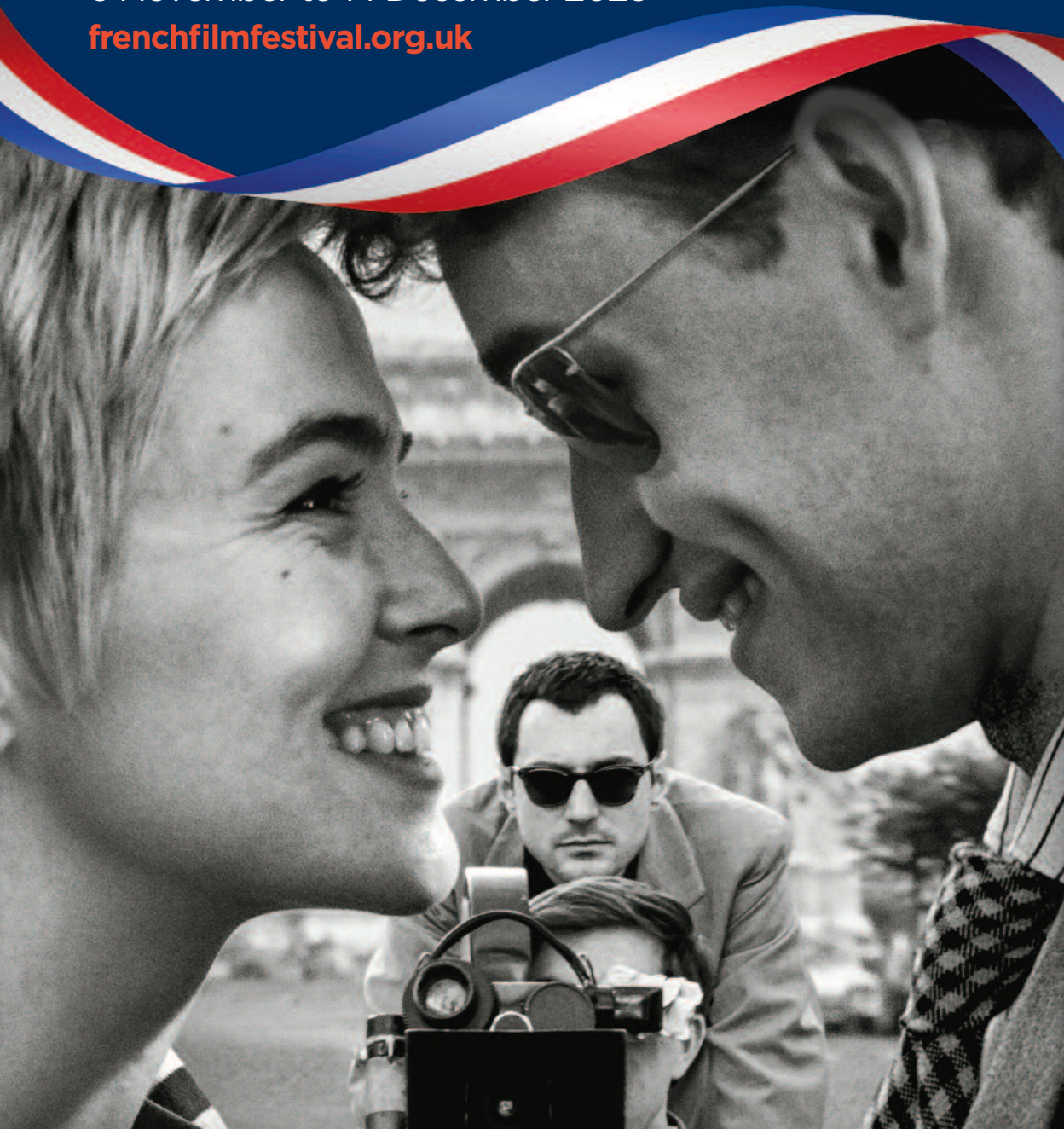


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6 November to 14 December 2025

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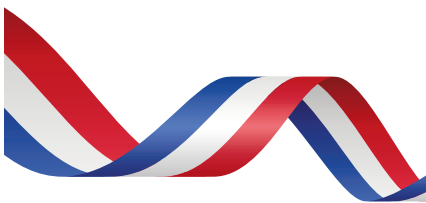
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Flashpoint: Zoey Deutch
as Jean Seberg in Richard
Linklater's *Nouvelle Vague*.
Photo: Jean-Louis Fernandez

The **33rd edition of the French Film Festival UK** puts the spotlight on French language cinema from around the globe, including films from Québec, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, African territories, and France. Watch out for guests and specialist introductions.

The Festival provides a unique platform from rural and coastal communities to such key cities as Aberdeen, Bristol, Chichester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, Newcastle, Nottingham, Warwick and so many more.

Now's the time to book in for a carefully curated and balanced selection of the year's most amazing cinema experiences, all with a French accent (and, *bien sûr*, English subtitles).

Vive le cinéma !

Richard Mowe, Director French Film Festival UK

CONTENTS

PROFILE NADIA MELLITI	4/5
SHOWCASE	7-11
PROFILE FRANCK DUBOSC	12/13
PANORAMA	14-23
DISCOVERY	24-27
MARCEL PAGNOL ANNIVERSARY	28-31
QUEBEC FOCUS	33-35
DOCUMENTARY	36-38
CULT	38
ANIMATION	39/40
RESTORATION	40
GAUMONT CELEBRATION	41-43
CLASSICS	44
TV5 PROMOTION	45-47
EXTRAS	48-53
ACCESSIBILITY	53
LEARNING	54-57
SHORT CUTS	58/59
KEY VENUES	60
CAST & CREW	61
THANKS	62



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USER GUIDE

Our website is your essential destination for detailed Festival timetables, film selections and information, preview trailers and an updated list of venues, from whom you can book tickets directly. Please visit **www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk/** for further information and to make a booking.

Major funders



Cover image: *Nouvelle Vague*, directed by Richard Linklater (Image courtesy of Altitude)

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 creation but susceptible to change - check website for updates.

Out of the blue

By Richard Mowe

For a youthful newcomer Nadia Melliti displayed remarkable maturity and self-assurance when she was chosen as a surprise best actress at this year's Cannes Film Festival in the face of competition from the likes of Jennifer Lawrence and Elle Fanning.

Her role as a 17-year-old Muslim girl in Paris struggling with her identity, sexuality and religion in Hafsia Herzi's *The Little Sister* (*La Petite Dernière*) captured the attention of Juliette Binoche's jury as well as the critics and the public at large. Binoche praised "an interpretation of rare accuracy, marked by sincerity and courage."

Suddenly 23-year-old Melliti was propelled into the limelight, with rounds of interviews and photo shoots. She took it all in her stride, despite the fact she had never done any theatre or cinema previously.

When Herzi sent her the script, she felt an affinity with the character of Fatima which was based on an autobiographical novel by French writer Fatima Daas.

"I identified hugely with Fatima, her surroundings and origins. My mother hails from an immigrant background. My roots are Algerian. And I also have sisters," she said.

"When I was younger, I wanted to play football. I still do today. I wanted to take up the sport, which people say is masculine and in which men are over-represented.

"And when I took that home, there was this emancipation – even if for Fatima it was different, more linked to her intellect and sexuality."

She was spotted by a casting agent when she was out walking near Les Halles shopping centre in Paris. At the time she was preparing for her school exams.

"I was walking in the street and this woman [Audrey Gini, the casting agent] called out to me," she said. "I thought she was a tourist, and I wondered if my English would be up to scratch."

Besides the Best Actress Award for Melliti, the film also won the Queer Palm for films that spotlight LGBTQIA+ themes from a jury headed by director Christophe Honoré.



PRIZE GLORY: Nadia Melliti holds aloft her Cannes bounty (Photo: Festival de Cannes)

NADIA MELLITI PROFILE

“ I loved her aura, her mystery...
She reminded me of an
Egyptian goddess. Director Hafsia Herzi ”

Herzi explained how she became convinced by Melliti's talents: “We went on a massive casting campaign, where we auditioned both professional and non-professional actors for more than a year in several cities. I kept getting photos from the casting director. When I saw hers, I thought, “Wow!” But I assumed she was mixed-race and not North African, as we required. The first time she was filmed, her hair was covering most of her face.

“Two weeks later, we called her back – but there was a problem with the camera. She was eventually able to do a full audition. When she did, I didn't direct her. Everyone would come in and improvise without knowing what characters they'd be playing... When I met her, I was very moved even before we really spoke. She talked a bit about her studies, and as she was leaving the room, seeing her from behind, I just knew it would be her. Like an artistic love at first sight. I saw the character in every one of her gestures and could project it onto her. She spoke fluent Arabic. I loved her aura, her mystery... She reminded me of an Egyptian goddess.

“I had dreamt of a discovery like this, because the whole film relies on her. The moment I pointed the camera her way, I instantly knew that everything was there and that she would exceed my expectations. She's reliable, mature, intelligent, and born for this.”

The Little Sister is part of the official selection for this year's 33rd French Film Festival UK and will screen in Edinburgh, Glasgow and London among other locations.

Nadia Melliti: “An interpretation of rare accuracy, marked by sincerity and courage.” (Photo: Julien Lienard)

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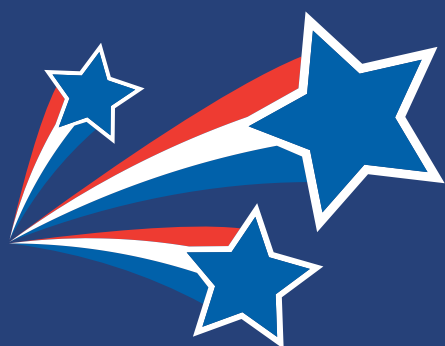
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show case

The Showcase selection

highlights films which have been acquired for distribution in the UK and Ireland, either currently or in the months to come. We're working with such enterprising companies as Altitude, Conic, Curzon, and Studiocanal UK, on a vintage crop of titles we will support now and on their release.

Cédric Klapisch, a Festival regular since his first hits *Little Nothings* in 1992 and the *Pot Luck* trilogy, returns with *Colours of Time*, a visually gorgeous feast unfolding over 125 years of myths and images from French history. For sheer audacity bravo to American filmmaker Richard Linklater who takes on that monstre sacré Jean-Luc Godard with *Nouvelle Vague*, his playful portrait of the man and his 1959 cult film *Breathless* which launched a cinematic revolution.

Rebecca Zlotowski summons an A-list cast of Jodie Foster, Daniel Auteuil, Virginie Efira, Mathieu Amalric and Vincent Lacoste for intrigue and mayhem in the wake of the death of a psychiatric patient in *A Private Life*.

Sadly illness prevented the late Laurent Cantet from finishing *Enzo*, about the emotional

turmoil of adolescence, but his friend Robin Campillo stepped in to complete it and the film was nominated for the Cannes Film Festival's Queer Palm earlier this year. Another take on adolescence is offered by first time director Valéry Carnoy with *Wild Foxes*, set in the highly charged atmosphere of a sports boarding school.

Franco-Spanish filmmaker Óliver Laxe shared the 2025 Cannes jury prize for *Sirât* – and rightly so as this mix of sci-fi and road movie with striking desert images and an amazing sound design is one of the most original titles of this or any previous year.

Meanwhile, after its BFI London Film Festival premiere, the latest from *Titane* director Julia Ducournau *Alpha* will be on release in cinemas from 21 November – wafting a mystery virus that can turn humans to stone.

Finally, adapting monumental works of literature can be a risky business but François Ozon pulls it off with his adaptation of Albert Camus' *The Stranger* (also known as *The Outsider*) with Benjamin Voisin contributing a star turn as the titular character.

ALPHA	8
COLOURS OF TIME	8
ENZO	9
NOUVELLE VAGUE	9
A PRIVATE LIFE	10
SIRÂT	10
THE STRANGER	11
WILD FOXES	11

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



Alpha (CERT TBC)

After winning the Palme d'Or for *Titane*, controversial director Julia Ducournau returns with another nightmarishly weird offering. The title *Alpha* comes from its heroine (Mélissa Boros), a 13-year-old girl who lives in an unnamed French town with her single mother (Golshifteh Farahani). She is not particularly rebellious, but one night she comes home from a party with a large capital letter A carved into her arm by a needle the size of a chopstick. Her mother, a doctor, is understandably upset, especially as the amateurish tattoo might have given Alpha a mysterious virus that turns people to stone.

Cast **Mélissa Boros, Golshifteh Farahani, Tahar Rahim, Emma Mackey**

Director **Julia Ducournau** | 2025 | France | 128 mins

UK Distributor **Curzon**

An emotional heart beneath a veneer of horror-tinged genre elements.

Screen



UK
PREMIERE

TV 5
MONDE
CHOICE

Colours of Time / *La Venue de l'avenir* (CERT TBC)

Visually stunning period coming-of-age drama co-written and directed by Cédric Klapisch. The narrative follows four cousins who inherit a house in rural Normandy and retrace the steps of their ancestors in 19th-century Paris.

