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All the accents of creativity

10 to Watch

10 rising talents to watch

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They have made a name for themselves in major international festivals during 2025 and will be on screens all over the world in 2026. 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*), Christine Masson (*France Inter*), Jordan Mintzer (*The Hollywood Reporter*), and Mariam Schaghaghi (freelance journalist for the German press), these 10 to Watch 2026 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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Ugo Bienvenu

Ugo Bienvenu is an illustrator, director, screenwriter, comic book author, producer, publisher, and entrepreneur based in Paris. Raised in Guatemala, Chad, and Mexico, he studied at the École Estienne, Gobelins, California Institute of the Arts, Arts décoratifs de Paris, and Animation Sans Frontières. He has illustrated for major newspapers, musicians, and luxury brands. His comic book *System Preference* won the ABCD Critics Grand Prize at Angoulême in 2020. Through his company Remembers, co-founded with Félix de Givry, he has produced films, music videos, series, and campaigns for major brands. After directing several animated short films, his debut feature, *Arco*, was presented in the Special Screenings section at Cannes in 2025 and won the Cristal Award for Best Feature Film at the Annecy Festival. He continues to enjoy remarkable international success with nominations for the Critics Choice Awards, European Film Awards, and the Golden Globes.



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Valentine Cadic

Filmmaker and actress Valentine Cadic studied cinema at Paris 8 University. During her studies, she appeared in Léa Mysius's film *Ava* and Guillaume Senez's *Our Struggles*, both of which premiered at Critics' Week. A founding member of Les Filmeuses, an organisation focusing on the production and distribution of creative short films established in 2020, she shot her first short film, *Omaha Beach*, that same year. In 2022, she directed *The Summer Holidays*, which was presented in National Competition at the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, and completed her graduation film, *La nuit n'en finit plus*, presented at Côté Court. She then shot her debut feature, *That Summer in Paris*, which is partly set against the backdrop of the 2024 Paris Olympics. Selected for numerous festivals (Berlinale, Busan, Shanghai, New Horizons, São Paulo, San Francisco, etc.), the film won several awards, including Best International Film at BAFICI and the prestigious Louis Delluc Prize.



© SARAH MAKHARINE

Anna Cazenave Cambet

After studying photography, Anna Cazenave Cambet enrolled at La Fémis to study film directing, graduating with honours from the jury chaired by Claire Denis in 2017. While at La Fémis she made her first short film, *Gabber Lover*, which was selected for the Cinéfondation Selection and won the Queer Palm at the Cannes Film Festival in 2016. She continued her exploration of intimate stories with a second short film, *Iemanja*. In 2020, she directed her debut feature, *Gold for Dogs*, which received the Critics' Week label. For her second feature, she adapted Constance Debré's novel *Love Me Tender*, starring Vicky Krieps in the lead role. The film was presented in Un Certain Regard at Cannes in 2025 and has been at numerous international festivals (London, Rio de Janeiro, Thessaloniki, CINEMANIA, etc.).



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Salif Cissé

Actor, screenwriter, director, and rising star of a new generation of artists, Salif Cissé trained at the Conservatoire national supérieur d'art dramatique. In 2020, he made a remarkable film debut in Guillaume Brac's *All Hands on Deck* (presented at the Berlinale, among other festivals), then navigated between arthouse cinema and mainstream productions. He starred in the series *Lupin*, and in the films *Film Lovers!* by Arnaud Desplechin (Special Screenings at Cannes in 2024), *Guess Who Is Calling?* by Fabienne Godet (Audience Award at the 2025 Tübingen-Stuttgart International French-Language Film Festival), and *Meteors* by Hubert Charuel (selected for Un Certain Regard at Cannes in 2025). He is also continuing his creative work with the mini-series *Couronnes* (2020), his short film *Allies* (presented in 2024 at the Namur International French-Language Film Festival and the Brussels Short Film Festival), and the writing of his debut feature. He will represent France at the European Shooting Stars in 2026.



Alice Douard

Alice Douard studied film directing at La Fémis. Her graduation film, *Extrasystole*, was selected for numerous festivals and won awards at Clermont-Ferrand and MyFrenchFilmFestival. She then directed several short films, including *Girls* in 2015 and *Due West* in 2019, while also working as a script supervisor. In 2022, she founded Les Films de June with Marie Boitard and directed *Expecting*, which won the César Award for Best Fiction Short Film in 2024 after a successful international run. That same year, she shot and coproduced her debut feature, *Love Letters*, which was selected for the Special Screenings at Critics' Week, competed for the Caméra d'Or at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival, and was screened at numerous international festivals (Zurich, Hamburg, São Paulo, CINEMANIA, etc.). The film also won the Tomorrow in Sight label created by Unifrance and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.



