



FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

LONDON

12-23 Nov 2025
at Ciné Lumière



INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS
Royaume-Uni



Black to the Future, dir. by Jean-Pascal Zadi

French Film Festival London 2025

This year's French Film Festival London brings a varied and exciting line-up of 33 feature-length films screened over 12 days.

With many UK premieres, the selection showcases the variety of voices, forms and budgets that altogether represent the wealth and diversity of French cinema production.

From comedies to documentaries, from personal stories to social dramas and thrillers, many try to reflect on the present and the complex world we live in. With a particularly strong trend of French films with or by international actors and directors, French cinema in 2025 continues expanding beyond its borders while keeping its strength at home.

The small selection of restored films pays tribute to the late master documentary filmmaker Marcel Ophüls and to the great Isabelle Adjani who turned 70 this year.



The Great Arch

L'inconnu de la grande arche

UK Premiere | dir. Stéphane Demoustier | with Claes Bang, Michel Fau, Xavier Dolan

1982. French President François Mitterrand launches an international competition for the Great Arch of La Défense, aligned with the Louvre and the Arc de Triomphe. Against all odds, a Danish architect is thrust into this pharaonic project, where his vision collides with politics.

Wed 12 Nov, 19.45 + Q&A with
director Stéphane Demoustier &
actor Claes Bang

Sat 22 Nov, 15.30



A Private Life

Vie privée

dir. Rebecca Zlotowski | with Jodie Foster, Virginie Efira, Daniel Auteuil
When psychiatrist Lilian Steiner learns of a patient's death, she suspects murder and begins an investigation across France. **Rebecca Zlotowski's** latest film (*Grand Central*, *An Easy Girl*) blends the tension of a thriller with reflections on psychoanalysis today. **Jodie Foster** shines in her first major French-language role in over two decades.

Wed 12 Nov, 16.30

Sat 15 Nov, 11.20

Mon 17 Nov, 20.30



Wild Foxes

La Danse des renards

UK Premiere | dir. Valéry Carnoy | with Samuel Kircher, Fayçal Anafloous, Jef Jacobs, Anna Heckel

At a sports boarding school, Camille, a promising teenage boxer, narrowly survives a fatal accident. After his recovery, an inexplicable pain and a growing fear begin to consume him, threatening both his dreams of greatness and his bond with the team. This beautiful coming-of-age story won **Best European Film** at the **2025 Cannes Film Festival**.

Wed 12 Nov, 18.30

Sun 16 Nov, 17.00

Wed 19 Nov, 18.20



Alpha

dir. Julia Ducournau | with Tahar Rahim, Golshifteh Farahani, Mélissa Boros

Alpha, a troubled 13-year-old, lives with her mother. Their world collapses the day she comes home with a tattoo, as a mysterious virus spreads through society. Following her Palme d'Or-winning *Titane*, **Julia Ducournau** returns with a genre-defying vision that fuses body horror and coming-of-age to probe the intensity of family bonds.

Wed 12 Nov, 20.30

Sun 16 Nov, 19.20

Sat 22 Nov, 20.25

More screenings from 24 Nov



Nouvelle Vague

dir. Richard Linklater | with Guillaume Marbeck, Aubrey Dullin, Zoey Deutch
Paris, 1959. A rebellious young director begins his first feature. His name is Jean-Luc Godard, and the film will be *Breathless*. With *Nouvelle Vague*, **Richard Linklater** (*Before Midnight*, *Boyhood*) captures the free spirit of a revolution in the making, paying homage to the French New Wave and its artists: Godard, Truffaut, Rohmer, Chabrol, Varda.

Thu 13 Nov, 14.45

Mon 17 Nov, 18.15

Sat 22 Nov, 10.30



Yes

Ken

UK Premiere | dir. Nadav Lapid | with Ariel Bronz, Efrat Dor, Naama Preis
Tel Aviv, just after October 7. Y., a precarious jazz musician, and his wife Jasmine, a dancer, sell their art, body and soul to the highest bidders, consoling a country in pain. Then Y. is tasked to compose a new national anthem. With *Yes*, presented at the Cannes Film Festival, **Nadav Lapid** delivers a topical absurdist tale of love and politics.

