YOUNG FRENCH CINEMA

Discover a New Generation of Directors

2017 FILM SELECTION

A program of UniFrance and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the U.S.
Foreword

“Sensuality & intellectual engagement”, “thrilling vibrancy” of “a booming new generation”, “emotional & carefree story-telling” distilling “a blend of style & intensity”... Contemporary French directors have consistently been singled out for praise by the international press in the last few years.

The **YOUNG FRENCH CINEMA** program is one of the most convenient entry points to their works. For the third year in a row, it offers a selection of today's best films and filmmakers. Most of the films selected in this program have premiered in 2015/2016 in top international festivals. The program mainly focuses on rising talents, from high-profile independent works to quirky comedies, powerful documentaries on the world we live in today, and exciting shorts. After two successful years with over 100 bookings throughout the US in 2016, the new selection demonstrates that this young generation shares - more than ever - a global vision and an amazing capacity to combine cultural influences, which lead it to tackle an incredibly wide range of subject matters.

In this brochure, you will find information about the guidelines of the program as well as descriptions of the films selected for the 2017 program. Please note that the 2017 film selection is available until December 31, 2017 under the conditions mentioned in this brochure.

Young French Cinema has been set up by UniFrance and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, as a way to bring French films with no US distribution to art house cinemas, film societies, the Alliance Française network and American universities. Its scope has been widened since 2016 to include upcoming talents from Canada, in partnership with Telefilm Canada. We are also pleased to welcome our new partner l’ACID for 2017 and have included 3 films from their recent Cannes selections in our new program.

We hope that you will be inspired by these films and we look forward to working with you all!

Jean-Paul Salomé, President of UniFrance
Isabelle Giordano, Executive Director of UniFrance
Benedicte de Montlaur, Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy
Mathieu Fournet, Audiovisuel Attaché of the French Embassy
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Guidelines

**YOUNG FRENCH CINEMA** is available to art house cinemas, film societies, the Alliance Française network and North American universities.

**FILM SELECTION**
The program includes 12 feature films (11 French, one Canadian) and 8 short films. All films can be booked “à la carte”: there is no minimum or maximum number of films that you must choose. In the event that you are showing more than four films from the program as a festival or series, that festival/series should be named YOUNG FRENCH CINEMA. All films are available for online viewing on FestivalScope.

**COST**
Each feature film in the 2017 program is available for a $300 booking fee for up to two screenings per film. Each short film is available for a $40 booking fee for up to two screenings per short. Please note that domestic shipping costs are not included: outgoing shipping costs are to be paid by each organization.

**TIMELINE**
All inquiries must be sent at least six weeks before the screening date and addressed to adeline.monzier@unifrance.org. UniFrance will be the third party between you and the rights holder in France.

**FORMAT**
All films are available on DCP and on CineConductor in DCP-quality and the latter is our preferred method of delivery. Some films are available in DVD or Blu-ray if necessary. Please check the formats available before booking a film.

**PUBLICITY**
All publicity materials must include the following credit line:
*This Young French Cinema program was made possible with the support of UniFrance and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the U.S.*
TRAVEL GRANT
Venues that would like to organize a master class with the director/actor of one of the films shown can apply for a travel grant to fly the artist to the US. Please send us an email with your request and be as detailed as possible about your proposed master class, the venue, the number of students expected, the moderators of the discussion and explain why it’s important for the screening to have the artist attend. UniFrance will consider your application and if positive, facilitate the contact with the artist.

CONTACT
For all requests and for access to screeners, please contact Adeline Monzier at adeline.monzier@unifrance.org

PROGRAM PARTNERS
ACID (Association for Independent Cinema and its Distribution) is a French association of film directors which has been promoting since 1992 the distribution of independent films and encouraging debates between authors and audiences. The strength of ACID lies in its founding principle: the support given by filmmakers to other filmmakers, French or international. ACID also has its own parallel section at the Cannes Film Festival since 1993 where 9 feature films are screened. Every year ACID supports between 20 and 30 feature films.

TELEFILM CANADA—Inspired by talent. Viewed everywhere. Created in 1967, Telefilm is dedicated to the cultural, commercial and industrial success of Canada’s audiovisual industry. Through its various funding and promotion programs, Telefilm supports dynamic companies and creative talent here at home and around the world. Telefilm also makes recommendations regarding the certification of audiovisual treaty coproductions to the Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, and administrates the programs of the Canada Media Fund and the Talent Fund, a private donation initiative. Visit telefilm.ca.
“There’s something new afoot in French cinema these days.”
—THE NEW YORKER

“More than 50 years on, French cinema is still part of the country’s exception culturelle.”
—THE GUARDIAN

