

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL UK

La fête du
CINÉMA

30
ANNIVERSARY EDITION

www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

2 November to
15 December 2022

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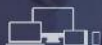
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For three decades, the French Film Festival UK has been on a journey to explore the richness and diversity of francophone cinema and to expand cultural horizons. Post-Brexit, the event's sense of purpose in bringing together our French-speaking neighbours from Europe and beyond has become even more acute and essential. The organisers pay tribute to our audiences, sponsors and funders, as well as passionate and committed individuals, who every year ensure the festival comes to vibrant life – not only in November and December, but also influencing film events throughout the year.

Vive le cinéma !

Richard Mowe, Director French Film Festival UK
Diane Henderson, Associate Director French Film Festival UK

This year we have a revamped and improved French Film Festival UK website where you will find our detailed Festival timetables, film selection and venues, and be able to book tickets. Please visit www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk/ for further information and to make a booking.

CONTENTS

30 YEARS OF THE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL UK	5-11
MOBILE FILM FESTIVAL	12
FEMMES FIRST	13-17
PANORAMA	19-35
DISCOVERY	37-41
ANIMATION	42
CLASSICS	43-46
TRIBUTE / SPECIAL SCREENING	47
CURZON AT HOME	48-51
EXTRAS	53-59
LEARNING IN CINEMAS	60
KEY VENUE INFORMATION	62-63
CAST & CREW	65
FESTIVAL PARTNERS	66

Cover image: **Laure Calamy** as she appears in *Angry Annie / Annie Colère* (Page 12).
Laure (above and on Page 37) can also be seen in *Full Time / À plein temps*.

*Certificates in this brochure are advisory except when the film has been classified by the BBFC.
Film and venues selection correct at time of print.*



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Flowers for Jeanne Moreau, a run with Claude Lelouch, and reclining with Agnès Varda

Allan Hunter, co-founder of the French Film Festival UK,
rekindles memories of the Festival's three decades.



30 years of the French Film Festival UK

It all started in Paris. The second European Film Awards took place on a cold November evening in 1989 at the Art Deco Théâtre des Champs-Élysées. Liv Ullmann was President of the Jury, and the stellar assembly of talents included Yves Montand, Micheline Presle, Leslie Caron, and Sir Richard “Dickie” Attenborough.

As journalists, Richard Mowe and I were lucky to attend. It was a night to remember – Philippe Noiret was named European Actor for his roles in Bertrand Tavernier’s *La vie et rien d’autre (Life and Nothing But)* and Giuseppe Tornatore’s *Cinema Paradiso*. Theo Angelopoulos’ *Landscape in the Mist* was chosen as best film. Presenter Hanna Schygulla brought fellow presenter Pedro Almodóvar a chunk of stone from the Berlin Wall, which had fallen just two weeks earlier. There was a goosebump moment when a hushed auditorium listened to an audio message of welcome from Marlene Dietrich. She lived just a few streets away, and had glimpsed the preparations for the ceremony from her window. The following year, the awards would be held in Glasgow.

The powerful sense of a shared community that night left us both pondering why so many European films never saw the light of day in Britain. There were countless French and francophone films that might only have made a solitary appearance at a festival and then disappeared from view. There were some notable exceptions as audiences flocked to *Jean de Florette*, *Au revoir les enfants (Goodbye, Children)* or *Cyrano de Bergerac* – but those were just the highly visible tip of a much more substantial national industry. There was a feeling that something should be done about it. Perhaps we should start an event celebrating French and French-language cinema. That was how the French Film Festival UK began.

It took a little time to convince others that this was a good idea. Sponsors, venues, sales agents and filmmakers came on board – all of them have been vital partners in the Festival ever since. Later, Richard headed back to Paris to visit Jeanne Moreau, wooing her with flowers and charm as he invited her to become the patron of the Festival. She accepted.



From left: Jeanne Moreau (1992); Agnès Varda (1995); Jean Reno with GFT’s Jaki McDougall (2004); Bertrand Tavernier & FFF chair James Steel in Glasgow (2006).

30 years of the French Film Festival UK



Jean-Paul Rappeneau with Richard Mowe (2007); Daniel Auteuil with ex-FFF co-director Ilona Morison (2013).

The first Festival was held in 1992 in Glasgow and Edinburgh, opening with the devilish Josiane Balasko comedy *Ma vie est un enfer* (*My Life Is Hell*). It was to be a Festival without barriers – showcasing commercial success and arthouse promise, big titles and fresh discoveries. Focusing on short films and education work encouraged a younger generation to broaden their horizons and try something different.

In the first year of the Festival you could have seen Jean-Jacques Beineix's *IP5: L'île aux pachydermes* (*IP5: The Island of Pachyderms*) with Yves Montand, Régis Wargnier's *Indochine* with Catherine Deneuve, and Claude Chabrol's *Madame Bovary* with Isabelle Huppert (revived for this year's anniversary edition). Looking back, it is heartening to recall how much of an emphasis the Festival placed on the work of female directors. In 1993, there were new films from Coline Serreau, Claire Devers, Christine Pascal, and Anne Fontaine.

Early Festivals championed Claire Denis, Diane Kurys, Tonie Marshall, Nicole Garcia, Marion Vernoux and, in later years, such talents as Danielle Arbid and Blandine Lenoir. The Festival also developed a pretty good record for talent spotting. The first Festival

included first features from Arnaud Desplechin and Brigitte Rouan. The second edition brought the first features of Cédric Klapisch and Anne Fontaine to British audiences, and later Emmanuel Mouret made his bow.

Looking back, there is such a jumble of memories from the Festival's earliest years. Who can forget Agnès Varda draped like Cleopatra across the front-row seats at Filmhouse in Edinburgh, relaxed and contently horizontal as she took questions from an audience who had just watched *L'une chante, l'autre pas* (*One Sings, the Other Doesn't*). Or Bertrand Tavernier storming around the country like a touring rock star and reviving memories in Glasgow of *Death Watch*, the film he made there with Romy Schneider and Harvey Keitel.

Gérard Jugnot kept his secret when an audience member at the Glasgow Film Theatre cheekily inquired whether he was a boxers or briefs man – it was relevant to his film. Jugnot was represented at the first Festival with *Une époque formidable*. And Fontaine admitted that Miou-Miou would be delighted to hear that someone felt there was a striking resemblance between her and handsome co-star Stanislas Merhar in *Nettoyage à sec* (*Dry Cleaning*).



30 years of the French Film Festival UK

Director Jean-Paul Rappeneau, who was the subject of an early retrospective, savoured a visit to Edinburgh Castle and subsequently has loyally made several return trips. Meanwhile, Claude Lelouch (*Hommes, femmes, mode d'emploi / Men, Women: A User's Manual*) went for his morning jog with Richard. He figures nostalgically in this year's edition, with *Les Plus belles années d'une vie (The Best Years of a Life)* as a tribute to the late Jean-Louis Trintignant. And there were so many more: Alain Corneau, Nadine Trintignant, and Jean Becker.

Over the past three decades, the unique Festival has only grown in importance as a showcase for French and francophone films that now has a footprint across more than 35 cinemas in the United Kingdom.

It has given audiences an early chance to spot rising talents and see in person a galaxy of greats that stretches from Bérénice Bejo to Patrice Chéreau, Yolande Moreau to Antoine de Caunes, Claude Sautet to Roschdy Zem, Jean Reno to Agnès Jaoui. The organisers helped bring Sylvain Chomet and his wife Sally to Edinburgh, where he stayed to make *The Illusionist*. Although back in Normandy, he remains a patron of the Festival.

Access to French cinema has grown easier – more films secure British distribution and more classics than ever are being restored and revived. The core values of the Festival remain the same – a grand and glorious celebration of French and francophone cinema in all its rich variety and guises.

Here's to the next 30 years.

Allan Hunter is co-director of the Glasgow Film Festival, a former co-director of the French Film Festival UK and the Italian Film Festival UK, a biographer, and a journalist contributing to many international film publications.



Bouli Lanners (2016); Bérénice Bejo & Michel Hazanavicius (2007).





From top left: Gérard Jugnot (1992); Antoine Desrosières, Mathieu Demy, Aurélie Thiérrée (1994); Claude Lelouch (1995); Patrice Leconte (1998); Anne Fontaine (1999); Nadine Trintignant & Alain Corneau (2003); Claudie Ossard (2004); Aïssa Maïga (2006); Coline Serreau with Richard Mowe (2008); Danielle Arbid (2008); Jean Becker (2008); Thomas Chabrol & Richard Mowe (2008); Paul Ryan & Christophe Honoré (2010); Pierre Étaix (2010); Sophie Lellouche (2012); Yolande Moreau & Richard Mowe (2013); Wilfried Méance (2013); Camille Chamoux & Mona Achache (2014); Jean-Pierre Améris (2014); Blandine Lenoir (2017); Dominique Abel & Fiona Gordon (2017); Régis Wargnier (2017); Agnès Jaoui (2017); Marie Noëlle (2017); Eye Haidara (2018); Marie Monge (2018); Antoine Raimbault (2019); François Damien (2019); Gilles Lellouche (2019); Joachim Lafosse (2019); Nicolas Pariser (2019); Bruno Dumont (2021); Honorary degree for patron Sylvain Chomet (2021).

