SCREEN

DAY 3

THURSDAY, MAY 14 2026 AT CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

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Jeff Spicer



Delroy Lindo

Lindo behind camera with Jabari's People

Oscar-nominated *Sinners* star Delroy Lindo is eyeing a late summer start on his feature directing debut *Jabari's People* as his producer Rob Maylor takes meetings in Cannes with financiers and distributors.

Lindo will also star in the film about a teenager from New York wrestling with the loss of his mother, who goes to live with his grandfather in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica.

Backed in part by private investors Sue Rockefeller, Regina K Scully, Melony Lewis and Adam Lewis, *Jabari's People* will film in Jamaica, apply for the new Jamaica Screen Development Initiative and cast locals.

"This can only be made in Jamaica because it's a Jamaican story," said Lindo, whose family hails from the port town of Ocho Rios. "I have navigated for years the question of how I can give back to Jamaica, and this checks the box for me as a person of Jamaican heritage."

Lindo tried to shoot *Jabari's People* in 2021 after he acquired the screenplay from Daoud Abeid and Dahkil Hausif. When funding fell through he revived the project with Maylor, formerly director of international sales at Magnolia Pictures, now at Cinecom Productions. Maylor has set up a second company, Gwaan Ramp, through which he is producing *Jabari's People*, among other projects.

Jeremy Kay

Kurt Krieger



Mélanie Thierry, director Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet and Léa Drucker at Wednesday's premiere of Competition title *A Woman's Life*. See review, page 14

Magic Faraway Tree sprouts pair of sequels

BY MONA TABBARA

The Magic Faraway Tree is becoming a franchise, with two sequels in the works from the UK's Neal Street Productions and Elysian Film Group.

Simon Farnaby is now writing the next script, loosely based on the characters created by Enid Blyton, and US-based Palisades Park Pictures is talking to distributors here in Cannes.

Director Ben Gregor and US-UK financier Ashland Hill Media Finance are returning, as is Malta as a key filming location. Stars Andrew Garfield, Claire Foy and Rebecca Ferguson are also all expected to reprise their roles.

Neal Street Productions



The Magic Faraway Tree

The Magic Faraway Tree has grossed almost $20m (£15m) in UK-Ireland for Entertainment Film Distributors, and taken more than $10m in Australia and New Zealand for VVS. Vertical is releasing in the US in August.

Neal Street's Pippa Harris, who is in production on Sony's *The Beatles* films, said: "We're working out if it makes sense to shoot two and three of *The Magic Faraway Tree* together. I'm currently shooting four films at once, so the idea of two doesn't frighten me."

Picturehouse takes Mungiu's Fjord to UK-Ireland

Picturehouse Entertainment has picked up UK-Ireland rights to Palme d'Or winner Cristian Mungiu's Competition drama *Fjord*, starring Sebastian Stan and Renate Reinsve. The deal was done with Neon, which will release in the US.

Fjord is produced by Romania's Mobra Films, France's Why Not Productions and Norway's Eye Eye Pictures. The film marks the second Picturehouse acquisition of a Neon and Goodfellas Competition title, following Hirokazu Koreeda's *Sheep In The Box*.

Mona Tabbara

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Back in Cannes with hot market and festival features
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Ruben makes Cannes appearance

BY BEN DALTON

Ruben Östlund's *The Entertainment System Is Down* may not be ready to screen on the Croisette, but the director has a presence in Cannes as the subject of Sigge Eklund's feature documentary *Ruben*.

Produced by Peter Settman and Helena Sandermark for Swedish-US company Stockholm Syndrome, *Ruben* began filming in 2023 immediately after Östlund returned from the Oscars, where Palme d'Or winner *Triangle Of Sadness* was nominated for three awards. It will conclude after *Entertainment System* has its world premiere, and track Östlund's attempt to win a record third Palme d'Or, if the film debuts in Cannes.

Ruben is co-produced by Sweden's Tiisch Film, Film i Vast and SVT, and is courting sales and distribution offers here.

Everett/Shutterstock



The Wicker Man

Wicker Man returns to feel Wrath Of Gods

BY GEOFFREY MACNAB

Justin Hardy's folk horror movie *Wrath Of The Gods* is being launched in the Cannes market by Laurence Gornall's London-based Unannounced Film Company, bringing *The Wicker Man* trilogy to its conclusion.

The series was conceived by Hardy's father, the late Robin Hardy, and includes the 1973 cult horror picture *The Wicker Man* and 2011 sequel *The Wicker Tree*.

Wrath Of The Gods, now in post, is inspired by an idea uncovered in Robin Hardy's storyboards, legal documents, letters and lost materials. Justin and half-brother Dominic Hardy have created a story based on their father's concept.

Wrath Of The Gods is about a grieving widow who returns to Hel Island to bury her late husband after his death by suicide, but the locals turn on her for being a symbol of bad luck and evil. When children start to disappear, the island is forced to reckon with its dark history of familial abuse and the sinister forces of the sea.

The new feature has been privately financed and was shot entirely on location on Shetland. Its cast is led by Francis Magee and Christiane Schaldemose.

Additionally, Gornall's Unannounced is releasing *Children Of The Wicker Man*, Justin Hardy's documentary about his father and his work, in UK cinemas in October.

Finecut goes large with K-pop shorts

BY MICHAEL ROSSER

South Korea's Finecut is talking to buyers about theatrical versions of short-form series that originally debuted on Korean streaming platform Kitz, which specialises in K-pop content.

Fantasy buddy feature *Wind Up: The Movie* has been acquired for Japan (KDDI Corporation), Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia (Purple Plan), Taiwan (Caichang International), Thailand (Sahamongkolfilm International), CIS (Best Cinema) and airlines (Bofrato).

It stars Jeno and Jaemin of K-pop boy band NCT and was edited together from 50 short-form episodes, first presented as phone-friendly vertical videos. The film adopts the traditional horizontal aspect ratio.

Finecut is also handling *Reapers On Duty*, a dark comedy starring Hyungwon of K-pop group Monsta X alongside Lee Min-ki; time-travel romance *Wi-Fi Love In The Palace* starring The Boyz member Younghoon and Luda of girl group WJSN; and occult comedy *After-School Exorcism Club: Girls' Night*, which features five members of Fifty Fifty.

Shane O'Conner



Ita Fitzgerald's feature debut *West The Road*, filming in County Kerry, Ireland, has sold to the UK & Ireland (Vertigo) for Bankside Films. Imelda Staunton, Philippa Dunne and Charlie Murphy star in the story of a group of women brought together by the death of a friend, who discover she was forced to give up a daughter for adoption and go in search of the child. Further deals include to airlines (Encore), Australia-NZ (Rialto) and Hungary (Cinetel). The producers are the UK's Stigma Films and Ireland's Cowtown Pictures. *Mona Tabbara*

M Studio ups volume on Whisperer prequel

BY SILVIA WONG

Following the phenomenal success of the *Death Whisperer* trilogy, Thailand's M Studio is in Cannes with spinoff *Saming The Werebeast*, along with survival horror *The Last Bliss*.

Nadech Kugimiya and Ongart Cheamcharoenpornkul return to head the cast of supernatural action film *Death Whisperer: Saming The Werebeast*, a prequel set in the 1960s.

The story focuses on the search for a missing military officer in the jungles of Khao Khwang, where legend says man-eating tiger spirit Saming takes human form. Bow Maylada Susri joins the cast. The film is scheduled to open locally on September 30. Directors are Naritt Yuvaboon and Thanadet Pradit from *Death Whisperer 3*, along with Chalit Krileadmongkon (*Omukade*, *Leio*).



Saming The Werebeast

"It's darker and more intense, with survival thriller elements and a terrifying interpretation of the weretiger legend," said M Studio CEO Surachedh Assawaruenganun of the prequel.

Meanwhile, Pakphum Wongjinda's survival horror *The Last Bliss* is set in a luxury wellness centre deep in the forest, where a dysfunctional family must confront their personal conflicts to escape an evil spirit. It was filmed in the Phu Phan mountains in the northeastern Isan region, which has never appeared in a Thai film before.

CROISETTE CONFIDENTIAL

The *Screen* team is beginning to hear of a few early festival favourites. In Competition, the word is that Pawel Pawlikowski's *Fatherland* is tremendous, and not just because it's a pleasing 82 minutes long. One enthusiastic critic confidently hailed it a career-best performance from Sandra Hüller, despite having seen the *Project Hail Mary* karaoke scene where she sings Harry Styles' 'Sign Of The Times'.

In other sections, Cannes Premiere documentary *The Match* by Juan Cabral and Santiago Franco, about a crucial football game between Argentina and England at the 1986 FIFA World Cup, is pulling the heartstrings of even non-football lovers.

And Special Screening *Rehearsals For A Revolution*, in which actress and filmmaker Pegah Ahangarani turns the camera on her own life, is another non-fiction title evoking raves from all who see it.

SETH ROGEN WHISPERS

Yes, it's Seth Rogen again. This time having breakfast — and lunch! — at the Majestic on Wednesday. Maybe he lives here now?

Sola lets Gus, The Guide Dog off the leash

Germany's Sola Media is beginning sales on animated feature *Gus, The Guide Dog*. The project has completed financing and is now in production.

The film is inspired by Bruno Simões' 2018 short film *Pip*, watched more than 540 million times on YouTube. Experienced producer Roger Torras at Barcelona's WKND is overseeing the creative team and making his directorial debut with the project.

The film will be released in Spain by Vercine.

Geoffrey Macnab



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Bury The Devil possesses the world

The US's Brainstorm Media and Canada's Black Fawn are among the buyers to acquire Canadian filmmaker Adam O'Brien's one-shot possession horror *Bury The Devil* from the UK's Blue Finch Films.

Dawn Ford, Emmanuelle Lussier Martinez and Bill Rowat star in the film about a nurse who becomes trapped in the home of her dementia patient.

Further deals include to Germany (Tiberius), Poland (Media4Fun), India (BookMyShow), and the Middle East and North Africa (Phoenicia Pictures). Blue Finch Films will release in the UK, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand.

Mona Tabbara

James Pardon



Corinna Faith's horror title *Unspeakable* is now filming in the UK for Air Street Films and The Bureau and co-producer Little Door Productions. WestEnd Films is selling. Sky Yang and Susannah Doyle have joined Eliza Scanlen and Essie Davis in the cast, while Sophia Pedlow of Maven Screen Media has boarded to co-produce. Funding comes from the BFI and Ffilm Cymru Wales, with additional funds from Sons of Rigor Films and MacPac Entertainment.

Mona Tabbara

Scanbox acquires Sweden's DramanationNordic

BY TIM DAMS

Vuelta-owned Nordic distributor Scanbox Entertainment has acquired Swedish film and TV producer DramanationNordic and will relaunch it as Scanbox Dramanation.

Projects in development include heist thriller *Made In Sweden* (working title), based on the true story of when Sweden tried to sell 1,000 Volvo cars to North Korea in the 1970s.

The outfit will be headed by DramanationNordic founders Patrick Nebout and Henrik Jansson-Schweizer, whose credits include *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out The Window And Disappeared*, SVT/Disney+ series *Whiskey On The Rocks* and Canal+/SVT's *Midnight Sun*.

The move sees Scanbox expand its production footprint beyond Denmark and Iceland and it remains on the lookout for third-party Swedish titles.

Venice title Barrio Triste woos buyers

BY JEREMY KAY

US sales outfit Magnify has closed key deals, including to Other Parties for UK-Ireland, on the 2025 Venice Horizons selection *Barrio Triste*, directed by former Bad Bunny creative director Stillz and produced by Harmony Korine's EDGLRD.

The Medellin-set story takes place in 1987 as a group of teenage outcasts steal a news camera to document their dangerous lives. The cast is led by Juan Pablo Baena, Samuel Velazquez and Tomas Tinoco Higuita.

Magnify has also licensed the film to Spain (Filmin), Latin America (Gluon), Germany and Austria (Rapid Eye Movies), Greece (Cinobo) and former Yugoslavia (MCF).

Film Movement will release *Barrio Triste* theatrically in the US on July 10.

How Diego Luna shot Ashes in Mexico and Spain

The Special Screenings title about a mother and daughter reunited has been acquired by Avalon for Spain

BY JEREMY KAY

Mexican actor/director Diego Luna laughs when he recalls his one request to Spanish producer Valerie Delpierre of Barcelona-based Inicia Films when shooting his feature *Ashes* in early 2025.

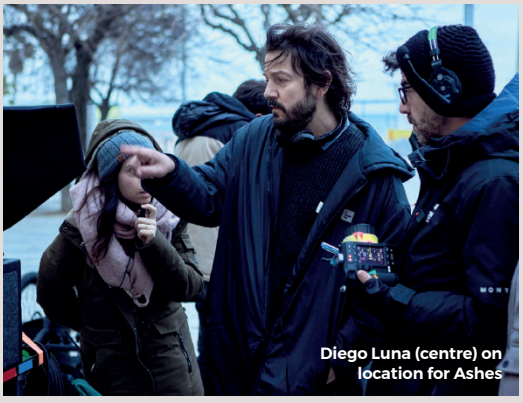
"I told Valerie I didn't want to work with more than 40 people. She said, 'Well, you're describing a mid-sized film in Spain,'" remembers Luna.

In the end there were 55 crew in Mexico and 45 in Spain. The co-production between Inicia, Luna and Gael Garcia Bernal's La Corriente del Golfo, Inna Payan's Mexican outfit Animal De Luz and Diego Rabasa's Perro Azul shot for six weeks in Barcelona and Madrid, and 10 days near a military community in the south of Mexico City. La Corriente del Golfo and Perro Azul invested their own money, while Delpierre accessed ICAA national funding as the minority partner and local Spanish incentives.

Ashes is the story of a Mexican woman who reunites with her mother in Spain, eight years after the older woman left to build a better life for the family. Adriana Paz and Anna Diaz star in the film, which is based on a novel by popular Mexican author Brenda Navarro and is premiering in Special Screenings.

"It's a beautiful story, hard and difficult, about migration from a perspective we don't see much," says Luna. "My mother died when I was two, so the subject of parents not being around hits me profoundly."

Andres Cardona



Diego Luna (centre) on location for Ashes

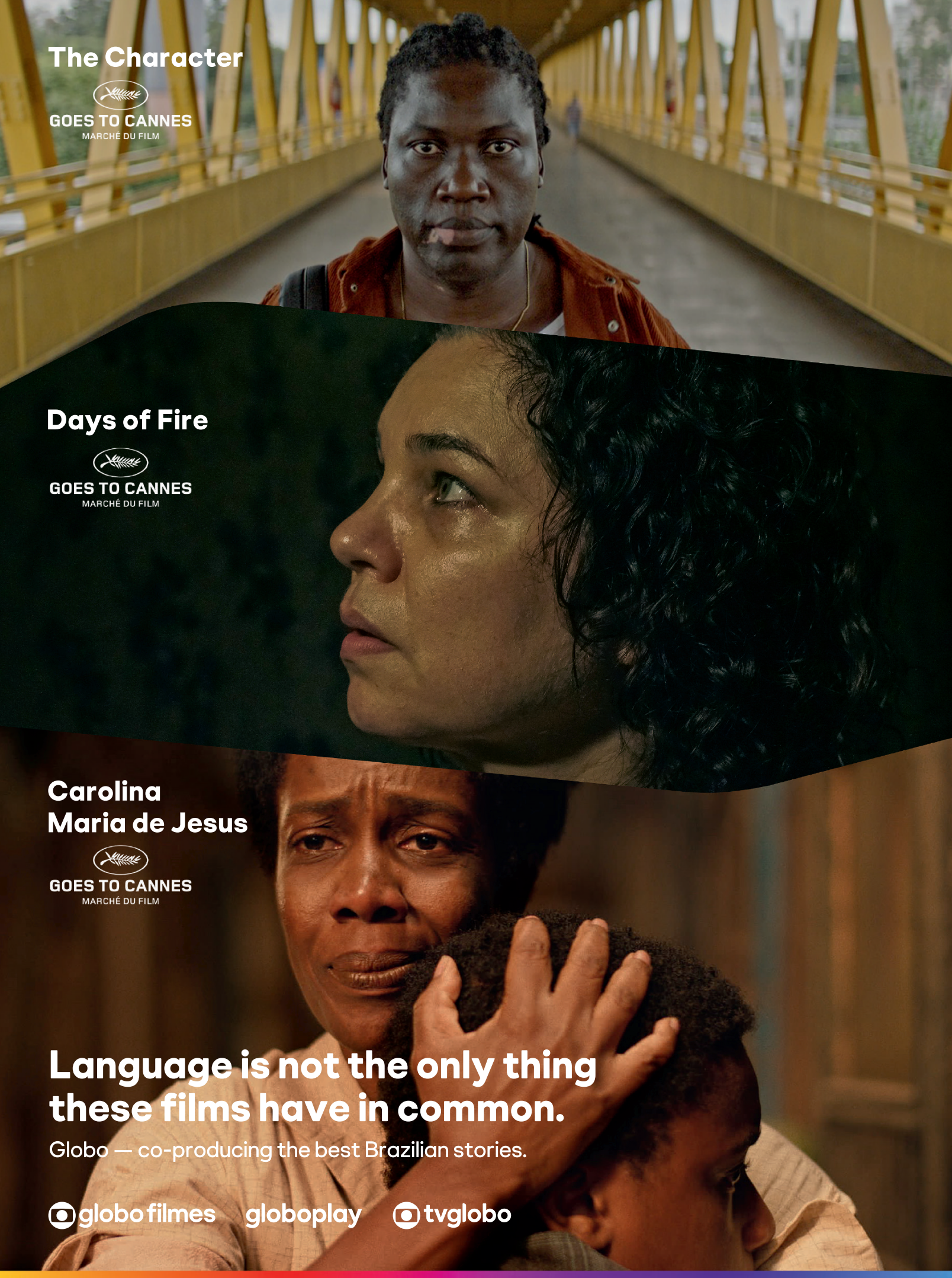
Luna had already cast Paz, with whom he acted in the 2008 comedy *Rudo Y Cursi*, and he and Delpierre sobbed tears of relief when they found her co-star.

"We looked across Mexico at more than 200 girls, and at the end Anna Diaz did a readthrough with Adriana," says Luna, who needed an actress who could hold her own opposite Paz, whose credits include *Emilia Pérez*. "I had seen Anna in *La Cocina*. They took it to a place I didn't know the scene could go."

The busy star of Disney+'s *Andor* was intrigued by directing a story of a shifting geopolitical reality. "This story looks at the possibility of Mexican and Spanish societies to rebuild their narrative," he says. "During the Trump presidency, Spain has become the gateway for Latin Americans into Europe and the safest option for those who have to run away."

Luna has considered self-distributing the film in Mexico through La Corriente del Golfo, but said he is open to partnering with other parties. Avalon will distribute in Spain and Luxbox is handling sales.

Ashes follows Luna's 2007 doc *J.C. Chavez*, narrative debut *Abel* in 2010 and biography *Cesar Chavez* from 2014. His narrative feature *Mr Pig* screened at Sundance in 2016. He is now working on a script that he plans to direct.


The Character
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MARCHÉ DU FILM
Days of Fire
GOES TO CANNES
MARCHÉ DU FILM
Carolina
Maria de Jesus
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Auteur filmmakers head to busy Memento

The French producer-distributor has had a successful year with director-driven films at the theatrical box office

BY REBECCA LEFFLER

Memento is one of the few French independent distributors thriving in a challenging theatrical climate. Its 2025 box office included 700,000 admissions for Jafar Panahi's *It Was Just An Accident* and 440,000 for Joachim Trier's best international feature Oscar winner *Sentimental Value*.

It also achieved strong results last year for Guan Hu's 2024 Un Certain Regard winner *Black Dog*, which reached 300,000 admissions.

The company was founded in 2003 by Alexandre Mallet-Guy and Emilie Georges, who went their separate ways in 2022 when Georges took the company's international sales arm and rebranded it Paradise City Sales. Mallet-Guy has kept Memento's focus on production and distribution, and the slate continues to reflect the focus on auteur-driven titles with commercial potential. "Often with political undertones," he adds.

Now the company has boarded Turkish auteur Nuri Bilge Ceylan's *Weary Sun* and Chinese filmmaker Diao Yinan's *Red Snow*, and will co-produce both titles as well as release them in France.

Weary Sun will start shooting in June in Ankara, Turkey and on the Aegean coast. It is about a father who joins his daughter and her son at their seaside home where they confront long-buried resentments and fractured relationships. Pinar Deniz, Altan Erkekli, Osman Sonant and Kerem Bürsin star, and Ceylan produces via his company NBC Film.



Memento has Asghar Farhadi's Competition title Parallel Tales

Memento is co-producing with Arte France Cinéma and Sweden's Second Land. It is the company's fifth collaboration with Ceylan.

Memento also reteams with Diao after co-producing the director's 2019 Cannes Competition title *The Wild Goose Lake* with Arte France Cinéma, and releasing 2014 Berlinale Golden Bear winner *Black Coal, Thin Ice*.

Red Snow stars Jackson Yee (*Resurrection*) and Liao Fan (*Black Coal, Thin Ice*) and is currently shooting in northeast China. Diao produces via his Green Ray Films banner.

The two films join another newly acquired title on Memento's distribution slate, Monia Chokri's *Ni Le Jour Ni La Nuit*, which will be the Canadian actress and filmmaker's first film to shoot in France. The existential comedy about relationships is produced by Marie-Ange Luciani's Les Films de Pierre and will shoot in Paris with a French cast later this year.

Memento's upcoming distribution slate includes Competition titles *Parallel Tales* by Asghar Farhadi, which it also produced, and *The Man I Love* by Ira Sachs, as well as Ruben Östlund's *The Entertainment System Is Down* and Colm Bairead's *Mary Rose*.



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‘I am not trying to attack men, but I am trying to attack the system’

Austrian filmmaker Marie Kreutzer is in Competition with Gentle Monster, a film that puts a relationship under the microscope when the man is accused of child abuse

Marie Kreutzer is in this year’s Cannes Competition with *Gentle Monster*. Speaking to *Screen International* a few days before the festival begins, the Austrian writer/director is very aware that her new film is likely to provoke disquiet and controversy.

The story follows Lucy, a brilliant French musician played by Léa Seydoux, who moves to the countryside with her filmmaker partner Philip (Laurence Rupp) and young son, looking to lead a quieter life. But a nightmare scenario comes into view when the police arrive — the man she loves appears to be involved in child abuse.

Gentle Monster, which premieres on May 15, was produced by Austrian outfit Film AG Produktions with Germany’s Komplizen Film and France’s Kazak Productions. Backing came from Vienna Film Fund, Eurimages, Film i Vast, the German Federal Film Fund and ZDF/Arte among others. Sales are handled by mk2 Films.



Marie Kreutzer’s *Gentle Monster*



‘The patriarchy is what shapes us all. The older I get, the more I realise it and the less I can look away’
Marie Kreutzer

How would you pitch this film to someone who might want to go and see a new movie on a Saturday night?
I am so bad at pitching, but I would say this is a film that asks the audience questions more than presents them with an answer to difficult questions.