“French cinema: a blend of style and intensity”
—THE NEW YORK TIMES
Jean-Gabriel Périot’s brilliant debut feature about the traumatic years of German leftist terrorism and unrest is a film dense with questions about the legacy of Nazism, the role of government, the duty of intellectuals, and the responsibilities of the media. Entirely relying on archival footage including journalist Ulrike Meinhof’s mesmerizing appearances on talk shows, agitprop student films by future terrorists, and TV news reports of bombings, hijackings and kidnappings, A German Youth charts the tragic course of a generation of intellectuals and artists whose radical critique of society foundered in armed violence in the 1970s. Avoiding any explanatory voiceover or text, Périot immerses the viewer in a dangerous but fascinating time when the line between right and wrong wavered and Germany was brought to a standstill by leftist terrorism. The film climaxes with an extraordinary clip from Rainer Werner Fassbinder’s Germany in Autumn, putting the emotion back into politics after putting the politics back into film.

“A thought-provoking look at the Baader-Meinhof group and the political debates of the era.”

—VARIETY
A Young Poet

A Young Poet is a simple summer tale of a young poet searching for inspiration in a seaside town. With the barest of ingredients—a beanpole of an actor, the sun-splashed streets of Sète, and the Mediterranean in the distance—young writer-director Damien Manivel reveals himself to be a true original, a DIY inventor with an eye for intrinsically elegant, wry compositions and the comedy in repetition. While there is a delectable lightness and fond humor in the way Manivel captures the poet Rémi’s fruitless search for inspiration, the movie hits home when Rémi finds himself at the grave of Paul Valéry, one of France’s greatest poets, and confesses his fear of life. In that terrific moment, one recognizes how daunting the limitless possibility of youth can feel. Here, Manivel confirms that he is more than a charming stylist with a can-do spirit, but the voice of a young generation.

DIRECTOR
Damien Manivel

SCREENPLAY
Damien Manivel

CAST
Rémi Taffanel, Léonore Fernandes, Enzo Vassallo

DETAILS
2014. France.
71 min. Color.
Drama.

RIGHTS HOLDER
The Open Reel
In Léa Fehner’s exuberant second feature Les Ogres, a struggling traveling theater company overcomes a painful past, unruly performers, and an invasion of bovines to keep performing in the fields and vacant lots of southwest France. After an acrobat breaks her leg under the big top, director François calls in his former mistress Lola to replace her in the troupe’s cabaret version of Chekov’s short plays and stories, setting off a long-brewing crisis with his wife and fellow performer Marion. Meanwhile mercurial actor Deloyal goes into a tailspin when the news that he is expecting a baby with the young actress Mona reminds him of the death of his teenage son. While his hilarious antics cost the troupe several performances and lead to a brush with the law, the company soldiers on, however turbulently, bound together by a family spirit formed on the stage. Based on the director’s own childhood and starring her father, mother, and sister along with movie greats Marc Barbé and Adèle Haenel, Les Ogres joins the canon of films about theater by combining a painfully intimate, authentic story with a joyful, ebullient sense of spectacle.

“A crowd-pleasingly big-hearted feature”

—THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
While this uncompromising look at the lives of four high-end prostitutes in present-day Marrakesh unleashed a storm of controversy following its premiere at the Cannes Film Festival and was eventually banned in its native Morocco, *Much Loved*’s extraordinarily frank approach to sexuality and women’s discourse about men is anything but empty provocation. Writer-director Nabil Ayouch goes after a far more uncomfortable truth here: the condition of women in oppressive patriarchal societies that deny them “respectable” means to care for themselves and their families. With a non-sensational, empathetic gaze, the film shows us everything Moroccan fundamentalists and power brokers would prefer to ignore: call girls partying with rich Saudis, transvestites and children walking the street, corrupt police officers, families without resources. Though its subject matter is as dispiriting as it is infuriating, *Much Loved* is ultimately uplifting. By being true to the details and constantly hitting the right note, Ayouch and his non-professional actresses have crafted unforgettable portraits of women pursuing a dream of independence.

“The cast’s remarkable bravery cannot be overstated.”

—VARIETY
Spartacus, 13, and his sister Cassandra, 11, are the children of Romani beggars in Paris. When the film begins, they are living in a circus built in a vacant lot outside the city by the idealistic young trapeze artist Camille. Following the children at juvenile court, in school, in their trailer, and on the streets, this tremendously moving documentary finds them wrestling with the terrible choice to live on the streets and in illegality with their parents or to agree to integrate French society by being placed in a foster family. As occasional voiceover written and delivered by the children makes amply clear, Spartacus and his sister are extraordinarily bright people faced with situations no young person should ever have to experience. While it is far from a straightforward inspirational tale, this intimate, sensitive film describes the difficult year in which hope finally appears on their horizon.

“A heartrending story.”

—THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
Swagger is a beautifully shot, deftly edited documentary about life in the projects of the tough Paris suburb of Aulnay-sous-Bois, as seen through the eyes of eleven middle school students, most of whom are first generation French citizens. Speaking directly to the camera as if it were a long-trusted confidante, these extraordinary young people talk about love, being French, life in the projects, and their visions of the future. Swagger seduces not only by the maturity, generosity, and frankness of its memorable subjects, but by the filmmaker’s efforts to lift it out of the quotidian by including charming flights of fancy that illustrate the children’s unspoken dreams. Shot in bold colors, with breathtaking aerial photography and a score by Jean-Benoît Dunckel, one half of legendary French electronic duo Air, Swagger is much more than another documentary about children’s resilience in challenging circumstances. But perhaps the film’s greatest accomplishment is to leave the viewer feeling she has made eleven new friends in a place she had never dreamed of visiting.

“A visually striking, atypical portrait of French youth.”

—THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
When thirtysomething deadbeat Marc Châtaigne (played by the irresistible Vincent Macaigne) snags an internship with a French government ministry, he is surprised to learn that his assignment is to launch a ski resort in tropical French Guyana. Naturally, once in Guyana, everything that could go wrong goes way wrong: the resort site is overgrown, a dogged tax collector is on Marc’s heels, and an encounter with local guerillas propels Marc deep into the jungle, where he proceeds to get lost and have a close encounter with a boa constrictor—not to mention some hairy spiders. Luckily, he is accompanied by the beautiful and savvy Tarzan, a scrappy beauty played by the ever excellent Vimala Pons... Relentlessly inventive and popping with sight gags and dead-on one-liners, Struggle for Life is a riotous send-up of an aging France buried in administrative absurdities, a deeply eccentric take on the state of the nation that gives way to an offbeat, sensual love story.

“A powerful libertarian eroticism and political sensuality that today only Guiraudie and a few others can claim as well.”

—LES CAHIERS DU CINÉMA
Veteran director Claire Simon reaches a career high with this engaging, constantly surprising documentary on people in the Bois de Vincennes, a sprawling park on Paris’s southeast edge. Ranging from amateur painters to prostitutes, from ornithologists to exercise nuts, from gay men cruising for sex to mothers strolling with their babies, the characters we encounter share more than a geographic location; all seem to find solace and meaning in the sometimes eccentric activities that bring them to the woods. While she does not shy away from the difficulties of some of her subjects’ circumstances, Simon’s boundless curiosity and generous presence (she is often heard, but never seen) turn the film into a joyous rallying call for those seeking independence in outdoor pursuits and the margins of society. These political implications rise to the surface in a moving visit to the scant remnants of the experimental university of Vincennes, where the great philosopher Gilles Deleuze once lectured on the “lines of escape” that free individuals from the calcification of society. *The Woods Dreams Are Made Of* is a stirring continuation of his legacy.
Starting with the sudden death of Sasha, a young French woman in Berlin, this lushly melancholy drama depicts three summers in the lives of those who loved her. As the story moves from Berlin to Paris and from Paris to New York, That Summer Feeling loosely weaves together the paths of Sasha’s boyfriend, the American writer and translator Lawrence, her sister Zoe, and her parents (played by Eric Rohmer stalwarts Marie Rivière and Féodor Atkine). While the film’s heart is in how its protagonists cope with loss, the exquisite summer light and outdoor spaces of its locations take center stage, poignantly infusing the mourning process with the elusive beauty of life. Ultimately, That Summer Feeling serves as a generational portrait of the young creative class living in the hip areas of Kreuzberg, Williamsburg, and the northeast of Paris, finding the depth of feeling and thoughtfulness in a population often written off as superficial. With this marvelously observed, sensitive second feature, Mikhaël Hers joins the ranks of those filmmakers who lift our spirits merely by the acuity of their art.

