilian Clan* will delight fans of the genre.

The festival opens officially with the UK Premiere of the inspirational *Divertimento*, based on the true story of renowned conductor Zahia Ziouani, attended in London (on 1 November) by director Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar and also screening elsewhere.

Vive le cinéma !

Richard Mowe, Director French Film Festival UK

Cover image: Cannes Palme d'Or winner Justine Triet, director of *Anatomy of a Fall*

Most certificates in this brochure are advisory except where the film has been classified by the BBFC. Information on films and venues correct at time of conception but susceptible to change – check website for updates.

Oscar-nominated Tunisian director Kaouther Ben Hania has “always enjoyed the tenuous relationship between fiction and documentary” and continues her exploration in *Four Daughters / Les Filles d'Oufa* (courtesy of Modern Films), part of the Showcase selection.

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Last year the French Film Festival UK website was revamped and is now your go-to destination for detailed Festival timetables, film selections and information, preview trailers and an updated list of venues, and where you can book tickets directly. Please visit www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk/ for further information and to make a booking.



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28 Feb – 10 Mar 2024



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Anatomy of a golden girl

Justine Triet on true crime, relationships and freeing up her actors

By Richard Mowe

She was only the third female director to win the Cannes Film Festival top award, the coveted Palme d'Or, when French director Justine Triet picked up the trophy bestowed by the jury headed by *Triangle of Sadness* director Ruben Östlund back in May. Jane Fonda, no less, was on hand to hand over the statuette.

Since then Triet, 45, has been caught up in a whirlwind of other film festivals and personal appearances to talk up the film in which a novelist (played by German actress Sandra Hüller from *Toni Erdmann*) is put on trial for murder after her husband is found dead in the snow outside their home in the French Alps.

Triet has long been fascinated with true crime stories and wanted to examine the dividing lines between reality and fiction as the drama unfolds onscreen and in the court-room.

Asked to explain the genesis of the project she explained: "The film is based on the idea of living a nightmare. I wondered what would happen if my personal hell suddenly became everybody's business. I wanted to make another film about the relationship between men and women, this time

exploring how a couple falls apart. Telling the tale of a body that collapses, in a technical manner, and spending as much time on this as the disintegration of a relationship. And so I came up with the vision of a little boy who finds out about his parents' business in a trial that methodically dissects the couple's history."



Profile: Justine Triet



Cannes glory: Justine Triet receives the Palme d'Or from Jane Fonda (© Andreas Rentz, Festival de Cannes)

For authenticity's sake she worked with a friend Vincent Courcelles Labrousse who is a criminal lawyer. "We called him all the time while we were writing. He told us what matched up with reality or not. However when shooting, I tried not to hold the actors back, I let them dig into their roles. I realised that we often layer too much gravitas over depictions of the legal system," she declared.

Triet whose partner Artur Harari (a French Film Festival UK guest in 2016 for his thriller *Black Diamond*) worked as her co-writer, revealed that she read true crime stories "on an almost daily basis" and was also an addict of trial films and series. She had always believed that one day she would make a film with a trial at its heart.

After having worked with Hüller on a previous film *Sibyl* (a comedy drama also starring Virginie Efira, Adèle Exarchopoulos and Gaspard Ulliel), Triet was determined to renew the experience. In an interview at Cannes she said: "I wrote the part for her and she knew it, of course.

She brings a sense of conviction to the film that swept me away. She's someone who roots the briefest snippet of artificial dialogue in a reality that is all her own. Or failing that, she throws it back in your face. It's alive, everything radiates through her body. She soaks up the film the way few actors do. By the end of filming, it felt as if she'd truly left a part of herself in me. And that's a rare thing for me to feel on set."



The finished film has a grainy and almost documentary feel to it.

Triet initially had wanted to shoot on 35mm film. She added: “Our budget wouldn’t allow for it and we had to abandon the idea, as I was taking too many shots. Simon Beaufigli, my head technician, suggested I try some old lenses on an Alexa. Ultimately, even when we were colour grading, the film was rough and colourful, the aesthetic isn’t as clean, there’s a thick, dense feel to it. I reconnected with the notion that a film is also a technical process.”

On the notion of unfurling the film in a mixture of English, French and German Triet noted that it added a layer of complexity to Hüller’s character. “It also maintains a distance between her and the audience as a foreigner on trial in France, who must navigate her way through the languages of her husband and son. Sandra is a complex character with many layers, which the trial will explore. I was particularly interested in portraying the life of a couple who do not speak the same language. This made their negotiation even more concrete, with the idea of a third language serving as neutral ground.”

Triet is definitely no shrinking violet, either on the set or in life. She created a buzz of controversy when accepting her award. She slated French President Emmanuel Macron’s government in a feisty message regarding the country’s controversial pension reforms. “The country suffered from historic protests over the reform of the pension system. These protests were denied, repressed in a shocking way.”

WHO IS JUSTINE TRIET?

Justine Triet is a graduate of the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Her first films question the place of the individual within the group. *Sur Place* (2007) was shot during the student demonstrations and *Solférino* (2008) during the presidential elections. In 2009, she directed *Des ombres dans la maison* in a township of São Paulo. Her first fiction short, *Vilaine fille, mauvais garçon/Two Ships*, won a number of prizes at French and international festivals (European Film Award, Berlinale 2012; Grand Prix, Angers First Look; Grand Prix, Belfort; preselection for best short, 2013 Césars).

Her debut feature *La Bataille de Solférino/Age of Panic* was selected for ACID in Cannes 2013 and nominated for a 2014 César in the Best First Film category. *Victoria/In Bed With Victoria*, her second feature, opened the Critics’ Week in Cannes in 2016. Starring Virginie Efira, the film was nominated for five Césars, including Best Film and Best Actress. *Sibyl*, her third feature, was selected to compete for the Palme d’Or at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival. *Anatomy of a Fall* is her fourth feature.



showcase

The French Film Festival UK is proud to support the release of francophone films in UK cinemas throughout the year.

A diverse and engaging range of French-speaking films with English subtitles can be found at UK cinemas now as part of the Festival and over the next few months in leading independent cinemas, supported by French Film Festival UK, Institut français, and Unifrance.

Take your pick from the titles showcased on the pages to follow – from Palme d'Or winner *Anatomy of a Fall*, to the heart-warming *Driving Madeleine*; from wartime dilemmas in monochrome in *A Forgotten Man* to Tunisian family saga *Four Daughters*. Meanwhile Belgian director Bas Devos tugs at the heart-strings in *Here* and Quebecois director Monia Chokri finds that opposites attract in *The Nature of Love*. And if all that wasn't enough sample dark deeds and derring-do by the seaside in *The Origin of Evil* while Vietnamese director Trần Anh Hùng teases the appetite in Oscar contender *The Taste of Things*. Belgian rapper Bajoli makes an astonishing debut with *Omen*, dealing with the intricacies of family relationships. To round it off, girls behave badly with *Two Tickets to Greece*, a free-wheeling comedy featuring *Call My Agent's* Laure Calamy and Kristin Scott Thomas. *Bonne projection* all round!

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Please note that not all certification was confirmed at the time of publication. Check <https://www.bbfc.co.uk> for updates

Showcase



Anatomy of a Fall *Anatomie d'une chute* (15)

When a frustrated writer (Samuel Theis) dies of suspicious causes, the clues he left behind would appear to implicate his wife (Sandra Hüller who came to attention in *Toni Erdmann*). If the death in the French Alps was a suicide then what follows is incredibly cruel, as his grieving wife is hauled into court and tried for his murder.

