



SEM AINE
DE LA CRITIQUE
CANNES 2023
17 - 25 MAI



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Press Kit

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Introduction to the Selection

The 62st Semaine de la Critique by her Artistic Director, Ava Cahen

Photographer Sarah Makharine's captures the embrace between the protagonists of *Aftersun*, played by Paul Mescal and Frankie Corio. A simple, spontaneous, and loving gesture that reflects the very nature of La Semaine de la Critique: supporting first and second films with great care.

The jury

The president of the jury for this 62nd edition will be French director and screenwriter Audrey Diwan. Her second feature, *Happening*, won the Golden Lion at the 2021 Venice International Film Festival. With her on this year's jury will be German actor and choreographer Franz Rogowski, Kim Yutani – director of programming of the Sundance Film Festival -, Portuguese cinematographer Rui Poças and Indian journalist Meenakshi Shedde.

Some figures

We watched 2,100 short films and 1,000 features. Among the 11 selected films for this year's edition, 7 are first films and 6 were directed by women. Coordinated by Marie-Pauline Mollaret, the short-film committee selected 10 films for the competition and a special screening of three films. This programme will be on Wednesday, April 19th.

Opening film

To kick off this 62nd edition, **Ama Gloria**, first solo film by French director **Marie Amachoukeli** – winner of the Caméra d'Or for *Party Girl* that she co-directed with Claire Burger and Samuel Theis. She delivers a delicate, intimate film about the deep connection between 6-year-old Cléo and Gloria, her nanny. Gloria must suddenly leave Cléo and return to Cape Verde. Marie Amachoukeli conveys with incredible grace cruel, heartbreaking farewells, awash in the summer sunlight.

Two special screenings, highlights of the programme.

Vincent must die, **Stéphan Castang's** first feature film starring Karim Leklou and Vimala Pons; a taught, harrowing genre film. Vincent leads a quiet life as a graphic designer. For no reason whatsoever, he is suddenly assaulted by anyone who crosses his path, whether they know him or not. Hounded, Vincent wants to understand... and most importantly, survive! Stephan Castang's fierce allegory of humanity consumed by mistrust.

After *Madly in Life*, **Ann Sirot** and **Raphaël Balboni** take us on a new fantastical journey with **The (Ex)perience of Love**, starring Lucie Debay and Lazare Gousseau. Sandra and Rémy cannot procreate. To overcome that obstacle, their doctor prescribes a peculiar, innovative method: each of them should rekindle with their exes, and sleep with them. A funny, sexy romantic comedy that strips down the heterosexual norms, demystifies sex, and casts a new spell on love.

7 feature films in the competition

Tiger Stripes, Malay director **Amanda Nell Eu**'s first feature film, offers a new, witty, and extravagant take on teenage metamorphosis and rebellion. A surprising and delightful fantasy film that celebrates young women's desire to let loose in a society that aims to firmly discipline them.

Sofia is an athlete who dreams of reaching the top, but her dream turns into a nightmare when she learns she's pregnant. An unwanted pregnancy that she cannot legally terminate since abortion is still illegal in Brazil. The countdown has started, and Sofia's mind is made up. With **Levante**, her first feature, Brazilian director **Lillah Halla** stands up to conservatism that is eating away at her country with a unifying, queer outlook. One for all, and all for Sofia.

There's no dozing off when watching **Sleep**, Korean director **Jason Yu**'s first feature film. Bong Joon-Ho's former assistant director signs a sensational film as he tells the story of a struggling young couple before and after their first child is born. A closed setting: three chapters, two protagonists, one crying baby, a barking dog, and a roaming ghost: the perfect ingredients for a horrific, devilishly effective comedy.

In her film **Le ravissement**, French director **Iris Kaltenbäck** skillfully tackles the issues of a very close, intimate friendship between two women, and delivers a riveting psychological thriller. A breathtaking first film with very fine, delicately crafted writing, and a stunning cast: Hafsia Herzi, Nina Meurisse, Alexis Manenti and Younes Boucif.

Lost Country, Serbian director **Vladimir Perisić**'s second feature film, is an intimate and political saga set in 1996 Belgrade during the students' demonstrations against Milosevic's regime. A teenager is torn between his own convictions and his love for his mother, a corrupt politician. A powerful film that overhauls the canons of classical drama.

Inshallah a boy is the very first film from Jordan to be presented at La Semaine de la Critique. **Amjad Al Rasheed**'s first film is the deeply moving portrait of Nawal - a care worker, a widow and mother of a young girl - who is fighting like hell for her independence, played by Palestinian actress Mouna Hawa. She imbues this radiant, determined warrior with the gravitas of the greatest female heroes in the history of cinema.

