



LUMIÈRE! THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES

A FILM BY THIERRY FRÉMAUX

FRANCE - 103 mn – Sound: 5.1 – Ratio: 1.85 – Format: B&W - 2024

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SYNOPSIS

The sequel to *LUMIÈRE! THE ADVENTURE BEGINS* reveals another hundred Lumière films, all immaculately restored, and aims above all to explore more deeply the history of the invention and affirmation of cinema in the world. This new feature-length film, following the great success and worldwide release of its predecessor, will confirm to audiences everywhere that the roots of the greatest and most beautiful works in the history of cinema lie in its origins, which are both profoundly French and truly international.

The soundtrack will be drawn from works by the composer Gabriel Fauré, a contemporary of the Lumière brothers. The film was conceived, and is narrated by, Thierry Frémaux, Director General of the Institut Lumière.

PROJECT PRESENTATION

The sequel to *Lumière! The Adventure Begins*

After *Lumière! The Adventure Begins*, released in France on January 25, 2017 in 45 theaters (136,000 admissions) and around the world (in more than 33 countries), Sorties d'Usine Productions and the Institut Lumière present a new "Lumière film", directed by Thierry Frémaux and produced by Maelle Arnaud: *Lumière! The Adventure Continues*.

Like its predecessor, *Lumière! The Adventure Continues* is a documentary created solely from Lumière films, with these dazzling cinematographic "vues" constituting the film in its entirety. The Lumière films – 1,400 in all and the very first cinematographic productions in history – begin with *Workers Leaving the Lumière Factory* in 1895 and continue until 1905. 110 new works have been carefully chosen from this abundant output, and consummately restored. To see them rediscovered in the cinemas to which they gave birth, to re-experience and reevaluate them on this historic anniversary of the birth of cinema – that is what lies at the heart of this project.

Lumière! The Adventure Continues includes more than a hundred Lumière works, in fully restored black and white, their original format and speed respected. It is composed of several chapters, as detailed below, within which the "vues" are united alongside a commentary written and spoken by Thierry Frémaux.

However, this second work harbors a new ambition. Firstly, it allows the discovery of the Lumière brothers' seminal work in greater depth, revealing astonishing films – either rare or entirely unknown – where its predecessor naturally highlighted the best known and internationally celebrated productions. Many of the works presented here furnish proof of an utterly remarkable imagination, ingenuity and technical audacity. The subjects filmed are more unusual, more singular, and the prints are magnificent, created from materials of the very highest quality.

Furthermore, Thierry Frémaux's commentary explores these lesser-known films from both a more detailed historical – and from a penetrating philosophical and aesthetic – perspective. It highlights, for example, fascinating technical points concerning films of the era, while reflecting deeply upon the work of the Lumière brothers: its scale, its artistic intention and its cinematic scope.

Lumière! The Adventure Continues

□ **The Lumière films themselves, of course, at the heart of the project. The magnificence of these films, and the beauty of their restoration, will dazzle spectators.**

□ **Thierry Frémaux's commentary: erudite, instructive, historical, philosophical and aesthetic perspectives containing numerous and unexpected connections that lead us to contemporary cinema.**

□ **Music selected from the work of Gabriel Fauré, an essential element of the presentation and enhancement of these films. Fauré was chosen, as Camille Saint-Saëns was for *Lumière! The Adventure Begins*, because he was a contemporary of Louis and Auguste Lumière.**

Chapters

1894 - Animating Images
1895 - Projecting Images
1896 - Inventing the Public
Military Times
In the Streets, In the Countryside, Amidst Crowds
Distant Lands
The World's Promise
Trains and Journeys, Boats and Shorelines
Actors!
That Which Cinema Invents (The Beauty of the Cinematograph)
“Death will cease to be absolute”

These eleven chapters, preceded by a prologue and followed by an epilogue (and with a surprise from Francis Ford Coppola) each include between 6 and 12 short films, with a total running time of 1 hour 43 minutes.

