



34<sup>th</sup> Cork  
**FRENCH**  
*Film Festival*

*af*  
 Alliance Française  
 Cork - Irlande  
 Corcaigh - Éire  
 presents

9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## Cork French Film Festival

**The Gate Cinema**  
 North Main Street, Cork City  
 021 427 9595

Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> March
			11.00am Family Film <b>Dilili in Paris</b> pg 14
			1.30pm <b>Viking</b> pg 14
		3.30pm <b>More Than Ever</b> pg 11	3.30pm <b>Eiffel</b> pg 15
	6.15pm <b>Lie With Me</b> pg 10	6.15pm <b>Two Tickets to Greece</b> pg 11	6.15pm <b>Xalé</b> pg 15
8.30pm <b>The Innocent</b> pg 9	8.30pm <b>Driving Madeline</b> pg 10	8.30pm <b>Close</b> pg 13	8.30pm <b>Rise</b> pg 17

## 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

Cover image: *Driving Madeline*

### Ticket information

Shows before 5pm:  
**€8 / €7**

Shows from 5pm:  
**€11 / €9.50**

Family Film:  
**€6.50**



*The Innocent*

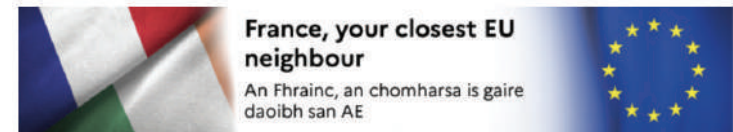


*Eiffel*



*Rise*

## SPONSORS AND PARTNERS





The Right Honorable

## Councillor Deirdre Forde, Ardmhéara Chorcaí

I am delighted to welcome you all to the 34th Cork French Film Festival, now back in its traditional March dates at The Gate Cinema.

This festival is not only one of Cork's longest running festivals, but Ireland's longest running French film festival, something that we are most proud to have here in Cork.

The festival reminds us of the strong links between Cork and France: touristic, cultural and commercial and of course, our strong friendship.

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. Now more than ever, such links are to be cherished.

I wish to pay tribute to the board and staff of Alliance Française de Cork who for 34 years have steered the festival and created such a positive addition to the cultural life of our City.

I also wish to acknowledge the important work of the French Honorary Consul in Cork, Josselin Le Gall and Chairperson Valérie David-McGonnell in their respective roles, and also jointly as the Festival Directors.

We all look forward to supporting this year's festival at the wonderful venue of The Gate Cinema, a steadfast home to the festival.

This year's Festival secures the position of Cork French Film Festival as the Francophone festival to discover all genres of cinema – a true festival.

Bon festival et bon succès!



A message from

## H.E. Vincent Guérend, Ambassador of France to Ireland

I am delighted to support the Cork French Film Festival which is the longest running French Film Festival in Ireland bringing the best of French and Francophone cinema to Cork every year.

The Cork French Film Festival plays a significant role in promoting cultural exchange between Ireland and France, its closest EU neighbour. Cultural links between our two countries are particularly important this year as we celebrate the 225th anniversary of "The Year of the French" and the long-lasting relationship between our two countries, based on democratic values.

The wonderful programme of the 34th Cork French Film Festival will appeal to different audiences, whether they are Francophiles or cinephiles in general.

I wish to congratulate Josselin Le Gall, Honorary Consul of France in Cork, and Valérie David-McGonnell, Alliance Française de Cork President, and the whole team for their excellent work on the Cork French Film Festival.

### Enjoy the festival!

Vive le cinéma! Vive l'amitié franco-irlandaise!

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

# Alliance Française de Cork

Bienvenue au Festival du film français de Cork



Photo: Alison Miles

We are delighted to present the programme of the 34th Cork French Film Festival which features the best of French-language cinema, with a variety of exciting long features. This year's selection will take you on a virtual journey to France, Belgium, Canada, Senegal, and Greece.

Our 2023 programme consists of 12 fantastic films, including this year's Oscar French-language Belgian nominee "Close", 6 Irish Premieres, a family film which has won a French Academy Award, a screening in tribute to French actor Gaspard Ulliel (1984-2022), and screenings for post-primary schools.

We are pleased that our Festival has returned to its original March dates, as March is known in Ireland as "Francophonie Month" celebrating the French language and the diversity of the French-speaking world.

