





Press Kit

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Introduction to the Selection

The 61st Semaine de la Critique by her Artistic Director, Ava Cahen

The poster of the 61st edition of La Semaine de la Critique is the brainchild of the wildly imaginative Belgian photographer, Charlotte Abramow: a body on which is projected a photogram of Chloé Mazlo's beautiful film, *Skies of Lebanon*, coaxing us into dreams, magic and love. To head the jury of this 61st edition, Tunisian filmmaker Kaouther Ben Hania, creator of *The Blade of Tunis*, *Beauty and the Dogs* and *The Man who Sold his Skin*, and nominated for the 2021 Best Foreign Film Oscar. Along with her, French-Greek actress Ariane Labed, the director of the Busan Film Festival Moon-yung Huh, Icelandic director Benedikt Erlingsson and Belgian cinematographer Benoît Debie.

A few figures

We watched 1,700 short films and 1,100 features. Among the 11 feature films of this selection, there are nine first films and two second films. Coordinated by Farah Clémentine Dramani Issifou, the short-film committee selected 10 films for the competition and one special screening programme.

Short films

A poetic and political triptych, **Anton Bialas**' **Raie Manta (Manta Ray)** is an ode to resistance and freedom while Paris burns. Some more resistance with **Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren**'s **Cuerdas (Chords)**, the modest tale of Rita's dilemma, a 90-year-old woman torn between her beloved choral and her convictions. **It's Nice in Here** by **Robert Jonathan Koeyers** investigates police violence through two crossed heart-wrenching testimonies and gentle animations. A political choice, where longing also runs deep: in **Evi Kalogiropoulou**'s *Στον Θρόνο του Ξέρξη* **(On Xerxes' Throne**), shipyard workers in the blistering heat have the express orders never to touch each other. Playful sensuality flows freely in Swan dans le centre (Swan In the Center) by Iris Chassaigne, as a young consultant wanders aimlessly in an abandoned mall, where emptiness breeds erotica. Modern loneliness is at the heart of Lin Tu's Canker, the story of a Chinese influencer who is both lost and hyperconnected. In Anna Fernandez de Paco's Nisam je stigao voljeti (I Didn't Make It To Love Her), a Bosnian couple seeks to rekindle their relationship as spoken words strive to fill in the void. Another quest for intimacy, Dang Wo Wang Xiang Ni De Shi Hou (Will You Look At Me) by Shuli Huang is an experimental confessional film, a kind of farewell to those he loves but don't see him. A father and son, two ice-makers living high upon a mountainside, are the heroes of *Ice Merchants* by João Gonzalez, a dizzyingly animated mise-en-scène. And finally, Las criaturas que se derriten **bajo el sol** by **Diego Céspedes**, in which Nataly, a transgender woman, confronts her past in a mysterious community that avoids the sun.

A special screening to free the monsters

Scale by **Joseph Pierce** is a fierce, animated exploration of the depths Will fell into, as he strives to resurface from the distorted figments of his downfall. In **Emmanuel Gras' AMO**, the body is a sensorial planet, a world of folds and curves, on the very edge, where carnal beings and abstraction morph. Profoundly inspired by 80s TV horror films, **Yann Gonzalez'** *Hideous* is a queer and political musical in which Oliver Sim, singer of The xx, tames his inner demons through music.

La Semaine de la Critique will stay by these talented directors' side, offering them the opportunity to take part inits Next Step programme, a training workshop to help them towards making their first features.

Opening film

For the opening screening of this 61st edition, **Jesse Eisenberg** honours us with his first feature film as a director, **When You Finish Saving the World**, starring Julianne Moore and Finn Wolfhard. This dramatic comedy tells with great tenderness and wit the heated relationship between a staunchly politically committed mother and her son, a burgeoning musician who craves social media fame. Jesse Eisenberg shows his subtlety as a filmmaker and generosity with his outstanding cast.

Two special screenings, highlight events in the programme

After The Wakhan Front, Clément Cogitore is back at La Semaine de la Critique with Goutte d'Or (Sons of Ramses), a mystical film noir that plunges us in the heart of the 18th arrondissement of Paris. Karim Leklou plays the most gifted and influential psychic in the neighborhood of La Goutte d'Or, a skilled crook haunted by unexpected visions. So much spirit to be found in this film, whether it be in the neighbourhood it explores, or its character's demons.

