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SEMAINE
DE LA CRITIQUE
CANNES 2026

13 - 21 MAI

Avec le
soutien de

ami alexandre mattiussi

SONY



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Introduction to the feature films selection

The 65th Semaine de la Critique by its Artistic Director, Ava Cahen

A breath of fresh air sweeps across the poster of the 65th Semaine de la Critique. Happy and radiant, Manon Clavel and Makita Samba – the stars in **Alexe Poukine's *Kika*** – drive together towards their future. A word dear to La Semaine de la Critique, whose mission is to reveal emerging filmmakers and actors, and support them as they make their promising first steps.

The jury

The jury for this 65th edition will be revealed shortly. They will award three prizes:

- the Sony Discovery Prize for short film
- the Louis Roederer Foundation Rising Star Award
- La Semaine de la Critique's Ami Paris Grand Prize

Some figures

From the 1,050 feature films and 2,400 short films we have watched, 11 feature films and 13 short films have been selected.

The short film selection will be announced on **April 15th**.

Opening film

For the first time, La Semaine de la Critique will open with an animated film. ***In Waves***, French-Vietnamese director **Phuong Mai Nguyen's** first feature film, is the adaptation of AJ Dungo's graphic novel. A stirring love story between a young male skater and a young female surfer as illness puts them to the test. Hand in hand, with their friends' support, they face adversity and never give in to the tide of sorrow. A luminous melodrama that unfolds majestically under the pink-and-blue California sky. French voices by Lyna Khoudri, Rio Vega, Paul Kircher, and Birane Ba. English voices by Will Sharpe and Stephanie Hsu.

Two special screenings for two singular French films

Stonewall, **Julien Gaspar-Oliveri's** first feature film, is an intimate drama about a brother and sister left to fend for themselves. When their father is released from prison, traumas and secrets suddenly resurface, shattering the sibling dynamics. The frame tightens, the breath shortens, and the heart clenches. The mise-en-scène conveys the anxiety triggered by the father's return. A powerful cinematic gesture, a razor-sharp script, and performances that send chills down your spine. Starring Bastien Bouillon alongside breakout talents Diego Murgia and Romane Fringeli.

Flesh and Fuel, **Pierre Le Gall's** first feature film, is the irresistible love story between two lorry drivers who meet randomly one night and fall head over heels in love. Putting up with impossible working hours and long stretches on the road, Etienne and Bartosz look for ways to keep the spark of this fresh relationship alive despite the distance. Pierre Le Gall brilliantly revisits the romantic comedy-drama genre and wins us over with the charm of both his lead and supporting characters. Starring the stunning Alexis Manenti and Julian Świeżewski.

7 feature films in competition, including 5 first feature films and 2 second feature films

A Girl Unknown, Chinese director **ZOU Jing**'s first feature film, is a young Chinese woman's searing quest for identity, split between childhood and adolescence and between three families. This intimate story immerses us in the plight of abandoned young girls in China between the years 1980s and 2000s. Remarkably directed, the film delicately explores the stigma of such trauma through three defining chapters in the life of its heroine.

The Station, Yemeni-Scottish director **Sara Ishaq**'s first narrative feature film, is set in a nameless village torn apart by civil war. The only place where women can gather in peace is the petrol station run by Layal. A sisterhood where they smoke hookah in secret and where the only man allowed is the boss' younger brother. Part drama, part fable, the film surprises by its vitality, shifts in tone, and quirky interludes. Taking unexpected turns, it is a tale of camaraderie, empowerment, and women's resistance to an authoritarian regime.

Dua, Kosovar director **Blerta Basholli**'s second feature film, is named after its heroine. A 13-year-old girl's routine and family life are upended as the conflict between Kosovo and Serbia intensifies. The film deftly shifts from a coming-of-age story to a drama, and subtly portrays the repercussions of war on the formation of the self, especially during adolescence.

Six Months in a Pink and Blue Building is Mexican director **Bruno Santamaría Razo**'s first narrative feature. In this novelistic family drama, the hero summons his childhood memories as he faces the mystery of his father's illness. The director takes us back to the 90s, a time when HIV awareness was still fragile and prejudice persisted. A film adorned with warm colours that celebrates love and childhood and gracefully plays with home movie conventions.

