



Irish Film Institute

IFI FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 19TH – 30TH 2025

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IFI FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 19TH – 30TH 2025

IFI PRINCIPAL FUNDER



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BOOKING INFORMATION

CINEMA TICKETS

Cinema tickets cost €15.00 each, except for the opening film which includes a post-screening reception and costs €18.00.

MEMBERS' PACKAGES

€65.00 for 5 films. €110.00 for 10 films. Both packages exclude the opening film.

Free list suspended for IFI French Film Festival.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is required for all in-cinema screenings. Daily membership costs €1.50 and is applicable to all festival screenings for Non-Members. Annual membership is just €40.00 (Concession: €25.00), and 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.

IFI CAFÉ BAR

Join us at the IFI Café Bar throughout the IFI French Film Festival and enjoy our delicious and great value French menu. See ifi.ie/cafebar for more details.



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)
Holly Furlong (HF)



Films that display the IFI@Home logo will be available to rent on ifihome.ie for a strictly limited time. Renters will have 72 hours to begin watching a title from the time of purchase, and a further 48 hours to complete their viewing.

SCHEDULE

Wed 19	SUMMER BEATS	19:30
Thurs 20	THE LITTLE SISTER	18:00
	THE ICE TOWER + Q&A	20:15
Fri 21	LUCILE HADŽIHALILOVIĆ MASTERCLASS	13:00
	THE GREAT ARCH	18:10
	ENZO	18:20
	DOG 51	20:30
Sat 22	THE UNFAITHFUL WIFE	13:00
	LOVE ME TENDER	13:00
	THE MUSICIANS	15:30
	LUMIÈRE! THE ADVENTURE BEGINS	15:40
	NOUVELLE VAGUE	18:00
Sun 23	THE STRANGER	20:20
	THE BUTCHER	13:00
	THAT SUMMER IN PARIS	13:30
	A MAGNIFICENT LIFE	15:20
	WE BELIEVE YOU	15:30
	A PRIVATE LIFE	17:30
	THE PARTY'S OVER	19:50
Mon 24	RIDE AWAY	18:10
	COLOURS OF TIME	20:10
Tues 25	IFI SCHOOLS: THAT SUMMER IN PARIS	13:00
	LOVE LETTERS	18:20
	ADAM'S SAKE	18:30
	CONNEMARA	20:30

Wed 26	LOVE ME TENDER	18:00
	THE MUSICIANS	18:20
	CASE I37	20:40
Thurs 27	THE STRANGER	18:10
	THE PARTY'S OVER	18:30
	SILENT REBELLION	20:30
Fri 28	ADAM'S SAKE	16:30
	THE GREAT ARCH	18:15
	SAVE OUR SOULS + Q&A	18:20
	A PRIVATE LIFE	20:30
Sat 29	JUST BEFORE NIGHTFALL	13:00
	STAGES OF LOVE	13:30
	SUMMER BEATS	15:20
	LUMIÈRE! THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES	15:30
	ENZO	18:00
Sun 30	NOUVELLE VAGUE	20:30
	FAMILY: ARCO	11:00
	L'AVENTURA	13:00
	LA JETÉE, THE FIFTH SHOT + SHORT	13:10
	WILD FOXES + Q&A	15:20
	THE BREACH	16:00
	CASE I37	18:00
	CONNEMARA	20:20



SUMMER BEATS (MA FRÈRE)

Wed 19th (19:30) Sat 29th (15:20)

Director: Lise Akoka, Romane Gueret

112 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled



Growing up in a less well-off area of Paris, 19-year-olds Shai and Djeneba have always been inseparable. For one summer, the two headstrong girls escape their tower blocks to work at a summer camp in the southeast of France, where they attempt to supervise an unruly tribe of exasperating, unique, and endearing kids. This summer, Shai and Djeneba will have to redefine their friendship, while the children in their care are discovering their own independence, questioning the world directly, and challenging it with boundless energy. **DOM**

Official Selection, Cannes Première Section, Cannes International Film Festival 2025

The screening on Wed 19th will be followed by a reception in the IFI foyer.



THE LITTLE SISTER (LA PETITE DERNIÈRE)



Authenticity and empathy run through actress-turned-director Hafsia Herzi's tender, beautifully observed coming-of-age tale, adapted from Fatima Daas's acclaimed autofiction novel of the same name. Set in the Parisian suburbs, the story follows 17-year-old Fatima (Nadia Melliti), the youngest daughter in a French Algerian Muslim family. A bright student, she enrolls in a philosophy program at a prestigious university in Paris, stepping into a world far removed from her conservative upbringing. As Fatima navigates her new environment, she grapples with reconciling her faith, familial expectations, and her emerging attraction to women. **DOM**

Thurs 20th (18:00)

Director: Hafsia Herzi

106 mins / France-Germany / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

Queer Palm and Best Actress Award, Official Competition, Cannes International Film Festival 2025.