We would like to thank all who have been supporting the CFFF and to wish 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, President



Prof. Grace Neville, Vice President



Kate Murphy, Secretary



Pascal Lucas, Treasurer



Josselin Le Gall



John Mullins



Philippe Grosbois

### Valérie David-McGonnell

Alliance Française de Cork President  
Cork French Film Festival Co-Director



France, your closest EU neighbour  
An Fhrainc, an chomharsa is gaire daoibh san AE



## AMBASSADE DE FRANCE EN IRLANDE

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Égalité  
Fraternité



*Dans navire il y a avenir*

Par le renouvellement de sa flotte et la **transition énergétique** déjà amorcée, Brittany Ferries poursuit son plan de relance et de développement, confiante en la pérennité de son avenir.

À l'horizon 2025, quatre nouveaux navires **respectueux de l'environnement** auront rejoint la compagnie.

Forte d'une flotte de douze navires et **premier employeur de marins français**, Brittany Ferries occupe aujourd'hui une position de leader sur l'Arc Atlantique.

**Acteur français majeur du transport maritime et du tourisme européen**, Brittany Ferries joue un rôle prépondérant au service du développement économique et touristique des régions littorales qu'elle dessert.

Lier les hommes et les territoires, **un demi-siècle d'histoire et d'engagement.**



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# The Innocent

## L'Innocent

Thursday March 9th / 8.30pm / Gate Cinema

Irish Premiere



Louis Garrel / France / 2022 / 99 mins  
Roschdy Zem, Anouk Grinberg, Noémie Merlant, Louis Garrel

When Abel (played by Garrel) learns that his mother is about to marry a man in prison he panics. Paranoid and lost, with the help of his friend Clémence, Abel does everything he can to try to protect his mother. However, an encounter with his new stepfather will change the course of events.

Through this story about characters who, for different reasons, are trying to rebuild their lives, Garrel creates a film that, above all, is about the search for love and the price of that love. How far are we willing to go for love?

*"Actor/director Louis Garrel's heist film The Innocent is flat out entertaining. It hits all of the familiar beats of a romantic dark comedy, but it's the witty, sarcastic dialogue that carries the entire establishing arc all the way to the end"*

Deadline

*"An entertaining yet moving film, told with simplicity and grace"*

Cineuropa



Nominated for eleven César Awards, 2023 including Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor

# Lie With Me

## Arrête avec tes mensonges

Friday March 10th / 6.15pm / Gate Cinema

Irish Premiere



Olivier Peyon / France / 2022 / 98 mins  
Guillaume de Tonquédec, Victor Belmondo, Guilaine Londez

Olivier Peyon's graceful romantic drama stars highly acclaimed actors Guillaume de Tonquédec and Victor Belmondo and is adapted from Philippe Besson's book Arrête avec tes Mensonges, which won the 2017 Maison de la Presse award and the 2017 Psychologies Award for inspiring novels.

Upon agreeing to be the brand ambassador for a famous cognac celebrating their bicentennial, novelist Stéphane Belcourt returns to his hometown for the first time in many years. Memories come rushing back to him: irrepensible attraction and a passion that can never be revealed as he remembers Thomas, his first love.

Fate intervenes, when he meets his first love's son, Lucas

# Driving Madeline

## Une Belle Course

Friday March 10th / 8.30pm / Gate Cinema

Irish Premiere



Christian Carion / France / 2022 / 91 mins  
Dany Boon, Line Renaud, Alice Isaaz, Jérémie Laheurte

Charles (Dany Boon) is a taxi driver in Paris, and he's having a very bad day. Pressing personal debts are due, he's in danger of losing his driver's licence and his marriage is falling apart.

Enter Madeleine (Line Renaud), an immaculately groomed 92-year-old woman, who informs Charles that the trip today will not be a direct one. She's moving into a care home and would like to make some stops along the way, as this might be her last car ride through the city. Charles grumbles but becomes charmed by Madeleine's warmth and fascinated by her tales as she slowly reveals the dramatic and shocking story of her life. She reminds us that inside every seemingly benign elderly woman we might pass on the street is a warrior, a nurturer, and a spirited adventurer.

*"Driving Madeleine works perfectly with its double-mirrored narrative simplicity, carried by two actors who enjoy wonderful natural chemistry."*

Cineuropa

More Than Ever  
*Plus que jamais*



Emily Atef / France, Luxembourg, Norway / 2022 / 123 mins  
Vicky Krieps, Gaspar Ulliel, Bjorn Floberg



Cannes Film Festival, 2022

Winner Visages de la Francophonie Best Film Award  
Cinemanía Festival 2022

Two Tickets To Greece  
*Les Cyclades*



Marc Fitoussi / France / 2022 / 110 mins  
Laure Calamy, Kristin Scott Thomas, Olivia Côte



Nominated for eleven awards, 2023  
including Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor

Friday March 11th / 3.30pm / Gate Cinema

Cork Premiere

Homage to French actor Gaspard Ulliel (1984-2022)

Hélène and Mathieu have been happy together for many years. The bond between them is deep. In this intimate and intense romantic drama, relationships are put to the test as Hélène takes the unusual step of departing for Norway when her health reaches crisis point, in search of peace and tranquillity.

