FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL UK 32

EARLY BIRD

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024



Early Bird Selection

With the support of

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Love in times of conflict: Vincent Lacoste and Vicky Krieps in *Faithful* by Hélier Cisterne (Photo UniFrance)

Dear programmers

In tandem with our colleagues at IFCinéma in Paris and with the support of Film Hub Scotland, the organisers of the 2024 French Film Festival have compiled an **Early Bird Selection** which is now available for booking – directly with the Festival. The titles (all films in French with English subtitles) will also form part of the Festival's main programme when full details are revealed later in the year.

The formats and facilitation fees are indicated in the introduction to the email – Blu-ray, DCP or direct download. Titles can be reserved for the period 19 October to 14 December 2024 inclusive. The Festival also will supply supporting material including hi-res images, trailers and press packs where available.

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With the support of Film Hub Scotland, BFI FAN, The National Lottery, Screen Scotland / Sgrìn Alba, IFcinéma, Institut Français

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Cover image: **Adèle Exarchopoulos who appears in *All Your Faces*. Photographed by Marie Rouge for UniFrance**

Early Bird Selection



Age of Panic
La Bataille de Solférino

(N/C 15+)

Ten years before *Anatomy of a Fall* catapulted her around the globe, Justine Triet made an impression with her first feature. During a time of great political change, a frazzled young mother tries to keep it together on the home front. Laetitia (Laetitia Dosch), a news reporter off to cover the 2012 French presidential elections, leaves her daughters in the care of a hapless babysitter (Marc-Antoine Vaugeois) with strict instructions to keep them away from Vincent (Vincent Macaigne), her ex-husband and their father. He enlists a neighbour to negotiate a divorce agreement with Laetitia – while she's out reporting. Triet pits micro social problems against the macro body politic of France, all within the frame of one manic day in Paris. Nominated for Best First Film in the 2014 César Awards.

Cast **Laetitia Dosch, Vincent Macaigne, Arthur Harari, Virgil Vernier, Marc-Antoine Vaugeois, Jeane Ara-Bellanger, Liv Harari, Emilie Brisavoine**

Director **Justine Triet** | 2014 | France | 90 mins
French with English subtitles

Triet brilliantly orchestrates the intersection of documentary and fiction. *Variety*

Watch the trailer



All Your Faces
Je verrai toujours vos visages (N/C 15+)

Since 2014, France's Restorative Justice programme offers a safe space for dialogue between offenders and victims – supported by professionals and volunteers. Among the participants are Chloé, a victim of sexual assault; Grégoire, Nawelle, and Sabine, victims of burglary and snatching; while Nassim, Issa, and Thomas are offenders, convicted of violent robberies. In this emotional and difficult journey, they must overcome resentment to find solace and forgiveness, and perhaps, at the end of the road, some of them might even find healing. Adèle Exarchopoulos, won Best Supporting Actress César Award.

Cast **Gilles Lellouche, Adèle Exarchopoulos, Birane Ba, Leïla Bekhti, Dali Benssalah, Elodie Bouchez, Miou-Miou, Jean-Pierre Darroussin**

Director **Jeanne Herry** | 2023 | France | 118 mins
French with English subtitles

Herry is brilliant at taking hold of social issues and turning them into works of fiction... an ideal blend of intelligence and emotion. *CineEurope*

Watch the trailer

Early Bird Selection



Faithful
De nos frères blessés

(N/C 15+)

With his second feature, writer-director Hélier Cisterne recreates the tragic true story of a young communist worker devoted to the struggle for Algerian independence. He became the only Algerian of European background to be executed as a political prisoner by the French authorities during Algeria's War of Independence. He left behind a loving wife and adoptive son. Moving smoothly between Paris and Algiers, Cisterne plunges us into the heart of a conflict that continues to resonate in contemporary France, North Africa, and beyond, providing a chilling reminder of colonial tyranny, as well as a hopeful example of a man who chose humanity over politics and profit.

Cast **Vincent Lacoste, Vicky Krieps, Jules Langlade**

Director **Hélier Cisterne** | 2022 | France | 95 mins
French with English subtitles

Passionate script... and the two main actors exude conviction. *Positif*

Watch the trailer



Ibrahim (N/C 15+)

For the first time in his career as an actor, Samir Guesmi delivers both in front of and behind the camera with a film about father-son relationships that is filled with accuracy and simplicity. Ibrahim (Abdel Bendaher) divides his time between his serious and reserved father Ahmed (Samir Guesmi), who prepares shellfish at a famous brasserie, and his older friend Achille (Rabah Nait Oufella) from their technical college who excels at getting into trouble. Ahmed's dreams of regaining his dignity are shattered when he is left to pay the price after a robbery committed by his son goes wrong. Their relationship becomes strained and Ibrahim decides to risk everything to put things right. **Grand Jury Prize at the Festival Premiers Plans in Angers and Best Film and Best Directing at Angoulême Francophone Film Festival.**

Cast **Samir Guesmi, Abdelrani Bendaher, Luàna Bajrami, Rabah Nait Oufella**

Director **Samir Guesmi** | 2020 | France | 79 mins
French with English subtitles

A first film of great delicacy about adolescence, set in a part of Paris rarely seen in cinema. *L'Humanité*

Watch the trailer

Early Bird Selection



Junkyard Dog
Chien de la casse (N/C 15+)

Childhood pals Dog and Mirales live in a small village in the south of France and spend most of the time hanging around in the streets. To kill time, Mirales usually teases Dog mercilessly but this autumn is different when Dog meets Elsa and romance blossoms. Jealousy eats away at Mirales opening up a gulf between the two friends. The past will have to be left behind to allow each to grow and define himself. Set amidst the languor of rural France, this social coming-of-age story provides a touching and comic portrait of friendship driven by the performances of Anthony Bajon and Raphaël Quenard. Seven César award nominations.

