

**PROGRAM: 2019 Alliance Française French Film Festival 2019,**  
just a taste of what's to come:

**A MAN IN A HURRY (Un home pressé)**

**Director: Hervé Mimran**

**Cast: Fabrice Luchini, Leïla Bekhti, Rebecca Marder**

When Alain, the powerful CEO of a car manufacturer, whose work has always come first, suffers a major stroke, he finds he must completely rebuild his life and family relationships, in this surprisingly amusing take on physical rehabilitation.

**AT WAR (En guerre)**

**Director: Stéphane Brizé**

**Cast: Vincent Lindon, Mélanie Rover, Jacques Borderie**

After promising 1,100 employees that their livelihood would be safe if they made heavy financial sacrifices, the managers of a factory decide to close shop, sparking a 'call-to-arms' by the workers determined to do whatever it takes to reverse this brutal decision and save their jobs.

**BY THE GRACE OF GOD (Grâce à Dieu)**

**Director: François Ozon**

**Cast: Melvil Poupaud, Denis Ménochet, Swann Arlaud**

By chance, a family man discovers that the priest who abused him as a youth is still working with children. Determined to see justice served, he re-establishes contact with his fellow boyhood victims who vow to see the truth be told, no matter the consequences.

**CELEBRATION: YVES SAINT LAURENT**

**Director: Oliver Meyrou**

**Cast: Yves Saint-Laurent, Catherine Deneuve**

Go behind-the-scenes to witness the one and only Yves Saint Laurent, as he prepares his final collection. Surrounded by icons of the fashion industry we meet this larger than life, yet incredibly complex man whose legend lives on.

**CLAIRE DARLING (La dernière folie de Claire Darling)**

**Director: Julie Bertucelli**

**Cast: Catherine Deneuve, Chiara Mastroianni, Alice Taglioni**

On the first day of summer, reclusive millionaire Claire, impulsively decides to sell all her possessions, echoes of her tragic and flamboyant life, on the front lawn of her mansion – an act which sees her long-estranged daughter return home, determined to stop her mother's 'madness.'

**DUMPED (Larguées)**

**Director: Eloïse Lang**

**Cast: Miou-Miou, Camille Cottin, Camille Chamoux**

Two wildly different sisters decide to take their recently 'dumped' 60 year-old mother, Françoise, for a getaway on a beautiful tropical island. But when they plot to boost her morale by arranging for the suave Thierry to court her, events swiftly spiral out of control.

## **GIRL**

**Director: Lukas Dhont**

**Cast: Victor Polster, Arieh Worthalter, Oliver Bodart**

An adolescent transgender girl from Belgium struggles not so much with her gender identity, but with her passion to become a professional ballerina. Supported by her family, she commences her journey into gender reassignment, yet her teenage impatience and the immense pressures of ballet, push her to the brink.

## **HIGH LIFE**

**Director: Claire Denis**

**Cast: Juliette Binoche, Robert Pattinson, André Benjamin**

Far beyond our solar system, Monte and his infant daughter, Willow, the sole survivors of a prison crew where they were treated as human guinea pigs by the deranged Dr Dibs, drift closer to a black hole where all time and space cease to exist.

## **I FEEL GOOD**

**Director: Benoît Delépine, Gustave Kervern**

**Cast: Jean Dujardin, Yolande Moreau**

In this hilarious tale, Jacques, an unstable ne'er-do-well with perennial delusions of grandeur, reappears in the life of Monique, his long-suffering sister, to try and persuade her to join him in an outlandish plan that he's convinced will make them both rich.

## **IN SAFE HANDS (Pupille)**

**Director: Jeanne Herry**

**Cast: Sandrine Kiberlain, Gilles Lellouche, Éodie Bouchez**

When baby Theo's birth mother surrenders him for adoption, we are thrown deep into the milieu of the French social assistance services, exposing the conflicting conundrums faced by many woman – those giving up their babies and those desperate to have their own.

