



Alliance Française
of Greenwich

Greenwich, CT
March 27 - 29



New York, NY
March 30 - 31



**FOCUS ON
FRENCH
CINEMA**

2015

11th Edition

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LETTER FROM THE FOCUS ON FRENCH CINEMA TEAM

Bienvenue... and welcome to the 11th edition of Focus on French Cinema.

In 2015, we are looking ahead to the next decade and the tremendous opportunity to unlock the power of French language film from around the world in a festival format.

In a world currently buoyed by the increase in on-line film culture, Focus on French Cinema presents a unique selection of U.S. Premieres and newly released feature films, with a new-this-year focus on short films and animation, inviting our audience (5,000 spectators in 5 days) to mingle with fellow cinéphiles and meet with actors, directors, producers and screenwriters in a relaxed but educationally charged environment. A window for French films from around the world, Focus on French Cinema is committed to the challenging and diverse landscape of French cinema today, featuring some of the most critically acclaimed cinema of the moment.

We continue to work with our partners, Le Festival du Film Francophone d'Angoulême, UniFrance, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) and SUNY Purchase College to share *Le Septième Art* as a platform for discussion, debate and discovery of the French-speaking world.

The 2015 education initiative, with screenings for over 1,500 students in the metropolitan area, offers students of all ages the opportunity to explore French language and culture through cinema. It is our way of cultivating a new generation of cinema lovers, opening the world to them onscreen.

Anne Kern, Focus on French Cinema Programming Director says: "We have developed an incredibly loyal audience over 10 years—they trust us to entertain, challenge and surprise them, which allows us to be creative and daring in our programming. Our selection this year showcases the many strengths of contemporary French and francophone cinema, ranging from popular genre to art films, shorts, animation and documentary. The films we are presenting touch on some of the most important topics of our time, including religious, cultural and sexual difference, immigration, competition and celebrity culture."

Thank you for your continued support of Focus on French Cinema!

Et maintenant, que le spectacle commence! Enjoy the show!

Renée Amory Ketcham - Chair, Focus on French Cinema 2015

Executive Committee:

Gail Covney - Education and Ticketing
Anne Kern - Director of Programming
Renée Amory Ketcham - Chair & President AFG
Fereshteh Priou - Treasurer
Laurence Teinturier - Director of Development

Selection Committee:

Antoine Bancharrel
Marie-José Hunter
Anne Kern
Renée Amory Ketcham
Claudine Parisot



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH

PRE-OPENING SCREENINGS

- 11:00AM ONCE IN A LIFETIME (Les Héritiers)
Theater 1 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
- 2:00PM THE PURSUIT OF ENDURANCE (La Poursuite de l'endurance): On the
Shoulders of Shackleton
Theater 2 – Greenwich Bow Tie Cinemas
- 4:15PM ASTERIX AND THE LAND OF THE GODS (Astérix et le domaine des dieux)
Theater 1 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas

OPENING NIGHT

- 7:00PM MEMORIES (Les Souvenirs) Introduction by Olivier Barrot
Theater 1 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
- 9:30PM OPENING NIGHT GALA & CONCERT FEATURING ANTOINE BLECK
Arch Street Teen Center, Greenwich, CT

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

- 9:15AM ROUND TABLE WITH GUESTS
Theater 1 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
- 10:30AM UNDER THE STARRY SKY (Des Étoiles)
Theater 1 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
- 10:30PM MINUSCULE
Theater 2 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
- 1:00PM THE GATE (Le Temps des aveux)
Theater 2 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
- 1:15PM HIPPOCRATES (Hippocrate)
Theater 1 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
- 3:15PM FFC SPOTLIGHT: YOUNG FRENCH PRODUCERS*
Theater 2 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
- 4:00PM MAY ALLAH BLESS FRANCE! (Qu'Allah bénisse la France)
Theater 1 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
- 6:30PM [SURPRISE FILM!] (TO BE ANNOUNCED - PLEASE SEE INSERT)
Theater 1 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
- 6:30PM LA SAPIENZA
Theater 2 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
- 9:00PM I KISSED A GIRL (Toute première fois)
Theater 1 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
- 9:15PM LIFE OF RILEY (Aimer, boire et chanter)
Theater 2 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas



* Free Screening

Program and dates subject to change. All screenings in French with English subtitles
Please note that most features are preceded by a short film.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

10:00AM	MINUSCULE Theater 1 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
10:15AM	PETITE REINE: DOWNFALL OF A CHAMPION (La Petite reine) Theater 2 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
12:00PM	ASTERIX AND THE LAND OF THE GODS (Astérix et le domaine des dieux) Theater 1 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
12:30PM	THE PURSUIT OF ENDURANCE (La Poursuite de l'endurance): On the Shoulders of Schackleton Theater 2 – Greenwich Bow Tie Cinemas
2:00PM	ONCE IN A LIFETIME (Les Héritiers) Theater 1 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
2:30PM	ANNECY PRESENTS: SHORT AND FRENCH* Theater 2 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
4:30PM	MAESTRO Theater 1 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
4:30PM	THE GATE (Le Temps des aveux) Theater 2 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
6:30PM	TIMBUKTU Theater 1 – Greenwich Bow Tie Cinemas
7:00PM	PAUSE Theater 2 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
9:30PM	THE CLEARSTREAM AFFAIR (L'Enquête) Theater 1 – Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas

MONDAY, MARCH 30TH

7:00PM	UNDER THE STARRY SKY (Des Étoiles)* Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University
7:30PM	THE CLEARSTREAM AFFAIR (L'Enquête) IFC Film Center - New York, NY

TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST

CLOSING NIGHT IN NEW YORK

11:00AM	MAY ALLAH BLESS FRANCE! (Qu'Allah bénisse la France) FIAF - Florence Gould Hall
4:00PM	NUMBER ONE FAN (Elle l'adore) FIAF - Florence Gould Hall
7:30PM	NUMBER ONE FAN (Elle l'adore) FIAF - Florence Gould Hall
9:30PM	CLOSING NIGHT PARTY FIAF - Tinker Auditorium

Our guests this year are: Dominique Besnehard, Dyana Gaye, Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar, Abd Al Malik, Pio Marmai, Adrianna Gradziel, Jeanne Herry, Jean- Paul Rouve, Fabien Coste, Antoine Le Carpentier, Maxime Delaunay and Romain Rousseau.

* Free Screening



SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT – FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH

- **PREMIERE SCREENING OF *MEMORIES (LES SOUVENIRS)*** - Introduced by Olivier Barrot **7:00PM**
- **GALA DINNER & SILENT AUCTION** at the Greenwich Arch Street Teen Center **9:30PM**
Following the Opening Night US Premiere film, toast the evening with Champagne and pose for a glamorous photo with invited dignitaries, celebrities and friends while enjoying fabulous French food and wines donated by L'Academie Culinaire de France, New England Culinary Institute and Le Wine Shop of Greenwich.
- **“BECOME A FILM CRITIC” CONTEST:**
Middle and High School students attending the student screening of *Once in a Lifetime (Les Héritiers)* on **Friday, March 27th at 11:00AM** are invited to participate in the “Become a Film Critic” Contest, sponsored by BNP Paribas. Written or video recorded student film critiques will be reviewed by a panel of Festival judges and the best five submissions will win an iTunes card and a spot on the Focus on French Cinema Festival website.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

- **ROUND TABLE: A CONVERSATION WITH DIRECTORS, ACTORS, AND EXPERTS 9:15AM**
Join us Saturday morning for an insider’s view of our 2015 film selection, through the personal commentaries of guest Directors and Actors as well as local film experts. This year, our guests will include: Dominique Besnehard, famous producer and casting director, Director and actor Jean-Paul Rouve; Actors Pio Marmà, Adrianna Gradziel, Directors Dyana Gaye, Jeanne Herry, Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar and Abd Al Malik; and Producers Fabien Coste, Antoine Le Carpentier, Maxime Delauney and Romain Rousseau.
(Bios on page 39, 41, 43, 45, 47 & 49).
The discussion will be moderated by Cinema Studies Professor Anne Kern of Purchase College.

