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# FRENCH AMBASSADOR

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**PIERRE-ANDRÉ IMBERT**

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**H.E. Pierre-André Imbert  
is the Ambassador of France  
to Australia**

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Dear Festival Enthusiasts,

As the new French Ambassador to Australia, I'm thrilled to greet you for the 35th Alliance Française French Film Festival, celebrating three and a half decades of French cinema on Australian soil. With 175,000 audience members, this festival is one of the world's largest French Film festivals: a testimony to Australians' profound passion for our cinema.

The Festival couldn't exist without the support of the Alliance Française. Learning French builds the cultural bridges that enrich both countries. This year holds special significance for this relationship, as we prepare for the Paris Olympic Games and deepen our shared values. I'm delighted that the establishment of the French Australian Cultural Exchanges Foundation was announced last December in Australia by the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

The Foundation supports the arts, fosters new ideas, creates new projects.

I'm also happy to welcome a new director for the Alliance Française French Film Festival, Frederic Alliod, who will play a pivotal role in shaping the festival's future.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated partners, whose unwavering support has been instrumental in making this festival an enduring success. Together, we have crafted across borders and oceans a cultural tapestry bringing the essence of French storytelling to Australia.

To the Australian audience, thank you for 35 years of embracing French film and for your boundless curiosity!

As we embark on this landmark edition, may this Festival be a beacon of the enduring friendship between France and Australia.



**KARINE MAURIS**

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**Karine Mauris is the Cultural Attachée of the French Embassy, and has been the Artistic Director of the Alliance Française French Film Festival since 2020**

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Welcome to the 35<sup>th</sup> Alliance Française French Film Festival!

For over three decades, we've showcased the finest in French cinema, known for its profound simplicity and relatable humanity. Our stories reflect struggles, triumphs, passion, and possess an extraordinary ability to touch hearts.

The greatest directors (Breillat, Gondry, Dupontel...) and actors (Binoche, Deneuve, Auteuil, Calamy, Cottin...) are gracing the lineup. Embracing *The Three Musketeers'* motto, "All for one and one for all," our festival dives into a diverse array of 41 movies from heart-warming comedies to gripping dramas, each offering its unique charm and allure.

The comedy *Intouchables*, chosen by the audience as the epitome of this anniversary, exemplifies this celebration - Omar Sy's remarkable performance explores friendship,

resilience, and the transformative power of human connection.

As my final edition as Artistic Director, I'm thrilled to share one of my all-time favorite movies, *Les Enfants du Paradis*. This timeless masterpiece holds a special place in my cinematic memory, portraying love, art, and life in the theatrical world with poetic storytelling and captivating characters.

May this festival bring joy, inspiration, and connection to all. A heartfelt thanks to the wonderful Australian audiences, the talented distributors, and the remarkable Palace team for their support over the years. Special gratitude to the Alliances Françaises for an incredible four years of serving the passion for French cinema.

As we look forward, the best is yet to come in our cinema theaters. Merci!

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This year marks the 35th edition of the Alliance Française French Film Festival, a significant milestone in our cinematic journey where 35 is not just a number – it is an emblem.

From the days of 35mm film screenings to the marvels of today's digital era, we have proudly showcased the very best of French cinema in Australia. Adapting and evolving over time, we have grown into the world's largest French film festival outside the borders of France.

As time progresses, so do we. This anniversary stands as a testament to our continuous modernisation, a rejuvenation that breathes new life into our festival. It is an annual spotlight on contemporary creation, a lens focused on the emerging talents and innovative voices shaping the cinematic landscape.

For 35 years, our festival has mirrored the

evolution of French society itself. This event is not just about films: it is a celebration of cultural exchange, fostering deeper connections and understanding between France and Australia.

The Alliance Française network is your gateway to a lasting relationship with France. Our centres, spread across this vast land, offer customised online and in-person language courses, engaging events, and a vibrant community passionate about sharing its love for France. Beyond the enchantment of the silver screen, we hope you will continue your French journey with us.

Last but not least, the Alliance Française French Film Festival is organised in collaboration with the French Embassy and we seize this opportunity to extend a heartfelt welcome to the new Ambassador of France to Australia, His Excellency Pierre-André Imbert.



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– OPENING NIGHT –

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# THE THREE MUSKETEERS: D'ARTAGNAN

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LES TROIS MOUSQUETAIRES – D'ARTAGNAN

FRANCE • 2023 • 121 MINS • M

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



*"This all-star French adaptation is the best take on the Dumas classic in 50 years – and maybe ever."*

**Time Out**

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**GENRE** Romance, Drama • **DIRECTOR** Martin Bourboulon • **CAST** François Civil, Vincent Cassel, Romain Duris, Pio Marmaï, Eva Green, Louis Garrel

Alexandre Dumas' thrilling and beloved classic novel *The Three Musketeers* has spawned multiple adaptations since its publication in 1844, but none have approached the scope and spectacle of this wildly entertaining, blockbuster two-film production from director Martin Bourboulon, who assembles an all-star cast for the first French cinematic treatment in over 30 years.

Set in the early 17th century kingdom of France, the opening instalment *D'Artagnan* follows a spirited young swordsman, Charles D'Artagnan (François Civil), on his journey from Gascony to Paris to join the King's elite Musketeers of the Guard. Along the way, he narrowly escapes death whilst heroically saving a woman from being kidnapped. In his efforts to enlist, D'Artagnan manages to offend the sensibilities of three of the most formidable Musketeers in the ranks, Athos (Vincent Cassel), Porthos (Pio Marmaï) and Aramis (Romain Duris).

But D'Artagnan soon wins them over, and his dedication to help his newfound friends and serve King Louis XIII (Louis Garrel) will lead him not only into the path of the mysterious Milady deWinter (Eva Green) and the Queen's consort Constance (Lyna Khoudri), but into the heart of a conspiracy where the future of the nation itself is at stake.

France's biggest box-office success of 2023, Bourboulon's magnificent production - lavishly produced with a budget of over €70 million - is respectful of its source but enriched with contemporary touches; the film is chock-full of humour, romance, palace intrigue and pulse-pounding action.

*The Three Musketeers: D'Artagnan* unquestionably delivers as a smart and hugely involving big-screen experience for all ages. Audiences are assured of lining up for the thrilling conclusion, *Milady*, within moments of the end credits.

PART TWO

# THE THREE MUSKETEERS: MILADY

FRANCE • 2023 • 114 MINS • CTC

Watch the gripping conclusion a week after opening night, or back to back! Check the schedule for details about our double feature event!



# - CLOSING NIGHT -

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# SECOND ROUND

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SECOND TOUR

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

REFER TO  
SCHEDULE  
FOR CLOSING  
NIGHT EVENT  
DETAILS!

FRANCE • 2023 • 97 MINS • CTC

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**GENRE** Romance, Drama

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**DIRECTOR** Albert Dupontel

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**CAST** Cécile de France, Albert Dupontel,  
Nicolas Marié

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In a perfect farewell to the 35<sup>TH</sup> Alliance Française French Film Festival, join us for *Second Round* - an audacious and at times hilarious savaging of modern politics and media from the multitalented actor, writer, and director Albert Dupontel (*Bye Bye Morons*, AF FFF22).

After the humiliation of being demoted from covering politics to reporting on soccer, disgraced journalist Nathalie Pove (Cécile de France, *Lost Illusions*, AF FFF22) is unexpectedly hauled back into current affairs to cover the upcoming presidential election. Weary, cynical, and feeling like she has seen it all before, even Nathalie cannot believe what she uncovers about the frontrunner, a populist with little political experience, but with deep family connections and even deeper hidden secrets.

Dupontel is something of a troublemaker in French cinema, with his blend of caustic humour, irony, and cynicism. In *Second Round*, his provocative approach to satire is as heightened as ever, delivering an intensely clever, original, and cutting comedy reminiscent of *The Thick of It* and *Veep*. The perfect ode to French cinema to finish our 2024 edition.

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*"Second Tour is well worth seeing, as this satire is funny, fast-paced, touching, jubilant and served up by a brilliant cast."*

**CNews**

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“Characteristically imposing performances.”  
Screen Daily

## A GREAT FRIEND

### LES CHOSES SIMPLES

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

COMEDY • FRANCE • 2022 • 95 MINS • PG

**DIRECTOR** Éric Besnard • **CAST** Lambert Wilson, Grégory Gadebois, Marie Gillain, Antoine Gouy, Pascal Gimenez

Éric Besnard, the creative force behind *Delicious* (AF FFF21), whips up another tantalising blend of culinary delights and human bonds in this unexpected bromance. Vincent (Lambert Wilson, *Happy 50*, AF FFF23), a hyperactive and successful businessman, is the founder of the largest European dating site. Pierre (Grégory Gadebois, *Maria into Life*, AF FFF23) lives in seclusion like a true hermit in the mountains, accompanied by his dog and distanced from the modern world he has long renounced.

When these two polar-opposites unexpectedly cross paths, their encounter disrupts their lives and prompts questions about their radically different lifestyles. Are they genuinely content?

Set against a stunning alpine backdrop, this buddy comedy reveals a delightful odd-couple dynamic. Through fiery arguments, abundant grimaces, suppressed emotions and shared omelettes, the two men discover that friendship can actually thrive through differences.

Invite your best mate, grab a glass of French wine at the bar and prepare to lose yourself in the breathtaking beauty of the French Alps, where laughter, friendship, and unexpected connections come together and leave you yearning for more.



*I needed to get away.*



*A little romance perhaps?*



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NIGHT EVENT  
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# - LADIES NIGHT -

# THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE

BERNADETTE

FRANCE • 2023 • 93 MINS • CTC

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



*"A tale of female 'empowerment', Bernadette is a chronicle of the Chirac years, with delightful gags and bright colours."*

Marie Claire

**GENRE** Comedy • **DIRECTOR** Léa Domenach • **CAST** Catherine Deneuve, Denis Podalydès, Michel Vuillermoz, Sara Giraudeau, Laurent Stocker (Comédie Française)

Legendary French actress Catherine Deneuve plays Bernadette Chirac in this uproarious comedy based on actual events.

1995, Jacques Chirac is elected President of the French Republic. When Bernadette Chirac steps into the Elysée, she's ready for the recognition she's earned, having tirelessly supported her husband's journey to the presidency. Instead, she finds herself set aside and brushed off as old-fashioned, cold and sour-tempered. With the help of her chief of staff, Bernard Niquet (Denis Podalydès, *Rise*, AF FFF23) Bernadette embarks on a campaign to restore her reputation and assert her role as first lady.

In her debut film, documentarian Léa Domenach skilfully blurs the lines between fact and fiction, presenting a captivating portrait of an unexpected feminist icon. *The President's Wife* is a delightful tapestry of satire, whimsical musical numbers, and vibrant visuals, offering a heart-warming celebration of Bernadette Chirac's resilience and wit.

You will find yourself smiling, laughing, and empathising with this delightful character, flawlessly personified by the wonderful Deneuve. *The President's Wife* is a must-see in this year's lineup!

# JEANNE DU BARRY

JEANNE DU BARRY

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

HISTORICAL • FRANCE • 2022 • 116 MINS • CTC

**DIRECTOR** Maïwenn • **CAST** Maïwenn, Johnny Depp, Benjamin Lavernhe, Melvil Poupaud, Pierre Richard

The lavish new drama from writer/director Maïwenn, *Jeanne Du Barry* is freely inspired by the life of the rags-to-riches social climber, a working-class woman who became the mistress of King Louis XV, played with taciturn command by Johnny Depp in his first French-language speaking role.

