



Alliance Française de Cork  
presents

32<sup>nd</sup> Cork

**FRENCH**  
*Film Festival*



2-5 September 2021

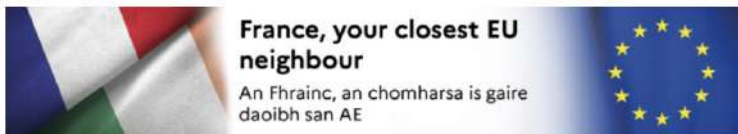
PRINCIPAL FUNDERS



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PARTNERS





## Cllr. Colm Kelleher, Lord Mayor of Cork

### Mot de bienvenue du Lord Mayor

It's a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to this 2021 edition of the Cork French Film Festival.

Now in its 32nd year, the French Film Festival is one of Cork's longest running festivals and one we remain very proud of. The festival reminds us of the strong links between Cork and France: touristic, cultural and commercial.

That we host a thriving annual French Film Festival in Cork city, references the profound nature and history of the alliance between Ireland and France, and indeed, between Cork and France directly.

Cork is home to many people of French origin who contribute enormously to the life of our city.

I wish to pay special tribute to the board and staff of Alliance Française de Cork who for 32 years have nurtured this festival, just one of their important contributions that add positively to the cultural life of our City.

I also wish to acknowledge the important work of the French Consul in Cork, Josselin Le Gall, Chairperson John Mullins and Board Member Valérie David-McGonnell, in providing admirable stewardship and service. Festival Co-Directors, Mr Le Gall and Ms David-McGonnell have risen to the challenge admirably of presenting the festival at the annual wonderful venue of The Gate Cinema, but also a new online version to compliment the offering.

I know the festival attracts large audiences of Cork cinéphiles and Francophiles. This year's Festival is more diverse than ever, covering all genres of cinema – a true festival.

Je vous souhaite à tous un bon festival et beaucoup de succès !



## Ambassador of France to Ireland

H.E. Vincent Guérend

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### *Welcome!*

I am delighted to support the 32nd Alliance Française Cork French Film Festival.

This festival is now a well established landmark in Cork and in the cultural exchanges between France and Ireland. The promotion of cinema is also an important aspect of the relations between our two countries.

This year's programme encompasses different genres, showcases the diversity of French-language cinema and will appeal to many different audiences.

Je vous souhaite à tous un très bon festival.

*H.E. Vincent Guérend  
Ambassador of France to Ireland*



## Alliance Française de Cork

### *Bienvenue au Festival du film français de Cork*

As President of Alliance Française de Cork, may I extend to you a very warm welcome to our 32nd Cork French Film Festival.

We are delighted that Mick Hannigan and Úna Feely of Green Ray have put together a fantastic, varied programme of great French language films which will be screened at The Gate Cinema and online.

Many thanks to the Board and in particular to Josselin Le Gall and Valérie David-McGonnell for their work. Warm thanks to all of our sponsors without whom our festival would not happen. We are grateful to H.E. Vincent Guérend, Ambassador of France to Ireland, the Arts Council and the Cork City Council for all of their support.

I also wish to thank Margaret Greene and the team of The Gate Cinema in Cork for hosting our festival year after year.

#### **John Mullins**

President of Alliance Française de Cork  
Chairman of the Cork French Film Festival

On behalf of the Board of Alliance Française de Cork:

Pr Grace Neville  
Josselin Le Gall  
Valérie David-McGonnell  
Pascal Lucas  
Philippe Grosbois



Photo: Darragh Kane

## ***Welcome!***

We are pleased to welcome you to the 32nd Cork French Film Festival screening in Cork City and beyond thanks to the online part of this year's edition.

The 2021 CFFF programme features a diverse selection of excellent French-language films, many of which are Irish premières. It includes French but also Belgian and Canadian movies and a beautiful documentary about a Latin-music band in Mali.

The Cork French Film Festival is not just for Francophiles and people interested in French-language societies and cultures, it is for anyone who loves great cinema.