Thu 13 Nov, 19.15 + Q&A with
director Nadav Lapid

Wed 19 Nov, 20.15



The Ice Tower

La Tour de glace

dir. Lucile Hadžihalilović | with Marion Cotillard, Clara Pacini, August Diehl, Gaspar Noé

The 1970s. Jeanne, a runaway, finds refuge in a film studio shooting *The Snow Queen* and falls under the spell of Cristina (**Marion Cotillard**), its enigmatic star. As mutual fascination deepens, so does their bond. Directed by Lucile Hadžihalilović, this "mesmeric melodrama" (*The Guardian*) won the **Silver Bear for Artistic Contribution** at the **2025 Berlinale**.

Thu 13 Nov, 20.15

Sat 15 Nov, 18.00

More screenings from 24 Nov



A Magnificent Life

Marcel et Monsieur Pagnol

dir. Sylvain Chomet | with Laurent Lafitte, Géraldine Pailhas, Thierry Garcia

With animated film *A Magnificent Life*, **Sylvain Chomet** (*Belleville Rendez-vous*, *The Illusionist*) delivers a beautiful biopic of **Marcel Pagnol**. In Paris, Pagnol is commissioned by *ELLE* to write about his childhood in Marseille. As memories resurface, a dialogue emerges between past and present, weaving love and passions through the Belle Époque, rising fascism, and World War II.

Fri 14 Nov, 16.30

Sun 16 Nov, 12.45

Thu 20 Nov, 18.20



It Was Just an Accident

Yek tasadef sadeh

dir. Jafar Panahi | with Vahid Mobasser, Mariam Afshari, Ebrahim Azizi

Vahid, an Azerbaijani mechanic once jailed in Iran, recalls his blindfolded interrogations. When a customer with a prosthetic leg enters his workshop, he believes he recognises a former torturer. Will he get revenge or let him go? **Jafar Panahi's** *It Was Just an Accident*, awarded the **2025 Palme d'Or at Cannes**, represents France at the **Oscars**.

Thu 13 Nov, 17.00

Sun 16 Nov, 11.00

Sun 23 Nov, 18.50

More screenings from 5 Dec



Tell Her That I Love Her

Dites-Lui que je l'aime

UK Premiere | dir. Romane Bohringer with Romane Bohringer, Clémentine Autain, Éva Yelmani

In this deeply personal hybrid film, **Romane Bohringer**, long recognised for her roles in French cinema, creates parallel stories of daughterly grief, including her own. At its centre is politician Clémentine Autain, whose book *Tell Her I Love Her* inspired the film. Bohringer crafts an affecting portrait of the mother-daughter bond shaped by shared abandonment.

Fri 14 Nov, 18.15 + Q&A with

director/actor Romane Bohringer

Sat 22 Nov, 15.50



Dog 51

Chien 51

UK Premiere | dir. Cédric Jimenez with Gilles Lellouche, Adèle Exarchopoulos, Louis Garrel, Romain Duris, Valeria Bruni Tedeschi

After *BAC Nord* and *Novembre*, Cédric Jimenez concludes his law enforcement trilogy with *Dog 51*, starring **Gilles Lellouche** and **Adèle Exarchopoulos**. In a near-future Paris divided into three zones, no one can escape the predictive AI ALMA. When its creator is killed, a top agent and a jaded cop are forced to confront its dark secrets.

Fri 14 Nov, 16.10

Thu 20 Nov, 18.20



Colours of Time

La Venue de l'avenir

London Premiere | dir. Cédric Klapisch with Suzanne Lindon, Vincent Macaigne, Cécile de France, Julia Piaton

Four estranged cousins reunite in Normandy after inheriting a house untouched since the 1940s. As they uncover the story of their ancestor Adèle Vermillard, they journey between 1895 and 2025, encountering the likes of Monet, Nadar and Sarah Bernhardt. From the director of *Rise*, *Call My Agent!* and *Pot Luck*, this playful voyage spans art, memory, and future.

Fri 14 Nov, 20.20

Thu 20 Nov, 15.30

Sun 23 Nov, 13.00 + virtual Q&A with director Cédric Klapisch



Love Me Tender

dir. Anna Cazenave Cambet | with Vicky Krieps, Antoine Reinartz, Monia Chokri, Viggo Ferreira-Redier

One late summer, Clémence (**Vicky Krieps**) tells her ex-husband she now desires women. When he gains custody of their son, her world collapses. Torn between motherhood and freedom as a writer, she begins to redefine herself. Adapted from **Constance Debré's** acclaimed novel, *Love Me Tender* premiered at Cannes, with Krieps delivering a powerful, searching performance.