In pre-revolution France Jeanne Bécu (Maïwenn), the illegitimate daughter of a monk, hungers for culture and pleasure and is determined to escape her upbringing. With charm and wit, she builds a reputation as a skilled courtesan and her benefactor, the Comte du Barry (Melvil Poupaud), grows rich through her amorous encounters. Wishing to present her to the widowed King (Depp), a renowned womaniser, the Comte orchestrates a meeting.

For Jeanne and Louis, it's intoxication at first sight; she is soon anointed his new favourite. Unapologetically ignoring propriety and etiquette, with the help of his valet La Borde (a scene-stealing Benjamin Lavernhe), Louis moves her into his Versailles palace, sparking scandal and jeopardising relations with the newly arrived Marie Antoinette.

Shot on location at Versailles and featuring majestic costumes and production design, *Jeanne Du Barry* is a visual feast for the senses. Maïwenn delivers an exuberant and sensitive portrait of class, ambition and both the rewards and risks of living in the public's eye.

*"Magnificently staged.  
A classic but very  
contemporary and  
totally inhabited film."*

**Le Parisien**



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# - TASTE OF FRANCE -

## THE TASTE OF THINGS

LA PASSION DE DODIN BOUFFANT

FRANCE • 2023 • 145 MINS • CTC

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



*"A feast for the senses, this French romance is a three Michelin-starred love story...so rich and romantic, it'll leave you woozy."*

Time Out

**GENRE** Drama • **DIRECTOR** Trần Anh Hùng • **CAST** Juliette Binoche, Benoît Magimel, Emmanuel Salinger, Jean-Marc Roulot, Bonnie Chagneau-Ravoire

Since premiering at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival, *The Taste of Things* has whetted appetites and tugged at heart strings all over the world. This deliciously sensual adaptation of Marcel Rouff's classic 1924 novel *The Life and Passion of Dodin-Bouffant*, *Gourmet*, blends cooking with romantic love, and won director Trần Anh Hùng (*The Scent of Green Papaya*) the Best Director prize at Cannes.

The year is 1885 and Academy Award winner Juliette Binoche (*The English Patient*) plays Eugénie, a renowned cook with no equal. Previous Cannes Film Festival Best Actor winner Benoît Magimel (*The Piano Teacher*) is Dodin, a brilliant epicure whose ideas for recipes, when combined with Eugénie's talents, create culinary magic. The talented

duo form a partnership that extends beyond the kitchen, establishing a friendship that occasionally evolves into something more. Can Dodin's outstanding culinary instinct and desire for a deeper connection persuade Eugénie to marry him?

Both instructive and lovingly-captured throughout, this film reminds us that traditional French cuisine has earned its prestigious place on the world stage, thanks to the dedication, care, time and love it demands.

Don't miss this cinematic masterpiece, and make sure you have secured a booking at your favourite French Restaurant post-screening!

**France's entry for Best International Feature Film at the 2024 Academy Awards**



Donostia Zinemakia  
Festival de San Sebastian

BEST FILM



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NOMINEE BEST  
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FRANCE EVENT  
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"A feel-good comedy interpreted by a strong glamorous cast on top of their game."

**Deadline**

## MR. BLAKE AT YOUR SERVICE!

COMPLÈTEMENT CRAMÉ!

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

COMEDY • FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG • 2023 • 100 MINS • CTC

**DIRECTOR** Gilles Legardinier • **CAST** John Malkovich, Fanny Ardant, Émilie Dequenne, Philippe Bas, Eugénie Anselin

Straight from the pages of Gilles Legardinier's international hit novel, *Complètement Cramé!*, comes a highly anticipated romantic comedy-drama featuring the dynamic duo of John Malkovich and Fanny Ardant (*The Colours of Fire*, AF FFF23), reuniting them onscreen for the first time since *Casanova Variations* in 2015.

Malkovich's brilliant underrated comedic style is on full display as he takes on the role of the charming British businessman, Andrew Blake. In a twist of fate, Blake becomes the butler of the Domaine de Beauvillier estate, owned by the graceful and aloof Madame de Beauvillier (Ardant). A once-distinguished manor house, the estate is now a shadow

of itself, with rooms, staff, and residents all longing for better days. *Mr. Blake At Your Service!* is Gilles Legardinier's debut film, which he directed and adapted from his own novel. The book has taken the literary world by storm, being translated into 17 languages and selling over a million copies across 22 countries.

Co-starring Cannes best actress winner Émilie Dequenne (*Rosetta*), this very sweet and humorous film explores culture clashes, unexpected friendships, and second chances at happiness. Prepare yourselves for a heart-warming cinematic experience which will leave you grinning.

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# IRIS AND THE MEN

IRIS ET LES HOMMES

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE COMEDY • FRANCE • 2023 • 98 MINS • CTC

DIRECTOR Caroline Vignal • CAST Laure Calamy, Vincent Elbaz

After the smash-hit international success of *Antoinette in the Cévennes*, writer/director Caroline Vignal and the fabulous Laure Calamy reunite for an hilarious and provocative comedy about reignited desire in the modern age.

"They're not". This is how Iris (Calamy) quietly answers her chiropractor when asked how things are going with her husband (Vincent Elbaz). The words slip from her mouth like an unformed realisation: how long has it been since they last made love? Yet everything else is great: the couple love each other, they have two happy daughters, she runs a successful medical practice and has the best friends one could hope for.

But soon Iris will be turning 50. It is a stranger who whispers the seed of an idea: "Take a lover". So, she dares open Pandora's box, and hesitantly registers herself on a dating app. Immediately, men start to appear, as if it were raining.

So begins this cheeky, joyous and conversation-starting delight, in which Calamy completes her transformation from quirky character actress into unadulterated comedic star. Bound to be one of the biggest hits of this year's Festival, log in and book early for *Iris and the Men*.



"A feel-good delight! Calamy, unleashed, offers a very funny and engaging performance."

Le Parisien



"Irresistible!"

FrancelInfo

## A DIFFICULT YEAR

UNE ANNÉE DIFFICILE

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

COMEDY • FRANCE • 2023 • 118 MINS • CTC

**DIRECTOR** Éric Toledano, Olivier Nakache • **CAST** Pio Marmaï, Jonathan Cohen, Noémie Merlant, Mathieu Amalric

The wildly entertaining new comedy from irrepressible filmmaking duo Éric Toledano and Olivier Nakache (*The Intouchables*, *C'est la vie*), *A Difficult Year* stars Pio Marmaï and Jonathan Cohen as two compulsive spenders who get much more than they bargained for when they try and scam their way out of trouble.

Both in debt up to their necks, Albert (Marmaï) and Bruno (Cohen) have turned to a community worker (Mathieu Amalric) to try and help get a grip on their lives. However, at one of their group sessions, they stumble into an adjoining meeting room hosting a gathering of young social activists, led by a vivacious organiser (the fabulous Noémie Merlant).

Attracted more by the free beer and chips than the group's struggle against consumerism and protection of the environment (whilst acknowledging the hugs are quite nice), Albert and Bruno join the movement without any particular conviction, but soon sense an opportunity... if they don't get arrested first.

Expertly poking fun at their characters while simultaneously honouring them, *A Difficult Year* delivers both laughs and pathos in spades, thanks to the directors' ongoing faith in humanity's desire to change. With of-the-moment resonances to Australia's social and "cozzie livs" concerns, *A Difficult Year* is a 2024 Festival must-see.



*"Carried by its two brilliant lead actors, the film is a vigorous, joyful and refreshing portrait of an atypical couple: an artist and his muse who holds the keys to their bohemian existence."*

**Cineuropa**

## BONNARD, PIERRE & MARTHE

BONNARD, PIERRE ET MARTHE

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

DRAMA • FRANCE • 2023 • 123 MINS • CTC

**DIRECTOR** Martin Provost • **CAST** Vincent Macaigne, Cécile de France, Stacy Martin, Anouk Grinberg, André Marcon, Grégoire Leprince-Ringuet

Vincent Macaigne and a radiant Cécile de France enrapture in *Bonnard, Pierre & Marthe*, the beautiful and transporting new historical drama from multi award-winning director Martin Provost (*Séraphine*, *The Midwife*) about the turbulent love story between the famous post-Impressionist painter and his lesser-known – but highly influential – wife.

1893. When aspiring artist Pierre Bonnard (Macaigne) - a protégé of Claude Monet - meets Marthe de Méligny (de France), he has no idea that this self-proclaimed aristocrat will become the cornerstone of his life and work; from this moment, she becomes more than just a muse, appearing in over a third of

his paintings. Together, over five decades, the couple will explore creative fulfillment, love and jealousies that challenge the standards of the time, as the film interrogates the great mystery around their relationship.

Provost's vision for this material is clear and concise; what may appear as a traditional account of its subjects soon moves beyond conventions and evolves into something much more resonant and profound. Thanks in no small part to its lead performances (de France especially has never been better), anyone interested in the creative arts should not miss this quite stunning film.





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# - 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY - AUDIENCE VOTE

## THE INTOUCHABLES

INTOUCHABLES

FRANCE • 2012 • 112 MINS • CTC

*"It delivers broad laughs and tugs at the heartstrings without delving too deep - the very definition of a crowd-pleaser."*

**Time Out**

**GENRE** Comedy • **DIRECTOR** Eric Toledano, Olivier Nakache

**CAST** Francois Cluzet, Omar Sy, Audrey Fleurot, Anne Le Ny, Christian Ameri

Celebrating 35 glorious years of the Alliance Française French Film Festival in Australia, we are proud to be screening *The Intouchables*, as voted by you, our wonderful audience! It's the film you felt most encapsulated the joy and wonder of French cinema.

Prepare for a rollercoaster of emotions with *The Intouchables*, a film that stole hearts worldwide and remains an unparalleled box office sensation in France. An affectionate, boldly honest, and often uproarious exploration of an extraordinary friendship between a wealthy paraplegic and

his immigrant caregiver. Based on a true story, this uniquely French buddy film fearlessly tackles social issues while delivering a perfect blend of laughter and heartfelt moments.

A major hit for the already-acclaimed actor François Cluzet, it also launched the highly-talented Omar Sy onto the international stage, bestowing upon him the César Award for Best Actor, the first awarded to a Black person.

Don't miss this opportunity to experience once more the tears and pure joy created by one of the most cherished French films of the 21<sup>ST</sup> century.

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LANGUAGE FILM

# THE SITTING DUCK

LA SYNDICALISTE



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE • 2022 • CTC

GENRE Thriller

DIRECTOR Jean-Paul Salomé

#### CAST

Isabelle Huppert

Grégory Gadebois

François-Xavier Demaison

Gilles Cohen

Aloïse Sauvage

LENGTH 121 mins

*"Salomé's film pivots from itchy whistleblower thriller to irate courtroom drama, with institutional misogyny as its binding thread."* Variety



NOMINEE

Academy Award nominee Isabelle Huppert (*The Godmother*, AF FFF22) is nothing short of electrifying in the role of real-life whistle-blower Maureen Kearney, a trade unionist who dared to challenge the powerful nuclear industry at an immense personal cost.

Feared, admired and loathed for her considerable influence, Kearney's world takes a harrowing turn when she exposes the unsettling details of a clandestine deal between French and Chinese power companies. This revelation leads to a brutal assault that sets off a chain of events exposing the failures of the justice system and the pervasive corruption within government and corporate realms.