“A deeply moving house of cards of emotions.”
—LES CAHIERS DU CINÉMA
Shortly after having her first child, French actress and director Mélanie Laurent, a star of Quentin Tarantino’s *Inglourious Basterds*, read a report by several leading scientists stating that man’s environmental impact on the planet had reached a critical stage that could threaten human life as we know it. Wondering what kind of world her young son would grow up in, Laurent gathered a group of friends to make *Demain*, a documentary about our environmental challenges. The film’s triumph lies in the choice not to frighten—though the facts are sobering—but to inspire; to go beyond the disaster scenarios to share real-life solutions. Traveling to ten countries, from the urban farms of Detroit to an English town that strikes its own David Bowie currency to encourage local spending, from a completely sustainable model village in southern India to the progressive schools of Finland, Laurent and her colleagues introduce viewers to people making a difference in the fields of food, energy, finance, democracy, and education. Their ideas make this one of the most essential and unexpectedly inspirational viewing experiences of our time.
Uncompleted Song is the hilarious, heartwarming autobiographical tale of leading French rapper Orelsan’s struggle to make his hip-hop dreams come true. The challenges here are not due to the closed doors of show biz or a chronic lack of talent, but the artist’s own self-doubt. As such, Uncompleted Song will inspire anyone hesitant to chase a dream long held. When the film starts, Orel is working as a night receptionist at a hotel in Normandy. It’s been five years since he and his best friend Gringe made waves by rapping on a local radio show. Unfortunately, they haven’t finished anything since and the producers who have been supporting them deliver an ultimatum: Orel and Gringe have twenty-four hours to write a song before they pull the plug. Uncompleted Song follows one epic day in which an old friendship is tested, relationships are ended, a vocation is questioned, and one triumphant song is finally written. Brimming with unexpected musical numbers, Uncompleted Song is as much hip-hop musical comedy as provincial bromance, a heartfelt hybrid true to its writer-director and star’s unique personality.
In this powerful study of urban isolation, leading young Canadian writer-director Guy Édouin uses the Ville-Marie hospital in Montreal to effortlessly weave together disparate lives, eventually honing on the encounter between two women facing the metaphorical or literal loss of their sons. International movie star Sabine Bernard (Monica Bellucci) comes to Montreal to shoot a film uncomfortably reminiscent of her own life, but also to be close to her estranged son Thomas. When Thomas gets hit by an ambulance after having a fight with his mother, Sabine meets Marie, an emergency room doctor who has lost her youngest son and subsequently grown distant from her oldest. In their brief encounter, both women seem to find the strength to move forward—and perhaps to change. Featuring a wonderfully intimate performance from Monica Bellucci, Ville-Marie is an exquisitely crafted, deeply moving film that mixes the magic of the great Hollywood melodramas with the clear-eyed artistry of today’s greatest arthouse directors.

“A promising and often insightful second feature.”
—HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
**Alice**

**DIRECTOR** Karine Silla Pérez  
**SCREENPLAY** Karine Silla Pérez  
**CAST** Marie Gillain, Ariane Séguillon

A woman gives birth painfully and pushes the baby out with extreme violence. We put a bracelet on the baby with the letter X. As the psychologist tries to speak to her, she starts thinking of the consequences.

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**Campo de víboras** (CHAMP DE VIPÈRES)

**DIRECTOR** Cristèle Alves Meira  
**SCREENPLAY** Cristèle Alves Meira  
**CAST** Ana Padrão, Sónia Martins, Simão Cayatte

In a small Portuguese village, a tragedy occurred. An old lady is found dead in her garden, surrounded by snakes, while her 40 year-old daughter, Lurdes, fled without telling anyone.

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**Haramist** (HARAMISTE)

**DIRECTOR** Antoine Desrosières  
**SCREENPLAY** Antoine Desrosières, Anne-Sophie Nanki, Souad Arsane, Inas Chanti  
**CAST** Inas Chanti, Souad Arsane, Jean-Marie Villeneuve

Rim, 18 years-old veiled woman, is on notice when she reminds Yasmina, her 17 years-old sister, that she must not go to talk at the young man she likes.

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**Joint-Tenants** (COLOCATAIRES)

**DIRECTOR** Delphine Priet-Mahéo  
**SCREENPLAY** Delphine Priet-Mahéo  
**CAST** Sabrina Horvais-Amengual, Thierry Barbet

Camille lives alone. The alarm clock, her cat’s meals and the sound of the cash register at the supermarket order her life. But one day, a man discreetly slips inside her house and shakes up her bearings...
**Love**

DIRECTOR Reka Bucsi  
SCREENPLAY Reka Bucsi  

Love is a short film describing affection in 3 different chapters, through an impact on a distant solar system.

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**Partner** (REPLIQUE)

DIRECTOR Antoine Giorgini  
SCREENPLAY Antoine Giorgini  
CAST Eddy Suiveng, Tobias Nuytten  

Today, Tony is supposed to audition for drama school. But Steven, his best friend and reading partner, doesn’t show up. After having failed to find another volunteer, Tony gives up.

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**The Geneva Convention** (LA CONVENTION DE GENÈVE)

DIRECTOR Benoit Martin  
SCREENPLAY Benoit Martin  
CAST Azzedine Bouabba, Soumaye Bocoum, Alison Valence  

As Hakim is waiting for the bus after class, he is caught in a vendetta between teenagers. He is not exactly keen to get into a fight, but how can he possibly avoid an awaited confrontation?

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**When You Hear the Bells** (AU BRUIT DES CLOCHETTES)

DIRECTOR Chabname Zariab  
SCREENPLAY Chabname Zariab  
CAST Shafiq Kohi, Arya Vossoughi, Farhad Faghih-Habibi  

Afghanistan. Saman is a “batcha”, a young male prostitute who lives under the protection of Farroukhzad. Saman starts worrying when he sees the new recruit of his master, a young boy who has been chosen to replace him.
CINECONDUCTOR

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