La Gradiva, first film by French director **Marine Atlan**, follows a group of high school students on a trip to Pompeii with their Latin teacher. In this city steeped in myths and sulfur, teenagers and adults succumb to their emotions and desires, until they spill over. Breathtakingly beautiful, this ensemble piece accurately captures the beliefs and uncertainties of a

highly sensitive generation. Surrounded by a fantastic young cast, Antonia Buresi is incandescent.

Tin Castle, French-Irish director **Alexander Murphy**'s second documentary feature, portrays a large family living in a battered trailer by the roadside. Life unfolds with the seasons, between the wild freedom of the surrounding fields where the children play and the pressures of normative society that creeps up on the older children. Frame after frame, it is a testament to the art of chronicle filmmaking as a delicate and personal form of expression. An ode to Irish Travellers and their way of life.

Viva, Spanish director **Aina Clotet**'s first feature film, is a bittersweet comedy set in a Catalonia suffocating under extreme drought. Nora has just recovered from breast cancer and begins to rethink her personal and professional life in light of this rebirth and the perspectives it opens up. A fiercely endearing character, she grapples with her dilemmas and aspirations as the heatwave brings on hallucinations. The director, who also stars in the lead role, attends to every single detail of this vivid portrait of a woman.

Closing Film


To close the 2026 edition of La Semaine de la Critique, **Goodbye Cruel World**, French director **Félix de Givry**'s first feature film, is a realistic tale that strikes a subtle balance between meticulous mise-en-scène and the spontaneous emotions of its 14-year-old protagonist, Otto. Ashamed to have failed his suicide attempt — which he had announced in a letter to his family and classmates — he goes into hiding. At nightfall, he roams the streets of his village until a girl from high school recognises him. Starring Milo Machado-Graner, the revelation of **Anatomy of a Fall**, Jane Beever — two rising stars of French cinema — and featuring Françoise Lebrun's gentle voice as the narrator.

**The 65th edition of La Semaine de la Critique
will take place May 13th - 21st, 2026**

The feature films selection

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

In competition


Al Mahattah (The Station) 
Yemen, Jordan, France, Germany, the Netherlands,
Norway, Qatar | 1h52

Dua
Kosovo, Switzerland, France | 1h40

La Gradiva 
France, Italy | 2h25

Seis meses en el edificio rosa con azul 
(Six Months in a Pink and Blue Building)
Mexico, Denmark, Brazil | 1h44

Tin Castle
Ireland, France | 1h45

Viva (Alive) 
Spain | 1h52

Wu ming nü hai (A Girl Unknown) 
China, France | 2h05

Sara Ishaq

Blerta Basholli

Marine Atlan

Bruno Santamaría Razo

Alexander Murphy


Aina Clotet

ZOU Jing

Special Screenings

Opening Film
In Waves 
France, Belgium | 1h31

Special Screenings

Du Fioul dans les artères 
(Flesh and Fuel)
France, Poland | 1h30

La Frappe (Stonewall) 
France | 1h44

Closing Film
Adieu monde cruel 
(Goodbye Cruel World)
France, Belgium | 1h33

Phuong Mai Nguyen

Pierre Le Gall

Julien Gaspar-Oliveri

Félix de Givry

[Click here to access the online files](#)

Introduction to the short film selection

The 2026 short-film selection holds the mirror up to our times, offering sensitive visions in which hope springs up in all directions. Intimate, unsettling, singular, gentle, and sharp, the ten films in competition bear witness to our imploding society without ever giving in.

Nafron confronts reality and transfigures it through fiction. Set in Syria ravaged by the fall of Bashar al-Assad, **Daoud Alabdulaa** captures an apocalyptic stroll in an abandoned city where, in the aftermath of the trauma, everything is to be rebuilt.

What can be done with devastated landscapes? **Visit into irradiated land** offers another answer, following a guided tour through a village struck by nuclear disaster. Through animation that vibrates along with the story, **Anne-Sophie Girault** crafts a haunting dystopia.

Some films also bring us back to our roots: **Class Photo** paints the melancholic portrait of two thirty-somethings as they revisit their childhood school. **Arnas Balčiūnas** brings his remarkable sense of composition to these two characters in search of connection.