Thurs 20th (20:15)

Director: Lucile Hadžihalilović

117 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

THE ICE TOWER (LA TOUR DE GLACE)



Jeanne (Clara Pacini), a 16-year-old runaway, takes refuge in a film studio where she falls under the spell of the enigmatic Cristina (Marion Cotillard), who is starring in an adaptation of *The Snow Queen*. A mutual but potentially dangerous fascination begins to grow between the actress and the girl. As Jeanne becomes increasingly entranced by the Snow Queen's icy realm, the boundary between the real and the imagined begins to blur, but does Jeanne love the Queen enough to make the sacrifice she demands? A dark, mesmerising modern fairy tale. **DOM**

Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution,
Berlin International Film Festival 2025

**The screening will be followed by a Q&A
with Lucile Hadžihalilović.**



Fri 21st (18:10) Fri 28th (18:15)

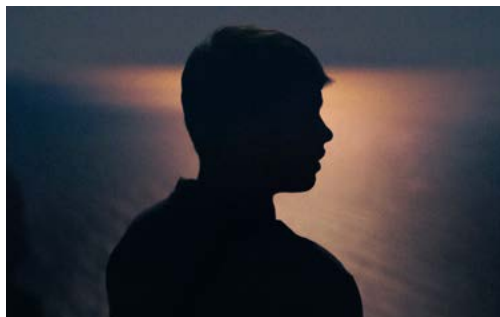
Director: Stéphane Demoustier

104 mins / France-Denmark / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

THE GREAT ARCH (L'INCONNU DE LA GRANDE ARCHE)

In 1983, French President François Mitterrand launches an international architectural competition for his flagship project: the Great Arch of La Défense, aligned with the Louvre and the Arc de Triomphe. To everyone's surprise, Otto von Spreckelsen (Claes Bang of *Bad Sisters* fame), an unknown Danish architect, wins the competition. While the architect intends to build his 'Cube' exactly as he envisioned, his innovative and daring ideas soon run afoul of the sobering realities of budgets, bureaucracy, and the vicissitudes of politics. Stéphane Demoustier (Festival Guest, 2024) blends humour and pathos in his engrossing account of an overlooked visionary. **DOM**

Official Selection, Un Certain Regard, Cannes
International Film Festival 2025



Fri 21st (18:20) Sat 29th (18:00)

Director: Robin Campillo

102 mins / France-Italy-Belgium / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

ENZO

16-year-old Enzo (Eloy Pöhu) is training as a masonry apprentice outside Marseilles; his affluent parents worry about what the future has in store for their rudderless son. Enzo is awoken from his torpor by his conflicted relationship with worksite foreman Vlad (Maksym Slivinskyi), a Ukrainian exile. Through Vlad, Enzo begins to discover something about the world, his entitled place within it, and his sexuality. Robin Campillo's (*120 BPM*, 2017) deeply moving film is credited to the late Laurent Cantet (*The Class*, 2008), who died last year, and with whom Campillo has often worked. **DOM**

Opening Film, Directors' Fortnight,
Cannes International Film Festival 2025



Fri 21st (20:30)

Director: Cédric Jimenez

100 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

DOG 51 (CHIEN 51)

In a dystopian future, Paris is split into three zones separated by checkpoints, with citizens surveilled by ALMA, the omnipresent AI system. When its creator is murdered, top cop Salia Malberg (Adèle Exarchopoulos, *Blue is the Warmest Colour*, *Passages*) – newly of Zone 2 – alongside Zone 3 lieutenant Zem Brecht (Gilles Lellouche), must track down the killer. However, someone has hijacked the system, escalating the violence between the zones. Cédric Jimenez's (director of *November*, a 2023 festival highlight) high-stakes futuristic thriller questions the use of tools so powerful they can bypass justice. **MPR**

Closing Film, Official Selection, Out of Competition,
Venice International Film Festival 2025



Sat 22nd (13:00) Wed 26th (18:00)

Director: Anna Cazenave Cambet

134 mins / France-Luxembourg / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

LOVE ME TENDER



Clémence (Vicky Krieps, *Phantom Thread*) has been separated for several years from her husband Laurent (Antoine Reinartz), with whom she shares custody of their son, Paul. When Clémence tells Laurent that she has begun to have romantic relationships with women, he takes the news badly, cutting off all communication with her, and hiring a lawyer to seek full custody of Paul. So begins a struggle of several years for Clémence to defend her right to be a mother and a woman who is free to make her own choices. **DOM**