For me, the film is about honesty and being honest to oneself. And I would be honest and say it is not an easy watch — I was trying to make a very honest film about the problems we face in relationships when it comes to the sides of people we love that we don’t want to see.

Is it correct that you had begun working on this project even before you made *Corsage*? [Kreutzer’s 2022 costume drama played in Un Certain Regard and the film’s co-star Florian Teichtmeister was later charged with child pornography offences]
I had the idea for this film in 2020, during the lockdown summer, when I read an article about a big network of paedophiles being discovered in Germany. It was a gripping article about the whole police investigation. It made clear to me for the first time that I must not only know victims of the sexual abuse of children, but also perpetrators. It could be anyone.

When I read that article, I was at a public pool with my daughter and stepdaughters, and afterwards I couldn’t look at the other families like I had two hours before. It did something to me, reading that article. That’s where the project started and then I started to reach out to German police to try to find people to talk to for research.

How did the *Corsage* controversy affect you?
My first reaction when I thought about [*Gentle Monster*] again was that I’ll not be able to make the film because everyone will relate it to that case. But a few months later, I realised it was even more important I make this film because I actually experienced it. It was a conscious decision. I was aware this would bring up the name Teichtmeister and the scandal many more times. I will have to deal with that, but the story needs to be told.

How did financiers react to such a dark project?
The first reaction from some of the Austrian partners was, “Why does she have to tackle this subject matter?” But when people read my screenplays, they’re usually like, “Okay, I’m in.”

The policewoman investigating the case has an abusive father, Lucy’s music deconstructs song lyrics written by men. Do you agree that the film is an indictment of many different aspects of masculinity?
Absolutely. As women, we all grow up in a world where what we think we should be has a lot to do with the male gaze — to be nice, to be kind, to be pretty, to not take up too much space. The patriarchy is what shapes us all.

The older I get, the more I realise it and the less I can look away. Women are brought up to believe the highest value they can have is if they’re beautiful and boys are brought up told that the highest value they can have is power.

The lust for power and need to feel more than someone else is the root of it all. I am not trying to attack men, but I am trying to attack the system.

Interview by Geoffrey Macnab

Marie Kreutzer image: Pamela Rußmann

COMING SOON FROM CANADA.

A selection of upcoming Canadian features expected to hit the international market in 2026.



DONDE COMIENZA EL RÍO
(WHERE THE RIVER BEGINS)
Drama (Canada/Colombia)
Juan Andrés Arango
(*La Playa* - Un certain regard, Cannes 2012; *X500* - IFFR 2017)
Contact : **h264**



ELEO & NOVA
Science-fiction/Fantasy
Jérémy Comte
(*Paradise* - Berlinale 2026)
Contact : **Max Films**



FAUX GUN BANDIT (TOY GUN BANDIT)
Action/Drama
Rémi St-Michel
(*Petit Frère* - Critics' Week, Cannes 2014)
Contact : **h264**



IN THE HEART OF THE SOUTH
Drama/Thriller
Nyla Innuksuk
(*Slash/Back* - SXSW 2022)
Contact : **Sphere Media, Mixtape VR**



LE PROJET SHIATSUNG
Science-fiction/Animation
Brigitte Archambault, Eva Cvijanovic
(*Hedgehog's Home* - Sundance 2018, Berlinale 2018)
Contact : **Embuscade Films, National Film Board of Canada**



MANHUNT
Drama
Wayne Wapeemukwa
(*Luk'Luk'I* - Best Canadian First Feature Film, TIFF 2017)
Contact : **Manhunt Productions**



RÉDEMPTION
Drama
Luc Picard
(*Les rois mongols* - Crystal Bear, Generation Kplus, Berlinale 2018)
Contact : **Cinéfrance international**



TOMBS
Magic Realist Drama, inspired by true events
Marie Clements
(*Bones of Crows* - TIFF 2022)
Contact : **Myriad Pictures**



UGLY
Drama
Ed Gass-Donnelly
(*Lavender* - Tribeca Film Festival 2016)
Contact : **Visit Films**



VIOLENCE DU CORPS DE L'AUTRE
Drama
Denis Côté
(*Paul* - Berlinale 2025)
Contact : **Voyelles Films**

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Reviews

Nagi Notes p12 ◆ **A Woman's Life** p14 ◆ **Butterfly Jam** p16 ◆ **Forsaken** p18 ◆ **Dua** p18



Nagi Notes

COMPETITION

Japan-Fr-Sing-Phil. 2026. 110mins

Director/screenplay Koji Fukada

Production companies Hassaku Labs, Survivance

International sales mk2 Films

Producers Atsuko Ohno, Ryo Nagai, Michiaki Tsunoda

Production design Yukari Otsuki

Editing Sylvie Lager

Cinematography Hidetoshi Shinomiya

Music Lee Pei-Chin

Main cast Takako Matsu, Shizuka Ishibashi, Ken'ichi Matsuyama, Waku Kawaguchi, Kiyora Fujiwara, Sawako Fujima, Long Mizuma, Suhkye Shin

REVIEWED BY WENDY IDE

The role of the muse is to ignite a spark of creativity in the artist. But in Koji Fukada's subdued drama, the arrival of artist's model Yuri (Shizuka Ishibashi) in the small Japanese mountain town of Nagi sends ripples through the wider community. Architect Yuri is the former sister-in-law of sculptor Yoriko (Takako Matsu); her visit, to pose for one of Yoriko's chainsawed and chiselled wooden busts, is also an opportunity to reconnect with the sister that she lost following her divorce from Yoriko's brother. Yuri's presence in Nagi is a catalyst for self-reflection for both women. And as a stranger, she is a key that unlocks the unspoken secrets of members of the wider community.

In its unassuming way, the film is a celebration of creativity and of emotional connections forged through art. But *Nagi Notes* is unassertive in its themes and, at times, gentle almost to a fault. There is a kinship between this mild-mannered picture and Fukada's previous films, like Venice Competition title *Love Life* (2022) and the Cannes Un Certain Regard winner *Harmonium* (2016), which also see figures from the past disrupting the balance. The impact here is more benign, but its politely handled queer themes — it may seem rather coy by European standards — should recommend it to LGBTQ+ festivals and, perhaps, specialist distributors following its world premiere here in Competition.

The story starts on March 13 — throughout the film Fukada uses a close-up shot of a calendar page to show the passing of time. Yuri, a chic young woman with a suitcase and an expensive urban haircut, walks purposefully along a country road. Catching sight of her, schoolboy Keita (Kiyora Fujiwara) wheels his bike around and gawps, recovering himself sufficiently to direct her to Yoriko's modest, light-filled home. Keita, we learn, is an army brat who has struggled to settle in Nagi; his only friend is Haruki (Waku Kawaguchi). Yoriko, single and a semi-closeted lesbian, acts as a kind of den mother to the boys, both of whom draw and both, it turns out, share more than artistic inclinations with Yoriko.

There are taboos on the bonds between both the two women and the boys. The conventions of Japan's patriarchal society mean a married woman becomes part of her husband's family, but following a divorce she is regarded as a stranger again. The friendship between Yuri and Yoriko, tentative at first but strengthening and fed by candid conversations during the sculpture sittings, is a precious, illicit thing.

Meanwhile, prompted by Yuri's arrival and Keita's imminent departure (his military father has been transferred), the boys acknowledge their feelings for each other go beyond friendship. The frame of the film's unobtrusive camera is a safe space for such admissions, but the sounds of military ordnance tests on the hillsides hint at hostility in the wider world.

Themes of escape are threaded through the film — three of the cows Yoriko tends to help support her artistic career make a break for it; Keita and Haruki hatch a plan to leave together. But Yuri, who has lived in Taiwan and Tokyo, is in no hurry to quit the serene community, with its balalaika concerts and contemporary art gallery. Perhaps, the film suggests, she was the one who needed to escape all along.

SCREEN SCORE ★★ »

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A Woman's Life

COMPETITION

Fr-Belg. 2026. 98mins

Director Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet

Production company Les Films Pelléas

International sales Be For Films

Producer David Thion

Screenplay Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet, Fanny Burdino

Production design Pascale Consigny

Editing Clément Pinteaux

Cinematography Noé Bach

Main cast Léa Drucker, Mélanie Thierry, Charles Berling, Laurent Capelluto, Marie-Christine Barrault

SCREEN SCORE ★★★

REVIEWED BY NIKKI BAUGHAN

Gabrielle (Léa Drucker) has it all. In her mid-50s, she is a respected maxillofacial surgeon at a busy French city hospital, and shares a comfortable home with her devoted husband Henri (Charles Berling). Fiercely ambitious, with a laser focus on her career, Gabrielle just about manages to keep all the plates spinning — until a distraction comes in the form of a surprising new attraction. Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet's modest drama keeps its focus tight on Gabrielle but, thanks to a keenly observed screenplay and Drucker's finely balanced performance, presents a wider view on the female midlife experience.

Premiering in Competition, *A Woman's Life* is Bourgeois-Tacquet's second feature following *Anaïs In Love*, which bowed in Critics' Week in 2021 and enjoyed a healthy festival run and a theatrical release in multiple territories. *A Woman's Life* shares that film's themes of a seemingly stable life rocked by new desires — although it is less airily romantic — and should follow a similar trajectory. It has a major draw in César-winner Drucker (*Case 137*, *Custody*), who heads a strong ensemble cast including Berling and Mélanie Thierry.

A breathless opening sequence sets the manic tone of Gabrielle's life. Driving to work, she juggles multiple phone calls about the cancellation of a key meeting, her ageing mother Arlette (Marie-Christine Barrault) and a planned humanitarian visit to Ukraine. The demands on her time continue when she sets foot in the hospital, a neverending stream of people demanding her attention — including writer Frida (Thierry, excellent), who is spending time with Gabrielle as research for an upcoming novel.

This innocuous meeting seems to be one brief moment in a barrage of many, but will prove to be destabilising. Initially the confident, poised Gabrielle is mildly intrigued by Frida's interest in her work but, as the two grow closer, the older woman is struck by an alien feeling: uncertainty. The free-spirited Frida makes her feelings clear and Gabrielle begins to entertain new possibilities as the tight hold she has on the many threads of her life begin to loosen.

In the film's early stages, cinematographer Noé Bach's camera is constantly in motion; editing, from Clément Pinteaux, is quick and impatient. As Gabrielle's attention begins to be drawn away from her carefully choreographed life, camerawork become more fluid. Pivotal sequences set during an immersive ballet performance and — later, an impromptu trip to the mountains — open up an invigorating sense of possibility.

In Drucker's hands, Gabrielle is such a dynamic character that it is enough to spend time in her company. Competent and composed, she has a refreshing clarity and agency. She is fully aware that she is career-driven, that she does not have a great deal of space for Henri and that she has certainly never wanted to be a mother. Yet she is not besieged by guilt, and never second-guesses her choices. Crucially, too, Gabrielle is driven but not hard-nosed. She is generous with her mother's care, with the financial help she gives her sister and nephew. There is, she believes, nothing missing in her life.

That makes Gabrielle's midlife journey of self-discovery a quietly poignant development. Taking place over a couple of years and unfolding over 11 snappy chapters with titles like 'I want it all' and 'Letting go', this is more about evolution than revolution, about a woman coming out of her hermetically sealed comfort zone and embracing the unknown. That Drucker and Thierry have an easy, potent chemistry makes the blurring of Gabrielle's boundaries entirely understandable.

While that chapter structure can feel like a somewhat staccato series of vignettes, that is by design. It emerges as a mosaic of sorts, Bourgeois-Tacquet adeptly weaving the pockets of time we spend with Gabrielle into a compelling, satisfying portrait. »

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Butterfly Jam

DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT

Fr. 2026. 102mins

Director Kantemir Balagov

Production company Why Not Productions

International sales Goodfellas

Producers Pascal Caucheteux, Pauline Lamy, Marco Perego, Alexander Rodnyansky

Screenplay Marina Stepnova, Kantemir Balagov

Production design Angelo Zamparutti

Editing Kantemir Balagov, Juliette Welfling, Mathilde Chazaud

Cinematography Jomo Fray

Music Evgueni Galperine, Sacha Galperine

Main cast Barry Keoghan, Talha Akdogan, Riley Keough, Harry Melling, Jaliyah Richards

REVIEWED BY JONATHAN ROMNEY

The cinema of exile and displacement can often yield extraordinary results, especially when circumstances oblige filmmakers to find new ways of representing their identity. That has not quite worked out for Kantemir Balagov, a Russian director from Kabardino-Balkaria in the North Caucasus, who made a powerful impression with 2017 debut *Closeness*, set in his own homeland, and *Beanpole*, a female-centred drama about 1945 Leningrad. His third feature, the English-language *Butterfly Jam*, retains Kabardian, or Circassian, elements, this time in a New Jersey setting. But an uneven mix of melodrama, eccentricity and hyper-male boisterousness never entirely convinces.

The high-profile presence of Barry Keoghan, Riley Keough and Harry Melling — the latter riding high after *Pillion* — should ensure this French production visibility on the arthouse circuit following its premiere as the opening film of Directors' Fortnight. But while the elements and the conviction may be there, this jam frustratingly refuses to gel.

Balagov originally intended the film to be set in Russia, and wrote the screenplay there with Marina Stepnova, but was forced to leave the country when the war on Ukraine began. He reworked the story when he discovered there was a Kabardian community in New Jersey, and made Newark the setting. Here, 16-year-old Temir (newcomer Talha Akdogan) is a promising high-school wrestler whose father Azik (Keoghan) is a cook specialising in delens, a traditional Kabardian pie — and seemingly the staple that sustains the diner Azik runs with older sister Zalya (Keough).

Temir reveres his dad, a freewheeling tale-spinner who claims he can make jam out of anything, even butterflies, but who is also prone to reckless mischief, especially in the company of his friend Marat (Melling). Away from the claustrophobic, very male environment dominated by these two, Temir befriends a young Black woman from his class, Alika (Jaliyah Richards), whose sensitivity threatens to hamper her wrestling talent.

Much of the film has a seemingly part-improvised feel, with Keoghan, Melling and others exchanging tough-guy badinage that cannot quite shake off the second-hand ring of *Mean Streets*, with Azik and Marat taking turns to be the mercurial Johnny Boy figure. A somewhat sketchy, fragmented narrative involves Azik hustling for a lawyer-turned-restaurateur; and Azik's theft of a pelican as a gift for the pregnant Zalya.

This is very much a performance film: the player who emerges most strongly is young Akdogan, simply because he is so believably natural, with his gentle but robust openness. Keoghan, meanwhile, plays close to roles he has portrayed before and, compelling as he is here, does not quite find a new register to explore.

Melling, conversely, extends his familiar range, although his characterisation feels a little generic and he goes wildly and distractingly full-tilt as Balagov lets the melodrama take hold. Keough is sober and controlled — but somewhat sidelined — as an embodiment of domestic conscience and sanity.

What we barely get is any real sense of a Circassian community. The actors speak the occasional phrase in the language, but the film feels as if it could be about almost any diasporic community in the US.

Butterfly Jam's several threads and settings never quite knit, while certain scenes and time jumps feel jarringly abrupt. There are startling shifts of tone, the buffoonish horseplay culminating in a shockingly brutal, albeit not graphic, act of violence. That intensity is offset not altogether convincingly by borderline magic-realist touches and an ill-advisedly cutesy celebrity cameo.

There is definitely a visual signature at work here, though, with DoP Jomo Fray (*Nickel Boys*) shooting tightly framed but loosely blocked confrontation scenes, and giving interiors distinctive tints of pink, redolent of fruits, jam and candyfloss. »



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a Romantic Drama film by
Jorge Alonso

Fri May 15th – 15:45 hs – Palais F



UNDER YOUR FEET

a Fantasy / Thriller film by
Cristian Bernard

Fri May 15th – 12:00 hs – Palais C

TORMENT

a Horror Film by **Olallo Rubio**

Thu May 14th – 16:15 hs – Palais E

NO HIT WONDER

A Dramatic Comedy film by
Florian Dietrich

Thu May 14h – 14:00 hs – Riviera 1



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Dua

REVIEWED BY WENDY IDE

CRITICS' WEEK

Kos-Switz-Fr. 2026. 101mins

Director Blerta Basholli

Production companies Ikonë Studio, Alva Film

International sales The Party Film Sales

Producers Valon Bajgora, Britta Rindelaub, Thomas Reichlin, Amaury Ovise, Yll Uka, Agon Uka, Jean-Christophe Reymond

Screenplay Blerta Basholli, Nicole Borgeat

Production design Sasho Blazhevski

Editing Enis Saraci

Cinematography Lucie Baudinaud

Music Audrey Ismaël

Main cast Pinea Matoshi, Vlera Bilalli, Kaona Matoshi, Yllka Gashi, Kushtrim Hoxha, Andi Bajgora

Early adolescence is a struggle at the best of times. But there is an added layer of stress for 13-year-old Dua (Pinea Matoshi), growing up in ethnically divided Prishtina, Kosovo in the late 1990s. Navigating the high-school social minefield becomes more complicated once you factor in the invisible barriers between ethnic Albanians, like Dua, and their Serbian neighbours. The impressive second feature from Blerta Basholli brings an intimate perspective to the turmoil of growing up in a time of conflict.

Basholli's acclaimed debut *Hive* won the grand jury prize, the audience award and the directing award at Sundance in 2021, before racking up a sizeable haul of further prizes. *Dua* may struggle to match that success, but further cements the director's reputation as a talent to watch and should enjoy a healthy festival journey following its world premiere in Critics' Week.

The film is based largely on Basholli's own experiences and those of family and friends, with quiet, expressive Dua serving as her alter ego. It is a magnetic, vulnerable performance from acting newcomer Matoshi, who is the window through which we view rising tensions in the country.

The film opens with the kind of scene that could play out in any girls' bathroom in any country in the world. Teenagers fine-tune their make-up and fiddle with their hair; they gossip about which of the surly, tongue-tied boys they prefer. But this is a brief moment of normality in a perpetually disrupted childhood: the police arrive mob-handed and the kids stream from the venue, dodging batons and verbal abuse.

Cinematography from Lucie Baudinaud is agile and curious: the choice of long takes and sinuous hand-held camera adds both a sense of restlessness and an edge of nervy, watchful paranoia. But despite the constant movement, careful framing means the eye is constantly drawn to Dua's watchful expression, even if she is on the periphery of the action.

Gradually, the fear in Dua, and in others such as her beloved brother Vegim (Andi Bajgora), gives way and is replaced by anger. But as Dua's parents (played by Yllka Gashi and Kushtrim Hoxha) rightly realise, fear is what keeps you safe and life in Prishtina could turn out to be a death sentence for their children.

Forsaken

REVIEWED BY JONATHAN ROMNEY

OUT OF COMPETITION

Fr. 2026. 100mins

Director Vincent Garenq

Production companies Outside Films, Les Films du Kiosque

International sales Studio TF1

Producers Stéphane Simon, Marion De Blaÿ, Francois Kraus, Denis Pineau-Valencienne

Screenplay Vincent Garenq and Alexis Kebbas, in collaboration with Mickaëlle Paty, based on the book *Les Derniers Jours De Samuel Paty* by Stéphane Simon

Production design Isabelle Quillard

Editing Aurique Delannoy

Cinematography Renaud Chassaing

Music Nicolas Errera

Main cast Antoine Reinartz, Emmanuelle Bercot, Emma Boumali, Nedjim Bouizzoul, Azize Kabouche

French docudrama *Forsaken* treads an uneasy line between ostensible quasi-journalistic objectivity and manipulative dramatics. In October 2020, French schoolteacher Samuel Paty was murdered by an Islamist terrorist after teaching a class on the 2015 *Charlie Hebdo* attacks. Based on the account of Paty's last 11 days in a book by Stéphane Simon, *Forsaken* is a soberly executed, carefully paced quasi-thriller with a sensitive performance by Antoine Reinartz (*Anatomy Of A Fall*) as Paty. But rhetorical flourishes and hyperbolic emphasis make this a problematic watch.

With films like *Guilty* and *Kalinka*, director Vincent Garenq has established himself as a specialist in real-life issues of justice. Here, he addresses free speech and the secularism that is central to the French state. *Forsaken* is likely to generate headlines from its May 13 local release following its Out of Competition premiere, but the theme and the generally low-key stylistics may not resonate as strongly outside France.

Paty is first seen on the day of his death walking to school in Éragny, northwest of Paris, musing in posthumous voiceover that he never wanted to be a hero, just a good teacher. The film then skips to the offending lesson on tolerance and taboo, centred on the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* and its publication of cartoons of the prophet Muhammad, which led to the January 2015 killings. Paty warns his teenage class that he will show them the cartoons (and Garenq makes a point of doing so), but says that anyone likely to be offended is free to leave the room.

When word circulates that Paty excluded Muslim pupils, he finds himself characterised as a virulent Islamophobe. The situation escalates when the issue is taken up by Hadj Tahar Amara (Azize Kabouche), presented as a representative of France's imams. Eventually, as the title suggests, Paty is forsaken by his colleagues and — as explained in an on-the-nose coda — by the system that should have protected him.

While there is every reason not to soft-pedal depictions of intolerant fundamentalists, the melodramatic bluntness of Amara's characterisation is nonetheless glaring. As fuel for debate, Samuel Paty's tragedy surely called for cooler analytical detachment, as opposed to the heated headline-driven register that *Forsaken* adopts ultimately.



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Sci-Fi Thriller / 90 min. / UK

Sentient robot EVE flees into the wild. Hunted and pushed to the brink, she evolves from servant to predator in a visceral, near-future tale of survival and vengeance. **Directed by Daniel Simpson**

Cast: Vincent Leroi, Fe Valen



Supernatural Horror / 90 min. / Cambodia

A mother's love never dies—it just changes form. After Srey Neang is brutally murdered, she doesn't cross over; instead, she rises from myth as a night creature and returns to hunt those who killed her and guard the child she left behind. **Directed by Kou Darachan**

Cast: Seanghuy Heab, Vann Samphors



Western / 90 min. / USA

When a serial killer murders two families in 1877 Colorado, the survivors from each family join forces to track down the killer in an attempt to deal out their versions of justice. **Directed by Thomas Whitus**

Cast: Nathan Todaro, Logan Vance, James Edward Holley



LGBTQ+ Romance / 90 min. / UK-Italy

In London's cutthroat fashion scene, a shared trauma ignites a forbidden attraction between designer Olivia and her mentor Nina, forcing them to choose between career and heart. **Directed by Flaminia Graziadei**

Cast: Melanie Liburd *(This Is Us, Bad Boys: Ride or Die)*, Nina Pons *(Baby, Enea)*, Matteo Bassi



Fantasy Family / 89 min. / UK

After a magical transformation, Lily must hide her mermaid secret and use her new powers to protect her Welsh seaside home from a greedy developer. **Directed by Sam P. Green & Becca Hirani**

Cast: Ellie Bindman, Georgia Grace, Marie Wilson



Sci-Fi / 80 min. / Spain

A routine flight turns into a panic attack as the co-pilots face a cosmic glitch. Trapped in a claustrophobic airborne nightmare, this mismatched duo must thwart an imminent alien invasion—race against time to save humanity before the plane lands. **Directed by Chedey Reyes**

Cast: Martín Garabal, Elena de Lara

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Unknown pleasures

The anticipated debut feature of Zou Jing arrives at the festival, while Hong Kong and China sellers bring animation, comedy and documentaries to the market. Silvia Wong reports

Festival

A Girl Unknown

Dir Zou Jing

Chinese director Zou returns to Critics' Week with her first feature, the script of which won the section's Next Step Prize in 2024. *A Girl Unknown* tackles the sensitive topic of girls abandoned during China's one-child policy. Across three chapters, it depicts the emotional scars of a young girl who has lived in three different families. The cast includes Li Gengxi, Shen Jiani, Zu Feng and Cao Ruofan. Zou won numerous awards for her first narrative short *Lili Alone*, including the Leitz Cine Discovery Prize for best short film at Critics' Week in 2021.