What emerges is a thoughtful comic meditation on changing social mores over approximately 125 years as Klapisch re-examines some much-loved myths and images of French history – particularly from the heyday of Impressionism.

Cast **Suzanne Lindon, Abraham Wapler, Vincent Macaigne, Julia Piaton, Zinedine Soualem, Paul Kircher**

Director **Cédric Klapisch** | 2025 | France / Belgium | 124 mins

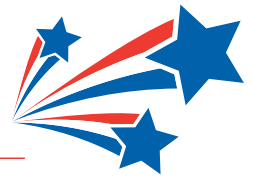
Int sales **Studiocanal / Festival Agency**

Unashamedly crowd-pleasing... entertaining and classy.

Screen

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

Showcase



Enzo (CERT TBC)

Defying his bourgeois family's expectations by starting a masonry apprenticeship, Enzo embarks on a path far removed from the prestigious life his parents had envisioned for him. In their chic villa in the sun-drenched South of France, tensions simmer as relentless questions and pressures weigh on Enzo's future and dreams. On the construction sites, however, Vlad, a charismatic Ukrainian colleague, shakes up Enzo's world and opens the door to unexpected possibilities.

The late Laurent Cantet was meant to direct the film before he died and his friend and the film's co-writer Robin Campillo stepped in to finish the project.

Nominated for Cannes Queer Palm 2025.

Cast **Eloy Pöhu, Pierfrancesco Favino, Élodie Bouchez, Maksym Slivinskyi**

Director **Robin Campillo** | 2025 | France | 102 mins

Int sales **mk2** | UK Distributor **Curzon**

An extremely honest depiction of adolescence.

Hollywood Reporter

Nouvelle Vague (CERT TBC)

The story of the groundbreaking Jean-Luc Godard making *Breathless*, told by American director Richard Linklater in the form and spirit of the times. Styled as a mischievous declaration of love for the 1959 cult film, but also for a pivotal period of cinema that Linklater nostalgically revisits right down to techniques characteristic of the era.

More than the portrait of a man and his art, the film evokes a prolific period, symbolised by freedom of voice, improvisation, and an attachment to everyday poetry. "It's the story of a personal revolution of cinema led by a man, and by everyone around him", the filmmaker told the French magazine *Les Inrockuptibles*.

Cast **Guillaume Marbeck, Zoey Deutch, Aubrey Dullin**

Director **Richard Linklater** | 2025 | France | 105 mins

UK distributor **Altitude**

Enchanting ode to the rapture of cinema. *Variety*

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



A Private Life / *Vie Privée* (CERT TBC)

Rebecca Zlotowski's anticipated follow-up to *Other People's Children* stars Jodie Foster in a French-language role as Lilian Steiner, a renowned psychiatrist investigating the death of one of her patients. She becomes deeply troubled and is convinced that it was murder. She decides to investigate... Foster is joined by an A-list cast including Daniel Auteuil, Mathieu Amalric and Virginie Efira.

The director plays with the duality of tones: between deliberate comedy and deep dives into a personality full of grey areas.

Cast **Jodie Foster, Daniel Auteuil, Virginie Efira, Mathieu Amalric, Vincent Lacoste, Luàna Bajrami, Noam Morgensztern, Sophie Guillemin**

Director **Rebecca Zlotowski** | 2025 | France | 103 mins
Int sales **Goodfellas** | UK Distributor **Altitude**

A new landmark in Foster's career which just continues to dazzle.

Deadline



Sirât (CERT TBC)

Part existential road movie, part apocalyptic sci-fi, *Sirât* mixes a bit of *Zabriskie Point* and *Fury Road* and shakes them up. Some of its images are indelible, in the same way Antonioni's were in 1970, but French-Spanish director Óliver Laxe's major weapon here is his sound design, a weaponised barrage of techno with sub-bass that hits like an earthquake and rumbles in the gut.

Shared jury prize at 2025 Cannes Film Festival. Presented in collaboration with Edinburgh Spanish Film Festival.

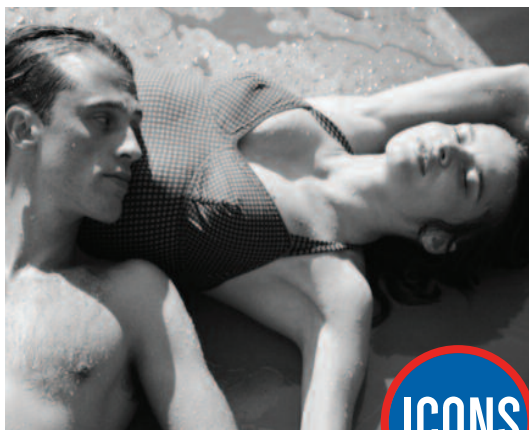
Cast **Sergi López, Bruno Núñez Arjona, Jade Oukid, Tonin Janvier, Richard Bellamy, Stefania Gadda**

Director **Óliver Laxe** | 2025 | France / Spain | 115 mins
Int sales **The Match Factory** | UK distributor **Altitude**
In French and Spanish with English subtitles

An energising film – a project determined to wake us up.

Hollywood Reporter

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



ICONS

The Stranger / *L'Etranger* (CERT TBC)

Sixty years after Luchino Visconti, François Ozon has adapted a monumental work of literature for the big screen – *The Stranger* (also known as *The Outsider*) by Albert Camus. The lead role of Meursault is taken by Benjamin Voisin, the breakout star from *Summer of 85*.

In 1930s Algeria, the apathetic Meursault shows total indifference to life. His emotional detachment leads to a murder, followed by a trial that scrutinises both the crime and his character. Ozon has said: “The themes in the book could hardly be more topical: an emotionally absent hero detached from the world, confronting our mortality, the individual’s quest for meaning in an increasingly alienating world.” Selected for the official competition at the Venice Film Festival.

Cast **Benjamin Voisin, Rebecca Marder, Swann Arlaud, Pierre Lottin, Denis Lavant**

Director **François Ozon** | 2025 | France | 120 mins

Int sales **Gaumont** | UK Distributor **Curzon**

A crackling yet tasteful erotic charge.

Screen Daily



**UK
PREMIERE**

Wild Foxes / *La Danse des renards*

(CERT TBC)

At a sports boarding school, talented young boxer Camille narrowly survives a fatal accident, saved by his best friend Matteo. After a swift recovery, an inexplicable pain gradually takes hold of him, threatening his dreams of greatness and his relationship with the team. In the ring and in a man’s world, there’s no room for weakness.

Winner: Cannes Film Festival 2025 Directors’ Fortnight Europa Cinema Label for best European Film and La Société des auteurs et compositeurs dramatiques (SACD) award.

Cast **Samuel Kircher, Fayçal Anafious, Jef Jacobs, Anna Heckel**

Director **Valéry Carnoy** | 2025 | Belgium / France | 92 mins

Int sales **The Party Film Sales** | UK distributor **Conic**

Tough and tender... adds an intriguing twist to the coming-of-age sports flick.

Hollywood Reporter

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

The serious side of comedy

By Helen Barlow

When Franck Dubosc made his bow earlier this year at the César awards (the French equivalent of the Oscars), he received a bigger response than anyone, including honorary César recipient Julia Roberts who looked on in amusement.

Perhaps she was wondering: Who is this guy? This would be a typical response for many anglophones, but Dubosc is a national treasure in France for his comedic work.

He went on to perform a skit with Jean-Pascal Zadi, who presented him with an award jokingly for an actor “who has never received a César.”

At the Oscars, comedies largely go unrewarded, as they do at the Césars. Yet that might change for 61-year-old Dubosc, who has had a resounding commercial and critical success in France with *How to Make a Killing* (*Un Ours dans le Jura*), his third film as director, written with Sarah Kaminsky.

He also stars alongside Laure Calamy, playing a couple, Michel and Cathy, who lead a quiet life in the Jura mountains with their son. They are struggling to make ends meet, when just before Christmas a bear jumps in front of their car. Michel swerves to avoid it, accidentally killing two drug dealers in another car. The couple decide to cover up the incident and keep the two million Euros in the criminals' boot. A fan of crime novels, Cathy thinks she knows what to do, but their clumsy efforts start to attract attention and prove hilarious, especially when the local gendarme Roland Bodin, played by Benoît Poelvoorde, becomes involved.

While the film has been described as a madcap screwball comedy, and its dark humour has been compared to *Fargo*, Dubosc says he started out with a drama that led to the humour.



National treasure:
Franck Dubosc:
“I like to start with something serious, but then when you are too serious, it naturally becomes funny.”

(Photo by Marie Rouge for UniFrance)

“I like to start with something serious, but then when you are too serious, it naturally becomes funny. Something very ordinary leads to something quite extraordinary. I don't want to manufacture humour. I want it to come out naturally, through the force of events.”

He says his aim was to shake himself and create a film like he'd never done before. “I wanted to make a film like those I dreamt about when I was a kid, a film that has gangsters, guns, money, drugs and fun and laughter.”

Calamy tends to steal the show though Dubosc was intent on keeping the rambunctious actress in check. Rather than her comedies, he was attracted to her performance in *Full Time* (*À Plein Temps*) where she was both brimming with energy and fragile.

“I had to direct her for every line, for every scene, and tell her how much humour and how much seriousness she had to use,” he says. “So, in a way, I had to control her power. She has an amazing energy and it's really overwhelming. In real life she can be fun, but when you are on set you must control that energy.”

FRANCK DUBOSC PROFILE



Franck Dubosc: "I've always been helped by women." (Photo Helen Barlow)



Franck Dubosc in *How to Make a Killing* (Photo Gaumont)

Dubosc had been the protagonist in his previous directing efforts, 2018's *Rolling to You* (*Tout le monde debout*) and 2022's *Rumba Therapy* (*Rumba la vie*), even if he gave his actress co-stars their due. In *How to Make a Killing* he was happy to play second fiddle. Cathy is the driving force. "She's the one who decides, and her husband is not as smart," he says with a smile. "I always like female characters and women in general. I always feel a little bit less perfect than women."

Does that reflect his relationship with his Lebanon-born wife Danièle. "I don't know. It probably comes from my mother, and from the older women I've met. I have a lot of very, very good female friends. I've always been helped by women."

Away from the business Dubosc says he is not particularly funny, and he leads an ordinary life. "I think I'm quite normal. I have to say that my wife and my kids give me strength. My life is not my job, but my family life is probably the strongest element and maybe they give me longevity, not so much in my job, but in my own life."

Still, he has achieved longevity in his career, even if at times it has proved difficult. "The more you're liked, the less you may be liked, so you have ups and downs. You must resist through those ups and downs."

In the beginning Dubosc took English courses for three months before studying acting at the Rouen Conservatory alongside the likes of Valérie Lemercier and Karin Viard. He started as an actor in minor movie and television roles before moving to England, where from 1987-88 he appeared on a season of *Coronation Street* as Patrice, the French lover.

"The soap is very important in the UK, but not in France," Dubosc explains. "I was famous in England before France and that was strange. Then I became famous in France on television because I was a stand-up comedian."

With movies he hit the ground running after starring as Patrick Chirac, much loved as "the guy in the swimming trunks" in the 2006 comedy, *Camping*, which became a huge box office success. He starred in two sequels in 2010 and 2016. He also appeared alongside Gérard Depardieu in 2008's *Asterix at the Olympic Games* (*Asterix aux Jeux Olympiques*) also starring Poelvoorde.

"I don't like French comedies, although I've made some of them," Dubosc admits. "My universe is more in line with Italian or British comedies."

Dubosc grew up in Normandy. He was shy and dreamy and practised judo to gain confidence. So where does his humour come from?

"When I was young, I noticed that people would listen to me more when I was funny than when I was serious. So, I understood that I had to develop that humour to be loved. But then later I realised that if people are listening to you, that doesn't mean that they love you."

Given that an episode of *Call My Agent* was devoted to him, and the uproarious response to his appearance at the Césars this year, Dubosc is now clearly loved.

Helen Barlow is an international film journalist based in Paris. She is a member of the Académie des Lumières (France's answer to the Golden Globes).

panorama

Welcome to the part of the Festival which spotlights new works by some of the finest directors in Francophone cinema.