Fri 14 Nov, 20:40

Sun 23 Nov, 17.45



Ari

London Premiere | dir. Léonor Serraille with Andranic Manet, Pascal Rénéric, Théo Delezenne

Ari, a 27-year-old trainee teacher in Lille, feels overwhelmed by a life he can no longer manage. The visit of a school inspector breaks him down, forcing him to confront his fragility and search for lost connections. **Léonor Serraille** (*Jeune femme, Mother and Son*) explores vulnerability with sensitivity and hope in this film presented in **competition at the Berlinale**.

Sat 15 Nov, 16.00

Wed 19 Nov, 20.20 + Q&A TBC



The Voice of Hind Rajab

Sawt Hind Rajab

dir. Kaouther Ben Hania | with Saja Kilani, Motaz Malhees, Clara Khoury, Amer Hlehel

On 29 January 2024, Red Crescent volunteers receive an urgent call: six-year-old Hind Rajab is trapped in a car under fire in Gaza, begging for rescue. Based on the audio recording, **Kaouther Ben Hania** (*Four Daughters*) builds a fictional narrative into a vital film for our time, **awarded the Silver Lion at Venice**.

Sat 15 Nov, 11.00 & 20.30 + Q&A with director Kaouther Ben Hania (TBC) after evening screening
Mon 17 Nov, 18.00



Black to the Future

Le Grand déplacement

UK Premiere | dir. Jean-Pascal Zadi with Jean-Pascal Zadi, Reda Kateb, Louis and the Yakuza, Fadily Camara

Under cover of secrecy, the first African space mission prepares for take-off. A crew drawn from the continent and its diaspora sets out to explore planet Nardal, testing it as a refuge should Earth become uninhabitable. After *Simply Black* and *Represent*, **Jean-Pascal Zadi** returns with a joyful sci-fi comedy probing prejudice and shifting geopolitics.

Sat 15 Nov, 18.20

Thu 20 Nov, 20.30



The Girl in the Snow

L'Engloutie

UK Premiere | dir. Louise Hémon with Galatéa Bellugi, Matthieu Lucci, Samuel Kircher, Oscar Pon

One stormy night, Aimée, a young secular republican, arrives in a remote Alpine hamlet to teach a handful of children. Met with mistrust, she slowly becomes part of the community while determined to challenge their obscure beliefs. As snow isolates the village, its legends invade her nights. Louise Hémon's debut, inspired by family stories, **premiered at Cannes**.

Sat 15 Nov, 15.40 + Q&A with director Louise Hémon
Fri 21 Nov, 20.25



Sirât

dir. Oliver Laxe | with Sergi López, Bruno Núñez, Jade Oukid

A father and son arrive at a rave in the mountains of southern Morocco, searching for Mar, the daughter and sister who vanished months earlier. Hope fading, they follow ravers to one last desert party. As they venture into the burning wilderness, they confront their limits. Oliver Laxe's (*Fire Will Come*) **Sirât won Cannes' Special Jury Prize**.

Sat 15 Nov, 20.20

Tue 18 Nov, 20.30

Wed 19 Nov, 18.00

Fri 21 Nov, 15.50



The Little Sister

La Petite dernière

UK Premiere | dir. **Hafsia Herzi** | with **Nadia Melliti, Ji-min Park, Amina Ben Mohamed**

Hafsia Herzi directs a moving coming-of-age drama where cultural identity and sexuality struggle to reconcile. Seventeen-year-old Fatima, youngest of three daughters, treads carefully between desire, attraction to women, and loyalty to her French-Algerian family as she starts university. Based on **Fatima Daas'** book, *The Little Sister* won Best Actress (Nadia Melliti) and the **Queer Palm** at Cannes.

Sun 16 Nov, 16.30
Thu 20 Nov, 20.15



Love Letters

Preuves d'amour

London Premiere | dir. **Alice Douard** with **Ella Rumpf, Monia Chokri, Noémie Lvovsky**

In three months, Céline's wife Nadia will give birth to their first daughter. As the co-parent, Céline must face the hurdles of the adoption system and fraught familial relationships as she prepares to become a mother. This subtle, heartfelt, and often funny film offers a touching portrait of queer life in contemporary Paris.

