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ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE

FRENCH

FILM

FESTIVAL

2018

Perth

14 Mar - 4 Apr

af Alliance Française *Australie*



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BIENVENUE

The 2017 Alliance Française French Film Festival was an exceptional event, filling more and more seats across Australia. With the French film industry having produced some amazing films last year, the 29th Alliance Française French Film Festival is not to be missed. Iconic stars such as Juliette Binoche, Vincent Cassel, Vanessa Paradis, Isabelle Huppert and Gérard Depardieu will be showcased on Australian screens in 50 films over one month in each participating city, starting in Sydney on 27th February.

Comedies and dramas, romances and biopics, period films and animated features... there is something for everyone at this year's Festival, with a selection of films to make you feel, dream, reflect, laugh or even shed a few tears. France comes to Australia for a few weeks with the Festival epitomizing the ever-strong bond between both nations and cultures.

It is remarkable and very touching for a Frenchman to witness the enthusiasm generated by this Festival across Australia. I was actually living in Australia when the Festival was initiated by the Alliance Française de Sydney in 1989. It gives me great joy that 29 years later, the Festival is still so popular with both our faithful long-term supporters and more and more new spectators every year.

And 28 years later, "I still call Australia Home"...

Mr. Patrice Gilles

**Chief Representative of Fondation Alliance Française in Australia
& Director of Alliance Française de Canberra**

The Festival is organised by the Alliances Françaises of Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.



FOUNDED IN
1883



819

CENTRES AROUND
THE WORLD



500,000+
STUDENTS



30

CENTRES AROUND
AUSTRALIA



9,760

STUDENTS



145
CULTURAL
EVENTS

A NOTE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

It gives me great pleasure to celebrate the 29th Alliance Française French Film Festival with you.

The Festival has been a great success in Australia with more than 174,500 attendees in 2017. In France, cinema is an industry created by artists, which has reformed and adapted itself to a globalised economy. The success of French films in Australia is indicative of their universal appeal. This Festival would not have been possible without the support of partners and sponsors, without the professionalism of teams from the Alliances Françaises and the French Embassy, without Unifrance films, and the French and Australian cinema professionals who will join us for this wonderful French Australian cultural event. I hope you will enjoy our 2018 selection.

H.E. Mr. Christophe Penot,
Ambassador of France to Australia



A SPIRIT OF UNITY



2017 was incredibly prolific for French cinema. The 29th year of one of Australia's favourite film festivals will kick off with the 2017 box-office hit, *C'est la vie!* Prepare yourself for repeated giggles with this comedy about a wedding party that turns to disaster.

The 2018 50-film line-up is sprinkled with humour 'à la Française', as well as compelling and multi-award winning films. Courage, generosity, equality and team spirit are all strong recurring themes that show the unyielding spirit of unity in France today. Keep curious and open-minded when watching these films –they will both delight and surprise you with great cinematography and unexpected storylines.

Mr. Philippe Platel, Festival Artistic Director

DAVID STRATTON - FESTIVAL PATRON

A hundred years ago, when major directors like Louis Feuillade and Abel Gance were making their early films, France was at the forefront of innovation and entertainment in the relatively new art of the motion picture. Forty years later, in 1958, the first features of Francois Truffaut (*Les 400 coups*) and Claude Chabrol (*Le beau Serge*) ushered in the Nouvelle Vague, the movement that transformed not only French but also world cinema.



Thanks to the enlightened system that exists in France to support not only the production of French films but also their distribution, exhibition and international exposure – through Unifrance Film – French cinema has remained at the forefront of international cinema while the cinema in other countries has struggled to survive. The French films I saw in Cannes and Venice during 2017, several of which are taking part in the 2018 Alliance Française French Film Festival, are testament to the ongoing quality and inventiveness of the French film industry.

It's an honour to be the Patron of this year's event and I sincerely hope that Australians who explore the latest crop of French films will enjoy many stimulating, exciting and pleasurable hours in the cinema over the coming weeks.

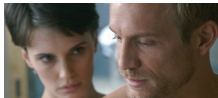
CHECK OUT DAVID STRATTON'S SHORT COMMENTS ON THE FILMS BELOW.



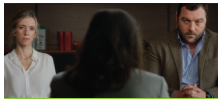
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PAGE 60 - MONTPARNASSE BIENVENUE

FULL COMMENTS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

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SEE PAGES 94-95 FOR PRICES AND CONDITIONS.

OPENING NIGHT FILM

C'EST LA VIE! *LE SENS DE LA FÊTE*

Comedy | France | 2017 | 117 mins | CTC

Directed by
OLIVIER NAKACHE,
ÉRIC TOLEDANO

Starring
Jean-Pierre Bacri, Jean-Paul Rouve,
Gilles Lellouche, Vincent Macaigne, Hélène Vincent

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

The dynamic directorial duo behind the 2011 smash *The Intouchables* – Éric Toledano and Olivier Nakache – reunite for the Opening Night film *C'est la vie!*, in which a wedding threatens to erupt into an utter nightmare for the party's cantankerous planner, Max.

Over a career spanning more than 30 years, Max Angély (Jean-Pierre Bacri, for whom the role was penned) has enjoyed a celebrated career as a caterer and event organiser. Today, it's all hands on deck for Pierre and Héléna's nuptials in a breathtaking 17th century French chateau.

As per usual, Max has everything precisely organised but, as the celebrations get underway, Murphy's Law takes over, and his perfectly planned occasion risks disintegrating into a chaotic farce. Can Max and his team pull together to make Pierre and Héléna's special day memorable for all the right reasons?

The Closing Night film at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival, *C'est la vie!* is a carefully crafted, character-based rom-com loaded with witty zingers. A hypnotically jazzy soundtrack and top-notch ensemble cast – including Gilles Lellouche (*The Connection*, AF FFF2015) as the scene-stealing DJ James – seals the deal on what is shameless fun from go to whoa.

"Another magical trick out of the hat with a ruthlessly-plotted breeze of ensemble good humour." *Hollywood Reporter*



CLOSING NIGHT FILM

50 IS THE NEW 30 *MARIE-FRANCINE*

Comedy, Romance | France | 2017 | 95 mins | M

Directed by
VALÉRIE LEMERCIER

Starring
**Valérie Lemercier, Hélène Vincent,
Patrick Timsit, Denis Podalydès**

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Director, screenwriter and actress, the multi-talented Valérie Lemercier (*Palais Royale*, 2005; *Les Visiteurs*, 1993) takes on the central role of Marie-Francine in *50 Is the New 30*; a romantic comedy in the purest sense of the genre about a woman hitting an awkward life juncture at age 50.

Even though Marie-Francine's husband (Denis Podalydès) is a bore, the last thing she needs is to be kicked to the curb for a younger woman in the same week as being downsized out of her job as a chemical researcher. But that is exactly what happens. And her 'solution' to the problem is to move in with her overbearing parents and then act on their encouragement to open an e-cigarette boutique.

A Portuguese fado score foreshadows the arrival of chef Miguel, played by Patrick Timsit with the requisite charm of cinema's best love interests. Marie-Francine discovers he harbours some embarrassing secrets of his own but, still, Miguel might be the perfect someone to help Marie-Francine lift her sagging spirit.

Thanks to the inimitable humour of Valérie Lemercier, this is the kind of rom-com that effortlessly rises above the predictability of other 'comédie populaire'.

"Hilarious results." Hollywood Reporter



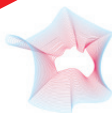
French with English subtitles

- CLOSING NIGHT - 9

CRÉATIVE FRANCE

Australia

INNOVATE - ENGAGE - INSPIRE



TEAM
FRANCE
AUSTRALIE



CRÉATIVE
FRANCE



120 BATTEMENTS PAR MINUTE

BPM (BEATS PER MINUTE)

Drama | France | 2017 | 142 mins | CTC

Writer-director Robin Campillo's *BPM (Beats Per Minute)* throws us into the milieu of sexual and political activism during François Mitterrand's Government of the early 90's. As seen through the prism of the ACT UP movement in Paris, this film passionately illuminates the fight for social acceptance by people living with HIV in the face of drug manufacturers reluctant to expedite treatment breakthroughs.

Nathan (Arnaud Valois) joins the ACT UP collective and is immediately drawn to the radical and somewhat militant Sean (Nahuel Pérez Biscayart, *If You Saw His Heart*, AF FFF2018), a 20-something man living with HIV. As their relationship develops, and Sean's condition deteriorates, *BPM* evolves skilfully from documentary-style to intimate drama, in a way that has captured the hearts of audiences across France.

Evoking Larry Kramer's pivotal *The Normal Heart*, Campillo draws on his own experiences as a member of ACT UP to imbue *BPM* with a sensuous depiction of the compromised – but still active – sex lives of the group. He adds an undeniably visceral human aspect to their ideological 'raison d'être': access to fair medical and social treatment in the public eye, and to love sans fear.

Directed by
ROBIN CAMPILLO

Starring
Nahuel Pérez Biscayart
Arnaud Valois
Adèle Haenel
Antoine Reinartz

**"The movie
compellingly
combines elegy,
tragedy, urgency and
a defiant euphoria."**
The Guardian



GRAND PRIX
FESTIVAL DE CANNES
- WINNER -



FESTIVAL DE SAN SEBASTIÁN
2017 EDITION SELECTION
OFFICIAL
COMPETITION

French with English subtitles

- TEAM SPIRIT - 11



LES HOMMES DU FEU

THE BRIGADE

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by
PIERRE JOLIVET

Starring
Roschdy Zem
Émilie Dequenne
Michaël Abiteboul
Guillaume Labbé

"This movie builds a broad vision of the situation of French society since the 90s, and great realism dealing with the subject."

Télérama

CINEMANIA

CANADA, 2017
OFFICIAL SELECTION

Drama | France | 2017 | 93 mins | CTC

The Brigade is the work of César-nominated actor, writer and director Pierre Jolivet; a 'vérité-styled' glimpse into the mechanics of a working fire station in rural France, where life and death are an intrinsic part of the normal working day.

Bénédictine (Émilie Dequenne) is a tough female fire-fighter transferred to a 'caserne de pompiers' near the southern town of Carcassonne, led by the stoic but kind-hearted Philippe (Roschdy Zem). When she makes some critical errors supervising her first emergency response, Benedictine finds herself offside with her unforgiving and tough male colleagues.

A series of crippling bushfires suggests that an arsonist is on the loose during what is an unusually hot summer. Can Philippe unite his team of brazen and courageous fire-fighters? Or will the tensions running rampant through this small station endanger the community they're meant to protect?

Magnificently depicting the scorched-earth landscapes of the Languedoc region, *The Brigade* graphically uses its 'mise-en-scène' to illustrate the extreme conditions faced by Philippe and his crew. By removing the heroic façade, we see all the tensions, tears, successes and failures that are part and parcel of France's first responders.



DE PLUS BELLE

LADIES

Comedy, Drama, Romance | France | 2017 | 98 mins | CTC

How do you regain a positive body image if you never had one in the first place? Costume-designer-turned-debut-director Anne-Gaëlle Daval enlists renowned French stand-up comedienne Florence Foresti (*Barbecue*, AF FFF2015) in a slightly more serious, yet bountifully life-affirming, turn as 40-year-old Lucie; a cancer survivor looking to regain her footing in the world.

Breast cancer is well behind Lucie, as confirmed by her doctor brother (Jonathan Cohen, *Papa ou Maman*, AF FFF2016; *Max & Leon*, AF FFF2017) but she still cannot seem to move forward. One day, she enters a wig shop and meets Dalila (Nicole Garcia, *Papa ou maman*, AF FFF2016, director of *From the Land of the Moon*, AF FFF2017), who believes performing a public striptease will make Lucie feel better about her body. The dashing but dreadfully arrogant Clovis (Mathieu Kassovitz, *Amélie; The Bureau*, AF FFF2016) starts to show interest in Lucie, although she cannot fathom why.