Berthold Wahjudi's « Vaterland » or A Bule Named Yanto is also a return to one's origins as a quest for identity. In this bittersweet story, we follow our protagonist from a German train to the discovery of his Indonesian background.

Childhood is a fertile ground for storytelling. In **City of Owls**, a spellbinding metaphorical fable, director **Zhenia Kazankina** turns power outages into fantastical explorations of a night where anything can happen.

In **Man'mi**, tales offer refuge to a young girl who witnesses her mother's struggles, unable to help. **Aude N'Guessan Forget** weaves a gentle narrative in which the dull thump of systemic racism can be heard.

Other works promise complete disconnection; **Adgwa-Ata** is a hallucinatory animated journey into the heart of female tribes in an imaginary jungle. **Zsuzsana Kreif** crafts a pop satire, a dazzling blend of the trivial and the divine.

What Do You Seek in the Dark? is just as mad, with its ghostly cinema turned into a gay cruising spot. **Tossaphon Riantong** pays tribute to the history of cinema and blows it up through characters driven by red-hot desire.

Skinny Boots teems with pickpockets and botched scams. Set in a Montreal in overdrive, **Romain F. Dubois's** story about transmission is as delightful as it is burlesque. Finally, director **Sarra Ryma** introduces another irresistible duo. In **What Do the Maknines Dream Of**, two odd birds wander through Algiers where poetry brushes up against disenchantment.

The special screening extends this momentum, moving between destructive impulses and vital forces. In **The Sentinel**, Nahuel Pérez Biscayart plays a disillusioned soldier supported by Éric Cantona. **Ali Cherri** grants him a moment out of time, in a daily life drained of meaning. This solitude finds an echo in that of the young women in **I Think You Should Be Here**. **Elie Grappe** and **Anna-Marija Adomaitytė** explore life under the rule of algorithms in this documentary, shaped by a keen sense of movement. To conclude, **Laïs Decaster** invites us into the intimacy of a living room to follow the emotional rollercoaster that is **Love Story**. A chronicle of love and friendship, intoxicating in its verve and generosity.

Through this selection, La Semaine de la Critique reasserts its desire to discover new talents and to support them beyond these films. The filmmakers will have the opportunity to join the Next Step programme towards making their first feature film.

The short film selection

13 short films, 10 in competition and 3 in special screening, selected among 2 340 submitted films

In competition

Adgwa-Ata

Hungary, France | 15'

À Quoi rêvent les Maknines

(What Do the Maknines Dream Of)

Algeria, France | 22'

City of Owls

France, Germany, Italy | 13'

Klasės Nuotrauka (Class Photo)

Lithuania | 17'

Man'mi

France | 24'

نورفن (Nafron)

Syria, Germany | 14'

Skinny Bottines (Skinny Boots)

Canada | 19'

Zsuzsanna Kreif

Sarra Ryma

Zhenia Kazankina

Arnas Balčiūnas

Aude N'Guessan Forget

Daood Alabdulaa

Romain F. Dubois

« Vaterland » oder Ein Bule Namens Yanto (« Vaterland » or A Bule Named Yanto)

Germany, Indonesia | 25'

Visite en terre irradiée

(Visit into irradiated land)

France | 19'

ทิวไร? (What do you seek in the dark?)

Thailand | 19'

Special screening

I think you should be here

Switzerland, France | 12'

La Sentinelle (The Sentinel)

France | 29'

Love Story

France | 42'

Berthold Wahjudi

Anne-Sophie Girault

Tossaphon Riantong

Elie Grappe et Anna-Marija Adomaitytė

Ali Cherri

Laïs Decaster

[Click here to access the online files](#)

La Semaine de la Critique Awards

Prizes awarded by the jury of La Semaine de la Critique

Ami Paris Grand Prize

The Ami Paris Grand Prize is awarded by the jury of La Semaine de la Critique to one of the seven feature films in competition. 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), Omar El Zohairy for *Feathers* (2021), Andrés Ramírez Pulido for *L'Eden* (2022), Amanda Nell Eu for *Tiger Stripes* (2023), Federico Luis for *Simon of the mountain* (2024) and Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke for *A Useful Ghost* (2025).

