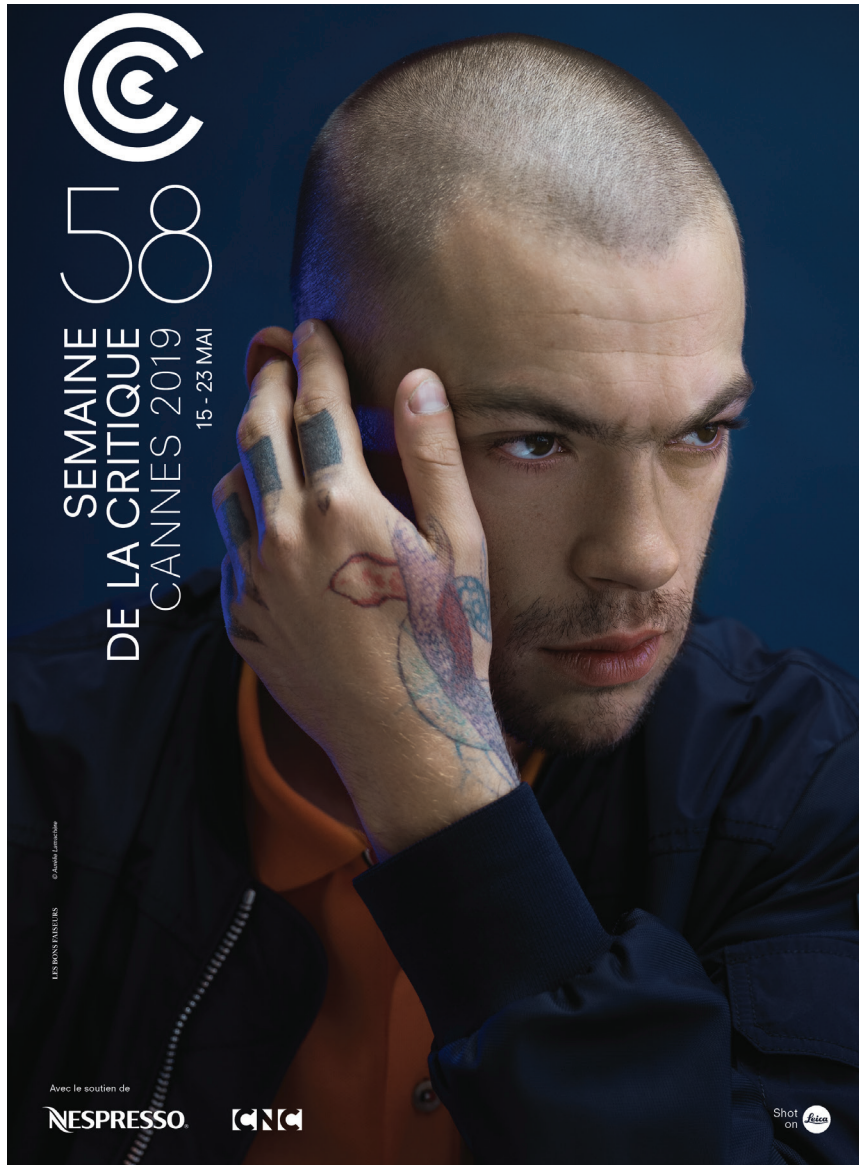




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SEMAINE  
DE LA CRITIQUE  
CANNES 2019  
15 - 23 MAI

## PRESS KIT



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## INTRODUCTION TO THE 2019 SELECTION

BY CHARLES TESSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Having Félix Maritaud – the winner of the Louis Roederer Foundation Rising Star Award for his work in Camille Vidal-Naquet's *Sauvage (Wild)* - on the poster of the 58<sup>th</sup> edition of La Semaine de la Critique, is a testimony to La Semaine de la Critique's dedication to young talents, filmmakers and actors alike.

The President of the jury of this 58<sup>th</sup> edition is the Colombian filmmaker Ciro Guerra, the director of *Birds of Passage*, who was revealed to the world with his last film, *Embrace of the Serpent*. Along with him, there will be the French-British actress Amira Casar, the producer of Danish descent Marianne Slot, the Belgian-Congolese journalist Djia Mambu and the Italian director Jonas Carpignano.

### A few figures

We received 1,605 short films and watched 1,050 features. Among the 11 selected features, there are eight first and three second films.

### The 10 competing short films

Lead by Léo Soesanto, the short-film committee selected 10 films as part of the competition and two for special screenings. *Fakh (The Trap)* by the Egyptian filmmaker Nada Riyadh is the ruthless post-mortem of an unmarried couple, smothered by lust and society. *The Manila Lover* by the Norwegian director Johanna Pyykkö stands on its head a toxic old white male's perception of a Filipino woman he wishes to conquer. Courageous female characters, each and every one of them, whether it be *Dia de festa (Party Day)* in which the Portuguese director Sofia Bost shares the daily life of a single mother doing her best so that her daughter may enjoy her birthday, or *Lucía en el limbo*, by the Costa Rican director Valentina Maurel, in which a teenager struggles with lice and a stalker on a bus. Reality catches up with a musician in pursuit of his art in Camille Degeye's *Journey Through a Body* and in *Ikki illa meint* by the Danish director Andrias Høgenni where the protagonists are confronted with disappointing friendships in the era social media. More broadly, all these films tackle oppression - that of a community or a single person. Indeed, *She Runs* by the Chinese filmmaker Qiu Yang, shows a young gymnast resisting competitiveness while in *Mardi de 8 à 18 (Tuesday from 8 to 6)*, the French director Cécilia de Arce paints the witty portrait of an idealistic monitor fighting an unfair education system; in *Ultimul Drum Spre Mare (The Last Trip to the Seaside)* by Romanian director Adi Voicu, on a train, a tiny sample of humanity implodes under petty group dynamics and patriarchal masculinity seems to catch its last breath in the sun in *Community Gardens (Kolektyvinai sodai)* by the Lithuanian director Vytautas Katkus.

***La Semaine de la Critique will keep supporting these talented filmmakers by offering them the opportunity to be part of the Next Step programme, a training and support workshop towards their first feature film.***

**This year, for once, there will be two special short and medium-length film screenings**

The first consists of three films on gender, memory and analog technologies. *Demonic* by the Australian filmmaker Pia Borg is a fascinating deconstruction of TV crime documentaries; *Please Speak Continuously and Describe Your Experiences as They Come to You*, by the Canadian filmmaker Brandon Cronenberg, explores dreams in flesh and food. *Naptha* by the British director Moin Hussain, is a Spielberg-esque sci-fi film on immigration and heritage.