Special Guests



Patrice Leconte, one of our special guests, will introduce ***Maigret*** at the Dominion Cinema in Edinburgh on 11 November 18:00, and at Ciné Lumière in London on 12 November, 17.50. (See p. 30)

Special Guests



Blandine Lenoir, one of our special guests, will introduce ***Angry Annie*** in London at Ciné Lumière on 10 November, 19:00. (See p. 14)

Image: Unifrance

MOBILE FILM FESTIVAL 2022

Make your peace with nature

Inspiring, eloquent, and evocative stories of how we can make peace with nature – all told in just one minute, and filmed only on a mobile phone or tablet. The French Film Festival UK continues its collaboration with the Paris-based Mobile Film Festival, by focusing on a selection of 12 films from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-partnered 17th edition theme of **MAKING PEACE WITH NATURE**. Reflecting the concerns of the recent COP26 Conference in Glasgow, the official selection of 50 films from 34 countries was drawn from more than 692 films from budding filmmakers in 92 countries, who responded to the call by submitting shorts of just one minute long and shot on mobile phones or tablets – all available to view online.

Bruno Smadja, founder of the Mobile Film Festival, says: “The brief is always the same – one minute, one mobile, one film: one mobile to make it the most accessible possible, to get rid of every financial constraint to make a film, so everybody can participate. But not everybody can make a good film, so we have to be very selective. That’s why you have to be a very good storyteller to work on that.” The ideas speak to current issues, encouraging the viewer to reconsider every action they take, so as to live in harmony with nature, protecting our planet for now and the future. A choice of these films will be screened before select films throughout the Festival. If you wish to view more, or find out how to take part, visit:

www.mobilefilmfestival.com

The Approach

In the heart of the forest, to gunshots in the background, a man takes aim and shoots.

Director: **Aurélien Perrin-Pommeray** | France

Atash / Thirst

The environment looks parched, seemingly waterless, but a woman wearing a mask has a way of helping thirsty birds to stay alive. Grand Prize & L’Extra Court Award 2021.

Director: **Asghar Besharati** | Iran

At the Village

In the beginning, my village lived in harmony with the ocean. And then, the greediness of people came to plunder our sand, pollute our beaches, and empty our sea. The fish disappeared. The village organised itself, and the women stood up.

Directors: **Djibril Bâ, David Solon** | Mauritania

Change for Nature

Anis Saidoun, a pharmacist working in a hospital, decides to change his life by relinquishing his career and buying a farm. Living in unity with his new world, he tries to bring about change by proving it is possible to live in peace with nature.

Directors: **Hocine Mimouni, Sarah Kechemir** | Algeria

Collapse / L’Effondrement

What if Collapse became part of your daily life? Eddy, his representative, tells you what your future could be.

Director: **Lucas Douay** | France

Free Hug

A car skids to a halt. A man jumps out and starts his run to upbeat music from his headphones. Then he notices others pointing and gradually takes notice, reconnecting with nature.

Director: **Manuel Laurent** | France

Karma

Someone lights a cigarette, setting off a commentary on the increasing impact of tobacco cultivation, over-exploitation of natural resources and climate change.

Director: **Loridon Kabasele** | Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Pedigree

A boy has lost his father. After the burial, a stranger appears with a seedling to plant. Twenty years on, the same stranger, the boy himself in adulthood, returns to the cemetery, now a verdant forest – a living memory of his father. Award for Best Actor 2021.

Director: **Ali Pourahmadian** | Iran

Present for Future

Amanda is a young girl walking among trees relishing the beauty of nature, skipping with pleasure. She picks up a rabbit to stroke. Then, a switch in tone as a warning. Audience Award 2021.

Director: **Shamir Raiapov** | Kyrgyzstan

Snow Lion and the Glaciologist

Bhutan’s first glaciologist risks his life every year hiking through dangerous terrain to measure the rapidly receding glaciers of the Himalayas. On this journey, he is torn between his job as a scientist and the local belief that the mountains should not be climbed. Best Documentary Award 2021.

Director: **Arun Bhattacharai** | Bhutan

Wildfire Tears

Climate change is encouraging wildfires, boosting wildfires. Unplanned, unwanted and uncontrollable, they are destroying everything in their path. But there is hope if we are careful. Student Film Award 2021.

Director: **Vera Verhoeff** | The Netherlands

You Can’t Eat Your Money

A wealthy family sits at a table but the food in front of them looks like paper money cut into strips. Their lifestyle has left nature with nothing more to give. Screenplay Award 2021.

Director: **Kiarash Ardeshirpour** | Iran

femmes

first

Our Femmes First selection shines a spotlight on a century of French and francophone women filmmakers, and films centring on women's issues in French society today. We open with short films by pioneer Alice Guy-Blaché, widely considered the first narrative filmmaker back in the 1890s. The programme also includes Charlotte Gainsbourg's *Jane by Charlotte* - an intimate portrait of her mother Jane Birkin, and two winners in the Cannes 2022 category *Un Certain Regard*: *Rodeo* by Lola Quivoron and Moroccan director Maryam Touzani's *The Blue Caftan*.

ALICE GUY: 13 SHORT FILMS	14
ANGRY ANNIE	14
THE BLUE CAFTAN	15
FEMINIST RIPOSTE	15
FOREVER YOUNG	16
JANE BY CHARLOTTE	16
MORE THAN EVER	17
RODEO	17



femmes first



Alice Guy: 13 Short Films

Alice Guy : 13 courts métrages (N/C 12+)

A fascinating programme of 13 short films by pioneer filmmaker Alice Guy-Blaché, who between 1898 and 1907 became the first fiction filmmaker in the history of cinema. It was she who suggested to studio head Léon Gaumont that he abandon simple animated views to shoot small scripted stories. In a profession reserved mainly for men at the time, incredibly she was given permission to direct. She took over the reins of Gaumont's productions as director, artistic director, and screenwriter, experimenting with faking and special effects.

Director **Alice Guy** | Various years | France
50 mins | Print Source **IF Cinema**

A French giant of silent filmmaking.
The Times



Angry Annie *Annie Colère* (N/C 15)

When she accidentally becomes pregnant, Annie, a working mother of two in the mid-1970s, comes into contact with an organisation that performs illegal abortions in the public eye. Welcomed by the movement founded on tangible help for women and shared knowledge, Annie, played by Laure Calamy (*Call My Agent!* and César for best actress in 2021 for *My Donkey, My Lover & I*), finds new meaning to her life in the fight for the adoption of a law on abortion. Lenoir attended the French Film Festival in 2017 for *Aurore (I Got Life!)* with Agnès Jaoui.

Cast **Laure Calamy, Zita Hanrot**
Director **Blandine Lenoir** | 2022 | France
119 mins | Int sales **Indie Sales**

Stirring abortion drama driven by a spirit of feminist solidarity... terrific Laure Calamy. *Variety*

femmes first



The Blue Caftan *Le Bleu du caftan* (N/C 15)

Halim has long been married to Mina, with whom he runs a traditional caftan store in the ancient medina of Salé, in Morocco. The couple has always lived with Halim's secret, his homosexuality, which he has learned to keep hidden. Mina's illness and the arrival of a young apprentice will upset this balance. United in their love, each will help the other face their fears.

Cast **Ayoub Missioui, Lubna Azabal, Saleh Bakri**
Director **Maryam Touzani** | 2022
France / Morocco / Belgium | 118 mins
UK distributor **New Wave**

A work of handcrafted beauty.
The Hollywood Reporter

Feminist Riposte *Riposte féministe* (15)

Words pasted on the walls of buildings have begun to appear throughout the streets of France. They speak of femicide, rape, and all the injustices against women. The collages are the work of a new wave of French feminists who are passionate about getting their message heard. Their bluntness is hard to ignore – they want change now and demand that people react to what those black letters on white paper say.

Directors **Marie Perennès, Simon Depardon** | 2022
France | 87 mins | Int sales **Wild Bunch International**

**Engaged, curious filmmaking
which finds humour as well as anger.**
Screen

For detailed information and bookings, visit:
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

femmes first



Forever Young *Les Amandiers* (TBC)

Director Valeria Bruni Tedeschi's stint at the late Patrice Chéreau's prestigious acting school in the 1980s inspires this tale. Stella, Victor, Adèle and Étienne, a bunch of 20-something hopefuls, take the entrance exam for the school at the Théâtre des Amandiers in Nanterre. Launched into life, passion, and love at full speed, together they will experience the turning point of their lives, but also their first tragedy.

Cast **Nadia Tereszkiewicz, Louis Garrel, Clara Bretheau**
Director **Valeria Bruni Tedeschi** | 2022 | France
126 mins | Int sales **Charades**

Forever Young's cast are equally sublime as their characters as they are in their characters' performances. *The Upcoming*



Jane by Charlotte *Jane par Charlotte* (12+)

Charlotte Gainsbourg offers a truthful, touching, intimate portrait of her mother, Jane Birkin, the legendary British model, singer and actor. Looking back at their lives together in a series of soft-spoken, extremely personal mother-daughter conversations, these two celebrated women touch on Birkin's extraordinary lives with her three partners – British composer John Barry, French singer/songwriter Serge Gainsbourg, and French filmmaker Jacques Doillon. This spare, delicate portrait of a fascinating, now 76-year-old mother by a daughter who clearly cherishes her emerges as a frank portrayal of two very human, insecure, talented women, as they take stock of both the joys and the tragedies they have shared over the years. Official selection Cannes Film Festival 2021.