Official Selection, Un Certain Regard,
Cannes International Film Festival 2025



Sat 22nd (15:30) Wed 26th (18:20)

Director: Grégory Magne

102 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

THE MUSICIANS (LES MUSICIENS)

Astrid (Valérie Donzelli) finally succeeds in fulfilling her late father's dream: to bring together a quartet to play exquisite Stradivarius instruments for a unique concert, eagerly anticipated by music lovers around the world. But Lise, George, Peter, and Apolline, the four virtuosos recruited for the occasion, are incapable of playing together. The rehearsals are one ego crisis after another. With no solution in sight, Astrid decides to approach the only person who, in her eyes, can still save the event: Charlie Beaumont, the composer of the score. **DOM**





Sat 22nd (18:00) Sat 29th (20:30)

Director: Richard Linklater

106 mins / France-USA / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled / Black & White

NOUVELLE VAGUE

The indefatigable and unpredictable Richard Linklater (*Boyhood*, the *Before* trilogy) pays heartfelt homage to the making of Jean-Luc Godard's 1960 debut, *Breathless*, one of the most influential films of all time, and a defining example of what became known as The French New Wave. A shoestring production, based on an outline by François Truffaut, who had made a splash the previous year with his own debut, *The 400 Blows*, *Breathless* starred the American Jean Seberg and the then-unknown boxer, Jean-Paul Belmondo, and was shot in DIY-fashion on the streets of Paris. **DOM**

Official Competition,
Cannes International Film Festival 2025



Sat 22nd (20:20) Thurs 27th (18:10)

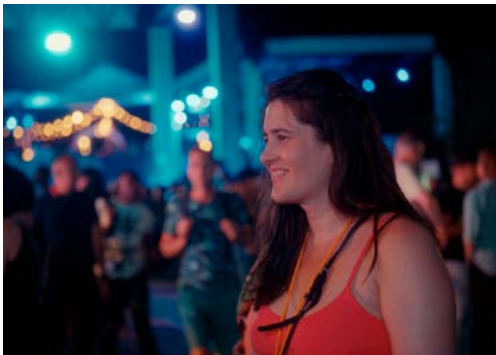
Director: François Ozon

120 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

THE STRANGER (L'ÉTRANGER)

Albert Camus's enduring and enigmatic 1962 novella *L'Étranger* follows Meursault, a detached young man in 1930s Algeria whose indifference to social conventions and emotional expectations sets him apart from others. When he impulsively kills an Arabic man, he must face society's judgement. François Ozon's (*8 Women*, *Potiche*) starkly beautiful adaptation, presented in crisp monochrome, and starring Benjamin Voisin as Meursault in an appropriately internalised performance, remains faithful to the source material yet is filled with contemporary relevance, such is the endless metaphorical potential of Camus's chilling tale. **DOM**

Official Competition,
Venice International Film Festival 2025



Sun 23rd (13:30) Tue 25th (13.00) – IFI Schools group tickets available

Director: Valentine Cadic

77 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled / IFI Age Rec: 15+



THAT SUMMER IN PARIS (LE RENDEZ-VOUS DE L'ÉTÉ)



With the Paris 2024 Olympic Games underway, Blandine, a shy 30-year-old, has travelled from Normandy to attend the swimming events. While there, she reconnects with her half-sister and meets her niece Alma for the first time. Filmed during the Games and utilising real crowds and venues from last summer, Blandine traverses the alternately crowded and deserted city streets, learning to embrace the atmosphere. Amidst the grandeur of the global event, it is her personal journey and her growing bond with her niece that offers a melancholic, charming and heart-warming story of family, identity, and new beginnings. **HF**

Official Selection, Perspectives Section, Berlin
International Film Festival 2025



Sun 23rd (15:20)

Director: Sylvain Chomet

90 mins / France-Luxembourg-Belgium / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

A MAGNIFICENT LIFE (MARCEL ET MONSIEUR PAGNOL)

At the height of his fame, Marcel Pagnol (1895-1974), one of France's greatest dramatists and filmmakers, is commissioned by a major women's magazine to write a literary serial about his life and loves. As he writes, the child he once was comes to life as an inner guide, helping Marcel retrace his journey as a young boy from Aubagne writing poems for his beloved mother, through his venture in sound cinema, his love of actors, and his writing. Nicolas Pagnol, Marcel's grandson, collaborated with Chomet (*The Triplets of Belleville*) for eight years to bring this animated celebration to vibrant life. **MPR**

Official Selection, Special Screening,
Cannes International Film Festival 2025



Sun 23rd (15:30)

Director: Charlotte Deville, Arnaud Dufeys

78 mins / Belgium / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled



WE BELIEVE YOU (ON VOUS CROIT)



