



56

SEMAINE
DE LA CRITIQUE
CANNES 2017

18 - 26 MAI

PRESS KIT



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INTRODUCTION TO THE 2017 SELECTION

BY CHARLES TESSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The poster of the 56th Semaine de la Critique seizes the emotion of a film crew at the premiere of their film. The director, Julia Ducournau, and the main actress, Garance Marillier, share their joy for the warm welcome of *Raw*, presented in Competition last year. For this 56th edition, the Jury President will be the Brazilian director Kleber Mendonça Filho, author of the coup de cœur film *Aquarius*. Will also be part of the jury this year Niels Schneider, Diana Bustamante Escobar, Hania Mroué and Eric Kohn.

Some numbers

We have received 1700 short films and we have watched 1250 feature films. Among the 11 features selected, 6 are first films and 5 are second films.

10 short films in competition

The selection committee headed by Léo Soesanto has selected 10 films. *Selva* by Sofía Quirós Ubeda is a poetic tale, sensually gracious and magically charming. In the intriguing *Möbius* by Sam Kuhn, the voice of a mutant body is an invitation for a journey. *Real Gods Require Blood* by Moin Hussain is another invite for a journey, where fears transform the poison of daily life. Two outlooks on workers' environment, with *Jodilerks Dela Cruz, Employee of the Month* by Carlo Francisco Manatad, fanciful and touchingly inventive, and *Los Desheredados* by Laura Ferrés and its very moving tenderness. Two perspectives on the world, with *Ela - Skice na Pozegnanie (Ela - Sketches on a Departure)* by Oliver Adam Kusio, a subtle and delicate breakaway drama on the backdrop of immigration issues and the impressive *Najpiękniejsze fajerwerki ever (The Best Fireworks Ever)* by Aleksandra Terpinska, a beautiful film about commitment to both love and politics, on a doomsday background. Last but not least, the electric and eclectic *TESLA : LUMIÈRE MONDIALE* by the Canadian Matthew Rankin joyfully combines animation and real-life footage.

There are two French films in competition. A lot of thrill with the poignant and heartbreaking *Les enfants partent à l'aube (Children Leave at Dawn)* by Manon Coubia, starring Aurélia Petit. In the utterly elegant *Le Visage* by Salvatore Lista, the muse Solène Rigot is an inspiration for both the love for art and the passion for the game.

La Semaine de la Critique will continue to accompany these 10 talents by offering them to be part of Next Step a training and supporting workshop which sets the path to feature film. By the way, one of the first feature films supported through this scheme has just been selected at the Directors' Fortnight. The film is *A Ciambra* by Jonas Carpignano, discovered by La Semaine de la Critique with his homonymous short film and then with his first feature-length, *Mediterranea*.

Talking about feature films, there will be 3 highlights besides the competition, with 3 special screenings including the Opening film: the latest feature by the two Italian directors Fabio Grassadonia and Antonio Piazza, winners of the Nespresso Grand Prize with *Salvo*, at the 2013 Semaine de la Critique.

Sicilian Ghost Story commingles the myths of *Romeo and Juliet* and of the present day Sicilian mafia with powerful maestria. Guided by her visions, a young girl refuses to cope

with the disappearance of her lover and strives to break the prevailing omerta. Fabio Grassadonia and Antonio Piazza will open La Semaine de la Critique with this staggering crossover between cinema genres, combining politics, fantasy and terrible teen love.

In his debut feature *Petit Paysan* (*Bloody Milk*), Hubert Charuel places the camera at the heart of rural surroundings. Pierre, in his thirties, is a farmer. His life revolves around his farm, his cows, until misfortune strikes. The thriller is carried by the extraordinary Swann Arlaud, whose intense performance keeps the spectator in suspense. Profoundly humanistic, sometimes funny, the film plunges us in the everyday life of an endangered profession.

Une vie violente (*A Violent Life*), the second feature film by Thierry de Peretti, is an immersion into the political and historical dimension of Corsica. The compelling story follows Stéphane's cautionary path, leading from political radicalization to clandestinity and eventually to his being banished from the community. A gangster and Mafia film, remarkably performed by non-actors who instil a mind-blowing realism.

7 feature films in competition

La familia, debut feature by Gustavo Rondón Córdova, is a captivating narrative of growing up and of learning between a father and his son who flee their highly dangerous suburb. In a context of continuous tension, father and son get to know each other during their urban wanderings across the city of Caracas which has never been filmed like that before. A revelation, a poignant film on paternal transfer of knowledge.

Los Perros is the second feature-length by the Chilean filmmaker Marcela Said. Through a surprising and unpredictable female protagonist, the film settles accounts with the remains of the Pinochet dictatorship and the prevailing hypocrisy. Courageous, upsetting, bold, the film confirms its director's talent, following her acclaimed *The Summer of Flying Fish*.