The second screening, a subtle hybrid of documentary and fiction, questions our take on the world in two films. In **Tenzo** - a medium-length film by the Japanese filmmaker Katsuya Tomita, revealed with *Saudade* and *Bangkok Nites* - Zen Buddhist monks are confronted to life after Fukushima. In **Invisível Herói** (*The Invisible Hero*) by the Portuguese filmmaker Cristèle Alves Meira, a blind man is the only one who can see an invisible minority: Cape Verdeans.

**As for features: 3 special screenings, 3 key moments in this year's edition.**

We are thrilled to present **Litigante**, the second film by Franco Lolli, the Colombian director La Semaine de la Critique revealed in the 2014 with *Gente de Bien*.

With **Litigante**, Franco Lolli portrays a woman who must deal with difficult and urgent situations in her professional, family and personal life. Much like Maurice Pialat, Franco Lolli ploughs his own furrow, one where formal discipline transcends realistic narrative to reach our innermost selves, the very heart of the strongest, purest feelings, those that only films can convey.

In **Les héros ne meurent jamais** (*Heroes Don't Die*) - her first feature - Aude Léa Rapin redefines boundaries and challenges our beliefs. A somewhat crazy young man lives as somebody else's reincarnation. A filmmaker friend believes him and offers him a film as a gift. The director crafts a strikingly original film in which she brilliantly plays with the canons of fiction and documentary. Alongside Adèle Haenel we discover a spectacular actor, Jonathan Couzinié.

**Tu mérites un amour**, Hafsia Herzi's first feature, is a heartrending endeavour by an actress we discovered in Abdellatif Kechiche's *The Secret of the Grain*.

Beyond a passionate love story and its unpredictable nature, the young actor-director presents a self-assured, utterly free portrayal of a heroin she embodies with simplicity and unyielding vitality. Surrounded by her loved ones, a series of characters that evolve gracefully under her direction, Hafsia Herzi shows great maturity in telling a story that touches on the universal truth of a woman looking for love.

### **The 7 competing features**

A surprising first film by the Moroccan director Alaa Eddine Aljem, **The Unknown Saint** updates the canons of westerns and popular beliefs. A runaway thief buries his loot in the desert so he can pick it up later. Small-town folks build a mausoleum on top of it, a place of worship that enables the area to prosper. A light-hearted, warm take on his characters' endeavour to take advantage of the situation; a caustic burlesque film.

After his first feature hit, *Winter Brothers*, the Icelandic director Hlynur Pálmason proves once again his talent as a filmmaker with the superb **A White White Day** (*Hvítur, Hvítur Dagur*). After his wife's sudden fatal accident, a man must face her death and suspects she had been unfaithful. Wracked with doubt and hungry for revenge, he browbeats his loved ones in a rage as wild as it is life-affirming.

The one French film competing this year is Jérémy Clapin's return to La Semaine de la Critique after his animation short *Skhizein* which competed in 2008. In **J'ai perdu mon corps** (*I Lost My Body*), his first feature film, a young man's severed hand escapes, intent on finding its body. Blending rhythms and tones, frantic life and reflective gentleness, Jérémy Clapin's film is a thoroughly modern animation film.

**Nuestras Madres** (*Our Mothers*), the first feature by the Guatemalan director César Díaz, revisits a tragic moment in his country's history, the people who went missing during the military dictatorship; a tragedy that affected a great number of countries over Latin America. He tells this story through that of a young man who helps women find and identify their missing relatives while he is looking for his father. Intensely restrained, with overwhelming simplicity, this film reclaims the dignity of those who have been wounded and humiliated.

**Vivarium**, the second film by the Irish filmmaker Lorcan Finnegan, delves the viewers in a supernatural encounter you cannot escape from. A young couple's life is turned upside-down as they find themselves trapped in a supernatural world. Prisoners of their fate, this riveting duo played by Imogen Poots and Jesse Eisenberg makes viewers ponder the cycle of life.

**Abou Leila**, the first film by the Algerian filmmaker Amin Sidi-Boumédiène, which through the search for two men and a runaway terrorist, pushes us once again in the dark years of the civil war which tore the country apart in the mid 90s. Crossing the desert, we embark on a great adventure - not unlike great classic epics - but also on a great mental investigation into the essence of insanity. **Abou Leila** is a solar nightmare, it is devastatingly powerful.

After La Semaine de la Critique discovered her in 2017 with her short film *Selva*, the Costa Rican director Sofía Quirós Ubeda is back with her first feature **Ceniza Negra** (*Land of Ashes*). A teenager who was brought up in the countryside by her grandparents discovers what life is as they are about to die. The potency and authenticity of the film stem from this duality. By letting go of one's innocence, one becomes aware of one's body, one's sensuality; the film reveals what is magical in our treasured everyday moments.

### Closing film

We will finish this 58<sup>th</sup> edition of La Semaine de la Critique with a film we are besotted with: the first part of a trilogy, **Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains** (*Chun jiang shui nuan*), the first film of the young Chinese prodigy filmmaker Gu Xiaogang. The fate of a family unfolds according to nature, shifting seasons and the living river. Utterly fluid command of both frame and direction breathes peaceful life into the film, one that celebrates blending our earthly condition and everlasting landscapes.

**The competition between these 10 short films and 7 features will take place under the watchful eyes of the Jury President, Ciro Guerra, who will give out the Nespresso Grand Prize and The Louis Roederer Foundation Rising Star Award for feature films and the Leitz Cine Discovery Prize for short films.**

**La Semaine de la Critique will take place in Cannes from May 15<sup>th</sup> to May 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

## THE 2019 SELECTION

11 feature films, 7 in competition and 4 in special screenings, selected among 1050 viewed films

15 short films, 10 in competition and 5 in special screening, selected among 1605 viewed films

### SPECIAL SCREENINGS

#### Opening film

**Litigante** Franco Lolli 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### Feature films special screenings

**Les héros ne meurent jamais** (Heroes Don't Die) Aude Léa Rapin 1<sup>st</sup>

**Tu mérites un amour** (You Deserve a Lover) Hafsia Herzi 1<sup>st</sup>

#### Short films special screening 1

**Demonic**

Pia Borg

**Naptha**

Moin Hussain

**Please Speak Continuously and Describe Your Experiences as They Come to You**

Brandon Cronenberg

#### Short films special screening 2

**Invisível Herói** (Invisible Hero)

Cristèle Alves Meira

**Tenzo**

Katsuya Tomita

#### Closing film

**Chun jiang shui nuan**

Gu Xiaogang

(Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains)