Trailblazer Diane Kurys explores the passionate liaison between stars Yves Montand and Simone Signoret in *C'est si bon* fused with nostalgia for a lost era while in Yann Gozlan's *Dalloway* we're ahead of the curve in the world of artificial intelligence as Cécile de France battles with her virtual assistant. The legendary theatrical diva Sarah Bernhardt (incarnated by Sandrine Kiberlain) receives opulent treatment in *The Divine Sarah Bernhardt* by Guillaume Nicloux while Cédric Jimenez goes all dystopian for the sci-fi thriller *Dog 51* (a hit at the Venice Film Festival). A clash of ideals and politics provides the tingling suspense around *The Great Arch* by Stéphane Démoustier with Claes Bang as the Danish architect plunged into a flagship project. Fargo-esque echoes of the Coen Brothers pervade *How to Make a Killing* by and with Franck Dubosc as well as Laure Calamy. Newcomer Nadia Melliti won Cannes best actress award for her stunning performance in Hafsia Herzi's *The Little Sister*. After last year's *Toni*, Camille Cottin again joins youthful director Nathan Ambrosioni for *Out of Love* about motherhood and the bonds of family. Tahar Rahim is a knock-out as an icon of French chanson in *Monsieur Aznavour...* while Isabelle Huppert deliciously confronts financial scandal in *The Richest Woman in the World*. Lionel Baier, a Festival regular, accompanies his latest film *The Safe House*, set against a backdrop of 1968 Paris and featuring the late, great Michel Blanc.

Take your pick: À vous de choisir!

C'EST SI BON	15
DALLOWAY	15
THE DIVINE SARAH BERNHARDT	17
DOG 51	17
THE GREAT ARCH	19
HOW TO MAKE A KILLING	19
THE LITTLE SISTER	21
MONSIEUR AZNAVOUR	21
OUT OF LOVE	22
THE RICHEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD	22
THE SAFE HOUSE	23



C'est si bon / *Moi qui t'aimais* (N/C 15+)

The tumultuous love story between two cinema stars at the height of their glory: Yves Montand and Simone Signoret. Soulmates bound by an unshakable love, they are forever haunted by Montand's passionate affair with Marilyn Monroe. Immersed in the charm of old Paris – with its smoky cafes, bohemian nights, and timeless romance – the film captures the spirit of a lost era. Based on a true story.

Marked by films that are now classics, such as *Diabolo menthe* (*Peppermint Soda*) or *Coup de foudre* (*Entre Nous*), director Diane Kurys's filmography began with films inspired by her family history and her own adolescence, later shifting to biographical works. The common thread running through the filmmaker's work is, precisely, mad love against all odds.

Cast **Roschdy Zem, Marina Foïs, Thierry de Peretti**

Director **Diane Kurys** | 2025 | France | 120 mins
Int sales **Playtime**

The passionate relationship between iconic actors Signoret and Montand by trail-blazer film-maker Diane Kurys.

Elle



Dalloway (N/C 15+)

Clarissa, a writer lacking inspiration, joins a prestigious artist residency at the cutting edge of technology. There, she finds support – and even a confidante – in Dalloway, her virtual assistant, who helps her write.

But Clarissa begins to grow uneasy with the AI's increasingly intrusive presence, a discomfort amplified by the conspiratorial warnings of another resident. Feeling watched, Clarissa secretly embarks on an investigation to discover the true intentions of her hosts. Real threat or a paranoid delusion?

Cast **Cécile de France, Lars Mikkelsen, Anna Mougallis, Mylène Farmer**

Director **Yann Gozlan** | 2025 | France | 110 mins
Int sales **Gaumont**

The future is alarmingly close in Yann Gozlan's sharply satirical thriller.

Eye for Film

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



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PREMIERE

ICONS

The Divine Sarah Bernhardt / *La Divine* (N/C 15)

Sumptuous, rapturous, and full of drama, Sarah Bernhardt's life is here to be experienced in all its theatrical glory – just as *La Divine* intended.

Bernhardt (Sandrine Kiberlain) is larger than life and a cyclone of contradictions. The original theatre diva, her world is blinding stage lights, opulent wealth, and delicious scandals. Ruled by fleeting fancies and sweeping emotions, she even holds court from her sickbed. And what better time to revisit her groundbreaking 19th-century stardom than in recovery from surgery?

Guillaume Nicloux's decadent biopic is an experience like no other: from exotic menageries to consuming affairs, *La Divine* is as showstopping as she is capricious.

Cast **Sandrine Kiberlain, Laurent Lafitte, Amira Casar**

Director **Guillaume Nicloux** | 2024 | France | 98 mins

Int sales **Paradise City Sales**

Shines the spotlight on a figure as eccentric as she was visionary, still regarded today as a legend of world theatre.

Sortir à Paris



UK
PREMIERE

Dog 51 / *Chien 51* (N/C 15)

This sci-fi thriller set in a dystopian Paris in 2045 has a starry cast led by Gilles Lellouche, Adèle Exarchopoulos, and Louis Garrel. An adaptation of Laurent Gaudé's novel of the same name, the setting is a near-future Paris which has become a divided, technologically-controlled city.

The narrative follows a police investigation in a world governed by artificial intelligence and exacerbated social inequalities.

Cast **Gilles Lellouche, Mehmet Arikkan, Adèle Exarchopoulos, Louis Garrel, Valeria Bruni Tedeschi**

Director **Cédric Jimenez** | 2025 | France | 100 mins

Int sales **Studiocanal / Festival Agency**

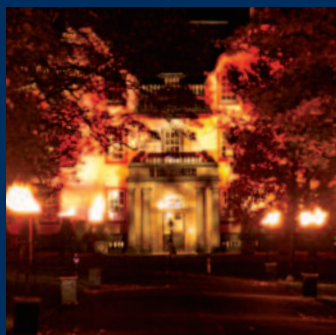
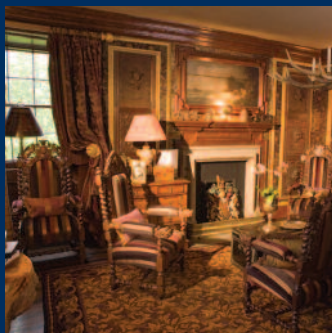
High octane thriller with more than a soupçon of Parisian romance, energy and sex appeal.

Screen Daily

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

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The Great Arch / *L'Inconnu de la Grande Arche* (N/C 15+)

French President François Mitterrand decides to launch an international architectural competition for the flagship project of his mandate: the Great Arch of La Défense, aligned with the Louvre and the Arc de Triomphe.

Against all odds, Otto von Spreckelsen, a Danish architect, wins the 1982 competition. Overnight, this 53-year-old man, unknown in France, arrives in Paris where he is propelled to the helm of this pharaonic project. While the architect intends to build the Great Arch exactly as he envisioned, his ideas quickly clash with realistic constraints and the vicissitudes of politics.

Cast **Claes Bang, Sidse Babett Knudsen, Xavier Dolan, Swann Arlaud, Michel Fau**

Director **Stéphane Demoustier** | 2025 | France / Denmark
105 mins | Int sales **Le Pacte**

One of those rare French filmmakers who can blend suspense with perceptive writing and characterisation.

Hollywood Reporter



How to Make a Killing / *Un ours dans le Jura* (N/C 18+)

A freak run-in with a black bear drives Michel (Franck Dubosc) off the road one wintry Christmas Eve, leading to the deaths of two strangers. Instead of reporting the accident, he panics and flees. His long-suffering wife Cathy (Laure Calamy), an ardent fan of crime novels, points out the obvious: with his prints all over the deceased's car, suspicion will fall on him – and they can't afford bail. Dubosc, one of France's most established comedians, is on his fifth outing as a director in a tale with echoes of the Coen Brothers.

Cast **Franck Dubosc, Laure Calamy, Benoît Poelvoorde, Emmanuelle Devos**

Director **Franck Dubosc** | 2024 | France | 112 mins
Int sales **Gaumont**

Every scene is beautifully written and played, with the comic timing judged to perfection.

Paris Update

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



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The Little Sister / *La Petite Dernière* (N/C 15)

This adaptation of Fatima Daas' novel, set in a Paris suburb, is a coming-of-age story about a lesbian Muslim woman who is dealing with pushback from both her family and the outside world – and herself. The title role is played by debut newcomer Nadia Melliti, winner of Best Actress Award in Cannes 2025.

Fatima's awakening sexual identity is the main focus: as her school career is coming to an end, she hits the apps; she meets women at first almost like a journalist on assignment, quizzing one amused older women on the exact details of lesbian sex.

This is Herzi's third feature as director following 2021 Cannes *Un Certain Regard* title *Good Mother* and 2019 Critics' Week debut *You Deserve a Lover*.

Cast **Nadia Melliti, Park Ji-min**

Director **Hafsia Herzi** | 2025 | France / Germany | 106 mins
Int sales **mk2**

Growing up Muslim and queer in Paris isn't easy in this compassionate coming-of-age drama. *Time Out*



Monsieur Aznavour (N/C 15+)

A cinematic tribute to one of the icons of French chanson, Charles Aznavour. Directed by Mehdi Idir, known for his work on *Patients*, and *Grand Corps Malade* who shone with *La Vie scolaire*, this musical biopic stars Tahar Rahim in the title role.

From his poor childhood to his rise to fame, from his triumphs to his failures, from France to Armenia to New York and other locations that marked the singer's life, the film promises to plunge viewers into the heart of the 1950s, and the exceptional journey of an artist devoted to his art till the very end.

Cast **Tahar Rahim, Bastien Bouillon, Marie-Julie Baup, Victor Meutelet, Rupert Wynne-James**

Directors **Grand Corps Malade, Mehdi Idir** | 2023 | France
134 mins | Int sales **Playtime Screenings in association with the Armenian Film Festival**
armenianfilmsociety.com/events/armenian-film-festival-london

Heartfelt, sumptuously good-looking tribute to the legendary French-Armenian singer. *France Today*

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



Out of Love / *Les Enfants vont bien* (N/C 15+)

After many years, Suzanne and her two children unexpectedly show up at the home of her sister Jeanne. Initially it looks as though Suzanne is tentatively attempting to re-establish a relationship with her sister. However, this illusion is shattered with the morning light: Suzanne has gone. Nathan Ambrosioni's intimate film is a portrait of a woman forced to become a mother to children she barely knows. A reflection on the fragile nature of co-existence born of necessity, and how strong it can be when born out of love.

Cast **Camille Cottin, Juliette Armanet, Monia Chokri, Féodor Atkine, Myriem Akheddiou, Guillaume Gouix**

Director **Nathan Ambrosioni** | 2025 | France | 111 mins
Int sales **Studio Canal / Festival Agency**

Nathan Ambrosioni blends the intrigue of François Ozon with the sensitivity of Kore-eda Hirokazu...

Variety

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



The Richest Woman in the World / *La Femme la plus riche du monde* (N/C 15A+)

Featuring Isabelle Huppert in a delicious, tailor-made role, writer/director Thierry Klifa's film is freely inspired by the captivating real-life scandal surrounding Liliane Bettencourt, the heir to the L'Oréal fortune.

Marianne Farrère (Huppert), the billionaire head of the Windler Group, is the richest woman in the world. Pierre-Alain Fantin (Laurent Lafitte) is a Parisian dandy, writer and photographer. After meeting on a photo shoot, the two become inseparable. Their friendship – one where Pierre-Alain is only too happy to take financial advantage – surprises, amuses, intrigues, and eventually unsettles the billionaire's entourage and family.

Cast **Isabelle Huppert, Laurent Lafitte, Marina Foïs, Raphaël Personnaz, André Marcon, Mathieu Demy**

Director **Thierry Klifa** | 2025 | France | 103 mins
Int sales **Playtime**

A story of love, money and scandal.

New York Times

panorama



The Safe House / *La Cache* (N/C 15+)

It's Paris, May 1968: A nine-year-old boy is thrilled to stay a few extra days with his grandparents. They are joined by his two lively uncles – a visual artist and an aspiring intellectual – and his colourful great grandmother from Odessa. The boy (spiritedly played by Ethan Chimienti) spends several days in the apartment while his parents take part in the historic student protests. As the country is turned upside down, the family is forced to confront the past when an illustrious guest seeks shelter in their hideout.

This buoyant comedy explores the free-spirited dynamics of a family during the student protests. An eccentric family portrait has been adapted from a novel written by one of its members, Christophe Boltanski, nephew of the renowned visual artist Christian Boltanski. Sadly it marks the last screen appearance by Michel Blanc who died earlier this year.

A playful and joyous experiment embellished with an array of daring visual innovations.

Cineuropa

Cast **Dominique Reymond, Michel Blanc, William Lebghil, Aurélien Gabrielli, Liliane Rovère, Ethan Chimienti**

Director **Lionel Baier** | 2025 | Switzerland / Luxembourg / France | 92 mins | Int sales **mk2**

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Discovery

This is the part of the programme where audiences can make discoveries with a selection of films by first or second-time directors.

Actor, director and rapper Jean-Pascal Zadi deals with climate change and over-population in *Black to the Future*, his second film as a director after *Simply Black*. The side of Marseille opposite to the nostalgia of Marcel Pagnol can be found in an arresting debut film from Princia Car, *The Girls We Want*, an unusual coming-of-age story. In the proud tradition of sung narratives (think Jacques Demy and *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*) Amélie Bonnin's *Leave One Day* which opened the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year, is full of jukebox hits as her heroine (Juliette Armanet) picks up the threads of her roots.

Music on a different register pervades *The Musicians*, as four classical soloists meet up for rehearsals for a unique concert in a chateau near Reims – and all the actors are also musicians. A feast for the eyes and ears.