MONDAY, MARCH 30TH

- **ALBERTINE BOOK SIGNING & *THE CLEARSTREAM AFFAIR (L'ENQUÊTE)* SCREENING AT IFC FILM CENTER**
6:00 PM Dominique Besnehard Book Signing at Albertine Bookstore (972 5th Ave, New York, NY).
7:00 PM Special Screening of *Un Conte de la Goutte d'or & Under the Starry Sky (Des Étoiles)* at Yale University (Whitney Humanities Center, 53 Wall St., New Haven, CT).
7:30 PM Special screening of *The Clearstream Affair (L'Enquête)* at IFC Film Center (323 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY).

CLOSING NIGHT – TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST

- **US PREMIERE SCREENINGS OF *NUMBER ONE FAN (ELLE L'ADORE)* 4PM & 7:30PM**
at French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) Florence Gould Hall, 55 E 59th, New York, NY
- **BOOK SIGNING**
5:45 PM Dominique Besnehard Book Signing at French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) (22 E 60th St, New York, NY).
- **DISCUSSION**
7:00 PM Special Abd Al Malik Book Signing & Conversation at Albertine Bookstore (972 5th Ave, New York, NY)
- **CLOSING NIGHT PARTY 9:30PM** at French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) Tinker Auditorium
Join us for a fabulous evening at the French Institute Alliance Française in Manhattan, one of the most respected centers of French culture in the United States.





Purchase College

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

THE SCHOOL OF FILM & MEDIA STUDIES AT PURCHASE COLLEGE

CONGRATULATES

THE ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE OF GREENWICH ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE FOCUS ON FRENCH CINEMA!

We celebrate our **11 year partnership with Alliance Française** and this annual celebration of film and cultural exchange.

FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES

The School of Film and Media Studies at Purchase College is dedicated to enriching the college's strong legacy in film, integrated media studies, and media arts. With programs like "Great Films and Great Directors," selective screenings and showcases, campus events with filmmakers, writers, and directors, and student exhibitions, the School of Film and Media Studies is building unity and support for film on campus and throughout the community.

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IN THINK WIDE OPEN THINK WIDE OPI



Alliance Française
of Greenwich

Proudly Presents the 11th Edition of Focus on French Cinema



The Alliance Française of Greenwich, founded in 1919 is a member supported non-profit organization offering programs on French culture as well as French language classes and private tutoring for adults and children.

For more information on our Language
and Cultural Programs
visit www.afgreenwich.org
Or call 203.629.1340

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MEMORIES

LES SOUVENIRS

Genre: Comedy - Drama

March 27th - 7:00pm

Director: Jean-Paul Rouve

Screenplay: David Foenkinos & Jean-Paul Rouve

Running Time: 96 minutes

Starring: Annie Cordy, Michel Blanc, Mathieu Spinosi, Chantal Lauby

Distributor: TF1 International

FRANCE - Release: January 2015 - **US Premiere**



SYNOPSIS

Romain is 23 and shares a small apartment in his native Paris. He aspires to be a writer but currently works as night watchman in a hotel. His 62 year old father goes into retirement and pretends indifference. His roommate, Karim, is 24 and has only one thing on his mind: to seduce each and every girl, any way he can. The disappearance of his 85-year-old grandmother from a new nursing home--where she feels out of place among other retirees--sparks Romain to act. He takes off to find his grandmother, following the path of her memories....

REVIEW

"All the components of a movie that make you laugh, cry and in the end want to do good."

- Liberation

GUEST: Jean-Paul Rouve - Director (bio p. 49), Maxime Delauney & Romain Rousseau - Producers (bios p. 41 & 49)

SPEAKER: Olivier Barrot (bio p. 39)



FOCUS ON: DAVID FOENKINOS

David Foenkinos is the author of 12 novels that have been translated in 30 languages. *La délicatesse*, which he adapted for the screen starring Audrey Tautou and François Damien, won ten literary prizes.



UNDER THE STARRY SKY

DES ÉTOILES

Genre: Drama

Director: Dyana Gaye

Screenplay: D. Gaye & Cécile Vargaftig

Running Time: 88 minutes

Starring: Ralph Amoussou, Mareme Demba Ly, Souleymane Seye N'Diaye

Distributor: Ezekiel Film Production

FRANCE / SENEGAL - Release: January 2014 - NY Premiere

Preceded by the short film *Un Conte de la Goutte d'or* (dir. Dyana Gaye)

SYNOPSIS

Turin, Dakar, New York. Sophie, Abdoulaye, Thierno. Three destinies crossing paths, echoing one another, painting a constellation of contemporary migration.

Sophie, 22 years old, leaves Dakar to join her husband, Abdoulaye, in Turin. However, Abdoulaye has left for New York through a smuggler's network. 19-year-old Thierno is traveling to Africa for the first time.

Under the Starry Sky takes us on a journey with these three characters, diving into and wandering through the diversity of contemporary cities across three continents.

REVIEWS

"A sensitive look at a very lively mosaic of cities, cultures and encounters."

- Le Figaroscope

"Without ever falling into miserabilism or political activism, this tale of Dakar, Turin and New York succeeds in showing with great sweetness the curious sentiment of not belonging in the world that surrounds us."

- Premiere

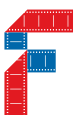
March 28th - 10:30am
March 30th - 7:00pm (Yale University)



"The qualities of directing and observation make Dyana Gaye a director to follow."

- Le Monde

GUEST: Dyana Gaye - Director
(bio p. 43)



MINUSCULE: VALLEY OF LOST ANTS

MINUSCULE - LA VALLÉE DES FOURMIS PERDUES

Genre: Animation

Director: Hélène Giraud, Thomas Szabo

Screenplay: Hélène Giraud, Thomas Szabo

Running Time: 89 minutes

Distributor: Entertainment One Film

FRANCE - Release: January 2014

March 28th - 10:30am

March 29th - 10:00am



SYNOPSIS

In a peaceful forest clearing, the remains of a picnic hastily abandoned during a summer storm spark warfare between two tribes of ants. At stake is a box of sugar. A bold young ladybug finds himself caught in the middle of the battle. He befriends one of the black ants and together they face the assault of the terrible red ant warriors. Who will prevail?

REVIEWS

"A burlesque epic story, esoteric and parodic, "Minuscule" revives silent cinema with joy. A must!"
- Le Figaroscope

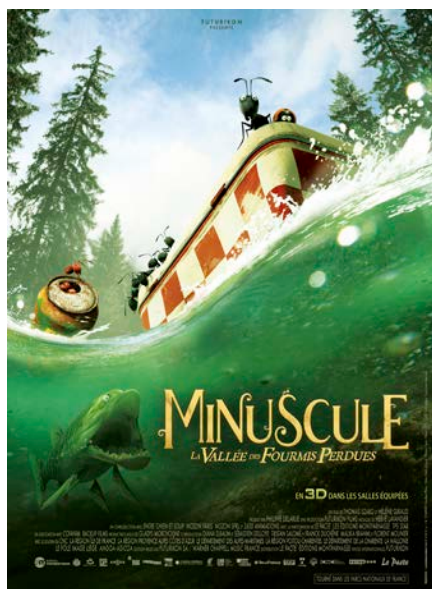
"An artfully made animation film that strays from contemporary conventions while still leaving the viewer both dazzled and amused."
- Hollywood Reporter

CÉSARS 2015:

- Best Animation Film Winner

FOCUS ON : FRENCH ANIMATION

The studio behind many groundbreaking animated features is Futurikon, based in Paris. *Minuscule* is probably its best known film and a



gem that scored international success -- even in unexpected places such as China, where 800,000 people saw the film. Compared to the 1.5 million spectators in France, this is quite a feat! It has also been nominated for Best Animated Feature at the European Film Awards 2015 scheduled for December.



HIPPOCRATES

HIPPOCRATE

FFC Spotlight: FES Award Winners

Genre: Comedy - Drama

Director: Thomas Lilti

Screenplay: Thomas Lilti, Baya Kasmi, Pierre Chausson & Julien Lilti

Running Time: 102 minutes

Starring: Vincent Lacoste, Reda Kateb, Jacques Gamblin

Distributor: Distrib Films US

FRANCE - Release: September 2014

March 28th - 1:15pm



Preceded by *Ascension* (dir. T. Bourdis, M. de Couhenhove, C. Domerge, C. Laubry, F. Vecchione)

SYNOPSIS

Benjamin is meant to be a great doctor, he's certain of it. But his first experience as a junior resident in the hospital ward where his father works doesn't turn out the way he hoped it would. Responsibility is overwhelming, his father seems omnipresent, and his junior partner, a foreign doctor, is far more experienced than he is. This internship will force Benjamin to confront his limits ... and begin his journey to adulthood.