A bittersweet summer tale, **Il pleut dans la maison** is Belgian director **Paloma Sermon-Daï**'s first fiction feature. Staying clear of pathos, she tells us the unadorned story of the relationship between siblings who try to stay together with their dignity intact as their home is flooded and their bank account emptied. Two wonderful characters, beautifully written and interpreted by the young Purdey and Makenzy Lombet.

Closing Film

To finish with a bang, La Semaine de la Critique will present **No Love Lost**, **Erwan Le Duc**'s delectable second feature. A French tragicomedy with a quirky, poetic take on relationships between parents and children. Father and daughter - Nahuel Perez Biscayart and Céleste Brunnquell - are inseparable. An irresistible duo that will make you laugh at the drop of a hat.

La Semaine de la Critique will take place in Cannes between the 17th and 25th of May.

The feature films selection

11 feature films, 7 in competition and 4 in special screenings, selected among 1000 submitted films

In competition

Il pleut dans la maison 🎬

Belgium - France / 1H23

Inshallah Walad 🎬

(Inshallah a boy / Inchallah un fils)

Jordan - Saudi Arabia - Qatar - France / 1H54

Jam (Sleep) 🎬

South Korea / 1H39

Levante (Power Alley) 🎬

Brazil - France - Uruguay / 1H32

Lost Country

France - Serbia - Luxembourg - Croatia / 1H38

Le ravissement 🎬

France / 1H37

Tiger Stripes 🎬

Malaysia - Taiwan - Singapore - France -
Germany - Netherlands - Indonesia - Qatar
1H35

Paloma Sermon-Dai

Amjad Al Rasheed

Jason Yu

Lillah Halla

Vladimir Perisič

Iris Kaltenbäck

Amanda Nell Eu

Special screenings

Opening Film

Ama Gloria

France / 1H24

Special screenings

Vincent doit mourir (Vincent must die) 🎬

France / 1H47

Le syndrome des amours passées

(The (Ex)perience of Love)

Belgium - France / 1H29

Film de Clôture

La fille de son père (No Love Lost)

France / 1H39

Marie Amachoukeli

Stéphan Castang

**Ann Sirot &
Raphaël Balboni**

Erwan Le Duc

The short films selection will be announced on Wednesday, 19th April.

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

The Semaine de la Critique Jury and Prizes

The Jury of the 62th Semaine de la Critique

Audrey Diwan, Jury President

She will be accompanied by Portuguese director of photography Rui Poças (*Tabu* by Miguel Gomes, *Zama* by Lucretia Martel, *Will-o'-the-Wisp* by João Pedro Rodrigues), German actor, choreographer and dancer Franz Rogowski (*A Hidden Life* by Terrence Malick, *Undine* by Christian Petzold, *Disco Boy* by Giacomo Abbruzzese), Indian journalist, curator and advisor to the programming of the Berlin Film Festival, Meenakshi Shedde as well as by American film programmer Kim Yutani, Sundance's Film Festival programming director.

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. 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) and Andrés Ramírez Pulido for *L'Eden* (2022).

Prix French Touch du 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. In 2022, it was awarded to Charlotte Wells for *Aftersun*.

Prix Découverte Leitz Cine du court métrage

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, Wregas Bhanuteja and more recently Laura Ferrés, Jacqueline Lentzou, Qiu Yang, Zou Jing and lastly João Gonzalez. For the seventh 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 will receive an endowment of €4,000.

Prix Fondation Louis Roederer de la Révélation

For the fifth 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 ten 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*, in 2019, it was Ingvar E. Sigurðsson for the movie *Hvítur, Hvítur Dagur* (*A White, White Day*), in 2021 Sandra Melissa Torres for the movie *Amparo* and in 2022 Zelda Samson received the award for her performance in *Love according to Dalva*. 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 36 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 Gan Assurance, the Gan Foundation is one of the most important private sponsors for French cinema. In 2022, The Gan Foundation Award for Distribution was awarded to Urban Distribution, French distributor for *Metsurin tarina* (The Woodcutter Story) by Mikko Myllylahti.

Prix SACD

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. It was awarded in 2022 to *L'Eden* by Andrés Ramírez Pulido.

Prix Canal+ du court métrage

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 or Evi Kalogiropoulou.

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, La Semaine de la Critique has been supporting talented short-film directors who have presented a short film at La Semaine de la Critique towards making their first feature through the Next Step programme. After presenting their short film in Cannes, filmmakers are invited to come to Paris for a workshop. For a whole week, international consultants will advise them on their script, their score, and on how to launch their film on the market. It also entails professional meetings in Paris, which are opportunities to forge new collaborations with potential French coproducers, sellers and distributors. Since 2022, we have taken Morelia Film Festival's invitation to Cannes a step further by inviting a Mexican filmmaker to participate in the Next Step programme.