Oh Lucy!, first film by the Japanese director Atsuko Hiranayagi, is a delicious bitter-sweet comedy about hearts hesitating between Japan and the United States. Three Japanese women, an American friend and a Japanese one join hands in this awkward trip. It is also a privilege to meet again with actor Josh Hartnett, along with wonderful actresses and the impressive Yakusho Kôji, who played in *The Eel* by Imamura, Palme d'or in 1997.

In his second film, *Gabriel e a montanha* (*Gabriel and the Mountain*), the Brazilian director Fellipe Gamarano Barbosa captures, after *Casa Grande*, a young idealist's journey to Africa, as he believes his commitment and sense of charity able to change the world. Despite the spectacular landscapes and the generous and sympathetic encounters, Gabriel stays trapped in his certainties as civilized man.

As for the French films, after *Raw* in last year's competition, you chose to promote another young director.

Ava is a marvellously luminous film, both sensual and lyrical, a combination of sweet feeling and joyful fancy. In her debut feature, Léa Mysius draws the portrait of our era, that of a generation facing the fear of a bleak future. Embodied by the fascinating actress Noée Abita, the heroin learns how to contain her personal demons, to take up

challenges, she finds love and eventually confronts life.

For the first time in its history, a documentary and an animation film are presented in the competition of La Semaine de la Critique.

In his first film *Tehran Taboo*, Ali Soozandeh depicts the mind-boggling and unconceivable picture of life in Teheran, a city where moral and sexual freedom are banished. The animation medium gives the necessary freedom to explore the forbidden side of Iran. Deeply humanistic, the film criticizes with both tenderness and humour the hypocrisy and the contradictions inherent in the system.

Makala, the second documentary film by Emmanuel Gras, the acclaimed director of *Bovines*, takes place in Congo, in the intimacy of a man's life and his commitment to his trade and family. The story is retraced with an overwhelming amplitude and is magnificently narrated, retrieving the accurate value to the working effort and to the meaning of existence.

Last but not least, a special screening is dedicated to short films, just like last year.

The guiding principle gathering these three short films could be a lover's desire : fragments.

After School Knife Fight by Caroline Poggi and Jonathan Vinel tells the story of two young adults who are reluctant to saying goodbye. Carlos Conceição, whose previous short film, *Boa Noite Cinderela*, was in the competition of the 2014 Semaine de la Critique, comes back with *Coelho Mau (Bad Bunny)*, where love's enchantments are the gifts of imagination. After his unforgettable *Les Rencontres d'après minuit* presented as a special screening at the 2014 Semaine de la Critique, Yann Gonzalez, cuddles the hearts in *Les Îles (Islands)*, an erotic love maze with desire for only guide.

Closing film

The last highlight of this 56th edition, the closing film, a feature-length in special screening, will be honouring the love for cinema, starring a legendary actor.

The closing film of the 56th Semaine de la Critique is *Brigsby Bear*, a delightful debut feature by the American Dave McCary, taking us back to childhood on a road paved with dreams made of films. In a both light and tender tone, the film tells the mishaps of a teenager who grew up in a cinema bubble built up by his grandfather, embodied by Mark Hamill, the protagonist of *Star Wars*. A wonderful film about the love for cinema and the art of standing against being parted from it, for the sake of those who generated this kind of love.

The 10 short films and the 7 feature films in competition will be submitted to the attentive eye of the Jury President of La Semaine de la Critique, the Brazilian director Kleber Mendonça Filho, who will award the Nespresso Grand Prize and the France 4 Visionary Award for feature films and the The Leica Cine Discovery Prize for short films.

La Semaine de la Critique will take place in Cannes, between May 18th and May 26th.

Interview by Charlotte Lipinska, journalist and film critic

THE 2017 SELECTION

11 feature films, 7 in competition and 4 in special screenings, selected among
1250 viewed films

13 short films, 10 in competition and 3 in special screening, selected among
1700 viewed films

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Opening film

Sicilian Ghost Story

Fabio Grassadonia & Antonio Piazza 2nd

Feature films special screenings

Petit Paysan (Bloody Milk)

Hubert Charuel 1st

Une vie violente (A Violent Life)

Thierry de Peretti 2nd

Short films special screening

After School Knife Fight

Caroline Poggi & Jonathan Vinel

Coelho Mau (Bad Bunny)

Carlos Conceição

Les Îles (Islands)

Yann Gonzalez

Closing film

Brigsby Bear

Dave McCary 1st

FEATURE FILMS IN COMPETITION

Ava

Léa Mysius 1st

La familia

Gustavo Rondón Córdova 1st

Gabriel e a montanha (Gabriel and the Mountain)

Fellipe Gamarano Barbosa 2nd

Makala

Emmanuel Gras 2nd

Oh Lucy!

