

Tuesday 29 September 2026

Fête du Cinéma d'Animation



4 – 31 October 2026 at Ciné Lumière

The French Institute in London presents a selection of new animation films alongside classics as part of the 25th *Fête du Cinéma d'Animation*. Intended for audiences of all ages, the festival will take place from 4 to 31 October at Ciné Lumière.

The programme will feature LAIKA Studios' highly anticipated new fantasy adventure, ***Wildwood* (30 & 31 October and 1 November)**. Set in an enchanted forest hidden just beyond Portland, Oregon, the film follows headstrong teenager Prue McKeel on a desperate rescue mission after her baby brother is abducted by a murder of crows.

Among the programme's highlights are the **London premieres** of two acclaimed new animated features. Winner of the Paul Grimault Award at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival and the FIPRESCI Prize at Cannes 2025, ***Dandelion's Odyssey* (11 October)** brings tiny seeds to life, giving them personalities and a remarkable sense of bravery, as they journey through uncharted landscapes in search of a new home.

***Mary Anning* (13 October: School Screening, 17 & 27 October)** introduces audiences to the childhood of the celebrated palaeontologist, as a 12-year-old young girl determined to make her mark in a world designed for men. The screenings will be preceded by **recorded Q&As with director Marcel Barelli and Production Designer Marjolaine Perrenten**.

The festival will also present **Antoine Lanciaux's** first feature-length film, a joyful story brought to life through the meticulous art of cut-out animation. ***The Songbird's Secret* (10 October)** follows nine-year-old Lucie, who joins her archaeologist mother Caroline in the countryside for the holidays, only to discover some secrets about her family. The screening will be preceded by a **recorded Q&A with director Antoine Lanciaux**.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the legendary Aardman studio, audiences can enjoy ***Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom*** (24, 25 & 29 October), followed by a free clay stop-motion animation workshop on 29 October.

A landmark of animation, ***Of Stars and Men*** will receive a special screening in a recently restored print on 18 October. Created by legendary animation duo **John and Faith Hubley** and inspired by the 1959 book by astronomer **Harlow Shapley**, the film follows a young boy crowned King of Beasts as he begins to question humanity's place in the universe. **Winner of the Special Jury Award at the 1962 Annecy International Animated Film Festival**, the film will be introduced by **Natasha Orlando Kappler**, founder of Reverie Cineclub, who will also lead a paint-animation workshop following the screening.

A selection of **French animated shorts for Adults (15 October)** and for **Young Audiences (28 October)**, along with screenings of the remastered print of ***Animal Farm*** by **Joy Batchelor & John Halas (28 & 29 October)** and **Relaxed Screenings** such as **Alfredo Soderguit's *Anina* (4 October)** complete the programme.

Programme

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Venue: Ciné Lumière at the Institut français, 17 Queensberry Place, London SW7 2DT