Cast **Raphaël Quenard, Anthony Bajon, Galatea Bellugi**

Director **Jean-Baptiste Durand** | 2022 | France | 93 mins
French with English subtitles

A funny and touching chronicle, perfectly acted.
Voici

Watch the trailer
Director interview



The Mountain
La Montagne (N/C 15+)

Set almost entirely on the snowy peaks and rock faces of the Mont Blanc massif above the town of Chamonix, this is ostensibly the story of a mild-mannered Paris-based French engineer sent on a job in the Alps who, apparently on a whim then quits his employment, pitches his tent amidst the glaciers, and feels no desire to return to civilisation. Stunning Alpine photography sets the background for a delicate love story nestling at the heart of the film. Director Thomas Salvador also gives a muted performance of a man who is attempting to lose himself in his surroundings.

Cast **Thomas Salvador, Louise Bourgoin, Martine Chevallier, Laurent Poitrenaux, Andranic Manet**

Director **Thomas Salvador** | 2022 | France | 115 mins
French with English subtitles

A film with a shy and sly sense of humour.
Screen Daily

Watch the trailer

Early Bird Selection



No Dogs or Italians Allowed

Interdit aux chiens et aux Italiens (N/C 12+)

In a blend of tragedy and comedy, Alain Ughetto portrays the harsh conditions of an Italian mountain village. The men of the family must do seasonal work in the French Alps or fight in colonial and world wars, while the women and children work in the fields. When the Fascists come to power in Italy, the Ughettos decide to emigrate to the neighbouring country. The beautiful stop-motion technique strikes a balance between heart-rending moments and endearing nuances, coupled with a necessary dose of humour. *No Dogs or Italians Allowed* has won several international film awards, including a European Film Award for Best Animated Feature Film and the Jury Prize at the Annecy Film Festival.

Director **Alain Ughetto** | 2022 | France / Italy | 71 mins
French & Italian with English subtitles

Alain Ughetto traces his family history in this charming, personal second feature animation. *Screen Daily*

Watch the trailer



Rise

En corps (N/C 15+)

A talented ballet dancer's life is turned upside down – first by an injury and then when she catches her boyfriend cheating on her with her understudy. Élise (played by Marion Barbeau) determines to find a path to physical and emotional recovery, travelling from Paris to Brittany. There she embraces the artistic freedom of contemporary dance in an ensemble run by esteemed choreographer Hofesh Shechter (playing himself) and finds new ways to reinvent herself. A feel-good treat and a firm French Film Festival favourite, back by popular request.

Cast **Marion Barbeau, Hofesh Shechter, Denis Podalydès, Pio Marmaï, François Civil, Muriel Robin**

Director **Cédric Klapisch** | 2022 | France / Belgium | 117 mins
French with English subtitles

Star-making turn from an acting newcomer: ballet-trained Paris Opera principal Marion Barbeau. *Los Angeles Times*

Watch the trailer

Early Bird Docus



Image: **Napoléon seen by Abel Gance © La Cinémathèque française**

Abel Gance and His Napoléon

Abel Gance et son Napoléon (N/C 12+)

This documentary focuses on the making of the 235-minute, silent epic *Napoléon* by director/writer/actor Abel Gance. *Napoléon* showcased Gance's talents with the camera, his use of multiple-images (like a split screen), and his handling of crowded action scenes – all brought to the fore in this documentary by Nelly Kaplan, who became his assistant. Kaplan used vintage footage, such as Gance filming the famous snowball fight at the Brienne military school and still photographs and excerpts from Gance's production diaries. *Napoléon* (the first part) was restored most recently for screening at this year's 77th Cannes Film Festival and the "new" version is showing in its entirety in various summer festivals with music by 250 musicians from Radio France.

Director **Nelly Kaplan** | 1985 | France | 60 mins
French with English subtitles

Every Abel Gance visual storytelling innovation on dazzling display. *Letterboxd*

Watch the trailer

From Kevin Brownlow's 2016 British Film Institute restoration.



Each and Every Moment

De chaque instant (N/C 15+)

Every year, thousands of students in France begin training in nursing care. After being accepted by the Institut de Formation en soins infirmiers, their studies consist of courses in theory, practical exercises and service in hospitals. It is a difficult and intensive training course during which they gain extensive knowledge and skills, master practical processes and prepare themselves to take on heavy responsibilities. The film follows the ups and downs of a training period in which often very young people are confronted with human frailty, suffering, disease and the fissures of body and soul. It talks to us of ourselves and our own humanity.

Director **Nicolas Philibert** | 2018 | France | 105 mins
French with English subtitles

The various and diverse characters on screen give the film an energy and zest... *Cineuropa*

Watch the trailer


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