Contact Pyramide Films
✉sales@pyramidefilms.com



Pyramide Films' A Girl Unknown

Market

Afterpiece

Dir Keane Wong

Produced by filmmaker Derek Yee, this directing feature debut is about a burnt-out stage director who embarks on a new project to rebuild his career, only to find he is shifting between reality and the world of his play. The cast includes Stephen Fung, Angela Yuen, Myolie Wu and Chrissie Chau. The project is supported by the Directors' Succession Scheme, a funding programme from Hong Kong Film Development Council to nurture rising filmmakers through mentorship. Wong worked closely with Yee on *I Am Somebody*, *Sword Master* and *In Search Of Lost Time*.

Contact Kathy Wong, Unlimited Production
✉kathyw0507@gmail.com



As One Pictures' Being Towards Death

Being Towards Death

Dir Chen Sicheng

Chen's latest film marks his first comedy about life, a departure from directing the hit *Detective Chinatown* franchise and thrillers such as *Sheep Without A Shepherd* and *Lost In The Stars*, which he executive produced. The film centres on a man who, after a failed suicide attempt, is sent to a ward for the terminally ill. There he discovers the courage to live among patients who remain joyful and fight for life. The cast is led by Jiang Long, Qi Xi, Yang Chaoyue and Wang Zichuan. The film opened in mainland China on May 1 during the Labour Day holiday.

Contact Song Dian, As One Pictures
✉songdian@asoneproduction.com

The Conjurer And The Kid

Dir Wilson Yip

Previously titled *The Dream, The Bubble And The Shadow*, Yip's latest is a change from his signature action-driven films such as *Ip Man* and *Paradox*. It is a drama about a magician who forms an unlikely friendship with a disabled child through magic and heals his own emotional wounds after losing his young family in an accident. Louis Koo, Eric Kot, Cecilia Choi and Jennifer Yu head the cast. Backers include One Cool Film Production, Lian Ray Pictures and Global Allied International Group.

Contact Christy Choi, One Cool Pictures ✉christy.choi@onecool.com

Crossing

Dir Xu Zhanxiong

Produced by Andrew Lau, this period war film depicts how strategy can redefine a battlefield. Through one river and four crossings, the story focuses on how the Red Army changed the course of war and history when encircled along the Chishui River. They chose to execute a series of manoeuvres instead of fighting their way out. The cast includes Liu Ye, Wang Lei and Yosh Yu. It is set for release on June 26. Xu's directing credits include 2024's *Burning Stars* and 2020's *Wild Grass*.

Contact Mandarin Motion Pictures
✉sales@mandarinmovie.com.hk »

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WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY TOE YUEN



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Dear You

Dir Lan Hongchun

This family drama follows a debt-ridden man who travels to Thailand in search of his wealthy, long-absent grandfather. To his surprise, the latter has died and the money and letters sent home to his grandmother over the decades came from an unknown Thai woman. Usha Seamkhum (*How To Make Millions Before Grandma Dies*) stars in the film, which opened on April 30 in mainland China and became the first Teochew-language film to hit the RMB100m ($14.7m) milestone. Backers are King Ant Pictures and Beijing Damai Entertainment Culture. Lan's 2018 feature debut *Proud Of Me* was also a Teochew-language hit. Beijing Hugoeast Media handles world sales excluding Africa and select Asian territories.

Contact Josie Wu, Beijing Hugoeast Media ✉josie@hugoeast.com

From 100 Grams

Dir Benny Lau

Presented by Ocean Park theme park and billed as Hong Kong's first panda documentary, *From 100 Grams* follows an elderly giant panda who, after years of trying, miraculously gives birth to the city's first locally born giant panda twins. The medical team struggles to nurse the cubs as their weight drops during the critical first week, and the animals' stories are witnessed and shared by millions of Hongkongers who develop a deep emotional bond with the bears. A summer release is expected. Lau's directing credits include 2018's *When Sun Meets Moon* and 2022's *We Are Family*.

Contact Mandarin Motion Pictures ✉sales@mandarinmovie.com.hk

From Dawn To Dawn

Dir Xisi Sofia Ye Chen

Chen's first feature documentary recently won Visions du Réel's grand jury prize. It is a personal project about her older brother, who for many years was a gangster in Spain's Chinese community. Through her observations, she captures a man torn between criminal heritage, familial duty and a search for moral clarity. The Spain-France collaboration is produced by LaCima Producciones, The South Project and La Fabrica Nocturna. Chen is the daughter of Chinese immigrants and holds a masters in creative documentary from Pompeu Fabra University.

Contact Parallax Films ✉info@parallaxchina.com



One Cool Pictures' The Trier Of Fact



Emperor Motion Pictures' Made In Yiwu

The Fruitless Tree

Dir Huang Gang

This Cantonese-language drama follows a reticent widower who finds a companion in his twilight years. His newly divorced daughter gives her blessing, but he cannot stop the community from spreading rumours until he finally steps forward to speak up during a funeral. Veterans Tai Bo and Nina Paw lead the cast, along with Nancy Wu and Carmen Soup. This marks the feature debut of Huang, who lives between Beijing and Guangzhou.

Contact Grace Chan, Entertaining Power ✉gracechan@entertainingpower.com

Gan

Dir Ruonan Jiang

This China-France documentary has been selected for the Docs-in-Progress platform at the Cannes market. The protagonist is a wildlife ranger, who was once a left-behind child and must now learn how to love and be present as a father for his family as he rescues a rare baby goat-antelope in the remote Sichuan mountains. It marks Jiang's first feature documentary and is produced by RuonanJ Films and Oui Production.

Contact Huihui Lou, Oui Production ✉lou.ouiprod@gmail.com

Made In Yiwu

Dir Rao Xiaozhi

The third instalment of the *Cool Fish* franchise reunites director Rao and producer Luca Liang, with Andy Lau joining the cast. It features a standalone story set partly in Naples, Italy where a Chinese gang is dragged into a war with the local mafia, setting off a series of misfortunes for a small business owner in Yiwu, China. Chen Jianbin and Karry Wang co-star. The film is scheduled for a Q4 release with Emperor Film and Entertainment (Beijing), Shenzhen Yi Yi Yi Yi Culture Media and Emperor Film Production among the backers.

Contact Miriam Cheung, Emperor Motion Pictures ✉miriamcheung@emperorgroup.com

A Mighty Adventure

Dir Toe Yuen

Adventure begins as a brave grasshopper, a curious spider and a free-spirited butterfly are swept from the forest into the city. This Hong Kong animation is a collaboration with Taiwan's Zero One Film and Malaysia's FlyStudio, blending CG animation with live-action footage shot in Taipei and Taichung. The story is told through expressive visuals and emotion, entirely without dialogue. The film received three nominations at last year's Golden Horse Awards, winning best sound effects. Veteran Hong Kong director Yuen was an Annecy winner in 2003 for *My Life As McDull*.

Contact Janice Chung, Golden Network Asia ✉janice@goldnetasia.com

Nezha's Destiny

Dir Colin Zhang

This fantasy animated feature reimagines a legendary myth through a modern lens, focusing on the human bond between Nezha and his father Li Jing. After losing his father in battle, Nezha transforms from a defiant child into a young hero who rises to protect the Three Realms. Producers are Max Tong and Sangar Chatchairgruang, with (Beijing) Poly Video Technology, (Wuxi) Always On Call Film & Television Culture and (Hangzhou) Tianming Zhizi and Media Technology among the backers. The project is on the inaugural slate of Hong Kong-based sales agent Blast Films International.

Contact David Bauduin, Blast Films International ✉david@blast-films.com

The Trier Of Fact

Dir Calvin Tong

Starring Louis Koo, Eddie Peng and Raymond Lam, this action film follows an unethical police detective who joins forces with the technology crime division to take down a criminal gang. As the operation is deemed successful, it is only the start of a confrontation between social justice and the truth. Director Tong made his feature debut with 2023's *Bursting Point*. Backers include Beijing Damai Entertainment Culture, One Cool Film Production and One Cool Square.

Contact Christy Choi, One Cool Pictures ✉christy.choi@onecool.com



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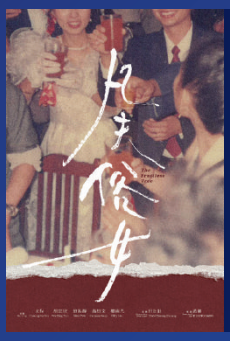
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Twilight of the Warriors: The Final Chapter



The Trier of Fact



Blades of the Guardians: Wind Rises in the Desert



Good Trip (HAF Goes to Cannes)



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Showbox gets messy with director Yeon Sang-ho's Midnight Selection Colony

BUZZ TITLES SOUTH KOREA

Guts and glory

South Korea is back in Cannes with a trio of highly anticipated titles, while the market offers fresh features from Bong Joon Ho and Yeon Sang-ho. Michael Rosser reports

Festival

Colony

Dir Yeon Sang-ho

The acclaimed director of Cannes selections *Train To Busan* and *Peninsula* returns to the zombie genre and the Midnight Screenings section with this action thriller. It follows a scientist trapped in a building amid an escalating viral outbreak, as the infected evolve in unpredictable ways. The cast is led by Gianna Jun (*Assassination*), Koo Kyo-hwan (*Escape From Mogadishu*), Ji Chang-wook (*Revolver*) and Shin Hyun-been (*Revelations*), and the film is produced by Wowpoint and Smilegate in association with Midnight Studio. A local release is set for May 21.

Contact Showbox
✉sales@showbox.co.kr



Plus M Entertainment's Hope



(Left) Kim Do-yeon stars as Dora

Dora

Dir July Jung

A young woman struggling with her physical and mental health travels to a seaside town and begins to recover after finding love, but as relationships form so do conflicts. The drama stars actress and former K-pop idol Kim Do-yeon as Dora alongside acclaimed Japanese star Sakura Ando in her first Korean film. Ando has previously attended Cannes with Hirokazu Koreeda's *Monster* (2023) and Palme d'Or winner *Shoplifters* (2018). Jung's latest plays in Directors' Fortnight after *A Girl At My Door* screened in Un Certain Regard in 2014 and *Next Sohee* premiered in Critics' Week in 2022.

Contact Finecut ✉sales@finecut.co.kr

Hope

Dir Na Hong-jin

This genre thriller follows a police chief in a remote South Korean village who is drawn into a spiralling mystery after reports of a tiger sighting. The cast includes Korean stars Hwang Jung-min (*Deliver Us From Evil*), Zo In-sung (TV series *Moving*) and Jung Ho-yeon (*Squid Game*), alongside Michael Fassbender and Alicia Vikander. Director Na makes his Competition debut after Croisette premieres for *The Chaser* (Out of Competition, 2008), *The Yellow Sea* (Un Certain Regard, 2011) and *The Wailing* (Out of Competition, 2016). Neon has taken English-language markets including the US and UK, while Mubi has Latin America, key European territories and Turkey.

Contact Plus M Entertainment
✉sales@megabox.co.kr »

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2026 CANNES LINE-UP





CANVAS OF BLOOD

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DIRECTOR JANG HOON
CAST KIM NAM-GIL, PARK BO-GUM



PIG VILLAGE

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DIRECTOR LEE SANG-YONG
CAST DON LEE, MICHAEL ROOKER, COLIN WOODELL



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DIRECTOR HAN DONG-WOOK
CAST YUM JUNG-AH, CHA JOO-YOUNG, KIM HYE-YOON

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Market

Ally
Dir Bong Joon Ho

The first animated feature from Palme d'Or and Oscar-winner Bong (*Parasite*) is a family adventure that follows Ally, a curious piglet squid whose peaceful life in the depths of the South Pacific is disrupted when a mysterious aircraft sinks into the ocean. Bong co-wrote the script with Jason Yu, himself a director whose *Sleep* played Critics' Week in 2023. The voice cast includes Alex Jayne Go, Bradley Cooper, Ayo Edebiri and Werner Herzog. Set to be completed in the first half of 2027, Neon has taken North American rights.

Contact Pathé ✉sales@patheinternational.com; CJ ENM (select Asia territories) ✉filmsales@cj.net

Bok-ja's Special Rice Cake Shop (working title)
Dir Kim Gyung-yoon

This comedy drama follows a shop owner and a debt-ridden man who become unlikely partners when the rice cakes they create become a sensation. But the secret behind their success leads to unexpected consequences. The cast is led by Ra Mi-ran (*Hi-Five*) and Ko Kyong-pyo, who reunite after starring in hit TV series *Reply 1988*. Minnie of K-pop girl group i-dle also stars. Producer Kim Young-min's credits include 2024 blockbuster *Exhuma*. The film is in post and set for release in 2027.

Contact Showbox ✉sales@showbox.co.kr

Canvas Of Blood
Dir Jang Hoon

This 15th-century period drama follows royal brothers Prince Suyang and Prince Anpyeong, who clash over the throne. The lead roles are taken by Park Bo-gum of Netflix series *When Life Gives You Tangerines* and Kim Nam-gil of Netflix series *Trigger* and feature *Nocturnal*. Director Jang is known for *A Taxi Driver*, Korea's biggest box-office hit of 2017 and the country's Oscar submission. Produced by Doodoong Pictures, *Canvas Of Blood* is in post-production.

Contact Plus M Entertainment ✉sales@megabox.co.kr


Hive Filmworks' Sapiens


CJ ENM's Paradise Lost

Day And Night (working title)
Dir Kim Jong-kwan

This romantic drama is set in a café and follows the love stories of four couples, whose relationships range from sweet to bitter. The ensemble cast includes Shim Eun-kyung of Locarno 2025 Golden Leopard winner *Two Seasons, Two Strangers*; Kim Min-ha from Apple TV+ series *Pachinko*; Han Seon-hwa of 2024 box-office hit *Pilot*; and *Handsome Guys* star Lee Hee-jun. Director Kim's credits include anthology feature *The Killers* and Netflix series *Persona*. Now in post-production, a local release is planned for this year.

Contact K-Movie Entertainment ✉sales@kmovieenter.com

Gulf Of Aden (working title)
Dir Kang Tun-sung

This action thriller revisits a true incident in 2011 when South Korean cargo ship Samho Jewelry was hijacked by Somali pirates. It marks the latest from director Kang, whose 2017 crime action film *The Outlaws* starring Don Lee was the first in the blockbuster *Roundup* franchise. His credits also include Disney+ series *Low Life* and *Big Bet*. Cinematography is by Hong Kyung-pyo, whose credits include *Parasite* and Na Hong-jin's Competition title *Hope*. A release is planned for 2027.

Contact K-Movie Entertainment ✉sales@kmovieenter.com

Last Signal
Dir Shin Min-jae

This drama centres on a building that is on the verge of collapse after a sinkhole incident. As the danger grows, four young people connected to the building in different ways begin to uncover corruption. The cast is led by Jin Ji-hee of hit series *The Penthouse: War In Life*, Park You-na (*A Man Of Reason*), Han Hyun-min (*The Mutation*) and Song Geon-hee (*Lovely Runner*). Director Shin has previously won acclaim with shorts *Mom Is Absent* and *Seongbuk Port*. The producer is Gozip Studio, known for *The Girl On A Bulldozer* and *The Other Child*.

Contact Hive Filmworks ✉sales@burzip.com

Ode To My Father 2
Dir JK Youn

More than a decade after *Ode To My Father* became one of South Korea's highest-grossing films of all time, director Youn returns with a sequel starring Lee Sung-min (*No Other Choice*) and Kang Ha-neul (*Squid Game*). Beginning in the 1960s, the story follows a father and his estranged son as they move in parallel through pivotal moments in history, including 1987's June Democratic Struggle, the Los Angeles civil unrest of 1992, the Asian financial crisis in 1997 and the 2002 World Cup. Shooting is underway on the feature, which is produced by JK Film.

Contact CJ ENM ✉filmsales@cj.net

Paradise Lost
Dir Yeon Sang-ho

After action horror *Colony*, which plays here in Midnight Screenings, director Yeon is readying a drama thriller about a mother whose son returns after being presumed dead for nine years. The cast is led by Kim Hyun-joo and Bae Hyeon-Seong, both from Yeon's Netflix series *Hellbound*. Produced by Wowpoint, a release is planned this year. Yeon is also known for *Train To Busan*, which premiered at Cannes in 2016, and *Peninsula*, which played here in 2020.

Contact CJ ENM ✉filmsales@cj.net

Reapers On Duty
Dir Lee Kae-byeok

This dark fantasy comedy followers a pair of grim reapers — a rookie who goes by the book and a pro who breaks the rules — who become involved in the forbidden act of extending life. It stars Hyungwon of K-pop group Monsta X and Lee Min-ki from 2024 supernatural horror *Devils Stay*. Lee is known for 2016 action comedy *Luck-Key*. Produced by Takeone Studio, the feature is in post-production.

Contact Finecut ✉sales@finecut.co.kr

Sapiens
Dir Lee Hu-bin

A man who shares his body with four different identities wakes up with blood-soaked hands and the word 'Run!' scrawled on a mirror. He becomes the prime suspect after the disappearance of a wealthy man and must interrogate his own identities to reveal the truth. This mystery thriller stars Jung Sung-il (*The Glory*), You Chea-myung (*Harbin*) and Park Myung-hoon (*Parasite*). Directed by Lee (Disney+ series *No Way Out: The Roulette*), *Sapiens* is produced by Twinfilm, whose feature *The Gangster, The Cop, The Devil* played in Midnight Screenings at Cannes in 2019.

Contact Hive Filmworks ✉sales@burzip.com »

REDICE ENTERTAINMENT

CANNES 2026



WHEN A KINGDOM FALLS, A WARRIOR RISES

DIRECTOR
KIM HAN-MIN

CAST
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JOO WON
TRAN THANH
JUNG JAE-YOUNG
LEE SUN-BIN

THE SWORD
REBIRTH OF THE RED WOLF



SINNER

DIRECTOR
HONG SUNG-MIN

CAST
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LEE JUN-YOUNG

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Market (continued)

Shaving
Dir Kim Jung-hoon

A traumatised writer and her lover confront a monstrous presence from her nightmares in this horror feature. The cast is led by Roh Jeong-eui (*Badland Hunters*), Kasamatsu Show (*Good News*), Byun Yo-han (*Hansan: Rising Dragon*) and Shin Ryu-jin of K-pop girl group Itzy. It marks the latest from director Kim, whose *Tinker Ticker* premiered at Tokyo International Film Festival in 2013, and is produced by Star Platinum, the company behind Netflix black comedy *Good News*, which premiered at last year's Toronto International Film Festival. *Shaving* is in post-production and is set for release this year.

Contact Contents Panda
✉sales@contentspanda.com

Sinner
Dir Hong Sun-min

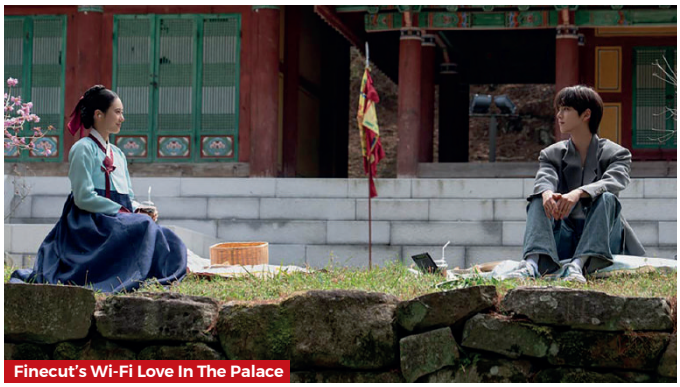
This drama follows a nominee for minister of justice who begins to uncover the truth behind a past case linked to a letter from Sun-hwa, the last death row inmate in Korea. The cast is led by Jung Sung-il of *Murder Report* and Disney+ series *Made In Korea* alongside Park Ji-hyun from Netflix's *You And Everything Else* and Lee Jun-young of Netflix series *When Life Gives You Tangerines* and *DP*. It marks the feature directorial debut of Hong and is in post-production.

Contact Redice Entertainment
✉international@rediceent.com

Six Lying College Students
Dir Kim Jung-hoon

Based on an award-winning Japanese novel by Akinari Asakura, this drama thriller centres on six college students who are all in the running for a job at a global IT company. On the day of the final interview, mysterious envelopes arrive, each containing one of their secrets, leading suspicions to spread among the group. The ensemble cast comprises Cho Yi-hyun, Kim Jae-won, Shin Seung-ho, Kang You-seok, Kwak Dong-yeon and Bae Gang-hee. Produced by Covenant Pictures, a local release is planned for this year.

Contact Contents Panda
✉sales@contentspanda.com


Finecut's Wi-Fi Love In The Palace


Plus M Entertainment's Three Of A Kind

Soulbound
Dir Hong Eui-jeong

In this fantasy comedy, a woman turns into a ghost after an unjust death and encounters a goblin who has spent 400 years wanting to become human. The unlikely pair set out on a deadly journey when the woman's younger brother is placed in danger. The cast is led by Kim You-jung of Netflix film *20th Century Girl*, Park Ji-hwan from blockbuster franchise *The Roundup*, and *Parasite* star Cho Yeo-jeong. Director Hong is known for her debut *Voice Of Silence*, which won best film at Fantasia in 2021 and best director at the Asian Film Awards. Now in post, a release is planned for Q2 2027.

Contact KT Studiogenie
✉intlsales@kt.com

Stoneborn
Dir Lee Deok-chan

The creators of horror blockbuster *Exhuma* return with an occult mystery that centres on a mysterious and sacred stone, said to grant any wish. Jongseo Jeon of Cannes 2018 drama *Burning* plays a woman who returns to her hometown after the sudden death of her younger sister. There she encounters a shaman, played by Sul Kyung-gu (*Good News*), as increasingly disturbing events begin to unfold. Produced by Cinematic Moment and Pinetown Production, filming is set to wrap in June, and a local release is due in 2027 through Acemaker Movieworks.

