

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL AOTEAROA

2024

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2024 PROGRAMME



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WELCOME!



Fergus Grady
Festival Director

Bienvenue, Nau mai, haere mai and welcome to the 2024 French Film Festival Aotearoa.

We're excited to add Whanganui, Blenheim and Rangiora to our Festival circuit this year and we plan on growing the Festival further into regional New Zealand in the coming years.

We're thrilled to present the Opening Night Film which is the blockbuster *The Three Musketeers: D'Artagnan*. We're also pleased to be able to bring you the second instalment of the smash-hit duo, *The Three Musketeers: Milady*.

We have a record year for Festival de Cannes favourites in the lineup including: *Marguerite's Theorem*, *The Animal Kingdom*, *Bonnard*, *Pierre & Marthe*, *Abbé Pierre: A Century of Devotion*, & *Jeanne du Barry*.

Our centrepiece films are our opportunity to promote standout films and we've included two Festival de Cannes premiere period pieces set in the 1800s that share the incredible actor Benoît Magimel. *Rosalie & The Taste of Things* are a great pairing that will not disappoint. The other two centrepiece films, *The President's Wife* and *A Difficult Year*, were crowd favourites at the Toronto International Film Festival and we expect equal enthusiasm here when they have their NZ premieres.

However you like your French cinema, whether that may be a 'comédie' or you 'désirer drama' we have you covered. Enjoy the festival and I hope to raise a glass with you at our opening soirées as we toast a "Grand Cru" year of French cinema.



Laurence Beau
Ambassador of
France to New Zealand

Dear French cinema lovers,

The French Film Festival Aotearoa (FFFA) is back in 20 centres across New Zealand for its 18th edition.

It is both a pleasure and a privilege to see French cinema celebrated in New Zealand with such dedication. Last year, saw the highest attendance in its 17-year-history, thanks to all the cinemas who partnered across the country with the Artistic Director Fergus Grady, Simon Werry and all the French Film Festival Aotearoa Team to bring you the best of French cinema.

This year, they are once again offering us a generous and fresh movie line-up; featuring titles such as "*Le Règne Animal*" (*The Animal Kingdom*) by Thomas Cailley and "*Rosalie*" by Stéphanie di Giusto from the 2023 Cannes Festival.

Another must-see is "*L'Abbé Pierre - Une vie de combats*" (*Abbé Pierre: A Century of Devotion*) by Frédéric Tellier, a film that pays a tribute to Henri Grouès better known as Abbé Pierre. This remarkable man devoted his life to helping others, notably by founding the Emmaüs solidarity association.

I hope you'll be won over by this year's extraordinary line-up of French adventure, drama, action and comedy films. Pencil in the dates and see you in theatres!



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TO ENTER: Visit frenchfilmfestival.co.nz/the-festival/competition and enter your details + ticket purchase information (Film, Cinema, Date). Each ticket is eligible for entry, so be sure to see as many of our magnifique films as possible. Vive le cinéma!

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Ticket must be kept as proof of purchase. Holiday package provided as credit, valid until 08 July 2025. Prize not transferable or redeemable for cash. Entries open 24 April 2024. Entries close 04 July 2024. Prize drawn 08 July 2024.



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FESTIVAL PATRON - FRANCESCA RUDKIN

I'm thrilled to be returning as Festival Patron for this year's French Film Festival Aotearoa.

The line-up this year is another fantastic slice of French cinema, and as always, picking some highlights is never easy! The below are all great starters for your must-see list, but enjoy your time at whatever you choose - it's bound to be a great watch.

THE TASTE OF THINGS

(*La passion de Dodin Bouffant*)

Two of the most famous French exports feature in this beautiful film: Juliette Binoche and French cuisine. The film won a main prize at Cannes Film Festival and for good reason, this is a must see.

A DIFFICULT YEAR

(*Une année difficile*)
The most successful French director duo ever: Éric Toledano & Olivier Nakache (*The Intouchables*) bring us their latest comedy which focuses on two down on their luck gentlemen who sign up for more than free beer & chips when they join a social protest movement.

IRIS AND THE MEN

(*Iris et les hommes*)
The reunion of Laure Calamy with director Caroline Vignal after the success of *Antoinette in the Cévennes* doesn't disappoint. As Iris nears her 50th birthday, she decides to enter the dangerous world of dating apps, despite having a partner who loves her. This is a comedy about reigniting desire in the modern age.

BONNARD, PIERRE & MARTHE

(*Bonnard, Pierre et Marthe*)

The lesser known protégé of Monet: Bonnard meets a so-called bankrupt Italian princess in this turbulent love story between the post-Impressionist painter and what will turn out to be his highly influential wife.

