

# UNIFRANCÉ

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## 10 to Watch

10 rising talents to watch

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They have made a name for themselves in major international festivals during 2024 and will be on screens all over the world in 2025. They are the new faces of French cinema.

Selected for the excellence of their work by international journalists Rebecca Leffler (*Screen International*), Fabien Lemercier (*Cineuropa*), Elsa Keslassy (*Variety*), Christine Masson (*France Inter*), and Jordan Mintzer (*The Hollywood Reporter*), these 10 to Watch 2025 embody the reinvigoration of our cinema through the freedom and singularity of their artistic choices, their ambition, audacity, and openness to the world.

Unifrance is proud to honour this new generation of directors, actors, and actresses, who contribute so fully, in films and, for some of them, in TV productions, to the effervescence of French creation, and to enhance the distribution of their works worldwide.

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## Adam Bessa

Born in Grasse to Tunisian parents, Adam Bessa abandoned law studies to devote himself to cinema. He first drew attention in 2017 in Sofia Djama's *The Blessed* and was among the Revelations of the César Academy. A polyglot, he took on a series of international projects (*Mosul*, *Extraction*) and worked with Sylvie Ohayon (*Haute couture*) and Thierry Binisti (*The Channel*). In 2022, his acclaimed performance in Lotfy Nathan's *Harka* gave a new dimension to his career, earning him acting awards at Cannes (Un Certain Regard), the Red Sea Film Festival, and Saint-Jean-de-Luz. In 2024, he starred in the *Ourika* series, as well as in Meryam Joobeur's debut feature *Who Do I Belong To*, in Competition at the Berlinale, and Jonathan Millet's *Ghost Trail*, selected for La Semaine de la Critique, for which he won Best Actor at the El Gouna Film Festival. His performance also earned him a nomination for the 2025 César Academy's Revelations list. He will soon be seen in Asghar Farhadi's next feature film, *Parallel Tales*, alongside Isabelle Huppert, Virginie Efira, Vincent Cassel and Pierre Niney.



## Ludovic & Zoran Boukherma

Born in Marmande, Ludovic and Zoran Boukherma have been passionate about cinema since childhood. After studying at La Cité du Cinéma in Paris, they co-directed *Willy the 1<sup>st</sup>* with Hugo P. Thomas and Marielle Gautier. Presented at ACID in Cannes in 2016, it won the Prix d'Ornano-Valenti, an award honoring a first film, at the Deauville American Film Festival. In 2019, they directed *Teddy*, a genre film that received the Cannes 2020 Label. The following year, they shot the horror-comedy *Year of the Shark*, starring Marina Foïs and Jean-Pascal Zadi, before being approached by Hugo Ségnac and Alain Attal for the adaptation of Nicolas Mathieu's novel *Leurs enfants après eux* (*And Their Children After Them*), which won the Prix Goncourt 2018. The film was presented in Competition at the Venice Film Festival 2024, where Paul Kircher, one of the leads, was awarded the Marcello-Mastroianni Award for Best Young Actor. They are now developing an English-language genre project.





## Julien Colonna

Julien Colonna is a filmmaker and photographer. After completing a master's degree in social sciences at Paris-IX Dauphine University, he studied screenwriting and made several short films. One of them, *Confession*, shot in the slums of Bangkok, garnered much attention and many awards at over thirty international festivals. In 2017, his first screenplay, *Equinoxes*, received the Téléràma Prix Sopadin. His first feature film, *The Kingdom*, shot entirely in Corsica with mostly non-professional actors, was selected for Competition in Un Certain Regard at the Cannes Film Festival 2024. The film has continued screening at a number of international festivals (AFI FEST, Chicago, Austin, Montreal, Zürich, Sitges, etc.) and has earned its lead actress Ghjuvanna Benedetti a Lumières Award for Best Female Revelation. It will be distributed in the United States at the end of May 2025.



## Louise Courvoisier

Louise Courvoisier grew up in the Jura before studying cinema at the CinéFabrique in Lyon. Her graduation short film, *Mano a Mano*, an intimate look at an acrobatic couple, won the Premier Prix of the Cinéfondation at Cannes in 2019 and was selected for several international festivals (Sarajevo, Stockholm, Thessaloniki, etc.). *Holy Cow*, her debut feature, a saga set in the village of her childhood in which comté cheese-making plays a key part, was presented in Un Certain Regard at Cannes 2024, where it won the Youth Award. It also earned the director the Valois de Diamant at the Festival du film francophone in Angoulême, as well as the prestigious Prix Jean Vigo. In 2025, it received the Lumières Award and the César Award for Best First Film, while its lead actors Clément Faveau and Maïwène Barthélemy won respectively the Lumières Award and the César Award for Best Revelation. It has already been sold in nearly thirty territories, including Germany, Spain, Italy, and the United States.





## Sayyid El Alami

Sayyid El Alami began his career in 2017 acting in several short films, including *Basses* by Félix Imbert (Directors' Fortnight 2018). In 2019, he appeared in Bertrand Bonello's *Zombi Child* and attracted further attention the following year in the Netflix series *Messiah*, created by Michael Petroni, in which he played one of the lead roles. In 2021, he appeared in the series *Une si longue nuit*, a French adaptation of the British series *Criminal Justice*, and Antoine Chevrollier's *Oussekiné*, in which he played the title role. In parallel with his acting career, he stepped behind the camera to direct his first short film. In 2024, he starred in two feature films: *And Their Children After Them*, by Ludovic and Zoran Boukherma, presented in Competition at the Venice Film Festival, which earned him a nomination for the Lumières Award for Best Male Revelation, and *Block Pass*, by Antoine Chevrollier, presented at La Semaine de la Critique in Cannes. He will soon be seen in Thomas Vernay's next feature film, *Fief*, in Fanny Liatard and Jérémy Trouilh's *Les Yeux verts*, and in Ismael El Iraki's new project.