With lashings of both girl-power and self-deprecation, *Ladies* is the perfect prescription for treating a largely unexplored topic in cinema with the respect it deserves. Filmmaker Daval conquers this subject in a wonderfully assured manner that will have you leaving the cinema with a smile on your face.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
ANNE-GAËLLE DAVAL

Starring
Florence Foresti
Mathieu Kassovitz
Nicole Garcia
Jonathan Cohen

**"The film navigates
themes of love, family
and relationship to
others and to the
self in a tender, soft
and gentle manner."**

The Up Coming UK



(LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA,
UNITED STATES, 2017)

French with English subtitles

- TEAM SPIRIT - 13



LA MÉLODIE

ORCHESTRA CLASS

Drama | France | 2017 | 102 mins | CTC

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by
RACHID HAMI

Starring
Kad Merad
Samir Guesmi
Alfred Renely
Jean-Luc Vincent

"This is an updated
Blackboard Jungle
with music."

David Stratton



Comedic actor Kad Merad (*Nicholas on Holiday*, AF FFF2015; *Baron Noir*, AF FFF2016) takes a sharp turn against type playing a po-faced violinist in Rachid Hami's gallic rendering of the 'inspirational teacher' sub-genre of world cinema, *Orchestra Class*.

Recalling the likes of Sérgio Machado's *The Violin Teacher* (2015) or even James Clavell's *To Sir, with Love* (1967), Simon Daoud (Merad) is a down-on-his-luck musician who, despite his talents, winds up teaching a sixth-grade orchestra.

As far as depictions of contemporary Parisian middle-school life go, this is a realistic one, with Simon's multicultural class of rambunctious, trash-talking 12-year-olds proving a test for his patience, but there is one in which he ends up seeing potential, a painfully shy but gifted boy, Arnold. Simon makes a promise to his class to take them to perform at the Paris Philharmonic. But will they make it?

Plucking at the heart (and violin) strings, *Orchestra Class* is a welcome reprieve from more challenging cinematic fare, ultimately offering an exalting viewing experience that vividly edifies the power of the human spirit. It also comes warmly scored by "the Danny Elfman of France", Bruno Coulais.



AU REVOIR LÀ-HAUT

SEE YOU UP THERE

Historic, Drama | France | 2017 | 117 mins | CTC

Albert Dupontel (*In Harmony*, AF FFF2016; *The First, the Last*, AF FFF2017) appears in, writes and directs this epic crime drama adapted from the best-selling, award-winning novel by France's answer to James Ellroy, Pierre Lemaître.

As star and narrator, Dupontel is Albert Maillard, a rank-and-file French infantryman battling to survive trench warfare as WWI comes to its conclusion. In a horrific final sortie, Maillard is almost buried alive by debris and his comrade Édouard Péricourt (Nahuel Pérez Biscayart, *BPM* in this year's Festival) is horribly disfigured after being hit by mortar fire.

Péricourt becomes addicted to morphine during his convalescence and, living behind elaborate masks to hide his disfigurement, concocts a plan with Maillard to sell phony monuments to French towns honouring their dead; an undertaking that will prove as dangerous as it is stunning.

Also starring Laurent Lafitte (*Boomerang*, AF FFF2016) as the sadistic Captain Pradelle and Niels Arestrup as Péricourt's estranged father, *See You Up There* is an awe-inspiringly lavish 1920s period thriller with a production budget to match. Fans of Lemaître's crime writing will not be disappointed.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
ALBERT DUPONTEL

Starring
Albert Dupontel
Laurent Lafitte
Émilie Dequenne
Nahuel Pérez Biscayart

**"A pure cinematic
prowess. *See
You Up There*
deserves praise."**

Hollywood Reporter



FESTIVAL DE SAN SEBASTIÁN
2017 EDITION SELECTION
OFFICIAL
COMPETITION

French with English subtitles

- TEAM SPIRIT - 15



L'ATELIER

THE WORKSHOP

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by
LAURENT CANTET

Starring
Marina Foïs
Matthieu Lucci
Warda Rammach
Issam Talbi

**"Cantet probes his
characters with great
skill in this thoroughly
absorbing and very
contemporary drama."**

David Stratton



Drama | France | 2017 | 113 mins | CTC

Laurent Cantet, director of 2008 Palme d'Or-winning docu-drama *The Class*, makes an enthralling return to form with *The Workshop*; a topical fusion of political debate and social-conscious thriller, hot off its Un Certain Regard Premiere at Cannes Film Festival.

It is summer in La Ciotat in the South of France. Antoine (played by newcomer Matthieu Lucci) is taking part in a creative writing workshop run by novelist Olivia (Marina Foïs, *Happy Few*, AF FFF2011; *Papa ou Maman*, AF FFF2016).

Smart and loaded with teen angst, Antoine's fascist sympathies lurk just beneath the surface and create friction within the group. However, Olivia is both alarmed and captivated by Antoine's hostility and, as the workshop and its pupils gradually slip out of her control, her interest goes beyond mere intrigue into a fascination that is both intellectual and, at times, seductive.

Collaborating again with the co-writer of the *The Class*, Robin Campillo (who took Cannes by storm with *BPM*, also appearing in this year's Festival), Cantet continues a predilection for dark, character-based storylines, tapping into the zeitgeist of fear and unease that is present in France today.

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AUORE

AUORE

Comedy | France | 2017 | 89 mins | CTC

A hugely entertaining blend of humour, truthfulness and sensitivity, Blandine Lenoir's warm-hearted romantic comedy *Aurore* centres on a middle-aged woman in the midst of major personal and professional life changes.

Fifty-year-old Aurore Tabort (the truly marvellous Agnès Jaoui), separated from her husband and newly unemployed, discovers she is to become a grandmother. She feels as if her own life has come to a standstill, and is slowly being pushed to the fringes of society. But after bumping into the great love of her youth, Totoche, (Thibault de Montalembert, *Call My Agent*, AF FFF2016) something changes... Aurore wonders if it might still be possible to embark on something new.

On screen from start to finish, actress and co-writer Jaoui (*The Taste of Others*, AF FFF2002, *Look at Me*, 2004) is the heart and soul of this witty, feel-great film. She brings a touching, truer-than-life poignancy to an endearing portrait of the resilience of womanhood, as an everyday heroine on the road to (re)discovery. You will cheer for *Aurore*.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
BLANDINE LENOIR

Starring
Agnès Jaoui
Thibault de Montalembert
Philippe Rebbot
Pascale Arbillot

**"An intelligent
and salutary
comedy. Agnès
Jaoui shines."**

Paris Match





L'AMANT DOUBLE

DOUBLE LOVER

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
FRANÇOIS OZON

Starring
Jérémy Renier
Marine Vacth
Jacqueline Bisset
Dominique Reymond

"A cheeky, enjoyable
melodrama from
director François
Ozon."

David Stratton



OFFICIAL SELECTION
COMPETITION
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

Thriller | France | 2017 | 107 mins | R18+

Visually confronting and indisputably provocative, *Double Lover* is the latest addition to the sexually charged oeuvre of the both polarising and prolific François Ozon (*Time to Leave*, AF FFF2006; *Potiche* AF FFF2011; *The New Girlfriend*, AF FFF2015).

Former model Chloé (Marine Vacth, also in *If You Saw His Heart* in this year's Festival) falls in love with her psychoanalyst, Paul (Jérémy Renier, *The Wedding Cake* and *Potiche*, AF FFF2010; *Eternity*, AF FFF2017), while seeking counselling for sexual dysfunction. As their relationship develops, Chloé discovers her lover is hiding an insidious part of his identity that forces her to confront not only her most deeply buried secrets but also her darkest, most compelling desires. Reality and fantasy distort as their entanglement tightens and threatens to send them both over the edge.

Calling to mind world cinema's more divisive psychosexual thrillers – such as Cronenberg's *Dead Ringers* (1988) and Louis Malle's *Damage* (1992) – *Double Lover* oozes with a distinctly Ozon 'je ne sais quoi'. Right from its attention-grabbing opening sequence, this film delivers abundantly in its promise of being an electrifyingly twisted, erotic thriller.

20 - CRAZY IN LOVE -

French with English subtitles



NOS ANNÉES FOLLES

GOLDEN YEARS

Historic, Drama | France | 2017 | 103 mins | MA15+

One of the respected elder statesmen of French cinema André Téchiné (*Being 17*, AF FFF2017) presents a vibrant and youthful retelling of a true love story plucked from the vestiges of WWI, narrated by Michel Fau (*Marguerite*, AF FFF2015)

Paul (Pierre Deladonchamps) and Louise (Céline Sallette, *A Castle in Italy*, AF FFF2014; *One of a Kind*, AF FFF2015) marry on the eve of war, just as Paul is conscripted into battle. Distressed by the atrocities of combat and eventually injured, Paul makes the decision to flee the military infirmary and return to his bride. But when hiding in the basement becomes too restrictive, Louise is prompted to devise a plan to dress Paul as a woman so he may move around in public. The direct opposite of wartime machismo, Suzanne – as Paul chooses to call his alter ego – is gentle and feminine, and Paul easily loses himself in this new gender identity. His journey as Suzanne introduces a cabaret and stage leitmotif into the film, one that infuses an unexpected element of glamour into this wartime allegory.

Even when granted amnesty, returning to his male self is not a natural assumption for Paul; for him, Paul and Suzanne are now one and the same, with Suzanne possibly being an even stronger version of himself.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
ANDRÉ TÉCHINÉ

Starring
Pierre Deladonchamps
Céline Sallette
Grégoire Leprince-Ringuet
Michel Fau

**"Two supremely
capable leads."**

Hollywood Reporter



CANNES FILM
FESTIVAL
(FRANCE, 2017)
SELECTION 70TH
ANNIVERSARY

French with English subtitles

- CRAZY IN LOVE - 21



SI TU VOYAIS SON CŒUR

IF YOU SAW HIS HEART

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by
JOAN CHEMLA

Starring
Gael Garcia Bernal
Marine Vacth
Nahuel Pérez Biscayart
Karim Leklou

**"Pretty pictures
and two attractive
leads, Gael gives
a very solid
performance."**

Hollywood Reporter

OFFICIAL SELECTION

tiff

CANADA, 2017
SELECTION GALA

Drama, Romance | France | 2018 | 86 mins | MA15+

Writer-director Joan Chemla delivers an impeccably stylised, noir-tinged debut feature with *If You Saw His Heart*. Inspired by the writings of Cuban author Guillermo Rosales and starring Mexican heart throb Gael Garcia Bernal, Chemla transposes the lost-soul-on-the-run story from Miami to a gypsy ethnicity in the South of France.

After the accidental death of his best friend Costel (Nahuel Pérez Biscayart, who is in *See You Up There* and the Cannes favourite *BPM* at this year's Festival), Daniel washes up at the Metropole Hotel; a squalid place for social pariahs where Alain Delon's character from *Le Samouraï* would feel right at home. This double exile, from society and himself, is Daniel's form of self-punishment over Costel's death in the hope of eventual redemption.

But then, the bewitching Francine appears at the hotel (Marine Vacth from *Double Lover*, also in this year's Festival) and the darkness of his extreme existence suddenly turns to romanticism.



LES FANTÔMES D'ISMAËL

ISMAËL'S GHOSTS

Thriller | France | 2017 | 114 mins | CTC

The Opening Night Film at the 2017 Cannes International Film Festival, *Ismaël's Ghost* features a love triangle of powerhouse performers – Mathieu Amalric, Charlotte Gainsbourg and Marion Cotillard – in what is essentially a haunting, anxiety-laden identity thriller from the fertile imagination of writer-director Arnaud Desplechin (*My Golden Days*, AF FFF2016)

Filmmaker Ismaël (Mathieu Amalric, *Barbara* in this year's AF FFF) is in pre-production for his next film based on the life of diplomat, Ivan (Louis Garrel, *Saint Laurent*, AF FFF2015). His happy existence with astrophysicist girlfriend Sylvia (Charlotte Gainsbourg, *3 Hearts*, AF FFF2015) is shattered when his past love, Carlotta (Marion Cotillard, *From the Land of the Moon* and *Inception*, *Dark Knight Rises*), mysteriously re-appears after a lengthy absence in which she had been missing, presumed dead.