Cast **Charlotte Gainsbourg, Jane Birkin**
Director **Charlotte Gainsbourg** | 2021 | France
90 mins | Int sales **The Party Film Sales**

Moving, unsentimental and gently provocative. *The Times*

femmes first



More Than Ever *Plus que jamais* (N/C 15+)

German-French-Iranian filmmaker Emily Atef with her fifth feature casts Vicky Krieps as a 33-year-old French woman whose discovery that she is suffering from a rare lung disease prompts a solo journey to Norway. The late Gaspard Ulliel co-stars in his last feature role (he died in a skiing accident earlier this year) as her boyfriend who tries to come to terms with her condition and the finality of her death. Selected for Cannes *Un Certain Regard* and the London Film Festival.

Cast **Vicky Krieps, Gaspard Ulliel, Bjørn Floberg, Liv Ullmann**
Director **Emily Atef** | 2022 | France / Germany | 123 mins
UK distributor **Modern Films**

Ulliel and Krieps are superb in a rare film that allows the cruelty of chronic disease to play out with pessimistic finality. *IndieWire*

Rodeo (N/C 15+)

Hot-tempered and fiercely independent, Julia finds escape in a passion for motorcycles and the high-octane world of urban 'Rodeos' – illicit gatherings where riders show off their bikes and their latest daring stunts. After a chance meeting at a Rodeo, Julia finds herself drawn into a clandestine and volatile clique. Striving to prove herself to the ultra-masculine group, she is faced with a series of escalating demands that will make or break her place in the community.

Cast **Julie Ledru, Yannis Lafki, Louis Sotton**
Director **Lola Quivoron** | 2022 | France | 110 mins
Int sales **Les Films du Losange** | UK Distributor **Curzon**

Quivoron's vibrant and impressively funky fiction debut... a cult crossover. *Deadline*

For detailed information and bookings, visit:
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panorama 30

Our Panorama selection showcases well-loved directors such as Yvan Attal, Arnaud Desplechin and François Ozon and popular big names which include Charlotte Gainsbourg in *The Accusation* and Gérard Depardieu with two films, notably the UK premiere of *Maigret* by Patrice Leconte, who will be coming to the Festival.



BLACK BOX	21
BROTHER AND SISTER	21
CHAMPAGNE!	22
CONTINENTAL DRIFT (SOUTH)	22
COUNTRY CABARET	23
DON JUAN	23
DIARY OF A FLEETING AFFAIR	25
GOLIATH	25
THE GREEN PERFUME	26
THE GREEN SHUTTERS	26
FAREWELL, MR. HAFFMAN	27
INCREDIBLE BUT TRUE	27
THE KITCHEN BRIGADE	28
KOMPROMAT	28
THE LITTLE GANG	29
THE LOVE LETTER	29
LOST ILLUSIONS	30
MAIGRET	30
MALI TWIST	31
NOBODY'S HERO	31
OUR BROTHERS	33
THE PASSENGERS OF THE NIGHT	33
PETER VON KANT	34
RISE	34
SIMONE VEIL, A WOMAN OF THE CENTURY	35
TORI AND LOKITA	35



Tori and Lokita

Jean-Pierre & Luc Dardenne

Prod: Les Films du Fleuve
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Emmanuelle Nicot

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French-speaking films from Belgium at FFFUK!

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Black Box *Boîte noire* (N/C 15)

Mathieu is a young and talented black box analyst on a mission to solve the reason behind the deadly crash of a brand new aircraft. When the case is closed by the authorities, Mathieu senses there is something wrong with the evidence. As he listens to the tracks again, he starts detecting some seriously disturbing details. Could the tape have been modified? Going against his boss's orders, Mathieu begins his own rogue investigation – an obsessional and dangerous quest for truth that will quickly threaten far more than his career.

Cast **Pierre Niney, Lou de Laâge, André Dussollier**
Director **Yann Gozlan** | 2021 | France / Belgium | 129 mins
Int sales **STUDIOCANAL**

Cleverly constructed and well-paced, *Black Box* will keep you strapped in until the end.

Film Inquiry



Brother and Sister *Frère et soeur* (N/C 15)

Siblings Louis (Melvil Poupaud) and Alice (Marion Cotillard) haven't spoken to each other for decades. They share a burning resentment and refuse to even acknowledge the other's existence – but the reason for the hatred isn't exactly clear. However, when their parents are hospitalised after a tragic car accident, the siblings find themselves wrestling with the burden they've been carrying for so long.

Cast **Marion Cotillard, Melvil Poupaud, Golshifteh Farahani, Patrick Timsit, Benjamin Siksou**
Director **Arnaud Desplechin** | 2022 | France | 108 mins
Int sales **Wild Bunch International**

Sterling cast headed by Cotillard and Poupaud anchor Desplechin's intense sibling saga.

Screen

For detailed information and bookings, visit:
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



Champagne! (N/C 15)

Jean, Patrick, Joanna, Romane and Guillaume have known each other for over 30 years and have stayed in touch throughout their marriages and family life. One spring weekend, the group of 50-somethings head to the vineyards of Champagne for Patrick's - the last bachelor of the bunch - stag party. Old tensions and slanging matches are unleashed by the unexpected arrival of his wife-to-be, who all his friends love to hate.

Cast **Stéphane De Groodt, Elsa Zylberstein, Sylvie Testud**
Director **Nicolas Vanier** | 2022 | France | 103 mins
Int sales **SND Films**

Comedy about friendship: tensions, shouting matches and reconciliations. *France 3 TV*

For detailed information and bookings, visit:
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



Continental Drift (South)

La Dérive des continents (au sud) (N/C 15)

Nathalie Adler is on a mission in Sicily for the European Union, organising the upcoming visit of Presidents Macron and Merkel to a migrant camp. Their presence has great symbolic value, demonstrating that everything is under control. But who is still prepared to believe in this European family on the verge of breakdown? Definitely not Albert, Nathalie's son, who is a charity activist and turns up in Sicily out of the blue - years after breaking off all contact with his mother. Their reunion will prove more explosive than the diplomatic mission. Swiss filmmaker Lionel Baier has been a regular visitor to the French Film Festival over the years.

Cast **Isabelle Carré, Théodore Pellerin, Ursina Lardi**
Director **Lionel Baier** | 2022 | Switzerland / France
89 mins | Int sales **Les Films du Losange**

Strikes a balance between political satire and heartfelt drama. *Variety*



Diary of a Fleeting Affair

Chronique d'une liaison passagère (N/C 15)

A single mother and a married man meet at a party, hit it off, have another drink, then go home together. Charlotte and Simon decide to embark on an affair with the mutual understanding that the relationship is purely sexual. While they agree the relationship has no future, they find themselves increasingly drawn into each other's company, and to each other. Emmanuel Mouret creates yet another delightful love tangle for his 11th feature film.

Cast **Sandrine Kiberlain, Vincent Macaigne, Georgia Scalliet**

Director **Emmanuel Mouret** | 2022 | France | 100 mins

Int sales **Kinology**

Spring romance in Mouret's traditionally French romantic comedy. *Screen Daily*



Sylvain Chomet who has been the French Film Festival's patron since the time he came to Edinburgh in 2004 to make *The Illusionist*, in which he lovingly put Scotland and Edinburgh on screen, has been quick to bemoan the fate of The Filmhouse and the Edinburgh International Film Festival. He has described the closures as "heartbreaking". Chomet made his first feature film, *Belleville Rendez-vous*, in Quebec. It was a hit on both sides of the Atlantic and secured a couple of Oscar nominations. Chomet visited Edinburgh when *Belleville Rendez-vous* screened at the Edinburgh International Film Festival in 2003, and "fell in love" with the city. Earlier, FFF director Richard Mowe had met him at a Quebec cinema event in Paris and urged him to come to work in the city – and he agreed to become patron of the event.

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Don Juan (N/C 18)

Having been inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson for his last film *Mrs. Hyde*, Serge Bozon turns to literary figure Don Juan for this musical comedy-drama. Tahar Rahim co-stars opposite Virginie Efira as an actor who finds himself playing the legendary Lothario opposite the woman who jilted him. Frequently slapped, punched or rejected, Rahim plays Laurent with the bemused anguish of a rake who may recognise his failings but seems unable to transcend them.

Cast **Tahar Rahim, Virginie Efira**

Director **Serge Bozon** | 2022 | France | 110 mins
Int sales **mk2 films**

Dream-team casting of Rahim and Efira adds gravitas and lustre to Serge Bozon's interpretation.

Screen Daily



Goliath (N/C 15)

A timely story of an environmental scandal. Patrick is a tenacious lawyer specialising in environmental law. France is a school teacher who becomes an activist after her husband develops cancer from exposure to a pesticide. Mathias is an ambitious lobbyist working for an international chemical corporation. The paths of these characters collide as the lives of thousands are affected by a tragic act that sparks a powerful movement, while the corporation fights to prevent the truth from being revealed.

Cast **Gilles Lellouche, Emmanuelle Bercot, Pierre Niney**

Director **Frédéric Tellier** | 2022 | France / Belgium
121 mins | Int sales **STUDIOCANAL**

Excellent acting... a captivating and edifying thriller. *Le Journal du Dimanche*

For detailed information and bookings, visit:
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



The Green Perfume *Le Parfum vert* (15)

An actor was poisoned and died on stage in the middle of a performance at the Comédie-Française. Martin, a member of the troupe and friend of the victim, becomes a primary suspect while being chased by a mysterious organisation called the Green Perfume. When leading his own investigation, Martin receives the unexpected help of Claire, an eccentric cartoonist in need of adventure. Nicolas Pariser came to the Festival in 2019 with *Alice et le maire* (*Alice and the Mayor*).