Unable to continue their normal sociable and happy life, she is determined to retain her sense of self, and find meaning.

*"Krieps and Ulliel deliver their performances with unflinching conviction and intelligence, and it is deeply sad to think of Ulliel leaving us far too early."*

**The Guardian**

Saturday March 11th / 6.15pm / Gate Cinema

Irish Premiere

Three fabulous femmes - Laure Calamy, Olivia Côte and Kristin Scott Thomas - star in the wildly entertaining new comedy from writer/director Marc Fitoussi (Folies Bergère, Call My Agent!) about estranged childhood friends who tentatively reunite for a trip to the Greek Islands.

Recently divorced, Blandine is struggling to get back to her life. Her former best friend Magalie, loud and fearless, resurfaces and imposes herself on a trip they've always dreamed of as teenagers: Amorgos, the amazing location where *The Big Blue* was shot.

When they reach their destination, they realise the dreamy holidays don't go as they had planned since they have now a very different approach to holidays, and to life.

Starring three of the finest actresses working in the French language: who reflect all the warmth, intensity and contradictions of female friendship - the film is a humorous joy from start to finish.



# Securing a Low Carbon Future

As operator and developer of Ireland's electricity grid, we're leading the transition to a cleaner, low carbon future. A future where Ireland's world class potential in renewable energy is realised – supporting our energy security and a sustainable society.

We've already made significant progress. By 2020, nearly **40%** of our electricity came from renewable sources. By 2030 we want to reach **80%**.

Working together, we can deliver the critical infrastructure that Ireland needs to achieve this energy transformation.

For today, and for our future generations.



EirGrid.ie

Saturday March 11th / 8.30pm / Gate Cinema

**Cork Premiere**

Screened with the kind support of the Embassy of Belgium in Ireland

# Close

## Close

Lukas Dhont / Belgium, Netherlands / 2022 / 105 mins  
Eden Dambrine, Gustav De Waele, Émilie Dequenne

Winner of the Grand Prix award at Cannes 2022 and nominated for Best International Feature Film at this year's Academy Awards, Close is an elegant, poetic and empathetic study of youth. Thirteen-year-olds Léo and Rémi are inseparable; they spend every waking moment together, racing each other on their bikes, staying at each other's houses and playing in the surrounding fields. The older they get, the closer their bond becomes. However as they start a new school year, the pressures of burgeoning adolescence challenge their relationship with unexpected and far-reaching consequences.

With incredibly authentic and emotional performances from newcomers Eden Dambrine and Gustav De Waele, Close is as evocative as it is visually stunning. A powerful coming-of-age story, this profoundly moving portrait of male friendship offers a depiction of intimacy and masculinity that has an enduring impact.

AMBASSADE  
DE BELGIQUEOscar Nominee, Best Foreign Language Film  
Grand Prix, Cannes 2022  
César Nominee 2023*"An exceptional film of empathy and vision"*  
**BBC***"A quiet gem of a film... Sensitive, graceful and impeccably restrained"***Total Film**

# Dilili in Paris

## Dilili à Paris

Sunday March 12th / 11am / Gate Cinema

**Cork Premiere** **Age advisory: PG**

Michel Ocelot / France / 2018 / 97 mins / Animation

*"An adventure tale with an empowering message, this delightful family film is also an ode to The City of Light and to French culture and history."***Alliance of Women Film Journalists****César Award for Best Animated Film (2018)**

Dilili arrives in turn-of-the-century Paris as a stowaway on a ship. She is immediately taken under the wings of Orel, a kind-hearted delivery boy who seems to know every major figure in French science, art, music, and literature. Among those they visit are Marie Curie, Louis Pasteur, Emma Calvé, Sarah Bernhart, Toulouse-Lautrec, Claude Debussy, Auguste Renoir, Claude Monet, Colette, and others.