Little is as it appears to be on the surface in this richly layered and genre-twisting film that keeps the audience guessing until the end. It also marks the seventh collaboration between writer-director Arnaud Desplechin and actor-director Mathieu Amalric, paying testament to the artistic rapport between these two great figures in French filmmaking.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
ARNAUD DESPLECHIN

Starring
Mathieu Amalric
Charlotte Gainsbourg
Marion Cotillard
Louis Garrel

"Cotillard is particularly enthralling, and her interactions with Gainsbourg are fascinating."

IndieWire



OFFICIAL SELECTION
COMPETITION
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

French with English subtitles

- CRAZY IN LOVE - 23



UN BEAU SOLEIL INTÉRIEUR

LET THE SUNSHINE IN

Drama, Comedy | France | 2017 | 94 mins | MA15+

Directed by
CLAIRE DENIS

Starring
Juliette Binoche
Xavier Beauvois
Gérard Depardieu
Josiane Balasko

**"This is grown-up
film-making, seductive,
oblique and carried
by a wonderfully
smart and emotionally
generous performance
from Juliette Binoche."**

The Guardian



SELECTION
OPENING NIGHT

A film that perfectly mirrors the inner turmoil of older female singledom, *Let the Sunshine In* shines bright in star-power.

Not only does the whole storyline orbit around a radiant Juliette Binoche (*The Wait*, AF FFF2016; *Polina*, AF FFF2017) at her very best, but this is a women's film behind the camera too. Iconoclast Claire Denis (*Beau Travail*, 1999; *Trouble Every Day*, 2001; *Friday Night*, 2002) sits in the director's chair, having penned the script with novelist-playwright Christine Angot, and ably assisted by her frequent cinematographer, Agnès Godard.

Denis introduces us to Isabelle; a 'divorcée' with a child who is searching for love but finding only callous suitors whose actions lend her experiences an acid-laced comedic edge. Fans of Denis will note that her hot-blooded sensuality and precision-point scrutiny of human nature take this film beyond regular rom-com territory into something far more prescient; reality without the pessimism.

Giants of the screen – including Valeria Bruni Tedeschi and Gérard Depardieu – make colour cameo appearances throughout, but in the end, *Let the Sunshine In* is Juliette Binoche's film, and one in which she is an absolute pleasure to behold.

**M****M**

Drama, Romance | France | 2017 | 98 mins | MA15+

César-winning actress for *Games of Love and Chance* (2003) and *The Names of Love* (2010), Sara Forestier (*Elementary*, AF FFF2017), debuts as actor-writer-director with *M*; a feature entrenched in the popular storytelling trope of "opposites attract" but overhauling it in a refreshing new fashion.

Teenager Lila (Sara Forestier) meets 30-something Mo (Redouanne Harjane) at a bus-stop and the two make a connection, despite him being a chatter-box and her unable to say a word due to a debilitating speech impediment. She is studying for exams. He illegally races cars for a living. Yet somehow – for some reason – they fall in love. But Mo carries a secret burden.

A love story with unique lovers, *M* is notably classical in its romanticism and structure; something of a modern-day western, as its filmmaker likes to describe it. But it is also a film where both the harshness and comedy of unconventional love co-exist, proffering the audience with a range of swinging emotions.

M serves as an enlightening debut for Sara Forestier, who is one of the most prodigious talents of the French cinema landscape.

**AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE**

Directed by
SARA FORESTIER

Starring
Sara Forestier
Redouanne Harjane
Jean-Pierre Léaud
Liv Andren

**"Winner of the
Europa Cinemas
Venice Label, M
is a charming
representation of
the relationship
between two people
scarred by life."**

Variety

French with English subtitles

- CRAZY IN LOVE - 25

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AVA

AVA

Drama | France | 2017 | 105 mins | CTC

Nominated for the Critics' Week Grand Prize at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival, *Ava* is the self-assured, life-affirming directorial debut from screenwriter Léa Mysius (co-writer of *Ismaël's Ghosts* in this year's Festival), featuring a 'tour-de-force' performance from newcomer Noée Abita in the titular role.

Thirteen-year-old Ava is on a summer holiday in the Medoc region when she learns a degenerative condition that is turning her blind has accelerated. Rather than wallow in her imminent disability, Ava chooses to embrace her remaining senses and explore her burgeoning sensuality, as encouraged by her mother (Laure Calamy). An encounter with a young troublemaker, Juan (Juan Cano), sends Ava on a series of adventures she would never have dared to do before her prognosis.

Shot on 35mm film to accentuate a saturated colour palette of warm, golden tones, Ava's blindness is also a metaphor for contemporary French society's growing tendency to embrace extremism, as well as increasing social distress. This is an adroit meditation on politics, sensuality and the 'joie de vivre' of youth; a refreshing chronicle of a young girl's coming of age.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
LÉA MYSIUS

Starring
Noée Abita
Laure Calamy
Juan Cano
Tamara Cano

"Ava is a truculent,
troublesome presence,
with images of a
peculiar richness."

Variety



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

French with English subtitles

- MODERN FAMILIES - 27



JUSQU'À LA GARDE

CUSTODY

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
XAVIER LEGRAND

Starring
Léa Drucker
Denis Ménochet
Mathilde Auneveux
Florence Janas

"Xavier Legrand
makes an exceptionally
fine directorial
debut with this
powerful drama."

David Stratton



AWARD SILVER LION - BEST
DIRECTOR AND BEST DEBUT
FILM

Drama | France | 2018 | 93 mins | CTC

One of the most astonishing film debuts in recent memory, Xavier Legrand's heart-stopping drama charts a family's struggles with the fallout of divorce, and the resulting arrangements for (and impact on) the two children.

Miriam (Léa Drucker, *The Blue Room*) and Antoine (Denis Ménochet, *The Returned*) have recently separated. While she's willing to permit their 17-year-old daughter Joséphine (Mathilde Auneveux) to decide living arrangements for herself, Miriam is desperate to keep her youngest, 12-year-old Julien (Thomas Gioria), away from his father. But the magistrate rules in favour of joint custody, and suddenly the boy is thrown directly into the middle of an escalating parental conflict, where it seems inevitable that sides must be chosen.

Superbly observed and flawlessly acted (the heart-rending performances of the two children are more than worth the price of admission), Legrand's precise dissection of this family dynamic masterfully builds into a pulse-pounding thriller. Honest, yet still evoking profound sympathy for all its protagonists, *Custody* is sure to be remembered as one of the most important and vital films of 2018. Don't miss it.



DIANE A LES ÉPAULES

DIANE HAS THE RIGHT SHAPE

Comedy, Drama | France | 2017 | 87 mins | MA15+

Writer-director Fabien Gorgeart had made a number of short films by the time he produced one with the entrancing Clotilde Hesme (*Chocolat*, AF FFF2017; *The Last Hammer Blow*, AF FFF2015) and was consequently inspired to create his first feature film with her in mind, *Diane Has the Right Shape*.

Can you separate your mind from your belly? That's the question Hesme, as Diane, must ask herself when she agrees – a little too quickly – to be the surrogate mother for her best friends, Jacques (Grégory Montel, *Call My Agent!*, AF FFF2016) and Thomas (Thomas Suire). There is a flippancy to Diane that is put to the test when she falls for a visiting electrician, Fabrizio (Fabrizio Rongione). It is only then she realises her body is as much the property of Thomas and Jacques as it is her own.

What starts here as a quirky dramedy gets increasingly tense as the moral stakes are raised. However, rather than take a stance on the rights or wrongs of surrogacy, Gorgeart uses his allegory to explore how a seemingly 'ideal' situation can become confrontational with new and unanticipated emotional states.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
FABIEN GORGEART

Starring
Clotilde Hesme
Fabrizio Rongione
Thomas Suire
Grégory Montel

"Oscillate between
offbeat humor and
inner turmoil."

Hollywood Reporter



LOLA PATER

LOLA PATER

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by
NADIR MOKNÈCHE

Starring
Fanny Ardant
Tewfik Jallab
Nadia Kaci
Bruno Sanches

**"Lola Pater marks
a slight milestone
in French cinema."**

Hollywood Reporter



Drama | France, Belgium | 2017 | 95 mins | M

A tender-hearted dramedy of a very unconventional family reunion, Lumière Award-winning writer-director Nadir Moknèche places an incandescent French legend, Fanny Ardant, at the heart of *Lola Pater* as the transgender parent trying to reconnect with her son.

When his mother dies unexpectedly, Zino (Tewfik Jallab) leaves Paris and embarks on a search for his missing father, Farid. Unbeknownst to Zino, Farid transitioned into Lola (Fanny Ardant) 25 years ago, which not surprisingly complicates his search. After learning of his father's gender re-assignment, it is Zino's challenge to negate his resentment and ingrained prejudice to find a place for Lola who is keen to foster a closer relationship with her son since their reintroduction.

Featuring Ardant, alongside an equally mesmerising Tewfik Jallab, this is a refreshing and spirited take on the well-worn family reunion trope; not to mention its examination of transgender issues from the viewpoint of an aging mother and former father, which is a burgeoning reality in 21st century western culture.

Beautiful both literally and figuratively, *Lola Pater* will leave an impression on its audience long after viewing.



MARVIN OU LA BELLE ÉDUCATION

REINVENTING MARVIN

Drama | France | 2017 | 113 mins | MA15+

With this captivating coming-of-age drama, writer-director Anne Fontaine propagates a message imbued in her previous work, *Coco Before Chanel* (2009) – that nothing is predestined and powerful people can escape what they are born into.

Marvin Bijou (Jules Porier) is singled out for being 'different' and relentlessly bullied during his school years in rural France. His working class family proves equally unsympathetic and, although his father (a superb Grégory Gadebois, *Heatwave*, AF FFF2016) never raises a hand to his son.

Marvin's reinvention as Martin Clément (Finnegan Oldfield, *Bang Gang*, AF FFF2016) starts with his middle school principal, Madeleine Clément (Catherine Mouchet), who introduces him to the theatre and whose name he adopts as a symbol of his salvation. Then, his mentor, Abel Pinto (Vincent Macaigne, from Anne Fontaine's previous film *The Innocents*, AF FFF2016; and *C'est la vie!* in this year's Opening Night), encourages Martin to take his story to the stage.

Told in flashbacks and flashforwards, this is a multi-layered fable that avoids reducing Martin's coming out to one of mere rainbows. Most extraordinary is Isabelle Huppert, who makes an enlightening and audacious appearance here as herself – the good fairy who steers Martin's journey into Parisian theatre.

French with English subtitles

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
ANNE FONTAINE

Starring
Finnegan Oldfield
Grégory Gadebois
Vincent Macaigne
Isabelle Huppert

"Some disturbing,
touching and
intense moments.
This film delivers a
vivid demonstration
of salvation
through style."

Télérama



- MODERN FAMILIES - 31



LE PRIX DU SUCCÈS

THE PRICE OF SUCCESS

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
TEDDY LUSSI-MODESTE

Starring
Tahar Rahim
Maiwenn
Roschdy Zem
Grégoire Colin

"Excellent
performances from
well-established
actors."