## India Hair

Born in Saumur to a Franco-American father and an English mother, India Hair landed her first role in Raphaël Jacoulot's *The Night Clerk*. In 2012, she received the Lumières Award for Most Promising Actress and was nominated for a Most Promising Actress César for her performance in Noémie Lvovsky's *Camille Rewinds*. She went on to play a series of roles in film (*Staying Vertical*, *Bloody Milk*, *Mandibles*) and television (*The Odd Girl*, *Mouche*, *Clumsy*). In 2021, she was again nominated for a César for Most Promising Actress for her role in Olivier Babinet's *Fishlove*. She subsequently appeared in the series *Polar Park* and *The Disappearance of Kimmy Diore*. In 2024, she appeared in *Planet B* by Aude Léa Rapin, *Meet the Barbarians* by Julie Delpy, and *Three Friends*, by Emmanuel Mouret, the latter presented in Competition at the Venice Film Festival. Since then, she has starred in Valentine Cadic's film *That Summer in Paris*, presented at the last Berlinale, and will next be seen in Danielle Arbid and Lucie Borleteau's new series, *Sud-Est*, as well as in the feature *Les Matins merveilleux*, by Avril Besson.





## Lou Lampros

Lou Lampros made her film debut in 2018 under the direction of Rodrigo Sorogoyen in *Madre*, presented at the Venice Film Festival. In 2019, she landed a role in Frédéric Garcia's series *Mortel*, appeared in Wes Anderson's *The French Dispatch* and in Élie Wajeman's *The Night Doctor*. The following year, she played Lola in Emmanuelle Bercot's *Peaceful*, alongside Catherine Deneuve and Benoît Magimel. Following her acclaimed performance in Lucas Delangle's *The Strange Case of Jacky Caillou*, she also collaborated with Christopher Thompson for the series *The Huguenots*. But it was thanks to her role as Marion in Antoinette Boulat's *My Night* that Lou Lampros was nominated for the 2023 César Academy's Revelations list, making her a household name. In 2024, she played the female lead in Gaël Morel's latest feature, *To Live, To Die, To Live Again*, alongside Victor Belmondo and Théo Christine. She will soon be seen in Camille Ponsin's film *Les Furies*.



## Jonathan Millet

After studying philosophy, Jonathan Millet set off alone with his camera to film distant countries for image databases. In this way, he traversed and filmed some fifty countries. He went on to direct several short fiction films, including *And Still We Will Walk On*, nominated for a César for Best Short Film in 2018, as well as documentaries: *Ceuta*, *Prison by the Sea*, released theatrically in 2014, *Tell Me About the Stars*, shot in Antarctica, and *La Disparition*, shot in Amazonia. His debut feature film, *Ghost Trail*, opened La Semaine de la Critique 2024. After being shown at numerous international festivals (Busan, BFI, Chicago, Sydney, Rotterdam, etc.), it won the Prix Louis-Delluc for First Feature. Jonathan Millet is currently developing his next film, *Les Rêves-Tempêtes*.





## Megan Northam

First noticed in Thomas Vernay's short film *Miss Chazelles*, for which she received the Most Promising Female Newcomer Award at the Festival Jean Carmet and the Adami Award for Best Actress at Clermont-Ferrand, Franco-British actress Megan Northam went on to star in Constance Meyer's *Robust*, followed by Mikhaël Hers' *The Passengers of the Night* (Berlinale 2022). She then appeared in Jeanne Aslan and Paul Saintillan's debut feature, *Spare Keys*, and in Cédric Klapisch's *Greek Salad* series. In 2023, she was awarded the Series Mania Actress Revelation Award. In 2024, she starred in Jérémy Clapin's *Meanwhile on Earth*, Mareike Engelhardt's *Rabia* – for which she has been nominated for the 2025 Revelations of the César Academy – and Lucie Prost's *Fario*. She will soon be seen in *Urchin*, Harris Dickinson's first feature film, selected for Un Certain Regard at the Cannes Festival 2025, and in *Pieces of a Foreign Life*, the latest film by Gaya Jiji, as well as in Jean-Xavier de Lestrade's series *Des vivants*.



## Agathe Riedinger

A graduate of the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs de Paris (ENSAD), Agathe Riedinger is an author, director, and photographer. She experiments with different types of narrative, between excess and irony, sometimes deliberately vulgar or surreal, to question a certain vision of the world and speak of themes that are dear to her, such as emancipation and the female condition. She directed the short films *Waiting for Jupiter*, nominated for the Best Short Film César Award in 2019, followed by *Ève*, selected at Clermont-Ferrand and Sarajevo, among other film festivals. Her debut feature, *Wild Diamond*, was presented in Competition at the Cannes Film Festival 2024. The film won the Critics' Prize at the Namur International French-Language Film Festival and earned its lead actress, Malou Khebizi, interpretation prizes at the Stockholm and Namur festivals. It has already been sold in nearly twenty-five territories, including Germany, Spain, the United States, and Italy.



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