MARGUERITE'S THEOREM

(*Le théorème de Marguerite*)

A fascinating lens into the male dominated world of mathematics at one of France's top universities. Marguerite brilliantly transforms



herself from top of the class perfect student to illicit mahjong gambler and late night party girl. This film achieves something that few of your teachers did in school: it makes maths interesting.

THE SITTING DUCK

(*La Syndicaliste*)

Based on the incredible true story of Maureen Kearney (played by Isabelle Huppert) which is so shocking it's a must see. After the success of *The Godmother* (FFFA 2021), the director reunites with Huppert to create a thriller about a whistleblower denouncing top secret dodgy deals.

THE EDGE OF THE BLADE

(*Une affaire d'honneur*)

This edge-of-your seat experience follows the legendary 19th century swordsman Clément Lacaze, who joins forces with the women's rights activist Marie-Rose Astié. Prepare yourself for a film that deftly weaves drama, romance and duels.



THE
**THREE
MUSKETEERS**
D'ARTAGNAN

LES TROIS MOUSQUETAIRES: D'ARTAGNAN

HISTORY, ACTION, ADVENTURE | 121 MINUTES | M

Directed by: Martin Bourboulon

Starring: François Civil, Vincent Cassel, Romain Duris, Pio Marmaï, Eva Green

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

Set in the early 17th century kingdom of France, the opening instalment *D'Artagnan* follows a spirited young swordsman, Charles D'Artagnan (François Civil), on his journey from Gascony to Paris to join the King's elite Musketeers of the Guard. Along the way, he narrowly escapes death whilst heroically saving a woman from being kidnapped. In his efforts to enlist, D'Artagnan manages to offend the sensibilities of three of the most formidable Musketeers in the ranks, Athos (Vincent Cassel), Porthos (Pio Marmaï) and Aramis (Romain Duris) ... But D'Artagnan soon wins them over, and his dedication to help his newfound friends and serve King Louis XIII (Louis Garrel) will lead him not only

into the path of the mysterious Milady de Winter (Eva Green) and the Queen's consort Constance (Lyna Khoudri), but the heart of a conspiracy where the future of the nation itself is at stake...

France's highest grossing film of 2023, Bourboulon's magnificent production (lavishly produced with a budget of over €70 million) is both respectful of its source but enriched with contemporary touches; the film is chock-full of humour, romance, palace intrigue and pulsepounding action.

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

"DUMAS'S CLASSIC NOVEL FINALLY GETS AN EPIC ADAPTATION WORTHY OF ITS SCOPE"

- *Empire*



OFFICIAL SELECTION
UN CERTAIN REGARD
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

ROSALIE

ROSALIE

DRAMA, HISTORY | 115 MINUTES | M

Directed by: Stéphanie Di Giusto

Starring: Nadia Tereszkiewicz, Benoît Magimel

Set in 1870s France, Rosalie, portrayed by the radiant Nadia Tereszkiewicz, is an extraordinary young woman harboring a secret.

Abel (Benoît Magimel), an indebted tavern owner unaware of her secret, marries Rosalie for her dowry.

When Rosalie defiantly decides to embrace her unconventional appearance, the central question emerges: Can Abel truly love her and see beyond her physical differences, once he discovers the truth?

Rosalie draws inspiration from the experiences of historical figures, weaving a passionate and empowering drama that serves as a beautifully

crafted parable on intolerance and attitudes toward body diversity.

Directed by Stéphanie Di Giusto, known for her acclaimed debut *The Dancer*, *Rosalie* tenderly explores the triumph of hope and love in a world marked by prejudice.

“A FEMINISM-INFORMED STORY ABOUT A SENSUOUS, UNUSUAL WOMAN AHEAD OF HER TIME”

- *The Hollywood Reporter*

“CLASSY CINEMATOGRAPHY AND QUALITY COSTUMES”

- *The Playlist*



BEST DIRECTOR
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

THE TASTE OF THINGS

LA PASSION DE DODIN BOUFFANT

DRAMA, HISTORY, ROMANCE | 135 MINUTES | RATING TBC

Directed by: Tran Anh Hung

Starring: Juliette Binoche, Benoît Magimel

After its premiere at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival, *The Taste of Things* has had mouths watering worldwide. This delicious adaptation of Marcel Rouff's classic 1924 novel *The Life and Passion of Dodin-Bouffant, Gourmet*, is the perfect blend of cooking and romance. The film won director Tran Anh Hung the Best Director prize at Cannes.

