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NOVEMBER 13TH-24TH 2019

IFI FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 13TH-24TH 2019

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BOOKING INFORMATION

Tickets cost €11.50 each, except for the opening film which includes a post-screening reception and costs €15.

Packages: €50 for 5 films. €90 for 10 films. Both packages exclude the opening film.

Free list suspended for IFI French Film Festival.

Membership: is required for all films. Daily membership costs €1.50 and annual membership just €35. Annual Membership entitles the bearer to discounts on screenings, free preview screenings of selected films throughout the year, one complimentary ticket and a host of other benefits.

Box Office
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Irish Film Institute

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Festival Director:
Marie-Pierre Richard

Programme Notes:
Marie-Pierre Richard (MPR)
David O'Mahony (DOM)
Alicia McGivern (AMG)

Cover Sibyl

DESIGN: VERSO.IE

SCHEDULE

WED 13 OPENING FILM

20.00 Portrait of a Lady on Fire
(Portrait de la jeune fille en feu)
Followed by Reception

THURS 14

16.00 The Invisibles (Les invisibles)
18.10 Someone, Somewhere (Deux moi)
+ Q&A with Cédric Klapisch
20.45 La Belle Époque

FRI 15

16.00 Farewell to the Night (L'adieu à la nuit)
18.15 Oh Mercy! (Roubaix, une lumière)
20.40 Lullaby (Chanson douce)

SAT 16

13.30 Danger Ahead (Classe tous risques)
+ Intro by Dr. Douglas Smith
13.40 Burning Ghost (Vif-argent)
15.50 Sibyl
18.00 Arab Blues (Un divan à Tunis)
+ Q&A with Manele Labidi Labbé
20.30 Happy Birthday (Fête de famille)
+ Q&A with Vincent Macaigne

SUN 17

13.15 Who you think I am (Celle que vous croyez)
13.30 The Things of Life (Les choses de la vie)
15.20 La Belle Époque
17.40 Pure as Snow (Blanche comme neige)
+ Q&A with Vincent Macaigne
20.20 Someone, Somewhere (Deux moi)

MON 18

18.15 Farewell to the Night (L'adieu à la nuit)
20.30 Alice and the Mayor (Alice et le maire)

TUES 19

16.00 Joan of Arc (Jeanne)
18.20 Happy Birthday (Fête de famille)
20.30 Sibyl
Alliance Française Screening

WED 20

16.30 Yves Saint Laurent: The Last Collections
(Celebration)
18.10 Particles (Les particules)
20.15 Pure as Snow (Blanche comme neige)

THURS 21

16.10 Who you think I am (Celle que vous croyez)
18.20 Oh, les filles! (Haut les filles)
+ Q&A with Bayon
20.45 The Invisibles (Les invisibles)

FRI 22

16.10 Carwash (Braquer poitiers) +
The Birth, The Life, The Death of Christ
(La Naissance, la vie et la mort du Christ)
18.15 Amanda
20.30 Matthias and Maxime

SAT 23

13.30 Vincent, François, Paul and the Others
(Vincent, François, Paul et les autres)
16.00 The Girl with a Bracelet (La fille au bracelet)
18.10 Alice and the Mayor (Alice et le maire)
20.20 Portrait of a Lady on Fire
(Portrait de la jeune fille en feu)

SUN 24

11.00 Ailo's Journey
(Aïlo: Une odyssee en laponie)
13.20 A Heart in Winter (Un coeur en hiver)
14.00 Be Natural: The Untold Story of Alice Guy-Blaché
+ intro by Dr. Tony Tracy
15.40 Amanda
18.00 Lullaby (Chanson douce)
20.00 On a Magical Night (Chambre 212)

PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE

(PORTRAIT DE LA JEUNE FILLE EN FEU)

GALA OPENING



Wednesday 13th: 20.00

Saturday 23rd: 20.20

Director: Céline Sciamma

120 mins • France • 2019 • Subtitled • Digital

Winner Best Screenplay and Queer Palm Prizes, Cannes International Film Festival 2019.

The screening on Wednesday 13th will be followed by a wine reception.

18th century France: Marianne (Noémie Merlant) travels to an island in Brittany having been commissioned by an Italian countess (Valeria Golino) to make a portrait of her daughter Héloïse (Adèle Haenel) for a prospective husband. However, Héloïse has not consented, not wishing to be married. Thus Marianne must pretend to be a walking companion by day, secretly executing her portrait by night. Gradually the two women connect and a subtle seduction of stolen glances, delicate touches and conversation gives way to burning desire. **MPR**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Following *Girlhood* (our festival opening film in 2014), writer-director Céline Sciamma revisits themes of identity, gender and self-discovery.



Thursday 14th: 16.00

Thursday 21st: 20.45

Director: Louis-Julien Petit

102 mins • France • 2019 • Subtitled • Digital

INVISIBLES

(LES INVISIBLES)

L'Envol, an urban shelter for homeless women in northern France, offers a warm shower, a hot meal, a little camaraderie and some career guidance. Threatened with closure by local government, the workers have three months to find an alternative for the women before the doors are shut. The combative, energetic Manu (Corinne Masiero) and Audrey (Audrey Lamy) refuse to give up, secretly keeping the shelter open. Adapted from the book by Claire Lajeunie, this heart-warming comedy follows their daily routine as social workers help these women in difficulty get through each day with confidence and dignity, giving them hope. **MPR**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Writer/director Louis-Julien Petit delivers a heartfelt, luminous epic comedy.