Cast **Sandrine Kiberlain, Vincent Lacoste**
Director **Nicolas Pariser** | 2022 | France | 101 mins
Int sales **Orange Studio**

Kiberlain and Lacoste star in Pariser's whimsical comedy adventure... a modern French *North By Northwest*. *Screen Daily*



The Green Shutters *Les Volets verts* (15+)

The portrait of a legendary stage actor who was at the peak of his career in the 1970s. Behind the celebrated personality, the real man is about to be revealed – in a touching tango between Gérard Depardieu and Fanny Ardant, orchestrated by the veteran Jean Becker, a frequent Festival guest.

Cast **Gérard Depardieu, Fanny Ardant, Benoît Poelvoorde, Stefi Celma**
Director **Jean Becker** | 2022 | France / Belgium | 98 mins
Int sales **ARP Sélection**

Depardieu is particularly touching... and appears to be acting out his own life story on screen.

Le Journal du Dimanche

For detailed information and bookings, visit:
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



Farewell, Mr. Haffmann *Adieu Monsieur Haffmann* (N/C 15)

The legendary Daniel Auteuil gives his best in a gripping adaptation by writer/director Fred Cavayé of the multi-Molière Award-winning play. In 1941 in occupied Paris, Jews were instructed to identify themselves by wearing a yellow star. Fearing the worst, jeweller Joseph Haffmann (Auteuil), arranges for his family to flee the city, and offers his employee François Mercier (Lellouche) the chance to take over his store until the conflict subsides. But his own attempts to escape are thwarted, and Haffmann is forced to seek his assistant's protection. As the couple move into the Haffmann home, the agreement turns into a Faustian bargain.

Cast **Daniel Auteuil, Gilles Lellouche, Sara Giraudeau, Mathilde Bisson**

Director **Fred Cavayé** | 2022 | France | 116 mins
Int sales **Pathé Films**

Gripping from start to finish. *Le Figaro*



Incredible But True *Incroyable mais vrai* (N/C 15)

In this uproarious sci-fi comedy from director Quentin Dupieux (*Rubber, Mandibles*), the lives of an ordinary couple, Alain (Alain Chabat) and Marie (Léa Drucker), are turned upside down when they discover that their new suburban home contains a built-in supernatural feature.

Cast **Roxane Arnal, Alain Chabat, Léa Drucker**
Director **Quentin Dupieux** | 2022 | France | 74 mins
Int sales **WTFilms** | UK Distributor **Arrow**

Absurdist comedy featuring a basement time-portal and a man with a three-speed robot penis.

Sight and Sound



The Kitchen Brigade *La Brigade* (N/C 12+)

The follow-up to Louis-Julien Petit's hit *Invisibles* (FFF 2019), *The Kitchen Brigade* explores the world of French gastronomy while also tackling issues of social justice and inclusion. Cathy (Audrey Lamy) is an inflexible 40-year-old sous-chef, finally fulfilling her lifelong dream of opening her own high-end restaurant. But things do not go to plan. Facing serious financial difficulties, she reluctantly accepts a job in the cafeteria of a shelter for young migrants. Though she hates the new job at first, Cathy's remarkable skills and passion for cuisine start to change the young people's lives. And it turns out they also have a lot to teach her.

Cast **Audrey Lamy, François Cluzet**
Director **Louis-Julien Petit** | 2022 | France | 97 mins
Int sales **Charades**

Gentle testament to the best of the human spirit and to the power of listening. *BMA Magazine*



Kompromat (N/C 15+)

Based on incredible but true events, Jérôme Salle's gripping new espionage thriller depicts the remarkable story of a French public servant who unwittingly finds himself in conflict with one of the modern era's most powerful and dangerous forces: the FSB, Russia's state security agency. Gilles Lellouche stars as Mathieu, a dedicated diplomat who accepts a posting to Irkutsk as the head of Siberia's Alliance Française. He hopes the change will be good for his family and struggling marriage. But before too long Mathieu's staging of cultural events and support for artistic expression sees him fall foul of the local authorities. Salle delivers pulse-pounding, ticking-clock cinema at its most compelling and entertaining.

Cast **Gilles Lellouche, Joanna Kulig, Michael Gor, Mikhail Safronov, Sasha Piltsin, Aleksey Gorbunov**
Director **Jérôme Salle** | 2022 | France | 127 mins
Int sales **SND Groupe M6**

You're sure to leave this gripping film appreciating the importance of the power of the few against the might of the many. *BMA Magazine*



The Little Gang *La Petite Bande* (N/C 12+)

Known for his intelligent and well-turned comedies, director Pierre Salvadori returned to the roots of his youth in Corsica, to make an inventive tale about five friends who transform themselves into eco-warriors. The story begins in a small town where 12-year-olds Cat, Fouad, Antoine, Sami and Aimé have hatched a plan to set fire to the Chambon Factory which is polluting the most beautiful river in the area. A classic children's adventure story - featuring cabins, binoculars, kayaks, bikes, friendships, tricky or secret romances, and more - bursting with ideas.

Cast **Toussaint Martinetti, Dounya Hdia**
Director **Pierre Salvadori** | 2022 | France | 106 mins
Int sales **Wild Bunch International**

**An ecological fable for children...
as delightful as it is endearing.** *Cineuropa*



The Love Letter *Chère Léa* (N/C 15)

Jonas, a 40-something Parisian, is still desperately in love with his ex-girlfriend Léa. When he knocks at her door to confess his feelings and she turns him down, he ends up at the café downstairs. Inspiration strikes and he sits down to write her a long love letter, dodging everything he was supposed to do that day. What begins as a final attempt to get her back, surprisingly turns into a vivid musing on the state of his life - helped by a wisecracking bartender and an array of patrons from the neighbourhood. Director/writer Jérôme Bonnell came to the Festival in 2015 for *À trois on y va* (*All About Them*).

Cast **Grégory Montel, Grégory Gadebois, Anaïs Demoustier**
Director **Jérôme Bonnell** | 2021 | France | 89 mins
Int sales **mk2 films**

**Charming, light and melancholic:
perfect casting.** *Voici*



Lost Illusions *Illusions perdues* (N/C 15)

An all-star cast dazzles in the spectacular and exhilarating new film by Xavier Giannoli (*The Singer, Marguerite*) – an adaptation of Balzac's classic novel about a young idealist who learns that anything can be bought and sold. Epic in scope and impact, *Lost Illusions* is an eerily prescient fable, bracingly attuned to the anxieties of the modern media age. Winner of seven 2022 César Awards including Best Picture, this is grand French cinema at its finest and most lavish.

Cast **Benjamin Voisin, Cécile de France, Vincent Lacoste, Xavier Dolan, Jeanne Balibar, Gérard Depardieu, Louis-do de Lencquesaing**

Director **Xavier Giannoli** | 2022 | France | 149 mins
Int sales **Gaumont**

Sensational. Giannoli illuminates the dank frenzy of the 19th century with an eye on our own post-truth era.

The New York Times



Maigret (N/C 15)

Maigret investigates the death of a young girl. There is nothing to identify her, no one seems to have known her, nor to remember her. He then meets a delinquent who strangely resembles the victim. *Monsieur Hire* director Leconte's attention to detail is perfectly attuned to Maigret's investigative style. His motive is to entertain, which he assuredly does, with empathy and flair.

Cast **Gérard Depardieu, Jade Labeste, Mélanie Bernier, Aurore Clément, André Wilms, Pierre Moure**

Director **Patrice Leconte** | 2022 | France / Belgium
89 mins | Int sales **SND Groupe M6**

Depardieu leads an excellent ensemble cast in Leconte's take on the classic French detective.

Screen Daily

For detailed information and bookings, visit:
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



Mali Twist *Twist à Bamako* (N/C 15)

Robert Guédiguian (*Gloria Mundi*, *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*, *Marius and Jeannette*) sets his youthful 1960s love story *Mali Twist* against the backdrop of the febrile atmosphere of postcolonial Mali, amongst youngsters dancing to rock-and-roll music and the twist. Alice Da Luz and Stéphane Bak co-star as a spirited young woman who wants to escape her arranged marriage, and a young socialist whose paths collide in the capital, Bamako. *Mali Twist* tells a story of dreams of political renewal and independence.

Cast **Stéphane Bak, Alice Da Luz, Saabo Balde**
Director **Robert Guédiguian** | 2021
France / Senegal / Canada / Italy / Mali | 129 mins
Int sales **mk2 films**

A dive into the past, punctuated by a multitude of hits from the early '60s whose fragrance of effervescent happiness is tinged with nostalgia and tragedy. *Cineuropa*



Nobody's Hero *Viens je t'emmène* (N/C 15)

Set amid the tense aftermath of a radical terrorist attack in the placid central French city of Clermont-Ferrand, Alain Guiraudie's film wryly comments on a middle-class society that oscillates between liberal altruism and wary prejudice. This backdrop is combined by a separate narrative detailing the same protagonist's troubled romance with a married local sex worker – both bedroom farce and vital political satire.