Tue 18 Nov, 18.15
Sat 22 Nov, 18.15



Enzo

dir. **Robin Campillo** | with **Eloy Pehu, Pierfrancesco Favino, Elodie Bouchez**
Enzo, 16, defies his bourgeois family by starting a masonry apprenticeship, far from the prestigious future they imagined. In their villa in La Ciotat, tensions rise as pressure mounts over his choices. On construction sites, Vlad, a charismatic Ukrainian co-worker, unsettles his world. **Robin Campillo** (*Eastern Boys*, *120 BPM*) completes late **Laurent Cantet's** heartfelt project.

Sun 16 Nov, 14.40
Tue 18 Nov, 20.30
Fri 21 Nov, 15.30



The Stranger

L'Étranger

dir. **François Ozon** | with **Benjamin Voisin, Rebecca Marder, Pierre Lottin, Swann Arlaud**

Algiers, 1938. Meursault, a solitary employee, shows no grief at his mother's funeral, then begins an affair and slips back into his routine. His life changes when neighbour Raymond Sintès involves him in shady deals, until the discovery of a crime on a beach. **François Ozon's** Venice-premiered adaptation of **Camus** examines absurdity in colonial times.

Wed 19 Nov, 14.45
Fri 21 Nov, 20.40
Sun 23 Nov, 10.30



Kamelott: The Second Chapter (Part 1)

Kamelott – Deuxième volet (partie 1)

UK Premiere | dir. **Alexandre Astier** with **Alexandre Astier, Audrey Fleurot, Christian Clavier, Alain Chabat**

After the hit TV series and *Kamelott: First Installment*, **Alexandre Astier** returns to his offbeat take on the Round Table legend. Having ended Lancelot's tyrannical reign, Arthur shocks the realm by sparing him, defying the Celtic gods. As knights fight to prove their worth, Arthur must face new enemies threatening his kingdom.

Mon 17 Nov, 20.00
Fri 21 Nov, 13.00
Sat 22 Nov, 12.40



Writing Life - Annie Ernaux Through the Eyes of High School Students

Écrire la vie – Annie Ernaux racontée par des lycéennes et des lycéens

UK Premiere | dir. **Claire Simon**
How is **Annie Ernaux's** work taught, studied, and read? How do young people in France and beyond engage with her writings? A central figure in contemporary feminism and the first French woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, Ernaux embodies emancipation. Director **Claire Simon** shows how her work continues to inspire the search for freedom.

Fri 21 Nov, 18.15 + Q&A with director **Claire Simon**



Menus Plaisirs – Les Troisgros

dir. **Frederick Wiseman**

Founded in 1930 in central France, the Troisgros family restaurant has held three Michelin stars for over 55 years and four generations. From markets and gardens to vineyards and kitchens, legendary documentarian **Frederick Wiseman** (*The Paris Opera Ballet*, *National Gallery*) takes us on a mouthwatering journey. *Menus Plaisirs – Les Troisgros* celebrates culinary excellence passed through tradition.

Sat 22 Nov, 11.00

Taste the Troisgros signature dish at Gazette Brasserie



Case 137

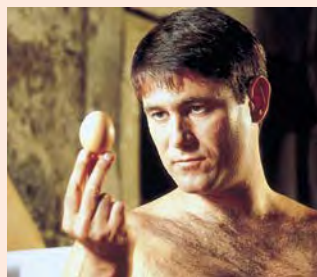
Dossier 137

UK Premiere | dir. Dominik Moll with Léa Drucker, Jonathan Turnbull, Mathilde Roehrich, Yoann Blanc Stéphanie (**Léa Drucker**), an officer in France's police oversight unit, investigates the case of a young man injured during a "gilets jaunes" protest. With no sign of unlawful violence, the inquiry turns personal when she learns the victim is from her hometown.

Featured at Cannes, Dominik Moll (*Night of the 12th*) delivers a gripping drama.

Sat 22 Nov, 20.10

+ Q&A with director Dominik Moll
Sun 23 Nov, 16.15



Harry, He's Here to Help

Harry, un ami qui vous veut du bien

dir. Dominik Moll | with Sergi López, Laurent Lucas, Mathilde Seigner Michel, his wife, and their three daughters go on vacation in the Cantal, though overwhelmed with money issues. On the road, Michel meets Harry, an old high school friend eager to make him happy, even at the cost of disrupting his life. Dominik Moll's debut **won Césars** for **Best Director** and **Best Actor** (Sergi López).

