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ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

20
25



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PIERRE-ANDRÉ IMBERT

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

I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed partners, whose generous support brings this celebration of French cinema to life again and again.

The past year has been exceptional for French cultural influence. The Paris Olympic Games and the reopening of Notre-Dame de Paris captured the world's imagination, while in Australia, we celebrated the creation of FACEF (French Australian Cultural Exchange Foundation), an unforgettable Night of Ideas, the first French Sounds of Summer in Canberra, wonderful exhibitions of French artists in multiple Australian galleries and museums, and promising cooperation between French and Australian creative industries.

With its diverse and captivating film lineup and a vibrant program of special events, the AF FFF is the perfect launchpad for another extraordinary year of cultural activities in Australia. We invite you to join us in an unforgettable cinematic journey, celebrating the art of French storytelling and the enduring friendship between France and Australia.

Dear Festival Enthusiasts,

I am delighted to welcome you to the 36th Alliance Française French Film Festival (AF FFF), our thriving annual celebration of French cinema and culture in Australia.

Building on last year's success, which saw over 188,000 film lovers attend, the festival expands to five new cities in 2025: Ballarat, Ballina, Warriewood, Warrawong, and Darwin. For the first time, audiences in the Northern Territory will experience the charm of the festival, making it a truly national cultural event.

Beyond the silver screen, the AF FFF continues to be a cornerstone of cultural exchange, fostering a deeper appreciation of the French language and Francophone cultures. The festival's popularity is a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Alliances Françaises across Australia, whose dedication is key to its success.



FRÉDÉRIC ALLIOD

Frédéric Alliod is the Audiovisual
Attaché of the French Embassy and
the CEO of the Alliance Française
French Film Festival Ltd

Our selection goes beyond captivating stories, sparking meaningful discussions on historical events and contemporary issues such as justice, freedom, education, and healthcare. We remain committed to championing the remarkable contributions of women in French cinema, with a strong focus on female characters, directors, and empowering narratives.

To elevate your festival experience, we are bringing back beloved signature events, including "Taste of France" (*All Stirred Up!*), "Ladies' Night" (*Riviera Revenge*), and the special presentation of a restored classic film (*Army of Shadows*). Additionally, our CinéWine sessions return alongside exciting new surprises.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the fantastic Palace team, our Australian and New Zealand distributors for their steadfast collaboration, and my dedicated colleagues at the Alliances Françaises across Australia.

Let's come together to celebrate the diversity and creativity of French cinema. Bon festival!

As I complete my first year as CEO of the Alliance Française French Film Festival Ltd, I am thrilled to unveil our 2025 program. This newly established not-for-profit entity oversees the festival nationally under the guidance of a Board representing the six Alliances Françaises in Australia's capital cities.

This year's festival proudly shines a spotlight on visionary directors and rising stars shaping the future of French cinema. Our 42-feature film line-up showcases an incredibly diverse range of genres, from epic blockbusters like *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *Beating Hearts* to an eclectic mix of comedies, dramas, adventures, and romances.

The programme also features a thrilling collection of biopics honouring French cultural legends such as Charles Aznavour (*Monsieur Aznavour*), Sarah Bernhardt (*The Divine Sarah Bernhardt*), Maurice Ravel (*Bolero*), Niki de Saint-Phalle (*Niki*), and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (*Saint-Ex*).

FOUNDED IN
1883



834

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THE WORLD



550,000+
STUDENTS

30

CENTRES AROUND
AUSTRALIA



17,500+

STUDENTS
IN AUSTRALIA



220

CULTURAL
EVENTS



Welcome to the 36th edition of the Alliance Française French Film Festival! Following our outstanding success in 2024, we are poised to break new records. Last year, the Festival achieved a remarkable milestone, with over 188,000 attendees, reaffirming its status as the largest French film festival outside France and the largest film festival in Australia. It was also the second-largest national paid cultural event in Australia, surpassed only by the Taylor Swift tour – a true testament to the Festival's immense cultural impact.

For 2025, the Festival is expanding even further, presenting a diverse programme of 42 exceptional films and reaching audiences in 20 cities across the country. This incredible growth is made possible by the creation of the Alliance Française French Film Festival Ltd (AF FFF Ltd). This newly established not-for-profit entity, registered as a charity, is led by CEO Frédéric Alliod, under the guidance of a Board representing the six Alliances Françaises (AF) in Australia's capital cities: Francois Romanet, President of the Board of the AF FFF and President of the Board of the AF de Sydney; Grant Powell, President of the Board of the AF de Melbourne; Hugh Chevrant-Breton, President of the Board of AF de Canberra; Laurence Poquet-Autret,

President of the Board of the AF d'Adelaide; Henry Boston, President of the Board of the AF de Perth; and Joe Hardwick, AF de Brisbane. Together, they are driving the festival's national development, ensuring its ongoing success and sustainable growth.

The Alliance Française network continues to serve as your gateway to a lasting connection with France. Across Australia, our centres offer customised language courses (both online and in-person), vibrant cultural events, and a welcoming community passionate about French language and culture. Beyond the magic of cinema, we invite you to explore everything the Alliance Française has to offer as part of your French journey.

The Alliance Française French Film Festival would not be possible without the essential support of the French Embassy in Australia. We also extend our deepest gratitude to our highly-valued and steadfast partners, starting with Palace Cinemas, and to all our generous contributors who make this annual celebration of French cinema possible.


Nous avons hâte de vous accueillir dans les salles pour vous faire découvrir cette édition exceptionnelle !

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Chania, Crete

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

OPENING NIGHT

MONSIEUR AZNAVOUR

MONSIEUR AZNAVOUR

FRANCE, BELGIUM • 2024 • 133 MINS • French, Armenian, English • CTC

GENRE Biographical Drama • **DIRECTOR** Grand Corps Malade, Mehdi Idir

CAST Tahar Rahim, Bastien Bouillon, Marie-Julie Baup

Just as Marion Cotillard was to *La Vie en Rose*, Golden Globe-nominated actor Tahar Rahim is to *MONSIEUR AZNAVOUR*, transforming into the iconic singer/songwriter for this lavishly entertaining rise-to-stardom biography of the man who beat all odds to not only become one of France's best-loved entertainers, but personified French culture to the rest of the world.

Born in Paris in 1924 as the son of Armenian refugees, Charles Aznavour's formative years are spent in poverty, but distinguished by his parents' passion for music and theatre. Ridiculed for his short stature and raspy tenor voice – traits he would in time fully embrace – Aznavour's early attempts at a showbiz career during the Occupation falter.

Whilst gifted, his material finds more success in the hands of others, including his friend Pierre (Bastien Bouillon), and later the imperious Edith Piaf (a scene-stealing Marie-Julie Baup), who becomes a highly influential mentor and supporter. But by the 1950s, Aznavour finally realises his own ambitions; his empathetic 'chansons' about the heartbreaks, confusions and passions of the common man (mining the dramas of his own life) catapult him to global attention.

Led by its star's astonishing performance and stunning vocal prowess, *MONSIEUR AZNAVOUR* is a true tour de force – as intimate as it is spectacular – and serves as a triumphant reminder of the power and impact of music.

Don't miss one of France's biggest hits of the year.



"A superb and powerful tribute."
PUBLIC



"A biopic matching the scale of the monument of French music."
LE NOUVEL OBS



CLOSING NIGHT IN THE SUB FOR LOVE

À TOUTE ALLURE

FRANCE • 2024 • 86 MINS • PG

GENRE Comedy, Romance • DIRECTOR Lucas Bernard

CAST Pio Marmai, Eye Haidara, José Garcia



You've heard of cabin fever, but what about submarine fever?

Lucas Bernard's *IN THE SUB FOR LOVE* is a bold and hilarious romantic comedy that dives deep into love – and chaos. When Marco (Pio Marmai, *The Three Musketeers I & II*, *AF FFF24*), a carefree steward, meets Marianne (Eye Haidara), a serious, practical submarine officer, during a fleeting shore leave, their lives briefly entangle.

But when Marianne accidentally leaves her necklace behind, Marco seizes the chance to return it – only to find himself aboard her submarine with no chance of escape! Can love flourish 500 feet underwater, or will their differences sink the sub?

Like fire and water, Marco's charm and easy-going savoir-faire clash with Marianne's steely discipline, resulting in a laugh-out-loud odd-couple comedy. This French gem of a wildly mismatched love story navigates high seas, tropical storms, and even the Arctic, proving when it comes to love, even the steadiest course can veer off chart.

With its vibrant colours and punchy humour, *IN THE SUB FOR LOVE* is a buoyant love letter to the screwball romantic comedies of the 1940s. Lucas Bernard's witty direction and the cast's electric chemistry make it the perfect choice to close AF FFF on a high note. All hands on deck – don't miss this heartfelt film!



"This whirlwind adventure promises to be off the beaten track, while remaining true to the essence of traditional romantic comedies."

SORTIR À PARIS

CENTREPIECE PREMIERE

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

REFER TO SCHEDULE FOR MONTE CRISTO DETAILS

SPECIAL
EVENT
PREMIERE

LE COMTE DE MONTE CRISTO

FRANCE • 2024 • 178 MINS

French, Romanian, Italian, English • M



OFFICIAL SELECTION
OUT OF COMPETITION
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

GENRE Historical Epic, Action, Drama
DIRECTOR Matthieu Delaporte, Alexandre de La Patellière
CAST Pierre Niney, Bastien Bouillon, Anaïs Demoustier, Anamaria Vartolomei, Laurent Lafitte

Pierre Niney leads a stellar cast in Matthieu Delaporte and Alexandre de La Patellière's thrilling new adaptation of Alexandre Dumas' epic adventure, the first French cinematic treatment of the iconic tale of romance and redemption in over fifty years.

Marseille, 1815. The dreams of principled young sailor Edmond Dantès (Niney) are about to come true; promoted to ship's captain, he can finally marry the love of his life, Mercédès (Anaïs Demoustier). But his success inspires jealousy... betrayed by his rivals, Dantès is denounced as a member of a pro-Napoleon conspiracy and incarcerated without trial in an isolated prison.

After years of solitude, Dantès befriends the inmate in the adjacent cell, Abbé Faria (Pierfrancesco Favino), who reveals the location of a hidden treasure on the island of Monte Cristo. An extraordinary plan is hatched to exact revenge on the three men who wronged him...

A true cultural phenomenon in France (where it stormed the box office with close to 10 million tickets sold), *THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO* delivers luxurious, spectacular big-screen entertainment, at once timeless and electrifyingly new. Widely expected to sweep the 2025 Cesar Awards, it's a Festival must-see.

“

"Splendid. Executed with all the panache of golden-era Hollywood epics. A genuine triumph: a stunning, emotionally satisfying adventure tale that feels at once timeless and thrillingly new."

VARIETY

"Delaporte and de La Patellière have made something fresh and exciting from one of the oldest stories around, the kind of movie quite frankly Hollywood should be making."

DEADLINE





AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

THE DIVINE SARAH BERNHARDT / SARAH BERNHARDT, LA DIVINE

FRANCE • 2024 • 98 MINS • MA 15+

GENRE Historical biopic • **DIRECTOR** Guillaume Nicloux • **CAST** Sandrine Kiberlain, Laurent Lafitte, Amira Casar, Pauline Étienne, Mathilde Ollivier

Sumptuous, rapturous, and full of drama, Sarah Bernhardt's life is here to be experienced in all its theatrical glory – just as La Divine intended.

Sarah Bernhardt (Sandrine Kiberlain, *November*, AF FFF23) is larger than life and a cyclone of contradictions. The original theatre diva, her world is blinding stage lights, opulent wealth, and delicious scandals. Ruled by fleeting fancies and sweeping emotions, she even holds court from her sickbed. And what better time to revisit her groundbreaking 19th-century stardom than in recovery from surgery?

