



Intrepid



FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL AOTEAROA 2025

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2025 PROGRAMME

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Fergus Grady
Festival Director

I'm delighted to welcome you to another exciting year for French cinema. Now screening in 24 towns and cities around Aotearoa, including Waiheke Island, Cambridge, Tākaka and Queenstown. It's great to have you join us!

Our programme of 23 fantastic titles range from epic blockbusters like *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *Beating Hearts* to a vibrant mix of comedies, dramas and romances. Captivating storytelling, powerful characters and thought-provoking scenarios are all on show, and we are

pleased to be able to showcase new voices in French cinema.

We are profiling intriguing biopics honouring French cultural icons: Charles Aznavour (*Monsieur Aznavour*), Sarah Bernhardt (*The Divine Sarah Bernhardt*), Maurice Ravel (*Bolero*), and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (*Saint-Ex*). Acclaimed Cannes titles *My Brother's Band* and *Holy Cow* promise unforgettable moments of cinema, and our comedies such as *All Stirred Up!* and *Riviera Revenge* are sure to entertain.

Enjoy this year's Festival, which we are proud to present during the 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations between France and New Zealand.

Vive le cinema!



Laurence Beau
Ambassador of
France to New Zealand

Dear Lovers of French Cinema,

I am thrilled to announce this 19th French Film Festival Aotearoa! Taking place during the 80-year anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between France and New Zealand, the best of France is brought to a cinema near you.

The festival has expanded impressively over the years. In 2024, it attracted more than 100,000 visitors and now reaches 24 cities across the country. This remarkable achievement would not be possible without the dedicated work and passionate commitment of Fergus Grady and Simon Werry, the entire French Film Festival team and the supportive network of Alliances Françaises.

Each year, the festival's lineup showcases exceptional cinematic talent. This year is no exception, featuring remarkable films such as *Vingt Dieux/ Holy Cow* by Louise Courvoisier, awarded during the Cannes Film Festival, *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre de La Patellière and Matthieu Delaporte, a compelling adaptation of Alexandre Dumas' timeless novel, captivating more than 9 million people in France, and *Monsieur Aznavour* by Mehdi Idir and Grand Corps Malade, retracing the famous French singer-songwriter's life.

This selection brilliantly demonstrates the depth, quality, and diversity of contemporary French cinema. I invite you to immerse yourself in this festival, which is a vibrant cultural bridge between France and New Zealand.

Bons films!

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FESTIVAL COMPETITIONS

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FESTIVAL PATRON - KATE RODGER

Mes amis! What an absolute honour to be named Patron of the Intrepid French Film Festival Aotearoa 2025! With such a stellar line-up, how on earth am I supposed to pick my favourites?

From the two incredible centrepiece films to "très dramatique" I've tried to whittle down my 8 favourites from 23 fantastic selections. I can honestly say all 23 films are worthy but here are the 8 I enjoyed the most.

JANE AUSTEN WRECKED MY LIFE (M)

(Jane Austen a gâché ma vie)

Clearly with a title like this it was the first film to grab my attention and it didn't disappoint!

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO (M)

(Le Comte de Monte-Cristo)

Wow, this is such a lavish film that simply flies by. Gorgeous to look at and a great multi-layered plot, honestly I was perched on the edge of my seat from go to whoa - what a watch!

MY BROTHER'S BAND (M)

(En fanfare)

This is my prediction for the audience crowd pleaser of the Festival and features incredible performances along with a stonking soundtrack.

THE FRENCH JOB (M)

(Les règles de l'art)

I understand NZ audiences will be the first to see this twisty turner outside of France and how cool is that? I must have missed the news about the biggest French art heist back in 2010 so this was fresh to my eyes and ears and brilliantly told.

HOLY COW (M)

(Vingt dieux)

If you like cheese (WHO DOESN'T LIKE CHEESE??) then *Holy Cow* does not disappoint. Director Louise Courvoisier is one of the brightest French stars on the rise after winning two César Awards for this film, her very first feature. Keep an eye out for the Holy Cow cheese events screening in limited locations (nom nom).



HOW TO MAKE A KILLING (R16)

(Un ours dans le Jura)

Festival favourite actress Laure Calamy is back in this Coen-esque noir thriller set in the Jura mountains. The film is a little naughty (would it even be a French Film Festival if we didn't have a little naughty?!) but very entertaining.