Alice (Myriem Akheddiou) has been summoned to a court proceeding where a judge will determine whether her children - 10-year-old Etienne and 17-year-old Lila - will stay in her care or be handed over to her ex-husband (Laurent Capelluto). Through extensive testimony and statements, we learn about their complicated family history and of the domestic abuse charges pending against the husband in a separate case. Largely confined to one courtroom, Deville and Dufeys's tightly focused, intricately scripted, and impeccably acted film grips like a nail-biting thriller. **DOM**

Winner Special Mention, Official Selection, Perspectives
Section, Berlin International Film Festival 2025



Sun 23rd (17:30) Fri 28th (20:30)

Director: Rebecca Zlotowski

103 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

A PRIVATE LIFE (VIE PRIVÉE)



Lilian Steiner (Jodie Foster's first major French-speaking role), a respected American psychiatrist living in Paris, is deeply troubled by the suspicious death of her patient Paula (Virginie Efira, *Sibyl*, *In Bed with Victoria*). Convinced Paula was murdered, she decides to investigate, opening a Pandora's Box as she crosses all sorts of boundaries, unleashing guilt and doubt – could Lilian herself be responsible? Or is it Paula's furious husband (Mathieu Amalric, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*), or her tense daughter? Zlotowski, together with writer Anne Berest, has crafted a sharp and delightful thriller revealing Lilian's many psychological dimensions. The chemistry between Foster and Daniel Auteuil (who plays her ex-husband) is a pure delight. **MPR**

Official Selection, Out of Competition, Cannes
International Film Festival 2025



Sun 23rd (19:50) Thurs 27th (18:30)

Director: Antony Cordier

95 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

THE PARTY'S OVER (CLASSE MOYENNE)

When tensions escalate between the Trousselards (Laurent Lafitte, Élodie Bouchez), an entitled rich couple, and the Azizis (Laure Calamy, Ramzy Bedia), whom they employ off-book to look after their luxurious holiday home, Mehdi (Sami Outalbali), the law graduate boyfriend of the Trousselards' wannabe actress daughter Garance (Noée Abita), thinks he can negotiate between the two warring parties and bring everyone to their senses. Needless to say, his well-meaning efforts are less than successful. A razor-sharp comedy that dissects the contradictions and anxieties of the French middle class. **DOM**

Official Selection, Director's Fortnight,
Cannes International Film Festival 2025



Mon 24th (18:10)

Director: Mathias Mlekuz

89 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled



RIDE AWAY (À BICYCLETTE!)

Actor-director Mathias Mlekuz lost his son Youri in 2022. Joined by fellow actor and friend Philippe Rebbot, he decides to retrace his son's bicycle journey to Turkey, from an account that he had published as a book. This serves as a roadmap for this largely improvised docudrama where two old friends and a dog cross Europe from the Atlantic to the Black Sea. Profoundly moving and humorous, Mlekuz and his companion reflect on how to grieve and mourn, to open one's heart in new ways, rediscovering connection after tragedy. **MPR**

Winner Audience Award, Best Direction and
Best Music, Angoulême Francophone Film Festival



Mon 24th (20:10)

Director: Cédric Klapisch

124 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

COLOURS OF TIME (LA VENUE DE L'AVENIR)

Brought together by the inheritance of a house in Normandy, four cousins uncover a hidden history. In 1895, their ancestor Adèle (Suzanne Lindon) arrives in Paris, where she discovers a vibrant city on the cusp of modernity, where new artforms - photography and Impressionist painting - are being born. As her descendants retrace Adèle's steps, the cousins' more ridged contemporary attitudes are contrasted with those of late 19th century artistic *bon vivants*. Cedric Klapisch's (*L'Auberge Espagnole*) delightful fantasy is buoyed by performances from the likes of Vincent Macaigne (festival guest in 2019), Cécile de France, and Paul Kircher. **DOM**

Official Selection, Out of Competition,
Cannes International Film Festival 2025



Tues 25th (18:20)

Director: Alice Douard

97 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

LOVE LETTERS (DES PREUVES D'AMOUR)



Married lesbian couple Céline (Ella Rumpf) and pregnant Nadia (Monia Chokri) await the arrival of their first child. While joyful, this is tough for Céline, who, not being the birth mother, must follow a legal process to be recognised as one of the mothers, gathering “proofs of love” through testimonies from friends and, most challengingly, a letter from her estranged mother (Noémie Lvovsky). Douard’s tender comedy-drama explores the challenges of birth, motherhood, and the universality of the family unit. **MPR**

Critics’ Week, Official Selection, Cannes International Film Festival 2025



Tues 25th (18:30) Fri 28th (16:30)