After last year's hit *The Story of Souleymane* a new film *Where There Is Love, There Is No Darkness* features a migrant from Senegal, who endures long hours as a food delivery driver, navigating a city that barely acknowledges him.

BLACK TO THE FUTURE 24

THE GIRLS WE WANT 25

LEAVE ONE DAY 25

THE MUSICIANS 27

WHERE THERE IS LOVE, THERE IS NO DARKNESS 27



Timely themes, sharp humour, and bold stylistic choices.

Artsy Illustrated

Black to the Future / Le Grand Déplacement (N/C 15+)

Climate change, over-population, and political inertia have pushed Earth to the brink. In a desperate bid for a fresh start, France decides to launch its first “popular space relocation programme” – essentially, deporting its less privileged citizens into orbit in search of a better life. In the utmost secrecy, preparations are underway for the first African space mission.

The crew, made up of members from the continent and its diaspora, is tasked with exploring the planet NARDAL to assess whether it could become a refuge for all Africans should Earth become uninhabitable. The catch? The journey will be long. Very long. And the greatest unknown in interstellar missions remains: how well will the astronauts get on with each other.

Zadi whose first film was *Simply Black* (*Tout simplement noir*) explained the project: “I wanted to write science fiction, but from a new perspective: African and environmental.”

Cast **Jean-Pascal Zadi, Reda Kateb, Fadily Camara, Déborah Lukumuena, Claudia Tagbo, Alassane Diong**

Director **Jean-Pascal Zadi** | 2025 | France / Belgium | 83 mins | Int sales **Gaumont**

Discovery



The Girls We Want / *Les Filles désir* (N/C 15+)

During the summer holidays Omar, 20, and his group of friends work as monitors in a children's summer camp in inner-city Marseille. The young people are full of dreams, principles, and prejudices. When Carmen returns to the area after years away, the youthful dynamic is put to the test. In a group where boys view girls as commodities, Carmen triggers everyone to question his own beliefs, desire, and sexuality.

The director follows in the footsteps of her earlier shorts, all products of her 'alternative film school' in the Mediterranean port city which she established for those without easy access to an arts education. Presented at Cannes Directors' Fortnight 2025.

Cast **Housam Mohamed, Leïa Haïchour, Lou Anna Hamon, Kader Benchoudar, Mortadha Hasni, Achraf Jamai**

Director **Princia Car** | 2025 | France | 93 mins
Int sales **SND**

An ambitious coming-of-age tale.

Cineuropa

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



Leave One Day / *Partir un jour* (N/C 15+)

Singer Juliette Armanet plays Cécile, a celebrity chef who returns home to help out at her parents' roadside restaurant. She had been about to make her dream come true by opening her own gourmet restaurant in Paris, when suddenly, her father has a heart attack, calling her back to her village. Far from the hubbub of big city life, she runs into her teenage crush and memories come flooding back, destabilising her own certainties.

Cast **Juliette Armanet, Bastien Bouillon, François Rollin, Dominique Blanc, Tewfik Jallab**

Director **Amélie Bonnin** | 2024 | France | 94 mins
Int sales **Pathé / Festival Agency**

Armanet, a pop star, is a natural actor, with a look and aura that evoke the Meryl Streep of decades ago.

Variety

Vive le Québec

Film Francophone à Angoulême



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The Musicians / *Les Musiciens* (N/C 15+)

After her father's death, Astrid Thompson finally manages to bring together the four best soloists in the world to perform a unique concert reuniting four instruments made by Stradivarius – her late father's dream.

However, all does not run smoothly, with the four soloists constantly quarrelling during the week of rehearsals in a castle near Reims. Both hilarious and fascinating in the detail it provides on the difficulty of playing chamber music.

All the actors are musicians themselves, playing not only their characters but also the music performed in the film. This is a production as much for the ear as for the eye.

Cast **Valérie Donzelli, Frédéric Pierrot, Mathieu Spinosi**

Director **Grégory Magne** | 2025 | France | 102 mins

Int sales **Pyramide**

**Wonderful twists in the story...
and the masterful music is a balm
for the soul.** *Stage and Cinema*

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



Where There Is Love, There Is No Darkness / *Là où on s'aime, il ne fait jamais nuit* (N/C 15+)

In Paris, Seydou, a migrant from Senegal, endures long hours as a food delivery driver, navigating a city that barely acknowledges him. His routine is a cycle of hardship, fleeting interactions, and quiet resilience. Among indifferent customers and struggling workers, he forms an unexpected bond with Albert, a lonely elderly Parisian. Their friendship offers Seydou a rare connection, reshaping his perspective on belonging.

A moving portrait of endurance, faith, and the unseen workers who sustain urban life, proving that hope and human connection persist even in the harshest realities. An appropriate companion piece to last year's Festival hit, *The Story of Souleymane* now on release through Conic.

Cast **Oumar Diaw, Albert Delpy, Laïd Liazid, Qingwei Kong**

Director **Stevan Lee Mraovitch** | 2024 | Senegal / France

80 mins | Int sales **Charlotte Russe Films**

In French, Pulaar, and Chinese with English subtitles

**Gorgeous visuals and story
about underrepresented groups,
critiquing the treatment of
immigrants in France.** *Letterboxd*

The man behind the legend

Richard Mowe talks to director Sylvain Chomet about his fascination with Marcel Pagnol as part of a special French Film Festival focus in the year that marks the 130th anniversary of his birth.

Marcel Pagnol, an iconic cultural figure in France through literature, theatre and films, maintained “the spirit of a child” throughout his life, driven by an inquisitive passion, curiosity and a tendency to be a control freak.

He shares some of these traits with animation auteur Sylvain Chomet (*Belleville Rendez-Vous*, *The Illusionist*) who is also taking a child-like glee in his latest project *A Magnificent Life* – an animated version of the life of Marseille’s favourite son which premiered earlier this year at the Cannes Film Festival.

Chomet’s filmmaking style has mainly eschewed dialogue in favour of visuals, whereas with Pagnol, he could hardly escape the emphasis on words and script. “I had done one live action film *Attila Marcel* [the titular main character hasn’t spoken a word since the death of his parents when he was two years old] but everyone around him was talking a lot. So in some ways I had become used to dialogue. The preoccupation in Pagnol was the technique of how to bring in the animation.

“We did the human actors talking on a white screen (or a green screen or a black screen) and the animators would use the acting of the characters to make the animation.



Marcel Pagnol – special focus in the year of the 130th anniversary of his birth.

And they were all in costume. So we spent around a month with the actors in a studio workshop in Belgium – even though we would not necessarily use all of their voices.

“It was just for the action... to give it a soul and I had to tell them to act naturally so when the actors talk in the film it feels natural – a bit like in a silent movie. And the characters are listening to each other.

That was the main difference and then we did all the voices in post-synchronisation, which was also quite new for me.”

Chomet was determined to reveal “the human guy... the man who became Marcel Pagnol, rather than the figure of legend.

MARCEL PAGNOL ANNIVERSARY

He was someone who made mistakes... his wife did not want to move from Marseille to Paris which she hated because it was always raining and cold.

"They could not even find somewhere to stay because of the post-war scarcity of accommodation. I liked all his doubts and contradictions. He was not sure about doing his plays in the Marseille dialect. He was very anxious when his works were premiered: he would be found in the theatre hiding in the attic because he was so scared."

Chomet points out that it was actually Pagnol who influenced the "new" generation of filmmakers including Jean-Luc Godard, François Truffaut, Claude Chabrol and Agnès Varda. "They didn't invent anything," says Chomet, "it was Pagnol who was ground-breaking."



Sylvain Chomet on Pagnol: "I liked all his doubts and contradictions." (Photo by Laura Stevens for UniFrance)

A longer version of this article has appeared on www.eyeforfilm.co.uk



A gorgeous, decidedly dewy-eyed heritage hagiography.

Screen

A Magnificent Life / *Marcel et Monsieur Pagnol*

(CERT TBC)

In Sylvain Chomet's animation *A Magnificent Life*, French playwright, filmmaker, and inventor Marcel Pagnol at 61 appears very close to giving up on his career, so a younger Marcel comes to the rescue. When asked to write a memoir, Pagnol simply can't do it – not without the help of hope and optimism personified in the figure of young Marcel.

Like most biopics, the animation pays tribute to its subject, making Pagnol a man at ease with the times, embracing the medium of cinema when his theatre colleagues were too sceptical to try. The director of *The Triplets of Belleville* dons rose-tinted spectacles.

Cast (voices) **Laurent Lafitte, Géraldine Pailhas, Thierry Garcia, Anaïs Petit**

Director **Sylvain Chomet** | 2025 | France / Belgium / Luxembourg
90 mins | Int sales **Elle Driver** | UK distributor **Picturehouse**

MARCEL PAGNOL ANNIVERSARY



The Baker's Wife / *La Femme du boulanger*

(N/C 15+)

When the village baker refuses to bake bread because his unfaithful wife has left with a handsome shepherd, the individual drama takes on a collective dimension. Raimu gives us a prodigious interpretation that made Orson Welles say he was the greatest actor in the world. The film was, along with *La Trilogie*, one of Pagnol's greatest successes. Of the casting of Raimu, Pagnol said: "He's a prodigious actor... At first he didn't want to play the baker. It had to be Maupi. But when he read the text, he came to me and said: "Don't you think I should do it? When he gets drunk and tries to roll a cigarette, he who had never rolled one in his life, he is fantastic, everyone was in admiration, we did not dare stop the camera."

Cast **Raimu, Ginette Leclerc, Charles Moulin, Fernand Charpin, Robert Vattier, Alida Rouffe**

Director **Marcel Pagnol** | 1938 | France | 134 mins
Print source **mk2**

**Bursting with bucolic vigour
and sly satirical wit.**

Time Out



Jean de Florette (PG)

The sun-dappled beauty of the Provence countryside belies dark motivations in Claude Berri's monumental two-part pastoral tragedy. When the naively idealistic tax collector Jean Cadoret (Gérard Depardieu) unexpectedly inherits a family farm, he leaves the city for a new life in the agrarian community where his mother, Florette, grew up. His neighbours, however, the scheming Ugolin (Daniel Auteuil) and his proud uncle César "Le Papet" Soubeyran (Yves Montand), have plotted to divert the flow of water away from Jean's land.

Cast **Gérard Depardieu, Yves Montand, Daniel Auteuil, Emmanuelle Béart, Hippolyte Girardot, Élisabeth Depardieu**

Director **Claude Berri** | 1986 | France | 130 mins
Print source **Pathé / Park Circus**

A peerless cast of French stars.

The Wall Street Journal

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

MARCEL PAGNOL ANNIVERSARY



Manon of the Spring / *Manon des Sources* (PG)

The timeless story continues in the award-winning sequel to *Jean de Florette*. Jean's daughter Manon (played by Emmanuelle Béart) has grown up into a beautiful and free-spirited young shepherdess on her father's Provence farm. But when she learns the tragic truth about her father's demise, Manon plots her revenge on the dim-witted Ugolin (Daniel Auteuil) and the scheming Le Papet (Yves Montand).

Cast **Emmanuelle Béart, Daniel Auteuil, Yves Montand, Gérard Depardieu, Élisabeth Depardieu**

Director **Marcel Pagnol** | 1986 | France | 124 mins

Int sales **Pathé / Park Circus**

Director Claude Berri's beautifully made pair of dramas.

The Wall Street Journal

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



Topaze (N/C 12)

Albert Topaze, a serious schoolteacher addicted to "rote" morality, works at a private school run by supremely money-grabbing M. Muche, whose daughter, also a teacher, makes cynical use of the knowledge that Topaze loves her. Alas, Topaze's naive honesty brings him unjust dismissal... and makes him fair game for the "aunt" of his private pupil, really the mistress of crooked politician Régis, who needs an honest-seeming "front man." Can artful Suzy Courtois keep Topaze on a string? With steadily escalating disillusion comes moral crisis...

This was Pagnol's second attempt at putting on the screen his 1928 stage hit. Schoolmaster Topaze clings to his sense of right and wrong, despite being exploited at work and then tricked into becoming the front for a crooked businessman. Finally seeing himself as others do – a dupe and a dope – he changes character, seizes control and takes revenge on bullies past and present.

Cast **Fernandel, Hélène Perdrière, Marcel Vallée, Jacqueline Pagnol, Pierre Laguey, Jacques Morel**

Director **Marcel Pagnol** | 1950 | France | 143 mins

Print source **mk2**

Pagnol exposes the pliability of the human conscience. *New York Times*



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Quebec focus

Putting the spotlight on la Belle Province

Ciné Tapis Rouge, a non-profit organisation established in 2007 in Montreal (Quebec, Canada), has the mission to support, promote, and showcase independent Quebec cinema on the international stage.

Ciné Tapis Rouge provides support to independent cinema and its creators, positioning itself internationally as an important and unique cultural player, a true reference centre for around 30 countries.