BOLERO (PG)

(Bolero)

Out of all the biopics in the Festival *Bolero* was my favourite this year. Beautifully shot and featuring incredible music, one not to miss.

ALL STIRRED UP! (M)

(Tous toqués!)

Finally a French film featuring a famous chef who cooks up a storm. This isn't your standard foodie film but has enough laughs and romance to compliment the mouth-watering food on screen.



BIOGRAPHICAL DRAMA | 134 MINUTES | M Adult themes

Directed by: Mehdi Idir and Grand Corps Malade

Starring: Tahar Rahim, Bastien Bouillon, Marie-Julie Baup, Camille Moutawkil

You are invited to the Opening Night of Intrepid French Film Festival Aotearoa 2025, and the New Zealand premiere of *Monsieur Aznavour*!

For more information on our Opening Night events, check with your local cinema or visit frenchfilmfestival.co.nz

Just as Marion Cotillard was to *La Vie en Rose*, Golden Globe-nominated actor Tahar Rahim is to *Monsieur Aznavour*, transforming into the iconic singer-songwriter, Charles Aznavour, for this hugely entertaining biography

of the man who beat all odds to not only become one of France's best-loved entertainers, but personified French culture to the English-speaking world.

Led by its star's astonishing performance and stunning vocal prowess, the emotional and lavishly mounted *Monsieur Aznavour* is a true tour de force as intimate as it is spectacular, serving as a triumphant reminder of the power and impact of music. It's a grand and unmissable cinema experience.

"A SUPERB AND POWERFUL TRIBUTE"

- Public



Jane Austen wrecked my life

JANE AUSTEN A GÂCHÉ MA VIE

COMEDY, ROMANCE | 98 MINUTES | M *Offensive language*

Directed by: Laura Piani

Starring: Camille Rutherford, Pablo Pauly, Charlie Anson, Liz Crowther

Agathe (Camille Rutherford, *Anatomy of a Fall*) is seemingly living the romantic comedy dream. Working in the famous Parisian bookshop "Shakespeare & Co", she shares an undeniable chemistry with her best friend/co-worker Félix (Pablo Pauly, *Murder Party*).

However, underneath the rosy facade, Agathe is a struggling romance author stuck living with her sister and battling a severe case of writer's block. Perpetually surrounded by stories of others' desires and adventures, she longs for a romance like the ones in her favourite novels.

Everything changes when Agathe is invited to a prestigious Jane Austen

residency in England. Spending two weeks in a manor ripped directly from the pages of one of Austen's stories, Agathe becomes acquainted with the handsome (and haughty) Oliver (Charlie Anson, *Downton Abbey*), a distant relation of the author.

Now finding herself in a situation much like the books that inspire her, Agathe must decide between what she's always known, and something – or someone – new.

Direct from a sell out run at the Australian French Film Festival, this utterly charming story from Laura Piani is a delightful love letter to the iconic author whose works still shape our conversations on love today.



OFFICIAL SELECTION
 OUT OF COMPETITION
 FESTIVAL DE CANNES

50 CÉSAR
 2x AWARD WINNER!

THE COUNT OF MONTECRISTO

LE COMTE DE MONTE CRISTO

ACTION, DRAMA | 178 MINUTES | M *Violence*

Directed by: Matthieu Delaporte and Alexandre de La Patellière

Starring: Pierre Niney, Anaïs Demoustier, Pierfrancesco Favino

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

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

After years of solitude, Dantès befriends the inmate in the adjacent cell, Abbé Faria (Pierfrancesco Favino), who reveals the location of a hidden treasure on the island of Monte Cristo. An extraordinary plan is hatched to exact revenge on the three men who wronged him: assuming multiple identities – "the Count of Monte Cristo" among them – Dantès will first court his enemies, and then seek retribution...

A true cultural phenomenon in France (where it stormed the box office with close to 10 million tickets sold), *The Count of Monte Cristo* delivers luxurious, spectacular big-screen entertainment, at once timeless and electrifyingly new.



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
CANNES PREMIERE
2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

MY BROTHER'S BAND

EN FANFARE

COMEDY, DRAMA | 103 MINUTES | M *Offensive language*

Directed by: Emmanuel Courcol

Starring: Benjamin Lavernhe, Pierre Lottin, Sarah Suco

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

Thibaut (the exceptional Benjamin Lavernhe, *Delicious*) is a beloved and internationally celebrated orchestra conductor who travels the globe. When a health crisis and subsequent DNA test inadvertently reveals he was adopted as an infant, Thibaut discovers the existence of a younger brother, Jimmy (rising star Pierre Lottin), who lives in more modest circumstances;

he works in a school cafeteria, cares for his mother and plays the trombone in a community brass band. The pair seem to have little else in common other than a love of performance, but sensing his sibling's exceptional talent, Thibaut decides to remedy the injustice of fate and try to help nurture his brother's untapped gifts.