Set in 1885, Academy Award winner Juliette Binoche stars as Eugénie, a renowned cook whose talents are unmatched. Benoît Magimel plays Dodin, a brilliant epicure. With their talents combined, the pair prepare a meal for a visiting prince, revolving around a “pot-au-feu” (an iconic French dish of slow cooked beef stew).

Eugénie and Dodin's culinary collaboration transcends the kitchen, blossoming into a deep friendship that occasionally flirts with romance. Can Dodin's exceptional culinary instincts and longing for a deeper connection persuade Eugénie to marry him?

France's submission to the 2024 Oscars, *The Taste of Things* not only celebrates French cuisine but also underscores the devotion, care, and time it demands.

“A FEAST FOR THE SENSES, THIS FRENCH ROMANCE IS A THREE MICHELIN-STARRED LOVE STORY”

- *Time Out*



THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE

BERNADETTE

COMEDY | 93 MINUTES | M

Directed by: Léa Domenach

Starring: Catherine Deneuve, Michel Vuillermoz, Sara Giraudeau

The legendary Catherine Deneuve plays the French icon Bernadette Chirac in this hilarious comedy based on actual events.

It's 1995, and Jacques Chirac has just been elected President of the French Republic. When Bernadette Chirac steps into the Elysée, she's ready for the recognition she deserves, having tirelessly stood by her husband's side on his journey to the presidency. Instead, she finds herself brushed off as old-fashioned, cold and sour-tempered.

With the help of her chief of staff, Bernard Niquet, Bernadette begins a campaign to restore her reputation and assert her role as first lady.

In her debut film, documentarian Léa Domenach skilfully blurs the lines between fact and fiction, presenting an engrossing portrait of an unexpected feminist icon.

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

"A TALE OF FEMININE EMPOWERMENT... A CHRONICLE OF THE CHIRAC YEARS, WITH DELIGHTFUL GAGS AND BRIGHT COLOURS"

- Marie Claire

• Watch trailers and book tickets at frenchfilmfestival.co.nz •



A DIFFICULT YEAR

UNE ANNÉE DIFFICILE

COMEDY | 120 MINUTES | M

Directed by: Éric Toledano, Olivier Nakache

Starring: Pio Marmaï, Jonathan Cohen, Noémie Merlant, Mathieu Amalric

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

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

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

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

• Watch trailers and book tickets at frenchfilmfestival.co.nz •



Iris

and the men

IRIS ET LES HOMMES

COMEDY | 98 MINUTES | M

Directed by: Caroline Vignal

Starring: Laure Calamy, Vincent Elbaz

After the smash-hit international success of *Antoinette in the Cévennes* (the most popular film in the history of the French Film Festival), writer/director Caroline Vignal and the fabulous Laure Calamy reunite for an hilarious comedy about reignited desire in the modern age.

“They’re not”. This is how Iris (Calamy) quietly answers her chiropractor when asked how things are going with her husband (Vincent Elbaz). The words slip from her mouth like an unformed realisation: how long has it been since they last made love?

Yet everything else is great: the couple love each other, they have two happy daughters, she runs a successful

medical practice and has the best friends one could hope for...

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

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



LUCKY WINNERS

HEREUX GAGNANTS

COMEDY | 103 MINUTES | RATING TBC

Directed by: Romain Choay, Maxime Govare

Starring: Fabrice Eboué, Audrey Lamy, Anouk Grinberg, Pauline Clément

The chance of winning the lottery is one in 19 million – less likely than being struck by lightning, they say. But for the characters of *Lucky Winners*, this dream quickly turns into an explosive and hilarious nightmare. This rollercoaster of a black comedy explores themes of sudden fortune and its unexpected consequences.

An all-star ensemble cast brings this thrilling tale to life. Renowned for her comic talent and performances in films such as *The Kitchen Brigade*, Audrey Lamy brings her charisma to the role of Louise. Fabrice Eboué, known in France for his varied career in stage comedy and film, enriches the film with his verve and wit as Paul. Also lending their comedic talents to the cast are

Anouk Grinberg (*The Innocent*) and Sami Outalballi (*Sex Education*).

Famous for his ability to blend humour and emotion, director Maxime Govare’s collaboration with Romain Choay delivers a skillful exploration of social dynamics and reversals of fortune.

Don’t miss the darkly comic twists and turns of *Lucky Winners*!

“AN ACERBIC CRITIQUE OF CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY, WHILE ENTERTAINING WITH UNPREDICTABLE SCENARIOS AND BREATHLESS TWISTS”
- *Sortir à Paris*



TAKE A CHANCE ON ME

MARIE-LINE ET SON JUGÉ

COMEDY | 103 MINUTES | M

Directed by: Jeanne-Pierre Améris

Starring: Louane Emera, Michel Blanc

When down down on her luck Marie-Line appears before Judge Gilles d'Outremont, he sees something in her that nobody else does. He hires her to be his driver, and the result is a poignant, fun-filled and ultimately life-changing road trip.