Atsuko Hirayanagi 1st

Los Perros

Marcela Said 2nd

Tehran Taboo

Ali Soozandeh 1st

SHORT FILMS IN COMPETITION

Los Desheredados

Laura Ferrés

Ela - Szkice na Pozegnanie (Ela - Sketches on a Departure)

Oliver Adam Kusio

Les enfants partent à l'aube (Children Leave at Dawn)

Manon Coubia

Jodilerks Dela Cruz, Employee of the Month

Carlo Francisco Manatad

Möbius

Sam Kuhn

Najpiękniejsze fajerwerki ever (The Best Fireworks Ever)

Aleksandra Terpińska

Real Gods Require Blood

Moin Hussain

Selva

Sofía Quirós Ubeda

TESLA : LUMIÈRE MONDIALE

Matthew Rankin

Le Visage (Exposure)

Salvatore Lista

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

OPENING FILM

Sicilian Ghost Story by Fabio Grassadonia & Antonio Piazza

2017 | World Premiere | 2h02 | Italy / France

In a little Sicilian village at the edge of a forest, Giuseppe, a boy of 13, vanishes. Luna, his classmate who loves him, refuses to accept his mysterious disappearance. She rebels against the silence and complicity that surround her, and to find him she descends into the dark world which has swallowed him up and which has a lake as its mysterious entrance. Only their indestructible love will be able to bring her back along.

With : Julia Jedlikowska, Gaetano Fernandez, Corinne Musallari, Vincenzo Amato, Sabine Timoteo, Filippo Luna, Lorenzo Curcio, Andrea Falzone, Federico Finocchiaro

Production : INDIGO FILM, Nicola Giuliano - CRISTALDI PICS, Massimo Cristaldi - RAI CINEMA, Bianca Giordano

Co-production : MACT PRODUCTIONS, Antoine de Clermont Tonnerre

Co-production : VENTURA FILM, Elda Guidinetti & Andres Pfaeffli

Distribution : JOUR2FÊTE, Sarah Chazelle & Etienne Ollagnier

Sales : THE MATCH FACTORY GMBH, Zsuzsi Bankuti & Carolina Jessula

French press : RENDEZ-VOUS, Viviana Andriani (viviana@rv-press.com) & Aurélie Dard (aurelie@rv-press.com)

International press : LE PUBLIC SYSTEME CINEMA, Céline Petit

FEATURE FILMS SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Petit Paysan (Bloody Milk) by Hubert Charuel

2017 | World premiere | 1h30 | France

Pierre, in his thirties, is a breeder of dairy cattle. His life revolves around his farm, his veterinarian sister and his parents whose livestock he took over. As the first cases of a zoonotic outbreak are reported in France, Pierre discovers that one of his animals is infected. He cannot cope with the perspective of losing the whole herd. They are everything he has and he will do whatever it takes to save them.

Swann Arlaud, Sara Giraudeau, Bouli Lanners, Isabelle Candelier, Valentin Lespinasse

Production : DOMINO FILMS, Stéphanie Bermann (stephanie@dominofilms.fr) & Alexis Dulguerian (alexis@dominofilms.fr)

Co-production : FRANCE 2 CINÉMA, Valérie Boyer

Distribution : PYRAMIDE, Eric Lagesse & Roxane Arnold

Sales : PYRAMIDE, Agathe Valentin

Une vie violente (A Violent Life) by Thierry de Peretti

2017 | World Premiere | 1h47 | France

Despite the life threat hanging over his head, Stéphane decides to go back to Corsica for the funeral of a childhood friend, murdered the day before. On this occasion, the chain of events which made him, the learned petit-bourgeois from Bastia, shift from delinquency to political radicalization and then to clandestinity, come back to his mind.

With : Jean Michelangeli, Henri-Noël Tabary, Cédric Appietto, Marie-Pierre Nouveau, Délia Sepulcre-Nativi
Dominique Colombani, Paul Garatte, Jean-Étienne Brat, Anaïs Lechiara

Production : LES FILMS VELVET, Frédéric Jouve & Marie Lecoq

Co-production : STANLEY WHITE, Jean-Etienne Brat

Co-production : ARTE FRANCE CINÉMA, Olivier Père & Rémi Burah

Distribution : PYRAMIDE DISTRIBUTION, Éric Lagesse & Roxane Arnold

Sales : PYRAMIDE INTERNATIONAL, Agathe Valentin

French Press : GUERRAR AND CO, François Hassan Guerrar (guerrar.contact@gmail.com)

SHORT FILMS SPECIAL SCREENINGS

After School Knife Fight by Caroline Poggi & Jonathan Vinel

2017 | World premiere | 21' | France

Laëtitia, Roca, Nico and Naël are in a band. As per usual, they meet late afternoon before rehearsal in a vacant lot. The group will soon no longer exist; they will be forced to disband because Laëtitia is moving away to study. This is the story of four young adults who do not want to say good-bye.

