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## ABD AL MALIK

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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 Tràn Prize winner) and *La guerre des banlieues n'aurapas 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 adaptation of *May Allah Bless 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 FCC's own Anne Kern, which was presided over by iconic French actress Sabine Azéma.



© FABIEN COSTE

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## DOMINIQUE BESNEHARD

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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.



© CHRISTOPHE BRACHET

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## FABIEN COSTE

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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.

Fabien Coste will present *May Allah Bless France!* (*Qu'Allah bénisse la France.*)



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# MAXIME DELAUNEY

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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

Souchon, Jacques Higelin, Sylvie Vartan, Nicolas Duval, Julien Paolini and more before creating his own production company.

Maxime Delauney will be presenting *Memories (Les Souvenirs)* and *FFC Spotlight: Young French Producers*.



© NOLITA CINEMA

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# DYANA GAYE

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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 *Under the Starry Sky (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.



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# ADRIANNA GRADZIEL

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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!

Adrianna Gradziel will be presenting *I Kissed a Girl (Toute première fois.)*



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# LUC HARDY

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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. 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.



© LUC HARDY

Luc Hardy will be presenting *The Pursuit of Endurance - On the Shoulders of Shackleton*

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# JEANNE HERRY

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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, *Number One Fan (Elle l'adore)* which brought her a Best First Film nomination for the 2015 Césars which she will present at FFC 2015.



© JEAN-CLAUDE LOTHÈRE

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# ANTOINE LE CARPENTIER

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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.

Antoine Le Carpentier will present *FFC Spotlight: Young French Producers*



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# PIO MARMAÏ

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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, making him the French actor of the moment. In addition, Marmai has demonstrated notable versatility by starring in comedies such as *I Kissed a Girl (Toute première fois)* and *Maestro* will he will be presenting at FFC 2015.



© CLEMENT COCHET

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# MARIE-CASTILLE MENTION-SCHAAR

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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.



© JEROME PLOIN

Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar will be presenting *Once in a Lifetime* (*Les Héritiers*.)

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# ROMAIN ROUSSEAU

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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* (FFC 2012), *A bout portant* and many more.



© NOLITA CINEMA

Rousseau will be introducing *Memories* and *FFC Spotlight: Young French Producers*.

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# JEAN-PAUL ROUVE

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Jean-Paul Rouve 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.



Jean-Paul Rouve will be presenting *Memories* (*Les Souvenirs*.)

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## OLIVIER BARROT

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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).

Olivier Barrot will be introducing *Memories (Les Souvenirs)*.



© BRUNO SCHNEIDER

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## CHARLES COHEN

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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 Benoît Jacquot's *Diary of a Chambermaid*.

Charles Cohen will introduce *Timbuktu*.



© COHEN MEDIA GROUP

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## MATHIEU FOURNET

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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.

Mathieu Fournet will introduce *Annecy: Short and French*



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# BERTRAND LORTHOLARY

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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.



© FRENCH CONSULATE IN NY

Bertrand Lortholary will introduce *La Sapienza*.

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# PAUL MASTER-KARNIK

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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.

Paul Master-Karnik will introduce *Maestro*.



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# GUY SORMAN

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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.



© GUY SORMAN

Guy Sorman will introduce *May Allah Bless France!* (*Qu'Allah bénisse la France.*)