With the help of her friend, she investigates a spate of mysterious happening that is plaguing Belle Époque Paris. In the course of her investigation she encounters a series of extraordinary characters, each of which provides her with clues that will help her in her quest... After Kirikou and Azur & Asmar, Michel Ocelot returns with an enchanting new tale of brave young heroes, mysteries and discoveries, extraordinary places and magical encounters, in which good must challenge dark forces and triumph.

Sunday March 12th / 1.30pm / Gate Cinema

**Irish Premiere**

# Viking

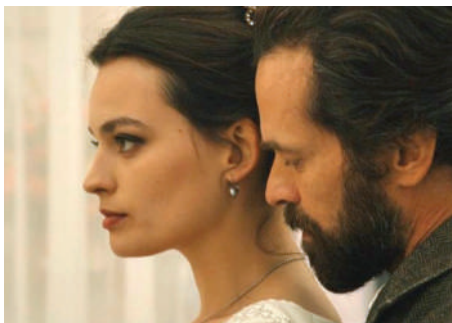
## Viking

Stéphane Lafleur / Canada / 2022 / 104 mins  
Steve Laplante, Larissa Corriveau, Fabiola N. Aladin, Hamza Haq

The Viking Society is recruiting volunteers for the first crewed mission to Mars. The goal is to form a B-team that will mirror the mission here on Earth to find solutions to the interpersonal problems that the Mars-bound crew is experiencing. David is a high school gym teacher who seizes this opportunity to revive his dream of becoming an astronaut and making a difference. Viking balances deadpan humour with profound poignancy in its story about a longing for a sense of purpose. It's that rare kind of science fiction where gadgets and fantasy are overshadowed by the mysteries of the human psyche.

*"Lafleur tries his hand at the unusual category of science-fiction comedy, pulling off an insightful, hilarious film that is part science spoof, part character study"***Far Out Magazine**Best French language feature film at the 2022 Cinéfest  
Sudbury International Film Festival  
VIFF F d'Or at Vevey International Funny Film Festival

Eiffel  
Eiffel



Martin Bourboulon / France / 2021 / 108 mins  
Romain Duris, Emma Mackey, Pierre Deladonchamps

Sunday March 12th / 3.30pm / Gate Cinema

Cork Premiere

Eiffel is a handsomely mounted drama of Gustave Eiffel's quest to build the iconic tower that bears his name. The film shows how Eiffel was an unpopular figure in late 19th century Paris when his plans for the 10,100-tonne iron tower, intended to be a symbol of French industrial *savoir-faire* for the 1889 Universal Exhibition, were unveiled.

As Eiffel combats negative public opinion and surmounts adverse building conditions with his genius for steelwork, the film gives equal weight to a doomed love affair, set over the course of 20 years, as Gustave and Adrienne (Emma Mackey in her French debut), now married to a prominent journalist, rekindle their youthful flame.

Eiffel isn't so much a biopic of Gustave Eiffel but a story "freely inspired" by the historical facts. It posits why Eiffel had a sudden change of heart in becoming involved with the metal tower project after initially declining.

Sunday March 12th / 6.15pm / Gate Cinema

Irish Premiere

Awa and Adama are 15-year-old siblings living in a neighbourhood on the outskirts of Dakar. Awa, bright and intelligent, excels at school. Adama prefers to sell trinkets on the street and has his eyes set upon the precarious journey across water to France. Following the death of their grandmother, the children stay with their uncle Atoumane, who is arranged to be married to their cousin Fatou. But she has no feelings for Atoumane and her rejection of him catalyses an act of violence that tears the family apart. Ten years later, Atoumane returns to the village, where there is a sense of trepidation, particularly felt by Awa, whose life was irrevocably altered by him.

Xalé  
Xalé



Moussa Sène Absa / Senegal, Ivory Coast / 2022 / 101 mins  
Nguissaly Barry, Rokhaya Niang, Ibrahima Mbaye Tché

*"The latest film from the veteran Senegalese director blends narrative styles and traditions, from local folklore to Western-style soap opera, to make its tale of female subjugation and self-liberation as universal as possible."*

Variety



Official Selection  
BFI London Film Festival 2022





# Rise En Corps

Sunday March 12th / 8.30pm / Gate Cinema

Cork Premiere



Cédric Klapisch / France / 2022 / 117 mins  
Marion Barbeau, Hofesh Shechter, Denis Podalydes, Muriel Robin

Rise begins with a beautifully shot sequence that takes place backstage and onstage during a performance of the ballet La Bayadère. With no dialogue, the stage is immediately set for the movie's plot. The prima ballerina, Élise (brilliantly played by Marion Barbeau, a real ballerina from the Paris Opera Ballet in her first film role) takes a bad fall and breaks her ankle. The film follows her through her attempts to recover and find a new path in life. While staying at an artists' residency in Brittany as an extra pair of hands in the kitchen, Elise finds her way to healing – both physically and mentally – through mixing with a contemporary dance group.