Ciné Tapis Rouge started annual collaborations with new partner countries to create strong and stimulating links to allow their artists to reach new audiences and films to circulate more easily.

Through film programmes, the organisation works together with such foreign partners as French Film Festival UK to build artistic meetings, sustainable projects and exchanges of expertise, and sometimes even co-production projects.

Proud of its contribution to the promotion of Quebec's cinematographic heritage and the support given to Quebec filmmakers, Ciné Tapis Rouge encourages cinematographic exchanges that are at the heart of their mandate.



Aline – The Power of Love (N/C 12+)

For Aline Dieu, nothing in the world matters more than music, family and love. Her powerful and emotional voice captivates everyone who hears it, including successful manager Guy-Claude Kamar, who resolves to do everything in his power to make her a star. As Aline climbs from local phenomenon to best-selling recording artist to international superstar, she embarks on the two great romances of her life: one with the decades-older Guy-Claude and the other with her adoring audiences.

Two-time César award-winner Valérie Lemerrier directs and plays Aline incredibly from ages five to 50 in a musical freely inspired by the life, loves and legacy of real-life Québécoise singing sensation Céline Dion of Paris Olympics renown.

Cast **Valérie Lemerrier, Sylvain Marcel, Danielle Fichaud, Roc LaFortune, Antoine Vézina, Pascale Desrochers**

Director **Valérie Lemerrier** | 2020 | France | 123 mins

Int sales **Gaumont**

Aline is bursting with music, drama and show-stopping performances. *Eye for Film*



Fanny (N/C 12+)

Adapted from the popular French young adult novel series *Fanny Cloutier*, we follow a teenage girl (played by Milya Corbeil-Gauvreau) who, upon discovering a family secret following her mother's death, desperately searches for answers while also dealing with her grief-stricken father.

Her quest leads her to an unknown aunt whose existence her father had kept hidden since her mother's demise. Driven by a desire to understand her mother's mysterious past and the family secrets, Fanny embarks on a journey to meet this unknown relative with the help of new friends, in a quest for truth and self-discovery.

Cast **Eric Bruneau, Claude Legault, Adelaide Schoofs, Milya Corbeil-Gauvreau, Léokim Beaumier-Lépine**

Director **Yan England** | 2025 | Quebec | 114 mins

Int sales **Téléfiction Distribution Canada**

A heartfelt and memorable cinematic experience.

Daily Entertainment World

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



Shepherds / Bergers (N/C 12+)

Winner of the Best Canadian Feature Film at the 2024 Toronto International Film Festival, Sophie Deraspe's inspiring film follows Mathyas, a burned-out advertising executive from Montreal, as he moves to Provence to become a shepherd. He is soon joined by Élise, a civil servant who quits her job to be with him and care for the sheep.

In the magnificent mountainous landscapes of Southern France, they are tasked to transport the herd to a grazing mountain near the Italian border.

Cast **Félix-Antoine Duval, Solène Rigot, Guilaine Londez**
Director **Sophie Deraspe** | 2024 | Quebec / France | 113 mins
Int sales **Pyramide International**

Visually beautiful tale that rides on the allure of the pastoral cinematography.

Cineuropa



Testament (N/C 15+)

Partly a reflection on life and legacy, partly a playful skewering of contemporary society, the latest from Canadian icon Denys Arcand is a touching comedy with a lot of heart.

Jean-Michel, a 73-year-old bachelor, lives in a retirement home. His world is shaken up by the sudden arrival of young political activists campaigning for the removal of an ancient fresco in the facility.

As Jean-Michel is progressively losing faith in a world dominated by political correctness, he realises his unsuspected love for Suzanne, the manager of the retirement home.

Cast **Rémy Girard, Sophie Lorain, Marie-Mai Bouchard, Guylaine Tremblay, Caroline Néron, Alexandra McDonald, Katia Gorshkova**

Director **Denys Arcand** | 2023 | Quebec | 115 mins
Int sales **Playtime**

Arcand's genius is in every frame of this movie.

Northernstars.ca

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

documentary

Quebec focus



Larry (They, Them) (N/C 15+)

Non-binary trans photographer Laurence Philomène is undergoing hormone replacement therapy and documenting their transition in a self-portrait project. Their project "Puberty" exposes intimate details of transgender life, such as testosterone injections and non-binary nudity.

Following Laurence's creative process, the film explores what it means for Laurence to be transgender and how it impacts their life, relationships and art.

Laurence's colourful and artistic photography both empowers and humanises trans-experience, while raising awareness for trans rights and visibility.

Director **Catherine Legault** | 2024 | Quebec | 102 mins
Int sales **F3M** | In French and English

Luminous and committed portrait of the complex multiplicity of trans and non-binary identities.

Letterboxd



The Bertrand's Farm / *La Ferme des Bertrand*

(N/C 12+)

In the French Alps in 1972 the Bertrand dairy farm, run by three brothers, is filmed for the first time. Gilles Perret, a neighbour, made his first film about them in 1997, as they hand over their farm to the next generation. Twenty-five years later, the director-neighbour takes up the camera again to accompany Hélène, who, in turn, is handing over the reins.

Through the words and actions of the people who have succeeded one another, the film reveals compelling life journeys where work and transmission occupy a central place: an intimate, social and economic story of the French farming world.

La Ferme des Bertrand was awarded the 2025 César for Best Documentary.

Director **Gilles Perret** | 2023 | France | 87 mins
Print source **IFCinéma**

An intimate, social and economic history of our farming world.

Brussels International Film Festival

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

documentary



Doves in Zero Gravity / *Colombes sans gravité*

(N/C 15+)

The documentary examines how the prolonged crisis in Mali has turned peacekeepers into powerless pawns caught between local wars and global geopolitics in a changing World Order. The forces were there to stabilise the country, help restore state authority and keep jihadis at bay. Despite a 2015 peace agreement between the government of Mali and secessionist armed groups, jihadi groups continued to gain ground in the Sahel.

In 2020, a military junta took over the state and hired Wagner Group mercenaries, leading to the departure of the French military operation Barkhane, and the expulsion of the UN mission in 2023. Can lessons from the past help to shape peace operations of the future?

Director **Christophe Gargot** | 2024 | France | 88 mins

The deadliest peacekeeping mission in UN history.

Kent Global Leadership Programme



Rookies / *Allons Enfants*

(N/C 12+)

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 their 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.

Cast **Charlotte Saudrais, Erwan Schamaneche, Michelle Kibebe, Nathanaël Marante**
Directors **Thierry Demaizière, Alban Teurlai** | 2022
France | 110 mins

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

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

documentary



Lyrical, visually and aurally ravishing... an ecological vision that is wordlessly embedded in every shot. *Screen*

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

The Shepherd and the Bear / *Le Berger et l'ours* (CERT TBC)

Set high in the majestic French Pyrenees, this documentary explores a conflict provoked by the reintroduction of brown bears amid a traditional shepherding community. An ageing shepherd struggles to find a successor as bears prey on his flock, and a teenage boy becomes obsessed with tracking the bears.

Through its breathtaking cinematography and immersive storytelling, this modern folktale tells of tradition, community and humanity's relationship with a vanishing natural world. UK filmmaker Max Keegan moved to France for three years to make the film and he hopes to be present for some of the screenings.

Director **Max Keegan** | 2025 | France / US / UK | 100 mins
Int sales **Submarine** | UK distributor **Conic**

CULT

Kaamelott – the Second Chapter / *Kaamelott – Deuxième Volet [partie 1]* (N/C 12+)

Actor, director, writer, composer and comedian Alexandre Astier is behind the cult hit *Kaamelott* (the spelling is deliberately off key) – a spoofy retelling of the legend of King Arthur and his knights. Astier's reimagining of Arthur as a gruff, short-tempered womaniser with relatively progressive values and an occasional soft spot was a runaway success. Although the TV series ended more than 12 years ago, its popularity endures. The first instalment scored more than two million spectators in France and sell-out shows at the French Film Festival UK during Covid. Now The Second Chapter is unleashed with the Knights of the Round Table, sent on an adventure, in which they must face their destiny in a fragmented kingdom. Arthur, in search of redemption and power, continues his return to the throne, while alliances are tested and the stakes are raised.

Cast **Alexandre Astier, Thomas Cousseau, Anne Girouard, Virginie Ledoyen, Christian Clavier**

Director **Alexandre Astier** | 2025 | France | Running time TBC
Int sales **SND**



Alexandre Astier knows exactly how to adapt his TV series for the big screen. Fans will find all the familiar elements there, and those new to his world will discover some tricks just for them. *20 Minutes*

animation



Arco (N/C PG)

This debut feature film from illustrator and graphic novel creator Ugo Bienvenu has much on its mind, telling a story of unexpected friendship and the fate of a world impacted by climate change. Bienvenu and co-writer Félix de Givry deliver a timely warning about the evils of climate change as we see the results of earth-shattering natural events in the future via time travelling people who can visit past eras and errors of human neglect, so that they do not make the same mistakes.

The ten-year-old title star's time-tripping parents and older sister return from their latest visit to the past, but Arco (Oscar Tresanini) had to stay at home because no one under 12 is allowed to do this kind of retro voyage. Instead, he has a robot nanny called Mikki, an android who stores threatened cultural artefacts in its memory and can project Arco's family as holograms to keep up the family ties even when others are in different time zones.

Voice cast **Alma Jodorowsky, Margot Ringard Oldra, Oscar Tresanini, Swann Arlaud, Vincent Macaigne, Louis Garrel, William Lebghil, Oxmo Puccino, Nathanaël Perrot**

Director **Ugo Bienvenu** | 2025 | France | 88 mins
Int sales **Goodfellas** | UK distributor **Picturehouse**

A meditation on ecological disaster within the dulcet grooves of a charming story about adolescent friendship... *Hollywood Reporter*



Josep (N/C 15+)

The unknown story of a brilliant illustrator Josep Bartolí who survived the Spanish Civil War only to be interned in a French concentration camp for several years until he escaped and eventually made it over to Mexico, makes for a fascinating animation. In Mexico he became the lover of Frida Kahlo, after which he moved to New York and met painters like Rothko and De Kooning.

The film, which marks the feature debut of cartoonist and journalist Aurel (Aurélien Froment), provides glimpses into the pain and plight suffered by the Spanish people.

Voice cast **Sergi López, Bruno Solo, Gérard Hernandez, David Marsais, Valérie Lemerrier, François Morel**

Director **Aurel** | 2020 | France / Belgium / Spain | 74 mins

Print source **IFCinéma**

In French, Catalan and Spanish, with English subtitles

An evocative portrayal of art and war *Hollywood Reporter*

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

animation



Dazzling. An ingenious film with superb colours and full of humour. *Télérama*

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

Nina and the Hedgehog's Secret / *Nina et le secret du hérisson* (PG)

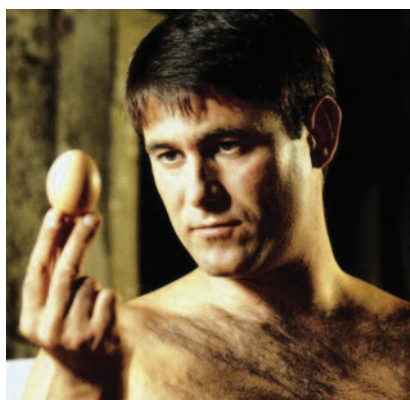
An exquisite and enchanting new animated feature, featuring the voice talents of beloved French cinema icons Audrey Tautou and Guillaume Canet. Ten-year-old Nina has always filled her imagination with her dad's diverting tales about hedgehogs. But when he loses his job, Nina starts to worry about the future of her family. After hearing rumours of a treasure hidden by the old factory's boss, Nina and her best friend Mehdi decide to embark on a risky hold-up and wild adventure to search for the swag and share it between her father and his fellow workers. Thus, an incredible adventure begins.

From Alain Gagnol and Jean-Loup Felicioli, the Academy Award-nominated directors of *A Cat in Paris*.

Voice cast **Audrey Tautou, Guillaume Canet**

Directors **Alain Gagnol & Jean-Loup Felicioli** | 2022 | France
79 mins | Print source **IFCinéma**

Restoration



Moll masterfully weaves together Hitchcockian thriller elements and brainy comedy. *Variety*

Harry (He's Here to Help) / *Harry, Un ami qui vous veut du bien* (15)

To mark the 25th anniversary of Dominik Moll's Hitchcockian thriller, the Festival presents a restored copy of the film. It opens with the family travelling in their unbearably hot car to visit the parents of the driver, Michel (Laurent Lucas). His wife Claire (Mathilde Seigner) attempts to pacify their three girls, who cry and wail and misbehave, bored by the drive, stifled by the heat. Michel and Claire may be short-tempered, and their family unit disorganised and flawed, but the bonds that unite them are established firmly and cogently.

Moll establishes these elements with deft, economical touches and handles the shifts in tone with assurance. And then Sergi López's Harry appears on the scene...