Guillaume Nicloux's decadent biopic is an experience like no other: from exotic menageries to consuming affairs, *La Divine* is as showstopping as she is capricious.

Patron to Alphonse Mucha, friend to Victor Hugo, and "little star" to Alexandre Dumas, Sarah Bernhardt defied societal expectations, adored dramatic death scenes and scandalised her convent with a lizard's funeral. Nicloux's film vividly recounts Bernhardt's tempestuous story and is a dazzling chronicle of a chameleonic actress who defined her generation.

Uncover the life of the world's first celebrity in *THE DIVINE SARAH BERNHARDT*.

“

"Shines the spotlight on a figure as eccentric as she was visionary, still regarded today as a legend of world theater."

SORTIR À PARIS

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AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

MEET THE LEROYS / NOUS, LES LEROY

FRANCE • 2024 • 102 MINS • CTC

GENRE Comedy • **DIRECTOR** Florent Bernard • **CAST** Charlotte Gainsbourg, José Garcia, Lily Aubry, Hadrien Heaulmé, Luis Rego

In the tradition of on-the-road dramatic comedies like *Little Miss Sunshine*, *MEET THE LEROYS* is the moving story of the veneer we paint over lost connections and a reminder that even the brightest bonds, like stars, can fade, despite our best intentions.

Sandrine Leroy (Charlotte Gainsbourg, *My Dog Stupid*, AF FFF20) is bitterly unhappy. When she announces her intention to divorce her husband, Christophe (José Garcia), he is left reeling. With Sandrine set on separation and their children feigning ambivalence, Christophe has only one thing left up his sleeve: a surprise, nostalgic road trip weekend with the entire family. The deal? If Sandrine doesn't change her mind by the end of the trip, he'll let her go.

But is one weekend enough to overcome years of stale marriage? And how can they rekindle the passion that once consumed them?

Directed by Florent Bernard, *MEET THE LEROYS* won the Grand Prix at the Alpe d'Huez Film Festival for its sincere depiction of a family in crisis. Inspired by Bernard's own experience of his parents' divorce and shot in Burgundy where he grew up, the film is a bittersweet exploration of the things we lose without realising.

“

"Surrounded by two perfect young actors, Charlotte Gainsbourg and José Garcia are magnificent."

LE PARISIEN



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

MY BROTHER'S BAND / EN FANFARE

FRANCE • 2024 • 103 MINS • CTC

GENRE Comedy, Drama • **DIRECTOR** Emmanuel Courcol • **CAST** Benjamin Lavernhe, Pierre Lottin, Sarah Suco • **AWARDS** San Sebastian International Film Festival 2024 - Audience Award, American French Film Festival 2024 - Audience Award

A sensation at Cannes and one of France's biggest box office and audience favourites of the year (achieving over two million admissions and entry into the top five of 2024), writer/director Emmanuel Courcol's wildly entertaining new film follows two very different siblings separated by fate and reunited by their love of music.

Thibaut (the exceptional Benjamin Lavernhe, *Delicious, C'est la vie!*) is a beloved and internationally celebrated orchestra conductor who travels the globe. When a health crisis and subsequent DNA test inadvertently reveal he was adopted as an infant, Thibaut discovers the existence of a younger brother, Jimmy (rising star Pierre Lottin), who lives in more modest circumstances; he works in a school cafeteria, cares for his mother and plays the trombone in a community brass band. The pair seem to have little else in common other than a love of performance, but sensing his sibling's exceptional talent, Thibaut decides to remedy the injustice of fate and try to help nurture his brother's untapped gifts.

An eruptive crowd favourite wherever it has premiered (notably receiving the highest audience score in the 51-year history of the San Sebastian Film Festival), *MY BROTHER'S BAND* is a rousing, feel-great trip to the cinema, expertly striking the perfect harmony between laughter and tears. Bring your family, your friends, and some tissues.



“

"A heartfelt narrative that blends humour and poignancy... truly memorable and feel-good."

NEXT BEST PICTURE



THE DELUGE / LE DÉLUGE

FRANCE, ITALY • 2024 • 101 MINS • CTC

GENRE Historical drama • **DIRECTOR** Gianluca Jodice • **CAST** Guillaume Canet, Mélanie Laurent, Aurore Broutin, Hugo Dillon, Tom Hudson • **OFFICIAL SELECTION** Opening Night Gala – 2024 Locarno Film Festival

The remarkable Mélanie Laurent and Guillaume Canet take centre stage in writer- director Gianluca Jodice's transfixing historical drama, evocatively depicting the last days of the French Revolution and the fates of Marie Antoinette and King Louis XVI.

1792. The official Parisian residence of the king, the Tuilleries Palace, has been stormed. Louis, Marie Antoinette and their children have been arrested and confined in a medieval chateau in the city centre. Far from the splendour of Versailles, where the family and their retinue had lived until only a few years earlier, they are vulnerable for the first time in their lives. While the King naively tries to keep spirits high and manners intact, his pragmatic and imperious wife is far more realistic about their predicament, and the destiny that likely awaits them...

Drawn from the diaries of Louis XVI's personal valet, this exceptionally crafted drama features not only marvellous production design and cinematography, but incredible costumes by twice Oscar-nominated designer Massimo Cantini Parrini. Dominated by the outstanding performances of its two leads, *THE DELUGE* is a compelling dramatic rejoinder to Sofia Coppola's *Marie Antoinette* and Benoît Jacquot's *Farewell My Queen*, which both depicted the royal couple's lives well before the party was over.

“

"Impressive. A brisk rejoinder to past cinematic portraits of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette that feels decidedly new. Laurent is extraordinary."

VARIETY

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LADIES' NIGHT RIVIERA REVENGE

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



N'AVOUE JAMAIS

FRANCE • 2024 • 94 MINS • M



GENRE Comedy

DIRECTOR Ivan Calbérac

CAST André Dussollier, Sabine Azéma, Thierry Lhermitte,
Sébastien Chassagne, Joséphine de Meaux

Retired French general François (André Dussollier, *Everything Went Fine*, AF FFF22) and his wife Annie (Sabine Azéma) have been married for five decades. Enjoying all the perks of retirement, François heads to the attic one day to declutter old boxes and dust off memories, only to stumble upon his worst nightmare: a stack of love letters revealing his wife's affair from forty years ago.

It's up to François to make the mature choice: does he turn the other cheek and let bygones be bygones? Or does he sharpen his wits and call in favours to track down the man who humiliated him? Hell-bent on the latter, François scours the Côte-d'Azur, determined to exact revenge – even if it means losing what he holds most dear in the process. It's time for vengeance, French Riviera-style!

This delightfully contagious comedy from director Ivan Calbéra (*The Tasting*, AF FFF23), proves you're never too old for crazy acts of love – or payback. With stunning backdrops, a whole lot of heart and shenanigans a-plenty, *RIVIERA REVENGE* is guaranteed to make you both laugh and cry. No one ever said marriage was easy and who could resist retribution by the seaside?

“

"The great thing about *Riviera Revenge* is that it proves we can laugh at reactionary characters in a popular comedy."

CINEMAN



TASTE OF FRANCE ALL STIRRED UP!

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

TOUS TOQUÉS!

CANADA • 2024 • 112 MINS • CTC



GENRE Comedy

DIRECTOR Manon Briand

CAST Julie Le Breton, Édouard Baer, Élodie Fontaine,
Oussama Fares, Douaa Kachache

Somewhere on the border between Quebec and the United States, the intractable customs officer, Sonia (Julie Le Breton), rules her boom gate with an iron first. No one gets past her eagle eye, not even Victor (Édouard Baer, *How to Be a Good Wife*, AF FFF20), a charming but down-on-his-luck French chef from New York, who finds his knives and gourmet food unfairly confiscated.

Meanwhile, Sonia's daughter Lili-Beth is sick of being bullied at school. When she enters a Mini Chefs competition to stick it to her bullies, it seems she's the underdog with no hope of winning. Unless Julie can convince Victor to help her.

However, it's not just the pressure of the Mini Chefs competition that threatens to boil over: community tensions and divisions are bubbling under the surface of this rural border town, with bitterness an all-too-familiar flavour. But Sonia, Victor and Lili-Beth are about to serve up something new.

This feast of a comedy from director Manon Briand is full of laughs and touching connections. Set in the beautiful Canadian countryside and replete with mouthwatering dishes, *ALL STIRRED UP!* is a deliciously heartwarming story that will leave you hungry for more.

“

"All Stirred Up! is a gem of a movie about the unexpected twists that shape our experiences. It's positive, funny and refreshing."

EAGLE VALLEY NEWS



BEATING HEARTS

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



L'AMOUR OUF

FRANCE, BELGIUM • 2024 • 160 mins • CTC



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
OFFICIAL COMPETITION

GENRE Romance, Drama

DIRECTOR Gilles Lellouche

CAST Adèle Exarchopoulos, François Civil, Vincent Lacoste
Élodie Bouchez, Alain Chabat

The phenomenal Adèle Exarchopoulos and François Civil – arguably French cinema's brightest young talents – devour the screen in Gilles Lellouche's vibrant, genre-spanning romantic epic that follows a written-in-the-stars infatuation tested by social boundaries, betrayal and circumstances beyond all control.

Love makes one crazy. Just ask Clotaire (Civil) and Jackie (Exarchopoulos), who meet in their teens in their Northern France working-class neighbourhood in the 1980s. Despite their differences – she is a diligent student from the middle class, he a charming troublemaker with a complex family life – an intense and unmistakable connection is sparked. But tragedy soon pulls them apart.

A decade later, Clotaire tries desperately to win back his lost love. Has his chance passed?

Driven by a kinetic soundtrack, indelible production design and all-star supporting cast, *BEATING HEARTS* pays homage to the US independent film wave of the 1980s and early 1990s but creates an impact truly of its own. Delivering another massive, crowd-pleasing blockbuster result at the French box office (after *Sink Or Swim*) with an extraordinary five million admissions, Lellouche reaches for the stars and rewards all who strap in for the ride.

“

“Terrific and unexpectedly potent.

A romantic opera that delivers in refreshingly unpredictable ways. Lellouche has created something special here.”

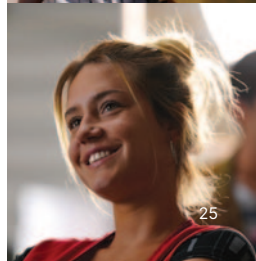
DEADLINE

“A real cinematic pleasure.

Ultra-ambitious, thrilling and full of enthusiasm.”

LE PARISIEN

See it first at Special Valentine's Day Previews, Friday 14 February!
Tickets now on sale: check festival website for venues & times.





GENRE
Comedy

DIRECTOR
Bruno Podalydès

CAST
Sandrine Kiberlain
Daniel Auteuil
Denis Podalydès
Bruno Podalydès
Florence Muller

"Love Boat promises a cinematic adventure that's both hilarious and touching, driven by an exceptional cast and the ingenious direction of Bruno Podalydès."

SORTIR À PARIS

LOVE BOAT / LA PETITE VADROUILLE

FRANCE • 2024 • 96 mins • CTC

Penny-pinching Justine (Sandrine Kiberlain, *November*, AF FFF23) is sick of hustling. So when her boss, high-flying investor Franck (Daniel Auteuil, *A Silence*, AF FFF24), approaches her to organise a showstopping romantic weekend for him and the woman with whom he has fallen hopelessly in love, she jumps on board. What could possibly go wrong with €14,000 cash upfront and a weekend of romance?

Given free creative control, Justine and her unemployed husband Albin (Denis Podalydès, *The President's Wife*, AF FFF24) devise the perfect solution: they'll give Franck their own profit-making version of the ultimate love boat experience. Engaging a motley crew of friends also keen to make a buck, they're like *Ocean's Eleven* on a budget. But when Franck reveals that Justine is the woman of his dreams, it looks like this love boat is about to get a little crowded...