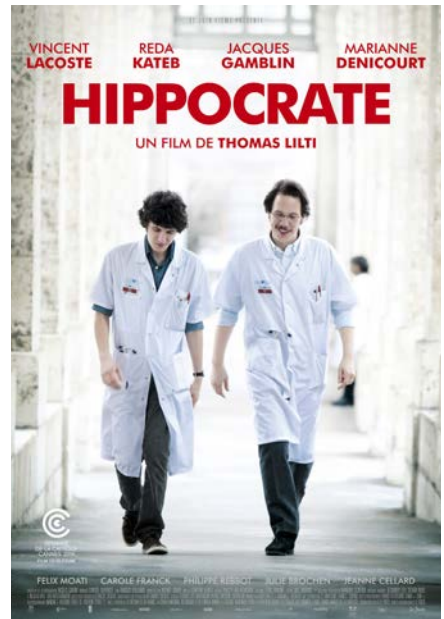
CÉSARS 2015:

- Best Supporting Actor Winner (Reda Kateb)
- Best Film Nomination
- Best Director Nomination (Thomas Lilti)
- Best Actor Nomination (Vincent Lacoste)
- Best Supporting Actress Nomination (Marianne Denicourt)
- Best Original Screenplay Nomination
- Best Editing Nomination (Christelle Dewynter)

FESTIVAL DU FILM FRANCOPHONE D'ANGOULÊME

2014:

- Best Film Winner: Hippocrates
- Best Short Film Winner: *Ascension*



FOCUS ON: THOMAS LILTI

Thomas Lilti was inspired by his own life: he and his father were both doctors. Growing up, Lilti had always been interested in cinema but feared it wouldn't be a viable profession and studied medicine. However, throughout his studies, he directed three shorts which led him to direct his first feature film *Les Yeux bandés* in 2007.



Genre: History-Drama

Director: Régis Wargnier

Screenplay: Antoine Audouard & Régis Wargnier

Running Time: 95 minutes

Starring: Raphaël Personnaz, Kompheak Phoeung, Olivier Gourmet

Distributor: Gaumont

French Release: December 2014 - **US Premiere**

March 28th - 1:00pm

March 29th - 4:30pm



SYNOPSIS

Cambodia, 1971.

While he is working at restoring the temples of Angkor, François Bizot, a French ethnologist, is captured by the Khmer Rouge.

Held in a camp deep in the jungle, Bizot is accused of being a CIA spy. His only chance of survival is to convince Duch, the young camp leader, of his innocence. As the Frenchman discovers the reality of Khmer Rouge indoctrination and recruitment, an indefinable bond forms between the prisoner and his jailer.

Based on the true story as recounted by Bizot in *Le Portail* (ed. Table ronde, 2000).

FOCUS ON: REGIS WARGNIER

A veteran of French cinema, Régis Wargnier's first feature film *La femme de ma vie* (1986) was nominated for 5 César awards and won the Best First Film Prize. Since then, he has focused his career on directing historically grounded films with settings ranging from the Indochinese War to World War II and post-World War II USSR. *Indochine* won the Best Foreign Film Oscar Award in 1993. The director has also made documentaries focusing on the careers of great sport athletes such as *Coeurs d'athletes* and *D'or et d'argent*.



REVIEWS

"The film resonates in our minds long after we leave the theater."

- The Hollywood Reporter

"Wargnier's best film since *East-West*."

- Le Nouvel Observateur



MAY ALLAH BLESS FRANCE!

QU'ALLAH BÉNISSE LA FRANCE

Genre: Biopic - Music

Director: Abd Al Malik

Screenplay: Abd Al Malik

Running Time: 96 minutes

Starring: Marc Zinga, Sabrina Ouazani, Larouci Didi, Mickaël Nagenraft

Distributor: Films Distribution

FRANCE - Release: December 2014

March 28th - 4:00pm
March 31st - 11:00am (FIAF)



SYNOPSIS

The true story of a French teenager escaping the underprivileged suburbs through love, education, and rap music. Regis is a culturally gifted boy who dreams of success for his rap band, but veers toward a life of crime instead. Discovering Islam and music, he finds the strength to express himself through rap music and slam-poetry -- but can he overcome his circumstances to become the artist he hopes to be?

Based on the award winning memoir *Qu'Allah bénisse la France* by Abd Al Malik.

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2014:

- FIPRESCI Discovery Prize Winner

CÉSARS 2015:

- Best First Film Nomination (Abd Al Malik)
- Best Newcomer Actor Nomination (Marc Zinga)



REVIEW

"This fun and riveting portrait describes the suburbs with a personal take. A breath of hope" - Le Figaro

GUEST: Abd Al Malik - Director
(bio p. 39)

SPEAKER: Guy Sorman (bio p. 49)



Genre: Drama

Director: Eugène Green

Screenplay: Eugène Green

Running Time: 104 minutes

Starring: Fabrizio Rongione, Christelle Prot, Ludovico Succio, Arianna Nastro

Distributor: Kino Lorber

FRANCE - Release: March 2015

March 28th - 6:30pm



Preceded by the short film *La Femme de Rio* (dir. Emma Luchini & Nicolas Rey)

SYNOPSIS

At the height of his career, Alexandre decides to set off for Italy with the goal of completing his draft – interrupted years earlier – of a book on Borromini, a major 17th-century Italian architect. He is accompanied by his wife Alienor who feels her relationship with Alexandre gradually slipping away along with the passion it used to inspire. In Stresa they happen to meet Goffredo and Lavinia, a pair of siblings who live there: the former is about to embark in architectural studies, the second is suffering from a nervous disorder. This encounter will be eye-opening for all involved.

REVIEWS

“A work of ambition and magnitude.”

- The Hollywood Reporter

“Brilliant.”

- Indiewire

INTERNATIONAL CINEPHILE SOCIETY AWARDS

2015:

- Best Picture Award Winner

SEVILLE EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL 2014:

- Best Film Award Winner

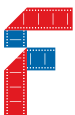


LOCARNO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2014:

- Golden Leopard Nomination (Best Film)

SPEAKER: Consul Bertrand Lortholary
(bio p. 47)



I KISSED A GIRL

TOUTE PREMIERE FOIS

Genre: Comedy

Director: Noémie Saglio & Maxime Govare

Screenplay: Noémie Saglio et Maxime Govare

Running Time: 98 minutes

Starring: Pio Marmai, Franck Gastambide, Adrianna Gradziel, Lannick Gautry,

Distributor: Gaumont

FRANCE - Release: January 2015 - **US Premiere**

March 28th - 9:00pm



SYNOPSIS

Jérémie, 34 old year business owner, awakes one morning in an unknown apartment in bed with Adna, a beautiful Swede as funny as she is charming.

Is this the beginning of a fairy tale?

Highly doubtful, as Jérémie is gay and about to marry his perfect boyfriend Antoine...

REVIEW

"A half-social, half-romantic satirical comedy."

- Le Figaro

ALPE D'HUEZ COMEDY FESTIVAL 2015:

- Winner of the Grand Prize
- Winner of the Best Actor Prize (Pio Marmai)
- Nominated for the Special Jury Prize (Noémie Saglio & Maxime Govare)
- Nominated for the Audience Prize (Noémie Saglio & Maxime Govare)

GUEST: Pio Marmai - Actor (bio p. 47)

GUEST: Adrianna Gradziel - Actress
(bio p. 43)



SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY: PIO MARMAÏ

- *Des lendemains qui chantent* (2014)
- *Grand départ* (2013)
- *Aliyah* (2011)
- *Contre Toi* (2011)
- *Un heureux évènement / A Happy Event* (FFC 2012)
- *Le premier jour du reste de ta vie / The First Day of the Rest of your Life* (2008)



LIFE OF RILEY

AIMER, BOIRE ET CHANTER

Genre: Comedy - Drama

March 28th - 9:15pm

Director: Alain Resnais

Screenplay: Laurent Herbiet & Alex Reval

Running Time: 108 minutes

Starring: Hippolyte Girardot, Sabine Azéma, André Dussolier, Sandrine Kiberlain

Distributor: Kino Lorber

FRANCE - Release: March 2014



SYNOPSIS

In the Yorkshire countryside, the lives of three couples are upset for a few months, from spring to fall, by the enigmatic behavior and strange seductive power of their friend George Riley. Iconic director Alain Resnais' final film. Based on the play by Alan Ayckbourn.