1<sup>st</sup>

### FEATURE FILMS IN COMPETITION

**Abou Leila**

Amin Sidi-Boumédiène

1<sup>st</sup>

**Ceniza Negra** (Land of Ashes)

Sofía Quirós Ubeda

1<sup>st</sup>

**Hvítur, Hvítur Dagur** (A White, White Day)

Hlynur Pálmason

2<sup>nd</sup>

**J'ai perdu mon corps** (I Lost My Body)

Jérémy Clapin

1<sup>st</sup>

**Nuestras Madres** (Our Mothers)

César Díaz

1<sup>st</sup>

**The Unknown Saint**

Alaa Eddine Aljem

1<sup>st</sup>

**Vivarium**

Lorcan Finnegan

2<sup>nd</sup>

### SHORT FILMS IN COMPETITION

**Dia de festa** (Party Day)

Sofia Bost

**Fakh** (The Trap)

Nada Riyadh

**Ikki illa meint**

Andrias Høgenni

**Journey Through a Body**

Camille Degeye

**Kolektyviniai sodai** (Community Gardens)

Vytautas Katkus

**Lucía en el limbo**

Valentina Maurel

**The Manila Lover**

Johanna Pyykkö

**Mardi de 8 à 18** (Tuesday from 8 to 6)

Cecilia de Arce

**She Runs**

Qiu Yang

**Ultimul Drum Spre Mare**

Adi Voicu

(The Last Trip to the Seaside)

## SPECIAL SCREENINGS

### OPENING FILM

#### **Litigante** by Franco Lolli

2019 | World premiere | 1h35 | Colombia / France

Between raising her young son, taking care of her ill-tempered, cancer-battling mother, navigating her career as a top-notch lawyer dealing with a major corruption scandal, Silvia could very well be on the verge of a nervous breakdown. And what if the answer to all this was simply... love?

**With:** Carolina Sanín, Leticia Gómez, Antonio Martínez, Vladimir Durán, Alejandra Sarria

**Production:** SRAB FILMS, Christophe Barral & Toufik Ayad - LES FILMS DU WORSO, Sylvie Pialat & Benoît Quainon - EVIDENCIA FILMS, Franco Lolli & Capucine Mahé & Daniel García

**Distribution:** AD VITAM, Arthur Hallerreau

**Sales:** KINOLOGY, Grégoire Melin

**French press:** Matilde Incerti (matilde.incerti@free.fr / +33 6 08 78 76 60)

**International press:** WOLF CONSULTANTS, Gordon Spragg & Laurin Dietrich & Michael Arnon (hello@wolf-con.com / +49 157 7474 9724)

### FEATURE FILMS SPECIAL SCREENINGS

#### **Les héros ne meurent jamais** (Heroes Don't Die) by Aude Léa Rapin

2018 | World premiere | 1h25 | France / Belgium / Bosnia and Herzegovina

In a street in Paris, a stranger thinks he's recognised in Joachim a soldier who died in Bosnia on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1983. Thing is, this is the very day Joachim was born: 21<sup>st</sup> August 1983! Thrown by the idea he might be the reincarnation of this man, he decides to go to Sarajevo with his friends Alice and Virginie. In this country, haunted by shadows of the war, they put their hearts and souls in discovering Joachim's past life.

**With:** Adèle Haenel, Jonathan Couzinié, Antonia Buresi, Hasija Borić, Vesna Stilinović

**Production:** LES FILMS DU WORSO, Sylvie Pialat & Benoît Quainon

**Co-production:** RADAR FILMS, Clément Miserez & Matthieu Warter

**Co-production:** SCOPE PICTURES, Geneviève Lemal

**Co-production:** SCCA/pro.ba, Amra Baksic Camo & Adis Djapo

**Distribution:** LE PACTE, Jean Labadie

**Sales:** LE PACTE, Camille Neel

**French press:** Stanislas Baudry (sbaudry@madefor.fr / +33 6 16 76 00 96)

**International press:** Gloria Zerbinati (gloria.zerbinati@gmail.com / + 33 7 86 80 02 82)

#### **Tu mérites un amour** (You Deserve a Lover) by Hafsia Herzi

2019 | World premiere | 1h42 | France

After Rémi infidelity, Lila, who loved him more than anything, has a hard time dealing with their break-up. One day, he announces that he will travel alone to Bolivia to soul-search and try to understand his mistakes. There, he lets her know that their love story is not over. Between discussions, seeking for comfort and encouragement from her friends, and the madness of love, Lila loses herself.

**With:** Hafsia Herzi, Djanis Bouzyani, Jérémie Laheurte, Anthony Bajon, Sylvie Verheyde, Myriam Djeljeli

**Production:** LES FILMS DE LA BONNE MÈRE, Hafsia Herzi

**Distribution:** REZO FILMS, Jean-Michel Rey

**Sales:** WILD BUNCH, Esther DEVOS

**French press:** Hassan Guerrar & H. Éléant & Julie Braun (guerrar.contact@gmail.com)

**International press:** ALIBI COMMUNICATIONS, Brigitta Portier (brigittaportier@alibicomcommunications.be / +33 7 58 22 38 83)

## SHORT FILMS SPECIAL SCREENING 1

### **Demonic** by Pia Borg

2018 | International premiere | 28' | Australia

*Demonic* revisits the infamous Satanic Panic of the 1980's, a mass hysteria where people around the world recovered memories of debauchery, murder, human sacrifice and satanic cults. Blending archive and reconstruction the film uncovers the forces at play between psychiatry, media, and false memory.

**With:** Angie Christophel, Hanna Gabriella Galbraith, Robert Blake

**Production:** SLA FILMS, Anna Vincent - RITUAL PICTURES, Pia Borg

**Distribution / Sales:** RITUAL PICTURES, Pia Borg (info@ritualpictures.net)

### **Naptha** by Moin Hussain

2018 | International premiere | 18' | United Kingdom

Faraz's quiet life working at an isolated petrol station is turned upside down when his ageing father Malik begins to speak in a long-forgotten language and insists on returning back home.

**With:** Divian Ladwa, Ernest Ignatius, Suleiman Hussain Ali

**Production:** FOREIGN MATERIAL, Ali Mansuri

**Co-production:** CONSPIRE PICTURES, Tom Kimberley

**Sales:** FOREIGN MATERIAL, Ali Mansuri (sales@foreignmaterial.com)

### **Please Speak Continuously and Describe Your Experiences as They Come to You**

by Brandon Cronenberg

2019 | World premiere | 9' | Canada

Emily is a patient at an experimental psychiatric facility where a brain implant prototype allows her to relive her dreams.