LOVE BOAT is a hysterical comedy of errors from actor-director Bruno Podalydès that will have you laughing out loud at absurd disguises, misguided intentions, and chaotic schemes. Expect the very best of the worst – half bottles, cut corners, and special deals – all as long as it's not too expensive.

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Marrakech, Morocco



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

 REFER TO SCHEDULE FOR SNEAK-PREVIEW EVENTS
 LIMITED SCREENINGS

 GENRE
 Comedy, Romance

 DIRECTOR
 Laura Piani

 CAST
 Camille Rutherford
 Pablo Pauly
 Charlie Anson
 Liz Crowther
 Annabelle Lengronne

"Jane Austen Wrecked My Life is a delightful journey of self-discovery, between reason and feeling, Paris, and a cosy retreat for young authors, surrounded by greenery."

TÉLÉRAMA

JANE AUSTEN WRECKED MY LIFE

JANE AUSTEN A GÂCHÉ MA VIE

FRANCE • 2024 • 94 mins • French, English • CTC

Agathe (Camille Rutherford) lives the rom-com dream: she works in the famous Shakespeare & Co bilingual bookstore where customers leave love letters on the mirror quoting Tolstoy, and there's undeniable chemistry with her colleague, Félix (Pablo Pauly, *Murder Party*, AF FFF24). Beneath the glossy *Notting Hill* facade, however, she's an unpublished romance author battling writer's block, living with her sister and nephew. More akin to *Persuasion*'s Anne, a perpetual wallflower, than *Pride and Prejudice*'s confident Elizabeth, Agathe struggles to find her voice.

That all changes when Agathe is invited to a Jane Austen Residency in England. Spending two weeks in a manor full of creative nooks and wandering through forests and glades, Agathe struggles daily with imposter syndrome. That is, until she starts to become acquainted with the handsome yet prickly Oliver Lowe (Charlie Anson, *Downton Abbey*), Jane Austen's living descendant. Grappling with her demons and her heart, Agathe must decide between what she's always known, and something – or someone – new.

This romantic comedy-drama from writer-director Laura Piani is a touching love letter to the Regency author who still shapes our conversations on love today. Wry, subtle, and with a big heart, *JANE AUSTEN WRECKED MY LIFE* asks, would you write the end to your own love story if you could?

L'AMOUR TOUJOURS



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

THREE FRIENDS / TROIS AMIES

FRANCE • 2024 • 117 mins • CTC

Emmanuel Mouret, award-winning director of *Love Affair(s)* (AF FFF21), returns to contemporary stories of love, loss, and entanglement with effortless aestheticism. Turning pain into beauty and the ordinary into tragedy, *THREE FRIENDS* is a study of the lies we tell ourselves and each other.

Joan (India Hair, *Annie's Fire*, AF FFF23) is married to Victor, Alice (Camille Cottin, *Call My Agent*) to Eric, and Rebecca (Sara Forestier, *Oh Mercy!*, AF FFF20) is having an affair with the mysterious Mr. X. Their realities couldn't be more different: Joan isn't in love with Victor anymore, what Alice has with Eric is nice enough but she's only pretending, and Rebecca's Mr. X happens to be Alice's husband Eric. Then Victor goes missing, and the three friends find their charades beginning to unravel. How much longer can the truth stay hidden?

Tempted by desire and haunted by the fear of alienation, Mouret's sometimes funny, oftentimes poignant film shows that betrayal is not a leap from a ledge, but a series of small steps along a secretly travelled path. Three friends, three lies, three truths – this is a compelling film you don't want to miss!

L'AMOUR TOUJOURS

 GENRE
 Romance, Drama

 DIRECTOR
 Emmanuel Mouret

 CAST
 Camille Cottin
 Sara Forestier
 India Hair
 Damien Bonnard
 Grégoire Ludig
 Vincent Macaigne

"The elegance of the mise en scene is woven into the sentiments it highlights. The illuminating presence of India Hair, Camille Cottin and Sara Forestier is a major asset to this delicate film."

BANDE À PART

The logo features a stylized lion (the Lion of Saint Mark) facing right. Below it, the text reads: "MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA OFFICIAL COMPETITION".



GENRE
Historical Drama

DIRECTOR
Jean-Pierre Melville

CAST
Lino Ventura
Simone Signoret
Paul Meurisse
Jean-Pierre Cassel
Claude Mann

"Rarely has a film shown so truly that place in the heart where hope lives with fatalism."

ROGER EBERT

AWARDS

SPECIAL CITATION - LOS ANGELES FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION AWARDS (2006)
SPECIAL AWARD - NATIONAL SOCIETY OF FILM CRITICS AWARDS, USA (2007)
BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM NEW YORK FILM CRITICS CIRCLE AWARDS (2006)
BEST FILM - VILLAGE VOICE FILM POLL (2006)

ARMY OF SHADOWS

L'ARMÉE DES OMBRES

FRANCE, ITALY • 1969 • 143 mins • French, German, English • M

Restored in 4k and presented at Cannes Classics in 2024, see acclaimed director Jean-Pierre Melville's unglamorous and nuanced study of the French Resistance, eating itself from the inside.

Betrayed by a comrade, Philippe Gerbier (Lino Ventura), the head of a Resistance cell, is captured and sent to a Nazi torture camp. In Vichy-run Marseille, the young betraying agent, Paul Dounat (Alain Libolt) is ambushed by Gerbier's comrades and sentenced to execution. Following the story of a small group of Resistance fighters, *ARMY OF SHADOWS* goes beyond a binary tale of good versus evil, offering a raw, poignant portrayal of the brave men and women who fought against fascism and the sacrifices they made along the way.

Based on Melville's experience in the French Resistance and Joseph Kessel's novel, the film is deeply personal, combining his intense study of the human condition with the signature chiaroscuro and realism that established him as a celebrated auteur of French crime cinema. Controversial upon its 1969 French release and only premiering in the US in 2006, *ARMY OF SHADOWS* remains a masterpiece of atmospheric tension, ideal for cinéphiles. Don't miss this exclusive screening of one of history's greatest war films.

TIMELESS MASTERPIECE

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GENRE
Drama

DIRECTOR
Boris Lojkine

CAST
Abou Sangaré
Nina Meurisse
Emmanuel Yovanie

"Thrilling, moving and edifying. A dazzling achievement of humanist fiction."

CINEUROPA



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
UN CERTAIN REGARD
2024

WINNER JURY PRIZE
WINNER BEST ACTOR
WINNER FIPRESCI PRIZE

THE STORY OF SOULEYMANE

L'HISTOIRE DE SOULEYMANE

FRANCE • 2024 • 94 mins • French, Fulah, Malinke • CTC

Winner of three major awards at Cannes and Best Actor at the recent European Film Awards, writer/director Boris Lojkine's remarkable drama follows a young courier as he races across Paris whilst preparing for a life-changing residency interview.

Delivery workers have become an indispensable part of city life, especially since the pandemic. Among them is Souleymane (Abou Sangaré, in a commanding debut), who criss-crosses the frenetic Parisian streets in a constant race against the clock. He, like many around him, is working without permission, 'renting' his identity from a friend with legal status. But in just two days, Souleymane will learn whether his own asylum application will be approved or not. So, whilst striving to meet his delivery platform's demands, he nervously practices for his interview, trying to keep his growing anxiety at bay...

A major artistic highlight of this year's Festival, Lojkine's compassionate drama echoes not only *Bicycle Thieves* and the best films of the Dardennes, but also edge-of-your-seat thrillers such as *Full Time* (AF FFF23), and fast-became both a national talking point and word-of-mouth hit across France. Adding to the film's immense power is the real-life situation of its remarkable lead, who has already been denied citizenship by the French authorities. Three times.

CANNES SPOTLIGHT



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

THIS LIFE OF MINE / MA VIE MA GUEULE

FRANCE • 2024 • 99 mins • French, English • CTC

Winner of the 2024 Cannes Film Festival SACD Best Screenplay award and opening night film of the Director's Fortnight section, Sophie Fillières' *THIS LIFE OF MINE* is a sharply funny and deeply resonant take on midlife crises. With her signature wit and humour, Fillières delivers a tender portrait of a woman navigating the chaos of family, work, and the absurdities of aging.

Barberie "Barbie" Bichette (Agnès Jaoui, *Place Publique*, AF FFF19) is a woman under siege: her kids cringe at her quirks, her soul-crushing copywriting job barely inspires her, and her body feels like it's rebelling. Caught between hot flushes and existential dread, Barbie stumbles through the comedy of life at 55, where every small struggle feels monumental.

On the brink of her birthday, Barbie faces a choice: conform to society's dismissive view of ageing women or break free. What follows is a journey of rediscovery as she escapes to the Scottish Highlands to reclaim her spirit and sense of self. Equal parts poignant and funny, *THIS LIFE OF MINE* reminds us that midlife isn't the end of the story – it's just the start of a fabulous new chapter.

CANNES SPOTLIGHT

GENRE
Comedy, Drama

DIRECTOR
Sophie Fillières

CAST
Agnès Jaoui
Angelina Woreth
Édouard Sulpice
Laurent Capelluto
Pascale Bodel

"The final film by filmmaker Sophie Fillières... *This Life of Mine* opened the Cannes Film Festival, Quinzaine des Cinémathèques. An irresistibly funny and heartbreaking existential comedy."

TROIS COULEURS



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
2024 CANNES DIRECTOR'S
FORTNIGHT - COUP DE CŒUR
DES AUTEURS SACD



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Drama

DIRECTOR
Julien Colonna

CAST
Ghjuvanna Benedetti
Anthony Morganti
Thomas Bronzini de
Caraffa
Pascale Mariani
Saveriu Santucci

"Like 'The Sopranos' as seen through Meadow's eyes... Colonna's retelling lands like a bullet in the head."

VARIETY



THE KINGDOM / LE ROYAUME

FRANCE • 2024 • 108 mins • French, Corsican • CTC

Premiering in the Un Certain Regard section at the Cannes Film Festival 2024, *THE KINGDOM* is a powerful debut film that is a richly sensory experience – a must-see drama embodied by fierce, tender love.

Corsica, 1995. Lesia (Ghjuvanna Benedetti) is desperate for a normal teenage life. However, amidst the island's gang politics, she's not just the daughter of notorious mafioso – she's a potential target. Taken from the beachside to an unknown villa, she is reunited with her father, Pierre-Paul (Saveriu Santucci), who is hiding from the police. As her summer holidays melt away, she is drawn deeper into his world of blood feuds and violent retribution. When all-out war erupts, Pierre-Paul and Lesia must go to ground, where they will face each other and themselves.

With unflinching realism, *THE KINGDOM* is a powerful account of family bonds and gang violence, told by Corsican first-time director Julien Colonna and a non-professional cast. A peek into a turbulent world as seen through the eyes of a child, Colonna's film never falls into caricature. Rather, it serves as a testament to the humanity found beneath the surface and the roles we are forced to play to survive.

CANNES SPOTLIGHT



HOLY COW / VINGT DIEUX

FRANCE • 2024 • 92 mins • M

Direct from the Cannes Film Festival 2024, *HOLY COW* marks Louise Courvoisier as a powerful new voice in cinema, winning the festival's prestigious Youth Prize in the Un Certain Regard category.

In the Jura region, renowned for its Comté cheese, 18-year-old Totone (Clément Faveau) has his childhood cut short after a devastating tragedy. Suddenly the sole carer for his 7-year-old sister Claire (Luna Garret), and forced to sell his father's farm equipment to make ends meet, Totone devises a plan: follow in his family's cheesemaking footsteps and win the €30,000 Comté cheese prize – even though he has no idea of where to start.

With an unfiltered realism, this debut features heartfelt performances by non-professional actors and real farmers, bringing raw authenticity to Courvoisier's first feature film. Shot on location in the countryside of the director's childhood, and with her entire family contributing to the soundtrack and set design, *HOLY COW* is a beautiful ode to neorealist classics like *Bicycle Thieves* made fresh for modern audiences.