Cast **Jean-Charles Clichet, Noémie Lvovsky, Ilies Kadri**
Director **Alain Guiraudie** | 2022 | France / Belgium
100 mins | Int sales **Les Films du Losange**

Eyebrow-raising satire of French mores. *Slant Magazine*

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Our Brothers *Nos frangins* (N/C 15)

From director Rachid Bouchareb, *Our Brothers* is based on the story of 22-year-old Malik Oussekiné, whose death is believed to have been caused by police violence after several weeks of student protests against a university reform bill in 1986. Oussekiné's older brother Mohamed (Reda Kateb) tries to determine what happened to Malik and discovers that the police will stop at nothing to hide their misconduct.

Cast **Reda Kateb, Lyna Khoudri, Raphaël Personnaz**
Director **Rachid Bouchareb** | 2022 | France / Algeria
92 mins | Int sales **Wild Bunch**

A straightforward true-life drama that's earnest but effective. *Screen Daily*

For detailed information and bookings, visit:
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



The Passengers of the Night *Les Passagers de la nuit* (N/C 15)

On election night in 1981, celebrations spill out onto the streets and there is an air of hope and change throughout Paris. But for Elisabeth (Charlotte Gainsbourg), her marriage is coming to an end and she will now have to support herself and her two teenage children. She finds work in a late-night radio show and encounters Talulah, a troubled teenager whom she invites into her home. With them, Talulah experiences the warmth of a family for the first time.

Cast **Charlotte Gainsbourg, Emmanuelle Béart, Quito Rayon Richter**
Director **Mikhaël Hers** | 2022 | France | 111 mins
Int sales **mk2 films**

Always engaging and tender... a calm, sympathetic drama about family. *The Guardian*



Peter Von Kant *Peter von Kant* (N/C 15)

François Ozon goes back to his roots with this reworking of a Fassbinder classic – 1972's hyper-stylised chamber piece *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant* – and offers a gender-swapped version that serves as an indirect portrait of the troubled maestro himself. Both homage and critique, *Peter Von Kant* astutely gets under the skin of the lesbian-themed original, and ekes out new resonances. Superb performances from a cast across the age range – including a flamboyantly knowing diva turn from Isabelle Adjani.

Cast **Denis Ménochet, Isabelle Adjani, Khalil Ben Gharbia**
Director **François Ozon** | 2022 | France / Belgium
85 mins | UK Distributor **Curzon**

Ozon gives Fassbinder's all-female 1972 drama a makeover, making it lighter and more camp. *The Guardian*



Rise *En corps* (N/C 15)

Élise (Marion Barbeau) is a talented ballet dancer whose life is turned upside down – first by an injury and then when she catches her boyfriend cheating on her with her understudy. On a path to physical and emotional recovery, she travels from Paris to Brittany, where she embraces the artistic freedom of contemporary dance. On this journey of self-discovery, she finds friendship and new ways to reinvent herself. Cédric Klapisch (*Someone Somewhere, Back to Burgundy*) delivers a tale of strength and resilience.

Cast **Marion Barbeau, Hofesh Shechter, Denis Podalydès, Pio Marmai, François Civil, Muriel Robin**
Director **Cédric Klapisch** | 2022 | France / Belgium
117 mins | Int sales **STUDIOCANAL**

It will dance its way into your heart.
Paris Update



Simone Veil, a Woman of the Century

Simone, le voyage du siècle (N/C 15+)

After exploring the lives of Édith Piaf and Grace Kelly, Olivier Dahan offers an intimate and epic portrait of another singular woman who eminently challenged and transformed her era, defending a humanist message still keenly relevant today. The canvas covers her major political battles, from the concentration camps to the National Assembly, where she changed the status of women forever by decriminalising abortions.

Cast **Rebecca Marder, Elsa Zylberstein, Olivier Gourmet**
Director **Olivier Dahan** | 2022 | France | 140 mins
Int sales **Other Angle Pictures**

One of the most anticipated films of the year. *Vogue*



Tori and Lokita

Tori et Lokita (15+)

The fraternal directing duo continues their tradition of exploring issues impacting contemporary society through its youth, with this tale of a young boy and a teenage girl whose invincible friendship helps them face the trial of living in exile. The Dardenne brothers were last in Cannes with *Young Ahmed* in 2019, for which they won Best Director, having previously clinched the Palme d'Or for *Rosetta* and *The Child* in 1999 and 2005 respectively.

Cast **Marc Zinga, Claire Bodson**
Directors **Jean-Pierre Dardenne, Luc Dardenne** | 2022
France | 98 mins | Int sales **Wild Bunch International**
UK Distributor **Picturehouse**

Masterfully crafted and unspeakably heartbreaking. *The Hollywood Reporter*

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discovery

Our Discovery selection brings you recent hits and new voices in francophone cinema, with an emphasis this year on Belgian films. Director Wilfried Méance will present his film *Two of a Kind* (made jointly with Olivier Ducray) at Chichester Cinema at New Park. We are also showing Belgian director Emmanuelle Nicot's poignant debut dealing with abuse, *Love According to Dalva*, a Cannes Critics' Week winner in 2022.

CLOSE	38
FOR A FISTFUL OF FRIES	38
FULL TIME	39
HARD SHELL, SOFT SHELL	39
LOVE ACCORDING TO DALVA	41
TWO OF A KIND	41





Close (NC 15+)

Two teenage boys who have always been close distance themselves after their relationship is questioned by schoolmates. When tragedy strikes, one of them is forced to confront why he abandoned his friend. Dhont's feature debut *Girl*, depicting a transgender girl who dreams of becoming a ballerina, won the Cannes Camera d'Or and the Queer Palm in 2018, while *Close* scooped the Grand Prix at this year's Festival.

Cast **Léa Drucker, Émilie Dequenne**

Director **Lukas Dhont** | 2022

Belgium / France / The Netherlands | 105 mins

Int sales **The Match Factory**

UK Distributor **Mubi**

Belgian director Lucas Dhont delicately explores the fragile world of childhood bonds in his second feature. *The Hollywood Reporter*



For a Fistful of Fries *Poulet frites* (NC 15+)

Inspector Lemoine, more Hutch than Starsky, is investigating a murder case in a dodgy district of Brussels. Kalima Sissou, an occasional prostitute, has been murdered in her apartment. All signs point to Alain, a former butcher and her ex-boyfriend - except for his lack of recollection of that evening. Thanks to the discovery of some French fries, a Tupperware tub and Saint Rita, Lemoine and his bunch of stooges will manage to charge Alain. Interpol, better watch out! A joyful and dark crime documentary by the directors of the cult series *Strip-Tease*.

Cast **Anne Gruwez, Jean-Michel Lemoine**

Directors **Yves Hinant, Jean Libon** | 2021

France / Belgium | 103 mins | Int sales **The Bureau Sales**

The film brings out with great finesse and spontaneity, a striking portrait of the underclass of contemporary globalised metropolises. *Cineuropa*



Full Time *À plein temps* (15)

The César Award-winning star of *Call My Agent!* and *My Donkey, My Lover & I*, Laure Calamy demonstrates the phenomenal range of her talents in this unique thriller about a single mother who lands an interview for a job that might offer a better life for herself and her two children. Julie must employ her considerable resourcefulness to get across town during a transport strike, risking her current job as a hotel cleaner for the promise of something better. The film won Best Actress and Best Director awards at last year's Venice Film Festival.

Cast **Laure Calamy, Anne Suarez, Genèvieve Mnich, Nolan Arizmendi, Sasha Lemaitre Cremaschi, Cyril Gueï**
Director **Éric Gravel** | 2022 | France | 88 mins
Int sales **Haut et Court**
UK Distributor **Parkland Entertainment**

Calamy delivers a sympathetic, nerve-flaying, terrific performance.

Screen International

Hard Shell, Soft Shell *Fragile* (NC 15+)

A handsome oyster farmer in Sète vows to win back his actress girlfriend after a botched proposal. *Fragile* hijacks the traditional codes of comedy with a joyfully feminist take on contemporary masculinity.

Cast **Yasin Houicha, Oulaya Amamra, Raphaël Guenard**
Director **Emma Benestan** | 2021 | France | 99 mins
Int sales **Salaud Morisset**

Will charm even the most hardened romantics to open their hearts to love. *Screenwave*

For detailed information and bookings, visit:
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

Accessibility at the Festival

The French Film Festival UK is dedicated to ensuring all our guests and staff can enjoy the best possible festival-going experience. Please be aware of the following accessibility information:

- The majority of our venues are accessible by wheelchair. However, for full accessibility guidelines, please contact your local venue directly at the contact numbers listed on pages 64–67.
- All our screenings have English subtitling with a limited number also including descriptive closed captioning (where possible).
- Where film Q&As are taking place, we will offer BSL interpretation on request.

COVID-19 safety

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID, we would kindly ask that you do not attend the Festival. While there is no mask-wearing policy in place, we respect anyone who wishes to wear a mask while attending the Festival and ask that others also respect these wishes. Hand sanitiser is available at all our venues.

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Love According to Dalva

Dalva (N/C 15+)

Dalva, 12, lives alone with her father. One evening, the police storm their home and take her into foster care. As Dalva befriends her new roommates Samia, and social worker Jayden, she gradually comes to understand that the love she shared with her father was not what she thought. With their help, Dalva will learn to become a child again. In this poignant debut feature, Emmanuelle Nicot explores the ramifications of abuse with deep sensibility and uncompromising grace in a hopeful journey to recovery. A Cannes Critics' Week winner.