Their 11-year-old son who is blind, is obsessed with trying to make sense of what happened, whereas it is the death of the marriage, not the husband, that preoccupies Palme d'Or winning director Justine Triet. She posits the disturbing question: Can any couple's relationship withstand the kind of scrutiny that this one is subjected to, as old fights and infidelities are dragged into the open?

Triet has intrigued Festival audiences by turning what could have been a traditional courtroom drama upside down with an approach that is rigorous and almost documentary-like in its forensic examination.

**Sparkling
intellectual
thriller that
lingers
for days.**

The Telegraph

Cast **Sandra Hüller, Swann Arlaud, Milo Machado Graner, Antoine Reinartz, Samuel Theis, Jehnny Beth**

Director **Justine Triet** | France | 2023 | 150 mins

Int sales **MK2** | UK Distributor **Lionsgate / Picturehouse**

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

Showcase



Driving Madeleine *Une belle course* (15)

When taxi driver Charles (Dany Boon) takes a booking to drive a passenger across Paris he discovers his passenger is 92-year-old Madeleine travelling to a retirement home where she will spend the rest of her days.

Charles, impatient with her requests to drive through parts of the city significant in her life is at first distracted and preoccupied with his own problems but as her story unfolds he discovers her life has been anything but ordinary. Madeleine had lived through one of the darkest wartime periods of human history. Yet she is neither bitter nor gloomy, having chosen instead to overcome life's often unjust vicissitudes, to fight against them, and to embrace joy wherever she may find it.

A mutual respect and friendship that neither will forget, develops as they share their stories in this heart-warming drama.

**Carried by
two actors
who enjoy
wonderful
natural
chemistry.**

Cineuropa

Cast **Line Renaud, Dany Boon, Alice Isaaz, Jérémie Laheurte, Gwendoline Hamon**

Director **Christian Carion** | France / Belgium | 2022 | 91 mins

Int sales **Pathé International**

UK Distributor **Parkland Entertainment**

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

Showcase



A Forgotten Man (CERT TBC)

In the spring of 1945 as Nazi Germany collapses, Swiss ambassador Heinrich Zwygart flees bombed-out Berlin after serving eight years in the capital of the Reich. This is the end of an abominable mandate, during which he had to make fatal compromises to preserve the neutrality and security of his country. For Switzerland to end on the winning side after the war, someone will have to pay.

Haunted by his past, struggling to secure a future, but driven by his ambition Zwygart feels the trap closing in on him. He has made it through the war, but will he survive peace?

**Beautifully
shot in black
and white...
a tremendous
central
performance
from Michael
Neuenschwander.**

Blazing Minds

Cast **Michael Neuenschwander, Manuela Biedermann, Cléa Eden, Yann Philipona, Sabine Timoteo**

Director **Laurent Nègre** | Switzerland / UK | 2022 | 85 mins

Int sales **Sovereign Sales** | UK Distributor **Sovereign Films Distribution**

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

Showcase



Four Daughters *Les Filles d'Olfa* (15)

For her sixth feature Oscar-nominated Tunisian director Kaouther Ben Hania takes an unusual approach in examining a familial tragedy as a film within a film. The docu-fiction hybrid examines the disappearance and radicalisation of two Tunisian girls, Rahma and Ghofrane, through both dramatic re-enactments and interviews with the real-life subjects. Olfa Hamrouni, the mother of the four daughters, appears as herself.

Her two eldest daughters were both arrested after the US military bombed an Islamist State hideout in Sabratha in 2016.

Ben Hania also appears as herself, announcing to Olfa and her two youngest daughters, Aya and Tayssir, that the three of them would be playing themselves in a series of reproduced moments alongside actors hired to portray their missing siblings.

**Gripping
true story...
compelling
and ambitious.**

Variety

Part of the official selection



Film Francophone
D'ANGOULEME



Cast **Hend Sabri, Olfa Hamrouni, Eya Chikhaoui, Tayssir Chikhaoui, Nour Karoui, Ichraq Matar, Majd Mastoura**

Director **Kaouther Ben Hania** | France / Tunisia / Germany | 2023 | 110 mins | Arabic with English subtitles

Int sales **The Party Film Sales** | UK Distributor **Modern Films**

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

Showcase



Here (15)

Set in Brussels, the film revolves around a potential love story between Stefan, a Romanian construction worker, and a Belgian-Chinese doctorate student studying mosses. Their paths cross just before Stefan is about to move back home. She is played by Liyo Gong and he by Stefan Gota. There is relatively little dialogue, but Belgian writer-director Bas Devos still manages to tug the heartstrings in all the best ways and examines our relationship with the natural world as his two solitary souls find comfort.

Winner of the FIPRESCI prize at the Berlin International Film Festival awarded by international film critics.

**Being in
the moment
has rarely
been so
exhilarating.**

Screen

Cast **Stefan Gota, Liyo Gong, Cedric Luvuezo, Teodor Corban, Saadia Bentaïeb**

Director **Bas Devos** | Belgium | 2023 | 82 mins | Int sales **Rediance** | UK Distributor **New Wave**

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

Showcase



The Nature of Love *Simple comme Sylvain* (15)

Sophia, a 40-year-old philosophy teacher, is in a stable if somewhat socially-conforming relationship with Xavier. From gallery openings to endless dinner parties, ten years have already flown by. Sylvain is a local craftsman, renovating Sophia and Xavier's new country house on the side of a lake. When Sophia and Sylvain meet, Sophia's world is turned upside down. Opposites attract, but can they last?

Chokri takes an acerbic and original look at the difficulties of monogamy through her protagonists, enhanced by superbly naturalistic performances. The Quebecois actress-turned-filmmaker appears on confident, philosophical and mature form in this her third feature.

**A fun, sharp
and sexy
Canadian
rom-com.**

Screen

Part of the official selection



Film Francophone
D'ANGOULEME

Cast **Magalie Lépine Blondeau, Pierre-Yves Cardinal, Francis-William Rhéaume**

Director **Monia Chokri** | Quebec / France | 2023 | 111 mins | Int sales **MK2** | UK Distributor **Vertigo**

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

Showcase



Omen *Augure* (15)

After spending several years in Belgium, Koffi, a young Congolese man (Marc Zinga) returns to his birthplace of Kinshasa to confront the intricacies of his family and culture. Baloji, the Belgian-Congolese rapper, directs this first narrative feature about four people navigating accusations of witchcraft and sorcery, using his personal experiences and employing a virtual language seen in his short films, such as *Zombies* (2018).

Baloji's name means "sorcerer" in Swahili and, in interviews, he's attributed that to his interest in magic, witchcraft and how society assigns labels. Baloji's curiosity translates into confidence as a director, noted earlier this year when the film premiered in *Un Certain Regard* at the Cannes Film Festival and later at the Angoulême Festival of Francophone Cinema. He inspires four intriguing characters, played with authentic persuasion by his actors. Belgium's entry for the Oscars.

Cast **Marc Zinga, Lucie Debay, Eliane Umuhire, Yves-Marina Gnahoua, Marcel Otete Kabeya**

Director **Baloji** | 2023 | 90 mins

Belgium/Democratic Republic of Congo/France/Netherlands/South Africa/Germany

Int sales **Memento International** | UK Distributor **Aya Films**

**Artful and
intriguing
take on
the African
diasporic
experience.**

Hollywood Reporter

Part of the official selection



Festival de
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Showcase



The Origin of Evil *L'Origine du mal* (15)

With more than a nod in the director of such masters as Patricia Highsmith and Claude Chabrol, director Sébastien Marnier for his third feature sets up camp in a luxurious seaside villa where a young woman finds herself in the company of her strange family: an unknown wealthy father, Serge (Jacques Weber), his extravagant wife, Louise (Dominique Blanc) his scheming daughter George (Doria Tillier), his rebellious granddaughter Jeanne (Céleste Brunnquel) and their creepy housekeeper Agnès (Véronique Ruggia Saura).