Thursday 14th: 18.10

Sunday 17th: 20.20

Director: Cédric Klapisch

110 mins • France • 2019 • Subtitled • Digital

SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE

(DEUX MOI)

30-somethings Rémy (François Civil) and Mélanie (Ana Girardot) both live alone in Paris. They take the same Métro, shop in the same grocery store, and go home to their apartments in two adjacent buildings, yet they have never met. Collaborating with young cinematographer Élodie Tahtane, Klapisch delivers a stylised, nuanced film with vibrant performances by both leads and a strong supporting cast of Camille Cottin, François Berléand and Simon Abkarian. An examination of urban isolation, it explores what it means for a young generation to be single in the age of social media. **MPR**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Cédric Klapisch returns to Paris to film this tender before-love story, fondly recalling his delightful early film *When the Cat's Away*.

The screening on Thursday 14th will be followed by a Q+A with Cédric Klapisch.



Thursday 14th: 20.45

Sunday 17th: 15.20

Director: Nicolas Bedos

115 mins • France • 2019 • Subtitled • Digital

Official Selection, Out of Competition, Cannes International Film Festival 2019; BFI London Film Festival 2019; Toronto International Film Festival 2019.

LA BELLE ÉPOQUE

Victor (Daniel Auteuil), a disillusioned sexagenarian, watches helplessly as his marriage falls apart. When Antoine (Guillaume Canet), a rising entrepreneur and family friend offers him the chance to use a new service that will allow him to get transported back to any era of his choice, he opts to return to his first meeting with his wife (Fanny Ardant). This witty look at enduring love and memory as it is transformed over the course of a lifetime is served brilliantly by the fascinating and poignant turns of icons of French cinema, Ardant and Auteuil. **MPR**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: A most thoroughly entertaining romantic comedy, whip-smart and staggeringly clever.



Friday 15th: 16.00

Monday 18th: 18.15

Director: André Téchiné

104 mins • France, Germany • 2018 • Subtitled

Digital
Official Selection, Out of Competition, Berlin International Film Festival 2019.

FAREWELL TO THE NIGHT

(L'ADIEU À LA NUIT)

Muriel (Catherine Deneuve) is overjoyed that her grandson Alex (Kasey Mottet Klein) will stay on her farm and riding school in the Pyrenees for a few days before he travels to Canada. Concerned by his curious behaviour, she discovers that he has been lying to her; Alex and his girlfriend Lila (Oulaya Amamra), who helps Muriel on the farm, have taken up the cause of Islamic fundamentalism, and are preparing to go to Syria to become jihadis. Distraught, Muriel must act, and she enlists the help of reformed jihadi, Fouad (Kamel Labroudi), to reason with Alex. **DOM**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: André Téchiné's intense thriller and family drama brings to the fore the very current and sensitive topics of religious radicalisation amongst young people.



OH MERCY!

(ROUBAIX, UNE LUMIÈRE)

It's Christmas in Roubaix, a crime-ridden town in France, where the local police force is kept occupied by a string of crimes from petty fights to rape. When an old woman is found murdered in her bed, it leads to an investigation into the two women (exquisite performances from Léa Seydoux & Sara Forestier) living down the street who initially raised the alarm. Desplechin's (our guest of honour at the 2013 festival) drama is part social realism, part thriller, with a rich orchestral score by Grégoire Hetzel that heightens the tension adding a mystical and spiritual dimension. **MPR**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Desplechin's fictional adaptation of a TV documentary about the central police station in his hometown Roubaix is captivating throughout.

Friday 15th: 18.15
Director: Arnaud Desplechin
120 mins • France • 2019 • Subtitled • Digital
Official Competition, Cannes International Film Festival 2019.



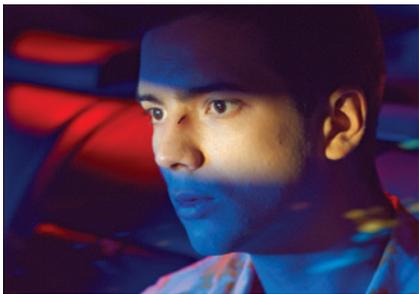
LULLABY

(CHANSON DOUCE)

Lullaby centres around Myriam (Leïla Bekhti), a lawyer and mother of two young children, who decides to return to work despite her husband's (Antoine Reinartz) reservations. After an extensive search, the couple find the perfect nanny, Louise (Karin Viard), who quickly wins the children's affection, occupying a key place in the family home. Gradually they fall into the trap of mutual dependence, but Louise soon displays increasingly odd behaviour and the harmony is brutally shattered, eventually leading to tragedy. **MPR**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Directed by Lucie Borleteau (*Fidelio: Alice's Journey*) this adaptation of Leïla Slimani's novel *Chanson Douce*, a worldwide bestseller and winner of France's most prestigious literary prize, the Prix Goncourt (2016).

Friday 15th: 20.40
Sunday 24th: 18.00
Director: Lucie Borleteau
95 mins • France • 2019 • Subtitled • Digital



BURNING GHOST

(VIF-ARGENT)

Juste (Thimotée Robart) wakes up at night in a park. He wanders the streets of Paris until morning like he is invisible. Only one man, who collects people's last memories before guiding them to an afterlife, is able to see him. Ten years pass, and Juste, walking the streets of Paris, meets Agathe (Judith Chemla), who tells him how they met one night ten years ago and kissed passionately only for him to disappear the next day. Is this a second chance? Is she just a figment of his imagination, or he of hers? **MPR**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Stéphane Batut's debut feature and winner of the prestigious Prix Jean Vigo is a romantic, dreamlike poem about love and death.

Saturday 16th: 13.40
Director: Stéphane Batut
106 mins • France • 2019 • Subtitled • Digital
Winner Prix Jean Vigo 2019, ACID Selection,
Cannes International Film Festival 2019.