Sunday Lunch won the César for best short film in 2016. The director **Céline Devaux** will present her first feature, **Tout le Monde Aime Jeanne (Everybody Loves Jeanne)**, an irresistible romantic comedy that blends live action and animation between Paris and Lisbon. A stellar cast: Blanche Gardin, Laurent Lafitte from The Comédie-Française, and a funny little inner voice.

7 feature films in competition

In her first feature film **Alma Viva**, French-Portuguese director **Cristèle Alves Meira** takes her young female hero's perspective and plunges us in the heart of a Portuguese village, its customs,

drama, and legends. A child with high expectations wards off the evil eye with her grandmother. A story about family and witches.

Nos Cérémonies (Summer Scars), French director **Simon Rieth**'s first feature film, enthralls us from the very first frame. A mix of a coming-of-age story and a fantastic tale, the film is an odyssey of two brothers who love and envy each other. Complicit, they hide a secret that is increasingly difficult to keep as they get older and discover life and love. A bold film that masterfully explores a genre French cinema seldom indulges in.

A taxi in Tehran, at night. Iranian director **Ali Behrad** chose that setting for his first film **Tasavor** (**Imagine** in English). A pop, contemporary romantic road movie, filled with mystery and a fantastic. It's love at first sight between the two protagonists: a driver and his client, the wonderful Leila Hatami revealed in A Separation.

The first feature film of Belgian director **Emmanuelle Nicot** shares the name of its protagonist, **Dalva (Love According to Dalva)**. A 12-yearold girl, made up like a woman, knows no love other than the one she bears her father, and her father bears her. Put into care, she soon engages with social workers and other children, and soon understands what she's been through. A poignant story about unlearning.

Andrés Ramírez Pulido takes us in the closed setting of the Colombian rainforest, away from prying eyes, in an experimental rehabilitation center for tough boys. *La Jauría* is a dark, visceral, and captivating first feature that shows impulsive youths who got burnt. A powerful film on managing one's impulses and emotions.

Aftersun, British director **Charlotte Wells**' first feature film, stunned us by its two lead actors, Paul Mascal - the lead in the series Normal People - and Francesca Corio, a young actress you will hear a lot about. The story of a father and daughter during a summer holiday in a resort where people dance the Macarena. Charlotte Wells waltzes us through a whirlwind of laughs and tears.

And lastly, **Mikko Myllylahti** won us over with his first feature, **Metsurin tarina (The Woodcutter Story)**, a shrewd, yet playful tragicomedy with flawless mise-en-scène that asks the question everyone ponders: is there a meaning to life? A woodcutter and his son go fishing and investigate. A splendid film brimming with twists and turns.

Closing film

We will close this 61st edition of La Semaine de la Critique with a film we adore: **Da-eum-so-hee (Next Sohee)**, Korean director **Jung July**'s second feature film. A gripping feminist crime film that condemns the professional world's frantic exploitation of the young generation. With the wonderful Bae Doo-na, the muse of Kore-eda, Park Chan-wook and Bong Joon-ho.

The 10 short films and 7 features in competition for this 61st edition will be screened under the watchful eye of the President of the jury, Kaouther Ben Hania, who will name the winners of the Grand Prize, the French Touch Prize of the Jury, the Louis Roederer Foundation Rising Star Award, and the Leitz Cine Discovery Prize for short films. La Semaine de la Critique will take place in Cannes between the 18th and 26th of May.

The Selection

11 feature films, 7 in competition and 4 in special screenings, selected among 1100 viewed films 13 short films, 10 in competition and 3 in a special screenings, selected among 1700 viewed films