Contact Barunson E&A
✉intl@barunsonena.com


(Right) Contents Panda's Six Lying College Students

The Sword: Rebirth Of The Red Wolf
Dir Kim Han-min

This historical action epic is set after the fall of Goguryeo, one of the three ancient kingdoms of Korea. It follows a man who loses his memory, becomes a slave and enters a brutal gladiator tournament centred around a legendary sword. Director Kim is known for blockbuster epics *The Admiral: Roaring Currents* and *Hansan: Rising Dragon*. The cast is led by Park Bo-gum (*When Life Gives You Tangerines*), Joo Won (*Firefighters*), Lee Sun-bin (*Noise*) and Kim Hyoung-seo (*Gangnam B-Side*). Production is underway and a summer 2027 release is planned.

Contact Redice Entertainment
✉international@rediceent.com

Three Of A Kind
Dir Han Dong-wook

Caught up in the heat of the moment, three women plan a bank robbery that spirals out of control in this crime action feature. The cast is led by Yum Jung-ah (*Sky Castle*), Cha Joo-young (*The Glory*) and Kim Hye-yoon (*Salmokji: Whispering Water*). Director Han is known for 2014 romantic drama *Man In Love*, which was remade into a 2021 Taiwan film of the same name and as 2024 Thai feature *Love You To Debt*. Producers are Sanai Pictures, Plus M Entertainment and Story Rooftop, and the film is in post-production.

Contact Plus M Entertainment
✉sales@megabox.co.kr

Wi-Fi Love In The Palace
Dir Sa Seok-choon

This time-travel romance revolves around a mysterious cabinet and follows a webtoon artist desperate for a hit and a palace maid who wants to become a royal concubine. It stars Younghoon of K-pop group The Boyz, Lusa from series *The Woman Who Swallowed The Sun* and Kim Dong-jun, whose credits include period drama *Korea-Khitan War*. Director Sa previously co-directed fantasy drama series *Bon Appétit, Your Majesty*. Produced by Takeone Studio, the feature is in post-production.

Contact Finecut
✉sales@finecut.co.kr

Wild Sing
Dir Son Jae-gon

Twenty years after an unexpected scandal broke them apart, legendary K-pop band Triangle reunite and embark on a journey back to the stage in this comedy from the director of 2020's *Secret Zoo*. The cast includes Gang Dong-won of past Cannes selections *Broker* and *Peninsula* alongside Um Tae-goo (*Night In Paradise*), Park Ji-hyun (*You And Everything Else*) and Oh Jung-se (*Hi-Five*). Produced by About Film, the banner behind box-office smash *Extreme Job*, a local release is set for June 3 through Lotte Entertainment.

Contact Lotte
✉international02@lotte.net

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SOULBOUND(W/T)

KIM You-jung <20th Century Girl>
PARK Ji-hwan <The Roundup>
CHO Yeo-jeong <Parasite>



After an unjust death turns Yoon-ha into a ghost, she encounters
a goblin who has spent 400 years yearning to become human.
When Yoon-ha's younger brother is suddenly placed in grave danger,
the unlikely pair set out on a deadly journey.



Seven O'Clock Breakfast Club for the Brokenhearted

Suzy <Architecture 101>, LEE Jin Uk <Squid Game 2>
YOO Ji Tae <Old Boy>, KEUM Sae Rok <The Fiery Priest>

"I just got dumped. Will you have breakfast with me?"
At a breakfast club, heartbroken Sa-gang and Ji-hoon stumble upon mysterious
"breakup souvenirs." Each item holds a secret pain, reflecting their own.
Will they find the souvenir's owner?

NEW RECRUIT
: HAUNTED MILITARY HOSPITAL

RYU Kyung-soo <Our Unwritten Seoul>
KIM Min-ho <New Recruit>
NAM Tae-woo <New Recruit>, YU Jeong-yeon (Twice)

After an unexpected accident, a group of soldiers are admitted to a military hospital,
hoping for a brief and peaceful recovery.
But instead of rest, they find themselves trapped in a different kind of nightmare.

kt StudioGenie

Risk and reward

Europe is a haven for films looking for soft money, but has very few private investors prepared to put in equity. Tim Dams speaks to some of those who are backing European productions, and hears their strategies for investing successfully



Adobe Stock

Europe has a reputation as the most generous region in the world for film producers to access soft money. At least 47% of a typical European fiction film's budget comes from a combination of direct public funding and production incentives, according to European Audiovisual Observatory (EAO) figures. The rest comes from broadcasters (typically 18%), producer investments (17%) and pre-sales (15%).

Other sources of finance, including private equity, are "negligible", according to EAO.

Indeed, this lack of private equity funding is a striking feature of the European film market. Of course, there are numerous high-net-worth individuals who put money into films on an ad-hoc basis. But the list of private funders who consistently back film projects is very small, compared with the US.

This has not gone unnoticed. Within the European Union, there are moves to address the problem through the European Investment Bank's venture capital arm, the European Investment Fund (EIF). EIF's $234m (€200m) MediaInvest equity investment programme, launched in 2022, has invested in individual funds focused on film production, hoping to spur more institutional and private investors to commit money to the sector.

Its first investment was announced in 2023: $29m (€25m) into alternative investment fund Logical Content Ventures. Run by Paris-based Logical Pictures Group, the fund has raised $60m (€52m) from institutional and private investors to invest in films. The stamp of approval from EIF has helped with the fundraising, says Logical Pictures president Frédéric Fiore, helping to validate a fund that operates in the film financing arena, a sector viewed as risky and exotic by many investors.



'We struggle to explain to financial institutions, banks and investors that film could be an asset class'

Frédéric Fiore, Logical Pictures

In February 2025, EIF committed €25m to Finland and London-based fund IPR.VC for its third fund focused on film and TV, which has raised $123m (€105m). IPR.VC has long-term slate deals with US-based A24 and XYZ Films, as well as European players such as mk2 Films, Mubi and Red Bull Studios.

Separately, a $12m (€10m) fund, Spain-based Moby Dick Film Capital, has just made its first investments in films after starting to fundraise in 2022. Regulated by the Spanish and European authorities, its investors include institutions, family offices, private individuals and the Spanish government.

There are a number of private funds focused on film finance too, including Danish-US-German firm Thank You Pictures, which claims significant institutional and private investor backing. Still, the list is notable for its brevity. There are several reasons for this, chief among them that film as an investment opportunity continues to be viewed with caution, even mistrust, by investors in Europe. »


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'You need to understand this business well. There are not a lot of people with this background'
Jesús Martínez, Moby Dick

"We struggle to explain to financial institutions, banks and investors that film could be an asset class," admits Fiore. His view is backed up by Moby Dick Film Capital founder Jesús Martínez, who says it is "very, very difficult" to find investors for a film fund, particularly a new one without a track record. In Europe, the perception is that funding movies is not about wealth creation, but about supporting culture, he adds.

For Fiore, rich investors who dabble in film — maybe because they have met a charismatic producer or a famous actor and have decided to put money into their project — can be part of the problem. "It is kind of hurting our work," he says. "These guys just lose everything, usually. And their conclusion is that it's a shitty business, or that it's not even a business but only for glamour."

Small asset class

In Europe, the legacy of collapsed film funds also hangs over the sector. Notable examples include Germany's VIP Medienfonds, which backed a string of Hollywood features before its CEO Andreas Schmid was arrested in 2005 and later imprisoned for tax evasion.

There are other challenges. For many institutions with hundreds of millions of euros to invest, film is not just risky but too small an asset class to be worth attention. Why put €5m into a film fund, the reasoning goes, that will take just as much oversight as a €100m investment into real estate.

The market is small, too. To date, IPR.VC and Logical Content Ventures are the only regulated funds with a proven track record as film equity financers in Europe. Both say they would like more competitors. "When we are fundraising and meeting big institutions, one of their first questions is, 'Who are your competitors?'" says Fiore, who began his career as a consultant and remembers his first boss saying: "When you don't have a competitor, you don't have a market."

Film is also regarded as a complex and risky investment, says Martínez. "You need to understand very well how this business works. There are not a lot of people with this background." Contracts and negotiation are key. "You need to be very careful. It all depends on the structure [of the contract]. You can either make or lose money on the same movie."

Adds Fiore: "What we are doing is not rocket science, we're not saving lives. But our business is tricky because it is very specific. Everything is in the details. You can have a bad performance because you have worded [the contract] in a bad way."

Meanwhile, for newcomers, the film industry has become a tougher place as an investment proposition. Production costs have gone up, but the value of films has gone down over the years as audiences enjoy access to other forms of content, all for free, from the likes TikTok and YouTube, says producer Lars Sylvest of Thank You Pictures.

As a result, it is significantly tougher to score the foreign sales that are so important in helping a film move into profit. Sylvest recalls that when he started in the industry in 1999, a film could plug its financing gap with sales into three key territories: UK, France and Germany. "Now, you can fund half of the budget by selling the world except domestic. The only way to make your money back is by having a healthy amount of soft money and then equity against domestic, and then hope domestic does more than average."

Fiore confirms the challenge: "When we launched our first fund, the US was just an upside. We used to get all our money back and be in profit with the international market. Domestic was the cherry on the cake. Now, we need to count on the US market. It's becoming more and more important to get US distribution, but US distribution is getting more complicated."

The market has polarised as a result, with investors particularly keen on commercial projects with a built-in marketing hook, such as an A-list cast or top director. English-language projects, because of their perceived ability to travel, are favoured. Anything regarded as

LOGICAL CONTENT VENTURES



LCV backed De Gaulle: Tilting Iron under its deal with Pathé

Pathe

French production, sales and distribution company Logical Pictures Group launched its first content fund in 2017, which invested in 20 films through to 2021. It is now midway through its second fund, Logical Content Ventures (LCV), which has raised $60m (€52m) including a cornerstone investment of $29m (€25m) from the European Investment Fund's MediaInvest programme.

LCV will typically put in between $1.2m (€1m) and $3.5m (€3m) per film, including debut features.

LCV is a separate entity from Logical Pictures Group but gains from the group's experience and contacts in film financing, sales and distribution. "We know the full value chain," says Logical Pictures president Frédéric Fiore. "It means we can't be bullshitted."

LCV had a slate-financing deal with Pathé that included titles such as *The Count Of Monte Cristo*, *Emilia Pérez* and the upcoming biopic *De Gaulle: Tilting Iron*, which debuts out of competition at Cannes. The Pathé deal ran until the end of 2024, and LCV has now pivoted to making investments in individual films as a way to diversify its film slate and be less reliant on French movies.

"Diversification is key to any investor," says Fiore. "We are now looking for picture-by-picture investments, mostly international, English-language, market-driven films. We're not doing more slate deals."

Recent investments include dark comedy *The Worst*, starring Keira Knightley, Alicia Vikander and Jamie Dornan, which was launched at Berlin's EFM. It also backed Sundance and Berlin hit *The Weight*, an adventure drama starring Ethan Hawke and Russell Crowe that filmed in Bavaria, recreating Depression-era rural America. It is exactly the kind of film LCV likes to invest in, says Fiore — a genre project with international appeal that shoots in Europe to make use of soft money.

'We know the full value chain. It means we can't be bullshitted'
Frédéric Fiore, Logical Pictures

Former Netflix and EuropaCorp executive Ryan Wickers heads up LCV's project selection team. It receives around 300 "serious" project applications a year and looks to back 12-15 per annum. Fiore says Logical's first fund delivered an 8% rate of return for investors; for this fund, it is targeting 10%-15%.

The financing plan for each film needs to be considered individually, adds Fiore. It is no longer just about sitting in first position in the recoupment waterfall, particularly given the market's concentration on a handful of high-profile titles. "I'd rather share my position, for example, with a big actor who is coming on board and deferring his fee than sit in sole first position with no cast," he says.

»

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MARCHÉ DU FILM

IPR.VC



IPR.VC's slate with Mubi includes Pawel Pawlikowski's Fatherland

Helsinki and London-based alternative investment fund manager IPR.VC has raised $123m (€105m) for its third fund focused on audiovisual production, IPR.VC Fund III. Its track record in previous funds has helped it secure money from the likes of Nordic institutional investors, pension funds and family offices, as well as $29m (€25m) from the European Investment Fund's MediaInvest programme.

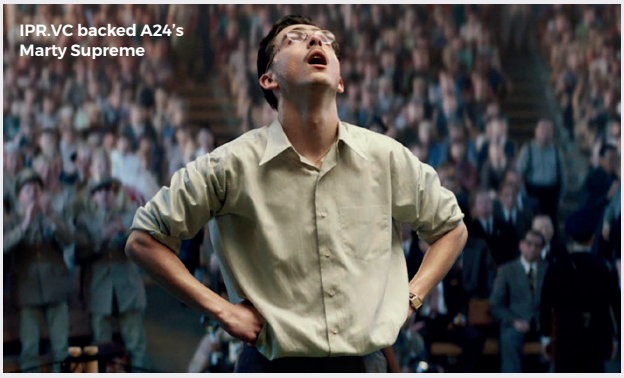
Its third fund began investing in 2023. Rather than working on a picture-by-picture basis, IPR.VC's strategy is to strike slate deals with leading companies. It currently has such deals with US-based A24 and XYZ Films, Paris-based mk2 Films, Austria's Red Bull Studios and, most recently, London-based Mubi.

"We want to back premium storytelling that has long-term cultural impact and commercial value," says IPR.VC managing partner Andrea Scarso. "The distinctive element of our partners is their disciplined approach — all of the companies have an amazing track record and have been around for a long time."

IPR.VC's investment credits include A24's *Marty Supreme*, one of more than 15 titles it has backed by the US mini studio. It has helped finance more than 30 films through XYZ Films. More recently, IPR.VC has been focusing on European talent. It started working with mk2 last year, and their upcoming slate includes Marie Kreutzer's Cannes Competition title *Gentle Monster*, as well as Justine Triet's next project *Fonda*.

Its slate deal with Mubi was announced last month, and includes Pawel Pawlikowski's Cannes Competition title *Fatherland* and Felix van Groeningen's *Let Love In*, currently in post.

The amount IPR.VC invests per project depends on its budget. With A24, for example, it is normally a minority investor, but for Red Bull Studios documentary projects, it might split the cost. Scarso says IPR.VC targets equity-style returns for investors, in "the high teens per annum".



IPR.VC backed A24's Marty Supreme



middle-of-the-road or too arthouse is written off as an investment proposition. Pre-sales are an important criteria for investors, too. "Territories that don't pre-sell rarely sell for more afterwards," says Sylvest. "It is so rare that any buyer buys a title they reject in the first place. Because, frankly, most movies play better in the minds of the reader than on screen afterwards."

Finding the right projects out of Europe is a challenge for many investors. "The problem is that most European projects are either commercially problematic international arthouse or commercially viable only for the national markets," says Sylvest. For him, not enough arthouse projects cross borders to make them a meaningful investment; securing US distribution, where there is potential for significant upside, is likely to be challenging. "If you back arthouse projects, you have to do 20 of them for one to break out," he says.

It is not just a tough business for newcomers to understand how it all works, it is also tough to build a deal flow. "You've got to get enough projects so that you can be very selective. As in any investment business, everything is about our selection," says Fiore.

Then there is the matter of expectations. A film might target a return of 10% per annum for investors. But, as Sylvest points out, there are many other places to invest that might be more profitable — and carry less risk. "You could get that with Brazilian state bonds. So why should investors put the money in a movie where you could lose more than Brazilian state bonds?"



'IRP.VC targets equity-style returns in the high teens and above, per annum'
Andrea Scarso, IPR.VC

Investment strategies

Because of the myriad challenges facing the film industry, leading investors have developed a number of strategies to mitigate risk and maximise potential returns. IPR.VC has focused its strategy on funding slate deals with highly regarded companies with a proven track record, namely A24, Mubi, XYZ Films, mk2 and Red Bull Studios.

"These types of collaborations tell you a lot about our approach," says IPR.VC managing partner Andrea Scarso. "They are exceptionally good, not only in creating the content but also in building the long-term value in distribution and connecting with audiences."


Adobe Stock

Moby Dick Film Capital, meanwhile, is focused on international, mainly English-language, projects with A-list cast, an experienced A-list director, a strong sales agent and a completion bond in place. It targets "elevated genre content". To mitigate risk, it has a mandate to invest in a diverse range of genres and to back projects by a range of different people and companies.

Logical Content Ventures, for its part, targets market-driven, mainly English-language films. "My bread and butter is feature films that people think are US productions but were shot in Europe," says Fiore. LCV will back films by debut filmmakers — partly because they are cheaper to make — but only with a seasoned producer supporting them. He also stresses that backing a diverse range of projects is key.

Sylvest works closely with Roeg Sutherland and Sarah Schweitzman, co-heads of CAA Media Finance, noting that "they understand how to consistently build packages that are commercially viable". More than half of Thank You Pictures' projects are shot in Europe, but almost all have been packaged out of the US, he notes.

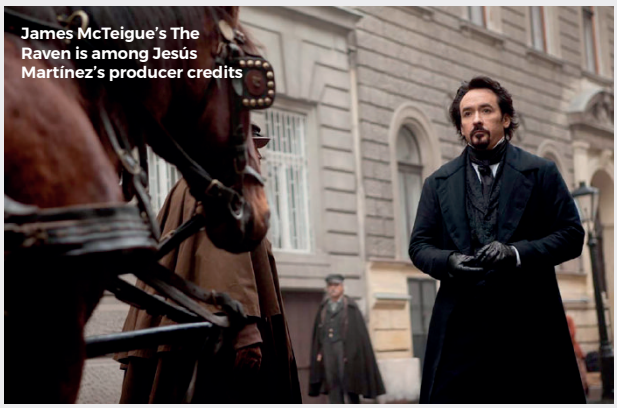
Together with Joe Neurauter, Sylvest is also an investor in the huge Penzing Studios outside Munich, which has one of the largest virtual production stages in Europe. He sees technology advances, along with soft money, as one of the key opportunities to reduce production costs, and consequently help movies to become more profitable.

If a clear strategy is followed, many funders insist that film is a good investment opportunity. "There are a lot of good reasons why large investors should consider investing in media as an alternative asset class," says Scarso. It is a good way to diversify an investment portfolio, he notes, pointing to films' low correlation to macroeconomic trends and the performance of assets such as stocks or property.

In Europe, backing films comes with a high degree of "downside protection", adds Fiore. Soft money and pre-sales mean that film funds are not taking on all the risk themselves. It also brings the chance to build a library of IP with long-term value. Film can also return money faster to investors than sinking it in companies, where the rewards can take years to materialise.

All of the funds interviewed by *Screen International* target strong returns. Fiore says Logical's first fund returned an IRR (internal rate of return) of 8%. Building on the lessons learned, its second fund is targeting 10%-15% IRR. Scarso says IRP.VC targets "equity-style returns in the high teens and above, per annum". Meanwhile, Moby Dick Film Capital's objective is to return a minimum of 2.5x investment over the 10-year lifespan of the fund.

MOBY DICK FILM CAPITAL


James McTeigue's The Raven is among Jesús Martínez's producer credits

Moby Dick Film Capital is a new Madrid-based venture capital fund, regulated by Spanish and European authorities, that has raised $12m (€10m) to finance feature films. It is the brainchild of producer Jesús Martínez, whose credits include Mabrouk el Mechri's *The Cold Light Of Day* and James McTeigue's *The Raven*.

The fund has been a long time in gestation, highlighting the complexity of launching such an investment vehicle. Martínez first applied for regulatory approval in 2020, secured authorisation in 2022 and then began a three-year fundraising process. The fund began investing in its first films in January 2026. It aims to invest in 10 films, at around $1.2m (€1m) per project, and to make all the investments this year.

It has approved funding for three yet-to-be-announced films so far, targeting "elevated genre content for global, mainstream audiences". This means backing international, mainly English-language projects with an A-list cast and director, strong sales agent and a completion bond in place.

The fund's objective is to return a minimum 2.5x investment over its 10-year lifespan. In due course, Martínez plans to launch a second, bigger fund that will raise $23m (€20m) or more. "We have started small and will build this step by step," he says.

THANK YOU PICTURES

Lars Sylvest financed pictures at Brass Hat Films and Hyde Park International, gaining credits such as *Premonition*, *Death Sentence* and *The Danish Girl*, before co-launching Black Magic Partners (*Ferrari*, *Cliffhanger*) with Thorsten Schumacher and Thank You Pictures with Chance Wright, a scion of the Mars family, and Orn Olason, a former brand manager for Ferrari, MTV and Swatch.

Sylvest says their fund is sourced from institutions and high-net-worth individuals as well as their own money. It looks to invest in movies that make artistic statements or promise strong commercial returns. Recent investments include Jaume Collet-Serra's *Cliffhanger* reboot starring Lily James, and Paul Greengrass's upcoming *The Uprising*. It is also preparing a film franchise based on the *SAS Malko* spy novels by French author Gérard de Villiers. The Denmark-US-Germany-based Thank You Pictures will typically invest 20%-25% of a film's budget and cashflow the rest.