Much more than an insight into rural life, this No.1 film at the French box office pays tribute to community, resilience, love, and cheese curds in pastoral France.

CANNES SPOTLIGHT

GENRE
Comedy, Drama

DIRECTOR
Louise Courvoisier

CAST
Clément Faveau
Luna Garret
Mathis Bernard
Dimitri Baudry
Matiwene Barthelemy

"Holy Cow is shot through with compassion for its rascally yet vulnerable protagonist."

SCREEN INTERNATIONAL



35



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Biopic, Drama

DIRECTOR
Céline Sallette

CAST
Charlotte Le Bon
John Robinson
Damien Bonnard
Judith Chemla
Alain Fromager

"A raw, emotional performance from Charlotte Le Bon dominates a film that gradually reveals the way in which art becomes a way of conquering trauma."

SCREEN DAILY



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
OFFICIAL SELECTION
UN CERTAIN REGARD

NIKI / NIKI

FRANCE • 2024 • 99 mins • French, English • M

Selected for Un Certain Regard at the Cannes Film Festival 2024, this powerful debut from Céline Sallette is an introspective spotlight on one of the contemporary world's most iconoclastic artists. From sculptor and painter to author and filmmaker, who was Niki de Saint-Phalle before becoming the woman who refused to conform?

1952: Fleeing an oppressive America in the throes of McCarthyism, Niki (Charlotte Le Bon) and her husband Harry (John Robinson) arrive in Paris ready to leave their past behind. Overwhelmed by motherhood and working as a model and actress, Niki hopes her bohemian life is enough to fulfil her – or silence the haunting episodes from her childhood. Just as secrets cannot be forgotten, talent cannot always lie dormant. When Niki is forced to face her demons, will she find something beautiful in the darkness?

With an unflinching yet gentle eye, Sallette sheds light on the archaic practices women were subjected to in the name of medicine, and their resilient, artistic triumphs in spite of it. An empathetic meditation on the pain we bury, *NIKI* is the biopic that proves that art can liberate us from the wounds that cut the deepest.

CANNES SPOTLIGHT



LE PLAISIR
AS SEEN ON THE TERRASSE

perrier



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Drama

DIRECTOR
Carine Tardieu

CAST
Valeria Bruni Tedeschi
Pio Marmaï
César Botti
Vimala Pons
Raphaël Quenard

"Beyond the meaningful conversations through transparent mirrors and walled-up apartment rooms, the timeline of showing the progress of the family through Lucille's growth in months and years captivates, leading to the question: Perhaps it's a new dawn, a new day, and a new birth of life for everyone?"

FILM FEST REPORT

THE TIES THAT BIND US

L'ATTACHEMENT

FRANCE, BELGIUM • 2024 • 115 mins • M

A poignant adaptation of Alice Ferney's book *L'Intimité*, Carine Tardieu's film is a meditation on beliefs and convictions, as well as the transformation available to us when we pivot and grow.

Sandra (Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, *Anaïs in Love*, AF FFF22), a feminist librarian, is not interested in children. In addition to this ambivalence, she has vowed never to become a mother. When her neighbour Alex (Pio Marmaï, *The Three Musketeers - Part I & II*, AF FFF24) asks Sandra to watch his six-year-old son Elliot (César Botti) while his pregnant wife, Cécile, gives birth, Sandra sees it as just a one-off – until Cécile tragically dies after labour.

Caught between grief and a desire for connection, Sandra, Alex, and Elliot's lives become entangled in unforeseen ways, creating bonds and challenges as they wrestle with evolving definitions of love. Tender and never didactic, *THE TIES THAT BIND US* is a powerful reminder that it takes many shapes to form a family.

Expertly navigating unexpected connections and how they can subtly but profoundly shift our worldviews, Tardieu's masterful drama presents an empathetic, non-judgmental observation of all the ways we form attachments – and how love triumphs where we least expect it.

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AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Drama

DIRECTOR
Costa-Gavras

CAST
Denis Podalydès
Charlotte Rampling
Kad Merad
Karin Viard
Mariliny Canto

"As a testimony about the end of life by a filmmaker who, at 91, is clearly looking – and looking clearly – at the end of his own, it is truly a wonder."

DEADLINE

BEFORE WHAT COMES AFTER

LE DERNIER SOUFFLE

FRANCE • 2024 • 100 mins • M

At 91, legendary director Costa-Gavras' *BEFORE WHAT COMES AFTER* is a poignant tragicomedy inspired by the work of Régis Debray and Claude Grange. Deeply personal, this is a rare chance to witness a cinematic titan reflecting on life and mortality.

What begins as a chance encounter during a routine checkup evolves into a profound friendship between acclaimed philosopher Fabrice Toussaint (Denis Podalydès, *The President's Wife*, AF FFF24) and head of palliative care Doctor Augustin Masset (Kad Merad, *The Big Hit*, AF FFF21). Woven through radical conversations with Masset, his team of passionate caregivers, and their patients, Costa-Gavras unearths our buried fears of death and dying while gently reminding us of the art of listening. Guided by Masset's radical approach to patient care, Toussaint discovers the power of returning choice to the body and the dignity in dying as one chooses.

Dialogical and Socratic in tone, yet never stuffy, this film lyrically grapples with unanswerable questions, responding to our existential fears with love and care. In the spirit of groundbreaking philosophical films like *My Dinner with André*, Costa-Gavras deftly teaches without instructing. Daring to ask life's biggest questions, *BEFORE WHAT COMES AFTER* invites us to listen closely – the answers may surprise us.

HAVE IT YOUR WAY



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ONE NIGHT ONLY

OH LA LA NIGHT

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Erotic Drama

DIRECTOR
Audrey Diwan

CAST
Noémie Merlant
Naomi Watts
Chacha Huang
Will Sharpe
Jamie Campbell Bower

"It's quite pleasant, even – dare we say it – sexy to watch."

THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"There's empowering intent behind the film's sexual restraint, positioning the modern Emmanuelle as a woman of control and discernment."

VARIETY



Donostia Zinemakia
Festival de San Sebastián
OFFICIAL SELECTION

EMMANUELLE / EMMANUELLE

FRANCE • 2024 • 105 mins • English, French • MA15+

Opening the San Sebastián International Film Festival, this revolutionary adaptation of Emmanuelle Arsan's eponymous novel is a masterclass in pleasure. Screening exclusively with limited sessions at AF FFF25, this film is a sensory experience not to be missed.

A six-star hotel in Hong Kong glitters at night. *Emmanuelle* (Noémie Merlant, *The Innocent*, AF FFF23), an expat quality assessor for luxury hotels, has just arrived. She's here to find the vulnerable spot in hotel manager Margot Parson's (Naomi Watts) expert direction but something else awaits her in the gilded corridors and plush suites: a sensual rabbit hole of erotic fantasies.

Award-winning director Audrey Diwan (*Happening*, AF FFF22) returns to the big screen with a classy, sensual remake of the softcore cult classic, *Emmanuelle*. Teasing atmospheric longing reminiscent of Wong Kar Wai's *In the Mood for Love*, Diwan's film is a slow-burn, aesthetic exploration of unfettered female pleasure. Both wrestling with, and ultimately liberating itself from Just Jaeckin's original 1974 film, feminine fantasy is the nexus of *EMMANUELLE*.

Focusing entirely on her pleasure, *Emmanuelle* doesn't care whether you think she's selfish or not – she wants you to join in.

HAVE IT YOUR WAY



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Comedy, Drama

DIRECTOR
Claude Lelouch

CAST
Kad Merad
Elsa Zylberstein
Michel Boujenah
Sandrine Bonnaire
Barbara Pravi

"A peculiar, weightless confection that bounces anticlaim between narratives, perspectives, periods and varying grips on reality."

VARIETY



PREMIERE 2024



2024

AT THE END OF THE DAY / FINALEMENT

FRANCE • 2024 • 127 mins • CTC

Lino (Kad Merad, *The Big Hit*, *AF FFF21*), a Parisian lawyer fed up with his bourgeois life, is on the run. Suffering from a condition that makes him unable to lie, he has left everything behind to escape to the countryside. Infuriating his family, including his wife Léa (Elsa Zylberstein), Lino is searching for the meaning of life, even if it leads to unexpected places – and a musical number or two.

Oscar-winning director Claude Lelouch directs this zany musical fantasy with an original soundtrack by Grammy-nominated producer Ibrahim Maalouf. A duet between trumpet and piano, this quirky genre-bending film is about how we fall out of tune with life and find harmony again. Lelouch deftly weaves together the many lives of Lino into a deeply inspiring tapestry of love, destiny, and staying true to your heart, whilst also throwing in touching and dramatic moments for good measure.

Perfect for those wanting to laugh at the absurdity of life, *AT THE END OF THE DAY* will take you on a cinematic road trip through France's most beautiful regions. Don't miss this oddball classic from this beloved French director!

HAVE IT YOUR WAY

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AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Drama

DIRECTOR
François Ozon

CAST
Hélène Vincent
Josiane Balasko
Ludivine Sagnier
Pierre Lottin
Garlan Erlos

"This San Sebastian premiere should prove duly popular with older arthouse audiences rarely represented on screen with such care and daring."

VARIETY



Dorothy Zisvondila
Festival de San Sebastián
JURY PRIZE
BEST SCREENPLAY
PIERRE LOTTIN
BEST SUPPORTING
PERFORMANCE

WHEN FALL IS COMING

QUAND VIENT L'AUTOMNE

FRANCE • 2024 • 102 mins • M

Direct from the San Sebastián International Film Festival, and winner of the Jury Prize for Best Screenplay, François Ozon's (*Everything Went Fine*, AF FFF21) haunting drama, *WHEN FALL IS COMING*, marks the director's return to his signature lyricism.

In the depths of autumn in Burgundy, Michelle (Hélène Vincent, *The Extraordinary*, AF FFF20) spends her quiet, isolated life foraging in the undergrowth for mushrooms with Marie-Claude. When Michelle's acerbic daughter, Valérie (Ludivine Sagnier, *Of Love and Lies*, AF FFF20), drops her son off for the school holidays, Michelle hopes his stay will rekindle their strained relationship. But when Michelle makes a mistake, she risks everything and her relationship with everyone. Alienated from her daughter again and shadowed by guilt, Michelle's world turns bleak – until Marie-Claude's son (Pierre Lottin) is unexpectedly released from prison.

WHEN FALL IS COMING is an atmospheric film that maps our mistakes and our redemption, our second chances and changing seasons. Amidst the beauty of autumnal Burgundy, Ozon's film reveals a quietly menacing undercurrent. This darkness sets off a chain of startling events and highlights secrets, which like poisonous mushrooms, often lurk in plain sight.

UNVEILING SHADOWS



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

BEING MARIA / MARIA

FRANCE • 2024 • 104 mins • French, Italian • CTC

Based on Vanessa Schneider's book *My Cousin Maria Schneider* and informed by *Back Home* director Jessica Palud's own experience working with director Bernardo Bertolucci, *BEING MARIA* is the true story of the actress' fallout in the wake of a film so lowly that she was criminally charged by Italian courts.

1972: When 16-year-old aspiring actress Maria Schneider (Anamaria Vartolomei, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, AF FFF25) reconnects with the father and movie star who abandoned her as a child, she is kicked out of home.

Distanced from her mother's controlling influence, she is drawn into the orbit of aspiring director Bernardo Bertolucci (Giuseppe Maggio), and cast alongside superstar Marlon Brando (Matt Dillon) in the salacious *Last Tango in Paris*, Bertolucci's provocative new film inspired by his fantasies. However, this opportunity comes at a heavy cost. Despite only consenting to scripted nudity, Schneider is ambushed by an improvised scene of sexual assault devised by Bertolucci and Brando.