With : Lucas Doméjean, Nicolas Mias, Pablo Cobo, Marylou Mayniel

Production : ECCE FILMS, Emmanuel Chaumet

Distribution / Sales : ECCE FILMS, Louise Rinaldi (rinaldi@eccefilms.fr)

Coelho Mau (Bad Bunny) by Carlos Conceição

2016 | World premiere | 33' | Portugal / France

Wayward boy punishes his mother's lover. Beauty and horror fondle each other. Young gods callously abjure conventional morality. Death goes whoring in child's guise.

With : João Arrais, Julia Palha, Matthieu Charneau, Carla Maciel

Production : PRIMEIRA IDADE, Pedro Fernandes Duarte - EPICENTRE FILMS, Daniel Chabannes & Corentin Sénéchal

Co-production : EPICENTRE FILMS, Daniel Chabannes & Corentin Sénéchal

Distribution : EPICENTRE FILMS, Daniel Chabannes & Corentin Sénéchal

Sales : AGENCIA DA CURTA METRAGEM, Salette Ramalho

French press : EPICENTRE FILMS, Daniel Chabannes (daniel@epicentrefilms.com) & Corentin Sénéchal (corentin@epicentrefilms.com)

International press : PRIMEIRA IDADE, Pedro Fernandes Duarte (Pedro@primeira-idade.pt)

Les Îles (Islands) by Yann Gonzalez
2017 | World premiere | 23' | France

Characters wander through an erotic maze of love and desire.

With : Sarah-Megan Allouch, Thomas Ducasse, Alphonse Maitrepierre, Mathilde Mennetrier, Romain Merle, Simon Thiébaud

Production : ECCE FILMS, Emmanuel Chaumet

Co-production : Yann Gonzalez

Distribution / Sales : ECCE FILMS, Louise Rinaldi

French press : MAKNA PRESSE, Chloé Lorenzi (info@makna-presse.com)

CLOSING FILM

Brigsby Bear by Dave McCary
2017 | International Premiere | 1h37 | USA

Brigsby Bear Adventures is a children's TV show produced for an audience of one: James (Kyle Mooney). When the show abruptly ends, James's life changes forever. He sets out to finish the story himself and must learn to cope with the realities of a new world that he knows nothing about.

With : Kyle Mooney, Claire Danes, Mark Hamill, Greg Kinnear, Andy Samberg, Matt Walsh, Michaela Watkins

Production : 3311 PRODUCTIONS, Jennifer Dana

Co-production : YL PICTURES, Phil Hoelting & Al Di

Distribution : SONY PICTURES CLASSICS, Sal Ladestro

Presse française et internationale : PR WORKS INTERNATIONAL, Alyson Dewar
(Brigsbybear@prworksinternational.com)

Ava by Léa Mysius

2017 | World premiere | 1h45 | France

Ava, 13, is spending the summer on the Atlantic coast when she learns that she will lose her sight sooner than expected. Her mother decides to act as if everything were normal so as to spend their best summer ever. Ava confronts the problem in her own way. She steals a big black dog that belongs to a young man on the run...

With : Noée Abita, Laure Calamy, Juan Cano, Tamara Cano, Daouda Diakhate, Baptiste Archimbaud, Franck Beckmann, Ismaël Capelot, Valentine Cadic

Production : F COMME FILM, Jean-Louis Livi - TROIS BRIGANDS PRODUCTIONS, Fanny Yvonnet

Co-production : ARTE FRANCE CINÉMA, Olivier Père & Rémi Burah

Distribution : BAC FILMS, Christian Monschauer

Sales : BAC FILMS, Gilles Sousa

French press : GUERRAR AND CO, François Hassan Guerrar (guerrar.contact@gmail.com), assisté de Camille Trubuil

La familia by Gustavo Rondón Córdova

2017 | World premiere | 1h22 | Venezuela / Chile / Norway

Twelve-year-old Pedro roams the streets with his friends, raised by the violent urban atmosphere around him in a working class district of Caracas.

After Pedro seriously injures another boy in a rough game of play, single father Andrés decides they must flee to hide.

Andrés will realize he is a father incapable of controlling his own teenage son, but their situation will bring them closer than they have ever been.

With : Giovanni García, Reggie Reyes

Production : LA PANDILLA PRODUCCIONES, Natalia Machado & Marianela Illas

Co-production : CINE CERCANO, Rubén Sierra Salles

Co-production : FACTOR RH, Rodolfo Cova

Co-production : ÁVILA FILMS, Álvaro De La Barra

Co-production : DHF, Dag Hoel

Sales : CELLULOID DREAMS, Hengameh Panahi

International press : FILM PRESS PLUS, Richard Lormand (intlpressIT@aol.com)

Gabriel e a montanha (Gabriel and the Mountain) by Fellipe Gamarano Barbosa

2017 | World Premiere | 2h07 | Brazil / France

Before entering a prestigious American university, Gabriel Buchmann decided to travel the world for one year. After ten months on the road with his backpack full of dreams, immersed at the heart of various countries, he arrived in Kenya determined to discover the African continent. Until he reached the top of Mount Mulanje, Malawi, his final destination.