## **IN YOUR HANDS (Au bout des doigts)**

**Director Ludovic Bernard**

**Cast: Kristin Scott Thomas, Lambert Wilson, Karidja Touré**

Mathieu, a housing project kid who is falling into petty theft, crosses paths with Pierre, director of a prestigious music conservatory, who hears him playing piano at a railway station. Using his influence to secure private lessons for the boy, Pierre has a secret agenda: to enter Mathieu into a prestigious, international piano competition.

## **JEAN PAUL GAULTIER: FREAK & CHIC (Jean Paul Gaultier fait son show)**

**Director: Yann L'Hénoret**

**Cast: Jean Paul Gaultier, Stéphane Bern, Daphné Bürki**

Documentarian Yann L'Hénoret immerses us in the eccentric universe of this iconic genius by following the ambitious conception of the ultra-glamorous Fashion Freak Show cabaret, shooting the film's footage across a six-month period in intimate and extravagant detail.

**KNIFE+HEART (Un couteau dans le coeur)**

**Director Yann Gonzalez**

**Cast: Vanessa Paradis, Kate Moran, Nicolas Maury**

During a steamy 1979 Parisian summer, Anne, a gay porn producer, recently shunned by her girlfriend and editor, Loïs, strives to regain her love by shooting her most ambitious film yet. But when one of the actors is brutally murdered, she finds herself implicated in a strange and twisted investigation.

**LAST YEAR AT MARIENBAD (L'année dernière à Marienbad)**

**Director: Alain Resnais**

**Cast: Delphine Seyrig, Giorgio Albertazzi,**

**Sacha Pitoëff**

As powerful today as when it first screened in 1961, this para-surrealist masterpiece from director Alain Resnais follows a group of unnamed aristocrats whose romantic interactions at a sumptuous château result in an enigmatic tale told partially in flashback.

**LE GRAND BAL**

**Director: Laetitia Carton**

Each summer, in an idyllic countryside estate south of Paris, several thousand people converge to dance over seven days and eight nights. Le Grand Bal chronicles this extraordinary annual event, where participants defy fatigue and gradually lose all sense of time as they lose themselves in the magic of dance.

**NON-FICTION (Doubles vies)**

**Director: Olivier Assayas**

**Cast: Guillaume Canet, Juliette Binoche, Vincent Macaigne**

This slyly seductive tale of sex, lies and literature, traces the romantic and emotional fallout when a controversial writer blurs the line between fact and fiction, using his real-life love affairs - including a passionate fling with an actress who happens to be married to his editor - as fodder for his explosive new novel.

**PROMISE AT DAWN (La promesse de l'aube)**

**Director: Eric Barbier**

**Cast: Pierre Niney, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Didier Bourdon**

From his childhood in Poland to his adolescence in Nice, to his years as a student in Paris and arduous training as a pilot during World War II, this tragi-comedy tells the story of famed French novelist and diplomat, Romain Gary, whose relationship with his endearing yet eccentric mother shaped the man he ultimately became.

**RÉMI, NOBODY'S BOY (Rémi sans famille)**

**Director: Antoine Blossier**

**Cast: Daniel Auteuil, Maleaume Paquin, Virginie Ledoyen**

An enchanting family epic, this is the story of Rémi, a ten year-old orphan, snatched from his gentle adoptive mother and entrusted to the care of Signor Vitalis, a mysterious, itinerant musician. As they journey across the France of a bygone era, their adventures lead Rémi to ultimately discover the secret of his origins.

## **REVENGE**

**Director: Coralie Fargeat**

**Cast: Matilda Anna Ingrid Lutz, Kevin Janssens, Vincent Colombe**

In this feminist thriller, Jen is enjoying a romantic desert getaway with her wealthy, married boyfriend until his two sleazy friends arrive unannounced. Mounting tension culminates in a brutal act that sees her left for dead. But she survives and begins a relentless quest for bloody revenge.

## **SINK OR SWIM (Le grand bain)**

**Director: Gilles Lellouche**

**Cast: Mathieu Amalric, Guillaume Canet, Benoît Poelvoorde**

An uplifting comedy about a group of disenchanting middle-aged men, who, in the face of scepticism and ridicule, discover fresh self-esteem and a new purpose when they form their local pool's first-ever all-male, synchronized swimming team.