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



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION
SPECIAL SCREENING

THE THREAD

LE FIL

DRAMA | 115 MINUTES | M *Offensive language & sexual references*

Directed by: Daniel Auteuil

Starring: Daniel Auteuil, Grégory Gadebois, Sidse Babbett Knudsen, Alice Belaïdi

One of France's most beloved and awarded actors, the remarkable Daniel Auteuil is also an accomplished writer and director in his own right, and the engrossing new legal thriller *The Thread* finds him once again in top form.

Auteuil stars as Jean Monier, a well-past his prime defence lawyer who – ever since discovering he was responsible for a killer being exonerated – now prefers to work as a prosecutor. But one evening Jean agrees to help his over-committed wife and fellow counsel Annie (Sidse Babbett Knudsen) by meeting with Nicolas Milik (Grégory Gadebois), a shell-shocked father of five who has just been arrested for the murder of his troubled wife.

Milik's predicament inexplicably touches Jean; the more he pieces together the events of the night in question, the more he becomes convinced of Milik's innocence. Soon Jean rediscovers his passion for his vocation, and becomes obsessed with exposing the killer.

Characterised by typically first-rate performances from its stellar cast, this pulled-from-the-headlines drama is a gripping exploration of guilt, conceit and the slippery nature of justice. A major word of mouth hit at the French box office in late 2024, *The Thread* packs a genuine punch, with a conclusion that lingers long after the credits have rolled.



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION
COMPETITION



BEATING HEARTS

L'AMOUR OUF

DRAMA, ROMANCE | 161 MINUTES | RATING TBC

Directed by: Gilles Lellouche

Starring: Adèle Exarchopoulos, François Civil, Mallory Wanecque, Malik Frikah

Adèle Exarchopoulos (*Blue Is The Warmest Colour*) and François Civil (*The Three Musketeers*) – arguably French cinema's brightest young talents – devour the screen in Gilles Lellouche's vibrant, genre-spanning romantic epic that follows a romance tested by social boundaries, betrayal and circumstances beyond all control.

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

But tragedy soon pulls them apart. A decade later, Clotaire tries desperately to win back his lost love. But has his chance passed?

Driven by a kinetic soundtrack by Jon Brion, indelible production design and all-star supporting cast, **Beating Hearts** pays homage to the US independent film wave of the 80s and early 90s but creates an impact truly of its own.

Delivering another massive, crowd-pleasing blockbuster result at the French box office with an extraordinary 5 million admissions, Lellouche reaches for the stars and rewards all who strap in for the ride.



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
YOUTH AWARD
UN CERTAIN REGARD

50^e CÉSAR
2x AWARD WINNER!



HOLY COW

VINGT DIEUX

presented by MAISON
VAURON
FRENCH WINE MERCHANTS

COMEDY, DRAMA | 92 MINUTES | M *Offensive language & sexual references*

Directed by: Louise Courvoisier

Starring: Clément Faveau, Maïwene Barthelemy, Luna Garret, Mathis Bernard

Join us for special cheese event screenings in partnership with Maison Vauron! Look for the cheese symbol in the schedule. For more information, check with your local cinema or visit frenchfilmfestival.co.nz

Hot on the heels of its two wins at this year's César Awards, and over one million admissions in France, the Cannes Youth Prize winner *Holy Cow* is set to take this year's Festival by storm!

Set in France's picturesque Jura region, renowned for its Comté cheese, the film follows the carefree 18-year-old

Totone. Accustomed to his teenage life of drinking and dancing, Totone suddenly finds himself the sole carer for his 7-year-old sister Claire (Luna Garret) after a devastating tragedy.