Cineuropa

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SELECTION
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PRESENTATIONS



FESTIVAL DE SAN SEBASTIAN
(SPAIN, 2017) SELECTION
NEW DIRECTORS

Drama | France | 2017 | 92 mins | MA15+

With his second venture into writing and directing after 2011's *Jimmy Rivière*, Teddy Lussi-Modeste looks at how the bright lights of stardom can irrevocably tear a family to shreds; in particular, the professional and private bond between two brothers. Also, the screenplay was co-written by Rebecca Zlotowski (*Planetarium*, guest AF FFF2017).

Hailing from a modest, working class background, Brahim's (Tahar Rahim, *Daguerrotype*, AF FFF2017) rise to fame as a stand-up comedian has been swift, and largely orchestrated under the eye of his more volatile older brother, Mourad (Roschdy Zem, director of *Chocolat*, AF FFF2017). The introduction of Brahim's girlfriend, Linda (Maiwenn, director of *Mon Roi*, AF FFF2016; *Polisse*, 2011) into the dynamic, sets off a chain of events that see the brothers careening towards devastation. But is the success worth the cost?

As a non-comedy about comedy, there has been some speculation *The Price of Success* is loosely modelled on a real-life comedian, possibly even Franco-Algerian star Jamel Debbouze (*Amélie*, 2001). However, regardless of its inspiration, this is a film that manages to push at audience expectations, culminating in an intense climax that is almost apocalyptic in terms of the price Brahim has to pay.



DEMAIN ET TOUS LES AUTRES JOURS

TOMORROW AND THEREAFTER

Drama | France | 2017 | 91 mins | G

The Opening Night film of the 2017 Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland, *Tomorrow and Thereafter* sees popular French thespian Noémie Lvovsky (from the 'très' successful *Rosalie Blum*, AF FFF2016 and *La Belle Saison*, AF FFF2016) – who holds the record of six César Award nominations for Best Actress – accept the daunting responsibility of writing, directing and acting, while also sharing the limelight with a child and owl.

Seen from this child's perspective, *Tomorrow and Thereafter* pits the pint-sized Luce Rodriguez in the central role of Mathilde; a precocious nine-year-old living in a Paris apartment with her mentally fragile mother (Noémie Lvovsky); her best friend being a feathered one. Although Mathilde is still in regular contact with her father (Mathieu Amalric, appearing in five films in this year's Festival), it is the unique connection with her mother that colours Mathilde's world.

The mother, father and owl roles in *Tomorrow and Thereafter* remain unnamed throughout, which has the effect of turning the spotlight squarely on the character of Mathilde and the extraordinary performance of Luce Rodriguez – definitely a name to watch – who more than holds her own, despite performing alongside some of the strongest names in French cinema today.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
NOÉMIE LVOVSKY

Starring
Noémie Lvovsky
Mathieu Amalric
Luce Rodriguez
Anaïs Demoustier

"In this film of tactile pleasures, Lvovsky is brilliant at capturing - and in her performance, exuding - a familial intimacy that is hard-earned yet rich in feeling."

IndieWire





DEMAIN TOUT COMMENCE

TWO IS A FAMILY

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by
HUGO GÉLIN

Starring
Omar Sy
Clémence Poésy
Antoine Bertrand
Gloria Colston

"What begins
as a comedy
develops into a
deep reflection
on paternity."

Cinemanía (Spain)



(UNITED STATES, 2017)

Comedy, Drama | France | 2016 | 118 mins | CTC

Hugo Gélin's bona fide crowd-pleaser not only stormed France's Christmas holiday season (achieving a phenomenal 3 million + admissions), it also charmed audiences internationally, becoming the most popular French-language film of 2017 worldwide.

Samuel (the irrepressible Omar Sy, *The Intouchables*) enjoys an A-list, hedonistic lifestyle on the sun-drenched beaches of the Côte d'Azur. Life is good, until the day former lover Kristin (Clémence Poésy) arrives out of nowhere and deposits the fruits of their tryst – an infant daughter, Gloria - in his care.

Incapable of looking after a baby, Samuel rushes to the UK in an attempt to return the child to her mother, without any luck. He decides to stay in London and, after finding work as a television stuntman, their relationship slowly begins to bloom. When Kristin eventually reappears, Gloria has grown into a bright and effervescent eight year old... and the inseparable father-daughter team finds their connections tested.

Filled with colour, humour and emotion and great performances, *Two Is a Family* is a lavishly-produced slice of entertainment that will leave you with a smile (and perhaps a few tears too).

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BARBARA

BARBARA

Biopic, Drama | France | 2017 | 97 mins | CTC

A dreamy film-within-a-film biopic of a mononymous chanteuse, *Barbara* is the third film directed by one of France's most respected actors, Mathieu Amalric (known to many English-speakers for his villainous turn in the James Bond film, *Quantum of Solace*). Teaming with his former off-screen wife, Jeanne Balibar – who ably shoulders the lead-within-a-lead – this is a visually striking homage to a music icon.

Brigitte (Jeanne Balibar) has been cast to play the title role in an upcoming film based on the life of Barbara. As the film's director, Yves (Mathieu Amalric) – himself obsessed with Barbara – drives Brigitte on an uncompromising search to unearth the vocal, intellectual and emotional essence that made her one of the most popular entertainers in France of the '60s and '70s. Reality and fantasy merge into one, as she 'becomes' Barbara in the finest of method-acting traditions. Co-written by Amalric with his *On Tour* (AF FFF2011) collaborator Philippe Di Folco, this enigmatic experiment dextrously intercuts archival footage of Barbara (born Monique Serf) alongside Balibar's on-screen portrayal and, in the process, showcases the singer's immense talent and irrefutably mesmerising catalogue of torch songs.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
MATHIEU AMALRIC

Starring
Jeanne Balibar
Mathieu Amalric
Vincent Peirani
Aurore Clément

**"It truly honors
the subject's
genius by letting
the work literally
speak for itself."**

Variety



French with English subtitles

- CREATIVE ICONS - 37



GAUGUIN - VOYAGE DE TAHITI

GAUGUIN

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
ÉDOUARD DELUC

Starring
Vincent Cassel
Tuheï Adams
Malik Zidi
Pua-Tai Hikutini

**"The beauty of the
landscapes and the
native people (...).
Ecstatic."**

Télérama

Biopic, Drama | France | 2017 | 102 mins | CTC

César Award-nominated director Édouard Deluc teams with the incomparable Vincent Cassel for *Gauguin*. Here, Cassel takes on the colossal task of playing renowned French post-Impressionist Paul Gauguin during his self-imposed exile in Polynesia in 1891; a period that coincided with the creation of some of the artist's most lauded works.

Suffering under the weight of what he feels are the constricting mores and stultifying political climate of bourgeois Paris, Gauguin moves to the island of Tahiti, intent on re-discovering his artistic motivation. While immersed in the South Pacific, he experiences solitude, poverty and sickness but also – thanks to a young and captivatingly beautiful ingénue, Téhura (played by newcomer Tuheï Adams) – unrestrained passion and love, which adds fuel to his creative fire.

Wonderfully photographed to capture the rich, exquisite colours of Tahiti that so stimulated Gauguin, Cassel brings a mesmerising screen aura and irrefutable originality to the fore in what is a provocative examination of Gauguin's experiences with colonialism and sexuality, and the lasting impact on his art.



LE REDOUTABLE

REDOUBTABLE

Biopic, Comedy, Romance | France | 2017 | 107 mins | CTC

Following on from his Academy Award-winning *The Artist* (2011), director Michel Hazanavicius continues his film industry focus; this time trained on a major emotional and professional turning point in the career of one of the most influential auteurs of the 1960s' French New Wave, Jean-Luc Godard.

Having wed his *Weekend* and *La Chinoise* muse Anne Wiazemsky (Stacy Martin, *Taj Mahal*, AF FFF2016), Jean-Luc Godard (Louis Garrel, *Mon roi*, AF FFF2016) falls into the grip of an existential crisis in the wake of the latter film's reception. Through the prism of his relationship with Wiazemsky, and the massive strikes and civil unrest that gripped France in May of 1968, Godard's self-examination compels him to pursue his convictions, even if it costs him his marriage and irrevocably changes his artistic sensibilities forever.

With photography that pitch-perfectly recreates the aesthetic of a Godard film, *Redoubtable* is the kind of paean to classic cinema that only Michel Hazanavicius can create. Despite tackling some heavy subject matter with Godard's nihilism and relationship breakdown, it also manages to be both ingeniously funny and deeply moving.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
**MICHEL
HAZANAVICIUS**

Starring
**Louis Garrel
Stacy Martin
Bérénice Bejo
Grégory Gadebois**

**"The film is filled
with tasty material
to delight the most
avid film buff."**

David Stratton



OFFICIAL SELECTION
COMPETITION
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OFFICIAL SELECTION

tiff

SELECTION SPECIAL
PRESENTATIONS

French with English subtitles

- CREATIVE ICONS - 39



RODIN

RODIN

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
JACQUES DOILLON

Starring
Vincent Lindon
Izïa Higelín
Séverine Caneele
Bernard Verley

**"A film meant to
champion the
powers of three-
dimensional art (...)
Starring Vincent
Lindon, who gives a
physically imposing
performance."**

Hollywood Reporter



OFFICIAL SELECTION
COMPETITION
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

Biopic, Drama | France | 2017 | 122 mins | CTC

Marking a century since the artist's death, veteran auteur Jacques Doillon delivers a mighty and meticulous biopic on France's beloved sculptor, Auguste Rodin (Vincent Lindon, *The Measure of a Man*, AF FFF2016), paralleled by his relationship with fellow artist, Camille Claudel (Izïa Higelín).

The film begins at the time of Rodin's first state commission, *The Gates of Hell*; a piece that would inspire later classics like *The Thinker*. Camille Claudel begins as Rodin's assistant but soon becomes his mistress, and they embark on tumultuous, passion-filled affair spanning a decade and coinciding with the creation of some of his most revered works, such as *The Burghers of Calais* and *The Kiss*.

When their relationship ends, Rodin immerses himself in his artistic endeavours and – in a relentless, tormented search for 'truth' in his art – creates *Balzac*; a statue derided by 'société' of the time but now considered by many as a significant juncture in modern sculpture.

Methodical and reverential, *Rodin* features exquisite production design and cinematography, a dramatic retelling of an important time in French Artistic History.

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BRAGUINO

BRAGUINO

Documentary, Poetry | France | 2017 | 49 mins | MA15+

A civilisation doomed for extinction forms the foundation of Clément Cogitore's documentary, *Braguino*; a place where two families, the Kilines and Braguines, have chosen isolation yet remain separated by a physical barrier, an unrelenting feud and a refusal to speak to each other.

A long trip on the Yenisei River – first by boat, then by helicopter – is the only way to reach Braguino in the middle of the Siberian taiga. But filmmaker Cogitore is no stranger to lost worlds, having created *Neither the Sky Nor the Earth* (2015) about a platoon remotely stationed on the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan, for which he was nominated for a César Award for Best First Feature Film.

This time, Cogitore got wind of the Russian outpost Braguino, 700 kilometres from any human presence, where he captures an almost beastly showdown, which could be considered a Shakespearean version of *Lord of the Flies*. This is a rare gem of a documentary that has thrilled artists and critics alike, displaying a level of visual magnificence best experienced on the big screen.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
CLÉMENT COGITORE

"An amazing 'mise en-scène'. On the big screen, the images resound with strength and beauty."

Télérama



FESTIVAL DE SAN SEBASTIÁN
INTERNATIONAL FILM
FESTIVAL EDITION 2017



COBY

COBY

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
**CHRISTIAN
SONDEREGGER**

**"The more you
remove, the better
you sculpt. Coby
made his body, and
the director his film.
(...) A pure feel good
movie, that is not at
all fictional."**

Le Monde

Documentary | France | 2017 | 77 mins | M

Debut feature documentarian Christian Sonderegger travelled from France to America's midwest with precise ideas as to how he would record his half-brother's gender change. What he didn't expect was the story that would emerge around family, and how something that was vital to one family member could lead the others into soul-searching.