Call My Agent's Laure Calamy stars as the calculating Stéphane, a worker at a fish factory who shows up on the doorstep claiming to be the long-lost daughter of the patriarch. Cue twists and turns in abundance.

The Origin of Evil's wicked ways hit home with all the more jouissance for being deceptively anchored in the real.

Sight & Sound

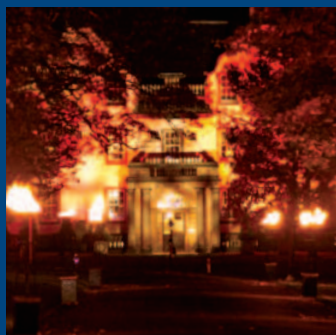
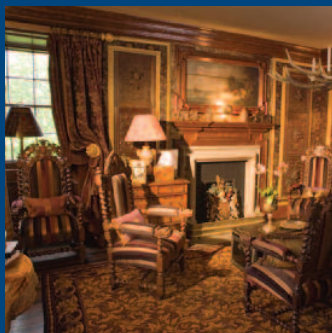
Cast **Laure Calamy, Doria Tillier, Dominique Blanc, Jacques Weber**

Director **Sébastien Marnier** | France / Canada | 2022 | 152 mins | Int sales **Charades** | UK Distributor **Blue Finch**

For screening dates, times and venues see
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Showcase



The Taste of Things *La Passion de Dodin Bouffant* (12)

This mouthwatering and sensual exercise in haute cuisine and late-flowering romance is set in 1885 and almost totally within the confines of a rustic kitchen in a chateau. Trần Anh Hùng, the Vietnamese director, now living in France, of *The Scent of the Green Papaya* based the film on the book *The Life and Passion of Dodin-Bouffant, Gourmet* by Marcel Rouff. Peerless cook Eugénie (Juliette Binoche) has worked for the famous gourmet Dodin (Benoît Magimel) for the last 20 years.

As time went by, the practice of gastronomy and mutual admiration turned into a romantic relationship. He realises, however, that while he schmoozes the rich and famous in the dining room, she remains in the kitchen but is clearly hugely responsible for his august reputation.

There is talk of marriage but Eugénie values her independence too much in a relationship that she considers should be of equal parts. Both Binoche and Magimel who were together in life for a considerable time, exude an effortless rapport. Chosen as France's Oscar contender.

**There is
charm and
delicacy
here and
Magimel
and Binoche
perform
impeccably.**

The Guardian

Cast **Juliette Binoche, Benoît Magimel, Emmanuel Salinger, Patrick d'Assumção**

Director **Trần Anh Hùng** | France / Belgium | 2023 | 134 mins | Int sales **Gaumont** | UK Distributor **Picturehouse**

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



FRENCH

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Showcase



Two Tickets to Greece *Les Cyclades* (15)

Two feisty femmes – Laure Calamy and Olivia Côte – play estranged childhood friends who tentatively reunite for a trip to the Greek Islands. Recently divorced, and watching helplessly as her only son leaves home, Blandine (Côte) is struggling to find her footing again, so when her former best friend Magalie (Calamy), loud and fearless, suddenly resurfaces, she allows herself to be spontaneous for a change.

But as they head off towards their destination, it is soon apparent that Magalie's very different approach to holidaying – and to life – could lead Blandine to her breaking point... and beyond. An unashamed crowd-pleaser with Kristin Scott Thomas getting in on the act and letting down her hair as a hippie jewellery maker called Bijou.

The film emerges as a breezily delightful tale of female camaraderie, intermingled with laughter, tears and great scenery around Amorgos, where Luc Besson's cult *The Big Blue* was shot.

Odd-couple comedy that sees two former school-friends reunited in middle-age for a sun-soaked Greek holiday.

Variety

Cast **Olivia Côte, Laure Calamy, Kristin Scott Thomas**

Director **Marc Fitoussi** | France / Greece / Belgium | 2022 | 110 mins

Int sales **Indie Sales** | UK Distributor **Parkland Entertainment**

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

panorama



The Animal Kingdom *Le Règne animal* (N/C 15+)

In a world hit by a wave of mutations that are gradually transforming some humans into animals, François (Romain Duris) does everything he can to save his wife, who is affected by the mysterious condition. As some of the creatures disappear into a nearby forest, he embarks with son Émile (Paul Kircher) on a quest that will change their lives forever. One morning, father and son meet a local police woman, Julia (Adèle Exarchopoulos), after a vehicle packed with “critters” – Émile’s mother included – goes off the road, releasing the hybrids into the woods.

Writer-director Thomas Cailley made an arresting debut at the Cannes Film Festival in 2015 as part of the Directors’ Fortnight with *Love At First Fight* or *Les Combattants*. He came back to the scene of his first triumph, this time in *Un Certain Regard*. His brother David worked again as chief cinematographer. Cailley has been working on television series but here he welcomed the opportunity to exploit the big screen experience in his take on the state of the planet.

Barrage of images and ideas becomes more and more remarkable and compelling over time.

Deadline

Cast **Romain Duris, Adèle Exarchopoulos, Paul Kircher**

Director **Thomas Cailley** | 2023 | France | 130 mins

Int sales **StudioCanal**

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



Divertimento (N/C 12+)

A determined, gifted 17-year-old musician, Zahia has but one dream — to become a conductor. Music is her life which she shares with her entire family including her twin sister Ferrouma. Yet, in 1995, all odds seem to be stacked against her. She's a woman, the daughter of Algerian immigrants and comes from a working-class background.

None of that plays well at her stuffy Parisian conservatoire, or at the competitions she embarks upon. Her path is strewn with obstacles. Yet, in her drive to make symphonic music accessible to one and all, she somehow creates the culturally-diverse Divertimento orchestra, based in her own Parisian immigrant neighbourhood.

And the real-life Zahia continues to conduct that orchestra to this day.

Cast **Oulaya Amamra, Lina El Arabi, Niels Arestrup**

Director **Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar** | 2022 | France | 110 mins

Int sales **Le Pacte**

This real-life journey will inspire youngsters (and even the not so young) to fight for their dreams...

Le Parisien

Part of the official selection



**Film Francophone
D'ANGOULEME**

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



The Tasting *La Dégustation* (N/C 15+)

With his wine business on the brink of bankruptcy Jacques (Bernard Campan) who's divorced, disgruntled and in his fifties, doesn't have much to smile about.

Not feeling particularly inspired by the next stage of his life, Jacques is close to giving up until Hortense (Isabelle Carré) stumbles into his shop. Light-hearted and kind, Hortense works as a nurse – and is so completely enchanted by the babies she delivers, she is determined to find love and have a child of her own.

This could be the start of something seemingly wonderful for them both but as they grow closer and closer, their pasts begin to catch up with them. A testament to the power of love and a great glass of wine. Based on director Ivan Calbérac's stage play of the same name.