The sensational Louane Emera (*The Bélier Family*) plays the downtrodden yet high spirited Marie-Line, while legendary screen veteran Michel Blanc (*A Good Doctor*) shines as the loveably grumpy judge. This gloriously mismatched odd couple's journey together makes for a delightful film about the most unlikely of friendships, and the unexpected joy of second chances.



**"A CHARMING,
MELANCHOLY COMEDY"**
- *Télérama*

• Watch trailers and book tickets at frenchfilmfestival.co.nz •



Mr Blake at your service!

COMPLÈTEMENT CRAMÉ

COMEDY | 110 MINUTES | RATING TBC

Directed by: Gilles Legardinier

Starring: John Malkovich, Fanny Ardant, Émilie Dequenne

This highly anticipated romantic comedy stars the dynamic duo of John Malkovich and Fanny Ardant. Malkovich brilliantly takes on the role of the charming British Businessman, Andrew Blake.



In a twist of fate, Blake becomes the butler of a once-distinguished manor house, owned by the elegant yet aloof Madame de Beauvillier (Ardant). The "Domaine de Beauvillier" has fallen on hard times, with both staff and residents longing for better days.



Based on Gilles Legardinier's international hit novel, *Mr. Blake At Your Service!* is a heartwarming cinematic experience that will leave you grinning.

**"A STRONG, GLAMOROUS CAST
ON TOP OF THEIR GAME"**
- *Deadline*

• Watch trailers and book tickets at frenchfilmfestival.co.nz •



The Crime is Mine

MON CRIME

COMEDY, CRIME | 102 MINUTES | M

Directed by: François Ozon

Starring: Nadia Tereszkiewicz, Rebecca Marder, Isabelle Huppert, Fabrice Luchini

In this showbiz screwball comedy, an aspiring actress and her lawyer best friend spin a murder accusation into a shot at fame.

Madeleine (Nadia Tereszkiewicz) is a pretty, young, penniless and talentless actress in 1930s Paris. Accused of murdering a famous producer, she is helped by her best friend Pauline, a young unemployed lawyer. Acquitted on the grounds of self-defense, a new life of fame and success begins for Madeleine, until the truth comes out...

Isabelle Huppert joins this sensational cast as Odette Chaumette, a once-famous silent film star, while Fabrice Luchini plays the lofty investigating magistrate. Don't miss it!



"A SLY SLICE OF FEMINIST TRIUMPH"

- Screen Daily



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
OPENING FILM
2023 OFFICIAL SELECTION