**With:** Deragh Campbell, Neil Bennett, Ian Goff

**Production:** FILM FORGE PRODUCTIONS, Karen Harnisch & Andrew Cividino & Yona Strauss

**Distribution / Sales:** FILM FORGE PRODUCTIONS, Karen Harnisch (karen.e.harnisch@gmail.com) & Yona Strauss (yona.strauss@gmail.com)

## SHORT FILMS SPECIAL SCREENING 2

### **Invisível Herói** (Invisible Hero) by Cristèle Alves Meira

2019 | International premiere | 28' | Portugal / France

Duarte, a blind man in his 50's, starts to look for his Cape Verdean friend, Leandro, who mysteriously disappeared. Despite Lisbon's summer heat, Duarte walks miles in his neighbourhood but no one seems to have seen him, nor remembers him. His quest will eventually lead him to the heart of the night and reveal his secret.

**With:** Duarte Pina, Lucília Raimundo

**Production / French press :** FLUXUS FILMS, Gaëlle Mareschi (gmareschi@kinology.eu / +33 6 63 03 28 97)

**Co-production:** MIDAS FILMES, Pedro Borges

**Distribution / Sales / International press:** PORTUGAL FILM - PORTUGUESE FILM AGENCY, Ana Isabel Strindberg & Margarida Moz (dir@portugalfilm.org / +351 213 466 172)

### **Tenzo** de Katsuya Tomita

2019 | World premiere | 59' | Japan

To address the social crisis, Chiken - a buddhist monk - throws himself into various tasks such as a suicide helpline, in his temple in Yamanashi. In Fukushima, his old mate Ryûgyô - whose temple was wrecked by the tsunami - lives in a portacabin and works on construction sites.

**With:** Chiken Kawaguchi, Shinko Kondo, Ryugyo Kurashima, Shuntou Aoyama

**Production:** KUZOKU INC., Terutarô Osanaï (terutarô@kuzoku.com / +33 6 08 12 61 34)

## CLOSING FILM

### **Chun jiang shui nuan** (Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains) by Gu Xiaogang

2019 | World premiere | 2h30 | China

One family's destiny, rhythmmed by the course of nature, the changing seasons, the life of a river.

**With:** Qian Youfa, Wang Fengjuan, Zhang Renliang, Zhang Guoying, Sun Zhangjian, Sun Zhangwei, Du Hongjun, Peng Luqi, Zhuang Yi, Sun Zikang

**Production:** DADI FILM, Liu Rong & Bai Yali - FACTORY GATE FILMS, Huang Xufeng - QU JING PICTURES, Suey Chen

**Distribution:** ARP, Michèle Halberstadt

**Sales:** WILD BUNCH, Esther DEVOS

**French press:** MAKNA PRESSE, Chloé Lorenzi & Chloé Marcadé (info@makna-presse.com / + 33 6 08 16 60 26 / +33 6 71 74 98 30)

**International press:** MAKNA PRESSE, Chloé Lorenzi & Giulia Fazioli (festival@makna-presse.com / + 33 6 08 16 60 26 / +41 79 617 00 31)



### **Abou Leila** de Amin Sidi-Boumédiène

2019 | World premiere | 2h20 | Algeria / France / Qatar

Algeria, 1994. S. and Lotfi, two friends from childhood, travel through the desert looking for Abou Leila, a dangerous terrorist on the run. Their quest seems absurd, given that the Sahara has not been affected by the wave of attacks. Lotfi has only one priority: to keep S. as far from the capital as possible, knowing his friend is too fragile to face more bloodshed. But the closer they get into the desert, the more they will be confronted with their own violence.

**With:** Slimane Benouari, Lyes Salem, Azouz Abdelkader, Fouad Megiraga, Meryem Medjkane, Hocine Mokhtar, Samir El Hakim

**Production:** IN VIVO FILMS, Louise Bellicaud & Claire Charles-Gervais - THALA FILMS, Fayçal Hammoum & Yacine Bouaziz

**Sales:** FILMS BOUTIQUE

**French press:** MAKNA PRESSE, Chloé Lorenzi & Chloé Marcadé (info@makna-presse.com / + 33 6 08 16 60 26 / +33 6 71 74 98 30)

**International press:** MAKNA PRESSE, Chloé Lorenzi & Giulia Fazioli (festival@makna-presse.com / + 33 6 08 16 60 26 / +41 79 617 00 31)

### **Ceniza Negra** (Land of Ashes) by Sofía Quirós Ubeda

2019 | World premiere | 1h22 | Costa Rica / Argentina / Chile / France

Selva, thirteen years old, discovers that when we die we just shed our skin. We can turn into wolves, goats, shadows, or anything as long as your imagination allows it.

**With:** Smachleen Gutiérrez, Humberto Samuels, Hortensia Smith, Keha Brown

**Production:** SPUTNIK FILMS, Mariana Murillo Q.

**Co-production:** MURILLO CINE, Cecilia Salim

**Co-production:** LA POST PRODUCCIONES, Millaray Cortés & Matías Echeverría

**Co-production:** PROMENADES FILMS, Samuel Chauvin

**Distribution :** EUROZOOM, Alba Fouché & Hélène Vasdeboncoeur

**Sales:** TOTEM FILMS, Agathe Valentin

**Press :** Matty O'Riordan (matty.oriordan@premiercomms.com / +44 78 16 62 23 66)

### **Hvítur, Hvítur Dagur** (A White, White Day) by Hlynur Pálmason

2019 | World premiere | 1h49 | Iceland / Denmark / Sweden

In a remote Icelandic town, an off duty police chief begins to suspect a local man to have had an affair with his wife, who has recently died in a car accident. Gradually his obsession for finding out the truth accumulates and inevitably begins to endanger himself and his loved ones. A story of grief, revenge and unconditional love.

