

24. FESTIVAL FRANCOUZSKÉHO FILMU

FESTIVAL DU FILM FRANÇAIS
18. - 24. 11. 2021

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The 24th French Film Festival in Czech Republic 2021

The French Film Festival is traditionally held at the end of November. Prague hosts French films from November 18 to 24 at the French Institute's Cinema 35, Lucerna, Světozor and Edison Filmhub. The festival also takes place in Brno, Český Budějovice, Hradec Králové and Ostrava.

The 24th edition of the French Film Festival will feature nine pre-premiere works, led by the exceptional musical film *Aline*, which is loosely inspired by the life of Canadian singer **Céline Dion**. The main role of the singer Aline is portrayed by the popular French actress **Valérie Lemercier**, who also wrote the screenplay and directed the piece. The film premiered at this year's Cannes Film Festival. The previews will also include the dazzling French-Czech animated film *The Crossing*, by **Florence Mialhe**. The feature film, created using an unusual technique of animated painting on glass, won the Special Jury Mention at this year's Annecy Animated Film Festival and tells an extraordinary story about a journey to freedom and hope. Also on the programme is the psychological crime drama *Lovers*, which featured in the official competition at the Venice Film Festival in 2020. Director **Nicole Garcia** elaborates on the theme of the love triangle. The chief protagonists of this genre work with elements of film noir are **Stacy Martin**, **Pierre Niney** and **Benoît Magimel**. The festival will also feature the latest film by the prominent French director **Jacques Audiard**, *Paris, 13th District*. This black-and-white work by the winner of several Caesars, which was in competition for this year's Palme d'Or at Cannes, is an examination of the lives of today's thirty-somethings, accompanied by the dynamic music of the French electronic music visionary **Rone**. **Sylvie Ohayon's** film *Haute Couture*, starring **Natalie Baye**, takes viewers to the centre of Paris's Dior fashion salon, while the festival will offer an adaptation of **Philip Roth's** prose, *Love Talks*. It was brought to the silver screen by director **Arnaud Desplechin** and the result is *Deception*, starring **Denis Podalydès** as the writer Philip. **Léa Seydoux** plays the role of Philip's mistress.

The Program for English-speaking audiences

The Prague part of the festival will offer eight films which have yet to be purchased for Czech cinema distribution; they will compete for the coveted TV5 Monde award. They include the biopic *De Gaulle*, **Emmanuel Mouret's** *Love Affair(s)* and **Tony Gatlif's** latest *Tom Medina*, which premiered this year in Cannes. The retrospective dedicated to **Charlotte Gainsbourg** will commemorate a significant milestone in the life of this famous French actress and singer, presenting a total of six films including a film adaptation of **Marguerite Duras'** play *Suzanna Andler*, which is directed by **Benoît Jacquot**.

The festival will also present a series of films by the prominent politically engaged filmmaker and director of the Cinémathèque française, **Costa Gavras**. The cycle will feature four early Gavras films as well as his latest work, *Adults in the Room*. The Prague part of the festival will end with a tribute to the great French cinematographer **Jean-Paul Belmondo**. It will include the films *That Man from Rio*, *Crazy Pete* and *A Monkey in Winter*, covering the wide range of genres in his acting career.

The program will also feature the popular Evening of Short Films, and the festival will also commemorate, in a special screening, sixty years since audiences first set eyes on **François Truffaut's** cult classic *Jules and Jim*. With the release of *La Vie en rose*, the French Film Festival, together with Barrandov Studios, will celebrate the 90th anniversary of this legendary Prague film studio, which was involved in the creation of a number of foreign films, including *La Vie en rose*.

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The festival has prepared for English-speaking audiences, all the films in the sections A Tribute to **Jean-Paul Belmondo**, the TV5MONDE Competition, An Evening of Short Films and the **Costa Gavras** Cycle. From the section Focus on **Charlotte Gainsbourg**, English-speaking audiences can sit down to *Jane by Charlotte*, *Susanna Andler* and *Anette*. The special screening of *Jules and Jim* will also be with English subtitles.

All films are shown in their original version with Czech subtitles (the above-mentioned films also with English subtitles) or with Czech dubbing.

Admission to the festival screenings is 130 CZK.

Official festival website: www.festivalff.cz

Facebook: www.facebook.com/festivalff

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