REVIEWS

"The last pirouette of a cinematic magician before his farewell to the stage" - Le Monde

"A whirlwind of interiors, which are in Resnais' work, the intermingling of the head and the heart."
- Les Cahiers du Cinema

"Resnais orchestrates all with such graceful ease."
- Variety

BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2014:

- Albert Bauer Prize
- Golden Bear / Best Film Nomination
- Silver Bear / Best Actor Nomination
- Silver Bear / Best Director Nomination
- Silver Bear / Grand Jury Prize Nomination



- Silver Bear / Best Artistic Contribution Nomination
- Silver Bear / Best Score Nomination
- Silver Bear / Best Screenplay Nomination



PETITE REINE: DOWNFALL OF A CHAMPION

LA PETITE REINE

Genre: Drama - Sport

March 29th - 10:15am

Director: Alexis Durand Brault

Screenplay: Sophie Lorain, Catherine Léger

Running Time: 97 minutes

Starring: Laurence Leboeuf, Patrice Robitaille, Denis Bouchard

Distributor: Les films Séville

QUEBEC - Release: June 2014 - **US Premiere**



Preceded by the short film *Carnet de voyage au Québec* (dir. Bastin Dubois)

SYNOPSIS

Based on a true story, *La Petite reine* follows Julie, a young cycling star, who is two races away from winning the World Cup - her reward for years of intense training. Then Julie is denounced for doping. Alone and with no knowledge of the world outside the realm of racing, Julie must find a way out. The problem: while she has been ruthlessly manipulated by others, Julie is nevertheless guilty as charged.

FOCUS ON: LAURENCE LEBOEUF

Laurence Leboeuf, considered the fresh face of Canadian cinema, has actually been acting in television for almost two decades. The star of *La Petite reine* will next appear on the big screen in the post-apocalyptic sci-fi film *Turbo Kid* as well as the television drama *19-2* in 2015.

REVIEWS

"The biggest sports scandal in Québec's history."

- Films Québec

"A riveting cycle."

- La Presse



Québec
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Boston



ASTERIX AND THE LAND OF THE GODS

ASTÉRIX ET LE DOMAINE DES DIEUX

Genre: Comedy - Animation

Director: Louis Clichy and Alexandre Astier

Screenplay: Alexandre Astier

Running Time: 82 minutes

Starring: Lorant Deutsch, Laurent Lafitte, Alain Chabat, Florence Foresti

Distributor: SND Groupe M6

FRANCE & BELGIUM - Release: November 2014 - **US Premiere**

March 27th - 4:15pm

March 29th - 12:00pm



SYNOPSIS

Julius Caesar unveils his latest plan to get rid of those indomitable Gauls once and for all. As his army has not been able to crush “the last pocket of resistance,” he decides to try a stealth invasion: civilization delivered to the village gates! He builds a new Rome--The Land of the Gods--around Asterix’s village, pressuring the Gauls to assimilate or vanish. Despite Asterix and Obelix’s plans to stop the construction work, the buildings rise quickly and the Romans peacefully invade their surroundings, bringing chaos to Asterix’s village. Could this finally mean victory for Caesar?

REVIEWS

“Asterix is not only an auteur film and a great piece of popular cinema, but also gives us the impression that Astier and Clichy have found the recipe for the magic potion.”

- Première

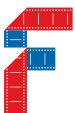
“The family film contract is fulfilled!”

- Les Inrockuptibles



FOCUS ON: A CULTURAL PHENOMENON

The Astérix comic, created in 1959 by René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo, is a true gem of French culture. The series includes 35 comic books published in over 100 languages, 17 movie adaptations in both live-action and animated formats, and multiple games -- not to mention an amusement park near Paris which attracts 1.6 million visitors each year!



ONCE IN A LIFETIME

LES HERITIERS

Genre: Drama - Education

Director: Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar

Screenplay: Ahmed Dramé & M. C. Mention-Schaar

Running Time: 105 minutes

Starring: Ariane Ascaride, Ahmed Dramé, Noémie Merlant, Geneviève Mnich

Distributor: TF1 International

FRANCE - Release: December 2014 - **NY Premiere**

March 27th - 11:00am

March 29th - 2:00pm



Preceded by the short film *Partie de Pêche* (dir. V. Briac-Warnon)

SYNOPSIS

Based on a true story, a teacher at the Léon Blum high school in a tough Parisian suburb enters her struggling 10th-grade class in a national history contest. This experience will change their lives: in understanding history, they will change their own.

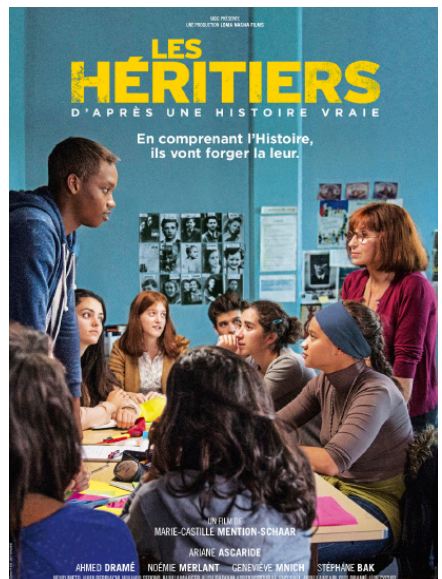
REVIEWS

"A hopeful film and a tribute to the nobility of teachers' dedication." - Le Parisien

"The reactions of the students reveal how the Holocaust still resonates on faces far removed from its horrors." - The Hollywood Reporter

FOCUS ON: A TRUE STORY

This story was conceived and co-written by Ahmed Dramé, who based the story on his own history teacher. His tenth grade class did in fact participate in Le Concours National de la Résistance et de la Déportation. Dramé also authored a book, *Nous sommes tous des exceptions* (2014), in which he tells his story.



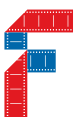
Preceding short presented by:



CÉSARS 2015:

- Best Newcomer Actor Nomination Ahmed Dramé

GUEST: Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar
Director (bio p. 47)



Genre: Comedy - Romance

Director: Léa Fazer

Screenplay: Jocelyn Quivrin & Léa Fazer

Running Time: 85 minutes

Starring: Pio Marmai, Michael Lonsdale, Déborah François, Alice Belaidi

Distributor: Be For Films

FRANCE - Release: July 2014

March 29th - 4:30pm



SYNOPSIS

Henri, a young actor who wants nothing more than to star in *Fast & Furious*, gets a part in the latest film of Cédric Rovère, a monument of auteur cinema (based on New Wave filmmaker Éric Rohmer). The filming conditions aren't exactly what Henri expected ... But his acting partner's charm and the film master's benevolence will make him grow and express feelings he had never known before. Rovère, who is taken by Henri's youthfulness and whimsy, will be equally transformed by the experience....

REVIEW

"A fun film, very charming, about a filmmaker and his singular cinema."

- Le Monde

FOCUS ON: JOCELYN QUIVRIN

The inspiration for this film comes from the relationship developed between actor Jocelyn Quivrin and Éric Rohmer while filming the director's last film *Les Amours d'Astrée et de Céladon*. Unlike most of his peers, Quivrin was a largely untrained actor but nonetheless won the Patrick Dewaere Prize for his role in FFC 2008 film *99 Francs*. Jocelyn and his partner, actress Alice



Taglioni, were our guests at FFC in 2008, one year before his tragic death in an automobile accident. Jocelyn appeared in several films featured at our festival over the years (*99 Francs*, *LOL*, *Ensemble c'est trop*). We dedicate this screening to his memory.

GUEST: Pio Marmai - Actor (bio p. 47)

SPEAKER: Paul Master-Karnik (bio p. 45)



TIMBUKTU

TIMBUKTU

Genre: Drama

March 29th - 6:30pm

Director: Abderrahmane Sissako

Screenplay: Abderrahmane Sissako & Kessen Tall

Running Time: 97 minutes

Starring: Ahmed Ibrahim dit Pino, Toulou Kiki, Abel Jafri

Distributor: Cohen Media Group

MAURITANIA / FRANCE - Release: December 2014



SYNOPSIS

Not far from Timbuktu, now ruled by religious fundamentalists, Kidane lives peacefully in the dunes with his wife Satima, his daughter Toya, and Issan, their 12-year-old shepherd.