Director: Laura Wandel

78 mins / Belgium-France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

ADAM'S SAKE (L'INTÉRÊT D'ADAM)



Head nurse Lucy (Léa Drucker) works in an understaffed paediatric ward where four-year-old Adam has been admitted for malnutrition. His mother Rebecca (Anamaria Vartolomei) is forbidden access to her son, yet she stays by his side. Lucy strives to care for both, hoping Rebecca can avoid losing custody. Belgian writer-director Laura Wandel (*Playground*, 2021) continues her sensitive exploration of children’s wellbeing within institutional settings. The role of parents in the healing process is filmed from Lucy’s perspective, exposing systemic violence, rigid institutional boundaries, and moral dilemmas. **MPR**

Critics’ Week, Opening Film, Official Selection, Cannes International Film Festival 2025



Tues 25th (20:30*) Sun 30th (20:20)

*Tickets €13 for both IFI and Alliance Française members

Director: Alex Lutz

112 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

CONNEMARA

Following a burnout, Héléne (Mélanie Thierry) leaves Paris for the solace of her childhood hometown where she realises how much has changed for her compared to those who stayed behind. She encounters Christophe (Bastien Bouillon), an old flame whose dreams of becoming a hockey champion have faded, along with his marriage. As their reunion stirs old emotions and rekindles Héléne’s long-lost desires, they must determine if their new bond can bridge the gap that has grown between them over the years. **DOM**

Official Selection, Cannes Première Section, Cannes International Film Festival 2025



Wed 26th (20:40) Sun 30th (18:00)

Director: Dominik Moll – Festival Guest, 2016

115 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

CASE 137 (DOSSIER 137)

Investigating the alleged misdemeanours of fellow police officers proves to be a dangerous task for Internal Affairs officer Stéphanie Bertrand (Léa Drucker), who is determined to find the police officers who gravely injured an innocent 20-year-old man during the yellow vest riots in December 2018. Initially, the case appears routine, but it takes a personal turn when Stéphanie discovers that the victim is from her hometown, a connection that intensifies her commitment to uncovering the truth, even as she encounters institutional resistance and confronts her own ethical boundaries. **DOM**

Official Selection, Cannes International Film Festival 2025



Thurs 27th (20:30)

Director: Marie-Elsa Sgualdo

98 mins / France-Belgium / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

SILENT REBELLION (À BRAS-LE-CORPS)



Switzerland, 1943. When 15-year-old Emma (Lila Gueneau) becomes pregnant following an assault, she must navigate the restrictive social and religious mores of her rural Protestant community, whilst dealing with her own repressed emotions. Choosing a defiant path of self-determination, Emma transforms her trauma into a catalyst for emancipation while confronting the moral hypocrisy of the village and the spectre of World War II around her. Set against the stunning backdrop of the Swiss landscape, Marie-Elsa Sgualdo's exceptionally moving debut feature boasts a star-making performance from newcomer Gueneau. **DOM**

Official Competition, Spotlight Section,
Venice International Film Festival 2025



Fri 28th (18:20)

Director: Jean-Baptiste Bonnet

91 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled



IFI DOC

SAVE OUR SOULS

Since 2016, humanitarian ambulance ship Ocean Viking of the NGO SOS Méditerranée has rescued nearly 40,000 refugees attempting to cross from Libya to Europe, the world's deadliest migratory route. Its crew are on the lookout for boats in distress, bringing refugees to safety and offering shelter to survivors. Filmmaker-photographer Jean-Baptiste Bonnet spent two months documenting their aid work, from rescue to disembarkation. Refugees share their harrowing escape stories, forging deep bonds with their rescuers while waiting to dock at a safe port in Europe. **MPR**

**The screening will be followed by
a Q&A with Jean-Baptiste Bonnet.**

Perception Change Award, Visions du Réel; Amnesty International & On Demand Distribution CG Entertainment Award, Festival Dei Popoli; Prix Tènk, Festival Jean Rouch



Sat 29th (13:30)

Director: Victor Rodenbach

84 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

STAGES OF LOVE (LE BEAU RÔLE)

In this debut feature from screenwriter Victor Rodenbach (*Call My Agent!*), respected playwright Nora (Vimala Pons) lives with her lover, actor Henri (William Lebghil). Nora is completing a new version of Chekhov's *Ivanov* with Henri in the title role, when Henri lands his first leading role in a film. His hectic schedule, with constant trips between filming and rehearsals, puts their bond to the test. A romantic comedy full of emotion sees these two endearing characters navigate the complexities of life and creative relationships, suggesting that we are never closer to the truth than when we are performing. **MPR**



Sun 30th (11:00)

Director: Ugo Bienvenu

82 mins / France-USA / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled / IFI Age Rec: 6+
English Subtitles will be read aloud.