Many thanks to all who have been supporting the Alliance Française Cork French Film Festival and a very warm welcome to all newcomers.

### **Josselin Le Gall**

Alliance Française de Cork Board Member

Cork French Film Festival Co-Director

Honorary Consul of France in Cork, Kerry and Waterford

### **Valérie David-McGonnell**

Alliance Française de Cork Board Member

Cork French Film Festival Co-Director

## Box Office Info

### The Gate Cinema

All tickets to the festival can be bought online at [www.gatecinemas.com](http://www.gatecinemas.com) or in person at:

#### The Gate Cinema

North Main Street, Cork City  
021 427 9595

### Online Festival

You are also welcome to join the 32nd Cork French Film Festival online

Films that are available online are marked with this symbol:



You can purchase tickets online at: [www.corkfrenchfilmfestival.com](http://www.corkfrenchfilmfestival.com)

### Ticket information

Shows before 5pm:  
**€7 / €6.50**

Shows from 5pm:  
**€10 / €9**

*Image: Alphaville by Jean-Luc Godard*



### Merci!

Alliance Francaise de Cork and the Festival team would like to express our deep gratitude to everyone who has supported and contributed to the 32nd Cork French Film Festival. We thank our partners, sponsors and funders for their invaluable support and extend our thanks to staff, contributors, film agencies, filmmakers, and film companies for your support of the festival.

*Cover image: Soeurs*

# Cork French Film Festival

## The Gate Cinema

North Main Street, Cork City  
021 427 9595

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> September
			11am <b>The Bears</b> <b>Invasion of Sicily</b> pg 15
		1pm <b>Paris 1900</b> pg 11	1pm <b>Alphaville</b> pg 16
	3.30pm <b>Sisters</b> pg 9	3.30pm <b>Small Country</b> pg 11	3.30pm <b>De Gaulle</b> pg 17
	6pm <b>Goddess of Fireflies</b> pg 10	6pm <b>Best of Shorts</b> pg 13	6pm <b>Africa Mia</b> pg 17
8.30pm <b>Sisters</b> Opening Film pg 9	8.30pm <b>Just Kids</b> pg 10	8.30pm <b>A Bigger World</b> pg 14	8.30pm <b>Madly in Life</b> pg 18

Online screenings at [www.corkfrenchfilmfestival.com](http://www.corkfrenchfilmfestival.com) Sept 2 - 5



# Sisters *Soeurs*

Thursday Sept 2nd / 8.30pm / Gate Cinema

Friday Sept 3rd / 3.30pm / Gate Cinema



Yamina Benguigui / France / 2020 / 100 mins  
Starring: Isabelle Adjani, Rachida Brakni, Maiwenn

The relationship of three sisters is shaken when Zorah (Isabelle Adjani), decides to write a play based on the events of their Franco-Algerian childhood which have haunted them all their lives. The search for their young brother, kidnapped by their father, takes a turn when they discover their father is dying. Returning to modern day Algeria, they face their own and their family's past. The sisters have no choice but to put their differences aside. The three stars of French cinema, Adjani, Brakni and Maiwenn deliver towering performances, in this powerful drama. A film about family, relationships and recovery – and also a testament to the power of art to transform.

'Adjani's return to cinema is a real pleasure. The three actresses deliver impeccable performances in this film that asks questions about identity and culture, and the legacy of family disaster' (*Bulles de Culture*)

## Goddess of the Fireflies *La déesse des mouches à feu*



Anaïs Barbeau-Lavalette / Canada / 2020 / 105 mins  
Starring: Kelly Depeault, Caroline Néron,  
Normand D'Amour

**Irish Premiere**



**Official Selection**  
Berlin Film Festival, 2021  
**Grand Jury Prize,**  
Quebec International Film  
Festival 2021



Friday Sept 3rd / 6pm / Gate Cinema

Growing up in the spectacular chaos of the teenage grunge scene in rural Quebec, sixteen-year-old Catherine is given the book *Christiane F* and permission to go to the mall. It's also the day her father deliberately drives her mother's Jeep into a wall. It's 1994, Kurt Cobain has left the building, *Pulp Fiction* has just been released and Catherine's parents are going through a scorched-earth divorce. Doing her best not to care, Catherine is busy coping with the school bully and climbing the social ladder, eager to learn everything.