Cast **Sergi López, Laurent Lucas, Mathilde Seigner, Sophie Guillemin**
Director **Dominik Moll** | 2000 | France | 112 mins | Int sales **SND**



celebration

BORN WITH CINEMA

Founded in 1895, the Gaumont film company claims to have been “born with cinema.”

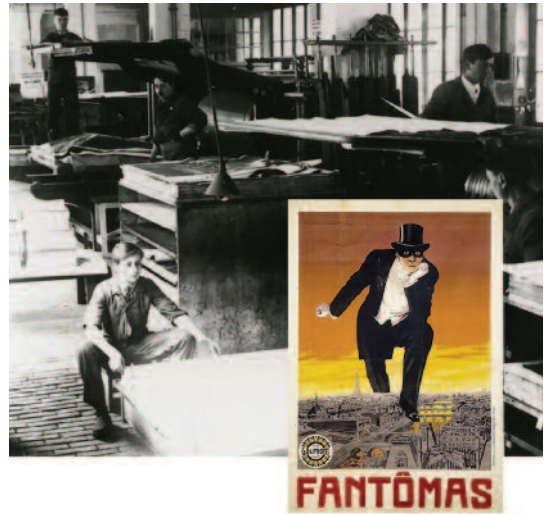
Since its inception, the Marguerite-emblazoned brand has continued to enrich its catalogue and collection through constant preservation, rediscovery, and restoration. Pathé, with its *coq* logo also was established way back in 1896 but Gaumont just beats them to the record by a year.

Gaumont, along with its iconic daisy emblem has stretched from the silent era and Abel Gance to features by the likes of Jean-Luc Godard, Louis Malle, Jean Renoir, Claude Chabrol and Max Ophüls.

In 1895, when 31-year-old Léon Gaumont took the reins of the Comptoir Général de la Photographie, he would never have suspected that he was going to create the only company in the world that is now as old as cinema itself. The company then sold optical and photographic equipment.

Captivated by the work of Edison and the Lumière brothers, Léon Gaumont believed in the future of cinematography and decided to start manufacturing projection equipment in 1900.

Constantly perfecting techniques, he focused especially on the introduction of sound and colour.



The silent serial *Fantômas* helped to boost the fortunes of the Gaumont Studios. (Photo Gaumont)

Alice Guy, his secretary, who was one of the first filmmakers to make a narrative fiction film, as well as the first woman to direct a film, quickly suggested (from the late 1890s) enhancing the presentations of equipment sold by the company with filmed sketches.

Soon, titles across all genres were being produced: comedies, dramas, crime movies, science fiction, westerns, and even cartoons created by Émile Cohl, the company's filmmaker.

Later, Louis Feuillade became Gaumont's artistic director, going on to make famous films like *Judex*, *Fantômas*, and *Les Vampires*.





At one time the biggest cinema in the world, established by Gaumont on the Place de Clichy in Paris (Photo Gaumont)

In 1910, Léon Gaumont bought the Hippodrome in the Place de Clichy in Paris, transforming it into a monumental cinema: the Gaumont-Palace, which became – for a time – the biggest cinema in the world. Gradually setting up cinemas across France, Gaumont became synonymous with an unprecedented mastery of the film production chain,

from the manufacture of projection equipment to public distribution.

In recent years, Gaumont has heightened its activity, producing, financing, and distributing films in both French and English. At the same time, with the creation of Gaumont Television in France and around the world, and the acquisition of Gaumont Animation, Gaumont has consolidated its commitment to being present in all audiovisual sectors, developing multi-format and multi-support production.

With its American, British, German, and Italian branches, Gaumont has become a major actor on the international stage, namely producing hits like *Narcos*, *Lupin*, *Barbarians*, and *El Presidente*.



Highly influential in the development of cinema.

Télérama

Fantomas: In the Shadow of the Guillotine / *Fantômas*: À l'ombre de la guillotine (PG)

First episode of the legendary Gaumont silent series with live piano and cello accompaniment by Jane Gardner (left) and Caroline Salmon (right). *Fantômas*, the genius of crime and king of burglary, terrorises Paris. Louis Feuillade who was artistic director of Gaumont at the time was keen to capitalise on the success of the *Fantômas* series of novels written by Pierre Souvestre and Marcel Allain. This first episode marks the beginning of an exciting detective story with many surprises...



A great classic of French silent cinema, shot in a long-forgotten Paris.

Cast **René Navarre, Edmund Breon, Georges Melchior, Renée Carl**

Director **Louis Feuillade** | 1913 | France | 56 mins
Int sales **Gaumont** | UK Distributor **Eureka**



Dead Tired / *Grosse fatigue* (N/C 15+)

The story of a film star whose life comes undone when he is upstaged by a look-alike intent on the star's very persona. The actor becomes enmeshed in a web of fantastic predicaments before he is able to see clear through the usurper's designs. A fight to the death ensues between the two men. In tribute to Michel Blanc who died earlier this year.

Cast **Michel Blanc, Carole Bouquet, Philippe Noiret, Josiane Balasko, Christian Clavier, Marie-Anne Chazel, Guillaume Durand, Charlotte Gainsbourg**

Director **Michel Blanc** | 1994 | France | 86 mins

Int sales **Gaumont**

A pitch-black comedy on the perils of fame.

Los Angeles Times



The Dinner Game / *Le Dîner de cons* (15)

One of the highest-grossing French films of recent years, *Le Dîner de cons* features a particularly French blend of social satire and adultery. But it is also a trenchant social commentary on middle-class snobbery, fear of failure and humiliation.

The wealthy editor Pierre Brochant (Thierry Lhermitte) and his friends have a weekly competition where each invites the most foolish man he can find for dinner. Tonight, Brochant is ecstatic, for he has found the ultimate idiot. But his guest, tax official François Pignon (Jacques Villeret), is a master in bringing on catastrophe.

Cast **Jacques Villeret, Thierry Lhermitte, Francis Huster, Daniel Prévost, Alexandra Vandernoot, Catherine Frot**

Director **Francis Veber** | 1998 | France | 80 mins

Int sales **Gaumont**

Writer-director Veber delivers a marvellously wrought plot... a classic example of a French farce. *Empire*

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

classics



Cold Cuts / Buffet froid (12)

Rigorously absurd contemporary *film noir* which presents every character, incident and situation known to the genre, but none of the customary explanations, motivations or consequences. A blackly surreal procession of amoral and/or illegal acts proceed haphazardly from Gérard Depardieu's discovery of his lost penknife embedded in a dying Métro traveller, and his subsequent alliance with his wife's murderer and a police inspector, producing a surreally Buñuelian depiction of the far-from-discreet crimes of the bourgeoisie. Screened in tribute to Bertrand Blier who died earlier this year.

Cast **Gérard Depardieu, Carole Bouquet, Bernard Blier**

Director **Bertrand Blier** | 1979 | France | 111 mins

Int sales **StudioCanal / Park Circus**

**Cherishably Buñuelian depiction
of the far-from-discreet crimes
of the bourgeoisie.**

Time Out

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



The Grand Highway / Le Grand Chemin (15)

In this bittersweet charmer, Louis, a nine-year-old boy from Paris, spends his summer holiday in rural Brittany. Director Jean-Loup Hubert cast his own son, Antoine, in the pivotal role of the sensitive child packed off by his pregnant mother (Christine Pascal) to stay with an old girlfriend Marcelle (Anémone) and her husband (Richard Bohringer) in this isolated village in the late 1950s. Louis befriends Martine, a slightly older girl who initiates him into the mysteries of rural life. Hubert's script has conscious echoes of René Clément's *Forbidden Games* and other classics about children.

Cast **Anémone, Richard Bohringer, Antoine Hubert, Vanessa Guedj, Christine Pascal, Raoul Billery**

Director **Jean-Loup Hubert** | 1987 | France | 107 mins

**The squabbling couple won
Césars and richly deserve them -
Anémone for her sassy walk and
prissy ways, Bohringer for his
rough, bawdy tenderness...**

Time Out

**TV5
MONDE**



COMME UNE ACTRICE © La Mer à Boire Productions

CINEMA

**TUES & WEDS AT 1PM
WEDS & SUN AT 8PM**

SCAN ME



Discover Art, Cinema and Culture Without Borders with **TV5MONDE** this Winter

TV5MONDE, the global French-language entertainment channel, continues to celebrate the diversity of Francophone culture with bold new stories, fresh debates, and a new way to experience the arts. This winter, audiences can enjoy the very best of French-speaking cinema and culture on TV5MONDE and TV5MONDE+, now united under one platform. TV5MONDE+ now offers the live TV5MONDE TV channel, plus over 6,000 hours of on-demand programmes, all in one place.

Watch via www.tv5mondeplus.com, through the TV5MONDE+ App on your device or connected TV, or via Amazon Fire Stick.

Every week, host Ali Baddou and his team of guest commentators welcome French-speaking artists from across the world who are “at the heart of current events and who move the lines.” Filmed before a live audience, this vibrant new show blends art, conversation, and creation, featuring guests from established icons to emerging talents shaping tomorrow’s art scene.

Expect humour, lively debate, and surprise performances in an atmosphere that celebrates art in all its forms — and shares it with everyone.

Culture, creativity, and conversation from the Francophone arts world — watch it live on TV5MONDE, Sundays at 18.00.



La grande galerie francophone – a new weekly show where art comes alive! Sundays at 6pm.



© La Mer à Boire Productions

TV5MONDE recommends: *Comme une actrice* starring Julie Gayet – this November

Don't miss *Comme une actrice*, screening on TV5MONDE Sunday 30 November at 20.00 and Tuesday 2 December at 13.00. In this poignant drama by Sébastien Bailly, celebrated actress Julie Gayet delivers one of her most powerful performances, as a woman facing the end of a love story and an era, blurring the line between performance and reality. A film about identity, reinvention, and the courage to begin again.

Watch it live on TV5MONDE, Sun 30 Nov at 20.00.

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November Film Highlights: *Des hommes et des dieux*, *Richelieu*, and *Chien de la casse*.

Des hommes et des dieux – a moving, multi-award-winning reflection on faith and sacrifice.

Richelieu – a tense, contemporary story of justice and conscience from Quebec.

Chien de la casse – a raw and touching tale of friendship and rivalry in the sun-drenched south of France, winner of Best First Film at the César Awards.

Whether you prefer timeless masterpieces or bold new voices, TV5MONDE+ opens a window on the French-speaking world – completely free.



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Des hommes et des dieux



© LeftOverFilms/TS Productions/JPL Films

Richelieu



© Insolence Productions

Chien de la Casse

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extras

EXTRAS is the strand of the programme that offers another chance to catch some of our favourite titles from previous editions as well as some newcomers that we haven't been able to screen previously.

As in the Panorama title *Leave One Day*, Jessica Palud's *Back Home* follows a young man's returns to his roots – this time from Montreal to a farming background in the Drôme region.

Vincent Perez picks up his fencing foils for *The Edge of the Blade*, and weaves drama, romance and duels against a background of Parisian society in 1887 when the old order was changing.

And there's more change of a contemporary nature in Claire Burger's *Foreign Language* when the young generation have to face up to everything from climate change to the rise of the far right. The protagonists in *Love Affair(s)* by Emmanuel Mouret prefer to deal with romantic complications rather than political machinations. Romance also rises up to the surface in *Not My Type* by Michel Leclerc involving a Seventies rock icon.

Thomas Lilti explores the world of teaching in *A Real Job*, with Vincent Lacoste as a new recruit plunged into the thick of it. Antoine Rimbault, a previous Festival guest, delivers a taut thriller *Smoke Signals* based on a true story about scandal and influence in underhand dealings with the tobacco lobby. If you like Andrea Arnold's work then take a chance on *The Worst Ones*, in which a film crew descend on a working class town.

Meanwhile two exciting connections to the Panorama selection with director Stéphane Demoustier (*The Great Arch*) delivering a taut prison drama in his previous film *The Wrong Place* which features a César best actress performance from Hafsia Herzi (who directs the stunning *The Little Sister*, also in Panorama).

BACK HOME	49
THE EDGE OF THE BLADE	49
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	50
LOVE AFFAIR(S)	50
NOT MY TYPE	51
A REAL JOB	51
SMOKE SIGNALS	52
THE WORST ONES	52
THE WRONG PLACE	53

Screenings supported by



IFcinéma



Back Home / *Revenir* (15+)



A Frenchman in his early thirties (Niels Schneider) returns to the farm of his childhood in this rural family drama, a suitably down-to-earth adaptation of a novel by Serge Joncour. Schneider's character Thomas had left a dozen or so years earlier to work in a restaurant in Montréal. When he arrives back, all the cows of his childhood are gone. In their place, he sees the cute Alex (Roman Coustère Hachez), his six-year-old nephew whom he has never met before. Mona (Adèle Exarchopoulos), Alex's mom, also doesn't immediately recognise the man with the curly blond hair, though he is the older brother of Mathieu, Alex's late father and Mona's late boyfriend.