SIBYL

F
RATED

Virginie Efira immerses herself in the role of Sibyl, a psychotherapist and amateur writer. When new patient Margot (Adèle Exarchopoulos), an up-and-coming actress, confesses to a tumultuous affair with her lead actor, Igor (Gaspard Ulliel), who also happens to be the ex-partner of the director (Sandra Hüller, *Toni Erdmann*), it's all too tempting, and Sybil borrows the scenario for her writing. It opens a Pandora's Box for Sibyl who plunges into a dizzying abyss of contradictions and manipulations, haunted by memories of her past. **MPR**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: This stylish psycho-comedy hybrid from Justine Triet (*In Bed with Victoria*, our festival opening film in 2016) brilliantly depicts a woman in crisis through a mesh of interconnecting stories.

Saturday 16th: 15.50
Tuesday 19th: 20.30
Director: Justine Triet
99 mins • France • 2019 • Subtitled • Digital
Official Competition, Cannes International Film Festival 2019; Toronto International Film Festival 2019.

Tickets for Alliance Française members for the screening on Tuesday 19th will cost €10.



ARAB BLUES

(UN DIVAN À TUNIS)

Having lived many years in Paris, Selma (Golshifteh Farahani, *About Elly*, *Paterson*) returns to Tunisia to open a psychotherapy practice - a profession in its infancy in the country - based in a rundown rooftop apartment in her aunt and uncle's building. Business booms... much to the surprise of the family who can't understand why she left Paris. While reflecting a troubled modern-day Tunisia in the wake of the 2011 revolution, Selma is always dazzling and good humoured, whether faced with a client, or the intimidating portrait of Freud that hangs upon her wall. **MPR**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: French-Tunisian writer-director Manele Labidi Labbé's terrific debut is a sophisticated, colourful comedy about homecoming and taboos.

Saturday 16th: 18.00
Director: Manele Labidi Labbé
88 mins • France, Tunisia • 2019 • Subtitled • Digital
Official Selection, Venice Days Section, Venice International Film Festival; Toronto International Film Festival; BFI London International Film Festival 2019.

This screening be followed by a Q&A with director Manele Labidi Labbé.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

(FÊTE DE FAMILLE)

Andréa (Catherine Deneuve in a beautifully nuanced performance) reunites her children at the family home to celebrate her 70th birthday. Joined by her two sons, Vincent (Cédric Kahn, festival guest of honour 2018) and Romain (Vincent Macaigne), what should be a nice get-together in an idyllic setting quickly escalates from tension to conflict. The arrival of Andréa's daughter, the electric Claire (Emmanuelle Bercot), who three years after vanishing unexpectedly returns, reuniting with her teenage daughter Emma, whom Andréa has raised. Tensions heighten in this comedy-drama as family neuroses test how deep their love runs. **MPR**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Cédric Kahn gathers a stellar ensemble cast to deliver a fascinating character piece, expertly oscillating between comedy and drama with crisp, insightful dialogue. **The screening on Saturday 16th will be followed by a Q&A with actor Vincent Macaigne.**

Saturday 16th: 20.30
Tuesday 19th: 18.20
Director: Cédric Kahn
101 mins • France • 2019 • Subtitled • Digital
Official Competition, Venice International Film Festival 2019; BFI London Film Festival 2019.



WHO YOU THINK I AM

(CELLE QUE VOUS CROYEZ)

To spy on her lover Ludo, a photographer many years her junior, Claire (Juliet Binoche), a fifty-year-old university professor and single mother of two teenagers, creates a fake profile on social media where she masquerades as Clara, a beautiful twenty-four-year-old. She begins an online relationship with Ludo's assistant, Alex (Francois Civil), and as their flirtations intensify, she increasingly succumbs to the allure of this parallel world, titillated by the opportunity to be 'young again'. Framed through conversations with her therapist, Claire's deceptions lead her towards dangerous territory. **DOM**

Sunday 17th: 13.15
Thursday 21st: 16.10
Director: Safy Nebbou

101 mins • France, Belgium • 2019 • Digital
Berlinale Special Gala Presentation, Berlin International Film Festival 2019.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Adapted from Camille Laurens's novel, this vertiginous drama, featuring a disquieting and alluring Juliette Binoche, offers more than one twist.



PURE AS SNOW

(BLANCHE COMME NEIGE)



Maud (Isabelle Huppert), stepmother to the beautiful young Claire (Lou de Laâge), is consumed by jealousy when she discovers that her own lover (Charles Berling) has fallen for her stepdaughter. Huppert's brilliantly complex and ambiguous 'Wicked Queen' is equal parts attractive and diabolical, while a terrific male cast is led by Benoît Poelvoorde, Vincent Macaigne and Damien Bonnard. All the classic elements are in place – the red apples, the woods, the animals, the house in the forest, the number 7 – while a thoroughly modern Snow White discovers sensual and romantic pleasures. **MPR**

Sunday 17th: 17.40
Wednesday 20th: 20.15
Director: Anne Fontaine

112 mins • France • 2019 • Subtitled • Digital
Tribeca Film Festival New York, 2019; Shanghai International Film Festival 2019.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Prolific director Anne Fontaine (*The Innocents*, 2016 festival) reimagines the tale of *Snow White* as a modern quirky fantasy, with playful references to Hitchcock.

The screening on Sunday 17th will be followed by a Q&A with actor Vincent Macaigne.



ALICE AND THE MAYOR

(ALICE ET LE MAIRE)

The Mayor of Lyon, Paul Theraneau (the always fabulous Fabrice Luchini) remains completely devoted to serving his city and his country but his knack for generating new ideas has evaporated. Enter low-key 30 year-old academic Alice Heimann (Anaïs Demoustier), a brilliant philosopher, who is hired to give him new impetus. Their interactions lead to a funny and touching exploration of the way we currently live and the similarities (and differences) between two generations. A talky in the best possible way, this is a classy but accessible piece of entertainment which also gives food for thought.