Over 9 years, 78 directors from 34 countries have benefitted from the Next Step support programme. We are delighted to see that, to this day, 19 features have been released, the most recent ones being Graham Foy's *The Maiden* and Isabella Carbonell's *Dogborn* screened at the Venice Film Festival in 2022, Mikko Myllylahti's *The Woodcutter Story* (2019 Next Step Prize), Cristèle Alves Meira's *Alma Viva* at the 2022 Semaine de la Critique, and Valentina Maurel's *Tengo sueños electricos* at the 2022 Locarno International Film Festival. In 2023, Molly Manning Walker will premiere *How to Have Sex* (2020 Next Step Prize) at the Cannes Film Festival, as will Felipe Gálvez with his film *Los Colonos*, both as part of *Un Certain regard*. Elias Belkeddar will premiere *Omar la Fraise* at the Midnight Screenings, while Lillah Halla will present *Levante* at La Semaine de la Critique. This year will also see the release of Johanna Pyykko's *Ebba*, Qiu Yang's *Some Rain Must Fall*, Laura Ferrés' *The Permanent Picture*, Yorgos Zois' *Arcadia*, Moin Hussain's *Sky Peals* and Adi Voicu's *Capturing Sami*. 7 other feature films developed at Next Step will be shot in 2023.

And finally, our newest initiative is the Next Step Hildgarde Award, with its 2,500€ endowment and an invitation to the Cannes Film Festival for the director with the most promising feature film project, according to a jury of 4 film professionals. In 2022, Lithuanian director Vytautas Katkus won the first prize for his project *The Visitor*. This year, the jury will be composed of Marion Delord, Hildgarde's executive director; Thania Dimitrakopoulou, head of sales and acquisitions at The Match Factory; Mathin Jérôme, in charge of acquisitions at Condor; and Olimpia Pont Chàfer, Head of Industry at the Torino Film Lab. The winner will be announced in May at the Cannes Film Festival.

With the support of **VARIETY**



CRITIQUE
& CRÉATION

In 2023, the French Union of Film Critics is launching its Critics and Creation Fund to welcome benefactors and donors who wish to encourage younger generations to think critically, and support emerging talents from across the world.

La Semaine de la Critique on Tour

Reruns of the 2023 selection

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 2023, La Semaine de la Critique will travel through different countries and will be accessible on FestivalScope for the seventh year in a row to moviegoers worldwide.

FestivalScope (virtual screening)

from 25 May to 31st May 2023

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 2023 selection of short films in competition. These French and English subtitled films will be available for free on FestivalScope (www.festivalscope.com), from 25 May to 31st May, right after the award ceremony held in Cannes.

France

Cinémathèque of Corsica

Porto Vecchio

at the Complexe Galaxy

from 30 May to 3 June 2023

Short and feature films from the 2023 selection

Cinéma Les Variétés & La Baleine

Marseille

from 2 to 6 June 2023

Feature films from the 2023 selection

La Cinémathèque française

Paris

from 7 to 12 June 2023

Short and feature films from the 2023 selection

TropiqueAtrium - Scène Nationale

Martinique

from 14 to 22 October 2023

Partial reruns of the 2023 selection during its CinéMartinique festival

Mexique

Festival International du Film de Morelia

Morelia

from 20 to 29 October 2023

Feature films from the 2023 selection

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 public. 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.

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 eighth consecutive year, La Semaine de la Critique organises in collaboration with The Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO), a French-German training workshop on film criticism from May 22nd to 25th, 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 Île-de-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 since 2019. 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 this year support of Le Vincennes and Arcel cinemas (Corbeil-Essones).

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 high school students will also benefit from workshops on how to write a film review, led by professional 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 develop their analytical skills.

IESA - Art and Culture

La Semaine de la Critique shows once again its dedication to film education by organising in collaboration with the IESA - a school specialised in arts and cultural management - a workshop about short films for master's students studying film, allowing them to come to Cannes for two days during which they will discover selected films, meet film directors and take part in film criticism workshops led by one of the short film selection committee members.

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

Marilou Duponchel (*Les Inrockuptibles*)

Damien Leblanc (*Première*)

Olivier Pélisson (*Bande à Part*)

Perrine Quennesson (*Cinemateaser*)

Frédéric Mercier (*Le Cercle, Transfuge*)

Short films

Marie-Pauline Mollaret (*Écran Noir*)

Thomas Fouet (*Les Fiches du cinéma*)

Chloé Cavillier (*Critikat*)

Léo Ortuno (*Bande à Part*)

The Team of the 62nd Semaine de la Critique

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Partners of the 62nd Semaine de la Critique

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

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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)

Official Partners

La 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

CCAS (Caisse Centrale d'Activités Sociales)

Canal+

La Cinémathèque française

RFI (Radio France Internationale)

With the support of

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Le Mont Saint-Michel

IESA

Technical Partners

2AVI

CST

Panavision

NESPRESSO | PLAGE

For the twelfth 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.