BEING MARIA is the powerful and damning exploration of the monstrous side of art, and the women left to pick up the pieces. In the wake of *#MeToo*, Palud poses a vital question: for women, is it ever truly just "show business"?

UNVEILING SHADOWS

GENRE
Biopic, Drama

DIRECTOR
Jessica Palud

CAST
Anamaria Vartolomei
Matt Dillon
Yvan Attal
Giuseppe Maggio
Céleste Brunnquell

"A cautionary tale about a naïve and powerless young talent abused in the name of art."

VARIETY



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
CANNES PREMIERE

45



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Drama

DIRECTOR
Teddy Lussi-Modeste

CAST
François Civil
Mallory Wanecque
Shain Boumedine
Agnès Hurstel

"Precise and realistic, a nuanced, climbing chain of events worthy of a true thriller."

TÉLÉRAMA

THE GOOD TEACHER / PAS DE VAGUES

FRANCE, BELGIUM • 2024 • 91 mins • CTC

Inspired by true events, Teddy Lussi-Modeste's gripping new morality thriller – co-written by Venice Golden Bear winner Audrey Diwan – stars the exceptional François Civil (*The Three Musketeers*, AF FFF 24, *Beating Hearts*, AF FFF25) as a dedicated young educator whose world is upended when he is accused of misconduct by one of his students.

Julien (Civil) has recently commenced teaching at a middle school in the Parisian suburbs. Enthusiastic, likeable and extremely diligent, he is absolutely floored when informed that introverted teenage pupil Leslie (Toscane Duquesne) has alleged he attempted to seduce her during class. Knowing this to be false but hesitant to articulate why, Julien grows more anxious when he realises that the school executive is only expressing half-hearted support for him whilst it moves to protect itself. As pressure builds from Leslie's imposing older brother and her classmates, and the discomfiting ramifications of the accusation – and the motivations behind it – spread into the community at large, both Julien and Leslie face not only hostility, but danger...

Set within the microcosm of the school, but reflective of wider society, Lussi-Modeste's enthralling, nuanced and conversation-starting film is an intelligent and highly believable exploration of the complexities of human behaviour in the post #MeToo era.

UNVEILING SHADOWS



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Action, Thriller

DIRECTOR
Florent-Emilio Siri

CAST
Roschdy Zem
Laëtitia Eïdo
Jeanne Michel
Dimitri Storgie
Éric Savin

"Elyas should stand out for its exploration of themes of solitude, paranoia and redemption, while offering thrilling action scenes and constant tension."

SORTIR À PARIS

ELYAS / ELYAS

FRANCE • 2024 • 99 mins • French, Arabic, Romany • CTC

Special Forces veteran Elyas (Roschdy Zem, *The Origin of Evil*, AF FFF23) lives in isolation, haunted by the horrors of Afghanistan. When a ghost from his past reappears, he is drawn back into a world he swore to forget. Now working as a bodyguard for Amina (Laëtitia Eïdo) and her teenage daughter Nour, he must protect the family from shadowy forces – even if his paranoia threatens to consume him. But what, or who exactly, are Amina and Nour hiding from?

As Nour works her way into his heart, a mysterious syndicate shatters their peace. Forced to confront highly-trained enemies in a tense game of survival, Elyas must reactivate the soldier within, or risk losing everything. With every decision crucial, and every person a threat to Nour, will Elyas' survival instincts become his greatest weapon?

Action-thriller director Florent-Emilio Siri (director of *Hostage* starring Bruce Willis) returns to the big screen with his most explosive film yet. Roschdy Zem's nuanced performance alongside newcomer Jeanne Michel, transforms *ELYAS* into a gripping, edge-of-your-seat film. Perfect for fans of *John Wick* and *Taken*, *ELYAS* asks how far you would go to protect the people you care for.

UNVEILING SHADOWS

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AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Biopic, Drama

DIRECTOR
Anne Fontaine

CAST
Raphaël Personnaz
Doria Tillier
Jeanne Balibar
Emmanuelle Devos

"Bolero is a film
concealing a muted pain
under its traditional
appearance..."

CINEUROPA

BOLERO / BOLERO

FRANCE, BELGIUM • 2024 • 121 mins • PG

Every 15 minutes, someone somewhere in the world plays Ravel's "Bolero" – it's a legacy its artist could never have imagined.

Renowned composer Maurice Ravel (Raphaël Personnaz) is haunted by self-doubt and melancholy. Commissioned by eccentric and magnanimous Russian dancer Ida Rubenstein (César-winning Jeanne Balibar), he must compose a carnal, rapturous fanfare for her latest ballet. Blocked creatively and cast aside by his peers, Ravel turns to his closest friends for inspiration – pianist Marguerite Long (Emmanuelle Devos, *Mascarade*, AF FFF23), his friend Cipa (Vincent Perez) and Cipa's sister Misia (Doria Tillier), whom he hopelessly adores. Set against the decadent, industrialised Paris of the 1920s, "Bolero" demands that Ravel draw on the essence of sound itself to redeem his raw genius, or risk being consumed by it completely.

A tribute to the timelessness of the composer's haunting masterpiece, *Bolero*, writer-director Anne Fontaine takes us on a deconstructed, elliptical journey through the idiosyncratic life of Maurice Ravel, via his struggle to complete that 17-minute piece of music. Premiering at the International Film Festival in Rotterdam, *BOLERO* is a celebration of a classical genius.

EXTRAORDINARY LIVES



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

SAINT-EX / SAINT-EXUPÉRY

FRANCE, BELGIUM • 2024 • 98 mins • French, Spanish • CTC

Discover the true story behind the man who wrote *The Little Prince*.

In 1930, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (Louis Garrel, *The Three Musketeers - Milady*, AF FFF24), a pilot for Aéropostale, flies too high over Argentina's Andes, crashing into the sea. To his best friend, Henri Guillaumet (Vincent Cassel, *The Three Musketeers - Part I & II*, AF FFF24), he's just Saint-Ex, getting into trouble again. After being demoted by Aéropostale, which is also planning to lay off half of its radio operators – including Henri's wife, Noëlle (Diane Kruger) – the two hatch a daring plan to save the business.

But when Henri goes missing over the Cordillera, Argentina's enormous mountain range, will Saint-Ex defy all odds to bring him back?

From French-Argentine director Pablo Agüero and selected for competition at the Namur International French-language Film Festival (FIFF), *SAINT-EX* tells the true story of defying odds in the name of friendship and loyalty. With sweeping, epic cinematography, this stunning film weaves adventure, brotherhood and ambition into a symbolic journey across Argentina's mountain ranges.

With high altitudes and high stakes, *SAINT-EX* is an exhilarating tale of courage, skill, and daring.

EXTRAORDINARY LIVES

GENRE
Biopic, Historical Epic

DIRECTOR
Pablo Agüero

CAST
Louis Garrel
Vincent Cassel
Diane Kruger
Sergej Onopko
Blanche Redouloux

"This is the almost
timeless struggle that
Pablo Agüero depicts in
Saint-Ex, an adventure
movie with dreamlike
overtones..."

CINEUROPA



51



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Comedy

DIRECTOR
Hervé Mimran

CAST
Didier Bourdon
Gérard Darmon
Chantal Lauby
Noémie Chicheportiche
Paloma Coquant

"With its Breton setting and well-crafted plot revolving around a lottery scam, the film has everything it takes to appeal to a wide audience looking for a good time out."

SORTIR À PARIS

THE SCAMMERS / A L'ANCIENNE

FRANCE • 2024 • 89 mins • CTC

Is it bad luck to rob a dead man if everyone wins?

On one of Brittany's smaller isles, best friends Jean-Jean (Didier Bourdon, *Promise at Dawn*, AF FFF19) and Henri (Gérard Darmon, *Employee of the Month*, AF FFF22) find their quiet, ordinary life disrupted when a local claims the "hyper million" national lottery. Convinced they can rub shoulders, and euros, with the winner, the two set out, only to find that luck is already on their side – the local has died with the winning ticket in his hand! Armed with a spark of ingenuity and more than a bit of bad improvisation, Jean-Jean and Henri settle on a foolproof plan: a lottery scam with the whole village on side. What could go wrong?

This sweetly hysterical film (a remake of the Irish classic *Waking Ned Devine*) from Hervé Mimran blends absurdity, heart, and a lot of mischief. Misfits Jean-Jean and Henri prove that you're never too old to raise a little hell. Set in stunning Brittany, this cast of colourful characters will steal your heart. A charming intergenerational story of what we can achieve as a community (yes, even fraud), *THE SCAMMERS* is a delightful romp for the whole family.

JUST MY LUCK!



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Dark Comedy

DIRECTOR
Franck Dubosc

CAST
Franck Dubosc
Laure Calamy
Benoît Poelvoorde
Joséphine de Meaux
Emmanuelle Devos

"Under the guise of a jubilant police comedy that alternates between hilarious and gently nerve-wracking, Franck Dubosc delivers a scathing allegory of our ruthless modern societies."

MONDOCINÉ



AUDIENCE AWARD

HOW TO MAKE A KILLING UN OURS DANS LE JURA

FRANCE • 2025 • 112 mins • MA 15+

A freak run-in with a black bear drives Michel (Franck Dubosc) off the road one wintry Christmas Eve, leading to the deaths of two strangers. Instead of reporting the accident, he panics and flees. His long-suffering wife Cathy (Laure Calamy, *Antoinette in the Cevennes*, AF FFF21), an ardent fan of crime novels, points out the obvious: with his prints all over the deceased's car, suspicion will fall on him – and they can't afford bail.

When they discover two million euros and a gun on the bodies, their situation takes a dangerous turn. As another body surfaces, Michel and Cathy will stop at nothing to avoid suspicion, even if it means burying themselves in an avalanche of lies.

Franck Dubosc's black comedy, *HOW TO MAKE A KILLING*, is a journey full of twists where nothing is as it seems. As Michel and Cathy navigate ethical dilemmas and increasingly absurd situations, the feckless small-town gendarmes inch closer. But what if they're closer to the sharp detectives in Cathy's crime novels than they first appear?

Leading from one improbable instance to another – and with bears technically non-existent in the Jura – how far will Michel and Cathy go to clear their names?

JUST MY LUCK!



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Comedy, Drama

DIRECTOR
Pascal Bonitzer

CAST
Alex Lutz
Léa Drucker
Nora Hamzawi
Louise Chevillotte

"Sharp, elegant and funny. If we put this film up for auction, hands wouldn't stop going up in the room. Bonitzer once, Bonitzer twice, Bonitzer three times? Awarded. The buyer will not regret it."

LE FIGARO

THE STOLEN PAINTING

LE TABLEAU VOLÉ

FRANCE • 2024 • 91 mins • CTC

Inspired by incredible true events, acclaimed writer/director Pascal Bonitzer's sharp and engrossing new social comedy follows a self-assured auctioneer whose professional and personal integrity is challenged by the discovery of a long-lost masterpiece.

Paris, present day. Brash 40-something André Masson (César Award-winner Alex Lutz), a hotshot modern art appraiser at prestigious high-end auction house Scottie's, receives word that a painting by Egon Schiele may have been found in a young factory worker's home in the Alsatian city of Mulhouse.

Though highly sceptical, André travels to view the canvas with his ex-partner Bettina (the superb Léa Drucker, *Custody*) who is also an expert valuator, only to be convinced of its authenticity as a masterwork long assumed destroyed by Nazi officials during WWII. For André, the ramifications of this once-in-a-lifetime find for his career and for his contentious relationship with his less-than-reliable intern Aurore (Louise Chevillotte), will prove both unexpected and transformative.

Skilfully brought to life by an array of both endearing and duplicitous characters, *THE STOLEN PAINTING* is a thrilling exploration of the often-cynical world of art dealing and collecting, where the jaw-dropping prices aren't always related to the rarity of the object. It's savvy and sophisticated entertainment.