From one misadventure to the next, she finds her gang and sets off to explore the world with no opportunity left unturned. At the heart of this coming-of-age story is the astounding performance of newcomer Kelly Depeault, who crafts an authentic portrayal of Catherine in all her tender misadventure.

*"What Barbeau-Lavalette puts on-screen, is a truth beyond cause and effect. It's our youthful desire to be free"*

**Film Stage**

## Just Kids



Christophe Blanc / France / 2020 / 109 mins /  
Starring: Kacey Mottet, Andrea Maggiulli, Anna Maria  
Vartolomei

**Irish Premiere**  
**Nominee,**  
Giffoni Film Festival 2020



Friday Sept 3rd / 8.30pm / Gate Cinema

In a Grenoble courthouse, three siblings are facing the consequences of the loss of their parents. At the heart of the story is ten year old Mathis, a unique character who acts as the touchstone for his siblings life journeys, as he figures out how this new world looks. His sister heads to the South to escape the family ghosts, but Mathis and his older brother Jack are going to see this one out together. With terrific energy and verve, the film unfolds their adventures, their father's dark past, their trip to Spain and ultimately both the excitement of freedom, and the emotional reconfiguration needed for this family. The real star is young Andrea Maggiulli, depicting Mathis' emotional turmoil throughout the chaos, the heavy metal, the parties and a notable visit to Grandad.

'Just Kids is a moving, dynamic film. Christophe Blanc explores with great psychological accuracy and formal inventiveness the journey of grieving siblings left to their own devices'  
**Cineuropa**

Paris 1900

Saturday Sept 4th / 1pm / Gate Cinema



Nicole Védrès / France / 1947 / 71 mins  
Documentary

This charming and authentic documentary shows Paris through unique archival footage, immersing us in a range of politic, social and artistic stories from 1900 to 1914. A city of artists in La Belle Epoque is unspooled, with unique and little seen footage of key figures in the cultural life of the city and international figures. Often held up as a key example of how to edit film, Alain Resnais worked on the film as assistant director.

A classic example of the historical montage film, Paris 1900 is both a visual chronicle of a great city and a meditative essay about the passing of time.

*"Nicole Vedrès and her little unit have achieved something immensely beautiful that shatters the visual conventions of cinema as profoundly as Marcel Proust's oeuvre succeeded in transforming the novel."*

**André Bazin**

*"I owe everything to Nicole Vedrès."*  
**Chris Marker**

Irish Premiere



**Nominee,**  
Best Feature  
Cannes Film  
Festival 1947



**AMBASSADE  
DE FRANCE  
EN IRLANDE**  
*Liberty  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

**INSTITUT  
FRANÇAIS**

Small Country: An African Childhood  
*Petit Pays*

Saturday Sept 4th / 3.30pm / Gate Cinema



Eric Barbier / France, Belgium / 2020 / 113 mins  
Starring: Jean-Paul Rouve, Djibril Vancoppenolle,  
Dayla De Medina

This memoir of childhood is adapted from the bestselling book by Gaël Faye and narrated by Gabriel aged 10, a joyful child living in a nice neighbourhood in Burundi. Set in 1993, the tensions in neighbouring Rwanda spill over, made doubly complicated by the fact that his mother is Rwandan and his father is French.

Gabriel (newcomer Djibril Vancoppenolle) is a happy young boy who enjoys his carefree existence of going to school and playing with his friends. Such days are not to last as the conflict between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups starts to spill over into Burundi. A powerful story of conflict viewed through a child's eyes.