Sony Discovery Prize for Short Film

The Sony Discovery Prize will be awarded by the jury of La Semaine de la Critique to one of the ten short 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, Wregas Bhanuteja and more recently Laura Ferrés, Jacqueline Lentzou, Qiu Yang, Zou Jing, João Gonzalez, Nans Laborde-Jourdàa, Guil Sela and lastly Randa Maroufi. In 2026, Sony is partner of La Semaine de la Critique and is underlining its commitment to the younger generation of filmmakers and supporting the emergence of new talent. The winning filmmaker will receive an endowment of €4,000.

Louis Roederer Foundation Rising Star Award

For the eighth 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. 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. Lately, Zelda Samson received the award for her role in the movie *Love According to Dalva* in 2022, Jovan Ginic for *Lost Country* in 2023, Ricardo Teodoro for *Baby* in 2024 and Theodore Pellerin for *Nino* in 2025. 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 our 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 38 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 than 220 filmmakers. Corporate Foundation of Groupama Gan Vie, the Gan Foundation is one of the most important private sponsors for French cinema. In 2025, The Gan Foundation Award for Distribution was awarded to Le Pacte, French distributor for *Left-Handed Girl* by Shih-Ching Tsou.

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. Since 2011, the SACD Prize went to: Jeff Nichols for *Take Shelter*, Meni Yaes for *God's Neighbors*, Sébastien Pilote for *Le Démantèlement*, Gaëlle Denis for *Crocodile*, César Augusto Acevedo for *La Tierra y la sombra*, Davy Chou and Claire Maugendre for *Diamond Island*, Léa Mysius for *AVA*, Benedikt Erlingsson & Ólafur Egill Egilsson for *Woman At War*, César Díaz for *Nuestras Madres*. And more recently to Elie Grappe and Raphaëlle Desplechin for *Olga*, Andrés Ramírez Pulido for *La Jauría*, to Iris Kaltenbäck for *Le Ravissement*, to Leonardo Van Dijn & Ruth Becquart, authors of *Julie Keeps Quiet* and in 2025 to Guillermo Galoe & Victor Alonso-Berbel, authors of *Ciudad sin sueño (Sleepless City)*.

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, Manolis Mavris, Evi Kalogiropoulou, Nans Laborde-Jourdàa, Cem Demirer or Xandra Popescu.

Other Awards

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.

The Golden Eye

The Documentary Award, created by the Cannes Film Festival and La Scam, has been awarded since 2015 to a film screened in the Official Selection or in the parallel sections. For two consecutive years, the Golden Eye has been awarded to a documentary presented at La Semaine de la Critique: *The Brink of Dreams* by Nada Riyadh and Ayman El Amir in 2024 (ex aequo) and *Imago* by Deni Oumar Pitsaev in 2025.

Next Step in Cannes



Since 2014, La Semaine de la Critique has been supporting talented short-film directors in making their first feature film through its Next Step programme, designed for filmmakers who have previously presented a short film at La Semaine de la Critique. After presenting their short film in Cannes, they are invited to come to Paris in December to take part in a workshop. Over the course of a week, international consultants will advise them on their script, their film score, and on how to launch their film on the market. It is also an opportunity to explore potential collaborations with French co-producers, sales agents, and distributors during professional meetings in Paris. Since 2022, the collaboration with the Morelia Film Festival has been strengthened by welcoming a Mexican filmmaker to the Next Step programme. During the 2025 edition, a new partnership has been inaugurated with Projeto Paradiso, featuring the invitation of a Brazilian project.

In 12 years, 106 directors from 41 countries have benefitted from the Next Step support programme. We are delighted to see that, so far, 45 features have been made, the latest ones being *Chicas tristes* by Fernanda Tovar, presented at the Berlinale 2026, *Aisha Can't Fly Away* by Morad Mostafa (Un Certain Regard 2025), *The Visitor* by Vytautas KATKUS (Best Director Award at Karlovy Vary 2025), *Don't Let Me Die* by Andrei Epure (Locarno

2025), *Gorgoná* by Evi Kalogiropoulou (Settimana Internazionale della Critica 2025), *Forastera* by Lucía Aleñar Iglesias (Fipresci Prize at Toronto IFF 2025) and *Aro Berría* by Irati Gorostidi Agirretxe (San Sebastian 2025). This year, SOONER joins forces with Next Step to present the Next Step SOONER Prize - which includes a 2,500€ prize and an invitation to the Cannes Film Festival for the director with the most promising feature film project. In 2025, the Next Step Prize was presented to ethiopian filmmaker Beza Hailu Lemma for his project *The Last Tears of the Deceased*. In recent years, the winners have been: *How to Have Sex* by Molly Manning Walker - Un Certain Regard Award 2023, *The Woodcutter Story* by Mikko Myllalathi, selected at La Semaine de la Critique in 2022 and *A Girl Unknown* by ZOU Jing, selected at La Semaine de la Critique this year.