JUST MY LUCK

DIRECT FROM FRANCE | EXCLUSIVE TO BRISBANE

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AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Dark Comedy

DIRECTORS
Maxime Govare,
Romain Choay

CAST
Fabrice Eboué
Audrey Lamy
Anouk Grinberg
Pauline Clément
Louise Coldefy
Sami Outalballi

"The audience seemed to find it a hoot."

DAN SLEVIN RNZ

LUCKY WINNERS / HEUREUX GAGNANTS

FRANCE • 2024 • 103 mins • M

Ever dreamt of winning the lotto? Think again.

When four people find their dreams come true, life finally feels perfect. But what if their luck is just about to run out? With dreams turning into nightmares and fortunes becoming burdens, this off-kilter comedy follows four interweaving stories in the wake of a life-changing windfall. Marriages are tested, friendships sour, and buried secrets are revealed, forcing the winners to question whether life really is better after the jackpot.

From the award-winning duo who wrote *The Shiny Shrimp*, *LUCKY WINNERS* is the whip-smart black comedy from Maxime Govare and Romain Choay that pushes boundaries, and characters, to their limits. With its cast of French favourites including Audrey Lamy (*The Kitchen Brigade*, AF FFF22), Anouk Grinberg (*The Innocent*, AF FFF23), and Pauline Clément (*Maria into Life*, AF FFF23), this is one of the season's most surprising and hilarious films. The stories may be bite-sized, but these lucky winners are about to find they've bitten off more than they can chew. It will be sure to leave you questioning whether it's ever truly wise to look a gift horse in the mouth.

Don't miss this deliciously subversive film. Get your tickets to this gripping black comedy now!

JUST MY LUCK!

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AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Comedy

DIRECTOR
Arnaud Lemort

CAST
Christian Clavier
Baptiste Lecaplain
Claire Chust
Christiana Reali
Rayane Bensetti

"A not-to-be-missed comedy for those looking for an entertaining, light-hearted film."

SORTIR À PARIS

FAMILY THERAPY / JAMAIS SANS MON PSY

FRANCE • 2024 • 91 mins • M

How close is too close?

Doctor Béranger (Christian Clavier, *Employee of the Month*, AF FFF22), a brilliant psychoanalyst, has life figured out – except for one little hiccup: his desperately needy client, Damien Leroy (Baptiste Lecaplain). Suffocated by Damien's relentless clinginess, Béranger devises a plan to get rid of him by convincing him of a "secret" – true love will cure him. At first, it works like a charm... until it works too well.

Fast-forward to Béranger's thirtieth wedding anniversary, when his daughter drops a bombshell: her new boyfriend is none other than Damien Leroy. Worse, Béranger and Damien must pretend they've never met. With the family's happiness on the line, a celebratory weekend of meeting the parents spirals into chaos as true love turns from remedy to disaster.

Arnaud Lemort's upbeat, slapstick comedy will leave you in stitches, poking fun at attachment theory, boundaries, and the absurd idea that true love fixes everything. Packed with shenanigans and heartfelt missteps, *FAMILY THERAPY* shows what happens when family and work collide, with hilarious results. After all, what's better than a free therapy session, even if it derails your psych's life in the process?

JUST MY LUCK!



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Drama

DIRECTOR
Daniel Auteuil

CAST
Daniel Auteuil
Grégory Gadebois
Sidse Babett Knudsen
Alice Belaïdi

"Auteuil and Gadebois are masterful. The astonishing ending will leave you stunned."

FRANCEINFO CULTURE

THE THREAD / LE FIL

FRANCE • 2024 • 115 mins • CTC

One of France's most beloved and awarded actors, the remarkable Daniel Auteuil is also an accomplished writer and director (*The Well-Digger's Daughter*), and this engrossing new legal thriller finds him once again in outstanding form.

Auteuil stars as Jean Monier, a well-past-his-prime defence lawyer who – ever since discovering he was responsible for a killer being exonerated – prefers to work as a prosecutor. But one evening he agrees to help his over-committed wife and fellow counsel Annie (Sidse Babett Knudsen, *Borgen*) by meeting with Nicolas Milik (Grégory Gadebois, *Delicious*, AF FFF21), a shell-shocked father of five who has just been arrested for the murder of his troubled wife. Milik's predicament inexplicably touches Jean; the more he pieces together the case, the more he becomes convinced of Milik's innocence. Soon Jean rediscovers his passion for his vocation and becomes obsessed with exposing the real killer.

Characterised by typically first-rate performances from its stellar cast, this pulled-from-the-headlines drama – based on true events and adapted from the memoirs of lawyer-turned-best-selling author Jean-Yves Moynet – is a gripping exploration of guilt, conceit and the slippery nature of justice. Packing a genuine punch, *THE THREAD*'s conclusion lingers long after the credits have rolled.

OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE





AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Historical Drama

DIRECTOR
Simon Moutairou

CAST
Ibrahima Mbaye
Camille Cottin
Benoît Magimel
Anna Diakhare
Thiandoum
Félix Lefebvre

"A story of rebellion that is as relevant today as it was yesterday and will be tomorrow."

DEADLINE



PREVIEW SCREENING

NO CHAINS NO MASTERS NI CHÂÎNES NI MAÎTRES

FRANCE • 2024 • 97 mins • French, Wolof • CTC

Straight from the 2024 Festival du Cinéma Américain de Deauville and filmed on location in Mauritius, Simon Moutairou's powerful debut is an unmissable journey following those who dare to stand against injustice.

In 1759, Mauritius is a profitable colonial outpost for France, but for Massamba (Ibrahima Mbaye) and his daughter Mati (Anna Diakhare Thiandoum), it's a living hell. Slaves on a sugar plantation owned by the ruthless Eugène Larcenet (Benoît Magimel, *The Taste of Things*, AF FFF24), they are the victims of brutal laws enforced under the guise of justice – even though Larcenet's son Honoré (Félix Lefebvre) fiercely disagrees. In this world, disobedience means death. Yet Massamba remains blind to the growing resistance in Mati, whose salvation lies not in becoming a seamstress but in escape at any cost.

When Mati flees the plantation, Larcenet calls on the uncompromising maroon hunter, Madame La Victoire (Camille Cottin, *Call My Agent*), a devout Catholic and Royalist, to bring her back. Aided by her militant sons, Madame La Victoire will bring Mati before God and the law – unless Massamba can reach her first.

NO CHAINS NO MASTERS captures history with unflinching force – a festival experience for the big screen.

OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE

MISS VIOLET / LOUISE VIOLET

FRANCE • 2024 • 108 mins • CTC

Set in the picturesque Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, Eric Besnard's (*A Great Friend*, AF FFF24) historical drama offers an intimate look at rural life where tradition and progress collide.

In 1889, a rural village is confronted with something dangerous: the free, secular, and mandated schooling of the French Republic. Tasked with educating the village's children, Louise Violet (Alexandra Lamy) faces a hostile reception. Fearful of change and distrustful of anything that might distract their children from farm work, the forceful mayor Pierre Lecomte (Grégory Gadebois, *A Great Friend*, AF FFF24) makes one thing clear: if she wants to win the villagers over, she'll have to speak their language.

As winter deepens and tensions rise, *Miss Violet* must confront a darker truth: while education serves as a bridge, some divides are personal. Facing the villagers means confronting herself, and some secrets can't stay buried forever. Louise may be the teacher, but she has lessons to learn too. What can the village teach her?

Rich in costumes and natural, seasonal light, *MISS VIOLET* is a sumptuous exploration of how education can both disrupt and awaken. A simmering study of resilience, regret and opportunity, this film is a must-see for anyone who believes in the transformative power of education.

OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE

GENRE
Historical Drama

DIRECTOR
Éric Besnard

CAST
Alexandra Lamy
Grégory Gadebois
Jérôme Kircher
Jérémy Lopez
Patrick Pineau

"*Miss Violet* is more than just a historical drama; it becomes a reflection on the social challenges that education and equal opportunity still pose today."

SORTIR À PARIS



WATERLOO HISTORIC FILM
FESTIVAL 2024
AUDIENCE AWARD



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Drama

DIRECTOR
Anne-Sophie Bailly

CAST
Laure Calamy
Charles Peccia
Julie Froger

"It's impossible not to fall irrevocably in love with this film. Calamy is extraordinary."

NEXT BEST PICTURE


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LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA

BEST DIRECTOR
(AUTHORS UNDER 40)
BEST FILM
IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE
PREMIO SPECIAL FILM
IMPRESA AWARD

MY EVERYTHING / MON INSÉPARABLE

FRANCE • 2024 • 94 mins • CTC

After establishing herself as one of France's most popular and successful comedienne, the multi-talented Laure Calamy follows *Full Time*, *AF FFF22*, with another dramatic tour-de-force in writer/director Anne-Sophie Bailly's deeply affecting debut.

Calamy plays single, middle-aged beautician Mona, completely dedicated to 30-year-old son Joël (Charles Peccia Galletto), who lives with cerebral palsy. Joël works in a specialised facility and is secretly in love with co-worker Océane; while Mona knows nothing of their relationship, all is revealed when it becomes evident that Océane is pregnant.

Océane's parents and Mona are collectively stunned by the news, but the couple declare they are in love and determined to forge a life together. Mona finds herself torn between her son's iron will, her maternal instincts and a suppressed desire to enjoy life on her own terms...

Emotionally involving and honest, Bailly's debut feature offers a moving observation of caregiving, inter-dependence and how society treats the rights of the most fragile. With Calamy excelling alongside her impressive non-professional co-stars, *MY EVERYTHING* is a stirring and resonant story of motherhood, compassion and acceptance.

FAMILY MATTERS

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AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Comedy, Drama

DIRECTOR
Blandine Lenoir

CAST
Izïa Higelin
Sophie Guillemin
Jean-Pierre Darroussin
Noémie Lvovskiy
Liliane Rovère

"A whimsical and
endearing gem."
ELLE

"Highly recommended.
Full of charm, humour and
fantasy, and at the heart
of this lightness lies a
secret that will not be
easily revealed."

FEMME ACTUELLE

JULIETTE IN SPRING

JULIETTE AU PRINTEMPS

FRANCE • 2024 • 97 mins • CTC

Featuring a fantastic ensemble cast, the charming new dramedy by Blandine Lenoir (*Aurore*, AF FFF18, *Annie's Fire*, AF FFF23) follows a young woman's efforts to reconnect to herself and her family during an unexpectedly eventful trip home.

When 35-year-old Juliette (Izïa Higelin, *La Belle Saison*), a children's book illustrator, returns to her country village to spend some downtime with her loved ones, what she encounters is anything but low-key. Her harried elder sister Marylou (Sophie Guillemin, in a scene-stealing turn) is carrying on a "one-day-a-week" affair with a man from the costume shop, her grandmother is becoming frailer by the day, and her long-separated parents are feuding – he (Jean-Pierre Darroussin) is kind but emotionally distant, she (Noémie Lvovskiy) is wildly-revelling in the second act of her life as a single woman.

As buried memories and long-held secrets stir to the surface, Juliette must grapple with how to remain connected to the fractured family's story, and reclaim her own identity.

Based on a graphic novel by Camille Jourdy (whose work formed the basis for the equally-winning hit *Rosalie Blum*), Lenoir's gorgeous film finds pathos and humour in even the worst behaviours of her richly captured protagonists. *JULIETTE* is a gem to be treasured.

FAMILY MATTERS



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

PRODIGES / PRODIGEUSES

FRANCE • 2024 • 101 mins • French, English, German • CTC

They might have been prodigies at home but at the Karlsruhe Conservatory of Music, they're nothing.

Twin pianists Claire (Camille Razat, *Emily in Paris*) and Jeanne (Mélanie Robert) have been militantly trained by their father for one single goal: greatness. So when they find themselves under the tutelage of the tyrannical Professor Klaus Lenhardt (August Wittgenstein), they're ready to be pushed to their physical and emotional limits. However the twins quickly realise that their biggest challenge isn't the music or the gruelling regime – it's each other.