Struggling to make ends meet, Totone hatches a plan to follow in his family's cheesemaking footsteps, in the hope of winning a €30,000 Comté cheese prize. The only problem is, Totone knows nothing about making cheese... This heartfelt coming-of-age debut from Louise Courvoisier recently earned her the Best First Film César Award. The young cast (including Best Female Revelation César winner Maïwene Barthelemy) deliver touching performances that bring a raw authenticity to the film.



the stolen painting

LE TABLEAU VOLÉ

COMEDY, DRAMA | 91 MINUTES | M *Offensive language*

Directed by: Pascal Bonitzer

Starring: Alex Lutz, Léa Drucker, Nora Hamzawi, Louise Chevillotte, Alain Chamfort

Inspired by remarkable true events, acclaimed writer/director Pascal Bonitzer's sharp and hugely engrossing new dramedy *The Stolen Painting* follows a self-assured auctioneer whose professional and personal integrity is challenged by the discovery of a long-lost masterpiece.

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

Though highly sceptical, André travels to view the canvas with his ex-partner

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

Skilfully brought to life by an array of endearing and duplicitous characters, *The Stolen Painting* is a thrilling exploration of the often cynical world of art dealing and collecting, where the jaw-dropping prices aren't always related to the rarity of the object or the desire of potential customers.



BOLERO

BOLERO

BIOPIC, DRAMA | 121 MINUTES | PG

Directed by: Anne Fontaine

Starring: Raphaël Personnaz, Doria Tiller, Jeanne Balibar, Vincent Perez

Every 15 minutes, someone somewhere in the world plays Maurice Ravel's "Bolero"...

Raphaël Personnaz delivers an unforgettable performance as the titular composer, grappling with inner turmoil and artistic insecurity. Tasked by the eccentric dancer Ida Rubenstein (Jeanne Balibar) to craft a passionate and intoxicating score for her new ballet, Ravel finds himself creatively paralysed and marginalised by his contemporaries.

Seeking solace and inspiration, he leans on his confidantes: the pianist Marguerite Long (Emmanuelle Devos), his loyal friend Cipa (Vincent Perez), and Cipa's captivating sister, Misia

(Doria Tillier), for whom he harbors deep affection.

Against the lavish backdrop of 1920s Paris, Ravel must fight to redeem his raw musical genius, or risk being consumed by it completely...

From celebrated director Anne Fontaine (*Coco Before Chanel*, *The Innocents*), *Bolero* is a powerful exploration of Maurice Ravel's unique life, and his journey to complete the now iconic 17-minute composition.

Sumptuously staged and showcasing lavish performances, don't miss this stunning tribute to the lasting power of Ravel's masterpiece.



THE DIVINE

Sarah Bernhardt

SARAH BERNHARDT, LA DIVINE

HISTORICAL BIOPIC | 98 MINUTES | M Sex scenes & self-harm references

Directed by: Guillaume Nicloux

Starring: Sandrine Kiberlain, Laurent Lafitte, Amira Casar, Pauline Étienne

Experience the magnificent life of French actress Sarah Bernhardt, the first international star and an eternal icon, in all its dramatic glory – just as “La Divine” herself intended!

Set in the dizzying theatrical world of stage lights, opulent wealth and delicious scandals, Bernhardt is expertly brought to life by Sandrine Kiberlain (*November*) in this decadent biopic from director Guillaume Nicloux.

Shot amidst lavish and beautiful production design, but always focused on its protagonist, Nicloux's decadent biopic is an experience like no other.

Crossing paths with Alexandre Dumas, Sigmund Freud, Victor Hugo and more,

Bernhardt's fascinating story is told across three distinct time periods (1915, 1896 and 1886).

Uncover the life of the world's first celebrity in this vivid and compelling chronicle of a chameleonic actress who defined her generation.

“SHINES THE SPOTLIGHT ON A FIGURE AS ECCENTRIC AS SHE WAS VISIONARY, STILL REGARDED TODAY AS A LEGEND OF WORLD THEATER”

– *Sortir à Paris*



the déluge

LE DÉLUGE

HISTORICAL DRAMA | 101 MINUTES | M Sexual references

Directed by: Gianluca Jodice

Starring: Guillaume Canet, Mélanie Laurent, Aurore Broutin, Hugo Dillon

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

1792. The official Parisian residence of the king, the Tuileries Palace, has been stormed. Louis, Marie Antoinette and their children have been arrested and confined in the Tour du Temple, a mediaeval chateau in the city centre. Far from the splendour of Versailles, where the family and their retinue had lived until only a few years earlier, they are vulnerable for the first time in their lives. While the King naively tries to keep spirits high and manners intact,

his pragmatic and imperious wife is far more realistic about their predicament, and the destiny that likely awaits them...