This year's jury members are Carole Scotta, founder of Haut et Court ; Rebecca De Pas, film programmer and curator, notably at the Fondazione Prada Film Fund and the International Film Festival Rotterdam ; Fiorella Moretti, founder and CEO at Luxbox ; Alexandre Hautecoeur, head of marketing at SOONER. The winner will be announced in May at the Cannes Film Festival.

Next Step II

A second workshop dedicated to scriptwriting and music composition

The 2026 edition of Next Step II will be held in October in Corsica, with the support of SACEM. This second - purposefully hybrid - workshop is an opportunity for 7 international filmmakers and 3 composers to meet around the critical stage of rewriting the script.

The residents spend a week in the company of consultants and experts and are encouraged to envision the sound design and music as an integral part of the script.

With the support of **VARIETY**

Next Step Studio

Launched in 2026, in partnership with DW, the Next Step Studio programme will take place each year in a different country and will highlight local cinematography, bringing together eight emerging directors – four local and four international – to co-write and co-direct four 15-minute short

films, which will then be screened during La Semaine de la Critique. In 2026, Indonesia will be in the spotlight, in partnership with KawanKawan Media.



Critique & Création Fund

Support young filmmakers and champion film criticism by becoming a patron of the Critique & Création Fund.

Created in 2023, the Critique and Création Fund is a support scheme to support the French Union of Film Critics' initiatives geared towards the general interest. It is intended to welcome patrons and donors wishing to foster and promote critical thinking among younger generations, and support emerging talents in world cinema.

Education to Film Criticism

2000 PARTICIPANTS

25 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

20 FILM CRITIC WORKSHOPS

La Semaine de la Critique reaffirms its desire to share and pass on knowledge to as many people as possible, in particular through film literacy workshops designed for young audiences. To that end, La Semaine organises a variety of educational programmes throughout the year, and during the Cannes Film Festival, aimed at high school students, apprentices, and secondary school pupils.

These initiatives include screenings of selected short and feature films, encounters with film critiques and members of the Semaine de la Critique selection committees, discussions about film analysis, writing workshops of film criticism, and an introduction to the profession of film critic.

The Franco-German Youth Office

For the twenty-first consecutive year, La Semaine de la Critique, in partnership with the French-German Youth Office (FGYO), is also organising a French-German foundation workshop in film criticism from May 18 to 21, 2026, during the Cannes Film Festival. This workshop brings together twenty French and German high school students from underprivileged schools. Through a series of screenings and writing workshops, this programme aims to foster the exchange of ideas and promote an intercultural dialogue between young people from both countries, thus broadening access to culture and educating younger generations about film and film criticism.

The Île-de-France Region

La Semaine de la Critique organises a one-day workshop in film criticism for the "Lycéens et apprentis au cinéma" [Film for high school students and apprentices] scheme in the Île-de-France region. For many years, this workshop has allowed about thirty high school students to try to write their own feature film that will be screened at La Semaine de la Critique. The workshop is held in Paris in autumn and led by two professional film critics, in collaboration with CIP (Independent Parisian Cinemas).

Among its activities the French Union of Film Critics has been organising foundation courses and training workshops in film criticism since 2019 as part of the Ile-de-France Region's educational programme.

The purpose of this 4-day programme designed for 4 classes of 2 high schools located in the Ile-de-France region, is to learn (acquiring cinematic and journalistic vocabulary, discovering new works), to practise (film criticism writing workshops), and to discover new crafts through meetings and debates over film screenings with industry professionals (film journalists and critics, directors, and producers).

This year, this course is supported by two cinemas: Le Vincennes in Vincennes, and Le Méliès in Montreuil.