*"Small Country is probably the best cinematographic adaptation possible made about this wonderful novel from the rappeur, composer and author Gaël Faye"*

**Le Monde**



**Nominee Best Screenplay,**  
César Awards 2021  
**Winner Best Actress, Best Film,**  
Barcelona Int. Film Festival 2021



**AMBASSADE  
DE FRANCE  
EN IRLANDE**  
*Liberty  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

**INSTITUT  
FRANÇAIS**

## Autour De Minuit

20th Anniversary Celebration of  
Autour de Minuit



Autour de Minuit is the Paris-based multi-award-winning animation company established in 2001 by Nicolas Schmerkin. We're delighted to celebrate Autour de Minuit's 20th anniversary with this specially curated programme for the Cork French Film Festival.

Autour de Minuit supports aesthetically innovative projects, developing original graphic worlds resulting in award-winning short films. Hybridization is at the heart of the artistic approach of Autour de Minuit, allowing for innovative ideas in plastic and digital art. The production catalogue includes almost 80 short classics. Since 2004, Autour de Minuit also deals with world distribution of animations and digital works, with a catalogue of nearly 400 films.

### Amongst their achievements in short film:

- More than 500 festival awards
- Oscar 2010 - Best Animated Short for Logorama.
- César 2011 - Best Short Film for Logorama
- Unifrance Export Award in 2015
- Best European Producer, Cartoon Tribute 2016
- Unifrance Best Distributor Award 2019

We're proud to present this Best Of Shorts programme at this year's festival and thank founder Nicolas Schmerkin and all at Autour de Minuit for their kind collaboration.

## Best of Shorts

### Autour De Minuit



Saturday September 4th / 6pm / Gate Cinema / 80 mins

We present this quite brilliant animated short film programme from Paris based producer Autour de Minuit as they celebrate their 20th anniversary.

#### Obras

Hendrick Dusollier / France / 2004 / 12 mins

In one single shot, Obras is a poetic and graphic journey through time and space, exploring Barcelona's wild irreversible destruction and reconstruction. In a virtual 3D space, Obras offers a plastic interpretation of urban mutations.



#### Flesh

Edouard Salier / France / 2005 / 10 mins

The Empire unveils everything but sees nothing. Its enemies idealize everything but tolerate nothing. What if it all came down to flesh? Selected at over 60 international festivals and winner of Best Short film at Gijon and Best Animated short film at Sonar.

#### Logorama

François Alaux, Hervé de Crécy, Ludovic Houplain / France / 2009 / 16 mins

Spectacular car chases, an intense hostage crisis, wild animals rampaging through the city, and even more in Logorama! Winner of numerous awards including a César and Academy Award.



#### Reruns

Rosto / France, Belgium / 2018 / 14mins

Everything is different, but nothing has changed. A trip in a submerged labyrinth, made of dreams and memories.

#### Scenery (Decorado)

Alberto Vázquez / Spain, France / 2016 / 11 mins

The world is a wonderful stage, but its characters are disgraceful.

#### Bavure

Donato Sansone / France / 2018 / 4 mins

In the beginning was the Stain. A paintbrush reveals a being of gouache, opens him, transforms him, twists him, completes him. From this accelerated evolution arises a conquering being...

#### Peripheria

David Coquard-Dassault / France / 2015 / 12 mins

A journey into the heart of a large and abandoned council estate. Peripheria portrays an urban environment becoming wild: a modern Pompeii where the wind blows and dogs roam, tailing the remains of human life.



A Bigger World  
*Un Monde Plus Grand*

Saturday Sept 4th / 8:30pm / Gate Cinema



Fabienne Berthaud / France, Belgium / 2019 / 100 mins  
Starring: Cécile de France, Narantsetseg Dash,  
Ludivine Sagnier

Cécile de France gives a breathtaking performance based on the true story of a musicologist who travels to Mongolia and discovers her shamanic powers. To overcome the death of Paul, the love of her life, Corine leaves Paris for a few weeks to work in Mongolia. But her meeting with the shaman Oyun upends her plans, as Oyun proclaims that Corine has received a rare gift. Back in France, she cannot refuse what is now seems her destiny. She must go back to Mongolia to begin her initiation, and discover a bigger world. Beautifully shot in both Paris and the Mongolian Steppes the film is based on the book by Corine Sombrun, *Mon Initiation Chez les Chamanes*.