IFI FAMILY

ARCO

A young girl Iris comes across 10-year-old Arco, a time traveller from the future, who has crash-landed on Earth, using a gloriously rainbow-coloured time travel suit. It is 2075, and with a climate crisis threatening, Iris and her minder robot Mikki form a bond with Arco and set out to get him back home. Exquisite colours, and a hand-drawn style showing anime influences, make for a gorgeous universe through which the trio travel, defying storms, and keeping Arco safe from those in pursuit. A moving, brave tale, ending on a hopeful note for the future. **AMcG**

Join us after the screening for some crafts and colouring! Time travel not included.



Sun 30th (13:00)

Director: Sophie Letourneur

100 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

L'AVENTURA



Following *Voyages in Italy*, writer-director-actor Sophie Letourneur's (Festival Guest, 2024) latest film is another slice-of-life family comedy. This time we find Jean-Phi and Sophie with their children — three-year-old Raoul and preteen Claudine — on a road-trip in Sardinia. The promise of a beautiful holiday becomes a perilous adventure filled with a cacophony of joyful family dynamics — eating ice cream on the beach, urgent toilet needs, sunburn, and ferries that can't be missed. Letourneur, with her remarkable talent for editing and light-touch storytelling, observes the everyday details with truth and tenderness, revealing life in the present moment as a melancholic reflection on passing time. **MPR**

ACID, Opening Film, Official Selection,
Cannes International Film Festival 2025





Sun 30th (13:10)

Director: Dominique Cabrera

97 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled



IFI DOC

LA JETÉE, THE FIFTH SHOT (LE CINQUIÈME PLAN DE LA JETÉE)



Chris Marker's *La Jetée* (1962) was groundbreaking in its narrative form, comprising only photographs and one brief moment of moving image. In 2018, during a screening of *La Jetée*, Dominique Cabrera's cousin suddenly recognised himself and his parents in a shot of the film at Orly Airport. Cabrera puts *La Jetée* in context – 1962 saw Algeria gain independence, and hundreds of thousands of 'Pieds-noirs' left their homes for exile in France via Orly – in a thrilling investigation, weaving together personal diaries, photographs, political reflection, and film history. **MPR**

This screening will be preceded by short film *La Jetée* (Chris Marker, 1962).

Winner DOK Leipzig, Prix Golden Dove; Official selection, First Look Museum of Moving Image; Festival du Réel; FEMa - La Rochelle 2025



Sun 30th (15:20)

Director: Valéry Carnoy

92 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled

WILD FOXES (LA DANSE DES RENARDS)

The future looks bright for Camille (Samuel Kircher), a young boxer at a boarding school for athletes, until he suffers a potentially fatal accident when out hiking with his best friend Matteo (Faycal Anafloous). Though his body heals, a mysterious pain begins to gnaw at him - physically and mentally - undermining his confidence, his ambition, and his place on the team. As the pressure mounts and friendships strain, Camille must grapple with fragility in a world that demands toughness and find new meaning in both sport and personal identity. **DOM**

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Samuel Kircher.

LUCILE HADŽIHILLOVIĆ MASTERCLASS

Fri 21st (13:00)

Award-winning auteur filmmaker Lucile Hadžihalilović (born 1961 in Lyon) studied filmmaking at the prestigious IDHEC (now La Fémis) in 1983. With fellow filmmaker and partner Gaspar Noé, she founded Les Cinémas de la Zone in the 1990s. Her debut *La Bouche de Jean-Pierre* (1996) and breakthrough *Innocence* (2004) established her as one of France's most formally distinctive and daring filmmakers of the last few decades. Her latest feature, *The Ice Tower* (see pg. 5), won the Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution, Berlin International Film Festival 2025.



We are delighted to welcome Lucile Hadžihalilović for a post-screening Q&A after *The Ice Tower* (Thu 20th, 20:15), and for a Masterclass (Fri 21st, 13:00).

CLAUDE CHABROL PROGRAMME

We are delighted to present four rarely seen, beautifully restored thrillers by Claude Chabrol, from his golden era (roughly 1968–1975), at this year's festival. We extend our thanks to Tamasa Distribution.

Claude Chabrol (1930–2010) began his career as a critic at *Les Cahiers du Cinéma* in the 1950s and is often credited with launching the French Nouvelle Vague with *Le Beau Serge* (1958). Over a prolific career spanning 52 years, he directed 57 films and is best known for his bourgeois dramas and psychological thrillers, earning him the title 'the French Hitchcock.'