Cast **Zelda Samson, Alexis Manenti, Fanta Guirassy**
Director **Emmanuelle Nicot** | 2022 | Belgium / France
83 mins | Int sales **mk2 films**

Samson is excellent, navigating Dalva's emotional journey with honesty and insight. *Screen Daily*



Two of a Kind

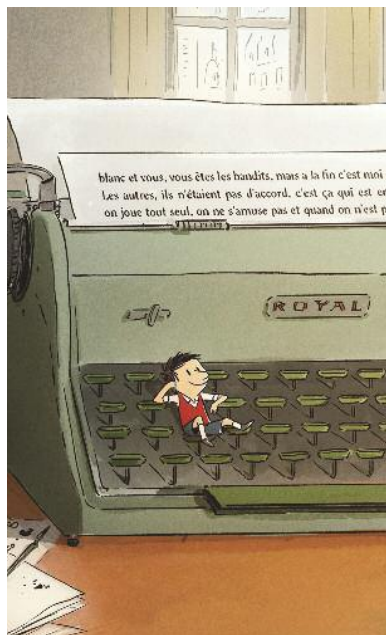
Jumeaux mais pas trop (12+)

Funny and touching comedy about the intertwining lives of two unlikely twins. Anthony Girard, a small-time technician, learns that he has a twin brother, Grégoire Beaulieu, a politician running for the local elections. Adopted by different families 33 years earlier, they have been raised in dissimilar ways. Grégoire is bourgeois, ambitious, and has a promising career ahead of him. Anthony has no prospects, and his life is falling apart. Just when you think their lives are mapped out, a mini-earthquake comes out of the blue. The two brothers prove they are as different as black and white.

Cast **Ahmed Sylla, Bertrand Usclat, Gérard Jugnot, Pauline Clément**
Directors **Olivier Ducray, Wilfried Méance** | 2022 | France
96 mins | Int sales **SND Groupe M6**

A comedy on racism – but much more subtle than it appears at first sight. *Télérama*

Animation



Little Nicholas

Le Petit Nicolas: Qu'est-ce qu'on attend pour être heureux ? (PG)

This animated feature by Benjamin Massoubre and Amandine Fredon can be viewed as a tender love letter to a father's life and work – Fredon is the daughter of René Goscinny, the writer and co-creator of *Little Nicholas*. The film takes place towards the end of the 1950s in Paris. Goscinny (voiced by Alain Chabat) and Jean-Jacques Sempé (voiced by Laurent Lafitte) invented the character Nicholas, a prankster with a smile on his face, whose days are punctuated by games with his group of friends. When the fictional character is invited into the workshop of his “dads”, the roles are reversed, and it's the creators who recount their childhoods, their careers, and their friendship with Little Nicholas. Top prize winner at this year's Annecy International Animation Film Festival.

Directors **Amandine Fredon, Benjamin Massoubre** | 2022
France / Luxembourg | 82 mins | Int sales **Charades**

A sweet, charming, and very entertaining film.
Screen Daily

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classics

30

Our Classics selection includes *Children of Paradise*, cited at Cannes as the greatest French film of all time, and a hark back to our origins with *Madame Bovary*, starring Isabelle Huppert, which we screened at our first festival in 1992 – the same year it was nominated for the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film.

This sensorial Classics selection mixes music and drama, fashion and swashbuckling, theatre and, of course, romance.

CHILDREN OF PARADISE	44
DEAR LOUISE	44
FEARLESS LITTLE SOLDIER	45
MADAME BOVARY	45
PARIS FRILLS	46
A ROOM IN TOWN	46

classics



Children of Paradise *Les Enfants du Paradis* (PG)

Cited at the Cannes Film Festival as the greatest French film of all time, and costing more than any French film before it, *Les Enfants du Paradis* was shot in Paris and Nice during the Nazi occupation and released in 1945. Set in the Parisian theatrical world of the 1840s, Jacques Prévert's screenplay depicts four men in love with the mysterious Garance (Arletty). Each loves Garance in his own way, but only the intentions of sensitive mime actor Debureau (Jean-Louis Barrault) are entirely honourable.

Cast **Arletty, Jean-Louis Barrault, Pierre Brasseur**

Director **Marcel Carné** | France | 1945 | 182 mins
Int sales **Pathé International**

It's a precious piece of time past – and time kept. *The Washington Post*



Dear Louise *Chère Louise* (U)

Divorced and childless in her 40s, Louise (Jeanne Moreau) becomes infatuated with 20-year-old Italian immigrant, Luigi (Julian Negulesco). The teacher and young worker live together in Annecy in secret, but their relationship quickly sours as they struggle with the age gap, the weight of Louise's debts, and the disapproval of others. After successful films such as *Cartridge*, *L'Homme de Rio* (*That Man from Rio*) and *Le Roi de cœur* (*King of Hearts*), this offering by Philippe de Broca marked a departure. 4K restoration presented in Cannes Classics.

Cast **Jeanne Moreau, Julian Negulesco, Didi Peregó**

Director **Philippe de Broca** | France | 1972 | 105 mins
Int sales **TF1 Studio**

Intimate tale of female desire... and the weight of social conventions of the time. Sparkling performance from Moreau. *Télérama*

classics



Fearless Little Soldier *Fanfan la tulipe* (12)

Legendary French star Gérard Philipe – who would have turned 100 on 4 December – swashbuckled his way into film history as the peasant soldier Fanfan in Christian-Jaque's devil-may-care romantic action-comedy. In 18th century France, Fanfan joins King Louis XV's army to avoid a forced marriage to a local lass, and gets himself into close scrapes and tight squeezes with Adeline (Gina Lollobrigida's impostor fortune-teller) on his way to fighting in the Seven Years' War. Filled to the brim with dazzling stunts and sexual innuendo, *Fanfan la tulipe*, which won the best director prize at Cannes in 1952 and was a smash hit upon its initial release, remains one of France's all-time best loved films.

Cast **Gérard Philipe, Gina Lollobrigida, Marcel Herrand**

Director **Christian-Jaque** | Italy / France | 1952 | 102 mins
Int sales **TFI Studio**

Directed by the venerable Christian-Jaque, *Fanfan la tulipe* plays like an extension of its protagonist's personality. *Internet Movie Database*



Madame Bovary (PG)

In 19th-century France, Emma Bovary, a farmer's daughter brought up in an elegant convent, marries a dull country doctor. Full of romantic aspirations and dreams of luxury, she soon throws herself into love affairs to escape boredom. Claude Chabrol's adaptation of Gustave Flaubert's novel offered Isabelle Huppert one of her best roles. It screened as part of the official selection of the first French Film Festival in 1992.

Cast **Isabelle Huppert, Jean-François Balmer, Christophe Malavoy**

Director **Claude Chabrol** | France | 1991 | 143 mins
Restored copy **MK2** | UK Distributor **Arrow**

A classical art movie saturated with Chabrol's dark romantic pessimism.

Time Out

For detailed information and bookings, visit:
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



Paris Frills *Falbalas* (12)

Although made at a time of great deprivation, Jacques Becker's seductively energetic look at the world of *haute couture* is regarded as one of the finest films about fashion. The charismatic Raymond Rouleau plays a top Parisian designer and seducer of women who falls crazily in love with the fiancée of his best friend, resulting in a plot which veers giddily from farce to tragedy. Intriguingly, Becker made the film during the German occupation of France, but it wasn't released until after the Liberation. The screening marks the 100th birthday of Micheline Presle in August.

Cast **Raymond Rouleau, Micheline Presle, Jean Chevrier**

Director **Jacques Becker** | France | 1945 | 95 mins

Int sales **Tamasa Distribution** | UK Distributor **Park Circus**

Feels as right as a perfect necklace, so that it sets off the wider fabric of the story. *Eye for Film*



A Room in Town *Une Chambre en ville* (12)

Jacques Demy was awarded the Prix Méliès for best film of the year for this sung-through drama in the style of *Umbrellas of Cherbourg* that expresses life's dark complications. The film's pair of lovers, François (Richard Berry) and Edith (Dominique Sanda), meet during an industrial strike at the shipyards in Nantes. Their romance is desperate, a response to life's disappointments – François's disaffection with the innocent Violette (Fabienne Guyon), Edith's mismatched marriage to Edmond (Michel Piccoli) and Edith's widowed mother Margot (Danielle Darrieux) living among her regrets. Screening to mark the 40th anniversary of the film's original release.

Cast **Dominique Sanda, Richard Berry, Michel Piccoli, Fabienne Guyon**

Director **Jacques Demy** | France | 1982 | 94 mins

Int sales **CinéTamaris**

Beautifully made and ambitious... music and drama truly soar. *Blueprint*

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special screening



The Best Years of a Life

***Les Plus belles
années d'une vie*** (N/C 15+)

Claude Lelouch's romantic classic *A Man and a Woman* is one of the most successful and beloved French films of all time. It won the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1966, followed by Academy Awards for screenplay and best foreign language film, plus a plethora of other major prizes. Lelouch returned to Cannes four years ago for a reprise in *The Best Years of a Life*, which reunites the iconic stars Jean-Louis Trintignant and Anouk Aimée, playing the same characters 53 years later. Screened as a touching tribute to Trintignant, who died earlier this year aged 91.