Coby – as was Jacob's transitioning name – was 23 and partnered with Sara when he decided to take testosterone pills in his first step to becoming male. Surgery came next, as did cutting his hair short to assist his family in their acceptance. With a world of YouTube viewers watching Coby emerge from his gender chrysalis, those closest to him arguably underwent the more radical change – a change of perspective – which is something that sits at the heart of this documentary and informs it even more than the physical awakening.

With Coby now reborn as Jacob, the final step in the transition is a hysterectomy; a crucial choice given Jacob's partner, Sara, does not want to bear a child. Jacob's father expresses the conundrum they face most eloquently when he says, "Changing has consequences. Not changing also has consequences."

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KNOCK

DR. KNOCK

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by
LORRAINE LÉVY

Starring
Omar Sy
Ana Girardot
Alex Lutz
Pascal Elbé

"Omar Sy is
perfectly cast
in a role worthy
of his talents."

Screen Daily

Comedy, Drama | France | 2017 | 113 mins | CTC

Lorraine Lévy takes Jules Romain's much-loved satirical play from 1923, *Knock ou le Triomphe de la médecine*, and turns it on its head (racially and generationally) by presenting Dr. Knock in a different manner to the traditionally older, white gent.

This time, set in country 1950s France, Dr. Knock (Omar Sy; *Monsieur Chocolat*, AF FFF2017) is a former conman-turned-GP who arrives in the sleepy village of St-Maurice with a plan to make himself rich: persuade healthy people they are ill and simply don't realise it.

Knock's strategy is coming together just as planned, until he falls for the beautiful Adèle (Ana Girardot, *True Friends*, AF FFF2014 and *Back To Burgundy* in this year's Festival). The suspicions of the local priest (Alex Lutz) are raised, and the darker elements of his past inevitably catch up with him and his idyllic new life.

Taking the role made famous on stage and screen by Louis Juvet, Omar Sy breathes new life into the character of Dr. Knock, adding additional layers of complexity to one of France's most enduring performance pieces.



LES EX

THE EXES

Comedy | France | 2017 | 84 mins | CTC

With his tongue firmly in cheek, writer-director Maurice Barthélemy (*Low Cost*, 2011; *Casablanca Driver*, 2004) continues to do what he does best – make people laugh – in this very funny comedy that asks: do we ever really leave our exes?

A remake of the Italian farce, *The Exes* perfectly transposes to Paris – The City of Lovers – where the fallout from love includes innumerable broken hearts, unresolved relationships and former partners who just can't let go.

In particular, Antoine (Jean-Paul Rouve, *C'est la vie!*, Opening Night film of this year's Festival) makes it a point to avoid involvement, Didier (Patrick Chesnais, *The List of My Desires*, AF FFF2015) wants his wife back, Laurent (Arnaud Ducret) celebrates the marriage of Julie (Stéfi Celma) through gritted teeth, Serge (the filmmaker himself, Maurice Barthélemy) is hassled by his current girlfriend's ex, and Greg (Baptiste Lecaplain) finds consolation with his ex's dog.

Injecting Vaudevillian elements to up the comedy ante, *The Exes* could be considered the opposite of *Love Actually*, using humour to downplay the drama and, ultimately, bring levity to a more serious message. But, don't think about it too much. This is a film for tuning out and enjoying the ride.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
**MAURICE
BARTHÉLEMY**

Starring
**Jean-Paul Rouve
Maurice Barthélemy
Claudia Tagbo
Patrick Chesnais**

"Never heavy or
tearful, he takes full
advantage of his
actors by letting them
play their characters
naturally, which adds
value to the whole
film rather well
put in scene."

Sens Critique

Renault KOLEOS

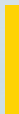
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JALOUSE

JEALOUS

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by
**DAVID & STÉPHANE
FOENKINOS**

Starring
**Karin Viard
Anne Dorval
Anaïs Demoustier
Thibault de Montalembert**

**"An excellent comedy,
both honest and
touching at the same
time, dominated by
the fascinating and
poisonous presence
of Karin Viard."**

Cineuropa

CINEMANIA

CANADA, 2017
OFFICIAL SELECTION

Comedy, Drama | France | 2017 | 106 mins | CTC

Following international veneration for their breakout debut, *Delicacy* (AF FFF2011), directing and screenwriting brothers David and Stéphane Foенkinos finally join creative forces again for an acerbic and dark comedy about a complex middle-class woman re-assessing her life.

Upon turning 50, divorced literature teacher Nathalie (Karin Viard, *The Bélier Family*, AF FFF2015 and *A Bun in the Oven* AF FFF2017) slowly devolves from an accomplished professional and loving mother into an irritable, narcissistic and jealous monster who detests the happiness and success of others around her. Beginning with her strikingly beautiful dancer daughter, Mathilde (played by debutant Dara Tombroff, a former member of the Bordeaux Opera Ballet Company), Nathalie's noxious envy soon extends to include her friends, colleagues and neighbours with far-reaching consequences.

Why has Nathalie's life lost so much meaning that she is now turning on others? Will she escape this hellish spiral that appears beyond her control? The Foенkinos brothers avoid neatly packaged answers to the many questions that swirl around this conundrum and, in doing so, create a film that never rests on cliché or lets its audience settle within a comfort zone.

50 - GIGGLE & GRIN -

French with English subtitles



UN PROFIL POUR DEUX

MR STEIN GOES ONLINE

Comedy, Romance | France, Belgium | 2017 | 100 mins | CTC

In a riotous new millennial twist on the *Cyrano de Bergerac* story, writer-director Stéphane Robelin (*All Together*, 2011) creates a dream role for one of France's supreme elder farceurs, the formidably talented Pierre Richard (*The Tall Blond Man with One Black Shoe*, 1973; *The Fugitives*, 1986).

Pierre is a retired widower who hasn't left his house for two years. On the insistence of his daughter, he learns how to indulge in the delights of the Internet, thanks to some patience from a young man, Alex (Yaniss Lespert, *What's in a Name?*, 2012), who is hired as Pierre's computer tutor.

On a dating site, Pierre meets the young and gorgeous 'flora63' (Fanny Valette, *Little Jerusalem*, 2005) who wants to meet him. But, given Pierre has used Alex's headshot for his profile, he needs to convince Alex to take his place at the rendezvous.

From Brussels to inner city Paris, *Mr Stein Goes Online* serves up generous helpings of laughter, not to mention giving a nod of approval to the older generation and the powers of verbal seduction. The joke of including a string version of Daft Punk's hit '*Get Lucky*' will not go unnoticed.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
STÉPHANE ROBELIN

Starring
Pierre Richard
Yaniss Lespert
Fanny Valette
Gustave Kervem

"Characters,
entanglements,
vaudeville situations
and fresh dialogue make
for an entertaining
and fun film."

El mundo Spain



PROBLEMOS

PROBLEMOS

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by
ÉRIC JUDOR

Starring
Éric Judor
Blanche Gardin
Célia Rosich
Dorothée Pousséo

**"The opportunity
to showcase a
hilarious gallery
of characters each
more striking than
the others."**

IndieWire

Comedy, Drama | France | 2017 | 85 mins | CTC

Éric Jodor – one half of the enduring comedy duo *Éric et Ramzy* – directs and stars in this hilarious apocalyptic romp. Cultures and ideology collide as a chic Parisian couple find themselves stuck in a hippie community at a time when a deadly pandemic wipes out civilisation.

Returning to Paris after a brief holiday, Jeanne (Célia Rosich) and Victor (Éric Jodor) stop off to visit their friend Jean-Paul (Michel Nabokoff) who lives in a commune where individuality, gender distinctions and technology are anathema. Their arrival coincides with the inhabitants' fight against the construction of an aquatic park in the region.

One morning, the community wakes to discover the riot police are gone. But their joy quickly turns to despair when they realise the trending hashtag 'Panda Mix' is not the latest hot DJ from Paris. The future of humanity seems to rest with this radically militant but musingly eccentric group of misfits.

Featuring a stellar ensemble cast – including the film's co-writer Blanche Gardin – *Problemos* is a witty *Age-Of-Aquarius-meets-The-Walking-Dead* comedy caper for Francophiles seeking the lighter side of contemporary French cinema.



ROCK'N ROLL

ROCK'N ROLL

Comedy | France | 2017 | 123 mins | G

Fact meets fiction in the latest comedy from Guillaume Canet (*French Riviera*, AF FFF2015; director of *Tell No One*, 2006; and possibly best-known to English language audiences from Danny Boyle's *The Beach*, 2000) where he self-deprecatingly turns the camera on himself in something like a French version of Larry David's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*.

Guillaume Canet is Guillaume Canet, now aged 43, and married with a son to his real-life partner, Marion Cotillard. When he starts shooting a movie for his friend, Philippe Lefebvre, in which he stars across from model-turned-actress Camille Rowe, he realises he is not "rock'n roll" enough for the younger generation.

This realisation turns into an obsession that sends Canet on an ego trip into the ridiculous. Cotillard is too embroiled in her own career to take notice (with a running gag that won't be lost on non-French speakers, where she's trying to perfect a Quebecois accent); that is, until Canet goes that one step too far.

Featuring a veritable line-up of star cameos – including Gilles Lellouche, Yvan Attal and the great '60s pop star, Johnny Hallyday (who only passed away in December 2017) – this is a raucous and fun satire from one French celebrity who isn't afraid to poke fun at himself.

Directed by
GUILLAUME CANET

Starring
Guillaume Canet
Marion Cotillard
Gilles Lellouche
Kev Adams

"Cotillard offers up such a sincere performance that you can't help but laugh. They are impressively lifelike."

Hollywood Reporter

**TRIBECA
FILM
FESTIVAL**

(NEW YORK)
EDITION 2017
SELECTION
OFFICIAL
COMPETITION

French with English subtitles

- GIGGLE & GRIN - 53



LE RETOUR DU HÉROS

THE RETURN OF THE HERO

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by
LAURENT TIRARD

Starring
Jean Dujardin
Mélanie Laurent
Noémie Merlant
Féodor Atkine

**"A new genre and
a new experience
for strong actors
Mélanie Laurent
and Jean Dujardin."**

France TV info

Historic, Comedy | France | 2018 | 91 mins | CTC

The dashing and debonair Academy Award-winning actor from *The Artist*, Jean Dujardin, lights up the screen as a swashbuckling lothario-turned-faux-hero in a bawdy new comedy from writer-director Laurent Tirard (*Little Nicholas*, 2009); the brand new "OSS at Napoleon's time".

It is 1809 in France and the great seducer, Captain Neuville (Jean Dujardin, also in *Möbius*, AF FFF2015; *Un Plus Une*, AF FFF2016), comes to ask for the hand of the young Pauline (Noémie Merlant) in marriage. But Pauline's sister, Elisabeth (Mélanie Laurent, *Boomerang*, AF FFF2016; director of *Tomorrow* AF FFF2017; and possibly best-known to English language audiences as Shosanna in Quentin Tarantino's *Inglorious Bastards*, 2009) proves impervious to Neuville's charms.

When Neuville is called to the front and Pauline sits anxiously waiting for news, Elisabeth takes to the pen and, through her valiant prose, makes him a real hero of war when the reality is decidedly different. Then Neuville returns for his bride...

Part Casanova, part Cyrano de Bergerac and many parts funny, *The Return of the Hero* comes together through the chemistry of its enigmatic leads, particularly Dujardin and Laurent, who are unimpeachable in their comic abilities.

Mon

GUERLAIN

THE NEW FRAGRANCE

ANGELINA JOLIE



A man with dark hair and glasses is shown in profile, looking intently at something off-camera. He is holding a small piece of popcorn in his right hand, about to eat it. In front of him is a large glass bowl filled with popcorn. The background is a textured brick wall. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows.