*'Carried by an excellent performance from Cécile de France, the film fully leverages the spectacular landscapes of Mongolia and the fascinating trance sequences, shrouding its story in a well-balanced cover between ethnographic immersion and classical cinematic narrative.'*

**Cineuropa**



**Irish Premiere**  
**Nominee Best Actress,**  
Magritte Awards, 2020



The Bears Invasion of Sicily  
*La Fameuse Invasion des Ours en Sicile*

Sunday Sept 5th / 11am / Gate Cinema



Lorenzo Mattotti / France / 2019 / 82 mins  
 With: Leila Bekhti, Almerina, Thomas Bidegain  
 Gedeone

A wonderful story for children based on the famous 1946 book by Dino Buzzati. Starving after a harsh winter and in search of food, the bears descend from the mountains and invade the valley below, where they face fierce opposition from the army of the Grand Duke of Sicily. After many battles, scrapes and dangers, the bears' reign is established over the land, but their victory comes at a price.

*"Beautifully drawn with bold colours and appealing shapes, the film's style is classic animation at its best, clear and pleasing, calculated to charm children and adults alike"*

**Variety**



Irish Premiere  
 Cannes Film Festival  
 Annecy Film Festival  
 Nominee Best Animated Feature,  
 César Awards 2020

  
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 DE FRANCE  
 EN IRLANDE  
 Liberté  
 Égalité  
 Fraternité

INSTITUT  
 FRANÇAIS

Alphaville  
*Alphaville, une étrange aventure  
de Lemmy Caution*

Sunday Sept 5th / 1pm / Gate Cinema



Jean-Luc Godard / France / 1965 / 99 mins  
Starring: Eddie Constantine, Anna Karina, Akim  
Tamiroff



**Golden Bear**  
Berlin Film Festival 1965

Alphaville is name of the critical journal published by the Film and Screen Media at University College Cork, just one example of the continued reach of the new wave masterpiece by Jean-Luc Godard. Godard's influence on cinema has been immeasurable and we're delighted to give cinéphiles an opportunity to see his dystopian sci-fi classic on the big screen, a screening not to be missed.

As with all futuristic films, it's interesting to see how they endure over time and how they comment on contemporary society.

As Guardian writer Richard Williams wrote ten years ago "Jean-Luc Godard's film – "a science fiction film without special effects" in the words of the critic Andrew Sarris; "a fable on a realistic ground" in Godard's own description – is a cry of protest aimed at the worshippers of science and logic. Unlike Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey, which now resembles a picturesque relic of long-abandoned aspirations, Alphaville still seems to be watching the world come to meet it. And the world is very much closer to the director's creation than it was back in 1965."



## De Gaulle



Gabriel Le Bomin / France / 2020 / 110 mins  
Starring: Lambert Wilson, Isabelle Carré, Olivier Gourmet, Catherine Mouchet



**Irish Premiere**

**Best Actor nominee,**  
César Awards 2021

Africa Mia: *La fabuleuse histoire  
des Maravillas de Mali*



Richard Minier & Edouard Salier / France / 2020 / 81 mins / Documentary



**Irish Premiere**

**Nominee Best Music Documentary,**  
Krakow Film Festival

Sunday Sept 5th / 3.30pm / Gate Cinema

Paris 1940. De Gaulle is confronted with the military and political collapse of France. This look at the life of one of the 20th Century's most important leaders covers the brief period of April to June 1940 – a few critical months when de Gaulle made his way to London to ask Churchill for support in his bid to establish a French force to work against the Vichy Government's armistice with Germany. It was the beginnings of the French resistance and a pivotal point in the war. As threat advances, his wife Yvonne and their children are soon forced to flee to Brittany.

The transformative interpretation of De Gaulle by Lambert Wilson, earned him a nomination for Best Actor at the César awards 2021.