The Lumière films restored

The films, amassed from various collections assembled at the CNC Film Archives, including those of the Institut Lumière, were restored under the direction of Maelle Arnaud and Thierry Frémaux by the L'Immagine Ritrovata lab (Bologna, Italy), with the collaboration of the CNC.

This stage is part of a broader project to restore the “Vues Lumière”: after 130 in 2016, a further 300 “vues” have been restored in 2024, thanks to the CNC, the Golden Globe Foundation and the Institut Lumière. In all, nearly 1,400 films (and some 1,000 additional, so-called “non-catalogue” films) constitute this restoration program, working with negative and positive elements from the collections of the Cinémathèque française, the Institut Lumière and the French Film Archives of the CNC.

130 years of the Cinematograph

Another distinction of this second opus lies in the context of its release, since 2025 will mark the 130-year anniversary of the birth of cinema. *Lumière! The Adventure Continues* is also conceived of as the spearhead of national and international celebrations, recounting as it does in a new way the birth of this revolutionary art, that decisive historical moment with unimaginable consequences, still so present – and so significant – in our lives. Cinematic forms, spaces and issues evolve at high speed, yet cinema demonstrates an extraordinary, constantly renewed, permanence: everything that was already present in the Lumière films.

This then is the heart of these joyful celebrations being organized for 2025, to which the Institut Lumière will add all its strength, expertise and passion.

Production, release and distribution

mk2 and Nathanaël Karmitz joined forces with the Institut Lumière and Sorties d'Usine Productions in order to better prepare the overall production and television broadcast of the film.

As with *Lumière! The Adventure Begins*, Goodfellas is representing the film internationally, and many foreign distributors have already committed to it.

Ad Vitam will once again act as French distributor, releasing the film in theatres on February 5, 2025. It should be remembered that its predecessor attracted 136,000 spectators to French theatres.

THIERRY FRÉMAUX BIOGRAPHY

Born in Isère, Thierry Frémaux grew up in Minguettes, in the Lyon suburb of Vénissieux, where he was introduced at a very young age to cinema by his father, who ran a film club.

He became a commentator for the community radio station Radio Canut and studied the social history of cinema to Master of Advanced Study level. He wrote, among others, a master's thesis on the early days of the journal *Positif*.

A volunteer at the Institut Lumière in Lyon since its foundation in 1982, he became an employee in 1983 at the suggestion of Bernard Chardère. In 1995, he was appointed artistic director, alongside the President, Bertrand Tavernier, in which role he organized the centenary celebrations of cinema and the creation of a collection of books published by Actes Sud, as well as the restoration of films by the Lumière brothers.

In 1999, he turned down the directorship of the Cinémathèque française before being made artistic director of the Cannes Festival in 2001. In 2007, he was appointed General Delegate of the Festival by his predecessor Gilles Jacob, who had become President.

With his team, Frémaux established and has run the Lumière Festival in Lyon since 2009. He also initiated the Lumière Prize, the first recipient of which was Clint Eastwood.

In 2017, he created the film *Lumière! The Adventure Begins*, which for the first time collected and offered commentary on 108 newly restored films by the Lumière brothers, and which enjoyed great success both in France and abroad.

Thierry Frémaux is also the author of a number of books, including *Official Selection* (Grasset), the diary of a year of the Cannes selection process. His latest book, *Rue du Premier-Film*, will be published on September 11 by Stock in the *Ma Nuit au musée* series.

CREDITS

Production: Institut Lumière/Sorties d'Usine Productions

Written, directed and narrated by Thierry Frémaux

Executive producer: Maelle Arnaud

Associate producer: Nathanaël Karmitz/mk2

Production manager: Margot Rossi

Editors: Jonathan Cayssials and Simon Gemelli with Thierry Frémaux

Historical advisors: Fabrice Calzетtoni and Jean-Marc Lamotte

Music: Gabriel Fauré

Format: B&W