**With:** Ingvar E. Sigurðsson, Ída Mekkín Hlynsdóttir, Hilmir Snær Guðnason, Björn Ingi Hilmarsson, Elma Stefanía Ágústsdóttir, Sara Dögg Ásgeirsdóttir, Haraldur Ari Stefánsson, Sigurður Sigurjónsson, Arnmundur Ernst Bachman

**Production:** JOIN MOTION PICTURES, Anton Máni Svansson

**Co-production:** SNOWGLOBE, Katrin Pors

**Co-production:** HOB AB, Nima Yousefi

**Co-production:** FILM I VAST, Anthony Muir

**Sales:** NEW EUROPE FILM SALES, Jan Naszewski

**Press:** Claire Vorger (clairevorger@orange.fr / +33 6 20 10 40 56)

## **J'ai perdu mon corps** (I Lost My Body) by Jérémy Clapin

2019 | World premiere | 1h21 | France

A cut-off hand escapes from a dissection lab with one crucial goal: to get back to its body. As it scrambles through the pitfalls of Paris, it remembers its life with the young man it was once attached to... until they met Gabrielle.

**With:** Hakim Faris, Victoire Du Bois, Patrick D'Assunção

**Production:** XILAM ANIMATION, Marc Du Pontavice

**Co-production:** AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES CINÉMA, Grégory Faes

**Distribution:** REZO FILMS, Jean-Michel Rey

**Sales:** CHARADES, Carole Baraton

**French press:** Robert Schlockoff & Jessica Bergstein-Collay (rscom@noos.fr / + 33 6 80 27 20 59 / + 33 7 81 22 28 71)

**International press:** CINETIC MARKETING, Ryan Werner (ryan@cineticmarketing.com) - Claudia Tomassini (claudia@claudiatomassini.com / +49 173 205 5794)

## **Nuestras Madres** (Our Mothers) by César Díaz

2019 | World premiere | 1h18 | Guatemala / Belgium / France

Guatemala, 2013. The country is riveted on the trial of the military officers who started the civil war. The victims' testimonials keep pouring in. Ernesto, a young anthropologist at the Forensic Foundation, identifies people who have gone missing. One day, through an old lady's story, Ernesto thinks he has found a lead that will allow him to find his father, a guerillero who disappeared during the war.

**With:** Armando Espitia, Emma Dib, Aurelia Caal, Julio Serrano Echeverría, Victor Moreira

**Production:** NEED PRODUCTIONS, Géraldine Sprimont - PERSPECTIVE FILMS, Delphine Schmit

**Distribution:** PYRAMIDE DISTRIBUTION, Roxane Arnold

**Sales:** PYRAMIDE INTERNATIONAL, Eric Lagesse

**French press:** Matilde Incerti (matilde.incerti@free.fr / +33 1 48 05 20 80 / +33 6 08 78 76 60)

## **The Unknown Saint** by Alaa Eddine Aljem

2019 | World premiere | 1h40 | Morocco / France / Qatar

Moments before his capture by police, a thief digs a grave to hide a bag of money. Released from prison years later he returns to retrieve the bag, only to find a shrine to an Unknown Saint build directly over his loot, and a brand new village constructed all around it.

**With:** Younes Bouab, Salah Bensalah, Bouchaib Essamak, Mohamed Naimane, Anas El Baz, Hassan Ben Bdida, Abdelghani Kitab, Ahmed Yarziz

**Production:** LE MOINDRE GESTE, Francesca Duca

**Co-production:** ALTAMAR FILMS, Alexa Rivero

**Distribution:** CONDOR DISTRIBUTION, Alexis Mas

**Sales:** THE MATCH FACTORY GMBH, Michael Weber

**French press:** GRANEC OFFICE, Laurence Granec & Vanessa Fröchen (presse@granecoffice.com / +33 6 07 49 16 49 / +33 6 07 98 52 47)

**International press:** WOLF CONSULTANTS, Gordon Spragg & Laurin Dietrich & Michael Arnon (hello@wolf-con.com / +49 157 7474 9724)

**Vivarium** by Lorcan Finnegan

2019 | World premiere | 1h37 | Ireland / Belgium / Denmark

In search of a starter home, a young couple follow a mysterious estate agent and get trapped in a strange housing development.

**With:** Imogen Poots, Jesse Eisenberg, Eanna Hardwicke, Jonathan Aris, Senan Jennings

**Production:** FANTASTIC FILMS, Brendan McCarthy & John McDonnell

**Co-production:** FRAKAS PRODUCTIONS, Jean-Yves Roubin - PINGPONG FILM, Alexander Brøndsted

**Distribution:** THE JOKERS FILMS, Manuel Chiche

**Sales:** XYZ, Mike Sherman

**French press:** Laurence Granec & Vanessa Fröchen (presse@granecoffice.com / +33 1 47 20 36 66 / +33 6 07 49 16 49 / +33 6 07 98 52 47)

**International press:** PRODIGY PR, Erick Bright (eb@prodigypublicrelations.com / + 1 310 857 2020 / +1 310 902 1355)

### **Dia de festa** (Party Day) by Sofia Bost

2019 | World premiere | 17' | Portugal

Mena lives alone with her daughter Clara. Today is Clara's seventh birthday. Despite her limited financial resources, Mena still manages to organise a birthday party. But after a phone call from her mother, she becomes distraught and anxious.

**With:** Rita Martins, Melissa Matos, Teresa Madruga, Sandra Celas, Mariana Silva, Sara Gonçalves, Fernanda Neves

**Production:** UMA PEDRA NO SAPATO, Filipa Reis

**Distribution / Sales:** AGENCIA - PORTUGUESE SHORT FILM AGENCY, Salette Ramalho (agencia@curtas.pt)

### **Fakh** (The Trap) by Nada Riyadh

2019 | World premiere | 20' | Egypt / Germany

Away from preying eyes, a young unmarried couple retreat to the depth of a desolate run-down Egyptian seaside resort, to make love. The power dynamic between them is tested, when the girl reveals she wants their relationship to end.

**With:** Shaza Moharam, Islam Alaa, Nabil Nour El Din

**Production:** FELUCCA FILMS, Ayman El Amir - INSELFILM PRODUKTION, Eva Schellenbeck & Gregor Streiber

**Distribution / Sales:** LIGHTS ON, Flavio Armone (team@lightsonfilm.org)

### **Ikki illa meint** by Andrias Høgenni

2018 | International premiere | 21' | Denmark / Faroe Islands

Elinborg accidentally runs into her friend Marita at the supermarket. The conversation is civil yet slightly awkward, as Elinborg has forgotten Marita's birthday. However, something else is nagging Marita, who decides to corner her friend and ask if Elinborg has blocked her on Facebook.

**With:** Mariann Hansen, Sissal Drews Hjaltalin, Niels Dampe

**Production:** META FILM, Johannes Rothaus Nørregard (johannes@metafilm.dk)

### **Journey Through a Body** by Camille Degeye

2019 | World premiere | 31' | France

Thomas, a Swiss-German musician, is stuck at home because of a broken foot. He wanders around his tiny Parisian flat, his leg in a plaster, busy composing a new piece. At sunrise, an unexpected female visitor is showing up for him at the door.