Lily James stars in Jaume Collet-Serra's Cliffhanger reboot

Screenings

Screening times are correct at the time of press but subject to alteration

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

08:30

FORSAKEN
(France) Drama. 100mins. Studio TF1. Dir: Vincent Garenq. Cast: Emmanuelle Bercot, Nedjim Bouizzoul, Emma Boumali.
A few years after the tragic Charlie Hebdo attack, Samuel Paty, a teacher in a multicultural middle school on the outskirts of Paris, uses controversial cartoons to teach freedom of expression. Before displaying the caricatures of the Prophet, he gives students the option to leave the classroom. Several choose to leave. But when a troubled girl falsely claims she was singled out and expelled for objecting, though she was absent that day, her outraged father's viral reaction video ignites a firestorm. A local Islamist activist amplifies the outrage, while an 18-year-old Chechen jihadist follows the online trail to the school gates. Samuel becomes a hunted man, unaware that a fatwa against him is forming. As tensions escalate and silence spreads, an ordinary lesson turns into a fatal spiral.
Out of Competition
Bunuel Press

TEENAGE SEX AND DEATH AT CAMP MIASMA
(Usa, Canada) Horror. 106mins. The Match Factory. Dir: Jane Schoenbrun. Cast: Hannah Einbinder, Gillian Anderson, Patrick Fischler.
After years of slapdash sequels, the 'Camp Miasma' franchise is handed over to an enthusiastic young director for resurrection. But when she visits the original's star, a now-reclusive actress shrouded in mystery, the two women fall into a blood-soaked world of desire, fear and delirium.
Un Certain Regard Festival ticketing website
Debussy

08:45

DUA
See box, above

WE ARE ALIENS
(Japan) Animation. 111mins. Charades. Dir: Kohei Kadowaki.
"Hey — what if I told you I am an alien?" In a small Japanese town, an ordinary boy's quiet betrayal sets in motion something he will spend the rest of his life trying to forget.
Directors' Fortnight
Theatre Croisette



FESTIVAL

08:45

DUA
(France, Switzerland, Kosovo) Drama. 101mins. The Party Film Sales. Dir: Blerta Basholli. Cast: Yllka Gashi, Kushtrim Hoxha, Andi Bajgora, Pinea Matoshi, Vlera Bilalli, Kaona Matoshi.
Pristina, Kosovo, late 1990s. As war looms and ethnic tensions escalate, 13-year-old Dua struggles to find her place among her peers and within her changing body. After an incident shakes her community, she becomes a target herself and bonds with a fearless girl, Maki, who draws her toward an unexpected form of resistance. Between the daily violence and the growing threat of exile, there is little room for quiet awakenings.
Critics' Week
Miramar

09:00

BUTTERFLY JAM
(France) 102mins. Goodfellas. Dir: Kantemir Balagov. Cast: Barry Keoghan, Talha Akdogan, Riley Keough, Harry Melling.
Sixteen-year-old Pyteh splits his time between the wrestling mat and his family's struggling Circassian diner in Newark. A single impulsive decision by his hustling father changes the course of his life, shaping a tale of pride, legacy and masculinity.
Directors' Fortnight
La Licorne

NAGI NOTES
(Japan) Drama. 108mins. mk2 Films. Dir: Koji Fukada. Cast: Shizuka Ishibashi, Takako Matsu, Kenichi Matsuyama.
Yoriko, an artist living in rural Nagi, is haunted by a former love affair she cannot bear to mourn. When Yuri, a recently separated architect, travels from Tokyo to visit her friend and former sister-in-law, both women find themselves at a crossroads, each searching for ways to let go of the past and define their identity. Yuri's brief escape from the city settles into a quiet confrontation of loss and probing for the two women in bucolic Nagi.
Competition Festival ticketing website
Agnès Varda

09:30

A WOMAN'S LIFE
(France, Belgium) Fiction. 98mins. Be For Films. Dir: Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet. Cast: Léa Drucker, Mélanie Thierry, Charles Berling, Laurent Capelluto, Marie-Christine Barrault.
Gabrielle, 55, gives herself to her work, body and soul. As a surgeon and head of the hospital department, she is constantly on the move, stretched thin by the weight of responsibility. There is little time left for her private life: a loving husband and a mother who depends on her care. Yet this is the life she wanted, the life she chose. When a novelist comes to observe her at work for a book, her balance begins to shift. How far is she willing to go to shake what she has built?
Competition Festival ticketing website
Lumiere

11:00

A SECRET HEART
(France) 88mins. Lightdox. Dir: Tom Fontenille.
In the space of four years, Lilou emerged from secrecy. She became a 64-year-old woman who enjoys DIY projects, gardening, cycling, and spending time with her grandchildren. By documenting her transformation, I filmed a family healing its wounds and reinventing a place for each member. This family is my family; Lilou is my father.
ACID
Le Raimu

GROUNDSWELL
(US) Documentary. 94mins. Festival De Cannes. Dir: Josh Tickell, Rebecca Tickell. Cast: Woody Harrelson, Demi Moore, Prince William Of Wales.
Across five continents, the film encounters farmers, scientists and indigenous leaders reshaping humanity's relationship to land.
Special Screening
Bunuel Press

INTO THE OGRE'S JAWS
(France) 86mins. Redience. Dir: Mahsa Karampour. Cast: Mahsa Karampour, Siavash Karampour.
Siavash is driving a car; his sister Mahsa is filming him. They are on a road, somewhere in the US. The film takes the form of a documentary road movie, unfolding between Iran and the US, between childhood, memory and the present.
Studio 13
ACID

11:30

A WOMAN'S LIFE
(France, Belgium) Fiction. 98mins. Be For Films. Dir: Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet. Cast: Léa Drucker, Mélanie Thierry, Charles Berling, Laurent Capelluto, Marie-Christine Barrault.
Competition Festival ticketing website
Agnès Varda

QUELQUES MOTS D'AMOUR
(France) 95mins. Studiocanal (Fr). Dir: Rudi Rosenberg. Cast: Ella Bedoucha, Stephan Chargeboeuf, Paulette Chetrit.
For 14 years, Erika has been the anchor of a household that rarely stands still, doing her best to raise teenage Abigail, her little brother, Yoni, and a dog with a devotion to cheese. When Abi's desire to meet her absent father grows into a full-blown obsession and word spreads he's been seen nearby, Erika fears the fragile balance will collapse for good. Instead, the journey that follows brings mother and daughter to see each other anew, steering their lively, lovable family toward a happy new chapter.
Un Certain Regard Festival ticketing website, press allowed
Debussy

VIVA
112mins. Loco Films. Dir: Aina Clotet. Cast: Aina Clotet, Naby Dakhli.
In a near future, in water-starved Barcelona, 40-year-old Nora emerges from a battle with breast cancer with a fierce need to feel alive. She plunges into two intense relationships, with Tom and Max, setting her on a raw journey through her deepest desires and unspoken fears.
Critics' Week
Miramar

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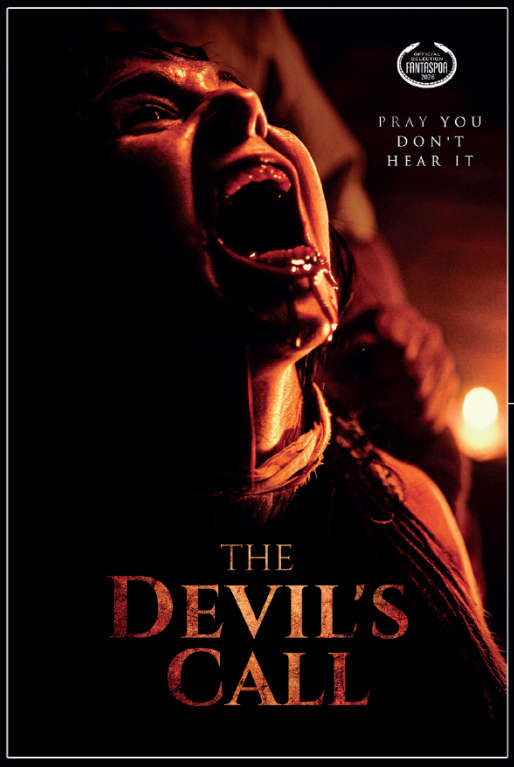
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12:00

GABIN
(France) Documentary. 105mins. Lightdox. Dir: Maxence Voiseux.
In northern France, Gabin, the youngest of the Jourdel family, finds himself destined to take over his father's butcher's shop. Torn between family loyalty and a desire to break free, his dreams lie elsewhere: to train a contest cow, to become a dog breeder and to save his mother's farm from financial ruin. Spanning a decade, the film immerses us in this young boy's world, following his journey from age eight to 18.
Directors' Fortnight
Theatre Croisette

12:30

NAGI NOTES
(Japan) Drama. 108mins. mk2 Films. Dir: Koji Fukada. Cast: Shizuka Ishibashi, Takako Matsu, Kenichi Matsuyama.
Yoriko, an artist living in rural Nagi, is haunted by a former love affair she cannot bear to mourn. When Yuri, a recently separated architect, travels from Tokyo to visit her friend and former sister-in-law, both women find themselves at a crossroads, each searching for ways to define their identity. Yuri's brief escape from the city settles into a quiet confrontation of loss and probing for the two women in bucolic Nagi.
Competition Festival ticketing website
Lumiere

13:00

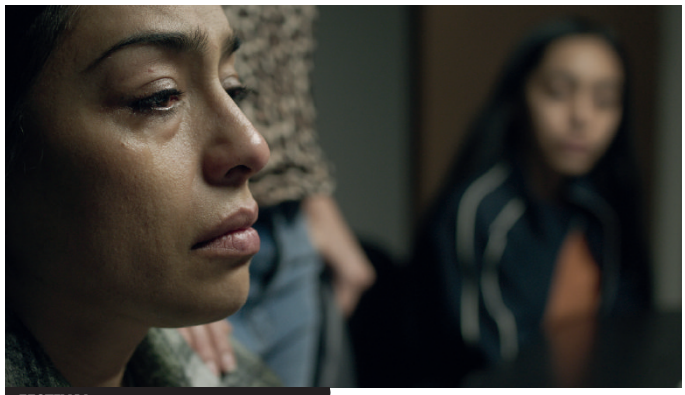
ASHES
See box, above

14:00

A SECRET HEART
(France) 88mins. Lightdox. Dir: Tom Fontenille.
In the space of four years, Lilou emerged from secrecy. She became a 64-year-old woman who enjoys DIY projects, gardening, cycling and spending time with her grandchildren. By documenting her transformation, I filmed a family healing its wounds and reinventing a place for each member. This family is my family; Lilou is my father.
ACID
Palais C

DETENTION
(France) 132mins. TS Productions. Dir: Guillaume Massart.
Opening a door. Managing a crisis. Writing an incident report. At the National School of Prison Administration, hundreds of women and men are learning the job of prison officer. As the course progresses, doubt becomes increasingly rare on their faces.
ACID
Alexandre III

DUA
(Kosovo-Switzerland-France) 101mins. The Film Party Sales. Dir: Blerta



FESTIVAL

13:00

ASHES
(Mexico) Drama. 98mins. Luxbox. Dir: Diego Luna. Cast: Sergio Bautista, Anna Díaz, Irene Escolar.
Lucila, 21, moves to Spain with her brother to reunite with their mother, who left eight years ago. Facing discrimination and family duties, she struggles to find independence while dealing with her past wounds.
Special Screenings Press
Bunuel

Basholli. Cast: Pinea Matoshi, Vlera Bilalli, Kaona Matoshi, Yllka Gashi.
Pristina, Kosovo, late 1990s. As war looms and ethnic tensions escalate, 13-year-old Dua struggles to find her place among her peers and within her changing body. After an incident shakes her community, she becomes a target herself and bonds with a fearless girl, Maki, who draws her toward an unexpected form of resistance. Between the daily violence and the growing threat of exile, there is little room for quiet awakenings.
Critics' Week
Studio 13

THE MATCH
(Argentina) Documentary. Goodfellas. Dir: Juan Cabral, Santiago Franco.
Tells the story of the iconic match between Argentina and England, played at the Azteca Stadium during the 1986 football World Cup. Using archival footage, the film reconstructs that event as a living memory but also as the culmination of more than 200 years of tension between the two nations.
Cannes Premiere Festival ticketing website
Agnès Varda

THE MELTDOWN
(US, Chile, Spain, Mexico) Drama. 100mins. Les Films Du Losange. Dir: Manuela Martelli.
Chile, 1992. Staying at her grandparents' remote hotel near an Andean ski resort, Inés (9) befriends Hanna (15), a German skier. When Hanna vanishes without a trace, the search for her exposes hidden truths.
Un Certain Regard Festival ticketing website, press allowed
Debussy

15:00

MAN OF IRON (CZLOWIEK Z ZELAZA)
(Poland) 153 mins. Drama, hhistory. 156mins. Cannes Classics. Dir: Andrzej Wajda. Cast: Jerzy Radziwilowicz, Krystyna Janda, Marian Opania.
A few years after the events of 'Man Of Marble' (1977), a journalist investigates Mateusz Birkut's son Maciek Tomczyk, now an activist leading a shipyard strike.
Cannes Classics Festival ticketing website
Bunuel

THANKS FOR COMING
(France) 82mins. Dir: Alain Cavalier.
Intimate diary marking out Cavalier as a pioneer of personal video feature-making, billed as a final chapter of his screen journal.
Directors' Fortnight
Theatre Croisette

15:30

NEXT STEP STUDIO INDONESIA
(Indonesia) 65mins. Dir: Dirs Mohammad Reza Fahriyansyah, Ananth Subramaniam, Shelby Kho, Sein Lyan Tun, Reza Rahadian, Sam Manacsa, Khozy Rizal, Lam Li Shuen.
Anthology comprising four short films, each co-directed by an Indonesian director and a Southeast Asian counterpart.
Critics' Week
Miramar

16:00

THE GOLDEN AGE (L'ÂGE D'OR)
Cannes Classics. Dir: Bérenger Thouin. Cast: Souheila Yacoub, Vassili Schneider, Pierre-Antoine Billon.
Jeanne Lavaur charts her own course through the 20th century from butcher's daughter to aspiring countess. Through 1920s Paris and Brazil, she's caught between two lovers: Count Guillaume de Barante and Italian revolutionary Céleste.
Cannes Classics Festival ticketing website
Agnès Varda

16:30

BUTTERFLY JAM
(France) 102mins. Goodfellas. Dir: Kantemir Balagov. Cast: Barry Keoghan, Talha Akdogan, Riley Keough, Harry Melling.

Sixteen-year-old Pyteh splits his time between the wrestling mat and his family's struggling Circassian diner in Newark. A single impulsive decision by his hustling father changes the course of his life, shaping a tale of pride, legacy and masculinity.
Directors' Fortnight
Studio 13

16:45

BLAISE
(France) 82mins. Best Friend Forever. Dirs: Dimitri Planchon, Jean-Paul Guigue. Cast: Léa Drucker, Jacques Gamblin, Timéo, Nina Blanc-Francard.
The Sauvage family just want to be liked. Carole is trying to improve her bad reputation with her employees, while Jacques is trying to improve his with his friends. As for their son, Blaise, influenced by a girl, he politely embarks on a completely impromptu revolutionary crusade.
ACID
Alexandre III

FATHERLAND
(France, Italy, Poland, Germany) Drama, documentary, road movie. 82mins. The Match Factory. Dir: Pawel Pawlikowski. Cast: Sandra Hüller, Hanns Zischler, August Diehl.
Explores Thomas Mann's post-war German life, his family's stand against Nazi rule and their journey into exile.
Competition
Debussy press

17:00

FATHERLAND
(France, Italy, Poland, Germany) Drama, documentary, road movie. 82mins. The Match Factory. Dir: Pawel Pawlikowski. Cast: Sandra Hüller, Hanns Zischler, August Diehl.
Competition press
Bazin

17:45

WE ARE ALIENS
(Japan) Animation. 111mins. Charades. Dir: Kohei Kadowaki.
Directors' Fortnight
Theatre Croisette

18:00

FATHERLAND
(France, Italy, Poland, Germany) Drama, documentary, road movie. 82mins. The Match Factory. Dir: Pawel Pawlikowski. Cast: Sandra Hüller, Hanns Zischler, August Diehl.
Competition Festival ticketing website
Lumiere

VIVA
112mins. Loco Films. Dir: Aina Clotet. Cast: Aina Clotet, Naby Dakhli.
In a near future, in water-starved Barcelona, 40-year-old Nora emerges

from a battle with breast cancer with a fierce, almost desperate need to feel alive. She plunges into two intense relationships with Tom and Max, setting her on a raw journey through her deepest desires and unspoken fears.
Critics' Week
Miramar

18:30

TANGLES
(Canada) Animation. 102mins. Charades. Dir: Leah Nelson. Cast: Seth Rogen, Bryan Cranston, Pamela Adlon.
A young woman is forced to return to the conservative small town where her bizarre family lives to take care of her mother, having to deal with the cruel reality of her mom's Alzheimer disease and become the daughter they need.
Special Screenings Festival ticketing website
Agnès Varda

18:45

PARALLEL TALES
(France) Drama. 138mins. Charades. Dir: Asghar Farhadi. Cast: Vincent Cassel, Isabelle Huppert, Catherine Deneuve.
In search of inspiration for her new novel, Sylvie begins spying on her neighboors across the street.
Competition press
Debussy

UNE VIE MANIFESTE
Dir: Jean-Gabriel Périot.
Cannes Classics Festival ticketing website
Bunuel

19:00

BUTTERFLY JAM
(France) 102mins. Goodfellas. Dir: Kantemir Balagov. Cast: Barry Keoghan, Talha Akdogan, Riley Keough, Harry Melling.
Sixteen-year-old Pyteh splits his time between the wrestling mat and his family's struggling Circassian diner in Newark. A single impulsive decision by his hustling father changes the course of his life, shaping a tale of pride, legacy and masculinity.
Directors' Fortnight
Alexandre III

IN WAVES
(France-Belgium) 91mins. Charades. Dir: Phuong Mai Nguyen. Cast: Lyna Khoudri, Rio Vega, Paul Kircher, Birane Ba.
In Los Angeles, AJ, a shy teenager, meets Kristen. She lives for surfing; he loves skateboarding and drawing. They fall madly in love, and a happy future seems within reach. But everything changes when Kristen faces a sudden illness. Together, they face adversity, driven by the strength of their love, their friends, and their newly shared passion for surfing and the ocean.
Critics' Week
Le Raimu

PARALLEL TALES
(France) Drama. 138mins. Charades. Dir: Asghar Farhadi. Cast: Vincent Cassel, Isabelle Huppert, Catherine Deneuve.
Competition press
Bazin

20:00

INTO THE OGRE'S JAWS
(France) 86mins. Redience. Dir: Mahsa Karampour. Cast: Mahsa Karampour, Siavash Karampour.
Siavash is driving a car; his sister Mahsa is filming him. They are on a road, somewhere in the US. The film takes the form of a free and graceful documentary road movie, unfolding between Iran and the US, between childhood, memory and the present.
ACID
Cinéma Les Arcades 1

20:30

INTO THE OGRE'S JAWS
(France) 86mins. Redience. Dir: Mahsa Karampour. Cast: Mahsa Karampour, Siavash Karampour.
ACID
Cinéma Les Arcades 2

PARALLEL TALES
(France) Crime, drama. 138mins. Charades. Dir: Asghar Farhadi. Cast: Isabelle Huppert, Vincent Cassel, Virginie Efira, Pierre Niney and Adam Bessa.
Competition Festival ticketing website
Lumiere

20:45

GABIN
(France) Documentary. 105mins. Lightdox. Dir: Maxence Voiseux.
In northern France, Gabin, the youngest of the Jourdel family, finds himself destined to take over his father's butcher's shop. Torn between family loyalty and a desire to break free, his dreams lie elsewhere: to train a contest cow, to become a dog breeder, and to save his mother's farm from financial ruin. Spanning a decade, the film immerses us in this young boy's world, following his journey from age 8 to 18.
Directors' Fortnight
Theatre Croisette

21:00

MOLIÈRE, CYRANO AND THE YOUNG KING
(France) 120mins. Ginger & Fed. Dir: Michel Leclerc.
In 1651, as civil wars are menacing the Kingdom of France, Anne of Austria asks D'Artagnan to take her son to safety. Thus D'Artagnan entrusts the future Louis XIV to Cyrano, who hides him within the theatre troupe of the young Molière.
Special Screenings Festival ticketing website
Agnès Varda

»



Michelle is floating through life until a surprising connection with a high schooler challenges her relationship with her overbearing best friend.

MARKET SCREENINGS:
TODAY / 12:00 / Olympia 3 | May 17 / 14:00 / Olympia 6



Callie and Minnie's relationship is suddenly upended at the start of the summer before their senior year of high school. Left rudderless without her charismatic best friend, Minnie starts to form a complicated friendship with Callie's mother.

MARKET SCREENING:
TODAY / 18:15 / Olympia 6

visitfilms

Cannes Booth:
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+1 718 312 8210

21:15

THE DEVILS
Cannes Classics. Dir: Ken Russell. Cast: Vanessa Redgrave, Oliver Reed, Dudley Sutton.
In 17th-century France, Father Urbain Grandier's protection of the city of Loudun from the corrupt Cardinal Richelieu is undermined by a sexually repressed nun's accusation of witchcraft.
Cannes Classics Festival ticketing website
Bunuel

21:30

BULLET TRAIN
(Japan) 152mins. 1975. Dir: Junya Sato. Cast: Ken Takakura, Shin'ichi Chiba, Kei Yamamoto, Eiji Gô.
Five hundred passengers, a Shinkansen bullet train racing at full speed between Tokyo and Hakata, and a bomb set to explode if it drops below 80kmh. The country is on high alert to avert disaster.
Cinema de la Plage

DUA
(Kosovo-Switzerland-France) 101mins. The Film Party Sales. Dir: Blerta Basholli. Cast: Pinea Matoshi, Vlera Bilalli, Kaona Matoshi, Yllka Gashi.
Pristina, Kosovo, late 1990s. As war looms and ethnic tensions escalate, 13-year-old Dua struggles to find her place among her peers and within her changing body. After an incident shakes her community, she becomes a target and bonds with a fearless girl, Maki, who draws her toward a form of resistance. Between daily violence and the growing threat of exile, there is little room for awakenings.
Critics' Week
Alexandre III

MARIE-MADELEINE
(France, Haiti) Drama, fiction, second film. 104mins. Pyramide International. Dir: Gessica Généus.
In Jacmel, on Haiti's southern coast, the sea, the churches and the spirits shape daily life. Marie-Madeleine makes her living as a prostitute. When her path crosses Joseph's, a young believer involved in an evangelical community, a relationship blossoms between two opposite beings.
Cannes Premiere Festival ticketing website, press allowed
Debussy

23:59

SPECIES
(France) 103 mins. Drama, horror. WTFilms. Dir: Marion Le Coroller. Cast: Stefan Crepon, Edouard Ducamp, Sonia Faidi.
Margot, a young intern at the most competitive ER in the country, has trouble keeping up in this stressful environment. As she's confronted with multiple patients her age presenting unusual symptoms, her own body starts to show disturbing changes.
Midnight Screenings Festival ticketing website
Lumiere

MARKET SCREENINGS

09:00

ALL THE LOVERS IN THE NIGHT
(Japan) 139mins. Bitters End. Dir: Yukiko Sode. Cast: Mai Fukagawa, Yûta Hayashi, Kilala Inori.
Fuyuko lives quietly, working as a freelance proofreader. Accustomed to solitude, she moves through her days without expectation. Her only ritual is walking alone through the city at midnight on her birthday. A shift begins when she meets Mitsutsuka, a reserved high-school physics teacher. Drawn to his gentle manner and his words — "Next time, let's talk about light" — Fuyuko begins meeting him regularly at a café.
Palais F

LIVING RENT FREE
(France) Comedy. 83 mins. Elle Driver. Dir: Wilfried Méance. Cast: Josiane Balasko, Fadily Camara, Jean-Pascal Zadi.
Pregnant Fanny lives with her partner Virgil at her father's place. She seizes a chance to buy a Parisian apartment through life annuity, but the seller won't die. Fanny battles the con artist.
Riviera 2

NAGI NOTES
(Japan) Drama. 108mins. mk2 Films. Dir: Koji Fukada. Cast: Shizuka Ishibashi, Takako Matsu, Kenichi Matsuyama.
Yoriko, an artist living in rural Nagi, is haunted by a former love affair she cannot bear to mourn. When Yuri, a recently separated architect, travels from Tokyo to visit her friend and former sister-in-law, both women find themselves at a crossroads, each searching for ways to let go of the past and define their identity. Yuri's brief escape from the city settles into a quiet confrontation of loss and probing for the two women in bucolic Nagi.
Palais K

NILS, THE NEW ADVENTURE
(China) Animation. 85mins. Toonz Media Group. Dir: Leo Liao.
A young outcast finds himself miniaturized by a fairy. Forced to partner with a clumsy goose, he embarks on an epic adventure to reverse the spell. Along the way, he learns valuable life lessons and races against time to return to normal.
Palais D