**Crisply
scripted
and performed
with a light
touch...**

Deadline

Cast **Bernard Campan, Isabelle Carré, Mounir Amamra, Eric Viellard, Olivier Claverie**

Director **Ivan Calbérac** | 2022 | France | 92 mins

Int sales **StudioCanal**

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



Bonnard, Pierre and Marthe

Bonnard, Pierre et Marthe (N/C 15+)

Director Martin Provost charts the colourful relationship and collaboration spanning five decades between Pierre Bonnard, who was mentored by Claude Monet and nicknamed the “painter of happiness,” and his wife Marthe de Méigny. The latter, who was a self-proclaimed aristocrat, became the cornerstone of her husband’s life and work, appearing in more than a third of his paintings. Bonnard, considered one of the greatest French artists of the 20th century, weaves Impressionism and Abstraction with bold colours amid the depiction of scenes of everyday life. With fellow painters, Bonnard also formed the group of young French artists known as Les Nabis in 1888.

“As a child, my mother had brought me a poster showing Marthe painted by Bonnard,” Provost noted. He had previously explored the world of French painting in the 2008 film *Séraphine* which won seven César Awards. “I had pinned it to my bedroom wall so that I could look at it when I went to sleep at night. Something about the image, the sensuality, the strangeness of it, fascinated me. It was like a window into another world.”

A touching, visually fetching and educational look at the intertwining of art and stubborn romance.

Screen Daily

Cast **Vincent Macaigne, Cécile de France, Stacy Martin**

Director **Martin Provost** | 2023 | Belgium / France | 122 mins

Int sales **Memento International**

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

documentary



On the Adamant *Sur l'Adamant* (PG)

Nicolas Philibert who memorably made *Être ou avoir* (about a rural school), returns with a warm and sympathetic documentary *On the Adamant*, which proved a worthy winner of the Berlin Film Festival's Golden Bear earlier this year. The Adamant, a unique day-care centre in the form of a floating structure located on the Seine in the heart of Paris, welcomes adults who experience mental health issues, offering the kind of day-care that grounds them in time and space and helps them to recover or keep up their spirits.

One young man describes how other people's noise upsets him. Frédéric, an ageing but still dashing bohemian, speaks lucidly about art, before sharing that he and his brother are reincarnations of Vincent van Gogh and his brother Théo.

Philibert offers no diagnoses nor labels. He simply opens a window, to give us an empathetic, non-clinical view on the often stigmatised individuals portrayed, reducing the gap between 'us' and 'them'.

**Compassionate,
intelligent
and shrewdly
observed...**

The Guardian



Cast **Mamadi Barri, Walid Benziane, Sabine Berlière**

Director **Nicolas Philibert** | 2023 | France / Japan | 109 mins

UK Distributor **Curzon**

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

documentary



Viva Varda! (N/C 12+)

For long stretches of her career, Agnès Varda lacked the exposure she deserved. Pierre-Henri Gibert, a documentarian specialising in cinema history, chronicles her expansive career in this documentary (premiered earlier this year at the Cannes Film Festival). He embodies her curiosity and whimsy, also filling in notable gaps from films such as *The Beaches of Agnès* and *Varda by Agnès*.

The documentary conducts intimate interviews with Varda's family members, friends, and co-conspirators, while uncovering rare archival material. Critic Robyn Citizen suggests that film historians often group Varda (who came to the Festival in 1995) with the French New Wave, but her work had a unique radicalism. She was the only woman director of that cohort and she preceded the men with her first feature, 1955's *La Pointe Courte*. Her next film, 1962's *Cléo from 5 to 7*, followed a woman wandering Paris and exemplified a penchant for blending fiction and documentary.

Gibert brings deeper context to the personal factors that fed into her work, including her long and complex relationship with filmmaker Jacques Demy.

Tightly calibrated, efficiently told, and lovingly compiled portrait of the seminal director.

www.rogerebert.com



Director **Pierre-Henri Gibert** | 2023 | France | 67 mins
Int sales **mk2**

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

documentary



We Nous (N/C 12+)

After the success of *Saint Omer* in last year's Festival, this is a chance to catch Alice Diop's earlier documentary which journeys into the diversity of the Parisian suburbs, following in the tracks of the RER B train route. She presents a series of vignettes of life in the suburbs and the surrounding countryside.

But as it gains momentum, this deceptively cunning documentary sees those parallel tracks converge and criss-cross unexpectedly, throwing off fascinating intellectual sparks of insight at the switching points. Diop challenges the traditional ideas of how a documentary should be organised.

**French-Senegalese
film-maker Alice Diop
offers a sensitive
portrayal of disparate
communities...**

The Guardian

Part of the official selection



In association with

**AFRICA
IN MOTION**
FILM FESTIVAL

Director **Alice Diop** | 2021 | France | 115 mins

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

MOBILE FILM FESTIVAL AFRICA 2023

1 MOBILE, 1 MINUTE, 1 FILM



In association with

**AFRICA
IN MOTION**
FILM FESTIVAL

Because one minute can change the World

The Paris-based Mobile Film Festival, partners of French Film Festival UK, this year celebrated MOBILE FILM FESTIVAL AFRICA 2023 with a superb selection of films – all shot on mobile phone or tablet, and lasting no more than one minute long. Stories of hopes, dreams, searches for a better life, concern for the environment, kindness but also harsh realities abound.

In the words of Bruno Madje, founder of the MFF, *"This edition, 100% African, aligns perfectly with the festival's mission and values. As the world's youngest continent with a digital transformation revolving around the mobile phone, Africa is conquering the world through its creativity and youthfulness. The Mobile Film Festival wishes to support the blooming of this talented youth."* More than \$46,000 in grants to further their film-making was awarded to the winners.

Watch the winning films at www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk and the complete selection here: [Mobile Film Festival Africa](#).



Image from 'I Have a Dream Too'

I Have a Dream Too (Grand Prize Africa)

The testimony of a boy who looks after his family.

Director: **Sunday Mapya** | Tanzania

Like a Matchstick يُنْزِقُ الْقِدَامَ

(Best Script Award)

There cannot be honour in any crime.

Director: **Sami Iskander** | Egypt

A Beggar's Dream *Yakaru Talibé*

(Best Actor Award)

Every child dreams, even a Talibé.

Director: **Cheikh Sidate Niang** | Senegal

The Guardian of the Walls *Le Gardien des murs*

(Grand Prize Morocco)

Scenes in a traditional Moroccan house that has long been forgotten and neglected, seen through the eyes of a child.

Director: **Kamal Lougleb** | Morocco

Life in Pink *La Vie en rose*

(African Female Director Award + Best Actress Award)

What happens after this influencer switches her camera off?

Director: **Vanessa Pellegrin** | Morocco

Human Migrant *Migrant humain*

(Best Actor Award)

A family tries to cross a border, seeking refuge for a better life, trying to survive. Inspired by a true story and acted by real migrants.

Director: **Kamal Tahtah** | Morocco

The Peninsula Dream *Le Rêve d'une presque île*

(French Speaking Film Award)

It may be an impossible undertaking for one person, but together we can all commit to looking after our environment.

Director: **Nelly Brun Elvire Behanzin** | Benin

Blindness (Documentary Film Award)

A tribute to a grandmother who fights disease with her own inner creativity.

Director: **Bongani Ndaba** | South Africa

Runners 3 Cape

A tongue-in-cheek comedy about migration.

Director: **Emmanuel Ochwo** | Uganda

Password *PAASWAAA*

(ACP – EU Culture Award)

What is this man trying to escape from?

Director: **Shandra Daisy Apondi** | Kenya

Nature's Heroes *Les Héros de la nature*

(Best Film from the Democratic Republic of the Congo)

We can all become heroes of nature – like the people who clear rubbish in Kinshasa.

Director: **Gael Bolila** | Democratic Republic of the Congo

Luggages Aunties *Tanties Bagages*

A "Luggage Auntie" works to help her parents in a Côte d'Ivoire market.