**With:** Thomas Kuratli, Laurence Hallard

**Production:** SOCIÉTÉ ACÉPHALE, Lorenzo Bianchi & Anthony Lapia (festivals@societeacephale.com)

**Press:** Mathilde Bila (mathildebila@gmail.com)

## **Kolektyviniai sodai (Community Gardens)** by Vytautas Katkus

2019 | World premiere | 15' | Lithuania

It is a story about a cold relationship between a father and his son. Their bond, plagued by indifference, disintegrates completely.

**With:** Vygantas Bachmackij, Arvydas Dapsys, Aiste Zobotkaite, Jelena Juscenko

**Production:** VIKTORIA FILMS, Viktorija Seniut (viktorija@viktoriefilms.com)

## **Lucía en el limbo** by Valentina Maurel

2019 | World premiere | 20' | Belgium / France / Costa Rica

Sixteen-year-old Lucia wants to get rid of two things more than anything: her lice & her virginity.

**With:** Ana Camila Arenas, Reynaldo Amien, José Alberto Romero, Mayté Ortega Floris, Rosibel de la Trinidad Carvajal, Javier Gómez

**Production:** WRONG MEN, Benoît Roland - GEKO FILMS, Grégoire Debailly

**Co-production:** PACIFICA GREY, Marcelo Quasada Mena

**Distribution / Sales:** AGENCE BELGE DU COURT MÉTRAGE, Anne-Françoise Reynders (info@agenceducourt.be)

## **The Manila Lover** by Johanna Pyykkö

2019 | World premiere | 26' | Norway / Philippines

During a trip to the Philippines, middle-aged Norwegian Lars has met the Filipina he wants to share his life with, but to his surprise she turns him down. Lars now has to face his own prejudices and deal with this uncomfortable situation.

**With:** Øyvind Brandtzæg, Angeli Bayani

**Production:** BARBOSA FILM AS, Nina M. Barbosa Blad

**Co-production:** EPICMEDIA PRODUCTION INC., Bianca Balbuena-Liew

**Distribution:** NORWEGIAN FILM INSTITUTE, Toril Simonsen

**Sales:** NEW EUROPE FILM SALES, Marcin Łuczaj

**Press:** NORWEGIAN FILM INSTITUTE, Jakob Berg (jakob.berg@nfi.no / +47 97 19 77 66)

## **Mardi de 8 à 18 (Tuesday from 8 to 6)** by Cecilia de Arce

2019 | World premiere | 26' | France

Névine, a secondary school monitor, is fully committed to her somewhat thankless day job, dealing with teachers, administration and students. Logan, a pupil she is fond of, insists on getting a cap back from lost and found. She has no idea of the consequences of her gesture.

**With:** Rime Nahmani, Hicham Talib, Tobias Nuytten, Big John de Paname, Rebecca Finet, Chainez Dehchar, Florian Lemaire

**Production:** KAZAK PRODUCTIONS, Jean-Christophe Reymond & Amaury Ovisé

**Sales:** L'AGENCE DU COURT MÉTRAGE, Nathalie Lebel (n.lebel@agenceccm.com)

**She Runs** by Qiu Yang

2019 | World premiere | 20' | China / France

In an ordinary Chinese winter, a small city junior high student, Yu, tries to quit her school aerobic dancing team.

**With:** Xue Jiayi

**Production:** WILD GRASS FILMS, Edmond Yang - LES VALSEURS

**Distribution:** SOME SHORTS, Wouter Jansen

**Sales:** NEW EUROPE FILM SALES, Marcin Łuczaj (shorts@neweuropesales.com)

**Ultimul Drum Spre Mare** (The Last Trip to the Seaside) by Adi Voicu

2019 | World premiere | 12' | Romania

Six passengers are traveling to the seaside in a train compartment. After a while, a suspicion makes some of them lose their composure and the remainder of the trip goes terribly wrong.

**With:** Angela Marcovici, Ana Ci-ontea, Cristina Juncu, Silviu Debu, Salih Yildirim, Alina Vior

**Production:** AXEL FILM, Marcian Lazar

**Sales:** PREMIUM FILMS, Martina Fiorellino (mf@premium-films.com / +33 1 42 77 06 39)

INVITATION TO THE MORELIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Selection of 4 short films selected to the 16<sup>th</sup> edition  
of the Morelia International Film Festival

**El aire delgado** (The thin air) by Pablo Giles (Mexico, 30')

**The Girl With Two Heads** by Betzabé García (Mexico, 13')

**San Miguel** by Cris Gris (Mexico / USA, 19')

**Satán** by Carlos Tapia González (Switzerland, 17')

**Press:** Isabelle Buron (isabelle.buron@wanadoo.fr)

### THE JURY OF THE 58<sup>th</sup> SEMAINE DE LA CRITIQUE

Colombian filmmaker **Ciro Guerra** is the Jury President of the 58<sup>th</sup> edition of La Semaine de la Critique. Throughout his 4 short films and 4 features, he has struck a very personal tone and his already remarkable career is a testament to his keen insight. It conveys a new outlook on Colombia, witnessing a generation whose express will is to, once again, claim ownership of living spaces.

#### **Ciro Guerra, Jury President**

Along with him during this mission are the French-British actress **Amira Casar** - who came to La Semaine de la Critique with the delightful film *Filles perdues, cheveux gras (Hypnotized and Hysterical - Hairstylist Wanted)* - the French producer of Danish origin, **Marianne Slot**, co-producer of all Lars von Trier's films, and also Lucrecia Martel, Thomas Vinterberg, Sergei Loznitsa, Naomi Kawase and Benedikt Erlingsson, whose feature film *Woman at War* was part of last year's La Semaine de la Critique competition - the Belgian-Congolese film journalist and critic **Dja Mambu** and the Italian screenwriter and director **Jonas Carpignano**, revealed at La Semaine de la Critique where he screened both his short film *A Ciambra* and his first feature *Mediterranea*.