When Claire and Jeanne are diagnosed with a sudden aggressive and incurable illness, their sibling rivalry pales by comparison. The twins must decide: will they defy the odds and do whatever it takes to truly become prodigies?

Based on an impossibly true story, *PRODIGES* is an inspiring debut film by real-life brothers Frédéric and Valentin Potier. Premiering at the 17th Angoulême French-Speaking Film Festival, this stirring and emotional drama captures the pain of our ambitions, and what we are willing to sacrifice to achieve greatness. An unmissable film of passion, obsession, and sibling rivalry, this is France's answer to *Whiplash*.

FAMILY MATTERS

GENRE
Drama, True Story

DIRECTORS
Frédéric Potier
Valentin Potier

CAST
Camille Razat
Mélanie Robert
Franck Dubosc
Isabelle Carré
August Wittgenstein

"Frédéric and Valentin
Potier's *Prodigies* is a
powerful film about
artistic passion and the
strength of the human
spirit in the face of
adversity."

SORTIR À PARIS



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GENRE
Comedy

DIRECTOR
Ali Marhyar

CAST
Ahmed Sylla
Julia Platon
Mallory Wanecque
Habib Dembélé
Tewfik Jallab

"Ali Marhyar's first film is an attractive comedy ... a wonderful discovery that will appeal to all ages."

SORTIR À PARIS

LIKE A PRINCE / COMME UN PRINCE

FRANCE • 2024 • 90 mins • CTC

When champion boxer Souleyman gets in a bar fight on the eve of his Olympic Games début, it's not just his dreams that are shattered.

With broken knuckles and sentenced to 400 hours of community service at the decadent Château de Chambord, it looks like it's all over for Souleyman (Ahmed Sylla, *The Climb*). Stuck collecting rubbish and participating in cheap medieval reenactments, he is resigned to his fate until he is surprised by foster kid Mélissa (Mallory Wanecque, *Beating Hearts*, AF FFF25). Deeply troubled but blessed with an inherent gift for boxing, she might just be the ticket to Souleyman's official comeback.

LIKE A PRINCE is a fresh, upbeat comedy from actor and first-time director Ali Marhyar. Filmed on location at Château de Chambord, the spectacular French Renaissance castle in the Loire Valley, *LIKE A PRINCE* proves that going from champion boxer to teen coach is harder than it looks. If Souleyman wants to convince Mélissa that her dreams are worth following, he'll need more than just talk. When every punch counts, what kind of mark will Souleyman leave behind?

FAMILY DAY OUT

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SPEAK OUT

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

LE PANACHE

FRANCE • 2024 • 93 mins • French, Italian • PG

LIMITED
SCREENINGS

GENRE Comedy, Drama

DIRECTOR Jennifer Devoldère

CAST José Garcia, Joachim Arseguel, Aure Atika,
Cédric Vieira, Claire Dumas

"Onstage, you can be anyone you want – even yourself."

Colin (Joachim Arseguel), a 14-year-old with a stutter, is the new student at school, and being himself is the furthest thing from his mind. Struggling to fit in and too shy to take up space, he's content to remain invisible if it means avoiding attention.

That is, until he meets Monsieur Devarseau (José Garcia), a passionate drama teacher who believes anything is possible if we have the courage to believe in ourselves. Challenging Colin to take on the lead role in *Cyrano de Bergerac* in their school production, Monsieur Devarseau's unwavering faith in his students will help them find their voices and bring the house down.

This touching comedic drama from Jennifer Devoldère showcases the power of tolerance and authenticity, proving that every leap of faith begins with someone who believes in us. Celebrating the transformative potential of theatre with a charming cast of misfits, *SPEAK OUT* teaches us that we deserve more than making ourselves small. If we want to bring down stars from the sky like *Cyrano*, we just need a little panache!

“

"Speak Out promises to be an ode to resilience and the transformative power of art and friendship."

SORTIR À PARIS



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& NIBBLES



Palace Electric



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\$42 Non-Members



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4:00pm Screening

CINÉWINE APRIL FOOLS' NIGHT

LUCKY WINNERS / HEUREUX GAGNANTS



Palace Electric



\$27 Members
\$32 Non-Members



6:00pm Arrival
6:30pm Screening



TUE 1ST
APR

GLASS OF WINE
ON ARRIVAL

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CENTREPIECE PREMIERE

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO / LE COMTE DE MONTE CRISTO



SUN 9TH
MAR

GLASS OF WINE
& NIBBLES



Palace Electric



\$37 Members
\$42 Non-Members



3:00pm Arrival
3:30pm Screening

LADIES NIGHT

RIVIERA REVENGE / N'AVOUE JAMAIS !



Palace Electric, Cinema 4



\$37 Members
\$42 Non-Members



6:00pm Arrival
6:30pm Screening



THU 13TH
MAR

GLASS OF WINE & NIBBLES
+ SURPRISE STALL

HER CANBERRA

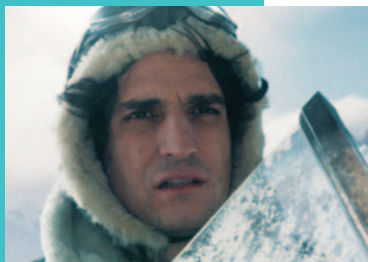


—
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HER CANBERRA

CINÉWINE BELGIAN NIGHT
SAINT-EXUPÉRY / SAINT-EX



- Palace Electric
- \$27 Members
\$32 Non-Members
- 6:00pm Arrival
6:30pm Screening

TUE 18TH
MAR

GLASS OF WINE
ON ARRIVAL



EMBASSY
OF BELGIUM

CINÉWINE SNEAK PREVIEW
JANE AUSTEN WRECKED MY LIFE / JANE AUSTEN A
GÂCHÉ MA VIE



- Palace Electric
- \$27 Members
\$32 Non-Members
- 6:00pm Arrival
6:30pm Screening

THU 3RD
APR

GLASS OF WINE
ON ARRIVAL

CINÉWINE ITALIAN NIGHT
THE DELUGE / LE DÉLUGE



- Palace Electric
- \$27 Members
\$32 Non-Members
- 6:00pm Arrival
6:30pm Screening

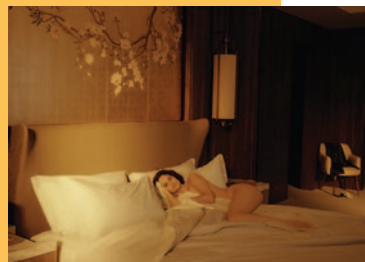
TUE 25TH
MAR

GLASS OF WINE
ON ARRIVAL



Embassy of Italy
Canberra

CINÉWINE OH LALA NIGHT
EMMANUELLE / EMMANUELLE



- Palace Electric
- \$27 Members
\$32 Non-Members
- 8:00pm Arrival
8:30pm Screening

SAT 5TH
APR

GLASS OF WINE
ON ARRIVAL

af
Alliance Française
Canberra

TERM 2

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TASTE OF FRANCE ALL STIRRED UP!

TOUS TOQUÉS



THU 27TH
MAR

**GLASS OF WINE
& CATERING**



Palace Electric



\$37 Members
\$42 Non-Members



6:00pm Arrival
6:30pm Screening

Les Bistronomes
Restaurant



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of Canada
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of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada
Haut-commissariat
du Canada



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*Crowd-pleasing
cheeses from France*

CLOSING NIGHT IN THE SUB FOR LOVE

À TOUTE ALLURE



WED 9TH
APR



Palace Electric



\$37 Members
\$42 Non-Members



6:00pm Arrival
6:30pm Screening

**GLASS OF WINE
& CATERING**



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7 - 17 MAY

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FRANCE**
12 - 22 SEPT

VANUATU
2 - 7 JUNE

**CALABRIA
ITALY**
24 SEPT - 4 OCT

**FRANCE IN AUSTRALIA,
YARRA VALLEY VIC**
4 - 7 MAR

**LA DOLCE VITA,
GRIFFITH NSW**
29 APR - 3 MAY



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INFO@CHEFCHRISTOPHEANDJOSEPHINE.COM.AU



SCHEDULE

THURSDAY MARCH 6

OPENING NIGHT GALA

6:30pm Monsieur Aznavour

FRIDAY MARCH 7

10:45am Meet The Leroy's
11:00am The Story of Souleymane
1:00pm My Everything
1:10pm Before What Comes After
3:15pm Beating Hearts
3:30pm Bolero
6:10pm The Deluge
6:30pm The Divine Sarah Bernhardt
8:30pm Saint Ex
8:45pm Love Boat

SATURDAY MARCH 8

11:00am Being Maria
11:15am Like A Prince
1:20pm Prodigies
2:00pm Three Friends
3:40pm Lucky Winners
3:50pm Holy Cow
6:00pm Monsieur Aznavour
6:10pm My Brother's Band
8:30pm My Everything
8:50pm Riviera Revenge

SUNDAY MARCH 9

10:40am Speak Out
11:00am Riviera Revenge
12:45pm The Divine Sarah Bernhardt
1:15pm Bolero
CENTREPIECE PREMIERE
3:30pm The Count of Monte Cristo
3:50pm Miss Violet
6:10pm The Good Teacher
7:15pm Beating Hearts
8:15pm The Ties That Bind Us

MONDAY MARCH 10

10:45am The Kingdom
11:00am Miss Violet
1:10pm Juliette in Spring
1:20pm The Thread
3:20pm The Story of Souleymane
3:50pm The Good Teacher
5:30pm At the End of the Day
6:00pm Bolero
8:10pm The Scammers
8:40pm When Fall is Coming

TUESDAY MARCH 11

11:00am The Deluge
11:10am The Kingdom
1:15pm All Stirred Up!
1:40pm No Chains No Masters
3:40pm Meet The Leroy's
3:50pm How to Make a Killing
6:00pm Before What Comes After
6:20pm Love Boat
8:15pm The Ties That Bind Us
8:30pm When Fall is Coming

WEDNESDAY MARCH 12

10:45am Bolero
11:00am All Stirred Up!
1:20pm The Thread
1:30pm Family Therapy
3:40pm The Divine Sarah Bernhardt
3:50pm Juliette in Spring
6:00pm The Stolen Painting
6:10pm Elyas
8:10pm Niki
8:30pm At the End of the Day

THURSDAY MARCH 13

11:00am Monsieur Aznavour
11:15am The Kingdom
1:40pm Holy Cow
1:50pm Saint Ex
3:45pm The Story of Souleymane

4:00pm The Good Teacher
5:50pm Bolero

LADIES' NIGHT

6:30pm Riviera Revenge
8:30pm Lucky Winners
FRIDAY MARCH 14
10:30am My Everything
11:00am Miss Violet
12:40pm How to Make a Killing
1:20pm The Scammers
3:10pm Beating Hearts
3:30pm Three Friends
6:00pm The Deluge
6:30pm My Brother's Band
8:15pm Family Therapy
8:45pm Lucky Winners

SATURDAY MARCH 15

10:20am How to Make a Killing
11:30am This Life of Mine
12:50pm Bolero
1:45pm The Ties That Bind Us
3:30pm Prodigies
4:10pm Juliette in Spring
6:00pm The Stolen Painting
6:20pm Riviera Revenge
8:10pm All Stirred Up!
8:30pm Meet The Leroy's

SUNDAY MARCH 16

10:30am Speak Out
10:45am Before What Comes After
12:40pm Niki
1:00pm When Fall is Coming
3:00pm Monsieur Aznavour
3:15pm My Brother's Band
5:30pm The Thread
6:00pm The Count of Monte Cristo
8:10pm Bolero