Friday Night Movies

Fridays 9.30pm





MARYLINE

BRIGHT WEAKNESS

Drama, Comedy | France | 2017 | 107 mins | MA15+

In his second directorial feature following the clever gender-bender *Me, Myself and Mum* (AF FFF2014, in which he also performed), Guillaume Gallienne crafts the perfect performance vehicle for his fellow Comédie-Française thespian, Adeline D'Hermey.

D'Hermey (*Camille Rewinds*, AF FFF2013) is Maryline, the central enigma of this film; an actress arriving in Paris from a small French village, hopeful of finding her place as a star of the screen. But Maryline has some behavioural problems that cause her to lose her cool in front of the camera and struggle with her personal relationships. Consequently, her life becomes one of a labourer and a lush.

Then Maryline meets a kindly film director (Xavier Beauvois, *Farewell, My Queen*, AF FFF2017) and, with some help from his lead actress (Vanessa Paradis), this troubled soul discovers her true calling, although it is not entirely what she expected it to be.

Having only appeared in supporting roles, Maryline is the character piece D'Hermey deserves to showcase her impressive range and nuance as an actress. It all leads to an unconventional closing act of wordless gestures and burgeoning rage that is a credit to the artistry of its makers.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
GUILLAUME GALLIENNE

Starring
Adeline D'Hermey
Vanessa Paradis
Xavier Beauvois
Alice Pol

**"A tour de force
of wordless
gestures and
suppressed rage."**

Hollywood Reporter



PRENDRE LE LARGE

CATCH THE WIND

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by
GAËL MOREL

Starring
Sandrine Bonnaire
Mouna Fettou
Kamal El Amri
Ilian Bergala

"Sandrine Bonnaire's
performance here
is phenomenal.
Her character
delivers one of the
most complex and
heartrending portraits
of a woman we've
seen on screen."

Roma Festival 2017

OFFICIAL SELECTION

tiff

CANADA, 2017
SELECTION GALA

Drama | France | 2017 | 103 mins | M

Actor-turned-screenwriter-director Gaël Morel re-imagines the migrant experience in his celebrated oeuvre *Catch the Wind* – as well as an audacious antidote to the *Eat, Pray, Love* skew on midlife crisis.

The world of Edith – played by César-award winning actress Sandrine Bonnaire (*Under the Sun of Satan*, 1987) – is turned upside-down when the factory at which she has worked all her life relocates to Tangier. The workers are left with a choice – unemployment or Morocco. Estranged from her son and with no real ties to France, Edith is the only employee to take up the offer to move.

She establishes a friendship with Mina (Mouna Fettou), the owner of the guesthouse where she resides. But living in Morocco is testing, with Edith additionally demoted from quality control inspector to seamstress in harsher working conditions. Under Mina's stewardship – and through her preparedness to embrace local customs and cultural mores – Edith turns the page on an exciting new chapter in her life.

Premiering at the Toronto International Film Festival, *Catch the Wind* is a timely social commentary that upturns the migrant story to a different perspective – one of a French person settling into a foreign land. It also marks a triumphal career renaissance of French cinema stalwart Bonnaire.

58 - EVERYDAY HEROINES - Arabic & French with English subtitles



LES GARDIENNES

THE GUARDIANS

Historic, Drama | France | 2017 | 134 mins | M

Having won the Grand Prix at Cannes in 2010 for *Of Gods and Men*, writer-director Xavier Beauvois (also performing in *Let the Sunshine In* and *Bright Weakness* in this year's Festival) continues his awards-worthy form with this masterful work of restraint that cuts deeply into an emotionally affecting vein.

Adapted from the novel by Ernest Pérochon, *The Guardians* covers many years on the Paridier farm, beginning in 1915 when the men must leave for war. The matriarch of the household, Hortense (Nathalie Baye, *Moka*, AF FFF2017; *It's Only the End of the World*, AF FFF2017), rallies her daughter, Solange (Laura Smet), and new farmhand, orphan Francine (newcomer Iris Bry in a revelatory performance), to shoulder the back-breaking farm duties.

In this visually sumptuous pastoral setting, the women learn self-sufficiency, despite the hardships, and even fall in love. It all culminates in a final scene that acts as a fitting homage to the closing moments of Stanley Kubrick's classic, *Paths of Glory*. Rarely does contemporary cinema employ such subtlety, which makes *The Guardians* a triumph of less-is-more, eschewing hubris and unnecessary histrionics. The sweeping melodies of distinguished French composer Michel Legrand (*The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, 1964; *The Young Girls of Rochefort*, 1967) help elevate this film to utter brilliance.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
XAVIER BEAUVOIS

Starring
Nathalie Baye
Laura Smet
Olivier Rabourdin
Iris Bry

"Beauvois still
masters his uniquely
classical brand of
filmmaking, coaxing
strong performances
out of veteran
Nathalie Baye and
newbie Iris Bry."

Hollywood Reporter

OFFICIAL SELECTION

tiff
CANADA, 2017
SELECTION GALA

French with English subtitles - EVERYDAY HEROINES - 59



JEUNE FEMME

MONTPARNASSE BIENVENÜE

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
LÉONOR SERRAILLE

Starring
Lætitia Dosch
Grégoire Monsaingeon
Souleymane Seye Ndiaye
Léonie Simaga

"Léonor Serraille's superb film features an outstanding performance from Lætitia Dosch as the volatile and unpredictable Paula."

David Stratton



Drama, Comedy | France | 2017 | 97 mins | MA15+

As a debut writer-director, Léonor Serraille – utilising an almost entirely female crew – premiered impressively in Un Certain Regard at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival and Cannes Caméra d'Or, with this witty and highly watchable drama about a spirited 31-year-old woman trying to re-establish herself in the Left Bank Parisian neighbourhood of the title.

"I'm not bright but I'm honest," is one of the things Paula (Lætitia Dosch, also appearing in *4 Days in France* in this year's Festival) proclaims about herself on her return to Paris after an extended jaunt abroad. She is broke, her old boyfriend has little time (or accommodation) for her, and she really needs to get a job. But there is a duality to Paula and, as much as she acts like a child, facing certain adult responsibilities brings out something else in her.

Hinging on the infinite appeal of its leading lady, Lætitia Dosch, *Montparnasse Bienvenüe* is a finely sketched portrait of a very particular type of female character; one who both surprises and unsettles us. Paula's gradual metamorphosis lays testament to its new filmmaker's ability to create characters of considerable nuance that also fly in the face of cliché.



60 - EVERYDAY HEROINES - French with English subtitles



MADAME HYDE

MRS. HYDE

Drama, Science Fiction | France | 2018 | 95 mins | MA15+

The irrepressible Isabelle Huppert (*Macadam Stories*, AF FFF2016; *Valley of Love*, AF FFF2016) features as the eponymous Mrs. Hyde in this eccentric revision of Robert Louis Stevenson's literary classic, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, directed by the offbeat, award-winning Serge Bozon (*La France*, 2007).

Mme Géquil (Huppert) is a prim, meek and unconventional physics teacher at a working class suburban Parisian high school, often derided by her fellow colleagues for her inability to engage students and control the unruly ones. On an appropriately stormy night, she is struck by lightning in her private laboratory and turns into something decidedly "different".

Noticeably closer to Jerry Lewis' 1963 classic *The Nutty Professor* and Serge Gainsbourg's 1968 hit *Docteur Jekyll et Monsieur Hyde* than Stevenson's dark tale of out-of-control ego, *Mrs. Hyde* is still uniquely Serge Bozon in its idiosyncratic style.

A brilliant supporting cast – including Romain Duris (*The Spanish Apartment*) as the school's principal – helps to leverage the laughs, while underpinning it all is a sneaky exploration of the relationship between the privileged and under-privileged in contemporary French society.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
SERGE BOZON

Starring
Isabelle Huppert
Romain Duris
José Garcia
Adda Senani

"Eccentric and
occasionally
hilarious, this is yet
another uniquely
Bozonian creation."

Hollywood Reporter



Festival del film Locarno
Official selection

French with English subtitles - EVERYDAY HEROINES - 61



NUMÉRO UNE

NUMBER ONE

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by
TONIE MARSHALL

Starring
Emmanuelle Devos
Benjamin Biolay
Richard Berry
Sami Frey

"This lively and suspenseful ensemble film features a wonderfully modulated turn from Emmanuelle Devos as engineer, executive, wife and mother."

Screendaily

OFFICIAL SELECTION

tiff

CANADA, 2017
SELECTION GALA

Drama, Comedy | France, Belgium | 2017 | 110 mins | CTC

Tonie Marshall, the only female filmmaker to win a Best Director César (*Venus Beauty Institute*, 1999), explores the status of women in France's corporate world and how merit shapes up against privilege in her latest drama, *Number One*.

Emmanuelle (Emmanuelle Devos, *Domestic Life*, AF FFF2014) has risen through the ranks of a major energy firm to sit on its board of directors. When an influential network of women offers to help her become head of France's biggest water company – making her the first woman to hold such a position – what at first seems like an exciting challenge degenerates into all-out gender war. Representing the 'ancien regime' of corporate white male privilege is Jean (Richard Berry, *Crossfire*, AF FFF2009), who also has his eyes set on this role.

Featuring a stellar ensemble cast that includes Suzanne Clément (*Laurence Anyways*, AF FFF2013), Sami Frey and John Lynch (*In the Name of the Father*, 1993; *Sliding Doors*, 1998), *Number One* is a thought-provoking portrayal of the down-and-dirty machinations utilised to acquire power and stay at the top of the corporate "heap".

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JOURS DE FRANCE

4 DAYS IN FRANCE

Comedy, Drama | France | 2017 | 141 mins | MA15+

In his debut feature, director-writer Jérôme Reybaud manages to eschew gratuitous sexual encounters, despite dedicating over two hours of screen-time to a man's road-trip through France with only Grindr, the gay social dating app, as company.

In an unexpectedly tender fashion, *4 Days in France* follows Pierre (Pascal Cervo) on a sentimental journey that lasts less than a week, starting on the day he wakes up and leaves his partner Paul (Arthur Igual), jumping behind the wheel of his Alfa Romeo to travel through France.

With no particular destination in mind, Pierre relies on Grindr to arrange his 'liaisons' along the way but, unbeknownst to him, Paul is also using the app to keep track of Pierre's movements. After four days and nights of random hookups – sexual and otherwise – will the two find each other again?

With the undulating mountains of provincial France as a romantic backdrop, this film offers an insight into how gay men living outside urban centres navigate their sexuality. An eclectic cast – including Nathalie Richard and Lætitia Dosch, also appearing in this year's Festival in *Montparnasse Bienvenüe* – add colour to Pierre's travels.

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
JÉRÔME REYBAUD

Starring
Pascal Cervo
Arthur Igual
Fabienne Babe
Nathalie Richard

**"The film offers
gorgeous shots
of the French
countryside and an
idea of how different
gay men navigate
present-day life in
France."**

Hollywood Reporter



CE QUI NOUS LIE

BACK TO BURGUNDY

Drama | France | 2017 | 113 mins | M

Directed by
CÉDRIC KLAPISCH

Starring
Pio Marmaï
Ana Girardot
François Civil
Jean-Marc Roulot

**"It's the kind of movie
you'll want to slather
on a baguette and pop
into your mouth."**

The Times

In his latest work, screenwriter Cédric Klapisch (*My Piece of the Pie*, AF FFF2012; and best known for *The Spanish Apartment*, 2002) perfectly captures the transfixing beauty of seasonal change across one of France's most famous winemaking regions.

With the death of his father looming, Jean (Pio Marmaï) returns from his Australian winery to his childhood 'domaine' in Burgundy after a 10-year absence. He takes over the family's vineyard along with his siblings Juliette (Ana Girardot, *A Perfect Man*, AF FFF2016; and *Dr. Knock* in this year's AF FFF) and Jérémie (François Civil, *Bus Palladium*, AF FFF2011). Over the course of a year, Jean, Juliette and Jérémie put aside their lingering resentments about the past as they seek to maintain their father's legacy and defy expectations – financial, emotional and professional – of those around them.