Monday 18th: 20.30
Saturday 23rd: 18.10
Director: Nicolas Pariser

105 mins • France • 2019 • Subtitled • Digital
Winner Best European Film, Europa Cinemas Label Award, Director's Fortnight, Cannes International Film Festival 2019.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Terrific dialogue is at the heart of this smart, lively comedy, with fascinating glimpses into the life of a public figure and the bureaucracy surrounding him.



JOAN OF ARC

(JEANNE)

In the early 15th century, as France and England contest the French throne, young Joan (Lise Leplat Prudhomme) leads the army of the King of France, believing God has chosen her. When captured, the Church puts her on trial for heresy. Refusing to accept the accusations, Joan stays true to her mission. Based on the play *Jeanne d'Arc* (1897) by Charles Péguy, and inspired by the 'Gothic verticality' of Amiens cathedral, and the music of singer-songwriter Christophe, this is no historical retelling but an unconventional take on the vision of the interior world of Joan.

Tuesday 19th: 16.00
Director: Bruno Dumont

137 mins • France • 2019 • Subtitled • Digital
Winner Special Jury Prize, Un Certain Regard, Cannes International Film Festival; Busan International Film Festival 2019.

MPR

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Dumont's sparse and thrilling film evokes the mystery of Joan of Arc's power, the confusion in her heart, and her vocation from the heavens.



YVES SAINT LAURENT: THE LAST COLLECTIONS

(CELEBRATION)

Moving between workshop and catwalk backstage, from sketches to final collections, Yves Saint Laurent is captured at the twilight of his career, frail yet still vibrant. Co-founder Pierre Bergé, meanwhile, directs a series of events to celebrate YSL worldwide. Immersive sound design and subtle editing portray the end of the kingdom like a haunted mansion. Initially shot with the consent of Pierre Bergé, he later banned its release during his lifetime. This newly re-edited version is the first glimpse behind-the-scenes, a decade after his passing. **MPR**

Wednesday 20th: 16.30
Director: Olivier Meyrou

74 mins • France • 2018 • Subtitled
B&W and Colour • Digital
Panorama Section, Berlin International Film Festival 2019; BFI London International Film Festival 2019.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: This melancholic, beautiful, and absorbing documentary, mixes rare behind-the-scenes B&W and colour footage shot during 1998-2001.



PARTICLES

(LES PARTICULES)



In this adolescent coming-of-age story, with its awkward collisions of hopes, feelings, fears and desires, teenager P.A. (Thomas Daloz) lives in a small town near Geneva, where the world's largest particle accelerator, CERN's Large Hadron Collider, lies buried about 300 feet beneath the ground trying to re-create the Big Bang. As winter approaches, P.A. begins to observe some strange phenomena, and gradually his whole world seems to change, creating illusions that might be from the accelerator. Harrison's intriguing film searches for a deeper understanding of adolescence, where teen and adult worlds, reality and the supernatural are all unfathomable, and all filled with a sense of darkness. **MPR**

Wednesday 20th: 18.10
Director: Blaise Harrison

98 mins • France, Switzerland • 2019 • Subtitled
Digital
Directors' Fortnight, Official Competition, Cannes International Film Festival 2019.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Blaise Harrison creates a deeply innovative and atmospheric debut, a very modern teen movie.



OH, LES FILLES!

(HAUT LES FILLES)

"What if it wasn't Elvis who invented rock'n'roll, but Edith Piaf when, in 1949 her lover, middleweight champion Marcel Cerdan, died, and she sang her hymn to love and death, *Mon Dieu*?" Alternating footage and interviews with iconic French female rock stars from the '60s to the present day (Françoise Hardy, Brigitte Fontaine, Vanessa Paradis, Charlotte Gainsbourg...), the film captures the female rock scene, shining new light on the history of the genre, in the process raising issues of femininity, feminism and gender. With voiceover by Clémence Poésy, *Oh, les filles!* reverses perspectives, focusing on women, and redefining rock. **MPR**

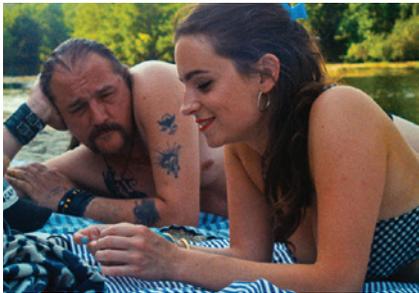
DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Scripted by Libération journalists Armanet and Bayon, this vivid music documentary is grounded in the legacy of Edith Piaf.

This screening will be followed by a Q&A with co-screenwriter Bayon.

Thursday 21st: 18.20

Director: François Armanet

79 mins • France • 2019 • Subtitled • Digital
Official Selection, Out of Competition, Cannes International Film Festival 2019.



CARWASH

(BRAQUER POITIERS)

Somewhere in France, petty criminals Thomas and Francis take Wilfrid, the owner of a car wash, hostage in his own home. Wilfrid doesn't seem too bothered about being a hostage, as it gives him time to look after his garden, plus he likes the company! The summer stretches out and girlfriends join the kidnapers. Gradually though, the situation gets out of hand... *Carwash* was honoured with the 2019 Jean Vigo Award for Best Short Film "for the manner in which he combines original humour with formal elegance, a surrealist spirit with impressionist light". **MPR**

The Birth, The Life, The Death of Christ (La Naissance, la vie et la mort du Christ) by director Alice Guy-Blaché, 35 mins, will screen before Carwash.