*"There is a life-affirming quality in how the film captures the recovery process: it is not a solitary act but a communal one, as the healing of Elise's body is made possible only by being among the collective of other creative souls."*

The Guardian



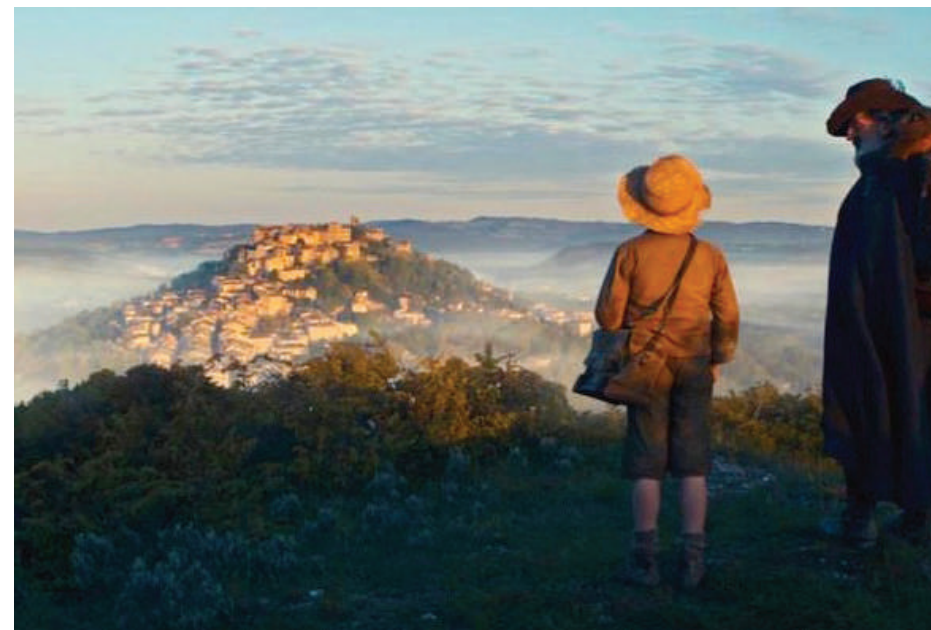
Nominated for ten César Awards, 2023, including Best Film, Best Director.

# Schools Film

## Rémi, Nobody's Boy Rémi sans famille

Recommended for Second Year upwards

Cork Premiere



Antoine Blossier / France / 2018 / 109 mins  
Daniel Auteuil, Maleaume Paquin, Virginie Ledoyen

Based on French author Hector Malot's novel Sans Famille (1878), this adventure drama tells the story of Rémi, a boy who lives in the French countryside with a kind peasant woman, Mrs Barberin. Everything changes when Mrs Barberin's husband comes home after working in Paris for years and reveals to Rémi that he was actually abandoned at a church as a baby. As Mr Barberin tries to take him to an orphanage, Rémi meets Vitalis, a mysterious itinerant musician. Rémi sets off on a long journey through France with Vitalis. From adventures to misadventures, Rémi learns the ropes of street performing while meeting new people and making new friends, one of whom manages to locate his real family...

School screenings with the support of the AIPLF  
(Irish Association of French-Language Teachers)



Please see <https://aipf-ireland.com/> to download a teaching resource for this film. Schools bookings should be emailed to: [thegatecork@corkcinemas.com](mailto:thegatecork@corkcinemas.com)

## 34th Cork French Film Festival



*Two Tickets to Greece*

### Credits

#### Alliance Française de Cork Board of Directors

Valérie David-McGonnell,  
President, Festival Co-Director

Josselin Le Gall,  
Festival Co-Director

Grace Neville,  
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#### Festival Programming

Una Feely  
Mick Hannigan

#### Festival Production

Green Ray Film Agency

#### PR & Communications

Healy Communications

#### Photography

Alison Miles

#### Brochure Design

Double Marvellous

#### Website

Jaywin Design

#### Gate Cinema Cork

*Our sincere gratitude to the Gate  
Management and Staff*

### Merci!

Alliance Française de Cork and the Festival team would like to express our deep gratitude to everyone who has supported and contributed to the 34th 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.

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Alliance Française  
Cork - Irlande  
Corcaigh - Éire

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