SUD / Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region

La Semaine de la Critique, a selection explicitly aimed at cinephiles, has for many years been carrying out cultural outreach programmes in schools in collaboration with the nonprofit Ecrans Sud, inviting 200 high-school students from the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region to its Cannes screenings. Sixty high-school students will also have the opportunity to meet a professional film critic during the Cannes Festival and discuss a film seen at La Semaine de la Critique.

The Departamental Council of les Alpes-Maritimes

For several years, La Semaine de la Critique has been organising an introductory workshop to film criticism for secondary school pupils in the county. Through this programme, 6 secondary school classes, - around 180 pupils - discover short and feature film formats through La Semaine de la Critique's selection, the profession of film critic, and develop their analytical skills.

Mairie de Paris

Since 2025, La Semaine de la Critique organises training workshops in film criticism for secondary school pupils, in collaboration with the City of Paris and "CIP collège" [independent cinemas in Paris that focus on secondary school pupils]. These workshops will take place over 18 half-day sessions, and will be led by journalists and critics from the French Union of Film Critics. Pupils will watch two short films selected by La Semaine de la Critique and sharpen their analytical skills by recording and listening back to their reviews in small groups. Eight classes - nearly 200 pupils - will take part in the programme.

IESA, International School Specialised in Arts Management

For the third consecutive year, IESA and La Semaine de la Critique partner up to offer Master's students in Film, an introductory workshop in film programming and criticism. The workshop will begin at IESA, where the students will discover two short films selected by La Semaine, presented by the short-film coordinator. This first day will prepare them for their experience at the Cannes Film Festival, where they will attend the screening of both short-film programmes and take part in a meeting with international students and the short-film committee coordinator on the beach of La Semaine de la Critique.

Université Côte d'Azur

For the second time, La Semaine de la Critique has partnered up with Université Côte d'Azur - Campus Georges Méliès to organise a week-long introductory course to film criticism designed for third-year BA students in Art, Film and Audiovisual Studies. Led by a professional film critic - also a member of the French Union of Film Critics - this week-long course was the opportunity for students to make their first steps as film critics with the screening of three films selected at La Semaine de la Critique, and to meet film professionals who have worked on those films: illustrators, composers, etc. An introduction to writing reviews but also speaking

about film, as they recorded a radio programme of their reviews.

After this week-long programme, the students will be invited to La Semaine de la Critique during the Cannes Film Festival to discover the feature and short film selections, and to meet international students and the coordinator of the short-film selection committee on the Semaine de la Critique's beach.

Ministère de la Justice

In 2026, La Semaine de la Critique will organize, for the first time, two group screenings at the Villepinte and Beauvais correctional facilities. By bringing people together, these screenings of films selected for Critics' Week and the introduction to film criticism provide an opportunity to share a positive collective experience, foster social connections, and spark discussions.

International Festival of Film School Productions

In 2026, the city of Cannes is launching the International Festival of Film School Productions (FIFEC) in partnership with the Poitiers Film Festival, in which La Semaine was invited to participate. La Semaine de la Critique will screen the winning short film of the French Critics' Discovery Prize at the latest Poitiers Film festival. This screening - for students and the general public - will be presented by a professional film critic, member of the Semaine de la Critique short-film selection committee.

Esquirol Saint-Maurice Hospital

La Semaine de la Critique is opening its film literacy and film criticism workshops to patients and caregivers at Esquirol Saint-Maurice Hospital across three units: psychiatry, child psychiatry, and pediatric rehabilitation. Through this film criticism awareness program, patients and caregivers have the opportunity to discover short films selected for La Semaine de la Critique, accompanied by a film critic.

La Semaine de la Critique on Tour

Reruns of the 2026 selection

Every year, La Semaine de la Critique tours its selection in France and abroad. The goal is to promote the talents discovered in Cannes to a wider audience, and to foster the distribution of those films throughout the world. In 2026, La Semaine de la Critique will travel throughout the world, and - for the seventh consecutive year - will be displayed front and center on FestivalScope, for film lovers throughout the world.

FestivalScope (virtual screening)

May 21st to 27th, 2026

La Semaine de la Critique bolsters its commitment to the wider audience by offering 500 tickets for each film to spectators throughout the world so they may discover the world premiere of the short films competing during the 63rd Semaine de la Critique. The films will be made accessible so for free, subtitled in French or in English, on FestivalScope (www.festivalscope.com) May 21st to 27th, 2026, the day after the awards ceremony in Cannes.