Friday 22nd: 16.10

Director: Claude Schmitz

Double bill total duration 94 mins • France • 2019
Subtitled • Digital
Winner Prix Jean Vigo for Best Short Film 2019, Cannes International Film Festival 2019.



AMANDA

A Parisian in his early twenties, David (a fantastic Vincent Lacoste) sees his life brutally turned upside down with the sudden tragic death of his sister. In shock and in pain, David must grow up quickly and take responsibility for his young niece Amanda (newcomer Isaure Multrier). Beautifully composed shots capture the fragility and violence of the world we live in, while touching moments show us the growing solidarity of two characters fighting to overcome an ordeal together. **MPR**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Confined to the streets of contemporary Paris, post-November 2015 attacks, *Amanda* is as much a story of place as the story of the characters.

Friday 22nd: 18.15

Sunday 24th: 15.40

Director: Mikhaël Hers

106 mins • France • 2018 • Subtitled • Digital
Winner: Magic Lantern Award Venice International Film Festival 2018; Best Screenplay and Best Film Award, Tokyo International Film Festival 2018.

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MATTHIAS AND MAXIME

Maxime (Xavier Dolan) is preparing to move from his hometown of Montreal to Australia, leaving behind his troubled mother (Anne Dorval) and boisterous group of twenty-something friends, including lifelong best pal Matthias (Gabriel D'Almeida Freitas). A few months before his departure, the gang spends the weekend at a lakeside retreat, where Matthias and Maxime agree to take part in an experimental student film, which requires them to kiss. After it happens, a change occurs between them, one they cannot articulate, but neither can they deny its powerful impact... **DOM**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: French-Canadian auteur Xavier Dolan's new film is a resonant and tender story about friendship, love and wild hearts, told through autumnal colours, and an immersive piano soundtrack.

Friday 22nd: 20.30

Director: Xavier Dolan

119 mins • Canada • 2019 • Digital
Official Selection, Cannes International Film Festival 2019; BFI London International Film Festival 2019.



THE GIRL WITH A BRACELET

(LA FILLE AU BRACELET)

Lise Bataille (newcomer Melissa Guers) was 16 when her best friend Flora Dufour was murdered. Accused of the crime, first put on remand for six months and then placed under house arrest with an electronic bracelet, Lise is now 18, and her trial is about to start. A brilliant cast includes Anaïs Demoustier (the director's sister) as the prosecutor and Lise's parents, Roschdy Zem and Chiara Mastroianni. Told from the point of view of the courtroom observers, the palpable strain on the parent-child bond is the very core of the film, as the trial changes their relationship forever. **MPR**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: A gripping courtroom drama from director Stéphane Demoustier (*40-Love*, 2014 festival) takes a radical approach that leaves the audience hanging.

Saturday 23rd: 16.00

Director: Stéphane Demoustier

95 mins • France, Belgium • 2019 • Subtitled
Digital
Official Selection, Locarno International Film Festival 2019; BFI London International Film Festival 2019.



ON A MAGICAL NIGHT

(CHAMBRE 212)

Chiara Mastroianni heads the cast as Maria in Christophe Honoré's inventive comedy about a failing marriage after Maria's infidelity with her young student is exposed. Following a confrontation with her husband, she moves out for the night to stay in a hotel directly across the road where she is 'visited' by a number of characters including the younger version of her husband, her husband's first love, and her own dead mother, to berate her for a string of infidelities. In room 212, she reflects upon her marriage, gifted with the ability to see it all at once. Inspired by Leo McCarey's *The Awful Truth*, this is a playful, witty fantasy, served by stunning cinematography. **MPR**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Winner of the Best Actress Award at this year's Cannes Film Festival, Chiara Mastroianni takes us with her as we get caught up, thrilled by unforeseen situations and conversations.

CLOSING FILM

Sunday 24th: 20.00

Director: Christophe Honoré

107 mins • France, Belgium, Luxembourg • 2019
Subtitled • Digital
Winner Best Actress, Un Certain Regard, Cannes International Film Festival 2019.

CLAUDE SAUTET FOCUS

We are delighted to present four memorable features by writer/director Claude Sautet (1924-2000). Sautet started to direct relatively late in life, after a long apprenticeship as a film critic and screenwriter. Each of his films is a carefully crafted drama, with subtle, tender observations often on the lives of small groups of people through fragments from their daily life – their

friendships, loves and intimacies. Often overlooked outside of France, Sautet's elegant films tell simple stories where nothing and everything happens. Pursuing the same themes throughout his career, he collaborated again and again with many of the greats – Romy Schneider, Michel Piccoli, Yves Montand, Daniel Auteuil and Emmanuelle Béart. **MPR**

DANGER AHEAD (CLASSE TOUS RISQUES)



Sautet's second feature, a fatalistic film noir, adapted from a novel by José Giovanni, sees Abel Davos (Lino Ventura), a gangster on the run,

journeying home to France with his wife and children. In Nice he meets Eric Stark (a young Belmondo co-starring here immediately after *Breathless*), a new mob recruit sent to accompany Abel on the final stretch. "This early Sautet makes us feel compassionate toward the robber/gangster played matter-of-factly by Ventura, while abhorred at his cruelty in seeking vengeance. This portrait, filled with honesty and humility, is what makes this film so powerful and timeless." – John Woo. **MPR**

Saturday 16th: 13.30

110 minutes • France, Italy • 1960 • Subtitled • B&W • Digital
Dr Douglas Smith, Senior Lecturer, School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, UCD, will introduce this screening.

THE THINGS OF LIFE (LES CHOSES DE LA VIE)



Middle-aged Parisian architect Pierre (Michel Piccoli), victim of a violent car crash, lies waiting for an ambulance.