Fri 21 Nov, 18.00

Sat 22 Nov, 17.45

+ intro by director Dominik Moll

Classics



La Reine Margot

dir. **Patrice Chéreau | with Isabelle Adjani, Daniel Auteuil, Jean-Hughes Anglade, Virna Lisi**

In war-torn France, Margot (**Isabelle Adjani**) is caught between Catholic and Protestant rivalries as her mother, Catherine de Medici, schemes to place her son on the throne. Forced into a loveless marriage yet drawn to another man, Margot faces betrayal and bloodshed. *La Reine Margot*, a sumptuous **Dumas adaptation**, **won five Césars**, including **Best Actress**.

Sun 16 Nov, 13.15

Tue 18 Nov, 17.20



The Sorrow and the Pity

Le Chagrin et la pitié

dir. **Marcel Ophüls**

Marcel Ophüls' four-hour portrait of Clermont-Ferrand under German occupation is a landmark of documentary cinema, as vital as Lanzmann's *Shoah*. Through interviews with residents, officials, artists, and German veterans, *The Sorrow and the Pity* reveals how people lived and acted under the occupation. Initially refused by French TV, it gained international acclaim and an **Oscar nomination**.

Mon 19 Nov, Part 1 at 13.00 & Part 2 at 15.40

Sun 23 Nov, Part 1 at 12.25 & Part 2 at 15.05

Carte Blanche to FIDMarseille



Have a Nice Day

Bonne Journée

UK Premiere | dir. Pauline Bastard

In Grenoble, Emmaus companions repair and resell donated items. Between the warehouse and the shop, a small group joins artist Pauline Bastard to reimagine daily life with humour and tenderness. *Have a Nice Day* playfully blurs perspectives as companions become photographers and videographers, continuing Bastard's collective exploration of recycling, idleness, and the possibilities they open.

Fri 14 Nov, 18.45 + intro by Cyril Neyrat (artistic director of FIDMarseille)



Thousands of Years of Absence

Des Millénaires d'absence

UK Premiere | dir. Philippe Rouy

Formed just after the 2011 Fukushima disaster, a group of Japanese filmmakers set out to capture all 6,852 islands of the archipelago, anticipating them to vanish. Blending fiction and documentary, *Thousands of Years of Absence* **won the CNAP Award at FIDMarseille 2025** for its experimental vision, reflective power, and hauntingly beautiful, archive-like images.

Sat 15 Nov, 13.00 + Q&A with director Philippe Rouy

Anima(c)tion for Families



Arco

London Premiere | dir. Ugo Bienvenu

In **Ugo Bienvenu's** colourful time-travel adventure, 10-year-old Arco arrives by mistake in 2075, where technology has gone too far and the environment is at stake. With the help of new friends, he seeks a way home. This moving film full of hope, produced by **Natalie Portman won the Cristal Award** at Annecy Festival.

Sat 15 Nov, 13.40

Sun 23 Nov, 10.45



The Songbird's Secret

Le Secret des mésanges

dir. Antoine Lanciaux | with Lucie Léontiadis, Anton Souverbie-Giorgis, Marina Le Guennec

Antoine Lanciaux's debut long feature is a joyful tale told through meticulous cutout animation. Nine-year-old Lucie joins her archaeologist mother Caroline in the countryside for the holidays. With her new friend Yann, she explores her mother's childhood home, uncovering mysterious people, hidden passages, and an abandoned caravan, that bring her closer to understanding her mum's secrets.

Sun 16 Nov, 11.00 + recorded intro with director Antoine Lanciaux



La Reine Margot, dir. Patrice Chéreau, Courtesy of Park Circus/Pathé

Info & Booking

Online: www.institut-francais.org.uk

Box office: 020 7871 3515

Please note that all information is correct at the time of print but liable to change. Do check our website or subscribe to our newsletter for updates and additional events.

Tickets: Prices range from £5 to £20.

Early booking is recommended.

Tickets are neither exchangeable nor refundable.

Special offer: Cinema enthusiasts can get 20% off when they book to see 5 films or more (discount automatically applied at checkout).

Scan the QR code
to book online



Venue

Ciné Lumière at the Institut français

17 Queensberry Place

London SW7 2DT

Tube: South Kensington

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Tell Her That I Love Her, dir. Romane Bohringer

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