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AMERICAN FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

Guillaume Marbeck

Guillaume Marbeck makes his acting debut as Jean-Luc Godard in Richard Linklater's *Nouvelle Vague* opposite Zoey Deutch. The film premiered in competition at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival before screening at the Telluride Film Festival and numerous international festivals. His role earned him a nomination for the 2026 Lumières Award for Best Male Revelation. Prior to teaming up with Linklater, he directed the experimental short *Boléro en Si(lence)*, which was featured as additional imagery in Didier Le Pêcheur's *The List of My Desires*, produced by Pathé. He has also established himself as an accomplished portrait photographer and worked as a cinematographer on a series of short films, including *Voluntary Infection*, which he wrote and directed, and Félix Burgan's *Rock and a Hard Place*. His years spent exploring every facet of filmmaking in pursuit of directing ultimately led him to discover acting. He will next appear in *Couture*, directed by Alice Winocour.



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Thomas Ngijol

Propelled into the spotlight by stand-up comedy in the 2000s, Thomas Ngijol made his mark in cinema with *Back to Square One* (2011), which he co-wrote and co-directed with Fabrice Éboué, and in which both actors starred. The film—which did well at the French box office and won the Audience Award at MyFrenchFilmFestival—marked the beginning of an exploration of issues of identity and transmission, both in front of and behind the camera. He then directed *Fastlife* (2013) and *Black Snake, the Legend of Black Snake* (2017), in which he also starred, confirming his taste for popular stories dealing with issues of power and domination. In 2025, he directed and starred in *Untamable*, his most intimate film, shot entirely in Cameroon. Presented at the Directors' Fortnight at Cannes, the film was screened at several international festivals (London, Helsinki, Cologne, etc.) and won the Marc-André Lussier Jury Prize at CINEMANIA in Montreal and the Best Actress Award at the Les 7 jours du 7^e art festival in Conakry.



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Park Ji-Min

Born in Seoul, Park Ji-Min is a visual artist and actress based in Paris. It was her collaboration with Davy Chou on *Return to Seoul* that brought her in front of the camera. Deeply inspired by her work, he cast her in the lead role of the film, which was presented at Cannes in 2022 (Un Certain Regard). Her performance earned her several nominations (Best Newcomer at the 2023 Asian Film Awards, Best Female Revelation at the 2024 César and Lumières Awards) and accolades (L.A. Film Critics New Generation Award, Asia Pacific Screen Awards Best New Performer Award). She then collaborated with José Caltagirone and Valentine Milville on the series *La Maison* (Apple TV). In 2025, she appeared in several films presented at Cannes: *Love Me Tender* by Anna Cazenave Cambet (Un Certain Regard), *A Private Life* by Rebecca Zlotowski (Official Selection – Out of Competition), and *The Little Sister* by Hafsia Herzi (Official Competition), in which she played the second lead. She will soon be starring in *Un mariage au goût d'orange* by Christophe Honoré.



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Théodore Pellerin

Théodore Pellerin began his career at a very young age in Quebec television series and films. He gained recognition in 2016 in Xavier Dolan's *It's Only the End of the World*, which was screened at Cannes, Toronto, London, Morelia, etc. He then alternated between film and television roles, moving from Quebec arthouse cinema (alongside Jeanne Leblanc, Sophie Dupuis, Philippe Lesage, etc.) to American productions (with Joel Edgerton, Eliza Hittman, or in the series *On Becoming a God in Central Florida*, *The OA*, etc.). In 2022, he appeared in Lionel Baier's *Continental Drift (South)*, presented at Directors' Fortnight. In 2024, he played Jacques de Bascher in the French series *Becoming Karl Lagerfeld* (Disney+). In 2025, he impressed in the title role of Pauline Loquès' *Nino*, presented at Critics' Week, which earned him the Louis Roederer Foundation Rising Star Award and a nomination for the 2026 Lumières Award for Best Male Revelation. He will soon be seen opposite Marion Cotillard and Artus in Nicole Garcia's *Milo*.



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Ella Rumpf

French-Swiss actress Ella Rumpf first came to the attention of German audiences in Simon Jaquemet's *War*, but it was Julia Ducournau's *Raw*, presented at Critics' Week, Toronto, and Sundance, that attracted the gaze of French audiences in 2016. She went on to play a series of memorable roles in Jakob Lass' *Tiger Girl*, Guillaume de Fontenay's *Sympathy for the Devil*, and Anna Novion's *Marguerite's Theorem*, presented in the Special Screenings section at Cannes. Her performance in the latter reaped the Lumières Award and the César Award for Best Female Revelation in 2024. At the same time, she appeared in several international series (*Tokyo Vice*, *Succession*). In 2025, she played one of the leading roles in Alice Douard's film *Love Letters*, presented in a Special Screening at Critics' Week. She will soon be seen in *Couture* by Alice Winocour, *Novak* by Harry Lagoussis, and *Jupiter* by Alexandre Smia.