Since its debut at the Venice Film Festival, this rage-inducing political thriller crafted by writer/director Jean-Paul Salomé, has gripped audiences with an unrelenting tension, unveiling the shocking truths of Kearney's plight. *The Sitting Duck* is intensely compelling in the way it immerses audiences in the high-stakes world of political intrigue and personal peril.

Brace yourself for a fascinating and revealing real-life tale of courage and resilience that demands to be seen!

# ALL YOUR FACES

JE VERRAI TOUJOURS VOS VISAGES



A powerhouse cast - Adèle Exarchopoulos (*Blue Is the Warmest Colour*) and Gilles Lellouche (*Kompromat*, AF FFF22) - headlines this compelling drama about France's Restorative Justice program, first introduced in Australia in 2001 and later in France in 2014. The program brings together crime victims and offenders in a controlled environment for open dialogue.

The film follows two stories in which six characters, three offenders and three victims, cautiously take part in this process. Their experiences veer between anger and hope, alliances and torn relationships, realisations and regained trust. For some, there is even the possibility of restoration.

Praised for her "talent for unearthing fascinating subjects and bringing them to the wider public's attention without ever betraying their essence" (Cineuropa), writer/director Jeanne Herry (*In Safe Hands*, AF FFF19) dramatises the sometimes-controversial program that assists criminals to take responsibility for their actions and helps victims heal. Told with honesty and empathy, *All Your Faces* explores how the unspeakable can be subverted to guide characters on journeys of self-realisation and forgiveness in this intelligent and emotional film.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE • 2023 • MA15+

GENRE Drama

DIRECTOR Jeanne Herry

#### CAST

Adèle Exarchopoulos

Leïla Bekhti

Élodie Bouchez

Jean-Pierre Darroussin

Gilles Lellouche

LENGTH 118 mins

"Everything rings true in this film... A film which isn't afraid of emotions, instead respecting their every inflection."

Cineuropa

# PARTY OF FOOLS

CAPTIVES



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE • 2023 • CTC

GENRE Drama

DIRECTOR

Arnaud des Pallières

CAST

Mélanie Thierry

Marina Foïs

Carole Bouquet

Josiane Balasko

Dominique Frot

LENGTH 119 mins

*"Moving, very well researched and buoyed by an incredibly impressive cast of actresses."*

Cineuropa

Paris, 1894. The City of Light loves to dance and indulge in mischievousness. The 'Bal des Folles' is one of its most prestigious balls, organised by the notorious Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital for "madwomen." As all of Paris gathers in the grand dining hall of the hospice, the interned patients prepare to parade in whimsical carnival costumes.

*Party of Fools* draws back the curtain on the imprisonment and mistreatment of women deemed unfit for respectable society. Starring Mélanie Thierry (*Memoir of War*, AF FFF19) as Fanni, a woman who voluntarily admits herself to the grim institution to look for her mother, the incredible cast also includes fellow "madwomen" Marina Foïs (*Freestyle*, AF FFF23), Carole Bouquet (*Kiss & Tell*, AF FFF19), Josiane Balasko (*The Hedgehog*) and Dominique Frot (*Titane*).

As the curtain is drawn back, revealing the preparatory chaos of the ball, the film paints a gripping portrait of the friendships and alliances formed between Fanni and the other women she encounters within the oppressive walls.

An unmissable and incredibly compelling story full of suspense and emotion, this film will resonate with the viewer long after it has finished.

The Saturday Paper



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# LAST SUMMER

L'ÉTÉ DERNIER



FEATURED AT MIFF

FRANCE • 2022 • CTC

GENRE Drama

DIRECTOR Catherine Breillat

#### CAST

Léa Drucker

Samuel Kircher

Olivier Rabourdin

Clotilde Courau

LENGTH 104 mins

*"Breillat again takes us to the limits of what's acceptable, asking us to ask ourselves whether we should have any limits at all."*

The Hollywood Reporter

Always the boundary-pushing provocateur, filmmaker Catherine Breillat (*Romance, Sex is Comedy*) showcases her trademark bold approach to cinema with a new taboo-breaking film: the relationship between a woman and her teenage stepson.

This fearless erotic drama stars Léa Drucker (*Close, Custody*) as Anne, a well-respected child protection lawyer and a happily married woman living with her husband and daughters in Paris. Anne's world is turned upside down when her husband's 17-year-old son from a previous marriage moves in with them.

Breillat portrays the attraction and desire between stepmother and stepson, and the legal and moral barriers it threatens, with the fearless combination of social critique, dark humour and uncomfortable detail that has established her as one of the world's most confronting – and essential – contemporary filmmakers.



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

NOMINATED FOR PALME D'OR



# A SILENCE

UN SILENCE



The remarkable Emmanuelle Devos and Daniel Auteuil - two of France's finest and most-awarded actors - are at the very top of their game in the gripping and provocative new drama from acclaimed writer/director Joachim Lafosse, the story of a married couple and their adopted son who grapple with the fallout after a long-held family secret is exposed.

Cocooned in a life of privilege, 50-something Astrid Schaar (Devos) is the wife of the suave François (Auteuil), a prominent and media-savvy lawyer approaching a crucial point in his years-long, high profile case, in which he represents the parents of several abducted children. Day and night, reporters wait outside their gated home, hoping to snap a photo and secure François' latest remarks. But the uneasy equilibrium of the household erodes when a figure from the family's past returns, initiating their own search for justice.

Sharply scripted, expertly directed and dominated by performances of complexity and gravitas from Devos and Auteuil, *A Silence* - inspired by true events that shocked France and Belgium - is a disquieting exploration of family duty, complicity and coercive control. As the screws tighten and the characters steel themselves for the repercussions of their actions, it's impossible to look away.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**BELGIUM, FRANCE,  
LUXEMBOURG • 2023 • CTC**

**GENRE** Drama

**DIRECTOR** Joachim Lafosse

**CAST**

Daniel Auteuil  
Emmanuelle Devos  
Matthieu Galoux  
Jeanne Cherhal

**LENGTH** 100 mins

*"Intelligent and precise. A  
hothouse actors' piece with  
superb performances."*

Variety



**SSIFF**

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OFFICIAL SELECTION

WINNER - 2023  
ROME FILM FESTIVAL  
BEST DIRECTOR

# SIDONIE IN JAPAN

## SIDONIE AU JAPON



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE, GERMANY  
2023 • CTC

GENRE Drama

DIRECTOR Élise Girard

### CAST

Isabelle Huppert  
August Diehl  
Tsuyoshi Ihara

LENGTH 95 mins

"Romantic melan-comedy, built on a tentative exchange of cultures and individual stories." **Variety**



NOMINEE

Isabelle Huppert (*The Godmother*, AF FFF21) is mesmerising in this gentle, bittersweet and occasionally whimsical film about a most unlikely love triangle between a grieving widow, a potential new romantic partner, and the ghost of the widow's dead husband.

Composed yet fragile, Huppert delivers yet another beautifully-nuanced performance as the widow, Sidonie Perceval, a once highly-acclaimed French author who after a long period of inactivity has reluctantly agreed to travel to Japan to promote a new translation of her debut novel.

Most of her time in Japan is spent in the company of her publisher, Kenzo Mizoguchi (Tsuyoshi Ihara, *Letters From Iwo Jima*), towards whom she finds herself increasingly drawn despite still mourning her husband. These feelings are further complicated when she is visited by her husband's ghost (August Diehl, *Inglourious Basterds*).

An intoxicating blend of melancholy, romance, self-discovery and gentle humour, *Sidonie in Japan* evokes classic films like *Lost in Translation* and *Truly Madly Deeply*, yet stands alone in its delicate treatment of love and loss.

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CLARINS



# - CANADIAN NIGHT -

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# THE NATURE OF LOVE

---

SIMPLE COMME SYLVAIN

CANADA, FRANCE • 2023 • 111 MINS • CTC

---

*"As sharp and perceptive as it is funny ... A sexy and slightly spiteful examination of romantic passion."*

**Screen Daily**

---

**GENRE** Romance, Comedy • **DIRECTOR** Monia Chokri • **CAST** Magalie Lépine Blondeau, Pierre-Yves Cardinal, Francis-William Rhéaume, Karelle Tremblay, Steve Laplante

Love is unexpected, sensual, funny and complicated in the latest film by French-Canadian writer/director Monia Chokri, who before becoming an internationally-renowned filmmaker, was known for her work as an actress in the films of Xavier Dolan.

Intelligently handled and full of warmth and humour, *The Nature of Love* delves into what happens when a happily-coupled woman falls in love with somebody else.

Sophia (Magalie Lépine Blondeau, *A Brother's Love*), a 40-year-old philosophy professor, is in a long-term, stable but somewhat socially-conforming relationship with Xavier, her intellectual equal but a man who is more her best friend than lover.

Sylvain (Pierre-Yves Cardinal, *Tom at the Farm*) is the working-class contractor hired to renovate their holiday home in the Canadian woods. Despite their vast differences, Sophia and Sylvain share an electrifying, creative, and uncontrollable sexual chemistry and an unpredictable affair begins. Questioning the nature of monogamy and skewering the conventions of the traditional rom-com, the film radiates with wit and passion.

Filed with a nod to cheesy romance films of the 70s - think corny music overlays, sentimental montages and exaggerated camera angles - *The Nature of Love* is in fact wickedly sharp and funny.



UN CERTAIN REGARD  
FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
NOMINEE

A romantic couple is shown in profile, about to kiss. The woman is on the left, wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt. The man is on the right, wearing a plaid shirt and a dark baseball cap. They are embracing each other. The background is dark with some blurred lights, suggesting an outdoor night setting.

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NIGHT EVENT  
DETAILS!

Canada 

# OUT OF SEASON

HORS-SAISON



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE • 2023 • CTC

GENRE Drama

DIRECTOR Stéphane Brizé

CAST

Guillaume Canet

Alba Rohrwacher

Sharif Andoura

Emmy Boissard Paumelle

LENGTH 115 mins

"Lovely. Deeply, searchingly romantic and beautifully performed." *Variety*



Guillaume Canet and Alba Rohrwacher are electric together in award-winning writer/director Stéphane Brizé's tender and moving new romance about two former lovers who unexpectedly cross paths.

It's winter. Approaching his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, successful screen actor Mathieu (Canet) is facing a crisis of confidence; just weeks out from his stage debut, he has fled rehearsals to hide out in a luxury health spa on the Brittany coast. But being a major A-list celebrity, it's impossible for Mathieu to lay low; the hotel staff and fellow guests are giddy about his presence, and the requests for selfies never end.

Then Mathieu receives a text from Alice (Rohrwacher), a woman he dated fifteen years prior; she's now a wife and mother who by chance lives nearby. Evidently torn by the manner in which they parted, they agree to meet for lunch.

Beautifully written, this elegant and wryly funny story of choices made and what-might-have-been is distinguished by the exquisite chemistry of Rohrwacher and Canet, who deliver deeply felt performances of subtlety and restraint. Drawing comparisons with Lean's *Brief Encounter*, Sofia Coppola's *Lost in Translation* and Celine Song's recent *Past Lives*, this intimate and enormously affecting film charms from beginning to end. Don't miss it.

# ALONG CAME LOVE

LE TEMPS D'AIMER



A sweeping romantic drama about love, family and secrets, *Along Came Love* is the latest film by acclaimed writer director Katell Quillévéré (*Heal the Living*, AF FFF17).