**INSTITUT  
FRANÇAIS**

Sunday Sept 5th / 6pm / Gate Cinema

In the midst of the Cold War in 1964, ten promising young musicians from Mali were invited to Cuba for musical training and went on to invent a whole new genre, Afro-Cuban Music. This documentary follows in the footsteps of the musicians who became a founding group of world music, the legendary Maravillas of Mali. Fifty years later, this forgotten group is resurrected thanks to Maestro Boncana Maïga, its historical leader.

Africa Mia is a journey in search of the soul of Afro-Cuban music; from the communist friendships of the Cold War to today, from Havana to Bamako.



**INSTITUT  
FRANÇAIS**

## Closing Film

### Madly In Life *Une vie démente*

Sunday Sept 5th / 8.30pm / Gate Cinema



Ann Sirot & Raphaël Balboni / Belgium / 2020 / 87 mins  
Starring: Jo Deseure, Jean Le Peltier, Lucie Debay

Alex and Noémie, both in their thirties, want a child. But their plans are upset when Alex's mother, Suzanne, starts acting rather bizarrely. It is due to her suffering from "semantic dementia," a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that influences her behaviour. She spends money recklessly, visits her neighbours in the middle of the night to eat slices of bread, and cobbles together a fake driver's license for herself with scissors and glue. Suzanne the mother becomes an uncontrollable child. An unexpected and unusual parenting boot camp for Noémie and Alex!

*'Raphaël Balboni and Ann Sirot deliver a delicately balanced work, tackling a serious subject with imagination and determination'*

**Cineuropa**



**Best Film Audience Award**  
Bergamo Film Festival 2021

**Audience Award**  
MolodistFilm Festival 2021



Embassy of Belgium in  
Ireland

We are delighted to partner with the **French Embassy in Ireland**, the **Alliance Française Network** and **Access Cinema** in this Free Online presentation.

Alice And The Mayor  
*Alice Et Le Maire*

Online Only



Nicolas Pariser / France / 2019 / 105 minutes  
Starring: Fabrice Luchini, Anais Demoustier, Nora Hamzawi

The mayor of Lyon, Paul Théranneau, is in a delicate position. After 30 years in politics, he has run out of ideas, overcome by an existential emptiness. He hires a young and brilliant philosopher, Alice Heimann. Alice enters the political fray and a philosophical dialogue between her and the Mayor blossoms. Literature and political theory are on one hand, while on the other are technocrats and bureaucratic jargon. Dialogue is at the heart of this classy, lively comedy, with fascinating glimpses into the life of a public figure and the bureaucracy surrounding him.

Limited tickets available at: <https://watch.eventive.org/franceinireland>



**Best Actress,**  
César Awards, 2019  
**Europa Cinemas Award,**  
Cannes Film Festival, 2019  
**Europa Award,**  
Cannes Film Festival 2019



## 32nd Cork French Film Festival



*Pic: Madly in Life*

### **Alliance Française de Cork**

**John Mullins,**

*Board Director and President*

**Grace Neville,**

*Board Director and Vice-President*

**Josselin Le Gall,**

*Board Director & Festival Co-Director*

**Valérie David-McGonnell,**

*Board Director & Festival Co-Director*

**Pascal Lucas,**

*Board Director*

**Philippe Grosbois,**

*Board Director*

### **Festival Programming**

Úna Feely

Mick Hannigan

### **Festival Production**

Green Ray Film Agency

### **Online Festival Manager**

Peter Zemek

### **Online Administrator**

Faustine Favier

### **PR & Communications**

Healy Communications

### **Photography**

Darragh Kane

### **Brochure Design**

Double Marvellous

### **Website**

Jaywin Design

### **Festival Trailer**

Sandymount Productions

Sound: Tony Langlois

### **Gate Cinema Cork**

*Our sincere gratitude to the Gate Management and Staff*



Alliance Française

*Cork - Irlande*

*Corcaigh - Éire*

Founded 1947

**Autumn-Winter 2021**

**FRENCH COURSES**

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Alliance française de Cork is a not-for-profit registered Charity  
and the only DELF & DALF examination centre in Co. Cork

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