JEANNE du BARRY

JEANNE DU BARRY

HISTORY, DRAMA | 117 MINUTES | M

Directed by: Maïwenn

Starring: Maïwenn, Johnny Depp, Benjamin Lavernhe, Pierre Richard

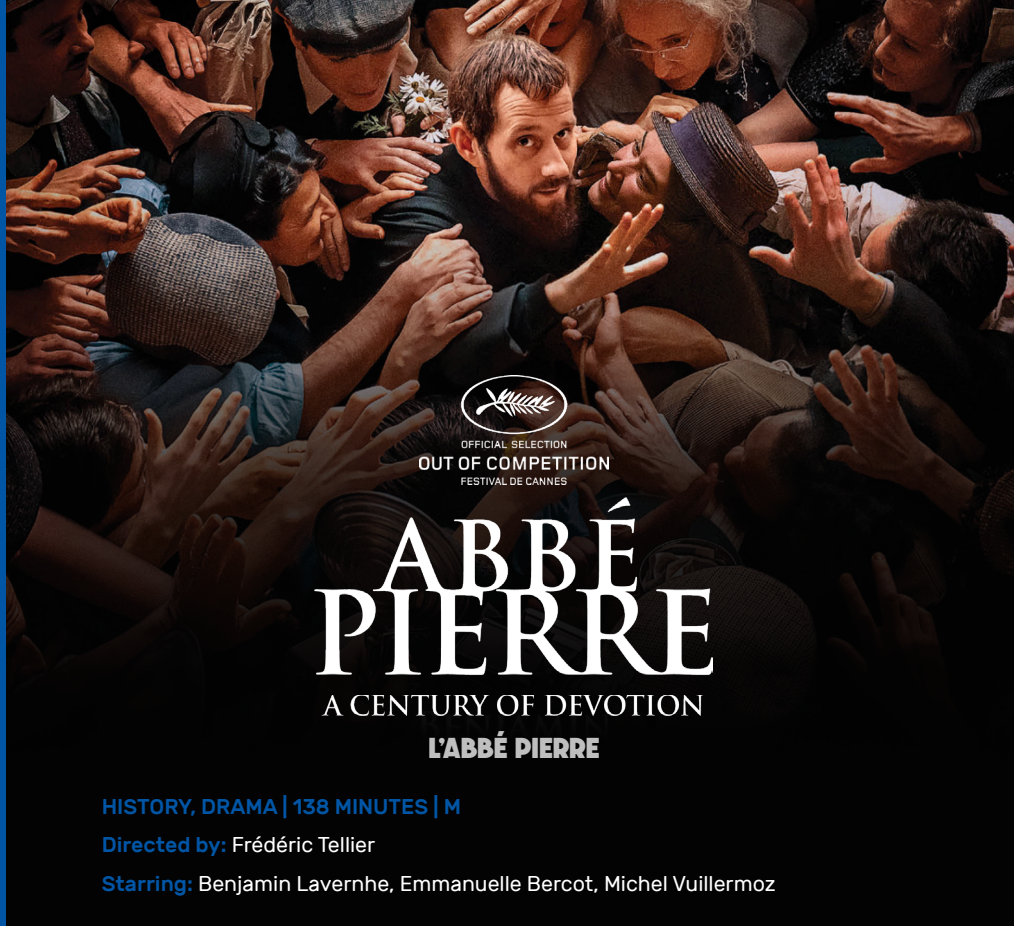
The lavish new drama from writer/director Maïwenn, *Jeanne du Barry* is freely inspired by the life of the rags-to-riches social climber, a working-class woman who became the mistress of King Louis XV, played with taciturn command by Johnny Depp in his first French-language speaking role.

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

the Comte orchestrates a meeting.

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

Shot on location at Versailles and featuring majestic costumes and production design, *Jeanne du Barry* is a visual feast for the senses.



OFFICIAL SELECTION
OUT OF COMPETITION
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

ABBÉ PIERRE

A CENTURY OF DEVOTION

L'ABBÉ PIERRE

HISTORY, DRAMA | 138 MINUTES | M

Directed by: Frédéric Tellier

Starring: Benjamin Lavernhe, Emmanuelle Bercot, Michel Vuillermoz

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

The fifth of eight Catholic children, Henri Grouès (Lavernhe) plans to join the monastery, only for WWII to intervene. Learning of the persecution of Jews and patriots, he joins the Resistance to help those fleeing Gestapo oppression, himself forced to use several false identities to avoid capture. As "Abbé Pierre", Henri is

exposed to the devastation of war, but also bears witness to the compassion and strength of brotherhood and the liberation of Paris; he emerges from the maelstrom a changed man and becomes dedicated to the lives of others.

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



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
CANNES PREMIÈRE
SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE 2023

BONNARD

Pierre & Marthe

BONNARD, PIERRE ET MARTHE

HISTORY, DRAMA | 123 MINUTES | RATING TBC

Directed by: Martin Provost

Starring: Vincent Macaigne, Cécile de France, Stacy Martin

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

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

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

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



DIVERTIMENTO

DIVERTIMENTO

DRAMA, MUSIC | 114 MINUTES | PG

Directed by: Marie -Castille Mention-Schaar

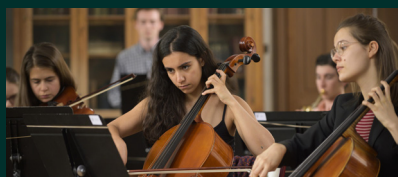
Starring: Oulaya Amamra, Lina El Arabi, Niels Arestrup

Classical symphonic music is everything for 17-year-old Zahia Ziouani and her twin sister, Fettouma.

Nevertheless, living in underprivileged Parisian suburbs in 1995 with their Algerian background, they struggle arduously to approach their dreams of becoming an orchestra conductor and a cellist.

Driven by determination, passion, and courage, they create their own game changing orchestra, Divertimento.

This inspiring narrative is based on a true story, and offers a glimpse into the origins of these renowned musicians.



“WILL INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE TO FIGHT FOR THEIR DREAMS”

- *Le Parisien*



The Sitting Duck

LA SYNDICALISTE

DRAMA, THRILLER | 122 MINUTES | M

Directed by: Jean-Paul Salomé

Starring: Isabelle Huppert, Grégory Gadebois

Academy Award nominee Isabelle Huppert delivers an electrifying performance as the real-life whistle-blower Maureen Kearney, a trade unionist who fearlessly challenges the powerful nuclear industry - even at immense personal cost.