Director: **ha Annick-Aimée Kouamé** | Côte d'Ivoire

classics



The Big Risk *Classe tous risques* (12)

After hiding out in Milan for nearly a decade, fugitive gangland chief Abel Davos (Lino Ventura) sneaks back to Paris with his children despite a death sentence hanging over his head.

Accompanied by appointed guardian Eric Stark (Jean-Paul Belmondo, fresh off his star turn in *Breathless*) and beset by backstabbing former friends, Abel begins a journey through the postwar Parisian underworld that's both throat grabbing and soul searching. What can Abel, a wanted man with two small children and only Stark as a friend, do? "Never give ground," he tells Eric, but how long can he hold to his code? A thrilling highlight of Sixties French cinema by Claude Sautet who was a regular guest at Glasgow Film Theatre as part of the French Film Festival.

Towering performance from Lino Ventura... a hard-boiled gem.

Eye for Film

Cast **Jean-Paul Belmondo, Lino Ventura, Marcel Dalio** | Director **Claude Sautet** | France / Italy | 1960 | 110 mins



Introduction in Edinburgh and Glasgow by Dr Pasquale Iannone, Lecturer in Film Studies (The University of Edinburgh) as well as a critic and broadcaster. Institut français d'Écosse on Saturday 11 November at 18.30 and at Glasgow Film Theatre on Sunday 26 November at 16.10 (tbc).

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



The Sicilian Clan *Le Clan des Siciliens* (15)

Roger Santet (Alain Delon) is a convicted murderer sprung from prison by the Sicilian clan headed by the ageing Vittorio Manalese (Jean Gabin). They conspire to steal a large cache of jewels from an exhibit in Rome. The plot involves the seduction of the daughter-in-law of the mob patriarch as a determined police commissioner (Lino Ventura) closes in on all of them.

Verneuil's screenplay was adapted from a novel by Auguste Le Breton, who wrote *Rififi* and *Bob le Flambeur*. Ennio Morricone signed the memorable score.

Cast **Alain Delon, Jean Gabin, Lino Ventura**

Director **Henri Verneuil** | France / Italy | 1969 | 122 mins

**Compelling
 ... one of
 the first
 modern-era
 Mafia
 movies.**

Slant Magazine

**Introduction at Institut français d'Écosse, Edinburgh, by
 Dr Pasquale Iannone, Lecturer in Film Studies (The University
 of Edinburgh) on Thursday 16 November at 18.30.**

THE GOLDEN AGE OF FRENCH CRIME MOVIES

**Looking back at
 the heyday of
 French crime movies,
 with Delon, Gabin,
 Belmondo, Moreau
 et al, on the make
 and on the run.**

French crime films conjure up Belmondo and Delon, Jean Gabin and Jeanne Moreau, plus directors such as Louis Malle, François Truffaut and Jean-Pierre Melville. With two French crime films in this year's Festival – *The Big Risk* and *The Sicilian Clan* – bookending the 1960s it is clear what a fertile period this was. In a talk, French film fans Patrick Hargood, the Cinema's Education Officer, and the Education Team's Sandy Guthrie will be investigating.

**Chichester Cinema at New Park 100 mins (inc 10 mins Q&A)
 Saturday 18 November, 10.30 — In the Auditorium.**

Jane Birkin Tribute



I Love You, I Don't *Je t'aime moi non plus* (18)

The first film written and directed by iconic French singer and songwriter Serge Gainsbourg is a love triangle that begins when a lonely truck-stop waitress (Jane Birkin, Gainsbourg's then-partner) falls for a hunky garbage collector (American cult actor and Warhol sex symbol Joe Dallesandro), making her boyfriend jealous.

The movie shares its title with that of a sexually-explicit 1969 pop hit by Gainsbourg and Birkin. With Gérard Depardieu.

Cast **Jane Birkin, Joe Dallesandro, Hugues Quester, Reinhard Kolldehoff, Gérard Depardieu**

Director **Serge Gainsbourg** | France | 1976 | 89 mins

Gainsbourg, like Prince after him, came from music to filmmaking with a strong cinematic sense...he doesn't put a foot wrong.

The New York Times

Jane Birkin

JANE BIRKIN, singer, actress and film director, who was born in England, lived in France for most of her adult life. She died earlier this year on 16 July. She was catapulted to prominence after she created a *succès de scandale* in 1969 with the song *Je t'aime...moi non plus* which she made with Serge Gainsbourg. Over the years she recorded more than a dozen albums, and appeared in over 70 films, including the Gainsbourg-directed *Je t'aime moi non plus*.



Marguerite Duras Focus



India Song (15)

Marguerite Duras's most celebrated work is a mesmerising experience with few stylistic precedents in the history of cinema. Within the insular walls of a lavish, decaying embassy in 1930s India, the French ambassador's wife (Delphine Seyrig) staves off ennui through affairs with multiple men – with the overpowering torpor broken only by a startling eruption of madness.

Cast **Delphine Seyrig, Michael Lonsdale, Mathieu Carrière, Claude Mann, Vernon Dobtcheff**

Director **Marguerite Duras** | 1975 | France | 95 mins

The film's supremely unhurried pacing permits us to luxuriate in each image. *Wall Street Journal*



I Want to Talk About Duras *Vous ne désirez que moi* (N/C 12+)

About writer Marguerite Duras' final relationship with Yann Andréa who was 38 years her junior. The screenplay is based on an unedited transcript of a 1982 interview between Andréa and writer and journalist Michèle Manceaux, who was a long-time friend of Duras.

Cast **Emmanuelle Devos, Swann Arlaud**

Director **Claire Simon** | 2021 | France | 111 mins

Claire Simon's exploration of the relationship between Yann Andréa and Marguerite Duras is a remarkable two-hander. *Deadline*

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

extras

The Extras programme comprises some of the top titles you may have missed in previous editions and feature some of the star names in *le cinéma français* among them Sandrine Kiberlain, Gilles Lellouch, Gérard Depardieu, Isabelle Huppert and Catherine Frot. The selection embraces such lavish costume dramas as *Eugénie Grandet* and *Lost Illusions*, a contemporary environmental thriller (*Goliath*) as well as comedies *French Tech* and *The Rose Maker*. To complete the picture add in romantic entanglements in the French countryside (*Love Affair(s)*), a sharp satire on local politics (*Promises*), and an inspiring tale set in the world of dance (*Rise*).

EUGENIE GRANDET	35
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GOLIATH	36
LOST ILLUSIONS	36
LOVE AFFAIR(S)	37
PROMISES	37
RISE	38
THE ROSE MAKER	38





Eugénie Grandet (N/C 12+)

Sumptuous costume adaptation from the oft filmed novel by Honoré de Balzac. Félix Grandet reigns supreme in his modest house in Saumur where his wife and daughter Eugénie lead a distraction-free existence. Extremely avaricious, he does not take a favourable view of the handsome suitors who rush to ask for his daughter's hand. Nothing should damage the colossal fortune he hides from everyone. The sudden arrival of Grandet's nephew, a ruined, orphaned Parisian dandy, turns the young girl's life upside down.

Cast **César Domboy, Olivier Gourmet, Joséphine Japy, Valérie Bonneton, Philippe du Janerand, Urbain Candelier**

Director **Marc Dugain** | 2021 | France | 105 mins

In breathing cinematic life into the pages of a feminist classic director Marc Dugain gambles and wins...

All Culture



French Tech Les 2 Alfred (N/C 12+)

The two brothers, Bruno and Denis Podalydès act together (and Bruno also directs) in an upbeat but simultaneously moving comedy about characters overwhelmed by the modern world and new technologies, who need to stick together to get by. Sandrine Kiberlain plays the formidable businesswoman who keeps her cards close to her chest.