With : João Pedro Zappa, Caroline Abras, Alex Alembe, Leonard Siampala, John Goodluck, Rashidi Athuman, Rhosinah Sekeleti, Luke Mpata, Lewis Gadson

Production : TV ZERO, Rodrigo Letier - DAMNED FILMS, Yohann Cornu

Co-production : ARTE FRANCE CINÉMA, Olivier Père & Rémi Burah

Co-production : CANAL BRASIL

Distribution : VERSION ORIGINALE CONDOR, Julie Tardit

Sales : FILMS BOUTIQUE

French press : Laurence Granec & Betty Bousquet (presse@granecoffice.com)

International press : Claudia Tomassini (claudia@claudiatomassini.com)

Makala by Emmanuel Gras

2017 | World Premiere | 1h36 | France

In Congo, a young peasant dreams of a better future for his loved ones. His only wealth lies in the strength of his arms, the bushland around him and his strong will. Set out on dangerous and exhausting roads in order to trade the fruit of his work, he discovers the value of his effort and the price to pay for his dreams.

With : Kabwita Kasongo, Lydie Kasongo

Production : BATHYSPHERE, Nicolas Anthoné & Carmen Leroi

Distribution : LES FILMS DU LOSANGE, Régine Vial

Sales : LES FILMS DU LOSANGE, Bérénice Vincent

French press : Matilde Incerti assistée de Julien Cuvillier et Jeremie Charrier (matilde.incerti@free.fr)

International press : Manlin Sterner (manlin@manlin.se)

Oh Lucy! by Atsuko Hirayanagi

2016 | World premiere | 1h35 | Japan / USA

Setsuko is stagnating in middle age until an English class (and a blonde wig) transforms her into a new persona named Lucy. Setsuko quickly falls for her instructor, John, but when he suddenly disappears, she recruits her sister and tracks him from Tokyo to the outskirts of Southern California. In an unfamiliar world of tattoo parlours and seedy motels, family ties and past lives are tested as Setsuko struggles to preserve the dream of Lucy.

With : Shinobu Terajima, Josh Hartnett, Kaho Minami, Koji Yakusho, Shioli Kutsuna, Megan Mullally, Reiko Aylesworth

Production : MATCHGIRL PICTURES, Atsuko Hirayanagi - MERIDIAN CONTENT, Han West - GLORIA SANCHEZ PRODUCTIONS, Jessica Elbaum

Co-production : JAPAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION-NHK, Katsuhiko Tsuchiya

Distribution : PHANTOM FILM (JAPAN), Keisuke Konishi

Sales : ELLE DRIVER (INTERNATIONAL), Adeline Fontan Tessaur (sales@elledriver.eu) - UNITED TALENT AGENCY (USA & CANADA), Bec Smith (smithb@unitedtalent.com)

Los Perros by Marcela Said

2016 | World premiere | 1h34 | Chile / France

Mariana (42) is part of that Chilean upper class that takes privilege for granted. Despised by both her father and her husband, she feels a strange attraction towards her riding teacher, Juan (60), a former colonel suspected of human rights abuses during the dictatorship. But their affair cracks through the invisible walls that protect her family from the past.

With : Antonia Zegers, Alfredo Castro, Rafael Spregelburd, Alejandro Sieveking, Elvis Fuentes

Production : CINEMA DEFACTO, Sophie Erbs & Tom Dercourt - JIRAFÁ FILMS, Augusto Matte

Co-production : REI CINE, Santiago Gallelli & Benjamin Domenech

Co-production : TERRATREME FILMES, João Matos

Co-production : AUGENSCHHEIN FILMPRODUKTION, Jonas Katzenstein & Maximilian Leo

Sales : FILMS BOUTIQUE, Jean-Christophe Simon (contact@filmsboutique.com)

Tehran Taboo by Ali Soozandeh

2017 | World premiere | 1h36 | Germany / Austria

The lives of three strong-willed women and a young musician cross paths in Tehran's schizophrenic society where sex, adultery, corruption, prostitution and drugs coexist with strict religious law. In this bustling modern metropolis, avoiding prohibition has become an everyday sport and breaking taboos can be a means of personal emancipation.

With : Elmira Rafizadeh, Zar Amir Ebrahimi, Arash Marandi, Bilal Yasar, Negar Mona Alizadeh, Payam Madjlessi

Production : LITTLE DREAM ENTERTAINMENT, Katharina Hoppe

Co-production : COOP99 FILMPRODUKTION, Jana Havlik

Distribution : ARP SÉLECTION, Michèle Halberstadt

Sales : CELLULOID DREAMS, Hengameh Panahi

French press : RENDEZ-VOUS, Viviana Andriani (viviana@rv-press.com)

International press : FILM PRESS PLUS, Richard Lormand (intlpressIT@aol.com)

Los Desheredados by Laura Ferrés

2017 | World premiere | 18' | Espagne

Los Desheredados is a portrait of the director's father facing the end of his family business. Lack of money forces him to drive clients who destroy his vehicle to bachelor parties, but he is not prepared to lose his dignity.