Drawn from the diaries of Louis XVI's personal valet, this exceptionally crafted drama features not only marvellous production design and cinematography, but incredible costumes by twice Oscar-nominated designer Massimo Cantini Parrini, transporting the audience with its depiction of a period from which our modern world was born.

“IMPRESSIVE. LAURENT IS EXTRAORDINARY.”

– *Sortir à Paris*



Three Friends

TROIS AMIES

DRAMA, ROMANCE | 118 MINUTES | PG Sex scenes

Directed by: Emmanuel Mouret

Starring: Camille Cottin, Sara Forestier, India Hair, Damien Bonnard

Emmanuel Mouret, the award-winning director of *Love Affair(s)*, returns to contemporary stories of love, loss, and entanglement with effortless style.

Three Friends follows Alice (Camille Cottin, *Call My Agent!*), Rebecca (Sara Forestier), and Joan (India Hair, *Annie's Fire*), all going through major relationship crises at the same time.

Joan has fallen out of love with her husband Victor, and while Alice tries to reassure her, her own relationship has plateaued. Meanwhile Rebecca is in the thick of an affair... that happens to be with Alice's husband Eric.

When Joan decides to end her marriage, Victor suddenly goes missing.

Joan, Alice and Rebecca begin to find their charades unravelling. How much longer can the truth stay hidden?

Three friends, three lies, three truths. Weaving between funny and poignant, *Three friends* is a compelling story you won't want to miss!

**"CRISPLY PERCEPTIVE
SCREENPLAY AND
LIVELY, FLESHED-OUT
PERFORMANCES"**

- *Screen International*



Miss Violet

LOUISE VIOLET

HISTORICAL DRAMA | 108 MINUTES | M Sexual violence references

Directed by: Éric Besnard

Starring: Alexandra Lamy, Grégory Gadebois, Jérôme Kircher, Jérémy Lopez

From Éric Besnard (director of the previous Festival hits *Delicious* and *A Great Friend*), this historical drama offers an intimate look at rural life in the beautiful Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region.

In 1889, Parisian teacher Louise Violet (Alexandra Lamy), is sent to a small village to impose the free, compulsory and secular schooling of the French Republic.

Miss Violet is met with a hostile reception from the locals and their stern mayor Pierre Lecomte (Grégory Gadebois), fearful of change and apprehensive of anything that might distract their children from farm work. If Louise is to win the villagers over,

she'll have to speak their language... As tensions rise, confronting the villagers also means confronting herself. Louise may be the teacher, but maybe the village has something to teach her...

With rich period costuming and breathtaking vistas on display, *Miss Violet* is a compelling exploration of how tradition and progress can collide. A must-see for anyone who believes in the transformative power of education.

**"A LANDMARK FILM...
SURE TO MOVE AUDIENCES"**

- *Sortir à Paris*



HOW TO MAKE A KILLING

UN OURS DANS LE JURA

DARK COMEDY | 113 MINUTES | R16 *Violence & sex scenes*

Directed by: Franck Dubosc

Starring: Laure Calamy, Franck Dubosc, Benoit Poolvoerde, Joséphine de Meaux

Festival favourite Laure Calamy (*Antoinette in the Cevennes*, *Two Tickets to Greece*) is back!

In Franck Dubosc's dark crime comedy, married couple Cathy (Laure Calamy) and Michel (Frank Dubosc) lead a quiet life in the picturesque Jura mountains.

When a bear bursts out in front of Michel's car, accidentally killing two criminals and revealing illicit money in the process, their life takes an unpredictable turn, especially when they decide to cover up the incident and keep the money.

But their stumbling plans leads to an unexplained trail of confusion. More used to being honest than crooked,

Michel and Cathy's clumsy cover-up efforts soon start attracting attention.

With over one million admissions, *How to Make a Killing* is the third highest grossing French film of 2025 to date. Don't miss Laure Calamy at her best in this winning combination of dramatic suspense and unfolding comic disaster.

"WRITER-DIRECTOR DUBOSC PAYS HOMAGE TO THE COEN BROTHERS AND SPRINKLES IN A TYPICALLY GALLIC DOSE OF BLACK HUMOUR."

- *The Conversation*



THE FRENCH JOB

LES RÈGLES DE L'ART

COMEDY | 94 MINUTES | M *Offensive language*

Directed by: Dominique Baumard

Starring: Melvil Poupaud, Sofiane Zermani, Steve Tientcheu, Julia Piaton

Winner of the Special Jury Prize at l'Alpe d'Huez Film Festival 2025.