Set in the visually appealing Drome region in south-eastern France over an oppressive and intense summer.

Cast **Niels Schneider, Adèle Exarchopoulos, Héliène Vincent, Patrick d'Assumção**

Director **Jessica Palud** | 2019 | France | 77 mins

Strong suits are its performances, its emotional honesty and a refreshingly concise running time.

Hollywood Reporter

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



The Edge of the Blade / *Une affaire d'honneur* (N/C 15+)



In 1887, Parisian society is experiencing transformations that will resonate for decades to come. The supposedly outlawed practice of men fighting duels to preserve and restore honour still thrives, while women are not permitted to vote, let alone pick up a fencing foil themselves. The impressive cast includes Roschdy Zem as the legendary swordsman Clément Lacaze who becomes entangled in an illegal fencing bout between his nephew and a far more experienced army colonel. Doria Tillier plays women's rights activist Marie-Rose Astié de Valsayre, who is attempting to manipulate the conventions of duelling to draw attention to her own cause. Perez deftly weaves drama, romance and duels with every sword clash heralding change.

Cast **Roschdy Zem, Doria Tillier, Vincent Perez, Guillaume Gallienne, Damien Bonnard**

Director **Vincent Perez** | 2023 | France | 101 mins

Perez manages the set-piece confrontations with precision and a nail-biting suspense.

Eye for Film



Foreign Language / *Langue étrangère* (N/C 15+)

In Claire Burger's tender and surprisingly funny third feature, *Langue étrangère*, the issue du jour is the multiplicity of simultaneous crises that young people in Europe and beyond must contend with today: from fascism to climate change, from structural racism to police brutality. Most significantly, and one of the reasons why this is such a necessary film, Burger links contemporary Europe's political chaos to its psychic disarray. Could the tendency of young people to engage in collective protest also serve to obscure individual challenges?

Cast **Lilith Grasmug, Josefa Heinsius, Nina Hoss, Chiara Mastroianni, Jalal Altawil**

Director **Claire Burger** | 2024 | France / Germany | 105 mins

French and German with English subtitles

Tough and tender romance between two teen girls finding each other in translation.

Hollywood Reporter



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

The set-up is a classic one: two strangers, thrown together by circumstance, while away the time chatting about love against the stunning backdrop of the French countryside. Director Emmanuel Mouret's winsome endeavour finds a clever way to spin off a walking-and-talking conceit into something more full-bodied, using its central couple (the appealing Camélia Jordana and Niels Schneider) as the entry point into a series of interconnected stories about the messiness of love.

Cast **Camélia Jordana, Niels Schneider, Vincent Macaigne, Julia Piaton**

Director **Emmanuel Mouret** | 2020 | France | 122 mins

Emotional detours galore via stylised dialogue delivered with aplomb.

Screen

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



Not My Type / *Les Goûts et les couleurs* (N/C 15+)

A classy young Parisian singer, Marcia, is recording an album with her idol Darédjane, a rock icon from the 70s. When Darédjane suddenly dies, in order to release their album Marcia must obtain the approval of Darédjane's rightsholder, Anthony, a suburban market vendor in his thirties. But Anthony never liked his distant relative, let alone her music. Their two worlds clash between good and bad taste, sophistication and coarseness, sincerity and lies. Unless love enters into the mix...

Cast **Rebecca Marder, Félix Moati, Judith Chemla, Philippe Rebbot**

Director **Michel Leclerc** | 2022 | France | 110 mins

A romantic and melancholy comedy about artistic ambitions, the complicated process of adapting to reality and differing perceptions.

Cineuropa



A Real Job / *Un métier sérieux* (N/C 15+)

Having previously drawn on his background as a doctor for the films *Hippocrates* and *The Freshmen*, in his latest dramatically inflected comedy writer-director Thomas Lilti trains his observant eye on a new milieu: high school. Vincent Lacoste plays freshly accredited substitute teacher Benjamin, whom we meet as he's setting out to launch his career at the suburban Victor Hugo School. Joining a committed group of colleagues who are passionate about teaching, including the older Pierre (*The Intouchables* star François Cluzet) and divorced mother Meriem (Adèle Exarchopoulos), Benjamin quickly encounters a host of challenges.

Cast **Vincent Lacoste, François Cluzet, Adèle Exarchopoulos**

Director **Thomas Lilti** | 2023 | France | 101 mins

This thoughtful comedy drama is worth a watch.

France Today

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



Smoke Signals / *Une affaire de principe* (N/C 15+)

The European Commissioner for Health, John Dalli, is accused of corruption and trading in influence in a scandal related to the tobacco industry. French Member of the European Parliament José Bové, maverick politician and prominent figure in the environmental party, suspects a setup by the tobacco manufacturer Swedish Match, potentially involving the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso. Standing alone against all odds, he decides to investigate and unravel this story, which shook the foundations of the entire European institution. Based on a true story.

Cast **Bouli Lanners, Thomas Vandenberghé, Céleste Brunquell, Lisa Loven Kongsli**

Director **Antoine Raimbault** | 2024 | France | 95 mins

An intense and breathless political thriller. *Le Dauphine Libéré*

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



The Worst Ones / *Les Pires* (N/C 15+)

The challenges of street casting are explored in this drama about a film within a film. Directed by Lise Akoka and Romane Gueret, it sees a film crew descend on a working-class French town, with thought-provoking and sometimes darkly funny results. Flemish director Gabriel (Johan Heldenbergh) is casting in the suburbs of Boulogne-sur-Mer. His feature is about a pregnant teen and her younger brother, and he is looking for ordinary local residents. The neighbours are surprised that he's only casting "les pires" — what they consider to be the worst ones, or the hoodlums. But there's raw talent in Lily (Mallory Wanecque) and hot-headed Ryan (Timéo Mahaut).

Cast **Mallory Wanecque, Timéo Mahaut, Johan Heldenbergh, Esther Archambault, Loïc Pech, Mélina Vanderplancke**

Directors **Lise Akoka, Romane Gueret**

2023 | France | 99 mins

Fascinating look at the filming experience. *The Worst Ones* should appeal to anyone who appreciates Andrea Arnold's style of film-making. *Deadline*



The Wrong Place / *Borgo* (N/C 15+)

The perfect blend of prison film, detective movie, portrait of a woman and a deep dive into Corsican society, Stéphane Demoustier delivers an excellent feature film carried by the brilliant Hafsia Herzi.

When Melissa (Hafsia Herzi), a prison guard, is transferred to a new prison in Corsica, a young male inmate helps her find her bearings and offers her protection – but he later expects help in return.

Cast **Hafsia Herzi, Moussa Mansaly, Louis Memmi**

Director **Stéphane Demoustier** | 2024 | France | 118 mins

Stéphane Demoustier signs a masterful *film noir* and offers Hafsia Herzi one of the most beautiful roles of her career. *Les Echos*



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We can provide special assistance on request and are open to hearing from our audiences on anything related to accessibility. Please contact FFF UK Associate Director Diane Henderson at: dianehendersonproducer@frenchfilmfestival.org.uk with your suggestions or questions.

- You can find full accessibility information on your local venue's website. We have included venue contact information on page 60.
- Our venues provide wheelchair access and accessible toilets.
- We provide tickets for essential companions.
- Reserved seating upon request.
- A quiet space can be arranged.
- We have included a selection of autism-friendly "quiet screenings" throughout the festival. Please check with your venue or the festival website for more information.
- All our films screen in their original version with English subtitles.

Information for hard of hearing audiences:

- To increase accessibility for hard of hearing audiences, we have commissioned descriptive subtitles for certain titles. The following films will screen with HOH subtitles:

LARRY (THEY, THEM)

THE SHEPHERD AND THE BEAR

WILD FOXES

- Induction loops are available in some venues and BSL or audio description is available at selected screenings. Please check your local cinema for more information.

Learning L'école du cinéma



The French Film Festival UK Learning Programme is offering French-speaking cinema with English subtitles free of charge to schools this autumn. The selection of four films will be available for classes between 27 October and 19 December 2025.

Teachers can view the films in advance to decide which is most appropriate for each of their groups and also download free learning resources to use with their pupils. The resources are designed in accordance with the Modern Languages Experience and Outcomes for the Curriculum for Excellence and have been updated in response to teachers' feedback.

The programme is organised and co-ordinated by Sylvia Davidson from the French Film Festival UK, with valuable assistance from a panel of teachers,

the French Institute in Scotland, Institut français-IFcinéma in Paris and London-based Institut français Royaume-Uni.

The Festival is grateful for the generous support of TotalEnergies, the Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland, SCILT (Scotland's National Centre for Languages), SALT (Scottish Association for Language Teaching) for the Learning Programme as well as Screen Scotland and Film Hub Scotland.

Prizes will be awarded by the Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland for the best film reviews submitted by pupils in Scotland.

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

Vive le cinéma!

HOW TO BOOK

Register your booking <https://frenchfilmfestival.org.uk/learning-programme/> for screenings from 27 October to 19 December 2025. Detailed information on how to access your films and the accompanying learning resources will be sent out from mid-August onwards. Bookings may also be made at <https://frenchfilmfestival.org.uk/learning-programme/>

PLEASE BOOK AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE DESIRED SCREENING DATES TO ALLOW TIME FOR ACCOUNT PROCESSING.

Note that it is illegal to replicate any film or to screen films 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



Nursery/
Lower
Primary

Hello World! *Bonjour le Monde!*

Themes: **Nature, Animals, Environment, Biodiversity**

Made with papier-mâché puppets animated in stop motion and hand-crafted sculptures set in beautifully painted backgrounds, this delightful and delicate film introduces all audiences to a fragile ecosystem through the lives of ten animals: a pike, a beaver, a bat, a fire salamander, a turtle, an emperor dragonfly, and four unforgettable birds. Together they illuminate the wonders of nature, shouting, "Hello World!"

Directors **Anne-Lise Koehler, Éric Serre**
2019 | France | 67 mins

Watch trailer here:
<https://frenchfilmfestival.org.uk/learning-programme/>

An enlightening tale through the amused look of ten baby animals...

Letterboxd



Upper
Primary

Nina and the Hedgehog's Secret *Nina et le secret du hérisson*

Themes: **Family, Friendship, Adventure, Unemployment**

An exquisite and enchanting animation featuring the voice talents of Audrey Tautou and Guillaume Canet. Ten-year-old Nina has always filled her imagination with the tales of a hedgehog her father tells her every night before she goes to sleep. But when her dad loses his job, Nina starts to worry about the future of her family. After hearing rumours of a treasure hidden in his old factory, she and her best friend Mehdi decide to embark on a risky hold-up and wild adventure to search for the swag and share it between her father and his fellow workers. Thus, an incredible adventure begins. Directed by Alain Gagnol and Jean-Loup Felicioli, the Academy Award-nominated directors of *A Cat in Paris*, *Nina and the Hedgehog's Secret* was a hit at last year's Dundee Discovery Film Festival.

Voice cast **Audrey Tautou, Guillaume Canet**
Directors **Alain Gagnol, Jean-Loup Felicioli**
2022 | France | 79 mins

Watch trailer here:
<https://frenchfilmfestival.org.uk/learning-programme/>

Dazzling. An ingenious film with superb colours and full of humour *Télérama*

Advisory: Some scenes may scare young children.

Learning L'école du cinéma



Lower
Secondary

Belle and Sébastien – Next Generation

Belle et Sébastien : nouvelle génération

Themes: **Adventure, Animals, Friendship, Family, Environment**

Ten-year-old Sébastien is less than thrilled to be spending his school holidays with his grandmother and aunt at an isolated farm in the mountains instead of skateboarding in Paris with his friends. At his grandmother's he is expected to help with the sheep – a prospect that is less than exciting for a city boy like him. That is, until he meets Belle, an enormous canine with a heart of gold. When Séb learns that Belle is being mistreated by her owner, he is prepared to do anything and everything it takes to protect his new friend. Far from being bored Sébastien is about to spend the most exciting summer of his life and may even find a way to save the family farm from developers and looming climate change. Filled with gorgeous mountain scenery and modern themes, this contemporary version of *Belle and Sébastien* delivers on its next gen title.

Cast **Michèle Laroque, Robinson Mensah-Rouanet, Alice David**
Director **Pierre Coré**
2022 | France | 79 mins

Watch trailer here:
<https://frenchfilmfestival.org.uk/learning-programme/>

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

Advisory: Some swearing, brief moments of animal cruelty (off-screen), smoking, wolves attacking sheep/Belle; one passing scene of a girl lying sunbathing in bikini top and shorts.