Cast **Denis Podalydès, Sandrine Kiberlain, Bruno Podalydès**

Director **Bruno Podalydès** | 2020 | France | 92 mins

A little gem full of humour, tenderness and invention.

Voici

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



Goliath (N/C 15+)

A timely story of an environmental scandal. Patrick (Gilles Lellouche) is a tenacious lawyer specialising in environmental law. France (Emmanuelle Bercot) is a school teacher who becomes an activist after her husband develops cancer from exposure to a pesticide. Mathias (Pierre Niney) is an ambitious lobbyist working for an international chemical corporation. The paths of these characters collide as the lives of thousands are affected by a tragic act that sparks a powerful movement, while the corporation fights to prevent the truth from being revealed.

Cast **Gilles Lellouche, Emmanuelle Bercot, Pierre Niney**

Director **Frédéric Tellier** | 2022 | France / Belgium | 121 mins

Excellent acting... a captivating and edifying thriller. *Le Journal du Dimanche*



Lost Illusions *Illusions perdues* (N/C 15+)

An all-star cast dazzles in the spectacular and exhilarating new film by Xavier Giannoli – an adaptation of Balzac's classic novel about a young idealist who learns that anything can be bought and sold. Epic in scope and impact, *Lost Illusions* is an eerily prescient fable, bracingly attuned to the anxieties of the modern media age.

Cast **Benjamin Voisin, Cécile de France, Vincent Lacoste, Xavier Dolan, Jeanne Balibar, Gérard Depardieu, Louis-do de Lencquesaing**
Director **Xavier Giannoli** | 2022 | France | 149 mins

Sensational. Giannoli illuminates the dank frenzy of the 19th century with an eye on our own post-truth era.

The New York Times

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



Love Affair(s) *Les Choses qu'on dit, les choses qu'on fait* (N/C 15+)

Holidays in the French countryside provide the perfect setting for Emmanuel Mouret to continue his exploration of all things tender and loving, throwing heart, soul and passion into the subject. François has to rush back to Paris to cover for a sick colleague, leaving his partner Daphne, three months pregnant, to welcome his cousin Maxime.

Cast **Vincent Macaigne, Camélia Jordana, Niels Schneider, Émilie Dequenne, Jenna Thiam, Guillaume Gouix**

Director **Emmanuel Mouret** | 2020 | France | 120 mins

Emotional detours galore via stylised dialogue delivered with aplomb.

Screen



Promises *Les Promesses* (N/C 15+)

Ambition poisons the scrappy, political atmosphere of a Parisian banlieue in this concise and stirring drama which manages to dissect a host of philosophical questions about integrity and public office without losing sight of the quieter, more specific constituent stories that make answering them urgent. Isabelle Huppert plays the enterprising mayor of a town chronically plagued by crisis, from high unemployment and poor social services to exploitative slumlords.

Cast **Isabelle Huppert, Reda Kateb, Naidra Ayadi**

Director **Thomas Kruithof** | 2021 | France | 98 mins

Smart political drama with fine performances... cleverly plotted.

Screen

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



Rise *En corps* (N/C 15+)

A partnership between director Cédric Klapisch and London-based Israeli choreographer Hofesh Shechter who appears as himself – the film focusses on real dancers really dancing. There are no body doubles and no illusions. Élise (Marion Barbeau) is a talented ballet dancer whose life is turned upside down – by an injury and then when she catches her boyfriend cheating on her with her understudy. On a path to physical and emotional recovery, she travels from Paris to Brittany, where she embraces the artistic freedom of contemporary dance and new ways to reinvent herself. A heartwarming and inspiring story that tells how sometimes, the worst thing that could happen may turn out to be the best.

Cast **Marion Barbeau, Hofesh Shechter, Denis Podalydès, Pio Marmai**
Director **Cédric Klapisch** | 2022 | France / Belgium | 117 mins

Barbeau's presence is nothing short of a star-making turn. *The Guardian*



The Rose Maker *La Fine Fleur* (N/C 12+)

The legendary Catherine Frot stars in this engaging comedy as Eve Vernet, the greatest rose grower in France. A once booming business, Eve's farm is now on the verge of bankruptcy and in danger of being bought by a powerful competitor. Her secretary Véra (Olivia Côte) believes she has found a solution and hires three new employees... none of whom have any gardening experience. A colourful and fragrant delight whether you have green fingers or not.

Cast **Catherine Frot, Melan Omerta, Fatsah Bouyahmed**
Director **Pierre Pinaud** | 2020 | France | 94 mins

A sweet, gently scented French diversion. *Variety*

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



The Little Gang *La Petite Bande* (N/C 12+)

Known for his intelligent and well-turned comedies, director Pierre Salvadori returned to the roots of his youth in Corsica, to make an inventive tale about five friends who transform themselves into eco-warriors. The story begins in a small town where 12-year-olds Cat, Fouad, Antoine, Sami and Aimé have hatched a plan to set fire to the Chambon Factory which is polluting the most beautiful river in the area. A classic children's adventure story – featuring cabins, binoculars, kayaks, bikes, friendships, tricky or secret romances, and more – bursting with ideas.

Cast **Aymé Medeville, Paul Belhoste, Mathys Clodion-Gines, Colombe Schmidt, Redwan Sellam**

Director **Pierre Salvadori** | 2022 | France | 106 mins

An ecological fable for children... as delightful as it is endearing. *Cineuropa*

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



Rookies *Allons enfants* (N/C 15+)

A prestigious Paris city centre high school gambles that they can change the prospects for struggling students through Hip Hop. "Dancing is drive. You have it or not," they are told. The training motivates, strengthens and allows the students to surpass themselves. Everyone brings his or her own story, and through dance, learns to translate their experiences into physical energy. The intimately immersive camera interweaves explosive movement with moments of reflection. There are injuries and disappointments, but also hopes, dreams and inner transformations. Documentary.

Directors **Thierry Demaizière, Alban Teurlai** | 2022 | France | 110 mins

Total immersion in a Parisian high school's hip hop class. *Cineuropa*





Belle and Sébastien – Next Generation ***Belle et Sébastien : nouvelle génération*** (N/C 12+)

The beloved classic by Cécile Aubry is given a fresh modern twist. Ten-year-old Sébastien is less than thrilled to spend a school break with his grandmother and aunt in the countryside instead of filling his days around Paris skateboarding with his friends. Though the family farm is in the stunning French Pyrenées, Séb finds herding sheep boring. That is, until he meets Belle, a canine with a heart of gold. When Séb learns that Belle is being mistreated by her owner, he's ready to draw on his urban tricks and courage to do what it takes to protect his new friend.

Cast **Michèle Laroque, Robinson Mensah Rouanet, Alice David**

Director **Pierre Coré** | 2022 | France | 96 mins

**Enjoyable
and moving...
held up by
a strong cast.**

The Hollywood Reporter

For screening dates, times and venues see
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

Learning L'école du cinéma



The French Film Festival UK Learning Programme will once again offer French-speaking cinema with English subtitles free of charge to schools this autumn! The programme of four films will be available for classes between 30 October and 15 December 2023.

Teachers will be able to view films in the selection in advance to decide which is most appropriate for each of their classes. There is no longer an obligation to order a film to watch it before making a choice.

Participating teachers will be able to download the learning resources, prepared by Lise Morel, accompanying each film for use in classrooms. These are designed in accordance with the Modern Languages Experience and Outcomes for the Curriculum for Excellence and updated in response to feedback from teachers.