In town, people suffer, powerless, under the regime of terror imposed by the Jihadists, determined to impose their faith. Music, laughter, cigarettes, and even soccer have been banned. The women have become shadows but resist with dignity. Every day, the new improvised courts issue tragic and absurd sentences.

CÉSARS 2015:

- Best Film Award Winner
- Best Director Award Winner
- Best Screenplay Award Winner
- Best Cinematography Award Winner
- Best Editing Award Winner
- Best Score Award Winner
- Best Sound Award Winner
- Best Set Design Nomination

OSCARs 2015:

- Best Foreign Film Nomination

SPEAKER: Charles Cohen (bio p. 41)



FOCUS ON: ABDERRAHMANE SISSAKO

After spending his childhood in Mauritania, Sissako attended the Gerasimov State Institute of Cinematography in Moscow, where he shot his first shorts. One of them (*Octobre*) was presented in the 1993 Cannes "Un Certain Regard". He has since returned to the festival to present his films, as well as to serve as jury member and president.



Genre: Comedy-Drama

Director: Mathieu Urfer

Screenplay: M. Urfer & Joanne Giger

Running Time: 82 minutes

Starring: Baptiste Gilliéron, Julia Faure, André Wilms, Nils Althaus

Distributor: Picture Tree International

SWITZERLAND - Release: October 2014 - **US Premiere**

Preceded by the short film *Aubade* (dir. Mauro Carraro)

March 29th - 7:00pm



SYNOPSIS

Sami, a laid-back songwriter, is shocked when Julia, a brilliant lawyer with whom he's been living for the last four years, decides to put their relationship on hold. Coached by his friend Fernand, an alcoholic country musician living in a nursing home for the elderly, he tries to achieve the impossible, to prove she's the only woman for him.

SWISS FILM AWARDS 2015:

- Best Film Score Winner
- Best Fiction Film Nomination (Mathieu Urfer)
- Best Actor Nomination (Baptiste Gilliéron)
- Best Performance in a Supporting Role Nomination (Nils Althaus)

FILMOGRAPHY: MATHIEU URFER

2014 - *Pause*

2006 - *Quatrième Génération* (Short)

2005 - *Dinosaures* (Short)

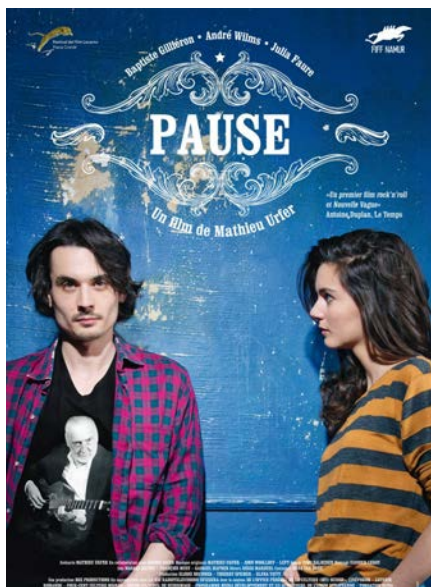
2004 - *Romance Mayonnaise* (Short)

2nd Prize Award

Schwizer Jugendfilmtage, Zürich

2003 - *Vigilantes* (Short)

2003 - *Caca*



THE CLEARSTREAM AFFAIR

L'ENQUÊTE

Genre: Thriller

Director: Vincent Garenq

Screenplay: Vincent Garenq, Stéphane Cabel & Denis Robert

Running Time: 106 minutes

Starring: Gilles Lellouche, Charles Berling, Laurent Capelluto

Distributor: Films Distribution

FRANCE - Release: February 2015 - **US Premiere**

March 29th - 9:30pm
March 30th - 7:30pm (IFC Film Center)



SYNOPSIS

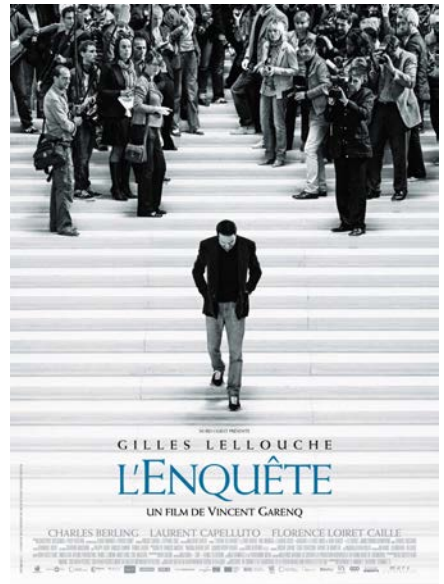
2001. Based on a true story, the journalist Denis Robert sparks a storm in the world of French finance by denouncing the murky operations of Clearstream, a banking firm.

His quest for truth to try to reveal the “scandal of scandals” parallels the criminal investigation carried out by Judge Renaud Van Ruymbeke, deeply committed to fighting against corruption. Their different paths will lead them to the heart of a political and financial intrigue named the “Clearstream Affair,” which would rock the foundations of the Fifth Republic.

REVIEW

“The movie stands out as a tense thriller.”

- L'Express



SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY: GILLES LELLOUCHE

- *Thérèse Desqueyroux* (2012) - FFC 2013
- *Les Infidèles / The Players* (2012)
- *À bout portant / Point Blank* (2010)
- *Les Petits mouchoirs / Little White Lies* (2010)
- *Mesrine : L'instinct de mort / Mesrine Part 1* (2008)
- *Ne le dis à personne / Tell No One* (2006)



ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL

SUR LE CHEMIN DE L'ÉCOLE

Genre: Documentary

Director: Pascal Plisson

Screenplay: Marie-Claire Javoy, P. Plisson

Running Time: 77 minutes

Distributor: Distrib Film

FRANCE Release: September 2013

April 2nd



SYNOPSIS

The children depicted in this film have understood that only education will allow them to improve their lives, so they set out on hugely risky journeys through extraordinary landscapes on their quest for knowledge.

11-year-old Jackson lives in Kenya and, every morning and evening, is accompanied by his sister on a nine-and-a-half-mile walk across a savannah populated by wild animals.

12-year-old Zahira lives in the steep Atlas Mountains. It takes her and two friends an exhausting day of walking to reach their boarding school.

13-year-old Samuel lives in India. The two-and-a-half miles he must traverse each day are a challenge, for his legs are paralyzed. His two younger brothers push a makeshift wheelchair for more than an hour in order to reach school.

11-year-old Carlito crosses the Patagonian plains on horseback while accompanied by his younger sister. Each day, the pair travel 11 miles back and forth, no matter the weather.

On the Way to School allows us to share with them a path that we have all taken – but never quite in this way.

CÉSARS 2014:

- Best Documentary Film Winner



REVIEWS:

"The camera shows the characters and their families' strength, with an endless will to create a better life." – *Premiere*

"A treat for the eyes" – *Le Monde*



NUMBER ONE FAN

ELLE L'ADORE

Genre: Thriller - Comedy

Director: Jeanne Herry

Screenplay: Jeanne Herry & Gaëlle Macé

Running Time: 105 minutes

Starring: Sandrine Kiberlain, Laurent Lafitte, Pascal Demolon

Distributor: Distrib Films US

FRANCE - Release: September 2014 - **US Premiere**

March 31st - 4:00pm &
7:30pm (FIAP)



SYNOPSIS

Muriel is a beautician. She loves to talk, and has a habit of telling tall tales. For the past two decades, Muriel has been the number one fan of French crooner Vincent Lacroix. Most of her spare time is spent keeping up with his songs and his concerts. One night, she opens her door to find Vincent – her idol – standing on her doorstep. His arrival turns Muriel's life upside down as she embarks on a journey that even she couldn't have imagined.

REVIEWS

"A tour de force from young director Jeanne Herry."

- Elle

"Starring the terrific Sandrine Kiberlain."