Chabrol's rigorous *mise en scène* often dissected the French bourgeoisie and provincial social milieu. Some of his finest films emerged in the 1970s. With his wife, actress Stéphane Audran, portraying the bourgeois Frenchwoman, these films explore themes of female alienation, bourgeois repression, and violent crime. Female actors, technical collaborators, and screenwriters greatly informed Chabrol's work throughout his career in what historian and writer Antoine de Baecque describes as an example, alongside Éric Rohmer, of a feminisation of cinema. **MPR**

THE UNFAITHFUL WIFE (LA FEMME INFIDÈLE)

Sat 22nd (13:00)

Director: Claude Chabrol

98 mins / France / 1969 / Digital / Subtitled

Businessman Charles Desvallées (Michel Bouquet) leads a seemingly perfect bourgeois life with devoted wife Hélène (Stéphane Audran) and son Michel in their charming country home near Versailles. This apparent happiness rests on a carefully maintained façade. Suspecting Hélène of infidelity, Charles hires a private detective who uncovers her affair with writer Victor (Maurice Ronet). Chabrol's dark, unpredictable tale of infidelity, passion and violence investigates the veneer of bourgeois respectability. An unmissable 'Hitchcockian' thriller, and one of Chabrol's most famous and emblematic films, it simmers with tension, suspense, and unforgettable performances. **MPR**



THE BUTCHER (LE BOUCHER)

Sun 23rd (13:00)

Director: Claude Chabrol

93 mins / France-Italy / 1970 / Digital / Subtitled

After fifteen years serving in Indochina and Algeria, Popaul (Jean Yanne) returns to Tremolat in Périgord following his estranged father's death to take over the family butcher shop. Meeting the beautiful, cultured, school principal Miss Hélène (Stéphane Audran), they form an unlikely bond. Then one day the body of a young girl is found in the woods. Regarded as Chabrol's seminal masterwork, this haunting portrait of repressed violence is both terrifying and moving. Inside a refined and breathless plot is a heartrending drama of failed love - a subtle thriller with a heart of ice. **MPR**



JUST BEFORE NIGHTFALL (JUSTE AVANT LE NUIT)

Sat 29th (13:00)

Director: Claude Chabrol

100 mins / France / 1971 / Digital / Subtitled

Respected publicist and family man Charles Masson (Michel Bouquet) has just killed his mistress, Laura, by accident during one of their kinky sex-games. In a local bar where he tries to regain his senses, Charles meets his friend François (François Périer), the victim's husband. Chabrol's meticulous take on guilt, remorse, and its aftermath is an underseen gem. A mirror of *The Unfaithful Wife* – same bourgeois couple – Chabrol demonstrates the hypocrisy of the bourgeoisie, for whom appearance, luxury, and privilege are more important than justice or truth. **MPR**



THE BREACH (LA RUPTURE)

Sun 30th (16:00)

Director: Claude Chabrol

124 mins / France-Belgium-Italy / 1971 / Digital / Subtitled

After a brutal assault by her abusive, drug-addict husband Charles, Hélène (Stéphane Audran) moves to a boarding house near the hospital where her son is being treated. Her wealthy father-in-law Ludovic Régnier (Michel Bouquet), convinced that working class Hélène has ruined his son, schemes to take custody of his grandson, hiring shifty Paul (Jean-Pierre Cassel) to dig up some dirt. Again targeting the bourgeoisie, Chabrol's subtle exploration of psychological manipulation highlights the divide between classes. 'This will be my darkest movie,' Chabrol said, 'I'm portraying feelings that could exist in tomorrow's world if people continue acting madly.' **MPR**





LUMIÈRE PROGRAMME

We are delighted to present two feature-length films – *LUMIÈRE! THE ADVENTURE BEGINS* (2016) and its sequel, *LUMIÈRE! THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES* (2025). Conceived and directed by Thierry Frémaux, both are based on the cinematographic films shot by Louis Lumière and his operators from 1895–1905.

Exactly 130 years after Lumière first hand-cranked the camera, this material has been collated and immaculately restored, allowing the original cinematographic ‘views’ to reveal their full significance on the big screen while offering a deeper exploration of the invention of cinema.

We extend our thanks to Goodfellas, Wild Bunch, The Festival Agency, the British Film Institute; and to Maelle Arnaud and Thierry Frémaux (Director at the Institut Lumière in Lyon and General Delegate of the Cannes Film Festival). **MPR**



Sat 22nd (15:40)

Director: Thierry Frémaux

90 mins / France / 2016 / Digital / Subtitled / Black & White

LUMIÈRE! THE ADVENTURE BEGINS (LUMIÈRE ! L'AVENTURE COMMENCE)

Louis Lumière, with the help of his brother Auguste invented and perfected the Cinématographe, finding form and a poetic language through composition, tracking shots, comedy, drama, and actors. Frémaux brilliantly assembles these restored, fifty-second Lumière films, guiding us with enlightened commentary. Punctuated by the music of Camille Saint-Saëns, a contemporary of Lumière and the first musician to compose an original score for cinema, it is profoundly moving to see these treasures of film history return to the big screen after more than a century of absence.



