

French Film Festival London 2025 12 - 23 November at the Ciné Lumière



Full Programme Announced with UK Premieres, Exclusive Events, Classic Restorations and Special Guests

FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER 2025:

The full programme of the **French Film Festival London 2025** has just been unveiled, bringing 33 new titles across 76 screenings of UK premieres and award-winning previews of the best in new French cinema to audiences. The **FFFL 2025** will launch at the **Ciné Lumière**, part of London's **French Institute**, on **Wednesday 12 November** with ***The Great Arch* (L'inconnu de la grande arche)**, by **Stéphane Demoustier**, starring **Claes Bang**, with special screenings on **Saturday 22 November** of ***Case 137* (Dossier 137)**, by **Dominik Moll**, starring **Léa Drucker** and **Stanislas Merhar**, and on **Sunday 23 November** of ***Colours of Time*** by **Cédric Klapsich** starring **Vincent Macaigne** and **Suzanne Lindon**. Each director will appear in conversation after their **UK Premieres**, following invitations to the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year.

This edition will celebrate French film with features, documentaries, international co-productions, restorations and animated titles, presenting stories rich in diversity that will excite, inspire debate, entertain and encourage fresh perspectives from audiences.

Perfect examples of this are films such as this year's Palme d'Or winner and French submission to the Oscars ***It Was Just an Accident*** by the award-winning director **Jafar Panahi**, a thriller that questions the aftermath of political repression. ***Yes!***, from Israeli director **Nadav Lapid**, is

a continuation of his profound and visceral reflection on Israeli society, while in ***Black to the Future***, from renowned comedian **Jean-Pascal Zadi**, the first African space mission is launched in utmost secrecy to explore a potential planetary refuge for the wider diaspora. ***The Voice of Hind Rajab*** by **Kaouther Ben Hania**, is the deeply moving docudrama on everyone's lips, having won the Silver Lion after its premier at Venice, the Audience Award in San Sebastian as well as the Tunisian entry to the next Academy Awards.

Julia Ducourneau is bound to divide audiences with her new body-horror ***Alpha***, **Adèle Exarchopoulos** stars in the sci-fi thriller ***Dog 51*** – **Cédric Jimenez**'s look at a Paris categorised by class – while **Lucile Hadžihalilović** returns with her stunning new take on *The Snow Queen* fairytale with ***The Ice Tower***, featuring **Marion Cotillard** as a mysterious and manipulative actress. ***Nouvelle Vague***, by Academy Award winner **Richard Linklater**, is the eagerly anticipated homage to the making of the truly iconic and ground-breaking *Breathless*.

Adaptations will feature in this year's French Film Festival London programme, with ***The Stranger***, based on the Albert Camus novel and brought to the big screen by **François Ozon**, and ***Little Sister*** which won the Queer Palm and Best Actress prizes in Cannes with a personal account of a young French-Algerian woman forging her identity in Paris. ***Tell Her That I Love Her*** is the celebrated actress **Romane Bohringer**'s new quasi-documentary based on the book by French politician Clémentine Autain about her turbulent relationship with her mother, which explores the complexities of mother-daughter relationships.

Writing Life explores how the auto-fictions of Nobel Prize-winning and landmark feminist author **Annie Ernaux** are taught in French schools and universities, from the renowned documentarist **Claire Simon**; ***Menus-Plaisirs Les Troisgros*** is the multi-award-winning documentary from the pioneering **Fred Wiseman**. ***Thousands of Years of Absence*** by **Philippe Rouy** screens in the FIDMarseille strand and brings together footage of Japan's 6,852 islands, fearing their destruction, following the Fukushima nuclear disaster of 2011, winning the Cnap award at the festival.

The Classic cinema strand will present restorations of **Patrice Chéreau**'s ***La Reine Margot***, winner of five Césars, starring **Isabelle Adjani**, who turned 70 this year, **Jean-Hughes Anglade** **Daniel Auteuil** and **Virna Lisi** and ***The Sorrow and the Pity***, deemed as one of the greatest films ever made, by **Marcel Ophüls** who died earlier this year. **Dominik Moll**'s debut ***Harry, He's Here to Help*** will be accompanied by a director interview, and stars **Sergi López** (who can also be seen in ***Sirât***, Spain's submission to the Academy Awards by **Oliver Laxe**).