A heartfelt love letter to what could be argued are France's greatest passions – 'cinéma et vin' – *Back to Burgundy* is a nuanced parable of sibling camaraderie and imploding familial tension but ultimately one that arrives at the inevitable conclusion that love is like wine... it needs time.



PETIT PAYSAN

BLOODY MILK

Psychological thriller | France | 2017 | 90 mins | MA15+

This debut feature from Hubert Charuel sees the filmmaker channel his own childhood in France's rural northeast – even shooting the film at his own parent's working dairy farm – using it as the backdrop for a captivating psychological thriller in which a desperate farmer takes desperate measures to protect his livelihood.

Swann Arlaud, one of French cinema's most exciting up-and-coming talents, plays a lonesome 30-something dairy farmer, Pierre, whose life revolves around his veterinarian sister, his parents and his property. A deadly virus affecting cows hits France and Pierre finds one of his much-loved herds infected. Distraught at the prospect of losing even one cow, he attempts to hide the outbreak from authorities and vows to fight to the bitter end to save them, even if it means resorting to drastic and irreversible measures.

Charuel's firsthand experience of farming life creates an authentic 'mise en scène' that juxtaposes the hardships of family micro-farming against giant multinational agribusinesses; a plot-point that is reflected in its French title, *Petit paysan* (little farmer). This is a compelling and impressive debut that pulls at the heartstrings in an unsuspecting way, which was reflected in its widespread acclaim when screened at the 2017 Cannes International Critics Week.

French with English subtitles

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
HUBERT CHARUEL

Starring
Swann Arlaud
Sara Giraudeau
Bouli Lanners
Isabelle Candelier

**"A compelling
film with rarely
seen characters in
French cinema."**

Variety



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

- TOUR OF FRANCE - 67



NORMANDIE NUE

NORMANDY NUDE

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by
PHILIPPE LE GUAY

Starring
François Cluzet
François-Xavier Demaison
Arthur Dupont
Grégory Gadebois

Comedy, Drama | France | 2018 | 107 mins | CTC

The eagerly-awaited new comedy from Philippe Le Guay, director of 2011 Festival favourite *The Women on the 6th Floor*, *Normandy Nude* is a warm and wise tale of a proud farming community who must put their grievances aside in order to save their village.

The charming town of Mêle-sur-Sarthe, Normandy, is in crisis. Dairy and livestock prices have plummeted due to a flood of imports, and farmers are threatened with foreclosure. Mayor Georges Balbuzard (the irrepressible François Cluzet, beloved from *The Intouchables* and *The Country Doctor* AF FFF2017) does his best to fight and raise awareness of their plight, but the situation isn't deemed newsworthy for national media.

Things seem hopeless... until the day famous American photographer Newman (Toby Jones) passes through the village, inadvertently discovering the perfect backdrop for his next shoot. Balbuzard sees a rare opportunity, and sets about convincing the townsfolk - the farmers, the butcher, the pharmacist, some 200 in all - to participate. The catch? They all have to pose naked!

Le Guay's wonderful ensemble delivers a memorable portrait of community, resilience and 'fraternité'. Leave your inhibitions at home; you're assured of returning with a smile.



PARIS ETC.

PARIS ETC.

Comedy | France | 2017 | 3 x 30 mins | CTC

From the imagination of Zabou Breitman (*All Three of Us*, AF FFF2016) – co-written with Anne Berest and Maïwenn (director of *Mon Roi*, AF FFF2016; and *The Price of Success* in this year's Festival) – comes *Paris etc.*; a television series created for Canal+ that takes a cheeky foray into the private lives of Parisian women.

Lou Roy-Lecollinet, Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, Anaïs Demoustier, Naidra Ayadi and Zabou Breitman play five women going through the ups & downs of their daily humdrum, beautifully framed by Paris. Through them, we experience five ways of being, crying, screaming, laughing, grinding teeth, having fun, not having fun, drinking too much, growing up, resisting stuff, making a child, not making a child, not wanting to go home... and five ways to love.

Each episode starts with a touch of sauciness but then moves into humour mixed with genuine pathos, and endearing female personalities with sublime Parisian locations. Archival imagery from Paris in the 1950s is intercut with our heroines' adventures, which gives the whole series a gorgeous vintage aesthetic.

The Festival will be screening the first three 30-minute episodes of season one of *Paris etc.* as a feature presentation.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by
ZABOU BREITMAN

Starring
Valeria Bruni Tedeschi
Anaïs Demoustier
Bruno Todeschini
Zabou Breitman

"A Paris postcard, a handful of exes and their loves that never cease to finish; a real sketch comedy."

Télérama



L'ÉCOLE BUISSONNIÈRE

THE SCHOOL OF LIFE

Comedy, Drama | France | 2017 | 116 mins | PG

Directed by
NICOLAS VANIER

Starring
François Cluzet
Éric Elmosnino
François Berléand
Jean Scandel

"The casting is spot-on, especially Scandel as Paul and Totoche, who is scruffily portrayed by the charismatic François Cluzet."

The Up Coming

Filmmaker Nicolas Vanier (director *Belle and Sebastian* 2013; see *Belle and Sebastian 3* in this year's Festival) borrows from his own childhood experiences growing up in Sologne to inform *The School of Life* – a gratifying, feel-good story about a boy whose miserable existence in a Parisian orphanage is changed forever when he is taken to live in rural France.

Paul (Jean Scandel) has only ever known the dark, prison-like world of high walls, fear and melancholy of the orphanage in which he lives. When entrusted to the care of Célestine (Valérie Karsenti) and Borel (Éric Elmosnino, *The Bélier Family*, AF FFF2015) Paul is whisked away to leafy forests, misty ponds and vast fields of Count de la Fresnaye for whom Célestine and Borel work.

When he befriends an eccentric poacher, Totoche (François Cluzet, *The Intouchables*, 2011), Paul learns about life, the many secrets of the Count's mysterious forests and that his coming to Sologne was more than just pure chance.

Breathtakingly photographed, Vanier's film is a loving child's-eye ode to the beauty of the natural world – and what it can teach us about life and death – that cannot help but make everyone who sees it smile.

EAU THERMALE
Avène

#SUNSENSITIVE

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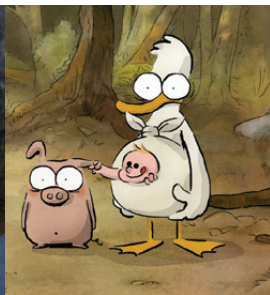
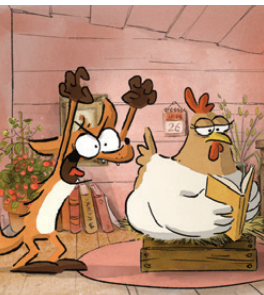
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BELLE ET SEBASTIEN 3, LE DERNIER CHAPITRE

BELLE & SEBASTIEN, FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Adventure, Family | France | 2018 | 97 mins | CTC

The Belle & Sebastian adventure began in 2013 when a six-year-old and his dog sought to foil a Nazi attempt to capture French resistance fighters. As the name suggests, such an incredible friendship between boy and beast continues in this third instalment of the film series, *Belle & Sebastian, Friends for Life*.

Picking up where its predecessor left off, Sebastian (Félix Bossuet) is now aged 12, and has decided not to follow his father and Angelina to Canada, choosing instead to remain in the French Alps with César (Tchéky Karyo) to watch over Belle who's now become mother to three beautiful pups. When a stranger arrives claiming to be Belle's rightful owner, Sebastian finds himself in a position where he must protect his best friend and her little ones.

The second feature by César award-winning actor-turned-director Clovis Cornillac (*Blind Date*, AF FFF2016), *Belle & Sebastian, Friends for Life* comes from the pen of Juliette Sales and Fabien Suarez who wrote the other two films in the series. It also rekindles the magic of original stars, Bossuet and Karyo, as Sebastian and César respectively.

**AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE**

Directed by
CLOVIS CORNILLAC

Starring
**Félix Bossuet
Tchéky Karyo
Clovis Cornillac
Margaux Chatelier**

**"Belle and Sebastian
are back for a new
challenge in the
snowy Alps. Get ready
for some breathtaking
landscapes, true
friendship, and a
lot of excitement!"**

Cinando



LE GRAND MÉCHANT RENARD ET AUTRES CONTES

BIG BAD FOX & OTHER TALES

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Directed by
BENJAMIN RENNER
PATRICK IMBERT

Voices

Céline Ronté
Boris Rehlinger
Guillaume Bouchède
Guillaume Darnault

"A lively trio of
cartoons that are
wacky, heartwarming
and wise."

Hollywood Reporter

OFFICIAL SELECTION

tiff

CANADA, 2017
SELECTION GALA

Animated Film, Family | France | 2017 | 80 mins | CTC

Academy Award-nominated director of *Ernest & Celestine* (AF FFF2013), Benjamin Renner, teams again with his collaborator Patrick Imbert to wow young audiences with their genius in animation with *The Big Bad Fox and Other Tales*, a screen adaptation of Renner's own graphic novel.

If you think the countryside is calm and peaceful, then you might want to think again. France's most unconventional farm plays home to a number of mixed-up animal folk. We are introduced to a fox that thinks he is a chicken, a rabbit that acts like a stork and a duck that wants to replace Father Christmas. Not surprisingly, their shenanigans are as hilarious as their identity confusion.

Featuring the voices of Céline Ronté and Boris Rehlinger, *The Big Bad Fox and Other Tales* is a charming, heartwarming and very, very funny film, as confirmed by the way in which it was embraced at the 2017 Annecy Animation Festival. Drawing inspiration from *Looney Tunes*, Renner and Imbert's styling and knack for creating exuberantly irreverent characters is guaranteed to delight children, as well as the child within us all.

The Alliance Française French Film Festival is the result of collaboration between the Alliances Françaises of Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth and the cultural services of the French Embassy in Australia:

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We would like to take this opportunity to say **Merci** to our valued Festival partners!

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UNIFRANCE FILMS

AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTORS: Bonsai Film, Icon, Limelight Distribution, Madman Entertainment, Palace Films, Rialto Distribution, Studiocanal, Umbrella Entertainment, Vendetta Films

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FESTIVAL PARTNER EXHIBITORS: Paul Dravet, Rachell Baker, Robert Love, Michelle Kotevski, Elizabeth L Kleinberg, Craig Donarski, Nikki Akbar and John Kelly.

SPECIAL THANKS to Festival Patron David Stratton

Thanks to all Festival volunteers.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Matthew Sharah

WEBSITE: Tip Top Web

PUBLICITY: Annette Smith (Ned & Co), Angela Tolley, Neil Ward, Coralie Wood, Bernie Ryan, Adriana Begovich and Kath Rose & Associates.



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OPENING NIGHT GALA

C'est la vie!

Cinema Paradiso | Wednesday 14 March

Let yourself be carried away by the energy of the hugely entertaining new hit from the directors of *The Intouchables*.

6.30pm Arrival

6:45pm *C'est la vie!* (From the Directors of *The Intouchables*)

9:00pm After Party at Connections Night-Club

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

C'est la vie!

Luna on SX | Wednesday 14 March

6.00pm Drinks & delicacies on arrival

6:45pm *C'est la vie!*

For more information, please check the Festival website at affrenchfilmfestival.org.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



WELCOME TO CANADA

BPM (Beats Per Minute)

Cinema Paradiso | Friday 16 March

Presented by the High Commission of Canada, enjoy a glass of wine and delicacies before viewing this 2017 Cannes Film Festival "Grand Prix" winner.

6:00pm Reception - Including drinks & delicacies.