FEATURE FILMS In competition

FEATURE FILMS Special screenings

Aftersun 🍄 United Kingdom - United States / 1H36	Charlotte Wells	Opening Film When You Finish Saving the World ^{***} United States / 1H28	Jesse Eisenberg
Alma Viva 😤 France - Portugal / 1H25	Cristèle Alves Meira	Special screenings	
Dalva क्षि (Love According to Dalva) Belgium - France / 1H23	Emmanuelle Nicot	Goutte d'Or (Sons of Ramses) France / 1H38	Clément Cogitore
La Jauría 📫 Colombia - France / 1H26	Andrés Ramírez Pulido	Tout le monde aime Jeanne 🍄 (Everybody Loves Jeanne)	Céline Devaux
Nos cérémonies (Summer Scars) 韂 France / 1H44	Simon Rieth	France / 1H35	
Tasavor (Imagine) 🦂 Iran / 1H18	Ali Behrad	Film de Clôture	
Metsurin tarina क्षि (The Woodcutter Story) Finland - Denmark - Netherlands - Germany 1H38	Mikko Myllylahti	Da-eum-so-hee (Next Sohee) South Korea / 2h14	Jung July

Click here to access the online files.

The Selection

SHORT FILMS In competition

Canker China / 13' Las criaturas que se derriten bajo el sol Chile - France / 16' Cuerdas (Chords) Spain / 30' Dang Wo Wang Xiang Ni De Shi Hou (Will You Look At Me) China / 20' Ice Merchants Portugal - United-Kingdom - France / 14' It's Nice In Here Netherlands / 15' Nisam je stigao voljeti (I Didn't Make It To Love Her) Bosnia - Spain - United-Kingdom / 17' Στον Θρόνο του Ξέρξη (On Xerxes' Throne / Sur le trône de Xerxès) Greece / 15' Raie Manta (Manta Ray) France / 30'

Swan dans le centre (Swan In the Center) France / 25'

Lin Tu	F
Diego Céspedes	ŀ
Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren	S
Shuli Huang	B
João Gonzalez	I
Robert-Jonathan Koeyers	I
Anna Fernandez De Paco	A
Evi Kalogiropoulou	N N
Anton Bialas	N
Iris Chassaigne	N

SHORT FILMS Special screening

Amo France / 20'

Hideous United-Kingdom / 22'

Scale France - United-Kingdom - Czech Republic -Belgium / 15' **Emmanuel Gras**

Yann Gonzalez

Joseph Pierce

INVITATION International Film Festival of Morelia

Al motociclista no le cabe la felicidad en el traje Mexique / 10'

Llueve Mexique / 11'

Mi edad, la tuya y la del mundo Mexique / 28'

El sueño más largo que recuerdo Mexique / 20' **Gabriel Herrera**

Magali Rocha Donnadieu & Carolina Corral Paredes

Fernanda Tovar

Carlos Lenin

Click here to access the online files.

The Semaine de la Critique Jury and Prizes

The Jury of the 61st Semaine de la Critique

Kaouther Ben Hania, Jury President

To head the jury of this 61st edition, Tunisian filmmaker Kaouther Ben Hania, creator of *The Blade of Tunis, Beauty and the Dogs* and *The Man Who Sold his Skin*, and nominated for the 2021 Best Foreign Film Oscar. Along with her, French-Greek actress Ariane Labed, the director of the Busan Film Festival Huh Moon-yung, Icelandic director Benedikt Erlingsson and Belgian cinematographer Benoît Debie.

Prizes awarded by the jury of Semaine de la Critique

Grand Prize

The Grand Prize is awarded by the jury of La Semaine de la Critique to one of the seven feature films in competition. The winning director will receive 10 000 € (tbc). Since 2011, the 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), Gabriel Abrantes and Daniel Schmidt for *Diamantino* (2018), Jérémy Clapin for *I lost my body* (2019) and Omar El Zohairy for *Feathers* (2021).

French Touch Prize of the Jury

For the very first time, La Semaine de la Critique jury will present the *French Touch* Prize of the Jury to one of the seven feature films in competition. This award aims to shine a light on an act of cinema that features creativity and boldness. By partnering up with La Semaine de la Critique, La French Touch wishes to reveal the creative geniuses who are making the future of cinema. The winning filmmaker will receive an endowment of €8,000.