OH, THIS UNSPEAKABLE VOID
(Germany) Comedy. 137mins. Beta Cinema. Dir: Simon Verhoeven. Cast: Bruno Alexander, Senta Berger, Michael Wittenborn, Karoline Herfurth.
At the age of 20, Joachim is unexpectedly accepted into the renowned acting school in Munich and moves into the villa with his grandparents, Inge and Hermann. Between the bizarre challenges of acting school and the eccentric, mostly alcohol-fuelled rituals of his grandparents, Joachim tries to find his place in the world — without knowing what role he actually plays in it.
Lerins #2 Online



SHAUN THE SHEEP: THE BEAST OF MOSSY BOTTOM
(UK, France) Family. 91mins. Studiocanal (Fr) Dir: Steve Cox, Matthew Walker. Cast: Justin Fletcher, John Sparkes, Kate Harbour.
On Halloween Eve at Mossy Bottom Farm, excitement turns to dismay when the clumsy farmer ruins the pumpkin patch. Shaun tries fixing it with science experiments, but things go wrong when a wild beast appears in the woods.
Arcades 1

STRAWBERRIES
(Morocco) 103mins. Lucky Number. Dir: Laïla Marrakchi. Cast: Fran Cantos, Itsaso Arana, Fatima Attif.
Two women leave their native Morocco to work a season picking strawberries in Spain, until abuse and harassment shatter their hopes. Supported by a Spanish lawyer, they must decide whether to speak out against a powerful system.
Olympia 7

THE ONES WHO GRIEVE
(France) Drama, horror. 116mins. WTFilms. Dir: Quarxx. Cast: Thierry Frémont, Zélie Rixhon, Isabelle Anciaux, Jean-Baptiste Maunier.
At the end of the 19th century, on an isolated farm, Zélie is trapped under the authority of her father, Jacob, a religious man. As a mysterious disease known as the Black Veil ravages the surrounding countryside and as faith begins to blur with madness, she must fight to preserve her humanity and claim her freedom.
Palais H

THE UPSIDE OF UNREQUITED
(US) Drama. 105mins. Capture. Dir: Anna-Elizabeth Shakespeare, Hillary Shakespeare. Cast: Tovah Feldshuh, Jessica Belkin, Rutina Wesley.
Molly has had 26 crushes but exactly zero kisses. Now her twin Cassie is swept up in her first romance, Molly has never felt more alone. Love confessions can only go one way for fat girls: utter humiliation, right?
Palais J

MARKET

09:00

ZEALOT
(Canada) Thriller. 93mins. Westend Films. Dir: Vadim Perelman. Cast: Djimon Hounsou, Kodi Smit-McPhee.
Based on the award-winning play, a film about privilege, paranoia and the assumptions we make about one another. The film follows Hassan, a Somali-American airport shuttle driver in Minneapolis. When Lloyd, a stranded twenty-something at the airport, offers to pay Hassan to take him overland to Chicago, it seems worth the risk. But as the realisation grows that his passenger is not what he seems, Hassan finds he is trapped in a terrifying ride, knowing that to save himself might put countless others in danger.
Olympia 4

ZEALOT
See box, above

09:30

JUST PLAY DEAD
(US) Thriller. 97mins. Voltage Pictures. Dir: Martin Campbell. Cast: Samuel L Jackson, Eva Green, Eoin Macken.
A criminal plans to fake his death for insurance money while framing his wife's lover. His wife plots to kill him for real and take it all. Both race to outmanoeuvre each other in a deadly battle of wits.
Olympia 6

MADDIE'S SECRET
(US) Comedy. 98mins. Mister Smith Entertainment. Dir: John Early. Cast: John Early, Kip Reynolds, Neil Wachs.
A beautiful food influencer's perfect life unravels when her rising fame awakens a long-suppressed eating disorder.
Olympia 2

MARIE-MADELEINE
(France, Haiti) Drama, fiction, second film. 104mins. Pyramide International. Dir: Gessica Généus.
In Jacmel, on Haiti's southern coast, the sea, the churches and the spirits shape daily life. Marie-Madeleine is a free woman. She makes her living as a prostitute and spends her nights defying »

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the rules of those who claim to save souls. When her path crosses Joseph's, a young believer involved in an evangelical community, a relationship blossoms between these two opposite beings.
Lerins #3 Online

SCRUGGS
(US) Drama, comedy. 115mins. Kassab Pictures. Dir: Zachary Ruda. Cast: Calvin Kassab, Rylie Palazzolo, Sean Astin.
A spoiled real estate mogul discovers the true meaning of the holiday season in a hilarious magical adventure.
Palais E

THE BEARDED GIRL
(Canada) Fantasy, drama. 101mins. Princ Films. Dir: Jody Wilson. Cast: Anwen O'Driscoll, Jessica Paré, Skylar Radzion.
On the brink of inheriting the position of The Bearded Woman, matriarchal leader to an outcast community of circus performers, a young woman defies her mother and runs away instead.
Palais #E Online

THE LONELIEST MAN IN TOWN
(Austria) 86mins. Be For Films (Paris). Dir: Rainer Frimmel. Cast: Alfred Blechinger, Al Cook, Alois Hoch.
When a blues musician's memory-filled apartment faces demolition, an old dream emerges from his isolated life.
Riviera 1

TIN CASTLE
See box, right

VITA MIA
(Italy) Drama. 125mins. Beta Cinema. Dir: Edoardo Winspeare. Cast: Dominique Sanda, Celeste Casciaro, Antonino 'Ninni' Bruschetta, Ignazio Oliva, Karolina Porcari, Johanna Orsini .
Didi, an elderly aristocrat, has chosen to retire in a small village in Apulia. Living with Parkinson's disease, she relies on Vita, a strong-willed woman from a modest background, for daily support. What begins as a practical arrangement evolves into a profound connection, as mutual respect helps them bridge the gap between their worlds.
Palais G

11:00

LIGHT PILLAR
(China) Fiction, animation. 90mins. Cercamon. Dir: Xu Zao.
A lonely janitor in a dying film studio finds solace in a virtual romance, until the illusion shatters. As a film crew arrives to shoot an alien invasion movie, he chooses to disappear with the studio.
Online #5

THE SON AND THE SEA
(US, UK) Drama, first film, female director. 102mins. MMM Film Sales. Dir: Stroma Cairns. Cast: Jonah West, Stanley Brock, Connor Tompkins.
Drifting through an extended adolescence of parties and bad decisions in London, Jonah escapes to the wild Scottish coast with his best friend Lee. There, they meet Charlie, a deaf man dealing with his own baggage. As their unexpected friendship grows, Jonah discovers the quiet courage it takes to be vulnerable, opening the door to healing and change.
Online #1



MARKET

09:30

TIN CASTLE
(Ireland) Documentary. 105mins. Films Boutique. Dir: Alexander Murphy.
Along a long-forgotten road, the O'Reillys live in a rundown trailer stranded in the middle of the fields. Pa', Lisa, and their 10 children weather the seasons in their tin castle, heirs to a way of life on borrowed time. Under threat of eviction, their tenuous balance falters, yet — steadfast in their tradition — they resist. The children laugh, the dogs bark, the trailer holds on — but for how long?
Olympia 8

11:30

AGATA CHRISTIAN — MURDER ON THE SNOW
(Italy) Comedy. 109mins. Piperplay. Dir: Eros Puglielli. Cast: Christian De Sica, Pasquale Petrolo, Paolo Calabresi.
Christian Agata, a sarcastic and brilliant criminologist, is invited by the Gulmar family, board game tycoons, to relaunch their classic 'Crime Castle' at their Aosta Valley estate. An avalanche isolates the castle, and Carlo Gulmar is found dead, face buried in a cake. With his enthusiastic fan-sergeant Gianni Cuozzo, Christian must navigate absurd theories and family secrets to find the killer still inside the villa.
Lerins 2

BRAVE CAT
(Chile) Animation. 94mins. Indie Sales. Dir: Gabriel Osorio.
Kona, a teenage forest cat, decides to face her fears and search for her missing mother, who was kidnapped by dogs working for humans. Along with Colin, an abandoned guard dog puppy, and Bernard, a runaway old circus bear, she embarks on a cross-country search for their lost families. Despite their differences, Kona, Colin and Bernard stick together on a wild journey that changes them forever.
Palais J

CARTE BLANCHE
(Spain) Action/adventure. 90mins. Latido Films. Dir: Gerardo Herrero. Cast: Víctor Clavijo, Iván Pellicer, Salva Reina.
A group of soldiers set out to avenge the massacre of their comrades, but it soon becomes a journey into horror that pushes the limits of their humanity. The protagonist struggles to hold on to his identity and moral compass as his companions descend into a process of dehumanisation.
Arcades 3

CHE GUEVARA: THE LAST COMPANIONS
(France) Documentary, animation. 98mins. Lucky Number. Dir: Christophe Reveille.
After Cuba's 1959 revolution, three fighters joined Che Guevara's uprising. Following their 1967 Bolivia battle and Che's death, they travelled 2,400km pursued by 4,000 troops. Sixty years on, survivors share this tale of endurance.
Olympia #4 Online

INTO THE BELLY OF THE BEAST
(Japan) Thriller, crime. 92mins. Reel Suspects. Dir: Jun Yamada. Cast: Shun Tobari, Nanase Kusumoto, Misato Tadaki, Hiroki Minami, Kodai Ito.
Sato is a young man consumed by a desire to eat human flesh. One day, he stumbles upon a discarded phone outside the hostess club where he works, which entangles him in the shady underbelly of society. As he sinks deeper into the criminal underworld, Sato's twisted hunger grows — until he finally kills to satisfy his craving for human flesh.
Online #6

LA PERRA
(Chile) 106mins. Lucky Number. Dir: Dominga Sotomayor. Cast: Selton Mello, Giannina Fruttero, Paula Luchsinger.
A middle-aged woman living alone on a Chilean island finds an abandoned puppy, naming it Yuri, her chosen name for a daughter she never had. Through bonding with the dog, she seeks healing from her past.
Olympia 4

LAST DIVE
(Malaysia) Drama, fiction, action/adventure. 90mins. Multivisionnaire Pictures. Dir: Dr. Wendy Wong.
Once a rising star on the football pitch, Faiz finds his life shattered after a devastating hit-and-run accident ends his career. Seeking a fresh start, Faiz meets Amelia, a scuba instructor who helps people with disabilities find freedom underwater. Their mission turns dangerous when they uncover a syndicate of coral poachers and fish bombers destroying the reef. The stakes turn deadly when Amelia is trapped underwater during a confrontation with the poachers. Faiz rushes to her rescue, only to find himself ensnared as well. He transforms from a victim into a hero, leading a community-wide movement to protect the ocean that gave him a second chance at life.
Palais B

MASTERS
(Italy) Documentary. 73mins. True Colours Glorious Films. Dir: Paolo Civati.
Nine great directors, including Jane Campion, Tim Burton, and Martin Scorsese, reveal themselves without filters, exploring universal themes such as courage, solitude, conflict, and the deeper meaning of directing.
Riviera 2

MATTER OF TIME
(US) Science-fiction. 103mins. Pinnacle Peak Pictures. Dir: Jeremy Snead. Cast: Myles Erlick, Patrick Britton, Quinn Angell, Gordon Barns, Jamie Alexander, Ali Astin, Sean Astin.
Charlie Fleck, a 29-year-old aspiring videogame designer, is given the opportunity of a lifetime with a time-stopping device given to him by his friend, eccentric toy shop owner Gibbs.
Palais #J Online

SHANA
(France) Fiction. 84mins. Les Films Du Losange. Dir: Lila Pinell. Cast: Eva Huault, Noémie Lvovsky.
Shana navigates the trials and tribulations of everyday life with boundless energy and the support of her group of friends. When her grandmother passes away, she inherits a ring that is supposed to protect her from bad luck. Shana certainly needs this helping hand. Especially since her toxic partner has been released from prison, and misfortunes are piling up.
Olympia 7

SOMEONE'S DAUGHTER
(Canada) 102mins. Filmoption International. Dir: Wiebke Von Carolsfeld. Cast: Pascale Bussières, François Arnaud, Peter Outerbridge.
Kidnapped and abandoned in the remote

wilderness with a former client who stood accused of rape, a successful defence lawyer has to resist becoming judge, jury and executioner.
Palais #D Online

SUMMER DAYS
(Spain) Drama, fiction, erotic. 96mins. Deep Communication Roots. Dir: Chema De La Peña. Cast: Pau Simon, Berta Galo, Maggie Civantos, Roberto Álamo.
Summer promises to be idyllic for Juan and Gabriela. University classes are over, and they'll have the family beach house all to themselves. But their plans take a turn when Juan's father, Fernando, shows up unannounced with his new young girlfriend, Mónica. The tension between father and son makes living together difficult — but even more so is the tension that arises between Juan and Mónica. Secrets, forbidden passions, the heat of the sun and the beach conspire to make an unexpected August.
Palais D

THE LAST RESORT
(Philippines) 107mins. Voltage Pictures. Dir: Donald Petrie. Cast: Sam Neill, Daisy Ridley, Alden Ehrenreich.
A career-focused woman travels to the Philippines to evaluate a potential resort site. Amid stunning landscapes and friendly locals, she unexpectedly finds herself drawn to the country's beauty and a charismatic pilot named Ben.
Olympia 1

THE NEST
(Spain) Horror, thriller. Filmax (Castelao Pictures). Dir: Hugo Stuven. Cast: Luis Callejo, Luisa Gavasa, Michelle Jenner.
Marta lives in an isolated house outside a small village in the mountains. It's the perfect place to hide her secret: she is keeping her family locked up there. To ensure things stay as they are, Marta uses a system that prevents Elena, her mother, an elderly woman suffering from dementia, from running away. However, it has not been necessary to use this system with Oscar, her eight-year-old son, because he only knows the reality that his mother has created for him. But this stability is shattered when an intruder, someone even more dangerous and disturbed than Marta, stumbles into her home.
Palais H

TIED UP
(Spain) Horror. 75mins. Film Factory Entertainment. Dir: Angel De La Cruz. Cast: Jaime Lorente.
Daniel Lonces is a successful horror writer who decides to put himself in his protagonist's shoes and experience firsthand what it means to be tied and gagged. But a tragic accident leaves his wife dead, him trapped, and his 11-month-old baby defenceless. Desperate, David struggles to free himself while facing unexpected dangers inside and outside his home.
Palais F

TREASURE TREKKERS
(US) Animation. 98mins. Goodfellas. Dir: Kevin Munroe. Cast: Wyatt Bowen, Meredith Bull, Greg Cipes.
Mip, a 12-year-old adopted monkey in a world ruled by cats and rodents, stumbles upon a magical map that whisks him to the distant land of Empathra. There, he embarks on a perilous quest to uncover the secrets of his mysterious origins.
Olympia 9

12:00

BLAISE
(France) Animation. 80mins. Best Friend Forever. Dir: Jean-Paul Guigue, Dimitri Planchon. Cast: Léa Drucker, Jacques Gamblin.
The Sauvage family just want to be liked. Carole is trying to improve her bad reputation with her employees, while Jacques is trying to improve his with his friends. As for their son, Blaise, influenced by a girl, he politely embarks on a completely impromptu revolutionary crusade.
Arcades 2

BLOOD WINDOW SHOWCASE
(Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru) Fantasy, horror, thriller. 90mins. Grupo Mórbido. Dir: Blood Window.
A unique experience for those who dare to discover the stories and talents that will transform the industry.
Lerins 1

BO BO
(Russia) Drama. 98mins. Kinokult. Dir: Anastasia Kuzina. Cast: Darya Alkhova, Yuriy Dmitriev, Mariya Dovzhenko.
Nadya is growing up with a hemangioma, a large spot on her face that makes her an outcast in her native village. Between her mother's dreams of surgery, her grandmother's rituals and the ridicule of her peers, the girl seeks salvation in singing in the choir and friendship with the only person close to her, Yura. But an accident leads them both to injury, and Nadya's life changes forever. Once in a Moscow clinic, she encounters children whose trials are much more difficult than her own. The operation, which is supposed to give hope, turns into a painful choice: between the expectations of the family, the fear of rejection and their own right to happiness.
Palais I

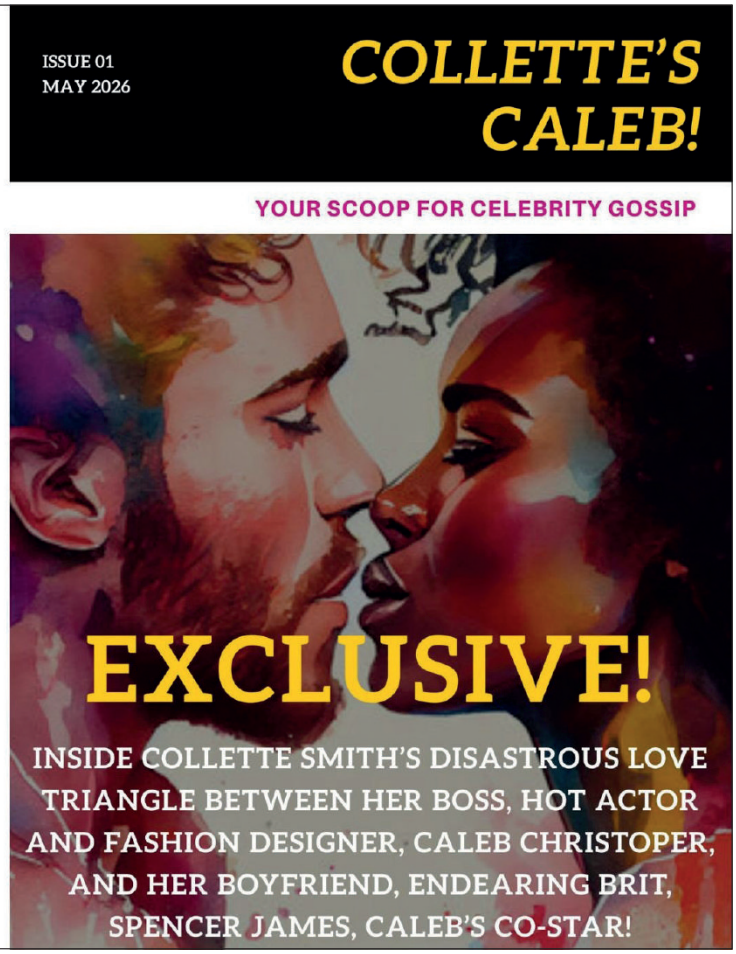
EVERYTIME
(Austria) Drama. 119mins. Charades. Dir: Sandra Wollner. Cast: Birgit »

Are you the right producer, sales agent, or star to help bring this fun, juicy, bold romantic comedy limited series to life?

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FLOOR 51 PRODUCTIONS



Minichmayr, Lotte Shirin Keiling, Tristan López.
Follows a mother, her daughter and a teenage boy blamed for a tragic death as they travel to Tenerife together, confronting grief, blame and forgiveness on a family holiday that never happened.
Olympia 2

FREQUENCY OF FEAR
(Israel) Thriller. 76mins. Bleiberg Entertainment. Dir: Danny A Abeckaser. Cast: Moran Atias, Daniella Pick, Angel Bonanni.
Based on the true events surrounding the 2024 Hezbollah beeper operation, the most daring counter-terror manoeuvre in history: to thwart a wave of impending terrorist attacks and all-out war, a group of spies must come up with a plan to infiltrate their enemy's supply chain and secretly build and distribute thousands of explosive-rigged pagers that can neutralise an army of terrorists in a single move.
Palais G

LAKADBAGGHA 2 — THE MONKEY BUSINESS
(India) 111mins. Webfilmland Productions. Dir: Anshuman Jha.
When his fiancée disappears while exposing a deadly wildlife syndicate in Indonesia, an animal-lover vigilante infiltrates a brutal martial arts tournament in Bondega — going undercover as 'Hyena' to take down a kingpin auctioning the last of an endangered species.
Palais E

ON EDGE
(Italy) Drama, crime, first film. 96mins. Intramovies. Dir: Davide Angiuli. Cast: Giulio Beranek, Malich Cissè, Ema Andrea, Anita Lorusso, Romina De Giglio, Lucia Zotti.
In the rough outskirts of a southern Italian city, a young man caring for his ailing grandmother is drawn into a series of robberies with an outlaw bound by an ancient code. Between loyalty, loss and the longing for family, he must decide who he is — and how far he'll go not to be alone.
Olympia #6 Online

PACIFIC
(Argentina, Colombia) Horror, science-fiction. Filmsharks/The Remake Co. Dir: Gonzalo Gutierrez. Cast: Manolo Cardona, Ma Gabriela De Faria, Christopher Von Uckermann, Ricardo Abarca.
A group of young travellers are stranded on an island in the Pacific where they struggle to escape an evil presence that has been kept hidden for centuries.
Lerins 3

PERMAFROST
(Italy) Comedy. 93mins. Vision Distribution. Dir: Lucia Calamro. Cast: Valentina Bellè, Silvio Orlando, Barbara Ronchi.
A small community of scientists, unreachable for eight months of the year, looks to the future of the human species, searching for things we do not yet understand. The arrival of Maria Medri, a stubborn and reclusive genius, will jeopardise the plans of her mentor and mission leader, Fulvio Cadorna. A clash of science, ideology and emotion.
Riviera 1

SHE KEEPS ME YOUNG
(US) Comedy. 91mins. Visit Films. Dir: Doron Max Hagay. Cast: Patti Harrison, Kate Berlant, John Early, Blair Beeken.
Michelle is floating through life until a surprising connection with a high-schooler challenges her relationship with her overbearing best friend, in this bitingly astute and exceptionally hilarious satire.
Olympia 3

THE CYCLE OF LOVE
(US, UK, India, Sweden) Documentary. 98mins. Dogwoof. Dir: Orlando Von Einsiedel.
The film follows the extraordinary true story of PK, a 23-year-old street artist from Delhi who sets off with a handful of paintbrushes and a second-hand bicycle on a 6,000 mile journey across Europe and Asia to find Lotta, the woman who captured his heart during her visit to India.
Palais C

VIVA CARMEN
(France) Animation. 90mins. Global Constellation. Dir: Sébastien Laudenbach.
Andalusia, 1840. Returning to Seville after three years far away, 13-year-old Salva meets Carmen, a 20-year-old gypsy with a fascinating voice. Learning from an omen that death is coming for her, he calls on his street friends to save her.
Olympia 8 Priority badges only

13:30

5 CENTIMETERS PER SECOND
(Japan) 121mins. Pony Canyon. Dir: Yoshiyuki Okuyama. Cast: Hokuto Matsumura, Yuzu Aoki, Keiko Horiuchi.
Takaki tells the story of his life as changing times test his romantic feelings.
Palais D

FUNK
(Brazil) Drama. 103mins. Cinema Do Brasil. Dir: Aly Muritiba. Cast: Duda Santos, MC Nem, Lellê.
An exhilarating, music-driven portrait of a young woman's rise through the Rio favela baile music circuit, reclaiming her agency in a world that tries to consume it.
Olympia 4

LOVE KILLS
(Brazil) First film, fantasy. 96mins. Reel Suspects. Dir: Luiza Shelling Tubaldini. Cast: Thais Lago, Iuri Saraiva, Erom Cordeiro, Gabriel Stauffer.
In São Paulo's crack-ravaged downtown, a young black vampire, Helena, haunts a dirty cafe, captivating a naive waiter. As he uncovers her secrets and the city's underbelly, he's drawn into a perilous world of immortal intrigue, challenging his mortality.
Online #6