The programme is co-ordinated by Sylvia Davidson from the French Film Festival UK, with assistance from Louise Hurrell (FFF), Catherine Guiat of the Institut français in Scotland, Agathe Morisse of the Institut français in London and Marion Thevenot, Marine Gaillard and Laetitia Arnaout of Institut français IFCinéma in Paris; and with the generous support of TotalEnergies, the Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland, The James T Howard Trust and SCILT (Scotland's National Centre for Languages). Prizes will be awarded again by the Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland for the best film reviews by pupils.

We are delighted to be able to provide these opportunities for the young audiences of tomorrow.

Vive le cinéma!

HOW TO BOOK

PLEASE BOOK AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE DESIRED SCREENING DATES TO ALLOW TIME FOR ACCOUNT PROCESSING by completing the booking form **SCHOOLS BOOKING FORM Autumn 2023**.

Following booking FFF will send information on how to access the films requested. Note that it is illegal to replicate any film or to screen them for any other purpose than the agreed in-school programme.

LEARNING RESOURCES for each film will be available to download.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Email: schools@frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

Learning L'école du cinéma



Stinky Dog, Happy Life in Paris! *Chien Pourri, la vie à Paris!*

Themes: **Friendship, Paris, Comedy**

Once upon a time, there was a naïve, joyful Parisian dog called Chien Pourri (Smelly Dog). With Chaplapla (Flatycat), his faithful alley companion, Chien Pourri lopes through the streets of Paris always landing on his feet no matter what disaster he leaves behind him. So much so that other dogs begin to think he has superpowers. From the book by Colas Gutman (author) and Marc Boutavant (illustrations). Animation.

Directors **Davy Durand, Vincent Patar, Stéphane Aubier**
2019 | France / Belgium / Spain | 62 mins
French with English subtitles

This French animation is a delight for all ages. *Le Parisien*



Yakari, A Spectacular Journey *Yakari, la grande aventure*

Themes: **Adventure, Childhood, Friendship, Animals**

While his Sioux tribe are preparing to follow the migrating bison, eight-year old Yakari sets out to follow the trail of Little Thunder, a wild mustang said to be untameable. On the way he sees Great Eagle, who gives him a special feather as well as the ability to speak to animals. Travelling far from home, on their return the boy and horse journey through breath-taking but treacherous landscapes – a journey which will forever seal the friendship between the bravest little Sioux and the horse who runs like the wind. Animation.

Directors **Xavier Giacometti, Toby Genkel**
2020 | France / Germany / Belgium | 83 mins
French with English subtitles

The film emphasises the importance of friendship, respecting animals and discovering the world through the eyes of a child... also carries a message about the environment. *Variety*

Learning L'école du cinéma



Felicità

Themes: **Family, Adolescence, Education, Song**

Told through the eyes of Tommy, desperate not to miss the first day of her new school, in *Felicità* she has to find her own way of dealing with her loving but unpredictable parents. As the summer holidays come to an end her unconventional mother and fresh-out-of-jail father have promised that this year she won't miss the first day of school (like last year). That was before her father stole a sports car, her mother disappeared and an astronaut appeared... Akin to the spirited energy of *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Felicità* is a look at sometimes chaotic family life. Fiction.

Cast **Pio Marmaï, Rita Merle, Camille Rutherford**
Director **Bruno Merle** | 2020 | France | 81 mins
French with English subtitles

A road trip similar to Captain Fantastic... a comedy about family. *Variety*

Advisory: Some coarse language ("F#@k" and "S**t" as well as occasional use of "hell", "dammit", "asshole"); discreet sexual innuendo and mild violence.



Rookies

Allons Enfants

Themes: **Social Justice, Modern Studies, P.E., Dance**

A prestigious Paris city centre high school gambles that they can change the prospects for struggling students through Hip Hop. "Dancing is drive. You have it or not," they are told. The training motivates, strengthens and allows the students to surpass themselves. Everyone brings his or her own story, and through dance, learns to translate their experiences into physical energy. The intimately immersive camera interweaves explosive movement with moments of reflection. There are injuries and disappointments, but also hopes, dreams and inner transformations. Documentary.

Directors **Thierry Demaizière, Alban Teurlai**
2022 | France | 110 mins | French with English subtitles

A testament to the power of embracing raw talent and turning it into potential. *Variety*

Advisory: Infrequent strong language, drug and sex references.



Prizes offered for best reviews of films in the Learning Programme

The Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland will present prizes for the best reviews of a film screened at each level in this year's Learning Programme in schools and cinemas.



The four winners will receive a year's subscription for their school to a French language magazine appropriate for the age group of the film in question.

The reviews can be up to 250 words in length and can be written in French or English, either typed or handwritten and can contain drawings. The language used by entrants will be corrected and translated into the other language (French/English, English/French).

Remember that the panel of judges are looking for a review of the film, and not just a summary of the plot. As well as the subscriptions, a special certificate will be presented to each prize winner by the FSSS. The winning reviews will be published in the FSSS Bulletin and, with permission from the winners, on the French Film Festival website.

Teachers should collate the entries and include the name, age, contact details and school of each participant and the title of the film.

Only pupils attending schools in Scotland are eligible to enter.

Entries can be submitted via email to schools@frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



CURZON HOME CINEMA

We're delighted to partner with Curzon Home Cinema to offer Festival-goers and friends the opportunity to access a curated selection of French films at a special rate. Curzon Home Cinema shows brand-new releases alongside timeless masterpieces, peerless world cinema and curated seasons. You can watch films anytime, anywhere, and there is no subscription required.

Between 2 November and 15 December, using code FFF31, viewers can enjoy the following titles for 15% off. Simply visit: <https://homecinema.curzon.com/collections/french-film-festival/> and apply code FFF31 at checkout.

THE BEASTS	49
RODEO	49
THE SUPER 8 YEARS	50
THE DAMNED DON'T CRY	50
THREE COLOURS TRILOGY	51

CURZON HOME CINEMA



Rodeo (15)

Hot-tempered and fiercely independent, Julia finds escape in a passion for motorcycles and the high-octane world of urban “Rodeos” – illicit gatherings where riders show off their bikes and their latest daring stunts. After a chance meeting at a Rodeo Julia finds herself drawn into a clandestine and volatile clique. Striving to prove herself to the ultramasculine group, she is faced with a series of escalating demands that will make or break her place in the community.

Cast **Julie Ledru, Yanis Lafki, Louis Sotton, Antonia Buresi**

Director **Lola Quiveron** | France | 2022 | 110 mins

UK Distributor **Curzon**

This ambitious, exhaustively researched French-language debut from Lola Quivoron thrillingly captures the subculture, with its daredevil dirt bike riders who subsist on adrenaline and petrol.

The Guardian



The Beasts *As Bestas* (15)

Antoine and Olga, a French couple, have been living in a small village in Galicia for a long time. They practice eco-responsible agriculture and restore abandoned houses to facilitate repopulation. Everything should be idyllic but for their opposition to a wind turbine project that creates a serious conflict with their neighbours. The tension will rise to the point of irreparability.

Cast **Marina Foïs, Denis Ménochet, Luis Zahera, Diego Anido, Marie Colomb**

Director **Rodrigo Sorogoyen** | Spain / France | 2022 | 137 mins

UK Distributor **Curzon**

A slow-burn saga of murder and vengeance that draws inspiration from *Deliverance* and its crisis of masculinity. *The New York Times*



The Super 8 Years *Les Années Super 8* (12)

"In re-viewing our super eight films, shot between 1972 and 1981, it occurred to me that they comprised not only a family archive but a testimony to the pastimes, lifestyle and aspirations of a social class in the decade after 1968. I wanted to incorporate these silent images into a story which combined the intimate with the social and with history, to convey the taste and colour of those years."
Annie Ernaux.