After the theft of the century, the madness begins...

On the night of May 19th, 2010, five paintings were stolen from the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris. The five artworks, from artists including Matisse, Modigliani and Picasso, were estimated to be worth more than 100 million euros.

While the paintings have never been recovered, this outrageous comedy tells a frenetic and madcap tale of what *could* have happened to these famous works.

Melvil Poupaud (*Jeanne du Barry*) plays Yonathan, whose monotonous life is turned upside down when he encounters Eric (Sofiane Zermani), a brash, smooth-talking con artist/fence.

When Eric hires Jo (Steve Tientcheu, *Neneh Superstar*), a skilled thief known as "The Spider Man of Paris", to steal the paintings from the Museum of Modern Art, the three men's lives are intertwined in an uncontrollable spiral.

Anchored by a star turn from Melvil Poupaud as the perpetually anxious watch expert turned in circles by a fast talking criminal, this wonderfully told story takes audiences on an entertaining ride through one of the most famous art heists of recent times.

TWISTS AND TURNS

TWISTS AND TURNS

Saint-Ex

SAINT-EXUPÉRY

DIRECTED BY:
Pablo Agüero

STARRING:
Louis Garrel
Vincent Cassel
Diane Kruger

"An adventure movie
with dreamlike
overtones"
- Cineuropa

BIOPIC, HISTORICAL EPIC | 98 MINUTES | M Violence

In 1930, the free-spirited Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (Louis Garrel, *The Innocent*) is a pilot for the French airmail service, flying alongside legendary aviator Henri Guillaumet (Vincent Cassel, *La Haine*). During one fateful journey, Guillaumet vanishes in the Andes. With the help of Guillaumet's wife, Noëlle (Diane Kruger, *Inglourious Basterds*), and driven by hope and unwavering determination, Saint-Exupéry embarks on a perilous quest to find his lost friend. Along the way, he discovers that his incredible imagination might be his greatest strength. The true story of the author behind the French classic *The Little Prince*.

WHEN FALL IS COMING

QUAND VIENT L'AUTOMNE

DRAMA | 102 MINUTES | M Offensive language

Premiering to rave reviews at the San Sebastián International Film Festival, where it won the Jury Prize for Best Screenplay, and Best Supporting Performance for Pierre Lottin, *When Fall is Coming* is an evocative drama from the acclaimed director François Ozon (*Everything Went Fine*). The film follows loving grandmother Michelle (Hélène Vincent, *The Extraordinary*) who enjoys her peaceful retirement in a small village in Burgundy. When her terse daughter Valérie (Ludivine Sagnier, *Swimming Pool*) drops off grandson Lucas for the school holidays, nothing goes to plan... Book now for this "elegant game of bait-and-switch" (Variety).

DIRECTED BY:
François Ozon

STARRING:
Hélène Vincent
Josiane Balasko
Ludivine Sagnier



Donostia Zinemaldia
Festival de San Sebastián
OFFICIAL SELECTION



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COMEDY | 114 MINUTES | **M** *Offensive language*

Directed by: Manon Briand

Starring: Julie Le Breton, Édouard Baer, Élodie Fontaine, Sylvain Marcel

Near a village on the border between Quebec and the United States, customs officer Sonia confiscates kitchen knives and gourmet food from the charming French chef, Victor.

Meanwhile, Sonia's daughter Lili-Beth has entered a "Mini-Chefs" competition, where she seems to be the underdog with no chance of winning. Perhaps Sonia can convince Victor to help her?

However, community tensions are bubbling beneath the surface of this rural town, and the unlikely team of Sonia, Victor and Lili-Beth will have to bring together the entire village to put aside their differences and get a taste of what is essential.

Directed by Manon Briand, this delicious comedy with mouth-watering dishes and beautiful Canadian scenery will leave you hungry for more...

**"ACTED WITH SUBTLETY
AND DIRECTED WITH
FINESSE... HAS A CHARMING
TIMELESSNESS AND AN
APPEAL FOR ALL AGES."**

- BMA Mag

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

RIVIERA REVENGE

N'AVOUE JAMAIS

COMEDY | 94 MINUTES | **M** *Offensive language & nudity*

François (André Dussollier, *Everything Went Fine*) and Annie (Sabine Azéma) have been married for 50 years, and are happily enjoying their retirement. While decluttering the attic one day, François discovers a shocking secret - a stash of love letters revealing his wife's affair from 40 years ago. François is faced with a tough decision: Does he take the high road and let bygones be bygones? Or does he call in favours from his past life as a French general to track down the man who has humiliated him? Deciding on the latter, François heads to Nice - where Annie's ex-lover Boris now lives - for some French Riviera-style revenge!