LOW EXPECTATIONS
(Denmark, Norway) Fiction. 105mins. Salaud Morisset. Dir: Eivind Landsvik. Cast: Marie Ulven, Anders Danielsen Lie, Tone Mostraum, Embla Berntsen, Snorre Kind Monsson, Clara Dessau.
At the height of her music career, Maja falls apart and has to step away from her ambitions. Depressed and broke, she moves back home with her mother and works part-time at a local high school. Far from the spotlight, wrapped in everyday kindness, she slowly finds her way back to life.
Olympia 9

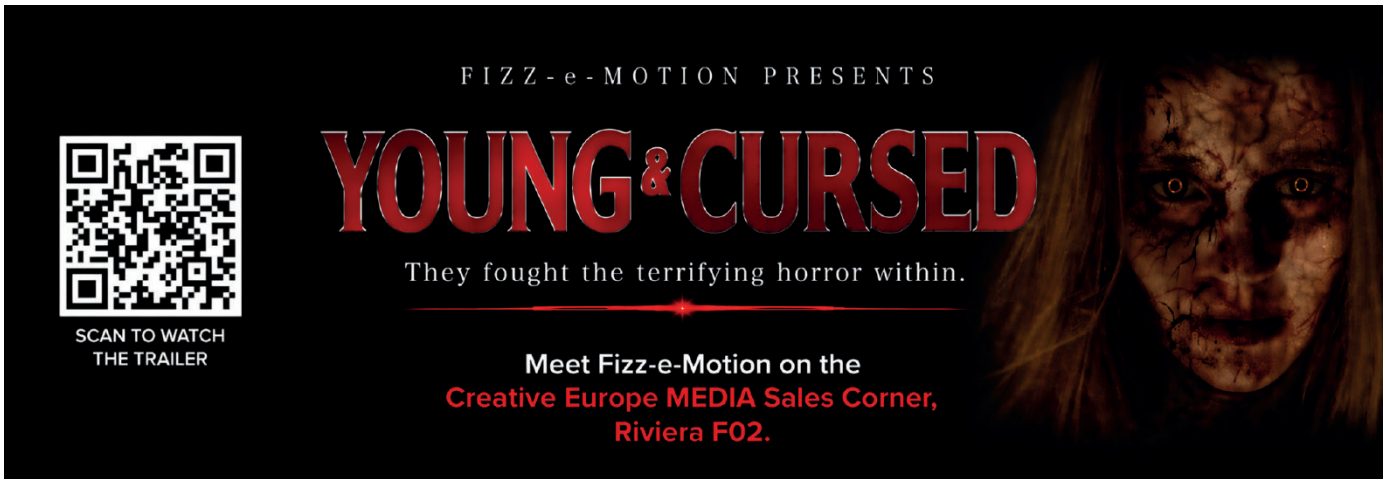
SECOND CHANCES
(France) Drama. 109mins. Le Pacte. Dir: Thomas Lilti. Cast: François Civil, Lea Drucker, Karim Leklou.
Olympia 7

THE END OF IT
(UK) 102mins. Bankside Films. Dir: Maria Martínez Bayona.
In a future where ageing is cured and death is optional, Claire, a former artist, decides to die, causing conflicts with her family. She uses her death to reclaim her artistic role.
Olympia 1

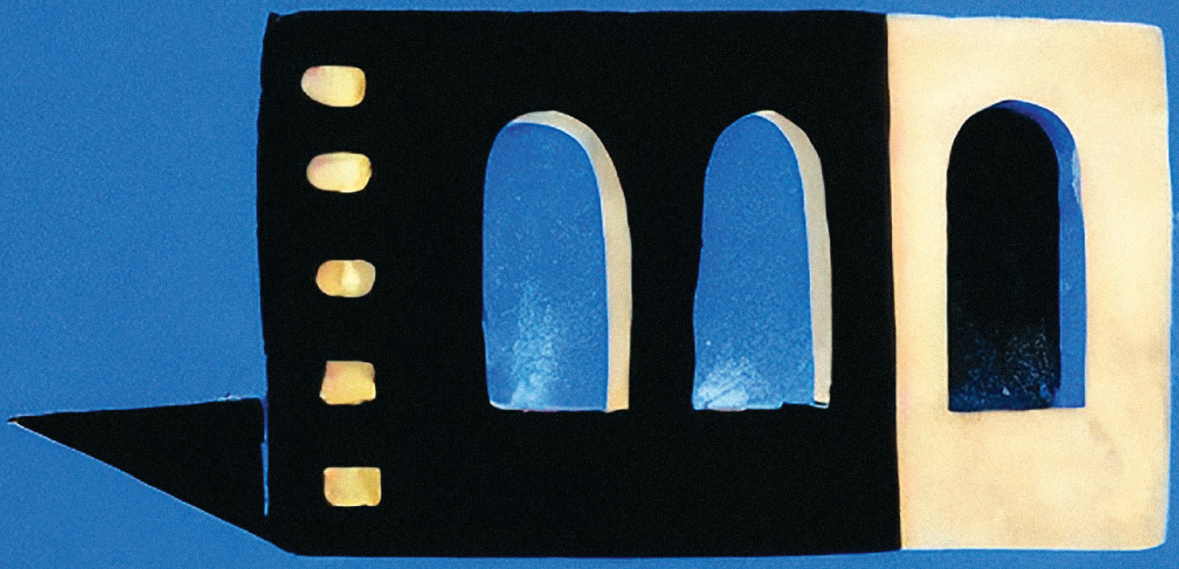
THE NAMELESS BALLAD
(Italy) Horror, thriller, fantasy. 90mins. Minerva Pictures. Dir: Federico Zampaglione.
Under pressure from his record label, a young musician in crisis takes refuge in an isolated villa to find inspiration. But the discovery of an ancient piano and a forgotten diary drags him into a spiral of obsession, visions and ghostly presences that push him to the brink of madness.
Lerins 2

THE ROAD TO GALENA
(US) Drama, family. 110mins. California Pictures. Dir: Joe Hall. Cast: Ben Winchell, Will Brittain, Aimee Teegarden.
Cole Baird seems to have it all — wife, wealth and a top Washington law career. Yet he's trapped by expectations and regrets leaving his true love and small-town dreams behind. Faced with a defining choice, Cole must decide between continued success or returning home to pursue a more meaningful life.
Palais H

»



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THE SUN NEVER SETS
(US) 102mins. Capture. Dir: Joe Swanberg. Cast: Dakota Fanning, Jake Johnson, Debby Ryan.
A woman's relationship with her older, divorced boyfriend hits a rough patch just as her ex reappears in her life, leading to complicated emotions and messy entanglements in the Alaskan wilderness.
Palais J

THINGS WE DON'T SAY
(Italy) Fiction. 115mins. Rai Cinema. Dir: Gabriele Muccino. Cast: Stefano Accorsi, Carolina Crescentini, Miriam Leone, Claudio Santamaria, Beatrice Savignani, Margherita Pantaleo, Alessandra Carrillo.
A look at the razor-thin line between good and evil, and what flows between them, often sweeping through our lives like a raging river.
Arcades 1

TIME AND WATER
(US, Iceland) Documentary. 93mins. Dogwoof. Dir: Sara Dosa.
Facing the death of his country's glaciers and the loss of his beloved grandparents, Icelandic writer Andri Snær Magnason turns his archives into a time capsule to hold what is slipping away — family, memory, time and water.
Riviera 2

YOUNG WASHINGTON
(US) 120mins. Angel Studios. Dir: Jon Erwin. Cast: Andy Serkis, Ben Kingsley, Mary-Louise Parker.
Before he led a nation, George Washington was a young soldier thrown into a global conflict. With alliances crumbling and war closing in, he must choose who to trust and confront the leader he's becoming.
Palais F Priority badges only

ZONERS
(Romania) Science-fiction. 120mins. Pinnacle Peak Pictures. Dir: Stephan Zlotescu.
A desperate young woman is forced to drive a ruthless mercenary and a stolen alien device through a land infested with monsters.
Palais B
Palais #B Online

14:00

A FADING MAN
See box, above

BACHELORETTE NIGHTMARE
(France) Thriller. 110mins. Ocg Plus (Uzbekistan). Dir: Mustafa Özgün Mustafa. Cast: Michel Biel, Zachary Roozen, Liya Bolotova.
During a bachelorette getaway in Cannes, bride Lilia — who never truly belonged to her friend group — dies under mysterious circumstances. Her death unearths old betrayals, suppressed jealousy, and a secret affair between her friend and fiancé. The arrival of Lilia's father — an American diplomat and covert intelligence chief — turns a personal tragedy into a dangerous game that threatens not only their friendships but the balance of international power.
Palais #G Online On invite or request



MARKET

14:00

A FADING MAN
(Germany) Drama, romance, first film. 102mins. Bendita Film Sales. Dir: Welf Reinhart. Cast: Harald Krassnitzer, Dagmar Manzel, August Zirner.
When Kurt, living with dementia, turns up at his ex-wife Hanne's home unaware of their divorce, her life with partner Bernd is disrupted. What begins as an uneasy coexistence slowly opens up new possibilities for love and for life.
Palais E

COMÉDIE FRANÇAISE
(France) Comedy. 75mins. Charades. Dir: Martin Darondeau. Cast: Pauline Clément, Laurent Stocker, Julien Frison.
At the Comédie-Française, the show must go on. But three hours before Nina's directorial debut, chaos erupts: a stranded actor, exploding tensions, broken equipment, clashing egos. With time running out, she fights to save the premiere.
Olympia 3

DEATH HAS NO MASTER
(Venezuela, Italy, Canada, Luxembourg, Spain, Mexico) Thriller. 105mins. Lucky Number. Dir: Jorge Thielen Armand. Cast: Asia Argento, Jorge Thielen Hedderich, Jericó Montilla.
When the heiress to a colonial cacao plantation in Venezuela comes from abroad to claim her inheritance, she is forced to confront the land's current occupants as well as its dark, violent legacy.
Olympia #8 Online

GIRL IN THE CLOUDS
(France, Belgium) Animation, action/adventure, fantasy. 90mins. SC Films International. Dir: Philippe Riche.
A 12-year-old girl is entrusted with a magical pen that can grant any wish it writes. Partnered by her talking guinea pig, she embarks upon a dangerous adventure to save the planet from environmental destruction.
Palais K

GOD FORGIVES EVERYONE
(Italy) Comedy. 114mins. Piperplay. Dir: Pierfrancesco Diliberto. Cast: Pierfrancesco Diliberto Aka Pif, Giusy Buscemi, Francesco Scianna, Carlos Hipólito, Maurizio Marchetti, Domenico Centamore.
Arturo is a lonely, gluttonous and disillusioned Sicilian real estate agent. His life lights up when, thanks to his one true passion — Sicilian pastries — he meets his soulmate. Flora is perfect: she is beautiful, funny, kind, and brilliant… and she's also a pastry chef. But there is an insurmountable obstacle between them: God. Yes, because Flora is, above all, a fervent Catholic. Arturo, on the other hand, drifted away from God when he was just a child, but in order not to lose the woman of his life, he is willing to pretend he is still a believer. Helping Arturo fulfill his dream of love will be an exceptional friend: Pope Francis.
Lerins 3

IN THE SHADOWS
(UK) 117mins. Altitude Film Sales/Altitude Film Entertainment. Dir: Anthony Wonke. Cast: Jasmine Jobson, Finn Cole, Gershwyn Eustache Jnr.
Refugee Ramla Ali is secretly pursuing boxing against her parents' wishes, hoping to become the first Somali-British professional boxing champion, while navigating love, racial and cultural barriers.
Olympia 6

IP MAN: KUNG FU LEGEND
(China) Action/adventure. 98mins. All Rights Entertainment (France). Dir: Liming Li.
British merchants and Chinese triads have joined forces. This move draws fierce opposition from Ip Man, who is standing up for the workers. Framed for murder, he is sent to prison. Within the prison walls, the triads set multiple deadly traps. Can Ip Man overcome these trials, escape the danger and clear his name?
Lerins 1

KNIGHT ON WHEELS
(Brazil) 75mins. Cinema Do Brasil. Dir: Leonardo Costa, Gabriel Meloni. Cast: Tristan Aronovich, Thiago Carvâlhonts, Renata Bozzy.
When forced to follow a controversial plan, a disillusioned criminal starts to question his actions and discovers a fortune teller who can interfere in his destiny through tarot cards.
Palais #E Online

LA LUZ
120mins. Latido Films. Dir: Fernando Franco. Cast: Itziar Aizpuru, Ramón Barea, Luis Callejo.
A parish priest is ready to leave the clergy and start anew. But when his past threatens to surface, he must face the consequences, beginning a journey that leads him to challenge the institution that protected him.
Riviera #1 Online On invite or request

NO HIT WONDER
(Germany) 118mins. Filmsharks/The Remake Co. Dir: Florian Dietrich. Cast: Anja Antonowicz, Bibiana Beglau, Sebastian Blomberg.
Singer Daniel has hit rock bottom. After a failed suicide attempt, the former one-hit wonder finds himself stuck in a psychiatric ward.
Riviera 1

RED ROCKS
(France) 90mins. Luxbox. Dir: Bruno Dumont. Cast: Kaylon Lancel, Kelsie Verdeilles, Louise Podolski.
Two rival gangs of local and visiting teens compete in the dangerous sport of cliff diving one summer.
Arcades 2

SECRET HEART
(France) Documentary. 88mins. Lightdox. Dir: Tom Fontenille.
Over the past four years, Lilou has left her secret life behind, becoming a 64-year-old woman who enjoys DIY, gardening, cycling and looking after her grandchildren. As I accompanied her through her transformation, I filmed a family healing its wounds and reinventing a place for everyone. This is my family, Lilou is my father.
Palais C Press allowed

THE FURIES
(Canada) Fiction. 106mins. Other Angle Pictures. Dir: Melanie Charbonneau. Cast: Aurélia Arandi-Longpré, Antoine Bertrand, Sandrine Bisson.
When Waterloo gets its new semi-pro men's hockey team, the local women's amateur leagues are kicked out of the arena. Determined to avenge their lost ice time, an impulsive hockey player and a ruthless octogenarian — once a roller derby legend — come up with a plan: to recruit the town's outcasts and form an underground roller derby team. With the backing of the Knitting Circle, they'll prove that women's sport can ignite crowds — and that sisterhood is the ultimate act of resistance.
Palais G »

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WINNIPEG, SEEDS OF HOPE
(Spain, Chile, Argentina) Educational, historical, animation. 81mins. MMM Film Sales. Dir: Elio Quiroga, Beñat Beitia.
Victor, a widowed father, and his young daughter Julia leave Spain when Barcelona falls to Franco's forces in 1939. In France, camps and hardship await them. Hope appears when they board the Winnipeg, a freighter chartered by Pablo Neruda to take them to Valparaíso, Chile, where a new life may begin.
Palais I

15:00

HOLD ONTO ME
(Cyprus, Denmark, Greece) Drama, fiction, female director, first film. 102mins. Cercamon. Dir: Myrsini Aristidou. Cast: Hristos Passalis, Maria Petrova.
Eleven-year-old Iris learns her estranged father, Aris, is back in town for his own father's funeral. Determined to know him, Iris tracks him down to a dilapidated shipyard, where he's been keeping to himself. What begins as a stubborn attempt to reconnect slowly unfolds into a fragile bond.
Online #5

15:45

2 DEGREES SOUTH OF THE EQUATOR
(Brazil) 100mins. VDF Connection. Dir: Joaquim Haickel, Coi Belluzzo.
Eulália, a young woman hardened by life, travels to Maranhão to search for her biological father with only a name and an old photograph. There, she meets Tiquira, a cheerful tour guide who promises to help her. Falling madly in love with her, he secretly delays the search to spend more time together. As the vibrant local culture softens Eulália's harsh worldview, the inevitable revelation of Tiquira's lie threatens to destroy their budding and unlikely romance.
Palais #D Online

ANNIE
(US) Action/adventure. 70mins. California Pictures. Dir: Nicolas Bosc. Cast: Anna Maiche, Mandi Christine Kerr, Julien Briau.
Deadly. Loyal. Relentless. Assassin ANNiE is on a blood-soaked mission to avenge her family, until a shocking twist reveals her sister may still be alive... and in the hands of the very man she's sworn to kill. Betrayals burn, bullets fly. No one gets in her way.
Palais H

CORPORATE RETREAT
(US) Fiction, thriller, first film, horror. 100mins. The Film Sales Company. Dir: Aaron Fisher. Cast: Alan Ruck, Odeya Rush, Rosanna Arquette.
What starts off as a luxury weekend getaway for team-building at a start-up company becomes a deadly game of musical chairs as characters face a blood-spattered series of obstacles masterminded by an embittered ex-colleague seeking his final revenge.
Olympia 5



MARKET

15:45

LADY
(UK) First film, comedy. 97mins. Metfilm Studio. Dir: Samuel Abrahams. Cast: Laurie Kynaston, Sian Clifford.
An off-beat comedy about a lonely, narcissistic aristocrat who dupes a struggling, opportunistic director into filming her every move. But her obsession with the spotlight takes a surreal turn when she starts becoming invisible. Blending mockumentary and magical realism, the film satirises our desperate need to feel seen.
Palais B

I SEE BUILDINGS FALL LIKE LIGHTNING
(UK) 109mins. Charades. Dir: Clio Barnard. Cast: Anthony Boyle, Millie Brady, Joe Cole.
Five childhood friends face adult struggles: Patrick and Shiv's relationship strains over a secret, Oli parties destructively, Conor awaits fatherhood with business dreams, and wealthy Rian can't escape his past despite moving away.
Arcades 3

LADY
See box, above

LATE BLOOMERS
(Italy) Comedy. 92mins. Piperplay. Dir: Antonio Albanese. Cast: Antonio Albanese, Giuseppe Battiston, Nicola Rignanese.
Beppe, Umberto and Gigi wait for Toni, Umberto's son, to be discharged from prison. At the pub celebrating the release are this dysfunctional bunch of buddies: a failed musician, a shy plumber and mama's boy, a petty criminal and a desperate disinherited who just overdid it with tranquilisers. But something is about to happen. After a night of heavy drinking in the village bar, the car they are travelling home in hits something — or rather, someone. They flee and hide in Umberto's house, triggering a spiral of absurd choices, clashes and bizarre encounters. As the night drags on, chaos escalates until an unthinkable solution arrives at dawn.
Riviera #2 Online

MARIINKA
(Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium) Documentary. 94mins. Films Boutique. Dir: Pieter-Jan De Pue.
In Eastern Ukraine, childhood neighbours find their lives violently derailed by a shifting frontline. Natasha, a promising boxing talent, becomes a military paramedic. Angela, who lost her parents at a young age, survives by moving goods to both sides of the front. Caught in a modern Greek tragedy, brothers Mark and Ruslan now fight on opposite sides — against each other. In the safety of his adoptive family in the US, their youngest brother Daniil follows the war from afar.
Riviera 2

SHANGHAI WONTON
(China) 108mins. China Film Co-Production Corporation. Dir: Tiange Wu.
Wang, a retired engineer in Shanghai, cooks wontons every Saturday, waiting for his son to come home. With his son's marriage still undecided, he goes to the blind date corner and unexpectedly meets a group of parents just like him.
Palais #B Online

SWEET VIOLENCE
(Uruguay) Thriller, crime, horror. 93mins. Jinga Films. Dir: Jeremias Segovia. Cast: Esteban Bigliardi, Javier Chavez, Eduardo Miglionico, Mirella Pascual, Ariel Caldarelli, Gabriella Ribarren.
After he is released from a 20-year prison sentence, a family plan to kill the man convicted of murdering their daughter. Still pleading innocence, he tries to rebuild his life until the past returns to haunt him.
Palais D

THE CRYSTAL PLANET
(Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovakia) Family, children's, animation. 95mins. Sola Media. Dir: Arsen Anton Ostojić.
On the newly discovered Crystal Planet, 11-year-old Rea befriends a mystical, dinosaur-like cub named Burgy, who has been separated from his mother by a mutant monster. On the quest to reunite Burgy with his mother, she must save the creature from ruthless governor Mordokan, who is seeking to exploit him for profit. As Rea unravels the truth on how the planet is being run, she must restore the rich, other-worldly life before its fragile balance is lost forever.
Olympia 9

THE GOLDEN AGE
(France) Drama, fiction. 112mins. Films Boutique. Dir: Bérenger Thouin.
Born at the turn of the century in a village' butcher's shop, Jeanne Lavaur dreams of becoming a countess. Inspired by the fearless Céleste and guided by her love for Guillaume de Barante, Jeanne's journey carries her from the Paris of the Golden Twenties through the turmoil of two world wars. As her life intertwines with the great upheavals of the 20th century, she rises as a fiercely free woman, determined to never let anyone define who she is meant to be.
Olympia #7 Online

THE HISTORY OF CONCRETE
(US) Comedy, documentary. 101mins. Visit Films. Dir: John Wilson.
Following the finale of his TV series, filmmaker John Wilson looks to the bedrock of his beloved New York City for inspiration and structure. Concrete, the world's most widely used building material, appears as an ever-present life force, and John sets out to make the definitive documentary on the matter.
Olympia #4 Online

THE SAUSAGE DOG
(France) Fiction, comedy. 97mins. France TV Distribution. Dir: Mathieu Sapin.
Guy Farkas, nicknamed 'Le Teckel' (The Dachshund), a seasoned medical representative who has seen it all, will have to team up with a new young executive to sell a new drug suspected of having caused hundreds of deaths.
Olympia 4

TRINIDAD
(Spain) Action/adventure. 115mins. Deep Communication Roots. Dir: Laura Alvea, José Ortuño. Cast: Gabriela Andrada, Paz Vega, Karla Sofía Gascón.
In the late 19th century, Trinidad, a young Spanish woman, arrives in the American Wild West, where she takes up arms as an outlaw, driven by a thirst for revenge against her enemies.
Palais J

VIRGINIA WOOLF'S NIGHT & DAY
(UK) Comedy, romance. 95mins. Westend Films. Dir: Tina Gharavi. Cast: Hailey Bennett, Lily Allen, Elyas M'Barek, Jennifer Saunders, Timothy Spall, Jack Whitehall.
Based on Virginia Woolf's funniest novel, the film is an un-romantic comedy about passionate astronomer Katharine Hilbery, who does everything she can to avoid romantic love and marriage against the ravishing backdrop of London in 1910, advances in science and technology and crumbling Edwardian patriarchy.
Olympia 7

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JETRO Japan External Trade Organization

METI Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

WILD IS THE WIND
(Spain) Drama, fiction, social issues. 105mins. Media Art. Dir: Eloy Domínguez Serén.
After years away, Ana returns to her village following the death of her father. Her intention is to leave after the funeral but she feels the need to stay, fuelled by the intention of a power company to install a wind farm that divides the neighbours and affects her family's land. Her participation in this conflict draws her back into the life of the community, a process in which Ana questions her sense of belonging, evokes a painful past and discovers a fighting spirit that she did not know she had.
Palais F