And for families there will be a strand featuring dazzling new animations such as ***The Songbird's Secrets*** and ***Arco*** by **Ugo Bienvenu** and co-produced by **Natalie Portman**, where the titular boy from the year 3000 falls from the sky and is found by ten-year-old Iris...in 2075. *Arco* won Best Feature at this year's Annecy Film Festival. There will also be a specially curated programme for schools and universities from the Education department at the Ciné Lumière, along with special events in the Library.

Diane Gabrysiak, Head of Programming and Exhibition at the Ciné Lumière says:

"After months spent diligently viewing a variety of new French films, the Ciné Lumière team is delighted to offer a selection of 33 titles that duly reflect the rich diversity of voices, forms and budgets that altogether represent the wealth of French cinema production, both at home and in

the particularly strong trend of French films with or by international actors and directors. From the Palme d'Or Winner and French Oscar Contender It Was Just an Accident by Jafar Panahi to Alice Douard's Love Letters, we hope our selection of films and discussions bring people together to reflect on as well as celebrate the great art form that is cinema."

Raïssa Lahcine, Deputy Director of the French Institute and Audiovisual Attaché says:

"As the newly appointed Audiovisual Attachée and Deputy Director of the Institut français du Royaume-Uni, I am delighted and honoured to launch this year's edition of the French Film Festival London. This inspiring and daring programme showcases the richness of French cinema: a cinema that is committed, takes risks and boldly expresses its voice and creative freedom. Audiences will all be surprised, moved, challenged and inspired. We are also very proud to collaborate with new partners and sponsors, all eager to strengthen the visibility and impact of French cinema and support the Festival's mission. I feel privileged to contribute my energy and support, helping the festival grow and reach ever broader audiences."

The French Film Festival London, independently curated by Ciné Lumière, is presented in close collaboration with the French Film Festival UK. It is supported by the Trust of the Friends of the French Institute, Unifrance, Eurostar and the Pelham London.

Click here to access the [French Film Festival London Programme](#)

For regular updates sign-up to the [newsletter](#).

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The [FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL LONDON](#) at Ciné Lumière will run from:
12-23 NOVEMBER 2025

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BOOKING:

There will be a discount code for 20% off at the FFFL 2025 when you book to see 5 films or more; discount automatically applied at the checkout:

box.office@institut-francais.org.uk

VENUE:

Ciné Lumière, 17 Queensberry Place, London SW7 2DT / 020 7871 3515

www.institut-francais.org.uk / box.office@institut-francais.org.uk

CINÉ LUMIÈRE

With its two screens (225 and 34 seats), equipped with digital and 35mm projection facilities, Ciné Lumière is one of the landmark arthouse cinemas in London.

Particularly known for its broad programme and the promotion of French and European films, Ciné Lumière offers daily screenings of new and exclusive releases, UK premieres, classics, documentaries, family and school screenings, as well as series and retrospectives. It is also valued for on-stage debates attended by directors, actors, scholars and film critics.

Often working in collaboration with British partners, Ciné Lumière projects over 400 films a year cumulating in over 2,000 screenings, features more than 100 on-stage discussions, and welcomes more than 50,000 patrons. It has also established itself as a showcase for world cinema, particularly through the vast array of festivals it collaborates with, highlighting the vitality of French co-productions and attracting international audiences.

FRENCH INSTITUTE IN THE UK

Part of a worldwide network, the Institut français du Royaume-Uni promotes French language and culture and encourages cross-cultural collaborations. Founded in 1910, and based in London, it comprises a Language Centre, a Cultural Centre, Ciné Lumière and La Médiathèque.

The Institut welcomes over 100,000 people each year, thanks to its wide range of public events, from film screenings, debates and festivals to concerts and workshops. It has also developed a broad offer for young audiences through public and school activities and its dedicated spaces, the Bibliothèque Quentin Blake and L'Atelier. It also hosts Gazette, London's most authentic French brasserie.

In addition, the Institut presents and supports external cultural events, in collaboration with British partners, and fosters creation from both sides of the Channel.

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL UK:

[The French Film Festival UK](#) is the UK's largest programme of modern French cinema, dedicated to sharing exclusive access to premieres and titles that may not otherwise be seen on a big screen. Additional highlights will include a strand of restored classic titles and expertly crafted education programmes for schools and universities across the country.