With : Pere Ferrés, Mari Álvarez, Pedro Olivares, Ignasi Martínez

Production : INICIA FILMS, Valérie Delpierre (info@iniciafilms.com) & Marta Vivet (festivals@iniciafilms.com)

Ela - Szkice na Pożegnanie (Ela - Sketches on a Departure) by Oliver Adam Kusio

2017 | Première internationale | 26' | Allemagne

Ela wants to escape the tristesse of her daily life and move West, into a better life. The story of separation as a new beginning.

With : Karolina Romuk-Wodoracka, Bartosz Sak, Karolina Porcari, Mikołaj Trzybiński, Björn Heienbrock

Production : FILM UNIVERSITY BABELSBERG KONRAD WOLF, Simon B. Stein

Distribution / Sales : FILM UNIVERSITY BABELSBERG KONRAD WOLF, Cristina Marx

International press : FILM UNIVERSITY BABELSBERG KONRAD WOLF, Julia Diebel (j.diebel@filmuniversitaet.de)

Les enfants partent à l'aube (Children Leave at Dawn) by Manon Coubia

2017 | World premiere | 23' | France

In the early morning fog, on a snowy road, a shock on the hood of Macha's car: this is Mo, her 17-year-old son, with whom she broke all ties. Through mountains, the son takes his mother for their last journey together. Today, Mo will join mountain infantrymen, elite soldiers in the French military.

With : Aurélia Petit, Yoann Zimmer, Emmanuelle Gilles-Rousseau

Production : OFFSHORE, Emmanuelle Latourrette, Fabrice Prél-Cléach, Rafaël Soatto

Distribution / Sales : MANIFEST, Anaïs Colpin (anais@manifest.pictures)

Jodilerks Dela Cruz, Employee of the Month by Carlo Francisco Manatad

2017 | World premiere | 13' | The Philippines / Singapore

Jodilerks, a gas station attendant is on her last day of duty. The night is young...

With : Angeli Bayani, Ross Pesigan, Ogie Tiglao, Grace Naval

Production : PLAN C, Carlo Francisco Manatad (carlo.manatad@gmail.com) & Armi Rae Cacanindin (armi.cacanindin@gmail.com)

Co-production : AAND FILMS, Ling Tiong

Möbius by Sam Kuhn

2016 | World premiere | 15' | USA / Canada

A moth eaten tale of magic and mutation half remembered by a teen poet who's beloved lies lifeless in a stream.

With : Caley Jones, Daiva Z, Britt Grayson, Elissa Mielke, Austin Will

Production : LION ATTACK MOTION PICTURES, Sam Kuhn (samkuhn7@gmail.com)

Co-production : BORSCHT, Lucas Leyva

Najpiękniejsze fajerwerki ever (The Best Fireworks Ever) by Aleksandra Terpińska

2017 | World premiere | 30' | Poland

In a contemporary world in one of the European cities, three friends, as they face a military conflict in their country, must modify their plans for the future.

With : Jutyna Wasilewska, Malwina Buss, Piotr Polak

Production : MUNK STUDIO - Polish Filmmakers Association, Michalina Fabijańska

Co-production : KINO POLSKA, Zuzanna Wolska

Co-production : MX35, Mateusz Wajda

Co-production : DREAMSOUND, Marcin Kasiński

Sales : NEW EUROPE FILM SALES, Marcin Łuczaj

International press : MUNK STUDIO - Polish Filmmakers Association, Anna Kot (a.kot@sfp.org.pl)

Real Gods Require Blood by Moin Hussain

2017 | World premiere | 20' | United-Kingdom

Manchester, 1990. On a troubled estate, Alice is roped into babysitting for her neighbour, whose children claim to feed a nightly visitor from Hell. Between gangland tensions, local superstition and drug withdrawal, Alice must decide whether to abandon her new wards or stay the night.

With : Anna Berentzen, Ivy Mattingly, Alkali Reid, Lyndsay Fielding, Gillian Waugh

Production / Distribution / Sales / French and international press : ESCAPE FILMS LTD., Michelle Stein (michelle@escapefilms.co.uk)

Selva by Sofía Quirós Ubeda

2016 | World premiere | 17' | Costa Rica / Argentina / Chile

The land expels and the ocean drowns,
departures repeat themselves with each generation.
Selva dances within voices and memories,
in a game that prepares her for the inevitable separation.