- The Hollywood Reporter

CÉSARS 2015:

- Best Actress Nomination - Sandrine Kiberlain
- Best Debut Feature Nomination - Jeanne Herry



SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY: SANDRINE KIBERLAIN

- *9 mois ferme / 9 Month Stretch* (FFC 2014)
- *Violette* (FFC 2014)
- *Rue Mandar* (FFC 2014)
- *Les Femmes du 6e étage / The Women on the 6th Floor* (2011)

GUEST: Jeanne Herry - Director
(bio on p. 45)



Come meet

Maxime Delauney, Dyana Gaye, Antoine Le Carpentier, and Romain Rousseau

Vian Collection

French surrealist Boris Vian, best known as a writer and musician, also loved cinema. He wrote several short screenplays that were published in 1977 under the title *Rue des Ravissantes* but were never adapted for the big screen until recently. Amongst the 20 screenplays, three recent adaptations were chosen for this year's edition of Focus on French Cinema.

L'autostoppeur (dir. Julien Paolini) - A foggy deserted road. An American car hits a cyclist. A couple inside. A hitchhiker appears. No time to get rid of the body.

Notre Faust (dir. Elsa Blayau & Chloé Larouchi) - Marina pretends she would give her soul to be a dance genius ... until it really happens.

Le Cowboy de Normandie (dir. Clémence Madeleine-Perdrillat) - Nothing is normal for Jim since he became a cowboy...in Normandy.



Talents Cannes 2014

Genre: Short Films

Directors: Dyana Gaye, Olivia Ruiz, François Goetghebeur & Nicolas Lebrun

Distributor: Mon Voisin Productions

French Release: Cannes (May 2014) - **US Premiere**

For over 20 years, Talents Adami Cannes has discovered young comedians and filmmakers between the ages of 18 and 30. Their films are screened during the Cannes Festival and seen by many prominent film professionals. The theme for the 2014 edition was the musical.

Où elle est Maman? - Directed by Olivia Ruiz

La Nouvelle Musique - Directed by François Goetghebeur & Nicolas Lebrun

Un conte de la Goutte d'Or - Directed by Dyana Gaye (screened before *Under The Starry Sky* **March 28th - 10:30am**)



NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

The Pursuit of Endurance On the Shoulders of Shackleton

March 27th - 2:00pm
March 29th - 12:30pm

WORLD PREMIERE - 100 years after the epic Endurance expedition, 9 adventurers follow in the footsteps of the explorer Ernest Shackleton, hero of one of the greatest survival stories of Antarctic exploration. Their goal: relive part of the epic voyage of the 1914 team, but also live a personal adventure. 800 miles between Elephant Island

and South Georgia in sailing boat, on skis, and pulka. The gathering of information, oceanographic and scientific data will provide for a better understanding of this part of the world.

GUEST: Luc Hardy - Creator
(bio p. 45)



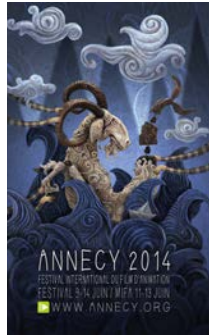
© LUC HARDY

Anecy Presents: Short and French* March 29th - 2:30pm

SELECTION FROM ANNECY INTERNATIONAL ANIMATED FILM FESTIVAL

Recommended for children 8 and older. Each year the Anecy International Animation Film Festival receives over 2,400 films (shorts and feature films, animation for TV, commissioned films and graduation films) from all over the world between November and March.

Around 230 films are shortlisted to take part in the official selection. Here is a sample of the very best among those extraordinary works. As they say, to enjoy for people "8 to 88 years old"...



Fight
dir.
Emma De Swaef,
Marc James Roels

Golden Boy
dir.
Ludovic Versace

La Petite casserole d'Anatole
dir.
Eric Montchaud

SPEAKER: Mathieu Fournet
(bio p. 43)



* Free Screening



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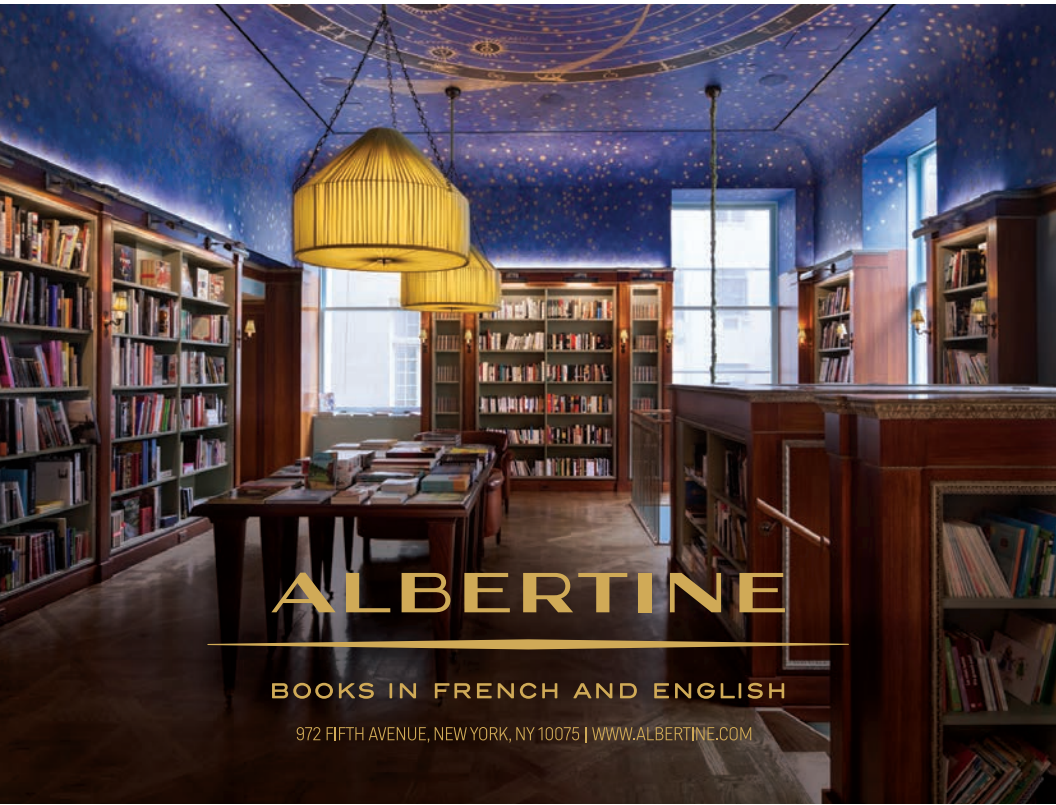
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What gave you the idea to start a French-language film festival in the Greenwich area?

In 2003, amidst misunderstandings between France and the U.S. over foreign policy issues, it was imperative to create opportunities for dialogue. We needed a powerful tool to achieve this goal: it had to be sharp and universal to reach a large audience. Cinema was this tool, and French cinema has plenty to offer. It was also important to present movies from throughout the French-speaking world, because French culture is more than France. A festival here in our community was the obvious answer, offering a wide choice of movies and a forum for dialogue.

Tell us a little about that first festival in 2005.

We started from scratch, with no money, a few contacts, and some strong beliefs: we wanted to show quality and diversity, explore new themes, discover new promising talents, and expose the public to actors and directors. Philippe Muyl and Coline Serreau were the first who trusted in our adventure. In 2005, we began with 7 movies, some on DVD and a few in 35mm, with 800 spectators. Seeing the standing ovation following Coline Serreau's powerful film *Chaos*, I knew that we had started something with the potential to touch people.

What are some favorite moments from the festival over the years?

After more than 120 films over 10 years, there have been many magical moments: Claude Brasseur, who shared the best parts of his long career like an old friend; Jocelyn Quivrin, gone too early, who courageously presented the controversial film *99 Francs*; There was the thrill of students sharing a conversation with Jalil Lespert, and the generosity of Sophie Marceau during her Q&A. Finally, I think of a spectator saying to opera singer Natalie Dessay following *Becoming Traviata*, "I'll never see opera the same way after I've heard you speak here today." These are the rewards I keep in my heart.

Do you think French and francophone cinema has changed over the last decade? What are the prevalent trends today?

I feel a real continuity in French cinema: an intimate view of society, a capacity for self-reflection, but the themes do change: immigration, integration, coming of age, gender, unemployment. Perhaps the biggest change, though, is the passage from 35mm to digital: less expensive, faster to edit, it is more accessible to young directors. We see an emergence of gifted directors and actors, 2nd and 3rd generation immigrants: it is important to hear what they have to say. I also see a remarkable surge of talent in animated movies.