### PRIZES AWARDED BY THE JURY OF LA SEMAINE DE LA CRITIQUE

#### **NESPRESSO GRAND PRIZE**

The Nespresso Grand Prize is awarded by the Jury of La Semaine de la Critique to one of the seven feature films in competition. Nespresso is awarding €15,000 to the winning director. For the ninth consecutive year, Nespresso supports emerging talents by collaborating with the Grand Prize of La Semaine de la Critique. This underlines Nespresso's commitment to creativity through their longstanding support for new talent. Since 2011, the Nespresso Grand Prize went to: Jeff Nichols for *Take Shelter* (2011), Antonio Méndez Esparza for *Aquí y Allá* (2012), Fabio Grassadonia and Antonio Piazza for *Salvo* (2013), Myroslav Slaboshpytskiy for *The Tribe* (2014), Santiago Mitre for *Paulina* (2015), Oliver Laxe for *Mimosas* (2016), Emmanuel Gras for *Makala* (2017) and Gabriel Abrantes and Daniel Schmidt for *Diamantino* (2018).

#### **LEITZ CINE DISCOVERY PRIZE FOR SHORT FILM**

The Leitz Cine Discovery Prize will be awarded by the Jury of La Semaine de la Critique to one of the ten short and medium-length films in competition. Since its creation in 2003, the Discovery Prize has revealed numerous innovating filmmakers such as Juliana Rojas, Marco Dutra, the H5 collective, Guillaume Gouix, Gitanjali Rao, Damien Manivel, Jonas Carpignano, Fulvio Risuleo and more recently Laura Ferrés and Jacqueline Lentzou. For the fourth year, Leitz is partner of La Semaine de la Critique and supports the new generation of promising directors with the Leitz Cine Discovery Prize. The winning filmmaker receives an endowment of €4,000.

#### **LOUIS ROEDERER FOUNDATION RISING STAR AWARD**

For the second year, La Semaine de la Critique Jury will present the Louis Roederer Foundation Rising Star Award to an actor or actress from one of the competition's seven feature films. This award aims to highlight the performer's work in one of their first appearances on the silver screen or in a particularly notable role in their career. In 2018, Félix Maritaud received the award for his role in the feature film *Sauvage*. Ever keen to support emerging talents, the Louis Roederer Foundation is therefore working alongside La Semaine de la Critique as the sponsor of this €5,000 prize awarded to the winner.

## AWARDS GIVEN BY PARTNERS

### GAN FOUNDATION AWARD FOR DISTRIBUTION

The Gan Foundation for Cinema will grant, within La Semaine de la Critique, an award to help distribute a first or second feature film in France in the hope of promoting new filmmakers. This Award for Distribution proves the unwavering support of the Gan Foundation for emerging talents and is given to the French distributor of one of the seven feature films in competition. The winning distributors will receive €20,000 all tax included and in return they will have to come up with one or several marketing strategies for the film release. For more than 30 years, the Gan Foundation for Cinema has accompanied the artists from the writing stage through the distribution of their films. It rewards ambitious and original feature films, both fiction and animation. Corporate Foundation of Gan Assurance, the Gan Foundation is one of the most important private sponsors for French cinema.

### SACD AWARD

The SACD (Authors Society) supports festivals that promote new authors like La Semaine de la Critique through the funds generated by the private copy. The SACD Award is given to one of the seven feature films in competition. The winning author will be awarded €5,000. The jury is made up of filmmakers that are members of the board of directors of the SACD.

### CANAL+ AWARD FOR SHORT FILM

The Canal+ Award is given to one of the ten short and medium-length films in competition by the Short and Creative Programmes at Canal+. They buy the rights for the winning film to screen it on TV. Since its creation in 1992, the Canal+ Award has led to the screening of short films by Chris Landreth, Bill Plympton, Denis Villeneuve, Daniel Joseph Borgman, Gaëlle Denis or more recently Antoine de Bary, Aleksandra Terpińska or Elias Belkeddar.

## OTHER AWARD

### THE CAMÉRA D'OR

Created in 1978, the Caméra d'or award goes to the best debut feature presented in either the Official Selection, the Directors' Fortnight or La Semaine de la Critique. The prize is awarded during the Festival's Closing Ceremony by the president of the dedicated jury. In 2015, César Augusto Acevedo joined the list of La Semaine de la Critique's directors winners of the Caméra d'or with *La tierra y la sombra* (*Land and Shade*).



## NEXT STEP

Since 2014, La Semaine de la Critique has been helping young talented short filmmakers make their feature with its Next Step programme - strictly limited to the directors whose short films were selected by La Semaine de la Critique. After presenting their short film in Cannes in May, filmmakers are invited in Paris in December to take part in a workshop. Over five days, they receive advice from international consultants on developing their feature film, not only on screenwriting, but also soundtrack and market release.

In 5 editions, 46 directors from 23 different countries have been supported by the Next Step programme, and we are especially delighted with 4 completed first features : Gerardo Herrero's *The Maus* (Sitges and Austin Festivals), Fulvio Risuelo's *Guarda in alto (Look Up)* (Rome Festival) and Jonas Carpignano's *A Ciambra* (Directors' Fortnight and Italy's candidate for the Oscars), Sonejuhi Sinha's *Stray Dolls* (Tribeca). Furthermore, 5 feature films are currently in post-production: *Bombay Rose* by Indian animation director Gitanjali Rao, *7500* by Patrick Vollrath from Germany, *Mes jours de gloire* by Antoine de Bary, *Perdrix* de Erwan Leduc from France and *Ceniza Negra* by Costa Rican director Sofia Quiros, selected at the 58<sup>th</sup> Semaine de la Critique.

**The workshop is evolving for the next edition of La Semaine de la Critique with the creation of a competition: a professional jury composed of 3 professionals will award a director the Next Step Prize with a €5,000 endowment and an invitation to the Cannes Festival for the most promising short film.** This year, Rosa Attab - Development Director at Why Not Productions; Mathilde Henrot - co-founder of FestivalScope and programmer of the Locarno Festival, Gaëlle Mareschi - Director of International sales at Kinology and co-founder of Fluxus Films.

**The Next Step Prize will be awarded on the Nespresso beach on Saturday 18 May.**

With the support of *VARIETY*

## EDUCATION TO FILM CRITICISM

La Semaine de la Critique organises education to film criticism workshops for about 300 secondary school pupils of the Ile-de-France region, the Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur region and the Alpes-Maritimes county as well as for 50 film and journalism students in close collaboration with AFDAS.

For the fourth consecutive year, La Semaine de la Critique organises in collaboration with The Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO), a French-German training workshop on film criticism from May 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, held in Cannes during the Festival. Twenty French and German high school pupils from underprivileged areas participate to this workshop. The screenings and writing workshops are meant to encourage the exchange and stimulate intercultural dynamics between France and Germany, to participate to the cultural democratisation by broadening the audiences. It is also dedicated to screen education and training on film criticism for the young generation of viewers.