Directors **Annie Ernaux, David Ernaux-Briot** | France | 2022 | 62 mins
UK Distributor **Curzon**

Annie's commentary is a time capsule of her life half a century ago but also, by extension, of fascinating changes afoot in France itself. *Variety*



The Damned Don't Cry *Les Damnés ne pleurent pas* (18)

Moving from place to place, Selim and his mother Fatima-Zahra, have a fusional relationship that lingers on the edge of abnormality and is pushed to an extreme by poverty and survival. Seeking legitimacy in a country caught between tradition and modernity, they will each face hardships that will slowly lead them apart.

Cast **Aïcha Tebbae, Abdellag El Hajjouji, Antione Reinartz, Moustapha Mokafih, Walid Chaïbi, Sawsen Kotbi, Jonathan Genet**

Director **Fyza Boulifa** | France / Morocco / Belgium | 2022 | 111 mins
UK Distributor **Curzon**

Another excellent film from Boulifa who shows style and real storytelling verve. *The Guardian*

CURZON HOME CINEMA



Three Colours: Blue

Trois Couleurs : Bleu (15)

Julie's husband Patrice, a major composer, dies in a car accident along with their daughter Anna. Julie begins a new life, anonymous and independent, deliberately rejecting everything she once had in abundance. A music critic suspects Julie of being the true composer of her husband's music, which Julie denies perhaps a bit too strenuously. Olivier, Patrice's young assistant, has long been in love with Julie. In order to help her break out of her isolation, he decides to complete the *Concerto for Europe* which Patrice was still composing at the time of his death. Step by step, we watch Julie try to avoid the traps placed in the path of her freedom...

Cast Juliette Binoche, Benoît Régent, Florence Pernel, Charlotte Véry, Hélène Vincent

Director Krzysztof Kieślowski | France | 1993
91 mins | UK Distributor Curzon

Binoche as charismatic as ever in Kieślowski masterwork... *The Guardian*



Three Colours: White

Trois Couleurs : Blanc (15)

Following *Blue*, *White* is the second instalment of Kieślowski's *Three Colours* Trilogy of the French revolutionary ideals of the Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. *White* stands for equality (and much else besides) in a droll tale of fortune reversed for which Kieślowski won Berlin's Best Director award. *Three Colours: White* begins in Paris where Polish hairdresser Karol is really down on his luck: impotent, penniless, divorced by his glamorous wife. A lugubrious compatriot offers an unusual job and a means of returning home and Karol receives a rude introduction to the new Poland, where everything can be bought and sold. He swims with the tide, determines to become 'more equal' than others and plots his own form of revenge.

Cast Zbigniew Zamachowski, Julie Delpy, Juliette Binoche, Janusz Gajos, Jerzy Stuhr

Director Krzysztof Kieślowski | France | 1994
91 mins | UK Distributor Curzon

Kieślowski's expert black comedy of gangster capitalism... *The Guardian*



Three Colours: Red

Trois Couleurs : Rouge (15)

Valentine, a Swiss model, runs over a dog belonging to a retired judge. She discovers that he uses his amateur radio equipment to eavesdrop on his neighbours' phone conversations. He urges Valentine to denounce him if her conscience commands. Meanwhile, a young lawyer studying for his final exams is unaware that his girlfriend, a weather forecaster, is unfaithful. The student and Valentine live in the same suburban street and pass each other daily but have never met. Their paths cross and re-cross in a web of portent, coincidence and unrecognised signs. *Red* encompasses fraternity.

Cast Irène Jacob, Jean-Louis Trintignant, Jean-Pierre Lorit, Samuel Le Bihan

Director Krzysztof Kieślowski | France | 1994
96 mins | UK Distributor Curzon

The final chapter of the trilogy considers our incurious habits by brooding on coincidence and fate... *The Guardian*



The French Film Festival UK is dedicated to ensuring all our guests and staff can enjoy the best possible festival-going experience and work-place environment. Please be aware of the following accessibility information:

- **The majority of venues are accessible by wheelchair. However, for full accessibility guidelines, please contact your local venue directly at the contact numbers listed on pages 50 and 51.**
- **All screenings have English subtitling with a limited number also including descriptive closed captioning (where possible).**
- **Where film Q&As are taking place, we offer BSL interpretation upon request. For any requests, please contact harriet.frenchfilmfestivaluk@gmail.com prior to your desired screening.**

COVID-19 safety

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID, we would kindly ask that you do not attend the Festival. While there is no mask-wearing policy in place, we respect anyone who wishes to wear a mask while attending the Festival and ask that others also respect these wishes. Hand sanitiser is available at all venues.

Key Venues

Please note: for full venues list please visit www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

SCOTLAND:



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Guild Square, Aberdeen AB11 5RG
Cineworld.com
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www.ayrfilmsociety.co.uk
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01236 732887



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www.dca.org.uk
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www.dominioncinema.co.uk
0131 447 4771



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picturehouses.com/cinema/the-cameo
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www.kinokulture.org.uk
01691 23816



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www.plymouthartscinema.org
01752 206114



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Richmond DL10 4LD
www.stationcinema.com
01748 823062



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savoycinemaheatonmoor.com
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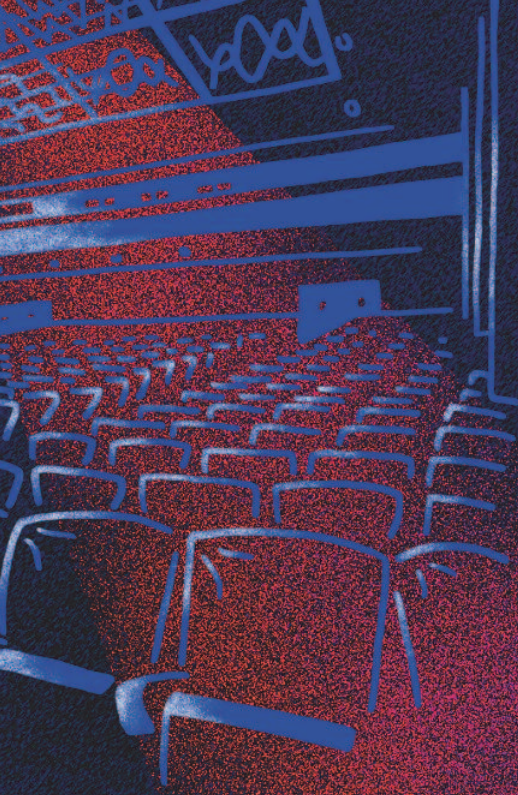
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Thomas Chaurin



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Sylvia Davidson,
International Liaison & Learning



James Steel,
Honorary President & previous
Chair

THE DREAM TEAM who will shape, guide, and lead the French Film Festival UK going forward are excited to deliver another compelling, diverse, and challenging array of francophone cinema. The team are: **Debora Kayembe**, (Rector, The University of Edinburgh), Chair; **Cédric Moreau**, (Senior Teaching Fellow, The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow), Vice-chair; **Emma Mortimore**, (Marketing & Development Manager, Edinburgh Queen's Hall); Liz Chege, (Festival Director, Africa in Motion Film Festival); **Thomas Chaurin**, (Director of Languages for All, The University of Edinburgh Centre for Open Learning); Secretary: **Richard Mowe**, (Director and Co-Founder FFF UK); Head of International Liaison and Education Programme: **Sylvia Davidson** and **James Steel**, (Honorary President and previous Chair).

French Film Festival UK 2023

Institut Français D'Écosse

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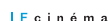
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