Drifting in an out of consciousness, his life flashes before him, as we learn of the mistakes he has made, moments of joy, and the choice he must make between two lovers. Chronology is fractured by voice-over and reverse slow-motion, flashbacks, speeding up or leaping back in time. This masterfully crafted romantic melodrama is accompanied by a gem of a score by Philippe Sarde. Sautet's widespread acclaim cemented a partnership with actors Michel Piccoli and Romy Schneider, and screenwriter Jean-Loup Dabadie. **MPR**

Sunday 17th: 13.30

88 minutes • France, Italy • 1970 • Subtitled • 35mm

VINCENT, FRANÇOIS, PAUL AND THE OTHERS



(VINCENT, FRANÇOIS, PAUL ET LES AUTRES)

The biggest public success of Sautet's career, this is a melancholic and richly textured portrait

of three lifelong friends grappling with being fifty, supporting each other in marital situations, break-ups, and professional and financial troubles. Shot during the 1974 presidential campaign that led to the election of Valérie Giscard d'Estaing, it presents a moving and accurate portrait of an era in French society showing men's turmoil and women's emancipation. With an all-star cast that features Yves Montand (Vincent), Michel Piccoli (François), Serge Reggiani (Paul) and a young Gérard Depardieu, in the role of an aspiring professional boxer. **MPR**

Saturday 23rd: 13.30

113 minutes • France, Italy • 1974 • Subtitled • Digital

A HEART IN WINTER (UN COEUR EN HIVER)



Middle-aged Stéphane (Daniel Auteuil) – of a single and solitary nature – makes and repairs violins in his

Paris shop with friend and business partner Maxime (André Dussollier), an extrovert, with marital troubles. Maxime reveals his love of Camille (Emmanuelle Béart), a beautiful, gifted violinist. When the reserved Stéphane meets Camille, there is an immediate connection and an emotional love triangle ensues. Winner of five prizes at the 1992 Venice Film Festival, including Silver Lion for Best Director, and two César Awards, this is a subtle, profound reflection on love, desire, and emotional conflict, mirrored by the music of Maurice Ravel. **MPR**

Sunday 24th: 13.20

105 mins • France • 1992 • Subtitled • 35mm

Programme organised with the support of the Institut Français, Paris and the French Embassy in Ireland.

Special thanks to Christine Houard, Institut Français; Cultural Services of the French Embassy in Ireland; Studio Canal; Park Circus and Tamasa.

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ALICE GUY-BLACHÉ PROGRAMME



We are delighted to celebrate the remarkable, pioneering work of filmmaker Alice Guy-Blaché (1873-1968) with the documentary portrait *Be Natural: The Untold Story of Alice Guy-Blaché* by Pamela B. Green, and a selection of six short films directed by Guy-Blaché from the Gaumont Pathé Archives which will be peppered throughout the festival before main features.

Alice Guy-Blaché, aka 'Mademoiselle Alice' was one of the most prolific filmmakers of early cinema, with a career in France and the USA spanning 1896-1920, and a staggering output of more than 1,000 films. For her, cinema was a process of exploration and discovery, open to all styles, formats and genres. She directed dramas, westerns and slapstick comedies (before Chaplin or Keaton!); and numerous action films with female heroes. She asked her actors to 'be natural', eliciting performances that transformed the art of screen acting. She captured this through close-ups, and an emphasis on body movement and facial expression. Guy-Blaché's films were often shot on location, accomplishing sophisticated scenes and radical stunts, while later she even built her own studios. A true pioneer, Mademoiselle Alice wrote, produced and directed many of her films – 'auteur cinema' 70 years before the New Wave.

All notes by MPR.

BE NATURAL: THE UNTOLD STORY OF ALICE GUY-BLACHÉ

Director: Pamela B. Green

This insightful documentary follows Alice's rise, from Gaumont secretary to her appointment as Head of Production, and her illustrious 20-year career in France and the US, founding her own studio, and writing, directing and producing more than 1,000 films. Narrated by Jodie Foster, the film is a journey through her work and an insight into family, friends and colleagues. Green gains access to archives, with rare footage of televised and audio interviews, aired here for the first time. Contributors include Patty Jenkins, Diablo Cody, Ben Kingsley, Geena Davis, Ava DuVernay, Michel Hazanavicius, and Julie Delpy.

Sunday 24th: 14.00

103 mins • USA • 2018 • Digital



SHORT FILMS DIRECTED BY ALICE GUY-BLACHÉ

This selection of short films have been restored by Gaumont, and will be screened before some of the new features in the main programme. This season is organised with the support of Gaumont Pathé Archives (Paris) with special thanks to Agnès Bertola.

THE BIRTH, THE LIFE AND THE DEATH OF CHRIST

(LA NAISSANCE, LA VIE ET LA MORT DU CHRIST)

Her most notable film from the Gaumont period, this 30-minute extravaganza features 25 sets, numerous exterior locations and over 300 extras.

1906 • 35 mins • B&W • Digital

This will be screened before Carwash on Friday 22nd at 16.10 (see pg 10).

THE CONSEQUENCES OF FEMINISM

(LES RÉSULTATS DU FÉMINISME)

A society in which gender roles are switched!

1906 • 7 mins • B&W • Digital

THE CABBAGE-PATCH FAIRY

(LA FÉE AUX CHOUX)

One of the first narrative films ever made.

1901 • 1 min • B&W • Digital

ALICE GUY FILMS A 'PHONOSCÈNE' IN THE STUDIO AT BUTTES-CHAUMONT, PARIS

(ALICE GUY TOURNE UNE PHONOSCÈNE DANS LES STUDIOS DES BUTTES-CHAUMONT)

Behind-the-scenes footage shows Mademoiselle Alice directing an early sound film.