Has working in and around the medium of cinema changed your worldview in any way? If so, how?

Cinema has captivated me with its immediacy, its capacity to take us anywhere in the world, the way it pushes us to understand, to get closer, to analyze, to share. The people I've met along the way have also changed my view: actors and directors, producers and distributors, all in love with their work, all artisans committed to the justesse of their message: it is humbling!

I understand you are doing research for an historical television project. Can you tell us a little about it?

It is a project that reveals deep links between France and the U.S. I have always been intrigued by the process of film production. I am happy to lift up the veil and to participate in a way that brings these pictures alive.



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ABD AL MALIK

Raised in the suburbs of Strasbourg by a single mother, Abd Al Malik veered toward a life of crime even as he excelled in school. Despite his tough beginnings, Malik has become an acclaimed multitalented artist, winning awards and praise for his music, writing and filmmaking. In 2007, Malik won the Victoire de la Musique Award in the urban music category for his first album *Gibraltar*. He has also authored 5 books, including *Qu'Allah bénisse la France* (Laurence Trân Prize winner) and *La guerre des banlieues n'aura pas lieu* (Edgar Faure Prize winner). In 2008, he was decorated with the French Chevalier Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

His directorial debut, a cinematic adaption of *Qu'Allah bénisse la France*, received the FIPRESCI Prize at the Toronto International Film Festival. In August 2014, Abd Al Malik was a member of the jury of the Le Festival du Film Francophone d'Angoulême together with Dyana Gaye and FFC's own Anne Kern, which was presided over by iconic French actress Sabine Azéma.



© FABIEN COSTE

OLIVIER BARROT

Journalist, author, and television personality, Olivier Barrot has played a prominent role in French cultural life. Following his role as a producer at Gaumont and TF1, Barrot wrote for *Le Monde* and Canal+. He later became an artistic advisor for the Cannes Film Festival. Along with Thierry Taittinger, he then founded SENSO Magazine of words and meaning. Since 1991 he has been the producer and host of the daily literary program *Un Livre, Un Jour* on France 3 and TV5 television, where he directs a series of public discussions with actors of the Comédie Française. Since 2007, Olivier Barrot has been

hosting *French Literature in the Making* series at New York University since 2007 and is also the author of multiple books including: *Ciné Club* (2010), *La Revue blanche, Le Fils perdu* (2012), and *Un livre un jour, un livre toujours* (2014).



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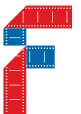
DOMINIQUE BESNEHARD

Dominique Besnehard has had a career like no other: assistant director for Jacques Doillon (notably for *La Drôlesse / The Hussy*), supporting actor, casting director and agent. He has discovered and represented an amazing array of French talents over the past 30 years, including actresses such as Juliette Binoche, Sophie Marceau and Isabelle Adjani; actors like Yvan Attal and Charles Aznavour and directors such as François Ozon and Claire Denis, to name only a few! He is also known in France as the host of a cinema show on Canal+: *Un ticket pour deux*. In 2008, he co-founded

the leading Festival du Film Francophone d'Angoulême, showcasing movies from all over the French-speaking world. Through the years, he has constantly brought together unnumerable people, movies and organizations for the greater good of cinema.



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CHARLES COHEN

Charles Cohen is one of the country's most important commercial real estate developers as well as an influential patron, innovator and visionary of culture and the arts. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Contemporary Art, The Cooper Union for the advancement of Science and Art, the Lighthouse International Theater, the Public Theater, Real Estate Board of New York, the Stella Adler Studio of Acting and the Film Society of Lincoln Center. In 2008, Cohen formed the Cohen Media Group and was

the executive producer of the Academy Award nominated film and winner of the 2008 Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize, *Frozen River*.

Cohen Media Group has recently acquired the American rights to Benoit Jacquot's *Diary of a Chambermaid*.



© COHEN MEDIA GROUP

FABIEN COSTE

Fabien Coste is a French music and film producer. He is also a manager, literary agent and a rising figure within the world of sports management.

In 2005, he co-created with Abd Al Malik the music and film production company Gibraltar through which he produced Malik's last three solo albums as well as his first feature film *Qu'Allah bénisse la France*. Between 2008 and 2014, Coste handled transfers and contracts for well-known international soccer players.

His unique professional approach is dictated by his passion for art and his conscious effort to build a universal cultural heritage.



MAXIME DELAUNEY

Maxime Delauney is a film producer who founded Nolita Cinema in 2012. He previously occupied many roles within the world of cinema and culture in general. He was noticed by Dominique Besnehard during a student film festival and was offered an internship at Artmedia. Having accumulated internship experiences he later assisted Besnehard not only in the creation of his production company, Mon Voisin Productions, where he worked as a

production assistant until 2008, but also Le Festival du film francophone d'Angoulême. He was agent to stars such as Charlotte Gainsbourg, Pierre Souchon, Jacques Higelin, Sylvie Vartan, Nicolas Duval, Julien Paolini and more before creating his own production company.



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MATHIEU FOURNET

Mathieu Fournet is the Cultural Attaché, Head of Film, TV and New Media Department at the French Embassy in New York City. Previously he was the Head of International Affairs for Institut National de l'Audiovisuel (INA), the French public institution in charge of the preservation of radio and television archives. He helped to develop Ina's international activities, notably with Cuba, the Western Balkans,

the Mediterranean area and South Africa. Mathieu has been the Head of the French Film Office in Los Angeles; as well as Cultural Attaché, Head of Film, TV & Music in Argentina & in South Africa, where he has been of great support to local filmmakers and French & francophone artists.



DYANA GAYE

After receiving the Louis Lumière scholarship in 1999, Dyana Gaye wrote the screenplay for a first short film *Une femme pour Souleymane*, which she directed the following year. Since then, she has created riveting, award-winning shorts with a recurring focus on aspects of Senegalese culture such as *J'ai deux amours* (2005), *Deweneti* (2006) and *Un Transport en commun* (2009). Dyana Gaye is attending FFC 2015 to present not only her first feature-length film *Des Étoiles* but also a short entitled *Un conte de la Goutte d'or*,

featured in the Talents Adami Cannes 2014 selection. Gaye was also on the jury of Le Festival du Film Francophone d'Angoulême in August 2014 together with Abd Al Malik and Anne Kern.



ADRIANNA GRADZIEL

After passing her Austrian baccalaureate in 2006, Adrianna Gradziel studied at the prestigious *Cours Florent* in Paris and later participated in the 2013 Theater Festival F.I.N.D directed by Thomas Ostermeier. A trilingual actress, she also studied theater in German with Simone Strickner and in Polish under the direction of Jerzy Kleszyk.

In 2015, Gradziel landed her first big film role in *I Kissed A Girl*. The actress is without a doubt

the fresh new face of European cinema -- a star on the rise!





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LUC HARDY

Luc Hardy is an entrepreneur, veteran adventurer, environmental advocate, author, member of the Explorers Club of New York. Luc is an engineer who graduated from Ecole Centrale Paris. He is president of Sagax, a US-based investment and management advisory firm. His curiosity for the world and his love of adventure stem from his origins in Brittany. When he is not relaxing in his Connecticut tipi, he pursues a personal

goal of traveling extensively across the globe, photographing and reporting from remote places in order to raise awareness for global causes. Luc is also Vice-President of Green Cross France & Territories, the environmental NGO founded by Mikhail Gorbachev.



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JEANNE HERRY

Daughter of iconic French actress Miou-Miou and singer Julien Clerc, Jeanne Herry was born into cinema. She studied at the *École Internationale du Théâtre* and received her first film role at the age of ten in Louis Malle's *Milou en mai*. She later appeared in such films as *Gabrielle* (2005) and *J'attends quelqu'un* (2006) and acted on stage in *Le loup Garou* and *Le Belvédère*.

In 2009, she turned the camera on her mother Miou-Miou in her first short film entitled *Marcher*. Four years later, she directed her first feature-length film, *Elle l'adore*. Herry also authored an autobiographical novel entitled *80 étés*.



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ANTOINE LE CARPENTIER

After studying business in Reims and in Dublin, Antoine Le Carpentier joined Dominique Besnehard's firm in 2008 and assisted him with his numerous projects (Mon Voisin productions, Le Festival du Film francophone d'Angoulême, Canal+ television show). In 2011, he created the short film

department which strives to put young directors on the map. Le Carpentier has produced over 20 short films that have received multiple festival prizes.