MONDAY MARCH 17

10:30am Family Therapy
11:00am Miss Violet

ELECTRIC CINEMA

12:40pm Before What Comes After
1:20pm Juliette in Spring
2:45pm Beating Hearts
3:30pm The Stolen Painting
5:40pm My Everything
6:00pm Monsieur Aznavour
7:50pm Holy Cow
8:50pm Elyas

TUESDAY MARCH 18

11:00am At the End of the Day
11:30am The Deluge
1:40pm Like A Prince
3:45pm When Fall is Coming
4:00pm The Scammers
6:15pm The Divine Sarah Bernhardt

BELGIAN NIGHT

6:30pm Saint Ex
8:30pm No Chains No Masters

WEDNESDAY MARCH 19

11:00am Meet The Leroy's
11:15am Three Friends
1:20pm The Stolen Painting
1:45pm The Ties That Bind Us
3:30pm This Life of Mine
4:10pm My Everything
6:00pm No Chains No Masters
6:20pm My Brother's Band
8:10pm The Good Teacher
8:40pm How to Make a Killing

THURSDAY MARCH 20

11:00am Lucky Winners
11:45am Holy Cow
1:30pm Juliette in Spring
2:00pm Meet The Leroy's
3:45pm Saint Ex
4:20pm How to Make a Killing
6:00pm All Stirred Up!
6:45pm Beating Hearts
8:30pm This Life of Mine

FRIDAY MARCH 21

10:45am The Story of Souleymane
11:00am Niki
1:00pm Three Friends
1:15pm All Stirred Up!
3:30pm Like A Prince
3:45pm The Scammers
5:50pm Monsieur Aznavour
6:00pm The Stolen Painting
8:15pm The Thread
8:40pm The Good Teacher

SATURDAY MARCH 22

11:00am Prodigies
11:15am My Everything
1:20pm Holy Cow
1:30pm Love Boat
3:30pm At the End of the Day
3:40pm Beating Hearts
6:10pm When Fall is Coming
7:15pm The Count of Monte Cristo
8:30pm Bolero

SUNDAY MARCH 23

10:30am The Kingdom
11:00am Miss Violet
1:00pm Meet The Leroy's
1:20pm The Deluge
3:20pm My Brother's Band
3:40pm Riviera Revenge
5:40pm Monsieur Aznavour
6:00pm All Stirred Up!
8:30pm Family Therapy
8:30pm At the End of the Day

MONDAY MARCH 24

11:00am Before What Comes After
11:15am Like A Prince
1:15pm My Everything
1:20pm Love Boat
3:30pm The Divine Sarah Bernhardt
3:30pm Juliette in Spring

5:45pm The Story of Souleymane
6:00pm The Good Teacher
8:00pm Niki
8:10pm Elyas

TUESDAY MARCH 25

10:15am The Thread
11:00am Being Maria
12:45pm Monsieur Aznavour
1:30pm The Ties That Bind Us
3:30pm Three Friends
3:50pm Prodigies
6:10pm The Stolen Painting

ITALIAN NIGHT

6:30pm The Deluge
8:15pm Beating Hearts

WEDNESDAY MARCH 26

11:00am Love Boat
11:15am Family Therapy
1:10pm All Stirred Up!
1:30pm At the End of the Day
3:45pm Three Friends
4:10pm Miss Violet
6:15pm My Brother's Band
6:30pm Juliette in Spring
8:30pm Meet The Leroy's
8:40pm This Life of Mine

THURSDAY MARCH 27

10:45am The Story of Souleymane
11:15am Saint Ex
1:00pm The Deluge
1:30pm Before What Comes After
3:20pm The Scammers
3:45pm The Good Teacher
6:00pm The Thread

TASTE OF FRANCE

6:30pm All Stirred Up!
8:30pm Monsieur Aznavour

FRIDAY MARCH 28

11:00am How to Make a Killing

SCHEDULE

11:15am The Divine Sarah
Bernhardt
1:30pm Niki
1:40pm Riviera Revenge
3:45pm My Everything
3:50pm The Story of
Souleymane
6:00pm This Life of Mine
6:00pm Three Friends
8:15pm The Stolen Painting
8:30pm Bolero

SATURDAY MARCH 29

10:45am This Life of Mine
11:15am Meet The Leroy's
1:00pm Three Friends
1:40pm Riviera Revenge
3:30pm Monsieur Aznavour
3:50pm Miss Violet
6:10pm My Brother's Band
6:30pm The Count of Monte
Cristo
8:30pm The Thread

SUNDAY MARCH 30

10:30am Saint Ex
11:15am The Stolen Painting
12:40pm Bolero
1:20pm Meet The Leroy's
3:15pm My Everything

CLASSIC MOVIE

4:00pm Army of Shadows

5:30pm Beating Hearts
7:15pm The Story of
Souleymane
8:45pm Elyas

MONDAY MARCH 31

11:00am Like A Prince
11:15am Being Maria
1:15pm The Ties That Bind Us
1:40pm The Divine Sarah
Bernhardt
3:45pm Holy Cow
4:00pm Prodigies
6:00pm How to Make a Killing
6:20pm My Everything
8:30pm Juliette in Spring

8:30pm At the End of the Day

TUESDAY APRIL 1

10:30am Bolero
11:00am My Brother's Band
1:10pm Beating Hearts
1:15pm The Kingdom
4:00pm The Deluge
4:30pm No Chains No
Masters

APRIL FOOLS NIGHT

6:30pm Lucky Winners
6:40pm The Good Teacher
8:45pm The Thread

WEDNESDAY APRIL 2

10:45am All Stirred Up!
11:30am Riviera Revenge
1:15pm The Story of
Souleymane
1:40pm Being Maria
3:30pm The Stolen Painting
4:00pm Elyas
6:00pm Monsieur Aznavour
6:15pm The Divine Sarah
Bernhardt
8:30pm Three Friends
8:50pm This Life of Mine

THURSDAY APRIL 3

1:00pm All Stirred Up!
1:45pm Niki
3:45pm Riviera Revenge
4:00pm Elyas
6:15pm Love Boat

SNEAK PREVIEW

6:30pm Jane Austen Wrecked
My Life

FRIDAY APRIL 4

1:00pm At the End of the Day
1:15pm Before What Comes
After
3:30pm When Fall is Coming
3:45pm The Ties That Bind Us
5:50pm Family Therapy
6:10pm The Divine Sarah
Bernhardt

ELECTRIC CINEMA

SATURDAY APRIL 5

1:00pm Three Friends
1:30pm The Scammers
3:30pm Miss Violet
3:40pm All Stirred Up!
6:00pm The Good Teacher
6:15pm Monsieur Aznavour

OH LA LA NIGHT

8:30pm Emmanuelle

SUNDAY APRIL 6

1:00pm My Brother's Band
1:30pm Jane Austen Wrecked
My Life
3:15pm Beating Hearts
3:45pm The Deluge
6:00pm Lucky Winners
6:30pm How to Make a Killing

MONDAY APRIL 7

1:15pm This Life of Mine
1:30pm The Kingdom
3:30pm No Chains No
Masters
4:00pm Saint Ex
5:45pm The Stolen Painting
6:15pm The Story of
Souleymane

TUESDAY APRIL 8

1:15pm Before What Comes
After
1:30pm At the End of the Day
3:40pm Being Maria
4:10pm When Fall is Coming
6:00pm My Everything
6:30pm The Thread

WEDNESDAY APRIL 9

1:00pm Bolero
1:20pm Holy Cow
3:30pm Niki
3:40pm Prodigies
6:00pm My Brother's Band

WEDNESDAY APRIL 9

CLOSING NIGHT

6:30pm In the Sub for Love

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



TICKETING & CONDITIONS

OPENING NIGHT GALA
MONSIEUR AZNAVOUR

Thursday 6 March
6pm arrival for 6:30pm film
Before and After-party with
French canapés, wine and music!
Palace Electric Cinema
Sponsored by Courgette
restaurant, Fromager d’Affinois
and France at Home and Savoir
French.
Tickets:
AF Canberra & Movie Club
Members\$95.00
Non-Members\$100.00
*Please see our website for
updates and all event details.*

CENTREPIECE PREMIERE
THE COUNT
OF MONTE CRISTO

Sunday 9 March
3pm arrival for 3:30pm film
Glass of wine and nibbles on
arrival - Palace Electric Cinema
Tickets: see special events

CLOSING NIGHT RECEPTION
IN THE SUB FOR LOVE

Wednesday 9 April
6pm arrival for 6:30pm film
Palace Electric Cinema
Sponsored by Savoir French
Tickets:
Alliance Française de Canberra
& Palace Movie Club
Members*\$37.00
Non-members\$42.00
*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!

**BELGIAN NIGHT
SAINT-EX**
Tuesday 18 March
6pm arrival for 6:30pm film
Sponsored by the Embassy of
Belgium

**ITALIAN NIGHT
THE DELUGE**
Tuesday 25 March
6 pm arrival for 6:30pm film
Sponsored by the Embassy of Italy

**APRIL FOOLS' NIGHT
LUCKY WINNERS**
Tuesday 1 April
6 pm arrival for 6:30 pm film

**SNEAK PREVIEW
JANE AUSTEN WRECKED
MY LIFE**
Thursday 3 April
6pm arrival for 6:30pm film

**OH LA LA NIGHT
EMMANUELLE**
Saturday 5 April
8pm arrival for 8:30pm film

Cinéwine Tickets:
Alliance Française de Canberra &
Palace Movie Club
Members*\$27.00
Non-members\$32.00
*Please see our website for
updates and all event details.*

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

**LADIES' NIGHT
RIVIERA REVENGE**
Thursday 13 March
6pm arrival for 6:30pm film
Glass of wine and nibbles on
arrival
Sponsored by Her Canberra
Palace Electric Cinema

**TASTE OF FRANCE
ALL STIRRED UP**
Thursday 27 March
6pm arrival for 6:30pm film
Glass of wine and Catering on
arrival
Sponsored by: Les Bistronomes
restaurant and High Commission
of Canada
Palace Electric Cinema

**CLASSIC MOVIE
ARMY OF SHADOWS**
Sunday 30 March
3:30pm arrival for 4pm film
Glass of wine and nibbles on
arrival
Palace Electric Cinema

Special Events Tickets:
Alliance Française de Canberra &
Palace Movie Club
Members*\$37.00
Non-members\$42.00

TICKET PRICES

GENERAL ADMISSION
Alliance Française de Canberra &
Palace Movie Club
Members*\$22.00
Adults\$27.00
Concessions**\$23.00
Children 17 & under
(check classifications)\$19.00

GENERAL ADMISSION
Weekends after 2:30pm
(Excluding Opening and Closing
Nights, Special Events and
CinéWine screenings)
Alliance Française de Canberra &
Palace Movie Club
Members*\$23.00
Adults\$28.00
Concessions **\$24.00
Children 17 & under
(check classifications)\$20.00
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: Under 25s &
Full Time Students, senior (60+)
and pensioner.
To purchase your Alliance
Française Membership, visit:
www.afcanberra.com.au for your
Palace Movie Club Membership,
visit www.palacecinemas.com.au

GROUPS
(Excluding Opening/Closing
Nights, Special Events)
Groups (10+)\$17.00
Bookings at:
events.act@palacecinemas.com.au
Schools (20+)***\$14.00
***One teacher admitted free for
every 20 students.
Bookings at:
events.act@palacecinemas.com.au

E-BUNDLES (MOVIE CLUB)
(Excluding Opening and Closing
Nights, Special Events and
CinéWine screenings)
10 FILM E-BUNDLE
(MOVIE CLUB):\$189.00
5 FILM E-BUNDLE
(MOVIE CLUB):\$99.00

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.

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
2025 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
WEDNESDAY 5 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.affrenchfilmfestival.org and
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-exchan-
geable. 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.



Alliance Française

Canberra

*Learn and Live French
Your Way*



66 McCaughey St
Turner, ACT 2612
(+61) 2 6257 6696