Cast **Jean-Louis Trintignant, Anouk Aimée, Souad Amidou**
Director **Claude Lelouch** | 2019 | France | 90 mins
Int sales **Other Angle Pictures**

An autumnal indulgence for director and cast alike, marking a wistful closing chapter. *Variety*

Final Cut *Coupez!* (TBC)

Things go badly for a small film crew shooting a low-budget zombie movie when they are attacked by real zombies. Michel Hazanavicius and Bérénice Bejo, previous guests of the Festival, return in this hilarious horror comedy with buckets of blood. Cannes opener earlier this year.

Cast **Romain Duris, Bérénice Bejo**
Director **Michel Hazanavicius** | 2022
France / United Kingdom / Japan | 110 mins
UK Distributor **Signature Entertainment**

**Plenty of laughs in Michel
Hazanavicius' delightfully silly meta
zombie remake.**

Screen Daily

For detailed information and bookings, visit:
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

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We're delighted to partner with Curzon at Home to offer Festival-goers and friends the opportunity to access a curated selection of French films from the Curzon Home Cinema platform at a special rate.

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BETWEEN TWO WORLDS	49
BOTH SIDES OF THE BLADE	49
CASABLANCA BEATS	50
EVERYTHING WENT FINE	50
PARIS, 13TH DISTRICT	51

Photo: Curiosa Films

CURZON @ home



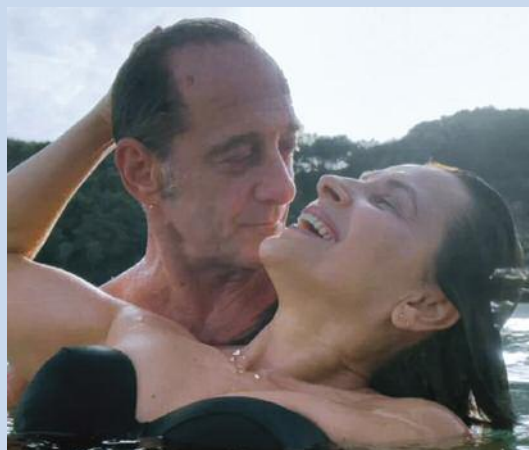
Between Two Worlds *Ouistreham* (N/C 15)

Juliette Binoche stars as an author who, inspired by George Orwell's *The Road to Wigan Pier*, goes undercover as a cleaning lady in a northern French port to research a book on job insecurity and social precariousness. It is the second fiction feature for screenwriter Carrère after *The Moustache*, which premiered in Cannes Directors' Fortnight in 2005. Based on French journalist Florence Aubenas' bestselling non-fiction work *Le Quai de Ouistreham*, which investigates increasing financial insecurity in French society through her experiences in the northern port city of Caen.

Cast **Juliette Binoche, Hélène Lambert, Didier Pupin, Emily Madeleine, Evelyne Porée, Léa Carne**

Director **Emmanuel Carrère** | France | 2021 | 106 mins
UK Distributor **Curzon**

There's a satisfying added depth born out of the persuasively fleshed out performances and the focus on female friendship. *Screen Daily*



Both Sides of the Blade *Avec amour et acharnement* (15)

Jean and Sara have been living together for ten years. When they met, Sara was sharing her life with François, Jean's best friend and great admirer when Jean was playing rugby professionally. Jean and Sara were in love. One day Sara sees François in the street. He doesn't notice her, but she is overwhelmed by the feeling that her life could suddenly change. For the first time in years, François gets in touch with Jean and proposes that they work together again. An uncontrollable spiral begins.

Cast **Juliette Binoche, Vincent Lindon, Mati Diop**

Director **Claire Denis** | France | 2021 | 116 mins
UK Distributor **Wild Bunch / Curzon**

Denis is doing more than revising the tones of golden-age movie romances; she's challenging and reforming a crucial local cinematic monument.

The New Yorker

CURZON @ home



Casablanca Beats *Haut et fort* (N/C 15)

Morocco's Oscar candidate is a joyous celebration of music and the role it plays in empowering a younger generation. Blurring the lines between documentary and fiction, director Nabil Ayouch shot the film with real-life students enrolled in The Positive School of Hip-Hop at the shantytown cultural centre he co-founded. Anas (Anas Basbousi) is a former rapper who establishes the programme, but it is the students who take centre stage as they confront the issues that matter to them, and use these to create music and devise dances that make sure their voice is heard.

Cast **Anas Basbousi, Zineb Boujemaa, Maha Menan**

Director **Nabil Ayouch** | Morocco / France | 2021 | 102 mins
UK Distributor **Curzon**

The film transforms from an earnest crowd-pleaser into an invigorating rally for the arts and self-expression.

Empire



Everything Went Fine *Tout s'est bien passé* (15)

A daughter is forced to reconcile her past with her father when he contacts her with a devastating final wish, in François Ozon's powerful family drama. André (André Dussollier) has never been the easiest of fathers. But when he suffers a debilitating stroke and calls on his daughter Emmanuèle (Sophie Marceau) to help him die with some dignity, she finds herself faced with a painful decision. An adaptation of Emmanuèle Bernheim's memoir, *Everything Went Fine* is both a detailed portrait of family relationships and a frank account of the process involved in assisted dying. Featuring stunning central performances by Marceau and Dussollier, as well as a scene-stealing cameo by Charlotte Rampling as André's ex-wife, *Everything Went Fine* finds Ozon tackling a difficult subject with intelligence and sensitivity.

Cast **Sophie Marceau, André Dussollier, Charlotte Rampling**

Director **François Ozon** | France | 2021 | 109 mins | UK Distributor **Curzon**

It is just the hinge on which the family drama turns, and the performances from Dussollier and Marceau are quietly outstanding. *The Guardian*

CURZON @ home



Paris, 13th District *Les Olympiades* (N/C 18)

Jacques Audiard chooses not to show such Parisian clichés as the Eiffel Tower, the Haussmannian buildings or the River Seine. Instead he trains his lens on the brutalist apartment towers of the 13th arrondissement, known as the Chinatown of Paris, where he once lived. With characters inspired by the graphic novels of American artist Adrian Tomine, Audiard sketches young, educated but disillusioned people trying to find their path, consciously avoiding film clichés of the rich-poor divide in France. Shot during the pandemic, and predominantly in black-and-white, it follows Émilie, Camille, Nora and Amber — four young adults who are friends and sometimes lovers.

Cast **Noémie Merlant, Stephen Manas, Geneviève Doang, Jehnny Beth**

Director **Jacques Audiard** | France | 2021 | 105 mins | UK Distributor **Curzon**

A silky, soulful black-and-white tapestry of single millennials seeking connection. *Variety*

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30 extras

Our Extras programme comprises releases from the past five years that audiences may have missed and many big-hit names, from actors Léa Seydoux and Thierry Lhermitte to directors such as Bruno Dumont, Alain Chabat and Bertrand Tavernier. The selection includes lavish period dramas *Eugénie Grandet* by Marc Dugain, adapted from the novel by Honoré de Balzac, and *Delicious* by Éric Besnard – where a chef sacked by the aristocratic family he serves opens the first restaurant in France in 1789, on the eve of the Revolution.

BLOODY ORANGES	54
CHRISTMAS AND CO.	54
DELICIOUS	55
DRIFT AWAY	55
EUGÉNIE GRANDET	56
FRANCE	56
THE FRENCH MINISTER	57
FRENCH TECH	57
GALLANT INDIES	58
GOOD MOTHER	58
MAGNETIC BEATS	59
VICKY AND HER MYSTERY	59

Photo: Les Films Pelléas





Bloody Oranges

Oranges sanguines (N/C 18+)

A cerebral satirical commentary on French society and political correctness – with a patchwork of vignettes weaving together the tales of an indebted retired couple eager to win a rock ‘n’ roll dance contest, a social-climbing lawyer, a tax-evading minister of the economy, and a teenage girl determined to lose her virginity.

Cast **Alexandre Steiger, Christophe Paou, Liliith Grasmug**
Director **Jean-Christophe Meurisse** | 2021 | France | 102 mins
French with English subtitles

Acerbic look at the France of today.

Variety

For detailed information and bookings, visit:
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



Christmas and Co.

Santa & Cie (PG)

Christmas is on its way, and with it, disaster. The 92,000 workers responsible for manufacturing children’s toys have all become sick at the same time. This is a tough moment for Santa, better known as Father Christmas. He is left with no choice but to make an emergency trip to Earth with his reindeer to search for a remedy. When he arrives, he needs to find some allies to help him save the magic of Christmas.

Cast **Alain Chabat, Golshifteh Farahani, Pio Marmaï, Bruno Sanches**
Director **Alain Chabat** | 2017 | France | 99 mins
French with English subtitles

Most memorable are the scenes revealing Santa’s inability to adapt to the modern world. There’s lots of cute comedy here. *The Hollywood Reporter*



Delicious *Délicieux* (N/C 12+)

In pre-Revolutionary France, gastronomy was the domain of aristocrats – their prestige depended on the quality of their table. When he's dismissed from his job, talented cook Manceron (Grégory Gadebois) swears off his passion, until a mysterious woman (Isabelle Carré) helps him create the first restaurant in France. A wildly enjoyable tale of reignited passion, mentorship and revenge.

Cast **Grégory Gadebois, Isabelle Carré, Benjamin Lavernhe**
Director **Éric Besnard** | 2021 | France | 112 mins
French with English subtitles

Gastronomy combines with the sweet taste of revenge in this costume comedy-drama.