With : Smashleen Gutiérrez, Maikel Gutiérrez

Production : SPUTNIK FILMS, Mariana Murillo (marianamq@sputnikfilms.org)

Co-production : MIGRACINE, Florencia Rovlich

TESLA : LUMIÈRE MONDIALE by Matthew Rankin

2017 | World premiere | 8' | Canada

New York, 1905. Visionary inventor Nikola Tesla makes one last appeal to J.P. Morgan, his onetime benefactor. Inspired by real events, this electrifying short is a spectacular burst of image and sound that draws as much from the tradition of avant-garde cinema as it does from animated documentary

With : Robert Vilar

Production : OFFICE NATIONAL DU FILM DU CANADA, Julie Roy

Distribution / Sales : OFFICE NATIONAL DU FILM DU CANADA

French and international press : OFFICE NATIONAL DU FILM DU CANADA, Nadine Viau (N.Viau@onf.ca)

Le Visage (Exposure) by Salvatore Lista

2017 | World premiere | 30' | France

Camille, an art gallery assistant, welcomes Masato Kimura, a video game star, who's come to present his last creation in France.

Indifferent to his world, Camille finds herself in front of a secretive man, until Masato offers her to be the face of his next game.

With : Solène Rigot, Akihiro Hata, Guillaume Bureau, Jocelyn Lagarrigue, Thibault Outters

Production : MEZZANINE FILMS, Mathieu Bompont (info@mezzaninefilms.com)

INVITATION TO THE MORELIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Selection of 3 short films selected to the 14th edition
of the Morelia International Film Festival

Juan Perros by Rodrigo Imaz (Mexico, 34')

Microcastillo (Microcastle) by Alejandra Villalba García (Mexico, 22')

Verde (Green) by Alonso Ruizpalacios (Mexico, 22')

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

THE JURY OF THE 56th SEMAINE DE LA CRITIQUE

For its 56th edition, La Semaine de la Critique will celebrate Brazilian cinema and welcomes the frontrunner of the new generation of Brazilian filmmakers, the director of *Aquarius*, in Official Selection during the 69th Festival de Cannes.

Kleber Mendonça Filho, jury President

With **Diana Bustamante Escobar** (producer and artistic director of the Cartagena Film Festival, Colombia), **Eric Kohn** (chief film critic and deputy-editor for Indiewire, USA), **Hania Mroué** (director of Metropolis Art Cinema, Lebanon) and **Niels Schneider** (actor, César Award for Best Male Newcomer, France).

PRIZES AWARDED BY LA SEMAINE DE LA CRITIQUE'S JURY

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 are awarding €15,000 to the winning director. For the seventh 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) and Oliver Laxe for *Mimosas* (2016).

FRANCE 4 VISIONARY AWARD

The France 4 Visionary Award is given by the Jury of La Semaine de la Critique to one of the seven feature films in competition. The selected first or second feature film will be rewarded for its outstanding creativity and innovation. France 4 supports the Visionary Award for the sixth year in a row, confirming its support to independent cinema. With this award, France 4 grants €4,000 to the winning director. In the past five years, France 4 has accompanied 5 talented directors awarded the Visionary Award: Ilian Metev for *Sofia's Last Ambulance* (2012), Fabio Grassadonia and Antonio Piazza for *Salvo* (2013), Myroslav Slaboshpytskiy for *The Tribe (Plemya)* in 2014, César Augusto Acevedo for *La tierra y la sombra (Land and Shade)* in 2015 and Mehmet Can Mertoğlu for *Albüm* (2016).

LEICA CINE DISCOVERY PRIZE FOR SHORT

The Leica 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, Marcos Dutra, the H5 collective, Guillaume Gouix, Gitanjali Rao, Damien Manivel, Jonas Carpignano, Fulvio Risuelo and more recently Wregas Bhanuteja. For the second year, Leica is partner of La Semaine de la Critique and supports the new generation of promising directors with the Leica Cine Discovery Prize. The winning filmmaker receives an endowment of €4,000.

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. In 2017, the Gan Foundation for Cinema celebrates the 30th anniversary of its commitment for innovating cinema. The Foundation accompanies the artists from the writing stage and through the distribution of their films. Its 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.

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*).

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 2017, La Semaine de la Critique will travel through 3 countries and will be accessible on FestivalScope for the second year in a row to moviegoers worldwide.

FRANCE - FestivalScope (virtual screening)

from May 26th to June 2nd, 2017

La Semaine de la Critique confirms its commitment to general audiences by giving 10,000 viewers worldwide the chance to discover in world premiere the 2017 selection of short films and for the first time of feature films in competition. These French and English subtitled films will be available for free on FestivalScope (www.festivalscope.com), from May 26th to June the 2nd, right after the award ceremony held in Cannes.