16:00

TABOO. EGON SCHIELE
(Italy) Documentary. 90mins. Nexo Studios. Dir: Michele Mally.
A journey to discover the artist's rebellious youth, from the country where his mother was born to Vienna and Prague, to find the roots of an art able to turn the rules of the times — on aesthetics, morals and psychology — upside down, and that is still able to speak to us today.
Online #3

16:15

500 MILES
(Ireland, UK) Drama. 102mins. Beta Cinema. Dir: Morgan Matthews. Cast: Bill Nighy, Maisie Williams, Roman Griffin Davis.
At the crack of dawn, Finn and his younger brother Charlie run away from home, to avoid getting split up by their separating parents. They're trying to reach the wild west coast of Ireland, home of their beloved and eccentric grandad John, who they haven't been allowed to see since all the fighting began. On their 500-mile journey across land and see, they must survive on their smarts, charm and the kindness of strangers — especially a free-spirited street musician, Kait, who is escaping troubles of her own.
Palais #I Online

ARCADIA SKY: TOUCHING THE SKY
(US) Documentary. 80mins. Electrolift Creative. Dir: Matthew Taylor. Cast: Mark Dutton, Kevin Grigorenko, Hannah Hood.
Palais #C Online

ARRIBA TUTTO
(Italy, Spain) Drama, comedy. 98mins. Latido Films. Dir: José Mota. Cast: José Mota, Olivia Molina, Karra Elejalde .
Spain, 1905: seven-year-old Michi is happy with his father, a travelling comedian, discovering the magic of life until a tragedy changes everything. Spain, 1939: Miguel, a bitter and irritable man, suddenly comes face-to-face with his seven-year-old self, who helps him regain faith in life and recover lost dreams through a series of unexpected adventures.
Riviera 1

CRAWLERS
(Ireland, Portugal) Thriller. 80mins. Altitude Film Sales/Altitude Film Entertainment. Dir: Ángel Gómez Hernández
Tenants at Paradiso Palms apartments fight a deadly spider invasion while the cunning building manager might be their only hope for survival.
Olympia 8

DOWNTOWN
(Netherlands) Fiction. 98mins. M-Appeal. Dir: Michiel Van Erp. Cast: Yorick Van Wageningen, Hans Kesting, Roeland Fernhout.
After ruling Amsterdam's most electrifying gay club in the 1980s, three friends reunite to relive a time of wild nights and reckless love, as hidden truths come to light.
Lerins 3

FLESH & FUEL
(France, Poland) Drama, fiction, LGBT, first film, romance. 90mins. Pyramide International. Dir: Pierre Le Gall. Cast: Alexis Manenti, Julian Świeżewski.
Étienne is a truck driver. Addicted to the road, he reduces his emotional life to anonymous and fleeting encounters in parking lots. When he meets Bartosz, a Polish truck driver, his solitary routine is turned upside down.
Olympia #6 Online

FUJIKO
(Japan) Drama, fiction. 95mins. SC Films International. Dir: Taichi Kimura. Cast: Lily Franky, Yuki Katayama, Issey Ogata, Kayoko Kishimoto, You Megumi, Tsuyoshi Ujiki.
Set in Shizuoka, Japan, during the 1970s and 80s, the film is a poignant narrative inspired by the life of the director's mother. Fujiko, a single mother navigating a period of profound social upheaval, remains steadfast in her pursuit of personal freedom and resilience, drawing strength from her community to carve out her own destiny.
Palais K

GAUA
(Spain) Action/adventure, fantasy, horror. 92mins. Filmax (Castelao Pictures). Dir: Paul Urkijo. Cast: Yune Nogueiras, Elena Irureta, Ane Gabarain.
The Basque mountains, in 17th century Spain. At a time when witch-hunts are rife, Kattalin leaves her farmhouse in the middle of the night, fleeing her husband. Lost in the forest, she feels a presence pursuing her. On her way, she comes across three, affable women, who are telling scary stories and recounting the village hearsay as they wash their clothes. To Kattalin's astonishment, she herself will end up forming part of these women's stories.
Palais C

GAUKHARTAS
(Kazakhstan) 90mins. Kazakhfilm. Dir: Sharip Beissembayev.
Saltanat brought love, joy and song to the family of the old shepherd when she got married to his oldest son Tastan. Tastan's parents loved Saltanat and she became good friends with his young brother Kairken. A Kazakh musical drama film based on a story by Dulat Isabekov.
Palais I

HORSE ON A STICK
(Germany) Children's, action/adventure. 80mins. The Playmaker Munich (A Brand Of B.A. Produktion). Dir: Sonia Maria Kröner. Cast: Lana Cooper, Manon Debaille, Chiara Kitsopoulou, Aurelia Ott, Valerie Neuenfels.
When Sarah (13) discovers her passion for hobby horsing, her ambition is sparked. In the hunt for a trophy, she travels to Finland with Beatrice (13) and her hobby horse to compete in the Hobby Horse Championship.
Lerins 1

LAST CALL
Thriller. 91mins. Picture Tree International. Dir: Sherif Francis.
A desperate fugitive, armed with a live grenade, breaks into an apartment in downtown Athens and demands to go live on air. A young journalist along with ruthless media execs and a divided police force are thrown into a deadly game of negotiation, manipulation and survival, while the nation watches in real-time.
Palais #E Online

MARVELOUS MORNINGS
(France) 86mins. Loco Films. Dir: Avril Besson.
With a box of old records in her trunk, Charlie drives south to deliver them to a mysterious former disco dancer. She doesn't yet know these vinyls will revive her mother's steps, or that her Mediterranean getaway will lead her to Marina, a charming waitress dreaming of freedom beyond the little town's pizzeria.
Olympia #8 Online

REHEARSALS FOR A REVOLUTION
(Czech Republic, Spain) Documentary. 95mins. The Party Film Sales. Dir: Pegah Ahangarani.
Through five portraits, the director maps 40 years of Iran's history, from 1979 to 2026, weaving personal narratives of revolutionary hope against repression.
Arcades 2

TORMENT
80mins. Filmsharks/The Remake Co.. Dir: Olallo Rubio. Cast: Natalia Solián, Hoze Meléndez, Fernando Banda.
An exhausted security guard transferred to a morgue discovers, on the first night, that the shadows and silences hide a torment from which there may be no return.
Palais E

16:30

INVISIBLES
(Canada) Drama, fiction, LGBT, first film, erotic, female director. 94mins. MMM Film Sales. Dir: Junna Chif.
Elizabeth, burlesque performer and sex worker, is passionate about her jobs. But after years of keeping her life as an escort a secret, she wonders if she can still live like this. As she prepares to move on, she accepts one last client, a man with a disability. Their unexpected encounter overturns her certainties and leads her on an intimate and transformative journey.
Online #4

17:00

BLOOD BEHIND US
(US) Action, drama. 140mins. Quantify Sales. Dir: Brendan Gabriel Murphy. Cast: Tanner Beard, Michael Madsen, Jaime King.
The story follows Casey Hatfield, a former Army Ranger, who joins a motorcycle gang causing him to spiral into a life of crime and addiction. Breaking away from the grips of the brutal gang he attempts to bring down the entire organisation
Lerins Cinema Club

17:45

A GIRL UNKNOWN
(France, China) Drama, fiction, female director, first film. 125mins. Pyramide International. Dir: Zou Jing. Cast: Li Gengxi.
A Chinese girl is passed between three families from the age of six to 18, receiving each time a new name and identity. As she searches for belonging and the possibility of love, she has to navigate between the weight of her past and the uncertainty of her future until she finds her own way.
Olympia 9

CARLO ACUTIS. THE MILLENNIAL SAINT
(Italy) Documentary. 90mins. Nexo Studios. Dir: Luca Salmaso.
Portrait of Carlo Acutis, a 15-year-old man who, in 2025, became the first 'millennial' saint of the Catholic Church.
Arcades #3 Online

FOUR MINUS THREE
(Austria, Germany) Drama. 121mins. Beta Cinema. Dir: Adrian Goiginger. Cast: Hanno Koffler, Valerie Pachner, Robert Stadlober.
Barbara and her partner Heli try to get by as professional clowns, living out their dream of an alternative, joy-filled life with their two children, and laughing at what doesn't work out. But when a tragic car accident takes Heli and the children, Barbara is left alone. In the face of loss, her belief in humour, hope and humanity is put to the ultimate test. Can her way of seeing the world, through both its light and shadow, help her find a way back to life?
Palais J

HE BLED NEON
(US) Thriller, action/adventure. 105mins. XYZ Films. Dir: Drew Kirsch. Cast: Joe Cole, Rita Ora, Paul Wesley, Josh Holloway, Marshawn Lynch, Ismael Cruz Córdova.
After the news of his estranged brother's mysterious death, Ethan heads home to Las Vegas for the first time in years. »

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Riviera 2

HERSHEY
(US) Drama, biography. 120mins. Angel Studios. Dir: Mark Waters. Cast: Alexandra Daddario, Francesca Faridany, Dina Spybey-Waters.
The origin story of Milton and Kitty Hershey, who, when confronted by tragedy, determine to leave their amassed chocolate fortune in the hands of children.
Palais #B Online

IN WAVES
(France) Animation. 91mins. Charades. Dir: Phuong Mai Nguyen. Cast: Yeni Alvarez, Lyna Khoudri, Paul Kircher.
In Los Angeles, AJ, a shy teenager, meets Kristen. She lives for surfing; he loves skateboarding and drawing. They fall madly in love, and a happy future seems within reach. But everything changes when Kristen faces a sudden illness. Together, they face adversity, driven by the strength of their love, their friends, and their newly shared passion for surfing and the ocean.
Arcades 3

JULIAN
(Luxembourg, Denmark, Canada, Ireland) Animation. 85mins. New Europe Film Sales. Dir: Louise Bagnall.
Wide eyed Julián is about to spend the summer with a grandmother he barely knows. He is amazed to discover her treasure-trove apartment, his own Caribbean heritage and the lively Brooklyn community he is surrounded by. But most surprising of all, Julián discovers that he is, in fact, a mermaid!
Olympia 7

LAALO KRISHNA SADA SAHAAYTE
(India) Drama. 135mins. Imppa-Indian Motion Picture Producers Association. Dir: Sakhiya Ankit.
A rickshaw driver trapped in a farmhouse confronts his past demons while experiencing visions of Lord Krishna, who guides him through a transformative journey of self-discovery and healing.
Palais F

LONG LONG NIGHT
(South Korea) Animation. Finecut. Dir: Kyu-Bock Youm.
Follows the last rhino of his kind and a penguin hatched from an abandoned egg.
Palais D

MELODY FOR A BEAR
(Canada) Action/adventure, family. Pathé Films. Dir: Gilles De Maistre. Cast: Lucas Bravo, Eva Cinq-Mars.
When her mother passes away, 14-year-old Melody is sent to the remote wilderness of Canada to meet her father for the first time — a quiet man devoted to rescuing orphaned bear cubs. Grieving and lost, Melody plans to escape, but her bond with a young cub she names Heaven awakens something. As hunters close in, Melody, her father and Heaven must fight to save the bears and discover the unbreakable strength of family, love and healing.
Olympia 5

MIMICS
(US) Horror. 93mins. Pinnacle Peak Pictures. Dir: Kristoffer Polaha.
When a struggling impressionist and a contract for fame take centre stage, the battle for a man's soul takes the spotlight.
Riviera #2 Online

MY WORLD WITHOUT ME
(China) Drama. 114mins. China Film Foundation-Wutianming Film Fund For Young Talents. Dir: Hairong Tian.
After her debt-ridden grandson travels to Thailand in search of her billionaire husband, a grandmother discovers that her husband died long ago — and that an unknown woman's decades of remittance letters have quietly revealed a timeless bond of love, sacrifice and the most moving 'love letter' she never expected.
Lerins 2

NOISE OF TIME
(Russia) 100mins. Luminescence. Dir: Aleksey Uchitel.
About one of the most famous composers of the 20th century, Dmitriy Dmitrievich Shostakovich.
Arcades 1

THE LION QUEEN
(US) Documentary. 87mins. Submarine Entertainment. Dir: Alden Nusser, Ben Fries.
You've seen her face on the cover of countless newspapers. Now step into the larger-than-life world and surprising true story of New York socialite Jocelyne Wildenstein, a.k.a. 'The Lion Queen'.
Olympia 4

THE POND
(US) Horror, thriller. Myriad Pictures. Dir: Jeff Renfroe. Cast: Isabelle Fuhrman, Douglas Smith.
Tells the story of a group of lifelong friends who travel to a remote lake house to celebrate their terminally ill friend. They are horrified when they discover she's become a vessel for a predatory parasite that threatens to infect the entire group.
Palais H

WHITE NIGHTS
(Brazil) 98mins. Cinema Do Brasil. Dir: Luiz Dantas.
Amadeu, a solitary butcher, lives on society's margins. When he meets Nadia, waiting for a lover who vowed to return, his need for connection ignites a silent journey of love, rejection and self-discovery.
Palais B

18:15

HOUSE OF EMOTIONS
(India) Documentary. 85mins. Confederation Of Indian Industry. Dir: Abhishek Kapoor, Vedd Rawtaani.
Palais C

MOUSE
(US) Drama. 120mins. Visit Films. Dir: Kelly O'Sullivan, Alex Thompson. Cast: Chloe Coleman, David Hyde Pierce, Tara Mallen, Sophie Okonedo.
Callie and Minnie's relationship is suddenly upended at the start of the summer before their senior year of high school. Left rudderless without her charismatic best friend, Minnie starts to form a complicated friendship with Callie's mother.
Olympia 6

THE CORRESPONDENT
(Australia) True story, thriller. 119mins. Tricoast Worldwide. Dir: Kriv Stenders.
Award-winning journalist Peter Greste reports on the Arab Spring uprising, becoming entangled in a deadly game of rivalries. Imprisoned for seven years despite his innocence, he survives on wits alone before release in 2015.
Palais I

19:00

WHEN THE TREE MOVES
(India) Fiction, bollywood, horror. 100mins. IMPPA-Indian Motion Picture Producers Association. Dir: Debaditya Bandyopadyay.
Follows Ranvijay Singh, an ambitious forest officer who dismisses the local superstition of walking trees in Junagarh Forest. As he delves deeper into the forest's troubled history, he uncovers a legacy of exploitation, gree, and vengeance tied to Kunwar Singh's brutal rule. With the forest itself seemingly alive and seeking retribution, Ranvijay must confront both the past and his own beliefs.
Online #1

20:00

A WOMAN'S LIFE
(France, Belgium) Fiction. 98mins. Be For Films. Dir: Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet. Cast: Léa Drucker, Mélanie Thierry, Charles Berling, Laurent Capelluto, Marie-Christine Barrault.
Gabrielle, 55, gives herself to her work, body and soul. As a surgeon and head of the hospital department, she is constantly on the move, stretched thin by the weight of responsibility. There is little time left for her private life: a loving husband and a mother who depends on her care. Yet this is the life she wanted, the life she chose. When a novelist comes to observe her at work for a book, her balance begins to shift. How far is she willing to go to shake what she has built?
Olympia 1 No priority

BALAN: THE BOY
(India) 150mins. Confederation Of Indian Industry. Dir: Chidambaram Satheesh Poduval.
Follows a teenage boy searching for his missing mother following a turbulent childhood and her subsequent disappearance, exploring his search for closure and the truth about his past.
Olympia 9

ELLE DRIVER'S PRIVATE SCREENING
109mins. Elle Driver.
Olympia 7

INTO THE JAWS OF THE OGRE
(France) Documentary. 86mins. Rediance. Dir: Mahsa Karampour.
Arcades 1 Festival ticketing website

THE ENDLESS
(Mexico) Horror. 82mins. Altatensionfilms. Dir: Fabián Archondo. Cast: Mayra Hermosillo, Florencia Rios, Sophie Alexander .
Anais is shattered by the death of her father, spiralling into self destruction until her older sister commits her to an exclusive desert retreat promising total transformation. But beneath its serene facade lies a terrifying truth: the institute is controlled by a secret cult and its patients aren't being healed — they're being prepared for something far more sinister.
Olympia 4

20:30

INTO THE JAWS OF THE OGRE
(France) 86mins. Redience. Dir: Mahsa Karampour. Cast: Mahsa Karampour, Siavash Karampour.
Siavash is driving a car; his sister Mahsa is filming him. They are on a road, somewhere in the US. The film takes the form of a free and graceful documentary road movie, unfolding between Iran and the US, between childhood, memory and the present.
Arcades 2 Festival ticketing website

NAGI NOTES
(Japan) Drama. 108mins. mk2 Films. Dir: Koji Fukada. Cast: Shizuka Ishibashi, Takako Matsu, Kenichi Matsuyama.
Yoriko, an artist living in rural Nagi, is haunted by a former love affair she cannot bear to mourn. When Yuri, a recently separated architect, travels from Tokyo to visit her friend and former sister-in-law, both women find themselves at a crossroads, each searching for ways to let go of the past and define their identity. Yuri's brief escape from the city settles into a quiet confrontation of loss and probing for the two women in bucolic Nagi.
Palais K No priority

22:30

A WOMAN'S LIFE
(France, Belgium) Fiction. 98mins. Be For Films. Dir: Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet. Cast: Léa Drucker, Mélanie Thierry, Charles Berling, Laurent Capelluto, Marie-Christine Barrault.
Palais K No priority

NAGI NOTES
(Japan) Drama. 108mins. mk2 Films. Dir: Koji Fukada. Cast: Shizuka Ishibashi, Takako Matsu, Kenichi Matsuyama.
Olympia 1 No priority

SCREEN
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Jury grid

★★★★ Excellent ★★★ Good ★★ Average ★ Poor ✕ Bad

THE SCREEN JURY AT CANNES	NT BINH *Positif, France*	ROBBIE COLLIN, TIM ROBEY *The Telegraph, UK*	KATJA NICODEMUS *Die Zeit, Germany*	BEN KENIGSBERG *Rogertebert.com, US*	ANTON DOLIN *Meduza, International*	PETER BRADSHAW *The Guardian, UK*	JUSTIN CHANG *The New Yorker, US*	STEPHANIE ZACHAREK *Time, US*	AHMED SHAWKY *filfan.com, Egypt*	MATHIEU MACHERET *Le Monde, France*	KONG RITHDEE *Bangkok Post, Thailand*	SCREEN INTERNATIONAL	AVERAGE
NAGI NOTES (Japan) Koji Fukada		★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★	★★	★★	2.5
A WOMAN'S LIFE (Fr) Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet		★★	★★	★★	★★	★★		★★		★	★	★★	2
FATHERLAND (Pol) Pawel Pawlikowski	Pawlikowski's film centres on Nobel Prize-winning writer Thomas Mann (Hanns Zischler) and his daughter Erika (Sandra Hüller) as they embark on an emotional road trip across a Germany in ruins.												
PARALLEL TALES (Iran) Asghar Farhadi	A famous author (Isabelle Huppert) seeks inspiration by spying on her neighbours. She finds her own life turned upside down after hiring the mysterious Adam (Adam Bessa) as an assistant.												
ALL OF A SUDDEN (Japan) Ryusuke Hamaguchi	A woman running a nursing home in Paris is transformed after an encounter with a terminally ill Japanese playwright, in Hamaguchi's French-language debut. Virginie Efira and Tao Okamoto star.												
GENTLE MONSTER (Austria) Marie Kreutzer	A renowned pianist relocates with her family to the countryside, where she uncovers a life-shattering truth that forces her to confront the complexities of love, trust and deception.												
SHEEP IN THE BOX (Japan) Hirokazu Koreeda	Set in the near future, Koreeda's latest follows a couple who take an infant humanoid robot into their home following the passing of their son.												
THE BELOVED (Sp) Rodrigo Sorogoyen	An acclaimed film director (Javier Bardem) offers his daughter (Victoria Luengo) a role under the pretext of helping her stalled acting career, before old wounds are reopened.												
PAPER TIGER (US) James Gray	Two brothers pursuing the American Dream put their family in danger by tangling with the Russian mafia. Scarlett Johansson, Miles Teller and Adam Driver star.												
MOULIN (Hun-Fr) Laszlo Nemes	Nemes' latest tells the story of Jean Moulin (Gilles Lellouche), who is dropped into Nazi-occupied France to help bring the Resistance groups together for Charles de Gaulle.												
ANOTHER DAY (GARANCE) (Fr) Jeanne Herry	A struggling actress (Adele Exarchopoulos) living in a small Paris apartment grapples with alcohol addiction and her sister's illness, while facing a difficult journey of self-renewal.												
HOPE (S Kor) Na Hong-jin	A police chief in a remote South Korean village is alerted after reports of a tiger sighting, but residents find themselves in a fight for survival against something they have never seen before.												
THE UNKNOWN (Fr) Arthur Harari	Léa Seydoux and Niels Schneider headline the story of a man who wakes up in the body of an unknown woman after they spend the night together.												
FJORD (Rom) Cristian Mungiu	A devout Romanian-Norwegian couple resettles in a village and become close to their neighbours, but questions are asked when their young child shows up at school with bruises.												
MINOTAUR (Rus) Andrey Zvyagintsev	In a small Russian town in 2022, the year of the invasion of Ukraine, a high-powered executive's meticulous existence unravels when professional crises, global chaos and marital betrayal converge.												
BITTER CHRISTMAS (Sp) Pedro Almodovar	Almodovar's latest self-reflective work sees a troubled filmmaker draw inspiration from the grief of one of his closest collaborators. Leonardo Sbaraglia, Aitana Sanchez-Gijon and Barbara Lennie star.												
A MAN OF HIS TIME (Fr) Emmanuel Marre	Henri Marre (Swann Arlaud) arrives in Vichy in September 1940, estranged from his family and carrying copies of his political manuscript, hoping to save France — and himself — from downfall.												
THE MAN I LOVE (US) Ira Sachs	In Sachs' drama set during the Aids crisis in late 1980s New York, Rami Malek stars as Jimmy George, an actor facing his own mortality who takes on what might be his final role.												
LA BOLA NEGRA (Sp) Javier Ambrossi, Javier Calvo	This adaptation of an unfinished work by Federico Garcia Lorca explores queer desire through the intertwined stories of three men in Spain, set in 1932, 1937 and 2017.												
COWARD (Belg) Lukas Dhont	Pierre (Emmanuel Macchia) is a young Belgian soldier ready to prove himself on the First World War battlefields. Behind the frontlines he meets Francis (Valentin Campagne), who is looking to boost morale.												
THE DREAMED ADVENTURE (Ger) Valeska Grisebach	In a border town in southeast Bulgaria, a woman becomes involved in an illegal trade to help out a man with whom she shares a special bond.												
THE BIRTHDAY PARTY (Fr) Lea Mysius	Two households in a remote French hamlet plan a surprise birthday party, but the evening is disrupted by a nightmarish home invasion. Hafsia Herzi and Monica Bellucci star.												

SCREEN INTERNATIONAL

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