Kearney's influence is both feared and admired, but her world is turned upside down when she exposes the unsettling details of a clandestine deal between French and Chinese power companies.

This revelation triggers a brutal assault, setting off a chain of events that reveal the failures of the justice system and the pervasive corruption within government and corporate circles.

This political thriller, crafted by writer/director Jean-Paul Salomé, has captivated audiences since its debut at the Venice Film Festival. With unrelenting tension, it immerses viewers in the high-stakes world of political intrigue and personal danger.

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

“HUPPERT IS A GENUINELY SINGULAR TALENT... NOTHING LESS THAN MESMERISING.”

- *The Times*



THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

LE RÈGNE ANIMAL

DIRECTED BY:
Thomas Cailley

STARRING:
Romain Duris
Paul Kircher



OFFICIAL SELECTION
UN CERTAIN REGARD
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

ADVENTURE, DRAMA, HORROR | 128 MINUTES | M

- 5x CÉSAR WINNER -

The Animal Kingdom is an inventive genre mash-up that combines the warmth of a family drama with the unique visuals of a Cronenbergian thriller. Romain Duris (*Eiffel*) and Paul Kircher play François and Émile, a father and son living in a dystopian future where people are mutating into animals. One of the victims of this affliction is the pair's wife/mother, Julia. François and Émile relocate to live near a new institution designed to house these human/animal hybrids - including Julia. Amid the growing mystery and paranoia, this family will discover what it means to be human.

THE THREE MUSKETEERS MILADY

LES TROIS MOUSQUETAIRES:
MILADY

DIRECTED BY:
Martin Bourboulon

STARRING:
François Civil
Vincent Cassel
Romain Duris
Pio Marmai
Eva Green

HISTORY, ACTION, ADVENTURE | 114 MINUTES | M

Following the events of *D'Artagnan*, a secret from the past shatters old alliances in *The Three Musketeers: Milady*, the spectacular second chapter to Martin Bourboulon's lavish, all-star adaptation of Alexandre Dumas' classic adventure, the first French cinematic treatment in over 30 years. Strap in for the unforgettable conclusion.

"Breathtaking"
- *Empire*

• Watch trailers and book tickets at frenchfilmfestival.co.nz •



SUDDENLY

SODAIN SEULS

DRAMA, THRILLER | 111 MINUTES | M

Directed by: Thomas Bidegain

Starring: Gilles Lellouche, Mélanie Thierry

Suddenly is guaranteed to get your pulse racing!

Ben (Gilles Lellouche) and Laura (Mélanie Thierry) have spent five years together. Their decision to embark on a global sailing adventure takes an unexpected turn when they detour to a remote island near the Antarctic coast. Caught in a storm, their boat disappears, leaving them isolated, alone, and in danger as winter approaches. Now, they must fight not only for survival but also to preserve their relationship.

As Ben and Laura grapple with unimaginable challenges, they confront a haunting question: Is it better to survive alone or face death together?

This gripping tale of romance and survival is the latest creation from writer/director Thomas Bidegain, renowned for his collaborations with director Jacques Audiard on films like *A Prophet* and *Rust and Bone*.

Adapted from the novel *Soudain, seuls* by French author and sailor Isabelle Autissier, *Suddenly* navigates the extremes of life and love. Don't miss it!

**"SUCCEEDS AND IMPRESSES...
A FILM NOT TO BE MISSED."**

- *Sortir à Paris*

• Watch trailers and book tickets at frenchfilmfestival.co.nz •



A SILENCE

UN SILENCE

DRAMA | 100 MINUTES | RATING TBC

Directed by: Joachim Lafosse

Starring: Daniel Auteuil, Emmanuelle Devos, Matthieu Galoux

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

Cocooned in a life of privilege, 50-something Astrid Schaar (Devos) is the wife of the suave François (Auteuil), a prominent and media-savvy lawyer approaching a crucial point in his years-long, high profile case, in which he represents the parents of several abducted children. Day and night, reporters wait outside their gated

home, hoping to snap a photo and secure François' latest remarks. But the uneasy equilibrium of the household erodes when a figure from the family's past returns, initiating their own search for justice...

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



THE EDGE OF THE BLADE

UNE AFFAIRE D'HONNEUR

DRAMA | 101 MINUTES | M

Directed by: Vincent Perez

Starring: Roschdy Zem, Doria Tiller, Guillaume Gallienne, Damien Bonnard

Roschdy Zem (*The Innocent*) stars as the legendary swordsman Clément Lacaze, caught up in an illegal fencing bout between his nephew and a more experienced army colonel. Doria Tiller (*The Origin of Evil*) plays women's rights activist Marie-Rose Astié, who is attempting to manipulate the conventions of duelling to bring attention to her own cause.