PAUL MASTER-KARNIK

Paul Master-Karnik earned his PhD in modern art history from Rutgers University. He has taught at Rutgers and New York University, and was Director of the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts and the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park in Lincoln, MA. Master-Karnik became

Executive Director of the Greenwich Arts Council in 2008.





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BERTRAND LORTHOLARY

Bertrand Lortholary joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after graduating from the Institute of Political Science and the University of Paris-Dauphine. He began his career at the Quai d'Orsay as a member of the Directorate of Africa and the Indian Ocean team, where he mainly followed the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. His career continued, first in Washington as an exchange diplomat at the State Department, then at the French Embassy, where he followed Asian and African

political matters. After Washington, he served as a political adviser in Beijing. In 2008, he became the French President's advisor on Asian and Oceania matters. Since 2012, Bertrand Lortholary has been Consul General of France in New York.



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PIO MARMAÏ

Pio Marmai began his career on the stage at the Créteil Conservatory and at the *Scuola Internazionale della Commedia dell'arte* in Italy.

In 2008, he was nominated for the Best Newcomer César award for his role in *Le Premier jour du reste de ta vie*. Since 2011, Pio Marmai has acted in multiple high-drama films such as *Contre Toi*, *Aliyah* and *D'amour et d'eau fraîche* for which he received a second César nomination in the Best

Newcomer Category. In addition, Marmai has demonstrated notable versatility by starring in comedies such as *Des lendemains qui chantent* and *Toute première fois*, making him the French actor of the moment. Marmai starred in the FFC 2012 film *Un heureux événement*.



© CLEMENT COCHET

MARIE-CASTILLE MENTION-SCHAAR

Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar began her career in cinema as a producer for *Vendredi film*, a company she co-created with Pierre Kubel and Frédéric Bourboulon. Together, they produced numerous films in the early 2000s including films by Antoine de Caunes (*Monsieur N* and *Désaccord Parfait*) and Pierre Jolivet (*Zim and co*, *Je crois que je l'aime*). She wrote the screenplay for *La Première étoile* in 2009 and directed her first feature film three years later, amusingly entitled *Ma*

Première fois (*My First Time*). Her second film, *Bowling*, inspired by a news story regarding a demonstration to stop the closing of the maternity ward in a hospital in Carhaix, resonates with *Les Héritiers*, her latest film inspired by true events.



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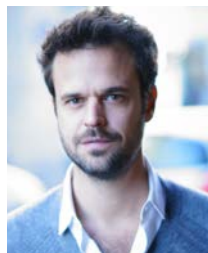
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ROMAIN ROUSSEAU

Romain Rousseau began his career in literary property law. After spending four years at a law firm, Romain began advising *la Société Générale* and the production company *LGM Cinéma*. In early 2005, he joined *LGM Cinéma* full-time as their General Director in charge of managing financing for productions and overseeing the development, production and releases of feature films. He has actively participated in the production of numerous films such including *Cliente*, *Pars vite et reviens*

tard, *RTT*, *MR 73*, *Bus Palladium*, *le fils à Jo*, *A bout portant* and many more.



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JEAN-PAUL ROUVE

While attending *Le Centre dramatique du Nord-Pas-de-Calais*, Jean-Paul Rouve quickly demonstrated a talent for comedy. He then attended the prestigious *Cours Florent* acting class taught by Isabelle Nanty where he became friends with Marina Foïs, Elise Larnicol, Maurice Barthélémy and Pierre-François Martin-Laval; together they created the theatrical troupe *Les Robins des bois* in 1997. The comedians wrote and performed in over 20 skits in this period and in 1999 landed their own televised theatrical farce on Canal+.

In recent years Rouve has acted in major French films such as *Un Long Dimanche de Fiançailles*, *Monsieur Batignole* (winner of the Best Newcomer César Award), *Podium* (nominated for Best Supporting Actor César Award) and *La Môme*. His legendary subtle humor makes him a key actor in contemporary French cinema.



GUY SORMAN

After having studied at the Institutes of Political Studies and The National School of Administration, Guy Sorman went on to teach Economics at Science Po and various foreign universities around the world. He later reoriented himself toward writing, teaching and publishing. After creating his publishing company Edition Sorman, he co-founded one of the leading French NGOs, Action Against Hunger (ACF) and was its President until 1990, when he became its Honorary President. Over the years, Sorman has written many books (*Made in the*

USA; The Empire of Lies) and held several public offices. He is currently a Member of the National Commission for Human Rights and a Board member of Les Maisons Françaises of Columbia and New York Universities and Reporters Without Borders, USA.



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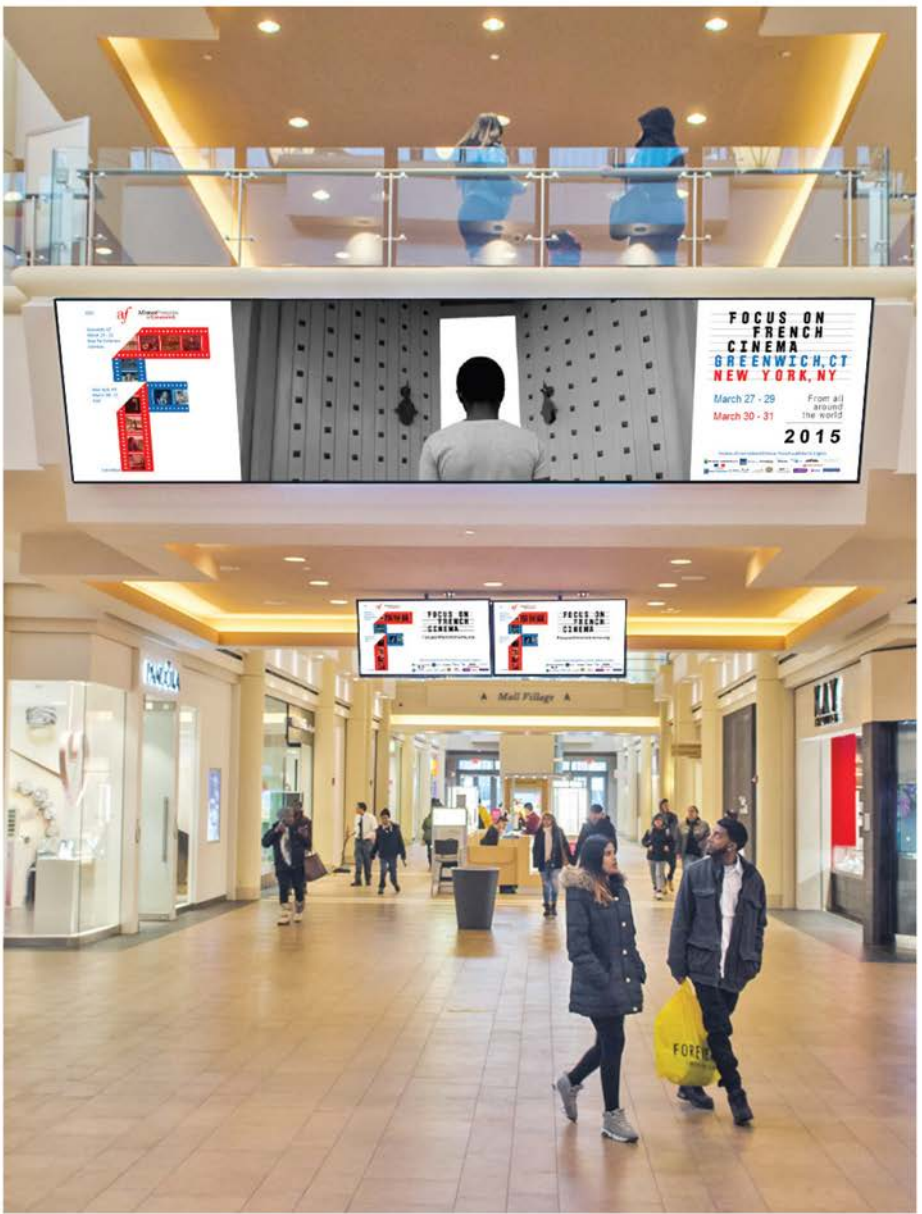
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