Every year, La Semaine de la Critique organises reruns of its selection in France and all over the world. The purpose is to promote new talents discovered in Cannes and help them meet larger audiences and find international distribution. In 2019, La Semaine de la Critique will travel through 5 countries and will be accessible on FestivalScope for the fourth year in a row to moviegoers worldwide.

### **FRANCE - FestivalScope (virtual screening)**

from May 23<sup>rd</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

La Semaine de la Critique confirms its commitment to general audiences by giving 500 tickets per film to viewers worldwide, who get the chance to discover in world premiere the 2019 selection of short films in competition. These French and English subtitled films will be available for free on FestivalScope ([www.festivalscope.com](http://www.festivalscope.com)), from May 23<sup>rd</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>, right after the award ceremony held in Cannes.

La Semaine de la Critique is a keen supporter of the 4<sup>th</sup> **Nespresso Talents Awards**; a competition whose unique concept is to encourage anyone anywhere in the world to explore their creativity from a new perspective : on the theme « We Are What We Eat ».

The world premiere of the three selected films will take place at the Palais des Festivals. The selection will also be streamed, exclusively on [festivalscope.com](http://festivalscope.com), from 23<sup>rd</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019.

### **FRANCE - Territorial Community of Corsica (Regional Cinémathèque of Corsica)**

**The association la Corse et le Cinéma, Founding member**

Porto Vecchio

from May 28<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Short and feature films from the 2019 selection

### **FRANCE - La Cinémathèque française**

Paris

from June 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Short and feature films from the 2019 selection

### **LEBANON - Cinéma Metropolis With The French Institute in Beirut**

July 2019

Short and feature films from the 2019 selection

### **CZECH REPUBLIC - Czech Cinematheque**

Prague

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Short films from the 2019 selection

### **JAPAN - Yokohama Campus of the Tokyo University of the Arts**

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Short films from the 2019 selection

### **USA - Parsons School of Design in collaboration with Kinoscope**

New York

November 2019

Short films from the 2019 selection

### **MEXICO - Morelia International Film Festival**

from October 18<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Feature films from the 2019 selection

### **FRANCE - Rencontres Cinémas Martinique de l'EPCC Atrium Martinique**

Fort de France, Martinique

March 2020

Short films from the 2019 selection

## THE TEAMS

### SELECTION COMMITTEES

All the journalists of the selection committees of La Semaine de la Critique are members of the French Union of Film Critics.

Charles Tesson - Artistic Director of La Semaine de la Critique

### FEATURE FILMS

Danielle Attali (*Journal du Dimanche*)

Ava Cahen (*Le Cercle sur Ciné+, FrenchMania*)

Bruno Deruisseau (*Les Inrockuptibles*)

Clémentine Dramani-Issifou (*SWAG*)

Olivier Pélisson (*Bande à Part*)

### SHORT FILMS

Léo Soesanto (*Les Inrockuptibles, Canal+*)

Thomas Fouet (*Fiches du Cinéma*)

William Le Personnic (*Brefcinéma, Positif*)

Nanako Tsukidate (*Nobody Magazine*)

### THE TEAM OF THE 58<sup>th</sup> SEMAINE DE LA CRITIQUE

- Program Manager and Director of Next Step
  - Head of Administration
  - Head of the Film Department
  - Film Department (short films)
  - In charge of coordination
  - Communications Officer
  - Communications assistant & CM
  - Press Agent
  - Head of Operations
  - Stage management
  - Sponsoring
  - Guests Coordinator
  - Plage Nespresso Relations
  - Miramar reception desk
  - General public box-office
  - Photographers
  - Video Interviews
  - Selection video et Cannes videos
  - Interpreter
  - Coordinator french-German workshop
  - Interns
  - Website design
  - Web Art direction, publications and poster
- Rémi Bonhomme  
Marion Dubois-Daras *assisted by* Isabelle Trofleur  
Hélène Auclair *assisted by* Marie-Eve Dorléans  
Rémi Bigot  
Marion Grosbois *assisted by* Geoffrey Garreau  
Xavier Mondoloni *assisted by* Myriem Guesmi  
Charlotte Forbras  
Dany de Seille *assisted by* Renée Isber  
George Ikdaïs *assisted by* Deborah Serrano  
Lisa Moulin-Villard  
Bernadette Iovic  
Tiphaine Vigniel  
Claire-Marine Pietriga *assisted by* Audrenn  
Trouillet  
Kathy Rainville *assisted by* Margot Morsomme  
Chloé Khayadjanian  
Aurélie Lamachère  
Pierre Caudeville  
Anne-Laure Bell  
Adrien Valgalier  
Jack Safarian  
Aurore Kahan  
Lena Nilly  
Kelly Barast  
Gabrielle Denisse  
Soline Festou  
Manon Jacquemin  
Antoine Poggi  
Yaël Rivière  
Marion Thollot  
Sébastien Fauveau (articode)  
Andrea D'Agostino (Dartea)  
les bons faiseurs

## THE PARTNERS OF THE 58<sup>th</sup> SEMAINE DE LA CRITIQUE

La Semaine de la Critique wishes to thank  
all the institutional and private partners who support its 58<sup>th</sup> edition.

### INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

**CNC** (Centre National du Cinéma et de l'image animée)

**Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**

**Région Île de France**

**Conseil général des Alpes-Maritimes**

**Ville de Cannes**

**Europe Creative Media**

**ADAMI** (Société civile pour l'Administration des Droits des Artistes et Musiciens Interprètes)

**SACEM** (Société des Auteurs, Compositeurs et Éditeurs de Musique)

**SACD** (Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques)

### OFFICIAL PARTNERS

**Nespresso**

**Leitz**

**Louis Roederer Foundation**

**Gan Foundation for Cinema**

**Franco-German Youth Office**

**Morelia International Film Festival**

**CCAS** (Caisse Centrale d'Activités du Personnel des Industries Électriques et Gazières)

**Canal+**

**Audiens**

**La Cinémathèque française**

**RFI** (Radio France Internationale)

### TECHNICAL PARTNERS AND OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS

**Panavision**

**2AVI**

### WITH THE SUPPORT OF

**Le Mont Saint-Michel**

**Ficam**

**Film France**

**Afdas**

**NESPRESSO** | PLAGE

For the ninth year in a row, Nespresso, already sponsor of the Grand Prize, will host La Semaine de la Critique's guests on its Plage from May 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Meet the film's crew during the breakfasts of La Semaine, every morning from 9:30 am to 11:00 am on the Plage Nespresso.