Eye for Film



Drift Away *Albatros* (N/C 15+)

As chief of the local police force in the picturesque town of Étretat in Normandy, Laurent Sandrail (Jérémy Renier) not only has to drive inebriated trouble-makers out of the bar, he also has to deal with more serious crimes – from insurance fraud to child abuse to a suicidal Parisian who throws himself off the steep cliffs.

Cast **Jérémy Renier, Marie-Julie Maille, Madeleine Beauvois**
Director **Xavier Beauvois** | 2021 | France / Belgium | 115 mins
French with English subtitles

An artfully pared-down film bursting with heart about a gendarme on the Normandy coast.

Cineuropa



Eugénie Grandet (N/C 12)

Sumptuous costume adaptation from the oft-filmed novel by Honoré de Balzac. Félix Grandet reigns supreme in his modest house in Saumur, where his wife and daughter Eugénie lead a distraction-free existence. Extremely avaricious, he does not take a favourable view of the handsome suitors who rush to ask for his daughter's hand. Nothing should damage the colossal fortune he hides from everyone. The sudden arrival of Grandet's nephew, a ruined, orphaned Parisian dandy, turns the young girl's life upside down.

Cast **César Domboy, Olivier Gourmet, Joséphine Japy, Valérie Bonneton**

Director **Marc Dugain** | 2021 | France | 105 mins
French with English subtitles

In breathing cinematic life into the pages of a feminist classic, director Marc Dugain gambles and wins.

All Culture



France (N/C 15)

Bruno Dumont's 11th feature stars Léa Seydoux as a celebrity journalist who falls out of love with fame after a freak car accident. Penned by Dumont, the story chronicles the frenetic life of a famous TV star and journalist who becomes caught in the trappings of celebrity and subsequently overcome by a spiral of events which ultimately lead to her downfall. Determined to leave her tragic identity behind her, she redeems herself through hard work and finds her way back to her former life – though this time she's equipped with a sense of irony and ridicule.

Cast **Léa Seydoux, Benjamin Biolay, Blanche Gardin, Emanuele Arioli**

Director **Bruno Dumont** | 2020 | France / Belgium / Germany
115 mins | French with English subtitles

Dumont has now made a satire of the blackest kind. *Sight and Sound*



The French Minister *Quai d'Orsay* (N/C 15)

In the aftermath of the French Presidential election, it seems fitting that this razor-sharp comedy should return to the big screen. Young graduate Arthur Vlamrick (Raphaël Personnaz) is hired as a speech-writer for the tough-talking Minister of Foreign Affairs (Thierry Lhermitte). Rather than idealism, what he finds is a world filled with ambition and dirty dealings. Think *The West Wing* crossed with *The Thick of It*.

Cast **Thierry Lhermitte, Raphaël Personnaz, Niels Arestrup**

Director **Bertrand Tavernier** | 2013 | France | 113 mins
French with English subtitles

Broad performances, rapid-fire pacing, and rampant visual and verbal gags... it's political burlesque through and through. *Slant Magazine*

French Tech *Les Deux Alfred* (N/C 12+)

Brothers Bruno and Denis Podalydès act together (and Bruno also directs) in this upbeat but moving comedy about characters overwhelmed by the modern world and new technologies, who need to stick together to get by. Sandrine Kiberlain plays a formidable businesswoman who keeps her cards close to her chest.

Cast **Denis Podalydès, Sandrine Kiberlain, Bruno Podalydès**

Director **Bruno Podalydès** | 2020 | France | 92 mins
French with English subtitles

A little gem full of humour, tenderness and invention. *Voici*

For detailed information and bookings, visit:
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



Gallant Indies *Indes galantes* (N/C 12+)

Thirty dancers from hip-hop, break, vogue, and other non-traditional genres descend on Paris' legendary Opéra Bastille to reinvent Jean-Philippe Rameau's baroque masterpiece *Les Indes galantes*. Intense, mesmerising, energetic and a powerful ode to life and art, this is an inspiring documentary. Unmissable.

Cast **Clément Cogitore, Bintou Dembélé, Leonardo Garcia Alarcón**

Director **Philippe Béziat** | 2020 | France | 108 mins
French with English subtitles

Love and creative forces confront racism and inequality. *Point of View Magazine*



Good Mother *Bonne Mère* (N/C 15+)

An instantly involving portrait of a 50-something woman in contemporary Marseille diligently holding together several generations, *Good Mother* establishes actor turned writer/director Hafsia Herzi as a significant French filmmaker. Nora, a cleaning lady in her 50s, looks after her family in a housing estate in the northern part of Marseille. She is worried about her grandson Ellyes, who has been in prison for several months for robbery and is awaiting his trial with a mixture of hope and anxiety. Nora does everything she can to make this wait as painless as possible.

Cast **Halima Benhamed, Sabrina Benhamed, Denise Giulio**

Director **Hafsia Herzi** | 2021 | France | 99 mins
French with English subtitles

Quietly devastating yet simultaneously life-affirming, *Good Mother* marks Hafsia Herzi as a rare talent behind the camera. *In Review*



Magnetic Beats *Les Magnétiques* (N/C 15)

The early 1980s: there's a burst of post-punk creativity in the cultural landscape of 1980s Brittany. There is a rebellious energy which seeps into everything from rock music to publishing to pirate radio - which provides an outlet for brothers Philippe (Thimotée Robart) and Jérôme (Joseph Olivennes, son of actress Kristin Scott Thomas), and an escape from the provincial backwater where they live in prickly disharmony with their father.

Cast **Thimotée Robart, Marie Colomb, Joseph Olivennes**

Director **Vincent Maël Cardona** | 2021 | France | 98 mins
French with English subtitles

An accomplished debut from Cardona. *Screen Daily*

Vicky and her Mystery *Mystère* (PG)

Stéphane decides to move to the beautiful mountains of Cantal to reconnect with his eight-year-old daughter, Victoria, who has been silent since her mother's death. During a walk in the forest, a shepherd gives Victoria a puppy named Mystery, who will gradually give her a new taste for life. But very quickly, Stéphane discovers that the animal is in fact a wolf. Despite the warnings and the danger of this situation, he cannot bring himself to separate his daughter from this seemingly harmless ball of fur.

Cast **Vincent Elbaz, Shanna Kell, Marie Gillain**

Director **Denis Imbert** | 2021 | France | 84 mins
French with English subtitles

Although the film's storyline is fictional, the seeds lie in reality.

The Cinemaholic

For detailed information and bookings, visit:
www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk

Learning L'école du cinéma



The French Film Festival UK's Learning Programme is delighted to bring French-speaking cinema free of charge to schools this autumn, between 31 October and 16 December.

To accompany the selection of films for different age groups, school screenings are enhanced by online learning resources prepared by Lise Morel. Participating teachers will be able to download these Learning Packs as PDFs to use in the classroom. The resources have been designed in accordance with the Modern Languages Experience and Outcomes for the Curriculum for Excellence.

The programme is co-ordinated by Sylvia Davidson from the French Film Festival UK, with assistance from local authority languages advisor Ann Robertson, and with the generous support of TotalEnergies, the Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland, the Hugh Fraser Foundation, the Ian Fleming Charitable Trust, the James T Howard Trust and SCILT (Scotland's National Centre for Languages).

We are pleased to be able to provide these opportunities for the young audiences of tomorrow.

Vive le cinéma!

OUR SCHOOLS LEARNING FILM SELECTION INCLUDES:

SHOOOM'S ODYSSEY

Lost baby owl Shoom is trying to find his mother.

POLY

The adventures of Shetland pony, Poly, in the south of France.

ADAMA

A young West African boy travels through Europe during WWII.

THE NEW KID

A young boy defies his bullies and finds his own circle of friends.

HOW TO BOOK

Complete the booking form **SCHOOLS BOOKING FORM Autumn 2022** Please book at least two weeks before desired screening dates.

Following booking FFF will send information on how to access the films requested. Note that it is illegal to replicate any film or to screen them for any other purpose than the agreed in-school programme.

LEARNING RESOURCES for each film will be available to download.

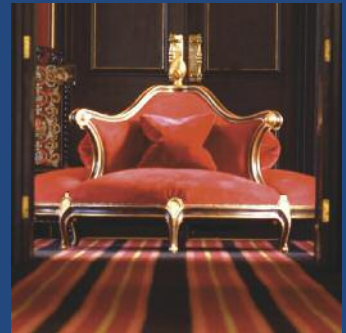
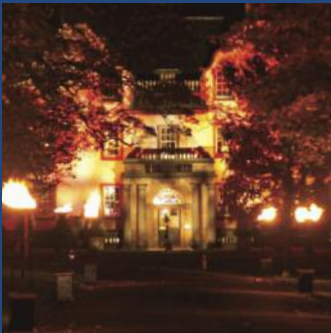
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Key Venues

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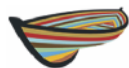
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Key Venues

Please note: for full venues list please visit www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk



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Top row (from left): **Martina Saric, Richard Mowe, Lewis Williams, Harriet Bunnnett.** Middle: **Alexis Beattie, Diane Henderson.** Front (from left): **Manon Goubard, Sylvia Davidson, Emma Jamieson, Shiraz Sidhva, Louise Hurrell.**

(Photographed at Edinburgh Summerhall by Stephen Dunn).

French Film Festival UK 2022

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Summerhall, Edinburgh EH9 1PL

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merci à tous !

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