1907 • 2 mins • B&W • Digital

MADAME'S CRAVINGS

(MADAME A DES ENVIES)

A light gender-based comedy with an unusual subject for the time – the cravings women get while pregnant.

1906 • 4 mins • B&W • Digital

BOB WALTER SERPENTINE DANCE

(LA DANSE SERPENTINE DE BOB WALTER)

Bob Walter performs the serpentine dance.

1897 • 1 min • B&W • Digital

IFI FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL FAMILY SCREENING



AILO'S JOURNEY (AÏLO: UNE ODYSSEE EN LAPONIE)

Follow the adventures of young reindeer Ailo in his first year, as he learns to survive in the frozen taiga landscape of Lapland. Guided by his mother, he takes his tentative first steps, and finds his way in the icy terrain, inhabited by creatures large and small, both friend and foe. Ailo follows the herd on their year-long trek to the Arctic Circle, the magnificent cinematography allowing us to share in his every adventure, as he adapts to the behaviour of the wild. From wolves, to scurrying lemmings, to bears, to wolverines and elks, the film introduces us to the vast array of creatures around, alluding also to the impact of climate change on their lives. **AMG**

**Tickets €5.50 per person, €16.50 family tickets
(2 adults + 2 children, 1 adult + 3 children).**

Sunday 24th: 11.00
Director: Guillaume Maidatchevsky,
80mins • France, Finland • 2018 • Subtitled • Digital
Age recommendation 7+
Subtitles will be read by an experienced reader

FESTIVAL GUESTS



BAYON

Born in Ivory Coast in 1951, Bayon (aka Bruno Taravant) is a French journalist and writer. Since 1978 he has worked as a journalist covering rock music, books and film at French daily newspaper *Libération*, where he founded the Music Section (1981), and was Arts Editor (2010-14). His numerous books include the bestselling *Gainsbourg raconte sa mort* (1991) which amassed 850,000 sales in France, and he was awarded the Interallié Prize in 1991 for *Les Animals*. We are delighted to welcome Bayon to present *Oh, les filles!* at this year's festival on Thursday 21st at 18.20 (see pg 10). This fascinating documentary was co-scripted with François Armanet and screened at the Cannes International Film Festival 2019.

CÉDRIC KLAPISCH

One of the most internationally renowned French directors, Cédric Klapisch, born in 1961, is also a screenwriter and producer for cinema and TV. He has written and directed 13 features including: *Good Old Daze (Le péril jeune)* 1994; *When the Cat's Away (Chacun cherche son chat)*, 1996; and what became known as his 'Erasmus' trilogy: *Pot Luck (L'augerie espagnole)* 2002; *The Russian Dolls (Les poupées russes)* 2005 and *Chinese Puzzle (Casse-tête chinois)* 2013. He also directed the first two episodes, and was artistic director of season 1 of the hit comedy series, *Call my Agent!* We are delighted to welcome Klapisch to present at this year's festival his latest film *Someone, Somewhere* on Thursday 14th at 18.10 (see pg 5).

MANELE LABIDI LABBÉ

Born in 1982, French-Tunisian Manele Labidi Labbé studied politics and economics and worked in finance for several years before becoming a filmmaker. She has been involved in writing and directing projects for theatre, radio and TV. Her first short film, *A Room of my Own* (2018) is a tragicomic variation on Virginia Woolf's feminist essay. *Arab Blues* is her first feature film and was selected for the Venice, Toronto and London Film Festivals. We are delighted to welcome Labidi Labbé to present it at this year's festival on Saturday 16th at 18.00 (see pg 7).

VINCENT MACAIGNE

Born in 1978, actor, director and screenwriter Vincent Macaigne grew up in Paris. His directing credits include *What We'll Leave Behind* (2011, short), *Dom Juan & Sganarelle* (2015, TV), and a feature, *Comfort and Consolation in France* (2017). As an actor he has been a figurehead of 'young French cinema' collaborating with filmmakers such as Guillaume Brac and Sébastien Betbeder, and also working with many established arthouse filmmakers such as Catherine Corsini, Anne Fontaine, Mia Hansen-Løve, and most recently Olivier Assayas (*Non-Fiction*, 2018). We are delighted to welcome Vincent to this year's festival to present the latest film by Cédric Kahn, *Happy Birthday* on Saturday 16th at 20.30 (see pg 7) and Anne Fontaine's *Pure as Snow* on Sunday 17th at 17.40 (see pg 8).

IFI FRENCH FESTIVAL MENU

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Cream of Pea Soup with a Parmesan tuile

Saumon poché sur baguette grillée
avec purée de betteraves
*Poached Salmon on Toasted Bageutte
with Beetroot Puree*

Terrine au fromage de chèvre et légumes
avec vinaigrette aux olives noires
*Goat Cheese and Vegetable Terrine
with Black Olive Dressing*

LES PLATS

Cassoulet à la cuisse de poulet confite
Cassoulet with Confit Chicken Leg

Filet de merlu à la crème de chou frisé
et d'artichaut
*Fillet of Hake with Curly Kale
and Pickled Artichoke*

Légumes d'hiver rôtis avec des chips de panais
et du yaourt Harissa
*Roasted Winter Veg with Parsnip Crisps
and Harissa Yoghurt*

LES DESSERTS

Mousse au chocolat
à l'écorce d'orange confite, Chantilly
*Chocolate Mousse
with Candied Orange Peel, Chantilly*