Premiering at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival, the film spans several decades and is ambitious in both theme and scope, exploring the complex world of a couple shadowed by secrets in post-war puritanical France.

Beginning at the end of World War II, the film charts the relationship between young single mother Madeleine (Anaïs Demoustier, *November*, AF FFF23) and university student François (Vincent Lacoste, *Lost Illusions*, AF FFF22). Drawn to each other despite several warning signs, their life together will be forever haunted by their past actions and hidden desires.

Thoughtful, perceptive and emotionally satisfying, this is a refreshingly insightful film about the complicated dynamic between people whose relationship, whilst flawed, is loaded with power and meaning.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE, BELGIUM • 2023  
CTC

GENRE Drama

DIRECTOR Katell Quillévéré

#### CAST

Anaïs Demoustier

Vincent Lacoste

Morgan Bailey

LENGTH 123 mins

*"A surprising melodrama, skillfully reconstructed, carried with panache by a wonderful duo of performers."*

Telerama



Film Francophone  
D'ANGOULEME

BEST ACTOR, BEST FILM



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

NOMINATED FOR QUEER PALM

L'AMOUR, L'AMOUR 39

# MARGUERITE'S THEOREM

LE THÉORÈME DE MARGUERITE



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE, SWITZERLAND  
2023 • CTC

GENRE **Drama**

DIRECTOR **Anna Novion**

CAST

**Ella Rumpf**

**Jean-Pierre Darroussin**

**Clotilde Courau**

**Idir Azougli**

**Julien Frison**

LENGTH **113 mins**

"Well-structured, entertaining  
and unpretentious film."

Cineuropa



FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
YOUNG FILM TECHNICIAN AWARD  
2023  
ANNE-SOPHIE DELSERIES

Immerse yourself in a tale of obsession, genius, and self-discovery set within the world of elite academia at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris in this 2023 Cannes Film Festival contender.

Rising star Ella Rumpf (*Raw*) is Marguerite, a brilliant young mathematician who refuses to let her status as the lone woman in her class hinder her pursuit of excellence. However, her world crumbles when a new student discovers a flaw in her thesis, and her supervisor dismisses her for being too emotional. Marguerite must now navigate the real world, unearthing new insights, gaining a fresh lease on life, and even exploring the possibility of romance.

This crowd-pleasing and life-affirming film is unexpectedly joyous in its journey of personal realisation. Rumpf's tender and warm-hearted performance shines throughout as Marguerite struggles with finding the delicate balance between a rational mind and emotional responses, and with giving equal weight to both the ambitions that drive us and the human connections that we cannot live without.





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# WILDERNESS THERAPY

PÉTAOUCHNOK



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE • 2022 • M

GENRE Comedy

DIRECTOR Édouard Deluc

#### CAST

Pio Marmāi

Philippe Rebbot

Camille Chamoux

Pablo Pauly

Olivia Côte

LENGTH 96 mins

"Wilderness Therapy is first and foremost an original and eccentric comedy filmed in the majestic setting of the Pyrenees." **France TV**

In this wild and hilarious new comedy from writer/director Édouard Deluc (*Gauguin*, AF FFF18), a group of unsuspecting tourists sign up for a pleasant horseback tour of the Pyrénées but instead find themselves undertaking a life-threatening adventure.

Unemployed, broke, middle-aged, and desperate, Ludo (Pio Marmāi, *Rise*, AF FFF23) and Richard are two of life's loveable losers and the completely inexperienced impostor guides behind the ill-fated horseback tour. Comprising close encounters with wild animals, dangerously-inept hunting lessons, food poisoning, and a steady decline in leadership competence from the bewildered tour guides, the tourists' journey inevitably spirals downhill.

A lively mashup of comedy, adventure film, Western, and disaster movie, *Wilderness Therapy* doesn't shy away from touching on contemporary social and economic issues. And it does so with a dynamic and eccentric sense of humour. Set against the stunning natural beauty of the Pyrénées, this film is brimming with humanity, heart, and many, many laughs.



# TONI

## TONI EN FAMILLE



Parenting a teenager is hard enough, but for Antonia 'Toni' Livesi, being the sole parent of five teenagers while earning a living as a bar singer is nearly impossible.

Despite a brief taste of fame twenty years ago with a hit song, Toni's life is very much an ordinary one, structured around kids and their squabbles, meals, laundry, house-cleaning and work. As her two eldest children prepare to start university, she finds herself questioning her life and where she will go next. At 43, is there still time to try something new?

One of the stars of the hugely popular French television comedy series *Call My Agent!* and recent blockbusters including *A Haunting in Venice*, French actor Camille Cottin continues to impress with her versatility in the lead role of Toni.

With a winning blend of empathy and humour, *Toni* explores the dynamics of parenthood, family, and the delicate art of balancing work and life. Moments of touching sincerity are offset by enjoyably awkward humour in this tender and good-natured film, which is guaranteed to resonate with audiences of all ages.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE • 2023 • CTC

GENRE Drama

DIRECTOR Nathan Ambrosioni

CAST

Camille Cottin

Léa Lopez

Thomas Gioria

Guillaume Gouix

Louise Labèque

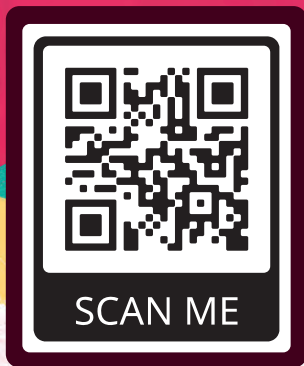
LENGTH 96 mins

*"A poignant portrait of a woman and a deeply moving family tableau, with striking accuracy and delicacy."*

France Info

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# A CHANCE TO WIN

POUR L'HONNEUR



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE • 2023 • M

GENRE Comedy

DIRECTOR Philippe Guillard

#### CAST

Olivier Marchal

Olivia Bonamy

Mathieu Madenian

Solène Hébert

LENGTH 97 mins

*"A feel-good movie about how team work can bring even the most unlikely people together."* Cineuropa

In the picturesque South West of France, two villages have long been rivals, Particularly when it comes to rugby. Long-harboured resentments and pettiness find expression via scrums and tackles in this new comedy crafted by Philippe Guillard, renowned sports journalist, former professional rugby player and filmmaker (*My Son Jo*, AF FFF12).

As their 100<sup>th</sup> match nears, the arrival of asylum seekers injects a new dynamic into village life. Where some villagers harbour suspicion, others see opportunity, and the newcomers are enlisted to bolster chances of victory on the field. Could this unexpected alliance on the field pave the way for a triumphant reconciliation off the pitch?

Much like *The Merger* did for Australian rules football, *A Chance to Win* uses a compelling blend of humor and heart to showcase the power of sport to create community. Differences are overcome, friendships are formed, vulnerabilities fade and tries are scored in this unpredictable and feel-good film.

An inspiring tale of unity that does a world of good.

# TAKE A CHANCE ON ME

MARIE-LINE ET SON JUGE



Rarely have there been two people so fundamentally different from each other as the down-on-her-luck young woman Marie-Line and the older male judge who rules against her when she is brought before his court.

Yet this same judge sees something in Marie-Line that nobody else does, and hires her to be his driver. The result is a poignant, fun-filled and ultimately life-changing road trip, filled with heated debate, misadventures and personality clashes.

Beloved French pop singer Louane Emera, who made her acting debut in *The Bélier Family*, is sensational as the downtrodden yet high spirited Marie-Line, while legendary stage and screen veteran Michel Blanc (*A Good Doctor*, AF FFF23) inhabits his role as the loveably grumpy judge with conviction and humour. They're a gloriously mismatched odd couple, whose journey together results in a heartwarming and delightful film about the most unlikely of friendships and the unexpected joys of second chances.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE • 2023 • CTC

GENRE Comedy

DIRECTOR Jean-Pierre Améris

#### CAST

Louane Emera  
Michel Blanc  
Victor Belmondo  
Philippe Rebbot  
Nathalie Richard

LENGTH 103 mins

"A charming, melancholy comedy from Jean-Pierre Améris." *Telerama*

# - CLASSIC MOVIE -

## CHILDREN OF PARADISE

LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS

FRANCE • 1945 • 1ST PART : 101 MINS 2ND PART : 128 MINS • CTC

*"Few achievements in the world of cinema can equal it."*

**Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun-Times' All-Time 100 Best Movies**

**GENRE** Romance, Drama • **DIRECTOR** Marcel Carné • **CAST** Arletty, Jean-Louis Barrault, Pierre Brasseur, Pierre Renoir, María Casarès

Voted best film of all time by the Association of French Cinema Journalists, *Children of Paradise* continues to mesmerize, transporting us back to the Parisian theatre scene of the mid-1800s. Director Marcel Carné and writer Jacques Prévert craft a dreamlike atmosphere with a diverse cast, inspired by real historical figures.

In the shadows of the notorious 'Boulevard of Crime' near the Funambules Theatre, characters conspire, seduce, fight, and love. At the heart of this cinematic masterpiece is an enigmatic woman pursued romantically by four very different men, including the film's

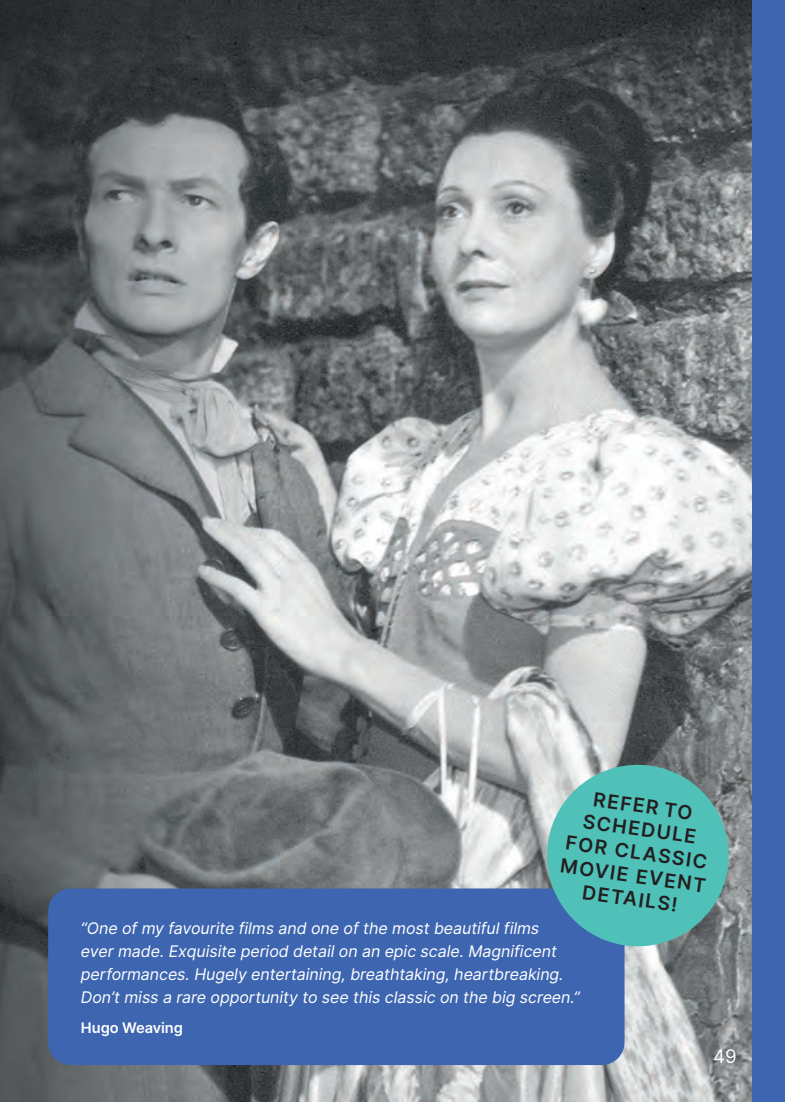
most iconic character, the tragically lovelorn mime, Baptiste.