6:30pm *BPM (Beats Per Minute)*



A TASTE OF FRANCE

Back to Burgundy

Windsor Cinema | Sunday 18 March

Be entranced by this nuanced parable about love and wine, and take time for a glass of wine before the film.

3.30pm Reception - Includes a glass of wine on arrival.

4:00pm *Back to Burgundy*



LADIES' NIGHT

Jealous

Cinema Paradiso | Friday 23 March

Come along to our Ladies' Night and enjoy a glass of sparkling wine before this brilliant comedy.

6:00pm Reception - Glass of sparkling on arrival.

6:45pm *Jealous*



CLOSING NIGHT

50 IS THE NEW 30!

CLOSING NIGHT

50 Is the New 30

Cinema Paradiso | Wednesday 4 April

Enjoy an evening of drinks & delicacies followed by this comedy for the closing of the Festival.

6:30m Reception - Glass of wine & delicacies on arrival.

7:00pm *50 Is the New 30*

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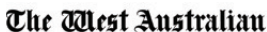
BRONZE CLASS



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SCREENING SCHEDULE

CINEMA PARADISO

Wednesday 14 March

OPENING NIGHT

6:45pm *C'est la vie!*

Thursday 15 March

11:00am *Two Is a Family*

1:30pm *Barbara*

4:00pm *Orchestra Class*

6:30pm *Montparnasse
Bienvenue*

8:30pm *Redoubtable*

Friday 16 March

11:00am *The Exes*

1:30pm *The Brigade*

4:00pm *See You Up There*

WELCOME TO CANADA

6:30pm *BPM (Beats Per Minute)**

9:15pm *Double Lover*

Saturday 17 March

11:00am *Big Bad Fox & Other
Tales*

1:30pm *Aurore*

4:00pm *Bright Weakness*

6:30pm *Custody*

8:30pm *4 Days in France*

Sunday 18 March

11:00am *Rodin*

1:30pm *Mr Stein Goes Online*

4:00pm *Reinventing Marvin*

6:30pm *Number One*

8:45pm *The Workshop*

Monday 19 March

11:00am *Dr. Knock*

1:30pm *The Return of the
Hero*

4:00pm *Jealous*

6:15pm *Ava*

8:30pm *Ladies*

Tuesday 20 March

11:00am *Two Is a Family*

1:30pm *The School of Life*

4:00pm *The Workshop*

6:30pm *Tomorrow &
Thereafter*

8:30pm *Dr. Knock*

Wednesday 21 March

11:00am *Ladies*

1:30pm *Normandy Nude*

4:00pm *Back to Burgundy*

6:30pm *The Price of Success*

8:30pm *Paris etc.*

Thursday 22 March

11:00am *The Return of the
Hero*

1:30pm *See You Up There*

4:00pm *Problemos*

6:30pm *Mr Stein Goes Online*

8:40pm *The Exes*

Friday 23 March

11:00am *Back to Burgundy*

1:30pm *Custody*

4:00pm *Number One*

LADIES' NIGHT

6:45pm *Jealous*

9:10pm *Normandy Nude*

Saturday 24 March

11:00am *Dr. Knock*

1:30pm *Mrs. Hyde*

4:00pm *M*

6:30pm *Custody*

8:45pm *Barbara*

Sunday 25 March

11:00am *Belle & Sebastian,
Friends for Life*

1:30pm *Two Is a Family*

4:00pm *C'est la vie!*

6:30pm *Orchestra Class*

8:45pm *The Brigade*

Monday 26 March

11:00am *Ladies*

1:30pm *Redoubtable*

4:00pm *Gauguin*

6:30pm *Ava*

8:45pm *Problemos*

Tuesday 27 March

11:00am *Number One*

1:30pm *Ismaël's Ghosts*

4:00pm *The School of Life*

6:30pm *The Guardians*

9:10pm *Jealous*

Wednesday 28 March

11:00am See You Up There
1:30pm Custody
4:00pm C'est la vie!
6:30pm Golden Years
8:45pm Double Lover

Thursday 29 March

11:00am The Exes
1:30pm Coby
4:00pm Aureore
6:30pm Mr Stein Goes Online
8:45pm BPM (Beats Per Minute)

Friday 30 March

1:30pm Dr. Knock
4:00pm Bloody Milk
6:30pm Lola Pater
8:30pm C'est la vie!

Saturday 31 March

11:00am Barbara
1:30pm Back to Burgundy
4:00pm The School of Life
6:30pm If You Saw His Heart
8:30pm Custody

Sunday 01 April

11:00am Belle & Sebastian, Friends for Life
1:30pm See You Up There
4:00pm Catch the Wind
6:30pm Braguino
7:50pm Normandy Nude

Monday 02 April

11:00am Jealous
1:30pm Two Is a Family

4:00pm Diane Has the Right Shape
6:15pm BPM (Beats Per Minute)
9:00pm Ismaël's Ghosts

Tuesday 03 April

11:00am C'est la vie!
1:30pm Mr Stein Goes Online
4:00pm Dr. Knock
6:30pm The Return of the Hero
8:45pm Rock'n Roll

Wednesday 04 April

11:00am Orchestra Class
1:30pm The Workshop
4:00pm Redoubtable

CLOSING NIGHT

7:00pm 50 Is the New 30*

Thursday 05 April

6:30pm **Encore Screening**

Friday 06 April

6:30pm **Encore Screening**

Saturday 07 April

4:00pm **Encore Screening**

Sunday 08 April

4:00pm **Encore Screening**

CINEMA WINDSOR

Thursday 15 March

11:00am Dr. Knock
4:00pm Problemos
6:30pm The Price of Success

Friday 16 March

11:00am C'est la vie

4:00pm Aureore
6:45pm Lola Pater

Saturday 17 March

11:00am The Return of the Hero
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Sunday 18 March

11:00am Belle & Sebastian, Friends for Life

A TASTE OF FRANCE

4:00pm Back to Burgundy*

6:45pm See You Up There

Monday 19 March

11:00am Redoubtable
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6:30pm The Guardians

Saturday 24 March

11:00am Big Bad Fox & Other Tales
 4:00pm Reinventing Marvin
 6:45pm C'est la vie!

Sunday 25 March

11:00am School of Life
 4:00pm Braguino
 6:30pm Mrs. Hyde

Monday 26 March

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Saturday 07 April

4:00pm **Encore Screening**

Sunday 08 April

4:00pm **Encore Screening**

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CULTURAL EVENTS

KEY EVENTS 2018

CINEMA



Swan Valley Outdoor Cinema - 14 & 20 Jan / 2 & 10 Feb

AF French Film Festival - 14 March - 4 April

AF Classic Film Festival - September

RDV Cinema: Once a month



SOCIAL

Open Day - June

Quiz Night - September

GASTRONOMY



Tour de France des Spiritueux - June

Beaujolais Nouveau - November

Vin & Fromage - Last Monday of the month



WORKSHOPS

Conversation - First Friday of the month

Theatre

Grammar & more

MUSIC



Fête de la musique - June

Bastille Day Ball - July

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TICKETING & CONDITIONS

OPENING NIGHT GALA *C'EST LA VIE!*

Wednesday 14 March

Cinema Paradiso

Tickets:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Alliance Française de Perth membership & Luna Palace Privilege card | \$55.00 |
| Non-members | \$60.00 |

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION *C'EST LA VIE!*

Wednesday 14 March

Luna on SX

Tickets:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Alliance Française de Perth membership & Luna Palace Privilege card | \$27.00 |
| Non-members | \$33.00 |

CLOSING NIGHT *50 IS THE NEW 30*

Wednesday 4 April

Cinema Paradiso

Tickets:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Alliance Française de Perth membership & Luna Palace Privilege card | \$30.00 |
| Non-members | \$35.00 |

SPECIAL EVENTS

WELCOME TO CANADA *BPM (BEATS PER MINUTE)*

Friday 16 March

Cinema Paradiso

A TASTE OF FRANCE *BACK TO BURGUNDY*

Sunday 18 March

Windsor Cinema

LADIES' NIGHT *JEALOUS*

Friday 23 March

Cinema Paradiso

Tickets:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Alliance Française de Perth membership & Luna Palace Privilege card | \$26.00 |
| Non-members | \$30.00 |

Please note, Opening Night, Closing Night and Special Events are 18+.

GENERAL ADMISSION

(Excluding Opening/Closing Nights, Special Events)

| | |
|--|---------|
| Luna Palace Privilege Card, Alliance Française de Perth members & all concessions* | \$17.00 |
| Adult | \$20.00 |
| Under 25s | \$15.50 |
| Children 12 & under (see classifications) | \$13.00 |
| Students weekdays sessions (before 4.30pm) | \$13.00 |

*One discount per concession. Eligible concessions: senior (60+), pensioner, full-time student, Health Care Card holders, Pensioners, Luna Palace Privilege Card Holders, Alliance Française de Perth Members. Proof of concession/membership must be presented at the cinema box office to obtain discount.

To purchase your Alliance Française Membership, visit www.afperth.com.au

GROUPS

(Excluding Opening/Closing Nights, Special Events)

School and group booking discounts are available (20+ persons).

Please call 9227 1771 or email lucy@lunapalace.com.au for details.

MULTIPLE FILM PASSES

(Excludes Opening/Closing Nights, Special Events)

5 FILM PASS:

(Excluding Opening/Closing Nights, Special Events)

| | |
|---|---------|
| Alliance Française de Perth membership & Luna Palace Privilege card | \$70.00 |
| Non-members | \$80.00 |

TICKETING & CONDITIONS

Multi-film passes are for separate, preselected sessions for one person and are available directly from the cinema box offices only. Multi-film passes are valid for sessions of one cinema location only. Cinemas can only redeem passes for sessions at their respective venues. All sessions must be chosen at the time of purchase. Lost or stolen passes will not be replaced or refunded.

ADVANCE TICKETS ON SALE FROM WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY.

IN CINEMA

At Cinema Paradiso, Luna on SX & Windsor Box Offices (11am – 9pm, daily until sold out) or:

CINEMA PARADISO

164 James Street,
Northbridge WA 6003
(08) 9227 1771 (No phone bookings)

LUNA ON SX

13 Essex Street,
Fremantle WA 6160
(08) 9430 5999 (No phone bookings)

WINDSOR CINEMA

98 Stirling Highway,
Nedlands WA 6009
(08) 9386 3554 (No phone bookings)

The cinema box office accepts most major credit cards (excluding Amex & Diners) but does not take telephone bookings.

ONLINE

Tickets for all venues are available securely online at www.affrenchfilmfestival.org and www.lunapalace.com.au

All major credit cards accepted (excluding Amex & Diners). Booking fees apply.

FESTIVAL CONDITIONS

All festival films are restricted to persons 18 years of age and over, unless specified (see classification recommendations). This relates not necessarily to the content of the films, but to the legal requirements of holding the festival, as set by the Classification Board.

Box offices hours vary between venues. Please check the venue ticketing page for box office hours. Please ask at the venue for accepted credit cards and credit card surcharges.

Festival tickets, once acquired, are non-refundable and non-exchangeable. Lost or stolen tickets will not be replaced or refunded. Ticket price includes GST.

We anticipate that door sales will be available for most sessions, however this cannot be guaranteed. Patrons are urged to purchase their tickets in advance to avoid disappointment.

Patrons are encouraged to collect booked tickets 30 minutes prior to the session to avoid queues.

Luna Palace Cinema passes and other complimentary passes, cinema promotions and free ticket offers are not valid for festival screenings.

Dates, times and programs are correct at the time of publication, but may need to be altered due to unforeseen circumstances. We reluctantly reserve the right to withdraw, change and replace programs without notice.

All non-English language films have English subtitles.

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The **Alliance Française de Perth** is a not-for-profit association and registered charity whose aim is to promote **French language and culture** in Perth since 1911



Alliance Française

Perth

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