When Clément and Marie-Rose band together, they must defend so much more than outdated notions of honour.

The Edge of the Blade compellingly weaves drama, romance and duels for an edge-of-your-seat experience where every sword clash heralds change.



"SWORD, PISTOL OR SABER, THE FIGHTS ARE ONE AFTER THE OTHER. HIGH STAKES, THEY KEEP THE PLOT MOVING AND THE AUDIENCE ON THE EDGE OF THEIR SEATS"

- Cineuropa

Karlovy Vary
International Film Festival
- Audience Award -



NENEH SUPERSTAR

NENEH SUPERSTAR

DRAMA | 97 MINUTES | M

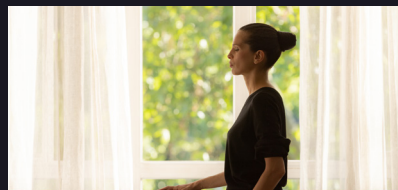
Directed by: Ramzi Ben Sliman

Starring: Oumy Bruni Garrel, Maïwenn

Set within the Paris Opera Ballet School, one of France's most prestigious cultural institutions, this inspiring family-friendly film will resonate with anyone who has ever refused to compromise their dreams.

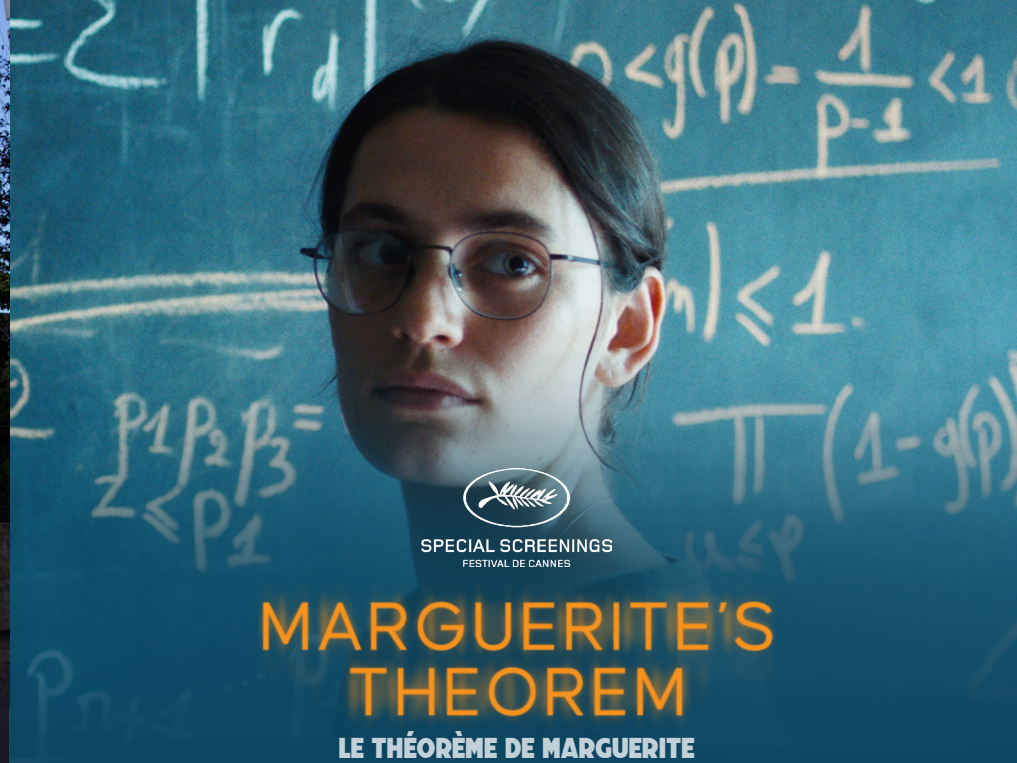


12-year-old ballet dancer Neneh discovers that her extraordinary natural talent may not be enough to win the approval of the school's harsh and discriminatory headmistress. Not only is Neneh from a socially disadvantaged background, but she is also black, challenging the longstanding dominance of white dancers in classical ballet. This glorious celebration of talent is a charming must-see for families and ballet enthusiasts of all ages.