Created under incredibly restrictive conditions in Nice and Paris during the dark days of the Nazi occupation, *Children of Paradise* emerged as a cinematic miracle. Released shortly after liberation, many hail it as the greatest French film of all time, with Marlon Brando once declaring it "maybe the best movie ever made." A must for cinema lovers.



OSCARS 1947  
NOMINEE  
BEST WRITING





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*"One of my favourite films and one of the most beautiful films ever made. Exquisite period detail on an epic scale. Magnificent performances. Hugely entertaining, breathtaking, heartbreaking. Don't miss a rare opportunity to see this classic on the big screen."*

**Hugo Weaving**

# THE BOOK OF SOLUTIONS

LE LIVRE DES SOLUTIONS



**FRANCE • 2023 • CTC**

**GENRE** Drama

**DIRECTOR** Michel Gondry

#### CAST

**Pierre Niney**

**Blanche Gardin**

**Françoise Lebrun**

**Vincent Elbaz**

**Sting**

**LENGTH** 102 mins

"The Book of Solutions is a high-energy ode to the joys of being possessed by a creative spirit, and the pleasure that Gondry takes in telling a plot-light story that's driven by pure invention is both palpable and contagious."

**Indie Wire**

From the brilliant and chaotic mind of visionary filmmaker Michel Gondry (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*) comes a new tour de force of offbeat humour and pathos.

A semi-autobiographical comedy about a filmmaker struggling to complete his new film, *The Book of Solutions* debuted at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival, eight years after Gondry's previous film. With César Award-winning actor Pierre Niney (*Masquerade*, AF FFF23) channelling Gondry's imaginative, innovative and anxious energy into the role of Marc, the director of a tumultuous film production, *The Book of Solutions* provides a tantalising insight into why Gondry took so long to make his next film.

A rustic village in the Cévennes is a world away from the power-broking environment of the French film industry, and that is where Marc has gone to surreptitiously re-edit his new film and rekindle the creative spark that has been dormant for too long. Joined by a small crew of his exhausted, long-suffering and most loyal collaborators, Marc's battle to overcome self-sabotage, procrastination and distractions is depicted with the flair, vitality and whimsy that only a Gondry film can bring.

# ÀMA GLORIA

ÀMA GLORIA



Celebrated as one of the major discoveries of the Cannes Film Festival, Marie Amachoukeli's delightful *Àma Gloria* is a vibrant drama that explores the precious bond between a six-year-old French girl and her nanny, and what happens when the relationship is unexpectedly placed in jeopardy.

Paris, present day. Vivacious, personable young Cléo (extraordinary newcomer Louise Mauroy-Panzani) lives with her widowed father but has mostly been raised by her beloved Cape Verdean carer, Gloria (Ilça Moreno Zego), in whose arms she finds refuge and stability. So, when Gloria's mother passes away – a life-changing blow for them both – Gloria must return to her homeland to care for her own children. Gloria invites Cléo to her island community to spend one last summer together. There, the young girl will discover an entirely different culture and a new family, and must learn to understand that the world does not revolve around her.

From the producers of *Petite Maman* and *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, *Àma Gloria* exquisitely captures themes of family and human connection; in her astonishing screen debut, young Mauroy-Panzani conveys every element of joy, sadness, bravery and regret that Cléo experiences as she confronts seismic change. Her beguiling performance is this deeply moving film's beating heart.

FRANCE • 2023 • PG

GENRE Drama

DIRECTOR

Marie Amachoukeli-Barsacq

CAST

Louise Mauroy-Panzanilla

Moreno Zego

Abnara Gomes Varela

Arnaud Rebotini

LENGTH 84 mins

*"Deeply moving... made dazzling by an astonishingly intricate performance from its young star."* Variety



FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
OPENING NIGHT SELECTION  
(CRITIC'S WEEK) – 2023

CANNES SPOTLIGHT 51

# ROSALIE

ROSALIE



FRANCE • 2023 • M

GENRE **Historical  
Drama/Romance**

DIRECTOR **Stéphanie Di Giusto**

## CAST

**Nadia Tereszkiewicz**  
**Benoît Magimel**  
**Benjamin Biolay**  
**Guillaume Gouix**  
**Gustave Kervern**

LENGTH **115 mins**

"[A] feminism-informed story about a sensuous, unusual woman ahead of her time."

The Hollywood Reporter



FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
UN CERTAIN REGARD  
2023 (UCR)

France, 1870s. Rosalie, the radiant Nadia Tereszkiewicz (*The Crime Is Mine*), is a young woman unlike any other. She hides a secret.

When Abel, portrayed by Benoît Magimel (*The Taste of Things*, AF FFF24), an indebted bar owner unaware of her secret, marries her for her dowry, the defiant young woman decides to learn how to embrace her unconventional appearance.

The question looms: can Abel love Rosalie and see her for the woman she is, once he discovers the truth?

Inspired by the experiences of actual historical figures, this passionate and empowering drama is a beautifully-crafted parable about intolerance and attitudes towards body diversity.

Directed by Stéphanie Di Giusto as her follow-up film to her acclaimed debut *The Dancer*, *Rosalie* is a tender and empathetic story about the triumph of hope and love in a world of prejudice.

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# KING OF MY CASTLE

KHOLOP, LE SERF



WORLD PREMIERE

FRANCE • 2023 • CTC

GENRE Comedy

#### DIRECTORS

Alexandre Charlot

Franck Magnier

#### CAST

Kad Merad

Clovis Cornillac

Isabelle Carré

Audran Cattin

LENGTH 109 mins

What do you do when your obnoxious playboy son is so out of control that his over-the-top partying threatens to ruin your luxury hotel empire? Obviously, you endeavour to teach him some humility. So you hire a borderline-lunatic film director to construct an authentic 18<sup>th</sup> century village, fill it with actors and surveillance cameras, and then have your son drugged, kidnapped and dumped in the village, so he believes he has time-travelled and his life is now that of a peasant.

This new film by the writers of the huge French box office hit comedy *Welcome to the Sticks* is the outrageous mashup of *The Truman Show*, *Barry Lyndon* and *Apocalypse Now* that you never realised you needed. Silly, rude and even a little bit charming, *King of My Castle* is a wonderfully funny and inventive film about a preposterous plan where everything goes wrong, but characters still manage to learn lessons along the way.

Get ready for a one-of-a-kind cinematic adventure that promises to leave you in stitches and questioning just how far one should take the idea of learning a valuable lesson.



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# SUDDENLY

## SOUDAIN SEULS



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE • 2023 • CTC

GENRE Drama

DIRECTOR Thomas Bidegain

CAST

Mélanie Thierry

Gilles Lellouche

LENGTH 113 mins

"A purely staged adventure film, oscillating between thriller and psychological survival, enhanced by Raphaël's original soundtrack."

CNews

*Suddenly* is guaranteed to raise the pulse and heartbeat of its audience!

Together for five years, Ben (Gilles Lellouche, *Farewell Mr. Haffman*, AF FFF22) and Laura (the astonishing Mélanie Thierry, *Memoir of War*, AF FFF19), decide to embark on a global sailing journey. A detour to a remote island near the Antarctic coast takes an unexpected turn when a storm hits, causing their boat to vanish. Isolated from the world and suddenly alone, facing danger and the approaching winter, they must now struggle both for survival and the preservation of their relationship.

Ben and Laura will have to do things they never imagined, and confront questions they never thought they would have to ask: is it better to survive alone, or to die together?

This epic tale of romance and survival marks the latest work written and directed by Thomas Bidegain, renowned for his collaborations with director Jacques Audiard on films such as *A Prophet* and *Rust and Bone*.

An adaptation from the novel *Soudain, seuls* by French author and sailor Isabelle Autissier, *Suddenly* is a gripping and passionate film about navigating extremes, in life and in love. Not to be missed!



# THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

LE RÈGNE ANIMAL



One of the most talked about films at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival is this wild and inventive genre mash-up that combines the warmth of a family drama with the disturbing visuals of a Cronenbergian thriller.

Romain Duris (*Eiffel*, AF FFF21) and Paul Kircher (*Winter Boy*, AF FFF23) play François and Émile, a father and son living in the not-so-distant-future when the planet is afflicted with a new crisis: people are mutating into animals. One of the casualties of this nightmarish scenario is François's wife and Émile's mother. The pair relocates to live near one of the new institutions designed to indefinitely house the human/animal hybrids, including their wife/mother. Amid the growing mystery, paranoia and fear emerges Émile's tender coming of age story. He discovers what it means to be human and how the next generation will adapt to a world where the forces of nature are changing forever.

Filmmaker Thomas Cailley, who previously distinguished himself with the unconventional anti-romcom *Love at First Fight*, delivers yet another compelling, rule-breaking and convention-defying film.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE • 2023 • M

GENRE

Fantasy, Adventure

DIRECTOR Thomas Cailley

CAST

Romain Duris

Paul Kircher

Adèle Exarchopoulos

Tom Mercier

Billie Blain

LENGTH 128 mins

*"Sets itself up as a brooding chiller, but gradually shifts gear to become more poetic and tender."* **Screen Daily**



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

NOMINEE "UN CERTAIN REGARD"

# THE EDGE OF THE BLADE

UNE AFFAIRE D'HONNEUR



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE • 2023 • CTC

GENRE Historical drama

DIRECTOR Vincent Perez

## CAST

Roschdy Zem

Doria Tillier

Damien Bonnard

Eva Danino

Noham Edje

LENGTH 100 mins

"Sword, pistol or saber, the fights are one after the other. High stakes, they keep the plot moving and the audience on the edge of their seats."

Le Figaro

It is 1887 and Parisian society is going through transformations that will resonate for decades to come. The supposedly-outlawed practice of men fighting duels to preserve and restore honour still thrives, while women are not permitted to vote, let alone pick up a fencing foil themselves. Against this backdrop of social upheaval comes *Edge of the Blade*, a film rich in drama and period detail that recounts the story of both the public and secret conflicts that shaped France in the late 19th century.

Actor Vincent Perez (*Cyrano*) steps behind the camera again to direct for the first time since *Alone in Berlin* in 2016. The impressive cast includes Roschdy Zem (*Other People's Children*, AF FFF23) as the legendary swordsman Clément Lacaze who becomes entangled in an illegal fencing bout between his nephew and a far more experienced army colonel. Doria Tillier (*La Belle Époque*, AF FFF21) plays women's rights activist Marie-Rose Astié, who is attempting to manipulate the conventions of duelling to raise attention for her own cause. When Clément and Marie-Rose join forces, they must defend so much more than outdated notions of honour.

Prepare yourself for a film that deftly weaves together drama, romance and duels - promising an edge-of-your-seat experience where every sword clash heralds change.