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

The association la Corse et le Cinéma, Founding member

Porto Vecchio and Ajaccio

from May 30th to June 3rd, 2017

Short and feature films from the 2017 selection

FRANCE - La Cinémathèque française

Paris

from June 7th to 14th, 2017

Short and feature films from the 2017 selection

LEBANON - Cinéma Metropolis With The French Institute in Beirut

from June 30th to July 10th, 2017

Short and feature films from the 2017 selection

CZECH REPUBLIC - Czech Cinematheque

Prague

September 2017

Short films from the 2017 selection

Mexico - Morelia International Film Festival

from October 20th to 29th, 2017

Feature films from the 2017 selection

FRANCE - Rencontres Cinémas Martinique de l'EPCC Atrium Martinique

Fort de France, Martinique

from March 17th to 25th, 2018

Short films from the 2017 selection and Talents Cannes Adami 2017

NEXT STEP

Since 2014, La Semaine de la Critique accompanies the directors of the short films selected in competition, as they engage into feature-length projects. The goal of Next Step is to support these filmmakers as they prepare their debut feature, with a program adapted to every one of them. With each of the 10 young directors selected out of the 1,700 short films by a committee of film critics, Next Step advocates for revealing an ambitious personality aiming to express itself in feature film.

Created in collaboration with the TorinoFilmLab and supported by the CNC, the Sacem, the SACD and the Moulin d'Andé-CÉCI, Next Step is a scheme consisting of a five-day workshop held in France, in December. During the workshop, the filmmakers have the opportunity to discuss their projects with international experts and tutors, in order for them to receive advice on their scripts, to understand the reality of the industry and to define an appropriate and personalised development strategy.

Among the 29 filmmakers supported during the three previous editions of Next Step, 13 have effectively transited to feature-length with the development or the shooting of their films and 5 have found a French coproducer thanks to the workshop. The first completed film has just been selected at the 49th Directors' Fortnight. The film is *A Ciambra* by Jonas Carpignano, discovered by La Semaine de la Critique with his homonymous short film, winner of the France 4 Visionary Award and then with his first feature-length, *Mediterranea*.

The next edition of Next Step will take place in December 2017, with the 4th session dedicated to the short film directors selected at the 56th Semaine de la Critique in Cannes.

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 FILM

Thomas Baurez (*Studio Ciné Live*)

Ava Cahen (*Le Cercle, Clap!*)

Sandrine Marques (*La Septième Obsession*)

Olivier Péliçon (*Bande à Part, Canal+*)

Nicolas Schaller (*L'Obs, Lui, Le Cercle*)

SHORT FILMS

Léo Soesanto (*Les Inrockuptibles, Canal+*)

Thomas Fouet (*Fiches du Cinéma, Capsules*)

Carole Milleliri (*Clap!*)

Marie-Pauline Mollaret (*ÉcranNoir.fr, L'Avant-scène Cinéma*)

THE TEAM OF THE 56th SEMAINE DE LA CRITIQUE

- Program Manager
 - Head of Administration
 - Head of the Film Department
 - Film Department (short films)
 - In charge of coordination
 - Communications Officer
 - Communication assistant & CM
 - Press Agent
 - Head of Operations
 - Sponsoring
 - Jury Coordination
 - Plage Nespresso Relations
 - Miramar reception desk and box office
 - Photographers
 - Video Interviews
 - Selection video et Cannes videos
 - Interpreters
 - Coordinator french-German workshop
 - Old website design
 - New website design
 - Web Art direction, publications and poster
- Rémi Bonhomme
Marion Dubois-Daras *assisted by* Justine Delaunois
Hélène Auclair *assisted by* Valentin Carré
Julie Marnay
Marion Grosbois / Binta Barry
Xavier Mondoloni *assisted by* Fantine Guemghar
Christian Eid
Dany de Seille *assisted by* Mathilde Sirvart Simonian
George Ikdaïs *assisted by* Déborah Serrano & Joannes Escure
Bernadette Iovic
Tiphaine Vigniel
Yacine Boulmenakher *assisted by* Chloé Rayneau
Kathy Rainville *assisted by* Lisa Moulin-Villard & Margot Morsomme
Aurélië Lamachère *assisted by* Ambre Moreau
Alice Khol
Anne-Laure Bell *assisted by* Alain Khawam
Adrien Valgalier *assisted by* Sébastien Tognacci
Alexandre Berger
Maria Raluca Hanea
Cécile Nhoïbouakong
Ali Cherri
Sébastien Fauveau (articode)
Andrea D'Agostino (Dartea)
les bons faiseurs

THE PARTNERS OF LA 56th SEMAINE DE LA CRITIQUE

La Semaine de la Critique wishes to thank
all the institutional and private partners who support its 56^e édition.

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

Fondation Gan pour le Cinéma

Leica

France 4

Office franco-allemand pour la Jeunesse

Festival International de Cine de Morelia

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

Canal+

Audiens

La Cinémathèque française

RFI (Radio France Internationale)

OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS

Panavision

Vins des Pays de Méditerranée

2AVI

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

Le Mont Saint-Michel

Ficam

Film France

Oh My Cream

NESPRESSO | PLAGE

For the sixth 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 17th to 28th.

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