FRANCE

La Cinémathèque française

Paris

June 3rd - 8th, 2026

2026 Feature film and short film selections

Les Variétés & La Baleine Cinema

Marseille

June 5th - 9th, 2026

2026 Feature film selection

Cinémathèque de Corse

Casa di Lume di Corsica

Porto Vecchio

Autumn, 2026

2026 Feature film and short film selections

TropiqueAtrium - Scène Nationale

6 rue Jacques Cazotte, Fort-de-France 97200 Martinique

October 2026

Partial 2026 programme

MEXICO

Morelia International Film Festival

Morelia

October 16th - 25th, 2026

2026 Feature film selection

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Czechian Cinémathèque in Prague

Prague

Autumn, 2026

2026 Short-film selection

LEBANON

Metropolis Cinema

Beirut

Winter, 2026

Partial 2026 programme

The Team

Selection Committees

All the members 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

Chloé Caye (Culture aux Trousses, Le Cercle)
Marilou Duponchel (Inrockuptibles)
Laurent Hérin (Cinetica)
Laura Pertuy (Arte Magazine, Trois Couleurs)
Gautier Roos (Chaos Reign, So Film)

Short films

Coordinator:

Léo Ortuno (Arte, So Film)

Esther Brejon (Sorociné, Rockyrama)
Grégory Coutaut (Le Polyester)
Raphaëlle Pireyre (Trois Couleurs, Bref)
Tristan Brossat (Sofilm)

The team of the 65th Semaine de la critique

Program Manager
Coordination Officer

Press Agent

Head of communication

Community Manager - Communication
Head of the Film Department

In charge of short films
Head of Administration

Production supervisor
Beach Production and
Coordination Manager
Sponsoring
Technical Manager

Thomas Rosso
Olivia Reisner
assisted by Emma Champenois
Dany de Seille
assisted by Noémie Trouvé
Robin Pierre
assisted by Angélique Corbes
Clara Adam
Rémi Bigot
assisted by Laïla Vignon
Juliette Canon
Marion Dubois-Daras
assisted by Marie Jacquin
Lucie Auréjac
Coline Cambois

Bernadette Icovic
Stéphane Imari

Partners of the 65th 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 thank all the institutional and private partners who support its 65th edition.

Institutional Partners

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

Institut français

Région SUD (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur)

Région Île-de-France

Conseil Départemental des Alpes-Maritimes

Ville de Cannes

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)

La Scam (Société Civile des Auteurs Multimédia)

Official Partners

Ami Paris

SONY

Fondation Louis Roederer

Fondation Gan pour le Cinéma

La French Touch

Ciné+ OCS

Office franco-allemand pour la Jeunesse

Festival International de Cine de Morelia

CCAS (Caisse Centrale d'Activités Sociales)

Canal+

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Crazy Monday Gin

Nona Drinks

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HÔTEL & PLAGE
Croisette Beach



MGALLERY CANNES

Plage de la Semaine de la Critique - Croisette Beach

For the third year, MGallery Croisette Beach will host La Semaine de la Critique's guests.

The Kiosque

La Semaine de la Critique has initiated the Kiosque, which aims to support the press while promoting the current edition's selection.

The Kiosque is activated during the 65th edition of Semaine de la Critique, from May 13 to 21.

It is both physical and digital, to enable pure players and/or digital versions of paper magazines that don't have the budget for an extra Cannes print run to feature. The media concerned are promoted in turn in the daily Cannes Newsletter sent to all Semaine de la Critique contacts (press, public and private institutions, professionals).

Avoir Alire

Bande à part

Boxoffice Pro

Bref

Les Cahiers du Cinéma

Cinemateaser

Culturopoing

Les Fiches du Cinéma

Le Film Français

Le Film Français Daily Cannes

FrenchMania

Gala Croisette

Les Inrocks

Letterboxd

Le Nouvel Obs

Le Polyester

Première

La Septième Obsession

Trois couleurs

Tsunami

Variety



65° SEMAINE
DE LA CRITIQUE
CANNES 2026