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# DIVERTIMENTO

DIVERTIMENTO



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE • 2022 • CTC

GENRE **Biopic/Drama**

DIRECTOR **Marie-Castille  
Mention-Schaar**

#### CAST

**Oulaya Amamra**

**Lina El Arabi**

**Niels Arestrup**

**Zinedine Soualem**

**Nadia Kaci**

LENGTH **110 mins**

*"The cast is flamboyant, and this life story will inspire young people (and beyond) to fight for their dreams."*

**Le Parisien**

On the outskirts of Paris, two teenage sisters of Algerian descent face formidable odds as they aspire to break into the exclusive domain of classical symphonic music. This inspiring narrative is based on a true story, centred on renowned conductor Zahia Ziouani and her sister, cellist Fettouma Ziouani. Set in 1995, *Divertimento* paints a remarkable portrait of these young women defying expectations and overcoming societal barriers.

Zahia and Fettouma's journey transcends their underprivileged beginnings, as they courageously confront chauvinism and other prejudices challenging their passion for classical music. Rather than merely seeking acceptance by the exclusive Parisian classical music scene, the sisters aspire to bring the beauty of symphonic music to their community. Firmly believing that music should be inclusive and a source of joy and comfort accessible to people from all backgrounds, the Ziouani sisters create an enduring legacy, still resonant today.

This triumphant and heartwarming film offers a glimpse into the origins of their extraordinary journey. *Divertimento* showcases not only the pursuit of musical excellence but also the resilience and determination needed to redefine the boundaries of privilege, and to bring the universal beauty of classical music to communities everywhere.



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# ABBÉ PIERRE: A CENTURY OF DEVOTION

L'ABBÉ PIERRE: UNE VIE DE COMBATS



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE • 2023 • CTC

GENRE **Biopic/Drama**

DIRECTOR **Frédéric Tellier**

CAST

**Benjamin Lavernhe**

**Emmanuelle Bercot**

**Michel Vuillermoz**

LENGTH **138 mins**

"Brilliant. A great adventure, offering a romantic and epic portrait of one of the most emblematic personalities of the 20th century."

**Le Parisien**



FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
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"HORS COMPETITION"

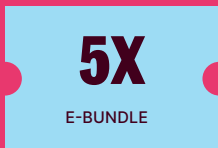
Featuring a revelatory lead performance from Benjamin Lavernhe (*Delicious, C'est la vie!*), writer/director Frédéric Tellier's sweeping and deeply affecting historical drama charts the extraordinary life of the titular priest and humanist (1912-2007) who advocated for those most in need whilst frequently placing himself in peril and risk of ostracisation.

The fifth of eight Catholic children, Henri Grouès (Lavernhe) plans to join the monastery, only for WWII to intervene. Learning of the persecution of Jews and patriots, he joins the Resistance to help those fleeing Gestapo oppression, himself forced to use several false identities to avoid capture. As "Abbé Pierre", Henri is exposed to the devastation of war, but also bears witness to the compassion and strength of brotherhood and the liberation of Paris; he emerges from the maelstrom a changed man and becomes dedicated to the lives of others.

A major word-of-mouth sensation and box office success in France in late 2023, Tellier's grand, big-budget production features a stirring soundtrack by The National's Bryce Dessner and is truly elevated by the remarkable Lavernhe. *Abbé Pierre* is both an uplifting and memorable drama that – in capturing the feelings, doubts and contradictions of one inspirational man – speaks eloquently to the concerns of our current era.

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# NENEH SUPERSTAR

NENEH SUPERSTAR



FEATURED AT MIFF

FRANCE • 2022 • M

GENRE Drama

DIRECTOR Ramzi Ben Sliman

#### CAST

Oumy Bruni Garrel

Maiwenn

Aïssa Maïga

Cédric Kahn

Steve Tientcheu

LENGTH 97 mins

*"Neneh Superstar isn't just a cinematic triumph; it's a work of art that pushes boundaries and dismantles preconceptions."*

**Dance Life Australia**

This inspiring family-friendly film resonates with anyone who has ever refused to compromise their dreams and stood up against those who said no. Set within one of France's most prestigious cultural institutions – the Paris Opera Ballet School – 12-year-old ballet dancer Neneh discovers that her extraordinary natural talent and focused discipline may not be enough to win the approval of the school's harsh and discriminatory headmistress, Marianne Belage.

Not only is our heroine from a socially-disadvantaged background, but she is also black, challenging the long-standing dominance of white dancers in classical ballet.

Newcomer Oumy Bruni Garrel is a revelation as Neneh, portraying the young ballerina with dignity and grace. The film also stars Maiwenn (director and star of *Jeanne du Barry*, AF FFF24), delivering a formidable portrayal of the ex-star ballerina turned headmistress.

*Neneh Superstar*, while being a glorious celebration of talent and perseverance, serves as a timely reminder that prejudice remains a significant barrier for many. This charming feel-good film is a must-see for families and ballet enthusiasts of all ages.



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# PRINCES OF THE DESERT

ZODI ET TÉHU, FRÈRES DU DÉSSERT



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE • 2022 • CTC

**GENRE** Adventure, comedy

**DIRECTOR** Eric Barbier

**CAST**

Alexandra Lamy

Yassir Drief

Youssef Hajdi

Pierre Hancisse

Said Bey

**LENGTH** 110 mins

*"This classic tale is particularly captivating for the luminous beauty of its settings, which are truly worthy of the big screen."*

**Femme Actuelle**

Saddle up for the adventure of a lifetime in this exhilarating family film set in the high-stakes world of international camel racing!

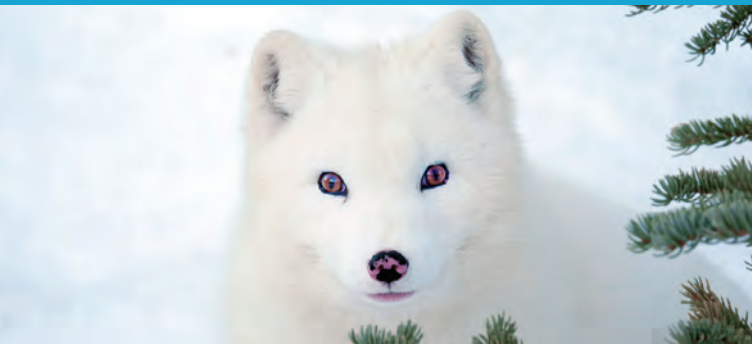
When Zodi, a 12-year-old Berber boy, finds and adopts Téhu, an orphaned baby camel, an unlikely bond is formed. This connection deepens when Zodi discovers, under the guidance of the dromedary veterinarian Julia (Alexandra Lamy, *Rolling to You*, AF FFF19), that his new best friend has the potential to become a champion runner.

Thus begins an exciting journey for the pair, full of adventures and dangers. Facing cruel thieves who want Téhu for their own nefarious schemes and battling epic sandstorms, Zodi dedicates himself wholeheartedly to achieving his dream: winning 'The Golden Sword', a race with a substantial cash prize that could save his tribe.

*Princes of the Desert* is a spirited adventure of the highest order. An ode to friendship from writer/director Eric Barbier (*Little Country*, AF FFF21) and starring talented newcomer Yassir Drief as Zodi, *Princes of the Desert* will convince viewers that a boy and a camel can become devoted and loyal companions. Don't miss this thrilling tale set in the world of *One Thousand and One Nights*!

# KINA & YUK

KINA & YUK, RENARDS DE LA BANQUISE



In this breathtaking journey of survival, friendship and courage that's suitable for the whole family, two brave little Arctic foxes - Kina and Yuk - experience the adventure of a lifetime.

From filmmaker Guillaume Maidatchevsky, whose previous film *Ailo's Journey* delighted audiences with its tale of a reindeer fawn, comes a new epic adventure set in the vast icy wilderness of the Arctic.

Kina and Yuk are about to become parents. As a result of global warming their home is changing around them. When the melting polar ice separates the pair, it becomes a race against time for them to be reunited before their cubs are born.

Despite the distance, they remain determined to find each other once more. Exploring new and unknown terrain, making new friends who help them face the dangers that stand in the way of their quest to be together once more, the cute and curious Kina and Yuk will capture your heart and give you hope as they defy the odds with their love and dedication.

Narrated by beloved French actress Virginie Efira (*Other People's Children*, AF FFF23), this film is an invitation to experience the extraordinary via an unmissable adventure.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE, CANADA, ITALY  
2023 • CTC

GENRE Adventure

DIRECTOR

Guillaume Maidatchevsky

CAST

Virginie Efira

Guillaume Maidatchevsky

Michaël Souhaité

LENGTH 85 mins

*"A lovely tale, as educational as it is poetic."*

Telerama

– FAMILY MOVIE –

# THE SNOW MUST GO ON

LES TÊTES GIVRÉES

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



---

**GENRE** Romance, Drama
 

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**DIRECTOR** Stéphane Cazes
 

---

**CAST** Clovis Cornillac, Claudia Tagbo,  
Maïssa Diawara, Malonn Lévana,  
Louis Durant
 

---

"We're not Gandhi or Greta, sir."

"How do you know?"

Disengaged, apathetic and despondent; nobody expects much from the SEGPA\* students at this high school in Chamonix. Little do they know that their school year is about to take an unexpected turn.

Alain, a former mountain guide turned teacher, decides to risk everything for a chance at inspiration and leads his students on an audacious day trip into the heart of a colossal glacier beneath the towering Mont Blanc.

Not only are the students awe-struck by the glacier's majesty, but they embark on a mission to save it from the imminent threat of melting. With this new purpose and against everyone's advice, they will do anything in their power to make the impossible happen.

*The Snow Must Go on* is a joyous coming-of-age film about finding meaning in life at any stage. Combining breathtaking visuals, best experienced on the big screen, with a winning blend of humour and heart, it is an inspirational film about the next generation standing up to preserve the natural world no matter how impossible the odds, how fierce the opposition or how outlandish the plan.

*\*an education stream for teenagers with significant academic difficulties*

---

"A sympathetic eco-fable, starring Clovis Cornillac as Professor Keating (of Dead Poets Society) from Haute-Savoie."

**Telerama**

---



# NINA AND THE SECRET OF THE HEDGEHOG

NINA ET LE SECRET DU HERRISSON



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG  
2023 • CTC

GENRE **Animated**

DIRECTORS

Alain Gagnol  
Jean-Loup Felicioli

CAST

Audrey Tautou  
Guillaume Canet  
Loan Longchamp  
Guillaume Bats  
Keanu Peyran

LENGTH **77 mins**

"A magnificent film, featuring an intrepid, lovable heroine in enchanting settings (a sublime forest)." **Le Parisien**

FESTIVAL D'ANNÉCY  
NOMINATION OFFICIELLE

In 2012, one of the biggest hits of the AF FFF was the enchanting *A Cat in Paris*, a hand-painted animated production by artists Alain Gagnol and Jean-Loup Felicioli. The film went on to achieve major international success and received an Academy Award nomination for Best Animated Feature, bucking the trend towards computer-generated productions.

Now 12 years later, the pair have re-emerged with *Nina and the Secret of the Hedgehog*, an exquisite new adventure about a young girl with a wild curiosity and love for her family, featuring the voice talents of beloved French cinema icons Audrey Tautou and Guillaume Canet (reunited for the first time after 16 years since *Hunting & Gathering*).