Poire pochée au sirop de vanille
et glace à la vanille
*Poached Pear with Vanilla Syrup
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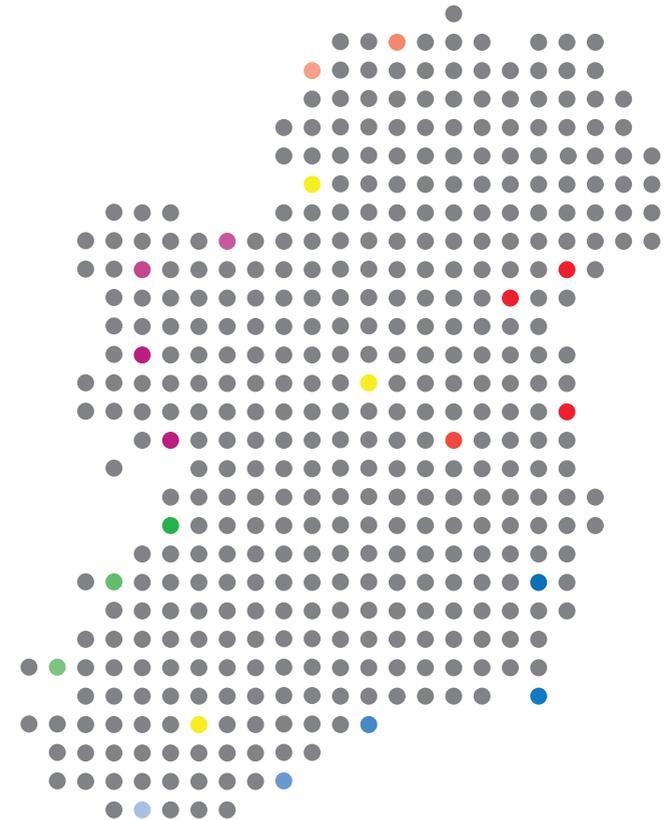
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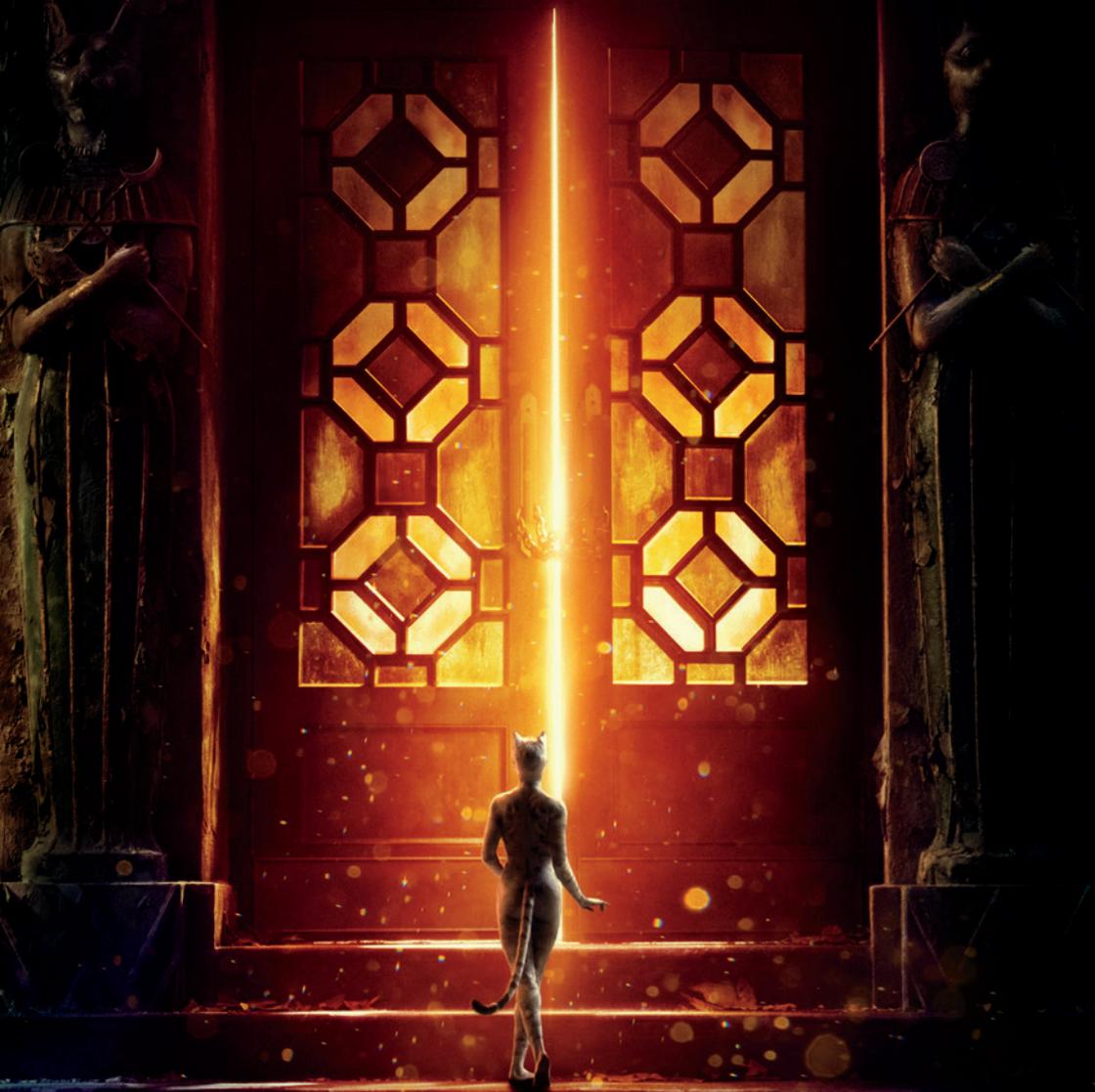
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