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 and more recently Wregas Bhanuteja, Laura Ferrés, Jacqueline Lentzou, Qiu Yang and lastly Zou Jing. For the sixth 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 fourth year, La Semaine de la Critique Jury will give the Louis Roederer Foundation Rising Star Award to an actor or actress from one of the competition's seven feature films and short films. This prize rewards the performer's work in one of their first appearances on the silver screen or in a particularly remarkable performance in their career. In 2018, Félix Maritaud received the award for his role in the feature film *Sauvage*, and in 2019, it was Ingvar E. Sigurðsson for the movie *Hvítur, Hvítur Dagur (A White, White Day)* and in 2021 Sandra Melissa Torres received the award for her performance in *Amparo*. Always keen to support emerging talents, the Louis Roederer Foundation pursues its commitment 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 35 years, the Gan Foundation for Cinema has accompanied the artists from the writing stage through the screening of their films in cinemas. It rewards ambitious and original feature films, both fiction and animation and until today it helped more then 220 filmmakers. Corporate Foundation of Gan Assurance, the Gan Foundation is one of the most important private sponsors for French cinema. In 2021, The Gan Foundation Award for Distribution has been awarded to Condor, French distributor of Rien à foutre (Zero Fucks Given) by Emmanuel Marre and Julie Lecoustre.

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 €4,000 Gross. 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, Elias Belkeddar, Andrias Høgenni or Manolis Mavris.

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 2019, César Díaz joined the list of La Semaine de la Critique's directors winners of the Caméra d'or with Nuestras Madres (Our Mothers).

Next Step in Cannes

Since 2014, with Next Step, La Semaine de la Critique has guided the competing directors of its short film competition towards feature films. Following the screening of their shorts in Cannes in May, the filmmakers are then invited to take part in Next Step at the Moulin d'Andé in December. During this five-day training workshop, they are provided with experts' support towards developing their feature film projects, as international consultants advise them on scriptwriting, production and distribution. A specific workshop with French composers also helps the participants think through the musical world of their film. At the end of the workshop, they have the chance to meet French producers on the look-out for new talents.

In 8 years, the Next Step programme has supported 71 directors from 33 countries. We are delighted to see how far the 14 released feature films have gone, most recently *Anaïs in love* by Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet (Semaine de la Critique 2021), *Whether the Weather is Fine* by Carlo Francisco Manatad (Locarno Film Festival 2021), *Produkty 24* (*Convenience Store*) by Michael Borodin (2022 Berlinale Panorama) or *Rio Doce* by Fellipe Fernandes (Rio de Janeiro International film Festival 2021). In 2022, *The Woodcutter Story* by Mikko Myllylahti, *Tengo sueños electricos* by Valentina Maurel, *Alma Viva* by Cristèle Alves Meira, *The Maiden* by Graham Foy and *Dogborn* by Isabella Carbonell will have their premiere in festivals. Furthermore, 8 feature projects developed during Next Step will be in production or postproduction.

For the last four years, the workshop has gone further with its Next Step Prize: the winner of the Prize receives a 5,000€ endowment and an invitation to the Cannes Film Festival. A jury composed of 3 professionals awards the prize to the most promising feature film project. In 2021 the British director Molly Manning Walker won the prize for her film How to Have Sex. This year, the members of the jury will be Thibaut Bracq, Head of Marrakech International Fillm Fest Atlas Worskhop, Sata Cissokho, Head of Acquisitions at Memento International and Alexis Hofmann, Head of Acquisitions at Bac Films. The winner for this year's edition will be revealed in May during the Cannes Film Festival.



Education to Film Criticism

La Semaine de la Critique, true to its ambition of exchange and knowledge transmission, carries on its singular mission, to reach out to ever-broader audiences by favouring screen education initiatives dedicated to the young audience. La Semaine de la Critique organises at the Cannes Films Festival and all year-round several educational activities for high school students, apprentices, secondary school pupils and more recently, students of the ENSAD. The programme includes: screenings of the selected short and feature films, meetings with film critics and members of the selection committees of La Semaine de la Critique, film analysis, workshops on how to write a film review and an introduction to film criticism.

The Franco-German Youth Office

For the seventh 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 July 12h to 16th, 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.

The Île-de-France Region

La Semaine de la Critique organises a whole day of training to film criticism for the "Lycéens et apprentis au cinéma" scheme in the Îlede France Region. For many years, this workshop has allowed twenty high school students to try their hand in writing a review on a feature film screened at La Semaine de la Critique. The workshop will be held in Paris in autumn and will be animated by two professional film critics, in collaboration with the Parisian independent cinemas (CIP).