DIRECTED BY:
Ivan Calbérac

STARRING:
André Dussollier
Sabine Azéma

"A comedy with heart, anchored by two veterans of French cinema"
- *Irresistible*



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THE SCAMMERS

A L'ANCIENNE

COMEDY | 89 MINUTES | M *Offensive language & sexual references*

Directed by: Hervé Mimran

Starring: Didier Bourdon, Gérard Darmon, Chantal Lauby, Noémie Chicheportiche

One island, 40 inhabitants, two scammers.

On a picturesque island in Brittany, lifelong friends Jean-Jean (Didier Bourdon) and Henri (Gérard Darmon, *Employee of the Month*) find their quiet existence disrupted when one of their fellow villagers wins millions in the national lottery.

The pair hatch a plan to befriend the lucky local and hopefully share in the winnings... only to find the winner has died of shock - ticket in hand!

Jean-Jean and Henri must devise another scheme. In order to claim the prize, the friends will simply steal the unlucky winner's identity...

However, the pair soon realise that to fool the lottery officials in such a small town, they'll have to convince the villagers - who all want a piece of the pie - to back their daring plan.

Jean-Jean and Henri are out to prove that you're never too old to raise a little hell in this crowd-pleasing comedy, a remake of the Irish classic *Waking Ned Devine*.

With a winning blend of absurdity and heart, you'll fall in love with the stunning sights of Brittany and its colourful characters. This charming story shows what a community can achieve when they come together (yes, even fraud).

LOVE BOAT

LA PETITE VADROUILLE



DIRECTED BY:
Bruno Podalydès

STARRING:
Sandrine Kiberlain
Daniel Auteuil

"A cinematic
adventure that's
both hilarious and
touching"
- *Sortir à Paris*

COMEDY | 97 MINUTES | PG *Offensive language*

Underpaid and overworked, Justine (Sandrine Kiberlain, *November*) is sick of the grind. When her pretentious boss Franck (Daniel Auteuil, *Farewell Mr. Haffmann*) asks her to put together a luxurious romantic getaway for him and a mystery "woman of his dreams", Justine has an idea... Given free creative control and €14,000 cash up front, Justine and her unemployed husband Albin (Denis Podalydès, *The President's Wife*) devise the perfect solution: they'll give Franck their own version of a "love boat" experience, and pocket a portion of the profits! The couple gather a motley crew of friends to pull off this grand plan. What could go wrong?

THIS LIFE OF MINE

MA VIE MA GUEULE



COMEDY, DRAMA | 100 MINUTES | M *Offensive language & adult themes*

Winner of the 2024 Cannes Film Festival SACD Best Screenplay award and opening night film of the Director's Fortnight section, *This Life of Mine* is a witty and moving take on midlife crises from late director Sophie Fillières. The film follows Barberie "Barbie" Bichette (Agnès Jaoui), once a devoted mother, now struggling with the challenges of her chaotic home/work life. On the brink of her 55th birthday, Barbie must decide whether to conform to society's dismissive view of aging women or break the mould. What follows is a funny yet poignant journey of self-discovery, as Barbie escapes to the Scottish Highlands to reclaim her identity.