## **SORRY ANGEL (Plaire, aimer et courir vite)**

**Director: Christophe Honoré**

**Cast: Vincent Lacoste, Pierre Deladonchamps**

Memory, longing and regret linger throughout this romantic drama set in early 90s Paris. Jacques, a worldly writer and Arthur a much-younger man, on the verge of acknowledging his true sexuality, find themselves falling for each other, but must first navigate several hurdles in this this life-affirming celebration of love and friendship.

## **THE FALL OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE (La chute de l'empire américain)**

**Director: Denys Arcand**

**Cast: Maxim Roy, Éric Bruneau, Vincent Leclerc**

In this provocative comedy, a listless loser with a wasted PhD in Philosophy finds his dull life turned upside down when he's saddled with a fortune in stolen cash. Enlisting the help of two dubious associates, he ponders his next move whilst trying to outmanoeuvre the heisters who want 'their' money back.

## **THE IMAGE BOOK (Le livre d'image)**

**Director: Jean-Luc Godard**

**Cast: Jean-Luc Godard, Dimitri Basil, Buster Keaton**

This incredible work by Jean-Luc Godard, one of the luminaries of the French New Wave, is a wonder of audio-visual poetry that examines civilization, teetering on the precipice, through a provocative potpourri of cinema clips, news footage and narration, resulting in a stunning aural and visual collage.

## **THE NIGHT EATS THE WORLD (La nuit a dévoré le monde)**

**Director: Dominique Rocher**

**Cast: Anders Danielsen Lie, Golshifteh Farahani, Denis Lavant**

On waking in his ex-girlfriend's apartment following a raging party, Sam is horrified to discover that zombies have invaded the streets of Paris, and he is one of the lone survivors. Petrified, he barricades himself inside the building to survive. Can he bear the solitude or will he learn that he's not alone after all?

## **THE SISTERS BROTHERS**

**Director: Jacques Audiard**

**Cast: John C. Reilly, Joaquin Phoenix, Jake Gyllenhaal**

It's 1851, and Charlie and Eli Sisters, both brothers and assassins, accept a contract to kill a mysterious chemist that sends them on a fraught journey through the Northwest to the gold fields of California, on an adventure that tests the deadly family ties that bind.

## **WHO YOU THINK I AM (Celle que vous croyez)**

**Director: Safy Nebbou**

**Cast: Juliette Binoche, François Civil, Guillaume Gouix**

Recovering from the betrayal of her ex-husband who cast her aside for a much younger partner, Claire, a 50ish university lecturer and mother, impulsively creates a fictional Facebook profile, posing as a 24 year-old woman. But what seems like titillating fun soon leads both of her identities into increasingly dangerous territory.

National dates and venues for the **2019 Alliance Française French Film Festival** are:

<b>SYDNEY:</b>	5 March – 10 April	Palace Norton Street, Palace Verona, Chauvel Cinema, Palace Central & Hayden Orpheum Cremorne
<b>MELBOURNE</b>	6 March – 10 April	Palace Balwyn, Palace Brighton Bay, Palace Cinema Como, Palace Westgarth, Kino Cinemas & The Astor Theatre
<b>CANBERRA</b>	7 March – 10 April	Palace Electric Cinema
<b>PERTH</b>	13 March – 10 April	Palace Raine Square, Cinema Paradiso, Luna on SX, Windsor Cinema & Camelot Outdoor Cinema
<b>BRISBANE</b>	14 March – 14 April	Palace Barracks & Palace James Street
<b>HOBART</b>	14 – 23 March	State Cinema
<b>ADELAIDE</b>	21 March – 18 April	Palace Nova Eastend Cinemas, Palace Nova Prospect Cinemas
<b>AVOCA BEACH</b>	22 - 27 March	Avoca Beach Picture Theatre
<b>PARRAMATTA</b>	28 – 31 March	Riverside Theatres Parramatta
<b>BYRON BAY</b>	4 – 17 April	Palace Byron Bay

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