

FOCUS ON
FRENCH
CINEMA
GREENWICH, CT
NEW YORK, NY

BECOME A FILM CRITIC

A Focus on French Cinema Festival
Education Program Sponsored by:



BNP PARIBAS

SYNOPSIS AND DETAILS

LES HÉRITIERS
2015

Trailer [Here](#)

Genre: Drama

Director: Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar

Running Time: 105 minutes

SYNOPSIS:

This is a true story based on a class of teenagers in an ethnically mixed school district in Paris, whose teacher decides to enter them in a competition to examine the holocaust from the point of view of its impact on young people. It contains some emotional scenes and chronicles the transformation of a group of adolescents who finds a way to come together despite their differences and discover the world beyond themselves.



SPECIAL HIGH SCHOOL SCREENING
FRIDAY, MARCH 27th, 2015 at 11:00
BOW TIE CRITERION THEATER
2 Railroad Avenue
Greenwich, CT 06830



BECOME A FILM CRITIC

SUBMIT YOUR FILM REVIEW

How to Submit your Review:

After attending the student screening of **Les Héritiers** on **Friday, March 27th at 11:00AM** at the Focus on French Cinema Festival, high school and middle school students are invited to submit a written or video recorded film review, either individually or with a partner — Siskel and Ebert style. Using the guidelines on the following page, written critiques should be between 350-500 words in length and video recorded critiques should be between 3-7 minutes in length.

Submit your project to Gail Covney at gac0421@optonline.net using the free file transfer site wettransfer.com

Entries should include student name, school, grade, and teacher, and be submitted no later than Sunday April 12th. For schools on vacation immediately following the festival, please submit entries by Sunday, April 26th.

One critique from each school participating will receive an iTunes gift card and will be posted on the Focus on French Cinema Website. All participants will receive a certificate of Participation from the Festival Director.

www.focusonfrenchcinema.com

<http://www.facebook.com/FocusOnFrenchCinema>

To add enhancements to your video, feel free to use Popcorn Maker from Mozilla.

<https://popcorn.webmaker.org/>



BECOME A FILM CRITIC

[SUBMIT A FILM REVIEW](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

- The actor who plays the character Malik, Ahmed Dramé, was a student in the high school class on which the movie was based.
- Dramé also wrote the screenplay for the film and sent it to Marie-Castille Mention-Starr, who loved the story. Ms. Mention-Starr not only directed the film, but also cast Ahmed in the movie!
- Ahmed is now an up-and-coming actor in France; he was even nominated for “Best New Comer” at the 2015 Césars (French Oscars) for his role in Les héritiers.

ABOUT THE *CONCOURS NATIONAL DE LA RÉSISTANCE ET DE LA DÉPORTATION*

The goal of this contest, created in 1961 by French National Education minister Lucien Paye, is to to perpetuate the memory of the resistance and deportation in the minds of young French people as a way to learn civic duties from past events and to apply them in their everyday lives. This contest gives them the opportunity to meet resistants and camp survivors and establish tangible links between generations.

SCHOOLS IN FRANCE

In 1882, the Jules Ferry laws instituted that public schools should be free, secular and mandatory. All public schools in France are secular or “laïque” and do not allow students or professors to wear any ostentatious religious symbols such as crosses or any sort of islamic scarves. This law which was



BECOME A FILM CRITIC

established in 2004 in an effort to resolve conflicts surrounding the Islamic veils, has since then brought on problems of integration and identity of the Muslim community in France.

REVIEW WRITING GUIDELINES

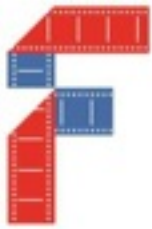
Use the following questions as guidelines when writing your critique. Virtually anything you can think of or react to is valid fodder for a film critique.

- 1) What type of film is *LES HÉRITIERS* — documentary, drama, comedy? Why did the director choose this style for this film?
- 2) What message is the director trying to communicate in this film?
- 3) What tactics does the director use to get her message across to the viewer? Does she achieve this?
- 4) What is the theme of the film? Is it obvious or only subtly evident?
- 5) Is the setting/locale appropriate and effective?
- 6) Is the cinematography effective? Does the film make certain use of particular effect?
- 7) Is the sound track effective and appropriate? Is the music appropriate and functional or is it inappropriate and obtrusive?
- 8) Are camera angles used effectively? Are they ever used for a particular effect?
- 9) What three things can a viewer learn from watching this film?
- 10) Does the film inspire its viewers to make different choices in their lives? If so, how?



Discussion Questions For "LES HERITIERS" :

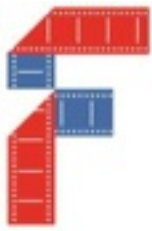
1. What is the main conflict in **"LES HERITIERS"**? Who are the contending characters?
2. What was the theme of **"LES HERITIERS"**? What were the filmmakers trying to show us? Were they successful? Justify your answer.
3. How do you react to the cultural, social and religious differences (such as the rules against the veil)? Is there a scene from the movie that is particularly notable or shocking?
4. Did you learn anything new about France or a French speaking country in **"LES HERITIERS"** ? What was it?
5. What were your impressions of the scene with the camp survivor Léon Zyguel?
6. What exactly do the balloons at the war memorial symbolize?
7. Was there something you didn't understand about the movie? What was it?
8. What did you like best about **"LES HERITIERS"**? Why?
9. What did you like least about **"LES HERITIERS"**? Why?



FOCUS ON
FRENCH
CINEMA
GREENWICH, CT
NEW YORK, NY

BECOME A FILM CRITIC

10. Select an action performed by one of the characters in the film and explain why the character took that action. What motivated him or her? What did this motivation have to do with the theme of the film?
11. Who was your favorite character in the movie? Why?
12. Who was your least favorite character in the movie? Why?
13. Describe the use of color and décor in the film? Did it advance the emotions the filmmakers were trying to evoke? How would you have used color in the movie?
14. Analyze the use of music in the movie. Did it enhance the story that the filmmakers were trying to tell? How would you have used music in this movie?
15. Did all of the events portrayed in the film ring true? Describe the scenes that you found especially accurate. Which sequences didn't seem to match reality? Why?
16. What was the structure of the story told by the movie?
17. How did the editing of the film advance the story that the filmmakers were trying to tell? Explain how.
18. Have you ever had a teacher, coach, relative who has inspired you and had an important impact on your life and your perception of the world?



FOCUS ON
FRENCH
CINEMA
GREENWICH, CT
NEW YORK, NY

BECOME A FILM CRITIC

19. Considering this is based off a story, can you imagine what some of these characters went on to do with their lives after the contest?
20. How do you perceive the events of the Holocaust? How does this particular historical event affect you in your everyday life?

Projects:

- Students can be asked to write an essay on any of the discussion questions described above.
- The class can be asked to take positions on and to debate any of the discussion questions.
- Change the ending of the film. (This can be done by the teacher describing a new ending or permitting the class or different groups of students to choose their own ending.) Break the class into groups to create a story board or a script of an altered version of the film accommodating the new ending and, if necessary, changing the order of the scenes.

Additional Resources:

- >> [Teach with movies](#)
- >> [Teaching with Film NY Times 01/26/12](#)
- > [French Cinema Vocabulary](#)