Lower
Secondary

Sugar and Stars

À la belle étoile

Themes: **Ambitions, Family, Cultural Identity, Equality, Learning, Friendship**

Ever since childhood, all Yazid has wanted to do is to make good cakes and provide for his adoptive family. At night he gazes longingly at the pictures of his favourite pastry chefs on the wall before he drifts off to sleep – propelled forward by his dream of becoming a great chef just like his heroes. With a tumultuous home life shuffled between an adoptive family and his own, nothing predestines him for such a career. Securing an apprenticeship at a prestigious Parisian restaurant, he must suddenly learn to navigate the elitist pastry world under the guidance of the chefs he so idolises. Throughout his journey, Yazid must grapple with homelessness, family issues and a lack of belonging, completely set on his goal of competing – and winning – for France in the annual World Pastry Championships. With his talent, determination and the support of true friends, Yazid might just have the ingredients he needs to help him achieve his dreams.

Cast **Riadh Belaïche, Dycosh, Pascal Légitimus, Christine Citti**
Director **Sébastien Tulard**
2022 | France | 110 mins

Watch trailer here:
<https://frenchfilmfestival.org.uk/learning-programme/>

A tale of struggle and triumph over adversity. It's a story of fierce determination to succeed against the odds. *Living Arts Canberra*

Advisory: Some use of coarse language and swearing, one fight, teenagers smoking (fleeting glimpse).



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.

(Open only to schools in Scotland)



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.

CLOSING DATE: 31 JANUARY 2026. Entries (each clearly labelled with pupil's name) to be submitted to schools@frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

LAST YEAR'S WINNERS: Pupils from Danestone Primary School, Fishermoss Primary School, Northfield Academy (all City of Aberdeen or Aberdeenshire) and Fettes College (Edinburgh).



shortcuts

Sunday 16 November 17.00 (N/C 15+)

Spot the filmmaking talents of tomorrow in this selection of garlanded francophone shorts from France and Belgium.

Trailer links at www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk | All films with English subtitles



Chico

Jojo, a clumsy, blundering young gay squatter, sets out to repair a washing machine in order to satisfy Lucien, the object of his desires. He wanders around Brussels on a frantic quest, ready to take any risk to achieve his goal.

Cast **Mallo Breyse, Vadiel Gonzalez Lardued, Léo Moreau**

Directors **Enzo Lorenzo** | Belgium / France | 2024 | 22 mins | Int Sales **Manifest**



Scars We Love / *Les Belles Cicatrices*

A brief encounter between Gaspard and Leila in a crowded café leads him to retreat under the table, as the pain of lost love turns into a quiet internal storm. Nominated for Palme d'Or for Best Short Film, Cannes Film Festival 2024. Animation.

Voice Cast **Fanny Sidney, Quentin Dolmaire**

Director **Raphaël Jouzeau** | France | 2024 | 15 mins | Distribution **Miyu Distribution**



The Eternal City / *Ville éternelle*

In the Paris suburbs Lili is waiting for a bus to take her to the airport. The day is a public holiday. She comes across Thibault, an old schoolmate of whom she has no memory. As the bus does not appear she decides to walk to the airport. Thibault accompanies her despite her protests. Winner, Grand Jury Prize for Best French Short Film, Angers European First Film Festival 2023.

Cast **Garance Kim, Martin Jauvat**

Director **Garance Kim** | France | 2022 | 19 mins

Distribution **L'Agence du court métrage**



Expecting / *L'Attente*

Céline is in a maternity ward at night in labour with her first child. Her partner, Jeanne, will bring the baby into the world. In the entrance hall of the hospital Jeanne chats to men who, just like her, are waiting. Winner, César Award for Best Short Film 2024.

Cast **Philippe Petit, Céline Adra, Julien Gaspar-Oliveri, Émilie Brisavoine**
Director **Alice Douard** | France | 2022 | 30 mins | Distribution **Manifest**



Two Friends / *Deux amis*

An unlikely friendship between a tadpole and caterpillar progresses as they grow into two very different beings: a frog and a butterfly. The film centres on the classic theme of metamorphosis and the issues of sameness and difference that can arise as a result, with an interesting twist when the butterfly goes missing. Told in a stylish animation, this short tale considers friendship and solidarity in a changing world of unfixed identities. Animation. Nominated for Jury Prize for Best Film, Poitiers Film Festival.

Director **Natalia Chernysheva** | France / Russia | 2014 | 4 mins
Distribution **L'Agence du court métrage**



Pink, Black and Blue / *Les Roses et les bleus*

Through their locker room chats, training sessions, and the balance they find between coquettish touches and muddied knees, three teenage rugby girls question their own prejudices and those of their social circles toward female and male attributes in our society. Selected for International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, Germany. Documentary.

Director **Claudia Lopez-Lucia** | France | 2021 | 22 mins
Distribution **L'Agence du court métrage**



Alarms / *Apnées*

Pierre is diligently overseeing the completion of the tumultuous construction site under his responsibility, ensuring all the while that progress does not come at the cost of safety. The site is beset by interminable delays, and the employees are exhausted. Winner, Special Jury Mention, Tribeca Film Festival (New York) 2024.

Cast **Thomas Coumans, Laurence Côte, Eminé Meyrem**
Director **Nicolas Panay** | France | 2023 | 16 mins
Distribution **L'Agence du court métrage**

In association with **IFCinéma, Manifest,**
Miyu Distribution and L'Agence du court métrage



IFcinéma

Venues

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

Key Venues:

Bristol Watershed

www.watershed.co.uk

Chichester Cinema at New Park

www.chichestercinema.org

Edinburgh Dominion

www.dominioncinema.co.uk

Edinburgh Filmhouse

www.filmhouse.org.uk

Edinburgh Institut Français d'Ecosse

www.ifecosse.org.uk

Glasgow Film Theatre

www.glasgowfilm.org

London Ciné Lumière

www.institut-francais.org.uk

Other Venues:

Aberdeen Cineworld Union Square

www.cineworld.co.uk

Ayr Film Society

www.ayrfilmsociety.co.uk

Banchory The Barn

www.thebarnarts.co.uk

Bath University of Bath

www.bath.ac.uk

Caistor Community Cinema

www.caistorcommunitycinema.org

Colintraive Kyles Cinema

www.colintraivehall.org.uk/community-cinema

Comrie Community Cinema

www.comriecinema.co.uk

Dumfries Robert Burns Centre

www.rbcft.co.uk

Dundee Contemporary Arts

www.dca.org.uk

Edinburgh McDonald Road Library

www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/mcdonald-road-library-33950105749

Exeter Phoenix

www.exeterphoenix.org.uk

Fairfield Flicks

www.fairfieldflicks.org.uk

Falmouth The Poly

www.thepoly.org

Glasgow Alliance Française

www.afglasgow.org.uk

Hereford Courtyard

www.courtyard.org.uk

Hilltown Community Cinema

www.filmhubni.org/now-showing-location/hilltown-community-centre

Inverness Eden Court

www.eden-court.co.uk

Kendal Brewery Arts

www.breweryarts.co.uk

Leicester Phoenix

www.phoenix.org.uk

Leigh Film Factory

www.leighfilmfactory.com

Lewes Depot

www.lewesdepot.org

Leyburn Arts & Community Cinema

www.leyburnartscentre.com

London Institute of Contemporary Art

www.ica.art

Newcastle Tyneside

www.tynesidecinema.co.uk

Nottingham Broadway

www.broadway.org.uk

Otley Film Society

www.otleyfilmsociety.org.uk

Perth Film Society

www.facebook.com/PerthFilmSociety

Plymouth Arts Cinema

www.plymouthartscinema.org

Richmond Station Cinema

www.stationcinema.com

Sheffield Showroom

www.showroomworkstation.org.uk

Southsea Community Cinema

www.southseacinema.co.uk

St. Andrews The Byre Theatre

www.byretheatre.com

Stirling MacRobert Arts Centre

www.macrobertartscentre.org

Tranent The Fraser Centre

www.thefrasercentre.com

Warwick Arts Centre

www.warwickartscentre.co.uk

cast + crew

THE DREAM TEAM



From top left: **Alexis Beattie**, **James Coutts**, **Sylvia Davidson**, **Miriam Faria**, **Diane Henderson**, **Louise Hurrell**, **Michelle Mangan**, **Richard Mowe**, **Alice O'Connor**, **George Ormiston**.

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Director & Co-Founder: **Richard Mowe**

Associate Director & Producer: **Diane Henderson**

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Diane Gabrysiak (Head of Programming),

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Stéphane Pailler

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Alliance Française Glasgow: Director: **Nabila Lakourai**

Culture & Library: **Élise Pincet**

Unifrance: **Yoann Ubermuhlin**

Quebec cinema: **Vanessa-Tatjana Beerli** (General Manager
Ciné Tapis Rouge)

Belgian Presence: **Hervé Le Phuez** (Director Wallonie
Bruxelles Images)

Glasgow-Marseille Twinning: **Laura Lambert** (International
Officer Lord Provost's & International Office, Glasgow
City Council)

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French Film Festival UK 2025

Institut Français D'Écosse

West Parliament Square, Edinburgh EH1 1RN

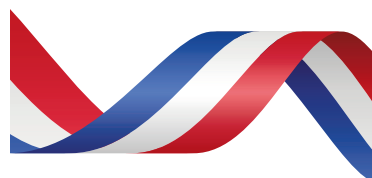
Email info@frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



@FrFilmFestUK #FFF2025

merci à tous !



The FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL UK relies on the support, goodwill and generosity of many companies, organisations and funding bodies. Here we salute their contributions to the festival and say: Merci à tous! Should you wish to join the “family” seek out the sponsorship opportunities on our website <https://frenchfilmfestival.org.uk/> and call us for a chat (Richard Mowe +44 7710 762149; or email marketing@frenchfilmfestival.org.uk). We will be happy to talk and outline all kinds of exciting opportunities in 2026, and, as a taster, invite you to events at this year’s edition!

Be part of it!

Funders and Sponsors

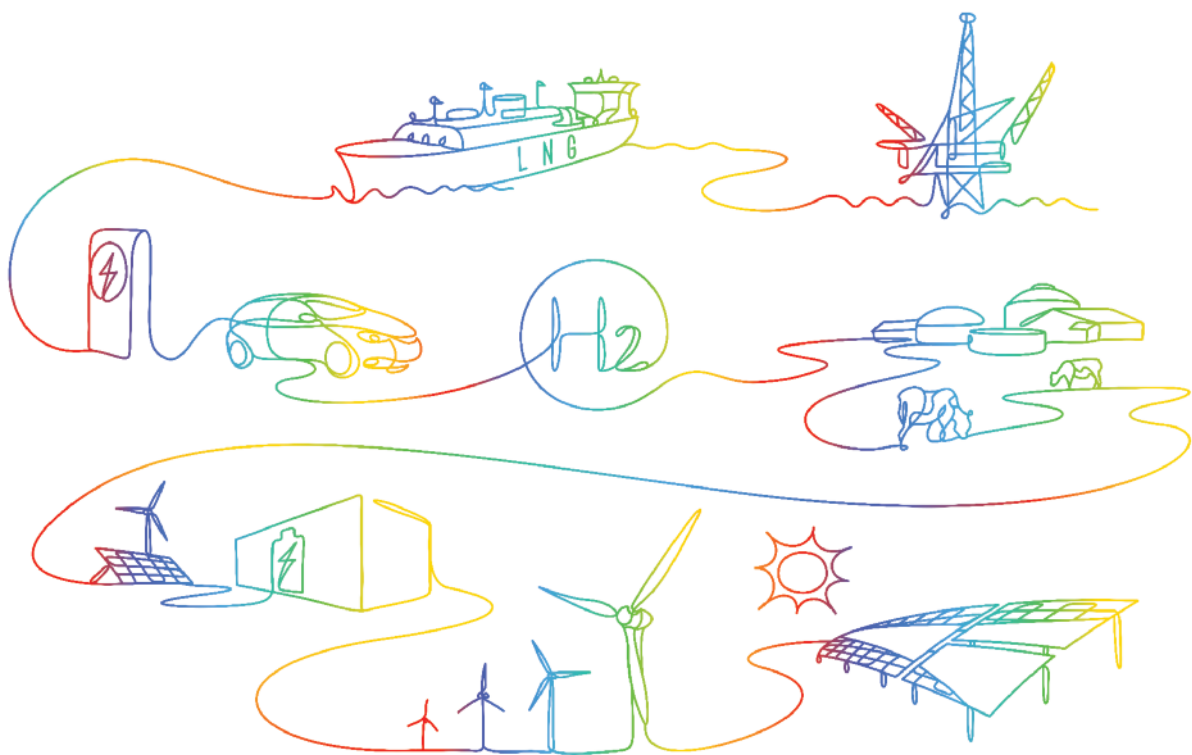


SCREEN SCOTLAND
SGRÌN ALBA



Associates





TotalEnergies makes the energy transition easier for you.

In the UK, we're diversifying to provide decarbonised and renewable energies to our customers, while continuing to provide the oil and gas they need today. Find out more about our work:

totalenergies.co.uk/energytransition



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frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



WINNER
Best Actress

CANNES BEST ACTRESS 2025
NADIA MELLITI FOR
THE LITTLE SISTER
By Hafsia Herzi

(Photo: Julien Lienard)