Ten-year-old Nina has always filled her imagination with her dad's highly improvised bedtime stories about hedgehogs. But when he loses his job, Nina begins to have concerns about the future. So, after hearing rumours of a treasure stashed away by the old factory's boss, Nina and loyal best friend Mehdi decide to organise a risky search, in the hope of sharing the loot between her father and his fellow co-workers. Thus begins an incredible adventure full of humour and colour, one that proves Gagnol and Felicioli's talents as artists and storytellers of ingenuity and empathy are as evident as ever.

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6:30PM SCREENING

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# CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
19	20 FESTIVAL PREVIEW	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

## MARCH

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 OPENING NIGHT	8	9	10
11	12 SWISS NIGHT	13	14 LADIES NIGHT	15	16	17 SPECIAL MUSKETEERS
18	19 BELGIAN NIGHT	20	21 TASTE OF FRANCE	22 FRANCO- PHONIE MARKET	23	24 CLASSIC MOVIE
25	26 35 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY	27 CANADIAN NIGHT	28 CRIME & JUSTICE NIGHT	29	30	31

## APRIL

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2 CLOSING NIGHT	3	4	5	6	7





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# - SWISS NIGHT - MARGUERITE'S THEOREM



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12<sup>TH</sup>  
MAR



6:00PM ARRIVAL



6:30PM SCREENING

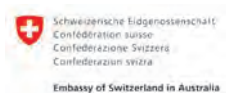
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# - LADIES' NIGHT - THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE



14<sup>TH</sup>  
MAR



6:00PM ARRIVAL



6:30PM SCREENING

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# – BELGIAN NIGHT – A SILENCE



CINÉWINE

19<sup>TH</sup>  
MAR



6:00PM ARRIVAL



6:30PM SCREENING

*Glass of wine on arrival!*



PALACE ELECTRIC

\$25 AF & Palace members | \$30 Non-members

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EMBASSY  
OF BELGIUM

# – TASTE OF FRANCE – THE TASTE OF THINGS



21<sup>ST</sup>  
MAR



6:00PM ARRIVAL



6:30PM SCREENING

*Glass of wine and catering on arrival!*



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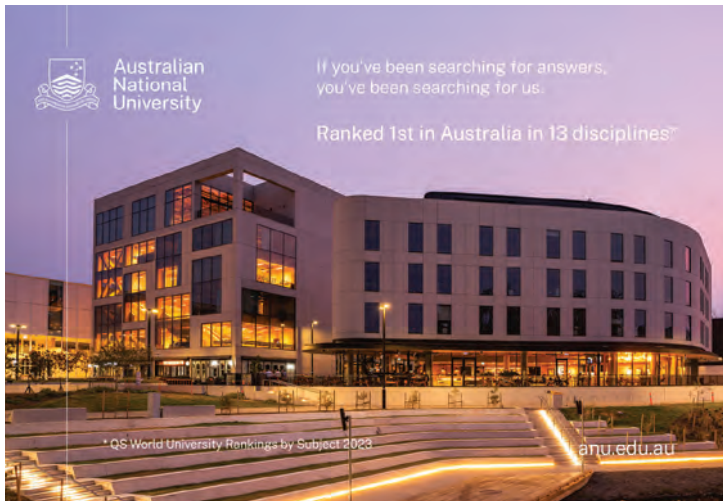
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*af*

Alliance Française  
*Canberra*

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Want to give a helping hand and participate  
as a volunteer?

Send us an email at  
[enquiries@afcanberra.com.au](mailto:enquiries@afcanberra.com.au)



# – CANADIAN NIGHT –

## THE NATURE OF LOVE



CINÉWINE

27<sup>TH</sup>  
MAR



6:00PM ARRIVAL



6:30PM SCREENING

*Glass of wine on arrival!*



PALACE ELECTRIC

\$25 AF & Palace members | \$30 Non-members

Scening  
supported by:

Canada

# - CRIME & JUSTICE NIGHT - ALL YOUR FACES



28<sup>TH</sup>  
MAR



6:00PM ARRIVAL



6:30PM SCREENING

*Glass of wine and cheese on arrival!*  
*Q&A session with ANU specialists after the screening*



PALACE ELECTRIC

\$35 AF & Palace members | \$40 Non-members | \$15 ANU students

*Scening  
supported by:*



Australian  
National  
University

# - CLOSING NIGHT - SECOND ROUND



2<sup>ND</sup>  
APR



6:00PM ARRIVAL



6:30PM SCREENING

*Glass of wine and catering on arrival!*



PALACE ELECTRIC

\$35 AF & Palace members | \$40 Non-members

Scening  
supported by:



silo bakery + cafe





*Bakery & cafe*

**SILO BAKERY**

36 Giles Street, Kingston | Tues-Sat:7am-3pm



THE ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE OF CANBERRA PRESENTS

# VIRTUAL REALITY

LEARN FRENCH

TRAVEL IN A BLINK OF  
AN EYE

EXPERIENCE A NEW  
CULTURE



af

Alliance Française  
Canberra

## ELECTRIC

## TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY

## FESTIVAL PREVIEW

6:30pm A Difficult Year

## THURSDAY, 7 MARCH

## OPENING NIGHT GALA

6:30pm The Three  
Musketeers:  
D'Artagnan

## FRIDAY, 8 MARCH

11:00am The Three  
Musketeers:  
D'Artagnan  
11:00am A Chance to Win  
1:15pm The Book of  
Solutions  
1:40pm Jeanne du Barry  
3:30pm Marguerite's  
Theorem  
4:10pm Divertimento  
6:00pm Abbé Pierre: A  
Century of Devotion  
6:30pm The President's Wife  
8:40pm A Silence  
8:50pm The Animal Kingdom

## SATURDAY, 9 MARCH

10:30am Along Came Love  
11:00am The Nature of Love  
1:10pm The Edge of the  
Blade  
1:20pm Suddenly  
3:30pm Kina & Yuk  
3:45pm All Your Faces  
5:30pm Bonnard, Pierre &  
Marthe  
6:15pm A Difficult Year  
8:10pm Jeanne du Barry  
8:45pm The Three  
Musketeers:  
D'Artagnan

## SUNDAY, 10 MARCH

10:45am A Great Friend  
11:00am The Taste of Things  
1:00pm The President's Wife  
1:45pm Mr. Blake at Your  
Service!  
3:10pm Toni  
4:10pm Iris and the Men  
5:20pm The Three  
Musketeers:  
D'Artagnan  
6:30pm The Snow Must Go  
On  
8:00pm King of my Castle

## MONDAY, 11 MARCH

10:45am The Animal Kingdom  
11:00am Mr. Blake at Your  
Service!  
1:20pm Abbé Pierre: A  
Century of Devotion  
1:30pm The Three  
Musketeers: Milady  
4:00pm Princes of the Desert  
4:10pm Sidonie in Japan  
6:15pm Divertimento  
6:30pm Iris and the Men  
8:40pm Suddenly  
8:40pm Wilderness Therapy

## TUESDAY, 12 MARCH

10:30am Out of Season  
10:50am The President's Wife  
1:00pm A Difficult Year  
1:00pm Bonnard, Pierre &  
Marthe  
3:30pm Mr. Blake at Your  
Service!  
3:40pm Last Summer  
6:00pm The Three  
Musketeers:  
D'Artagnan

## CINÉWINE - SWISS NIGHT

6:30pm Marguerite's  
Theorem

8:40pm Along Came Love

## WEDNESDAY, 13 MARCH

10:40am Party of Fools  
11:00am Abbé Pierre: A  
Century of Devotion  
1:10pm The Nature of Love  
1:50pm Iris and the Men  
3:30pm Marguerite's  
Theorem  
4:00pm The Edge of the  
Blade  
6:00pm The Three  
Musketeers: Milady  
6:15pm A Silence  
8:30pm Neneh Superstar  
8:40pm The Book of  
Solutions

## THURSDAY, 14 MARCH

10:30am A Silence  
10:45am The Sitting Duck  
12:45pm Suddenly  
1:20pm The Animal Kingdom  
3:10pm A Difficult Year  
4:15pm À ma Gloria

## LADIES' NIGHT

6:30pm The President's Wife

6:30pm Mr. Blake at Your  
Service!  
8:50pm All Your Faces

## FRIDAY, 15 MARCH

10:30am Take a Chance on Me  
10:50am The Three  
Musketeers:  
D'Artagnan  
12:45pm King of my Castle  
1:30pm Divertimento  
3:15pm A Chance to Win  
4:00pm Out of Season  
5:45pm Bonnard, Pierre &  
Marthe  
6:30pm Iris and the Men  
8:20pm Jeanne du Barry  
8:45pm Sidonie in Japan

**SATURDAY, 16 MARCH**

10:00am Marguerite's Theorem  
 10:45am Rosalie  
 12:30pm A Difficult Year  
 1:15pm Jeanne du Barry  
 3:00pm Bonnard, Pierre & Marthe  
 3:45pm The President's Wife  
 5:40pm The Taste of Things  
 5:50pm Abbé Pierre: A Century of Devotion  
 8:20pm The Three Musketeers: Milady  
 8:40pm Iris and the Men

**SUNDAY, 17 MARCH**

11:00am Princes of the Desert  
 11:00am Divertimento  
 1:20pm Neneh Superstar  
 1:30pm Nina & the Secret of the Hedgehog  
 3:30pm A Great Friend

**DOUBLE FEATURE**

4:00pm The Three Musketeers: D'Artagnan

5:40pm A Difficult Year  
 6:40pm The Three Musketeers: Milady  
 8:10pm Wilderness Therapy  
 9:00pm Toni

**MONDAY, 18 MARCH**

10:45am Jeanne du Barry  
 11:15am Toni  
 1:15pm Iris and the Men  
 1:30pm A Silence  
 3:30pm Àma Gloria  
 3:45pm Last Summer  
 6:00pm The Three Musketeers: Milady  
 6:10pm The Book of Solutions  
 8:30pm The President's Wife  
 8:40pm Rosalie

**TUESDAY, 19 MARCH**

10:30am A Difficult Year  
 10:45am Toni  
 1:00pm King of my Castle  
 1:15pm Out of Season  
 3:30pm Party of Fools  
 3:45pm Iris and the Men  
 6:00pm Suddenly

**CINÉWINE - BELGIAN NIGHT**

6:30pm A Silence

8:30pm The Edge of the Blade

**WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH**

10:45am The President's Wife  
 11:00am Neneh Superstar  
 12:50pm A Difficult Year  
 1:10pm Abbé Pierre: A Century of Devotion  
 3:20pm All Your Faces  
 4:00pm The Animal Kingdom  
 6:00pm Jeanne du Barry  
 6:40pm A Chance to Win  
 8:30pm Divertimento  
 8:50pm The Sitting Duck

**THURSDAY, 21 MARCH**

10:30am Marguerite's Theorem  
 11:00am Bonnard, Pierre & Marthe  
 1:00pm The Three Musketeers: D'Artagnan  
 1:40pm A Silence  
 3:40pm Suddenly  
 3:50pm Along Came Love

**TASTE OF FRANCE**

6:30pm The Taste of Things

6:30pm A Great Friend  
 8:40pm Last Summer

**FRIDAY, 22 MARCH**

10:45am Rosalie

11:00am Abbé Pierre: A Century of Devotion  
 1:10pm Marguerite's Theorem  
 1:50pm Àma Gloria  
 3:40pm The Three Musketeers: Milady  
 3:50pm Neneh Superstar  
 6:00pm Divertimento  
 6:10pm Iris and the Men  
 8:20pm Sidonie in Japan  
 8:20pm Bonnard, Pierre & Marthe