DIRECTED BY:
Sophie Fillières

STARRING:
Agnès Jaoui
Angelina Jolie
Édouard Sulpice

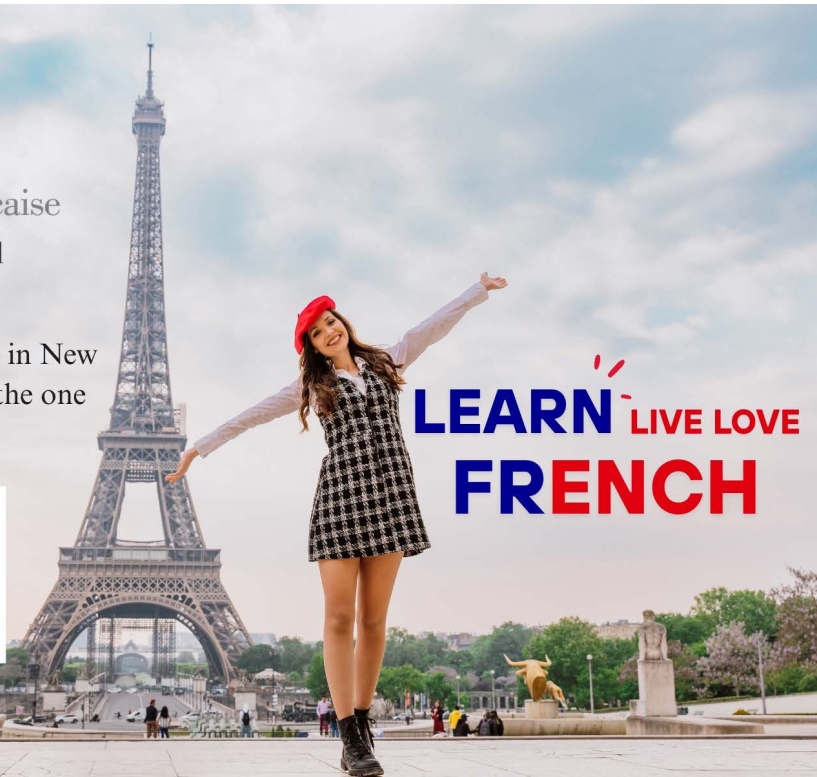
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FAMILY THERAPY

JAMAIS SANS MON PSY



COMEDY | 86 MINUTES | M *Offensive language & suicide*

The brilliant therapist Doctor Béranger (Christian Clavier, *Employee of the Month*) has had a very successful career - with the exception of one client, the desperately needy Damien Leroy (Baptiste Lecaplain). In an attempt to finally reach a breakthrough on Damien's relentless clinginess, Béranger convinces him that true love will cure him. The plan initially seems to have worked, until on a family getaway Béranger's daughter reveals she has a new boyfriend... none other than Damien Leroy. Béranger's idyllic holiday has suddenly turned into his worst nightmare. This high-energy slapstick comedy will have you in stitches!

DIRECTED BY:
Arnaud Lemort

STARRING:
Christian Clavier
Baptiste Lecaplain
Claire Chust
Christiana Real
Rayane Bensetti

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 | 29 May - 15 June

Cathay Cinemas
27 Hobson Avenue
Kerikeri 0230
09 407 4428
cathaycinemas.co.nz

Whangārei | 12 - 25 June

Event Cinemas Whangārei
18 James Street
Whangārei 0110
09 470 1948
eventcinemas.co.nz

Matakana | 29 May - 15 June

Matakana Cinemas
2 Matakana Valley Road
Matakana 0985
09 423 0218
matakanacinemas.co.nz

Whitianga | 29 May - 15 June

Mercury Twin Cinemas
1 Lee Street
Whitianga 3510
07 867 1001
mercurytwincinemas.com

Tauranga | 29 May - 18 June

Luxe Cinemas Tauranga
21 Devonport Road
Tauranga 3110
07 577 0445
luxecinemas.nz

New Plymouth | 12 - 29 June

Len Lye Cinema
42 Queen Street
New Plymouth 4310
06 759 6060
govettbrewster.com/cinema

Whanganui | 29 May - 15 June

Embassy 3 Cinema
34 Victoria Avenue
Whanganui 4500
06 345 7958
embassy3.co.nz

Masterton | 29 May - 15 June

The Screening Room
435 Queen Street
Masterton 5810
06 378 6191
thescreeningroom.co.nz

VENUE INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Tākaka | 28 May - 08 June

The Village Theatre
32 Commercial Street
Tākaka 7110
03 525 8453
villagetheatre.org.nz

Blenheim | 05 - 22 June

Event Cinemas Blenheim
4 Kinross Street
Blenheim 7201
03 577 8273
eventcinemas.co.nz

Wānaka | 29 May - 15 June

Cinema Paradiso
72 Brownston Street
Wānaka 9434
03 443 1505
paradiso.nz

Queenstown | 29 May - 15 June

Silky Otter Cinemas Queenstown
12 Market Street
Remarkables Park
Queenstown 9300
silkyotter.co.nz

Dunedin | 12 - 25 June

Rialto Cinemas Dunedin
11 Moray Place
Central Dunedin
Dunedin 9016
03 474 2200
rialto.co.nz

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 complimentaries, 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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