Sat 29th (15:30)

Director: Thierry Frémaux

104 mins / France / 2025 / Digital / Subtitled / Black & White

LUMIÈRE! THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES (LUMIÈRE ! L'AVENTURE CONTINUE)

With commentary by Frémaux and music by Gabriel Fauré, we celebrate Louis Lumière, cinema's first true filmmaker, who shaped its language and created a vision of the world that cannot be separated from its mode of representation. This feature-length film is composed of 120 fifty-second films shot between 1895–1905 by Lumière and his operators, revealing, with hypnotic beauty and breathtaking details, a vivid spectacle of the turn of the century world. About ten of these were filmed in 75mm, but were never seen as they couldn't be projected. But now, digitally restored, we see them for the first time.

A selection of short films, made in Dublin in 1897 by Alexander Promio, an agent of the Lumière Brother, will screen before each film. They are among the oldest moving images made in Ireland and 35mm film copies are preserved in the IFI Irish Film Archive.

FESTIVAL GUESTS



JEAN-BAPTISTE BONNET

Jean-Baptiste Bonnet graduated in photography from the École des Gobelins in Paris and transitioned to filmmaking, working as a cinematographer on a number of creative documentaries for Arte, France Télévisions and the Centre Georges Pompidou. In 2020, he founded Habilis Productions, and in 2021, he was selected for the EURODOC programme with his feature documentary *Save Our Souls*. Jean-Baptiste is currently producing and developing several projects, with particular interest in international co-productions.



LUCILE HADŽIHALILOVIĆ

Award-winning director Lucile Hadžihalilović studied filmmaking at the prestigious IDHEC (now La Fémis) in 1983. With fellow filmmaker and partner Gaspar Noé, she founded the production company Les Cinémas de la Zone and produced films including *Carne* (1991) and *I Stand Alone* (1998). Her films *La Bouche de Jean-Pierre* (1996) and *Innocence* (2004) established her as one of the most formally distinctive and daring French filmmakers of recent years.



SAMUEL KIRCHER

Samuel Kircher grew up in a family passionate about cinema. He is the youngest son of actors Irène Jacob and Jérôme Kircher, and brother of actor Paul Kircher. While he was not initially destined to become an actor, Samuel found his starring role in Catherine Breillat's relationship drama *Last Summer* (2023). For this performance, he received nominations for Best Male Revelation at both the César Awards and Lumière Awards.



IFI FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

Menu

Les Entrées

Crème de potiron rôti, crumble au bleu, graines grillées
Cream of Roasted Pumpkin, with a Blue Cheese Crumble and Toasted Seeds
Tarte tatin aux tomates cerises
Cherry Tomato Tarte Tatin
Noix de Saint-Jacques poêlées, œufs de truite, beurre blanc, huile de ciboulette
Pan-seared Scallops with Trout Roe, Beurre blanc, and Chive Oil

Les Plats Principaux

Sole meunière, pommes de terre nouvelles bouillies, haricots verts
Sole Meunière, with boiled baby potatoes and French beans
Coq au vin accompagné d'une purée de pommes de terre crémeuse
Coq Au Vin, served with Creamy Mashed Potatoes
Gratin d'aubergines
Aubergine Gratin

Les Desserts

Crêpes Suzette
Crème Brûlée

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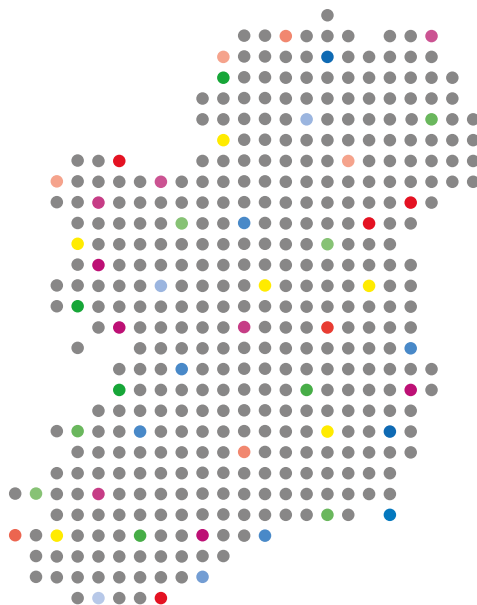
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