As part of its action, and in collaboration with the Paris Region's Artistic and Cultural Training scheme, the French Union of Film Critics and La Semaine de la Critique offer a foundation course in film criticism. This is a five-day course for four classes in two sixth-form colleges in the Paris Region whose objectives are: gaining knowledge (about cinematic and journalistic vocabulary), practicing (film criticism writing workshops) and discovering new jobs through meeting and debating with film professionals (film journalists and critics, directors and producers). This course is made possible thanks to the support of Le Vincennes and Arcel cinemas (Corbeil-Essones) this year.

SUD/Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region

Steadfastly committed to cinema-lovers, La Semaine de la Critique is devoted to screen education for pupils in collaboration with the association Cinéma du Sud. 200 pupils from the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region are welcome to its screenings during the festival in Cannes. Around sixty highshcool students will also benefit from workshops on how to write a film review, led by profesionnal film critics during the Cannes Film Festival.

The Departamental Council of les Alpes-Maritimes

La Semaine de la Critique has put up screen education schemes for the pupils in the region for many years. Thanks to this program, the secondary school pupils are able to discover both the short and feature film format by taking part in screenings of films selected by La Semaine de la Critique, as well as discover the vocation of a film critic and developp their analytical skills.

La Semaine de la Critique on Tour

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 2022, La Semaine de la Critique will travel around the world and will be accessible on FestivalScope for the sixth year in a row to moviegoers worldwide.

France

FestivalScope (virtual screening)

From 26 May to 01 June 2022

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 2022 selection of short films in competition. These French and English subtitled films will be available for free on FestivalScope (www.festivalscope.com), from 26 May to 01 June 2022, right after the award ceremony held in Cannes.

Territorial Community of Corsica (Regional Cinemathèque of Corsica) The association la Corse et le Cinéma, founding member

Porto Vecchio Cinéma Le Galaxy From 31 May to 04 June 2021 Short and feature films from the 2022 selection

La Cinémathèque française

Paris from 08 to 13 June 2022 Short and feature films from the 2022 selection

Cinéma Les Variétés

Cinéma La Baleine Marseille from 10 to 16 June 2022 Feature films from the 2022 selection

Mexico

Morelia International Film festival Morelia From 22 to 29 October 2022 Feature films from the 2022 selection

The Team

Selection Committees

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

Ava Cahen - Artistic Director of La Semaine de la Critique

Feature films

Miquel Escudero Diéguez (Sofilm) Pauline Mallet (Sorociné) Marilou Duponchel (Les Inrockuptibles) Bruno Icher (Cahiers du Cinéma) Frédéric Mercier (Le Cercle Canal+)

Short Films

Farah Clémentine Dramani-Issifou (Frenchmania) Thomas Fouet (Les Fiches du cinéma) Damien Leblanc (Première) Marie-Pauline Mollaret (Écran Noir)

The Team of the 61st Semaine de la Critique

Program Manager

Press Agent

Head of Communication

Head of Film Department

Film Department (short films) Head of Administration

Community Manager Head of Operations Operations Officer Sponsoring Thomas Rosso assisted by Tom Francke Dany de Seille assisted by Noor Abdou Xavier Mondoloni assisted by Marie Palaffre Hélène Auclaire assisted by Garance Targowla Rémi Bigot Marion Dubois-Daras assisted by Rose Merville Victoria Gomis George Idakis Kenza Manach Bernadette Icovic

Partners of the 61st Semaine de la Critique

La Semaine de la Critique is organized by the **French Union of Film Critics**.

La Semaine de la Critique wishes to thanks all the institutional and private partners who support its 61st édition.

Institutional Partners

CNC (Centre National du Cinéma et de l'image animée) Région SUD (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur) Région Île-de-France Conseil Départemental 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)

With the support of Le Mont Saint-Michel Ficam

Technical Partners 2AVI CST Panavision

Official Partners

French Touch Leitz & Leica Fondation Louis Roederer Fondation Gan pour le Cinéma Ciné+ Nespresso Office franco-allemand pour la Jeunesse Festival International de Cine de Morelia Canal+ La Cinémathèque française RFI (Radio France Internationale)



For the eleventh year in a row, *Nespresso* will host La Semaine de la Critique's guests on its beach. Meet the film's crews during the breakfasts of La Semaine, every morning from 9:30 am to 11:00 am on the Plage *Nespresso*.