**SATURDAY, 23 MARCH**

10:45am Mr. Blake at Your Service!  
 Suddenly  
 11:00am All Your Faces  
 1:10pm Nina & the Secret of the Hedgehog  
 3:20pm The Sitting Duck  
 3:40pm The Three Musketeers: D'Artagnan  
 6:00pm The President's Wife  
 6:15pm The Three Musketeers: Milady  
 8:10pm A Difficult Year  
 8:40pm Jeanne du Barry

**SUNDAY, 24 MARCH**

10:30am The President's Wife  
 11:00am Out of Season  
 12:40pm The Three Musketeers: Milady  
 1:30pm Iris and the Men  
 3:45pm A Silence

**CLASSIC MOVIE**

4:00pm Children of Paradise  
 6:00pm Bonnard, Pierre & Marthe  
 7:45pm Abbé Pierre: A Century of Devotion  
 8:40pm Along Came Love

**MONDAY, 25 MARCH**

- 10:30am The Book of Solutions  
 11:00am The President's Wife  
 12:45pm Abbé Pierre: A Century of Devotion  
 1:10pm The Edge of the Blade  
 3:30pm Take a Chance on Me  
 3:40pm Rosalie  
 5:45pm A Difficult Year  
 6:10pm The Animal Kingdom  
 8:15pm Suddenly  
 8:50pm A Chance to Win

**TUESDAY, 26 MARCH**

- 10:30am Party of Fools  
 11:00am Iris and the Men  
 1:10pm The Three Musketeers: D'Artagnan  
 1:10pm Suddenly  
 3:40pm The Nature of Love  
 3:45pm Mr. Blake at Your Service!  
 6:00pm Sidonie in Japan

**CINÉWINE  
35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

- 6:30pm The Intouchables  
 8:10pm King of my Castle

**WEDNESDAY, 27 MARCH**

- 10:45am Neneh Superstar  
 11:00am All Your Faces  
 1:00pm Kina & Yuk  
 1:30pm Abbé Pierre: A Century of Devotion  
 3:00pm The Animal Kingdom  
 4:20pm Nina & the Secret of the Hedgehog  
 6:00pm Jeanne du Barry

**CINÉWINE  
CANADIAN NIGHT**

- 6:30pm The Nature of Love  
 8:30pm A Difficult Year

**THURSDAY, 28 MARCH**

- 10:15am The Sitting Duck  
 11:15am Rosalie  
 12:50pm Bonnard, Pierre & Marthe  
 1:40pm Wilderness Therapy  
 3:30pm Take a Chance on Me  
 3:50pm Out of Season  
 5:45pm The Three Musketeers: D'Artagnan

**CRIME & JUSTICE NIGHT**

- 6:30pm All Your Faces  
 8:20pm A Silence

**FRIDAY, 29 MARCH**

- 10:30am Marguerite's Theorem  
 11:15am Take a Chance on Me  
 1:00pm The Edge of the Blade  
 1:30pm Wilderness Therapy  
 3:15pm Jeanne du Barry  
 3:45pm Neneh Superstar  
 6:00pm A Great Friend  
 6:00pm Bonnard, Pierre & Marthe  
 8:30pm All Your Faces  
 8:40pm The Nature of Love

**SATURDAY, 30 MARCH**

- 10:45am The President's Wife  
 11:30am Kina & Yuk  
 12:50pm Mr. Blake at Your Service!  
 1:30pm The Snow Must Go On  
 3:10pm Sidonie in Japan  
 3:45pm A Silence  
 5:30pm The Three Musketeers: D'Artagnan  
 6:00pm A Great Friend  
 8:10pm A Difficult Year  
 8:20pm The Animal Kingdom

**SUNDAY, 31 MARCH**

- 10:30am The Sitting Duck  
 10:45am Àma Gloria  
 12:45pm Bonnard, Pierre & Marthe  
 1:10pm The Three Musketeers: Milady  
 3:20pm Out of Season  
 3:45pm The President's Wife  
 5:45pm Iris and the Men  
 6:00pm The Taste of Things  
 8:00pm A Chance to Win  
 8:45pm Suddenly

**MONDAY, 1 APRIL**

- 10:15am Rosalie  
 11:00am The Book of Solutions  
 12:45pm Abbé Pierre: A Century of Devotion  
 1:15pm Toni  
 3:40pm Jeanne du Barry  
 3:40pm All Your Faces  
 6:10pm Last Summer  
 6:10pm Along Came Love  
 8:30pm Marguerite's Theorem  
 8:45pm The Edge of the Blade

**TUESDAY, 2 APRIL**

- 10:45am Out of Season  
 11:00am Last Summer  
 1:15pm Sidonie in Japan  
 1:20pm Wilderness Therapy  
 3:20pm Toni  
 3:30pm Jeanne du Barry  
 5:30pm Iris and the Men

**CLOSING NIGHT**

- 6:30pm Second Round  
 7:45pm The Three Musketeers: Milady

## TICKETING & CONDITIONS

### OPENING NIGHT GALA THE THREE MUSKETEERS: D'ARTAGNAN

Thursday 7 March  
6 pm arrival for 6.30 pm film  
After-party from 9 pm with French canapés, wine and music!  
Palace Electric Cinema  
Sponsored by Fromager d'Affinois and Ondine – European Brasserie  
**Tickets:**  
Alliance Française de Canberra & Palace Movie Club  
Members\* .....\$60.00  
Non-members .....\$65.00  
Please see our website for updates and all event details.

### CLOSING NIGHT RECEPTION SECOND ROUND

Tuesday 2 April  
6 pm arrival for 6:30 pm film  
Palace Electric Cinema  
Sponsored by Silo Bakery  
**Tickets:**  
Alliance Française de Canberra & Palace Movie Club  
Members\* .....\$35.00  
Non-members .....\$40.00  
Please see our website for updates and all event details.

### CINÉWINE SESSIONS

Palace Electric Cinema  
Check schedule for session times.  
Each session includes a glass of French wine!

### SWISS NIGHT MARGUERITE'S THEOREM

Tuesday 12 March  
6 pm arrival for 6:30 pm film  
Sponsored by the Embassy of Switzerland

### BELGIUM NIGHT A SILENCE

Tuesday 19 March

6 pm arrival for 6:30 pm film  
Sponsored by the Embassy of Belgium

### DOUBLE FEATURE CLASSIC MOVIE CHILDREN OF PARADISE

Sunday 24 March, 3:30 pm arrival for 4 pm film

### 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY THE INTOUCHABLES

Tuesday 26 March  
6 pm arrival for 6:30 pm film

### CANADIAN NIGHT THE NATURE OF LOVE

Wednesday 27 March  
6 pm arrival for 6:30 pm film  
Sponsored by the High Commission of Canada

Alliance Française de Canberra & Palace Movie Club  
Members\* .....\$25.00  
Non-members .....\$30.00  
Please see our website for updates and all event details.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Palace Electric Cinema**  
Each session includes French Delicacies, a glass of French wine and music!

### LADIES NIGHT THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE

Thursday 14 March  
6 pm arrival for 6:30 pm film  
Palace Electric Cinema  
Sponsored by Her Canberra

### DOUBLE FEATURE THE THREE MUSKETEERS: D'ARTAGNAN + THE THREE MUSKETEERS: MILADY

Sunday 17 March, 3:30 pm arrival for 4 pm film  
Palace Electric Cinema

### TASTE OF FRANCE THE TASTE OF THINGS

Thursday 21 March, 6 pm arrival for 6:30 pm film  
Palace Electric Cinema

### CRIME & JUSTICE NIGHT ALL YOUR FACES

Q&A session after the film by ANU  
Thursday 28 March, 6 pm arrival for 6:30 pm film  
Palace Electric Cinema

Alliance Française de Canberra & Palace Movie Club  
Members\* .....\$35.00  
(\$45 for *The Three Musketeers* Double Feature)  
Non-members .....\$40.00  
(\$50 for *The Three Musketeers* Double Feature)  
Crime & Justice Night:  
ANU Student .....\$15.00  
Please see our website for updates and all event details.

### TICKET PRICES

#### GENERAL ADMISSION

(Excluding Opening and Closing Nights, CinéWine Events, Special Events)

Alliance Française de Canberra & Palace Movie Club  
Members\* .....\$21.00  
Adult .....\$26.00  
Concessions\*\* .....\$20.00  
Children 12 & under  
(see classifications) .....\$16.00  
Students' weekday sessions  
(before 4.30 pm) .....\$16.00

Proof of concession/membership or ID/student card must be presented at the cinema box office to obtain discount.

\*Two discount tickets per membership card per session will apply.

\*\*One discount per concession.

Eligible concessions: senior (60+), pensioner, full-time student, Under 25s.

To purchase your Alliance Française Membership, visit: [www.afcanberra.com.au](http://www.afcanberra.com.au)  
To purchase your Palace Movie Club Membership, visit: [www.palacecinemas.com.au](http://www.palacecinemas.com.au)

## GROUPS

(Excluding Opening and Closing Nights, CinéWine Events, Special Events)

Groups (10+) .....\$16.00  
Primary and Secondary School Groups (20+)\*\* .....\$13.00  
\*\*\*1 teacher admitted for free for every 20 students.  
For bookings, please contact: (02) 6222 4906 or [Events.act@palacecinemas.com.au](mailto:Events.act@palacecinemas.com.au)

## E-TICKET BUNDLES (MOVIE CLUB)

(Excluding Opening and Closing Nights, CinéWine Events, Special Events).

### 10 FILM E-TICKET BUNDLE

(MOVIE CLUB): .....\$159.00

### 5 FILM E-TICKET BUNDLE

(MOVIE CLUB): .....\$95.00

The Alliance Française French Film Festival eTicket Bundles can be purchased and redeemed by Palace Cinema Movie Club Members only (free tier available) at any Palace Cinema in VIC, NSW, QLD, ACT & WA at the box office or on [www.palacecinemas.com.au](http://www.palacecinemas.com.au). Bundles need to be purchased via the Palace Movie Club Member Portal (sign into your membership account in order to purchase). Tickets can be redeemed throughout the duration of the

2024 Festival in each participating state. Please note that the offer is not available to SA. Tickets are valid for Palace Cinemas only, not for partner cinemas (such as Palace Nova or Luna Palace).

**ADVANCE TICKETS ON SALE FROM THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY**

## IN CINEMA

At box office daily from 11am to 8.30 pm until sold out. There are no booking fees for purchasing at cinema box offices, however surcharges for credit cards apply.

## PALACE ELECTRIC CINEMA

NewActon Nishi  
2 Phillip Law Street  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Ph.: (02) 6222 4900

## ONLINE

Tickets for all venues are available securely online at [www.affrench-filmfestival.org](http://www.affrench-filmfestival.org) and [www.palacecinemas.com.au](http://www.palacecinemas.com.au). All major credit cards accepted (excluding 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 office 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 nonrefundable 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. Reduced seating capacities due to government restrictions may result in limited tickets being on sale and this may change if more tickets are released at a later date. Updates will be provided via festival and venue websites and we encourage patrons to follow us on social media for the most current information.

Patrons are encouraged to collect booked tickets 30 minutes prior to the session to avoid queues. 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 reserve the right to withdraw, change and replace programs without notice. Best efforts will be made to notify patrons in advance. All non-English language films have English subtitles. Seating is reserved at Palace Electric Cinema.

# Learn French Your Way

*af*

Alliance Française  
*Canberra*

CONTACT US



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