"A CINEMATIC TRIUMPH"

- Cineuropa



SPECIAL SCREENINGS
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

MARGUERITE'S THEOREM

LE THÉORÈME DE MARGUERITE

DRAMA | 114 MINUTES | M

Directed by: Anna Novion

Starring: Ella Rumpf, Clotilde Courau, Julien Frison

- CÉSAR WINNER: Best Female Revelation, Ella Rumpf -

Immerse yourself in a tale of obsession, genius, and self-discovery set within the world of elite academia in *Marguerite's Theorem*. César-winner Ella Rumpf is Marguerite, a brilliant young mathematician who refuses to let her status as the lone woman in her class hinder her pursuit of excellence. However, her world crumbles when a new student discovers a flaw in her thesis, and her supervisor dismisses her for being too emotional. Marguerite must now navigate the real world, unearthing new insights, gaining a fresh lease on life, and even exploring the possibility of romance.



SIDONIE IN JAPAN

SIDONIE AU JAPON



DIRECTED BY:
Élise Girard

STARRING:
Isabelle Huppert
Tsuayoshi Ihara

DRAMA, ROMANCE | 93 MINUTES | PG

Isabelle Huppert delivers a beautifully nuanced performance as Sidonie Perceval, a widowed author who after a long period of inactivity reluctantly travels to Japan to promote a new translation of her debut novel. The majority of her time in Japan is spent with her publisher, Kenzo Mizoguchi, to whom she finds herself increasingly drawn - despite still grieving for her husband. These feelings are further complicated when she is visited by her husband's ghost. A mesmerising blend of melancholy, romance, self-discovery and humour, *Sidonie in Japan* will appeal to fans of such films as *Lost in Translation* and *Truly Madly Deeply*.



TONI

TONI, EN FAMILLE



DIRECTED BY:
Nathan Ambrosioni

STARRING:
Camille Cottin
Léa Lopez
Thomas Giora

COMEDY, DRAMA | 96 MINUTES | M

Parenting a teenager is hard enough, but for Antonia 'Toni' Livesi, being the sole parent of five teenagers while earning a living as a bar singer is nearly impossible. Despite a brief taste of fame twenty years ago with a hit song, Toni's life is very much an ordinary one, structured around kids and their squabbles, meals, laundry, housecleaning and work. As her two eldest children prepare to start university, she finds herself questioning her life and where she will go next. At 43, is there still time to try something new? *Toni* explores the dynamics of parenthood, family, and the delicate art of balancing work and life.

"Moving... an
impeccable cast"
- Sortir à Paris

• Watch trailers and book tickets at frenchfilmfestival.co.nz •

TICKETING INFORMATION

How to buy tickets

Tickets are sold through the participating venues.

In cinemas: At box offices daily until sold out. Cinemas can only sell tickets for their respective venues.

Online: At frenchfilmfestival.co.nz Select your session and you will be redirected from there to the appropriate cinema site. Booking fees may apply.

Check with cinemas for festival pricing.

Group Bookings

Yes! We do discounted rates for school and other groups.

Please contact bonjour@frenchfilmfestival.co.nz to make your booking.

Festival Contacts

Director: fergus@frenchfilmfestival.co.nz

General: bonjour@frenchfilmfestival.co.nz

Events: events@frenchfilmfestival.co.nz

VENUE INFORMATION

Kerikeri | 30 May - 12 June

Cathay Cinemas cathaycinemas.co.nz

Matakana | 30 May - 12 June

Matakana Cinemas matakanacinemas.co.nz

Whitianga | 30 May - 12 June

Mercury Twin Cinemas mercurytwincinemas.com

Whanganui | 30 May - 12 June

Embassy 3 Cinema embassy3.co.nz

Masterton | 30 May - 12 June

The Screening Room thescreeningroom.co.nz

Wānaka | 30 May - 12 June

Cinema Paradiso paradiso.net.nz

Arrowtown | 30 May - 12 June

Dorothy Browns dorothybrowns.com

Tauranga | 30 May - 16 June

Luxe Cinemas Tauranga luxecinemas.nz/tauranga

Blenheim | 13 - 19 June

Event Cinemas Blenheim eventcinemas.co.nz

Dunedin | 13 - 26 June

Rialto Cinemas Dunedin rialto.co.nz

New Plymouth | 20 June - 03 July

Len Lye Cinema govettbrewster.com/cinema

Terms and conditions

Some cinemas will charge a booking fee for tickets booked online and over the phone. Please check with your local cinema.

ID will be required for all discounted tickets (seniors, students) and for all restricted films when collecting or purchasing tickets.

All films are no complimentary, except for Festival complimentary passes. No cinema vouchers, movie money or ticket discount offers can be used for festival films, unless otherwise specified.

Programme may be subject to change. The Festival reluctantly reserves the right to change the schedule by amending dates, session times or replacing films. Any necessary changes will be amended as soon as possible on the Festival website and at the affected venue.

Please contact your local cinema for details about their wheelchair access and parking facilities.

Further terms and conditions may apply. Contact your local cinema for more information.

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