

2023

FILMART

the party
FILM SALES

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ORLANDO, MY POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY ●

BY PAUL B. PRECIADO



In 1928, Virginia Woolf wrote *Orlando*, the first novel in which the main character changes sex in the middle of the story. A century later, trans writer and activist Paul B. Preciado decides to send a film letter to Virginia Woolf: her *Orlando* has come out of her fiction and is living a life she could have never imagined.

Paul B. Preciado is a writer, philosopher, curator, and one of the leading thinkers in the study of gender and body politics. Among his different assignments, he has been Curator of Public Programs of documenta 14 (Kassel/Athens), Curator of the Taiwan Pavilion in Venice in 2019, and Head of Research of the Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona (MACBA). His books, Counter-sexual Manifesto (Columbia University Press); Testo Junkie (The Feminist Press); Pornotopia (Zone Books); An Apartment in Uranus (Semiotexte and Fitzcarraldo), Can the Monster Speak (Semiotexte and Fitzcarraldo), and Dysphoria Mundi (Grasset, Graywolf and Fitzcarraldo) are a key reference to queer, trans and non-binary contemporary art and activism. He was born in Spain and lives in Paris.

LES FILMS DU POISSON - 24IMAGES - ARTE FRANCE • FRANCE • 98' • 2023 • DOCUMENTARY



● WHEN IT MELTS

BY VEERLE BAETENS

Many years after a sweltering summer that spun out of control, Eva returns to the village she grew up in with an ice block in the back of her car. In the dead of winter, she confronts her past and faces up to her tormentors.

*Veerle Baetens is a Belgian actress from Antwerp, Flanders. After studying piano and musical theater in Brussels, she starts her acting career in 2007 in the Flemish version of *Ugly Betty*. She's mostly known for her role in *The Broken Circle Breakdown*, directed by Felix Van Groeningen which grabbed an Oscar nomination in 2014 and won the César Award for Best Foreign Film. She was also the lead actress in Edouard Bergeon's film *In the Name of the Land* (2019). *When It Melts*, adapted from a bestseller by Lize Spit, is her directorial debut.*

Cast Rosa Marchant, Charlotte De Bruyne

SAVAGE FILM - PRPL - VERSUS PRODUCTION • BELGIUM - THE NETHERLANDS • 111' • 2023 • FEATURE FILM



AND YET WE WERE ALL BLIND •

BY BÉATRICE POLLET



Claire and Thomas are happily married with two kids. But when the police find a newborn believed to be Claire's near their house, their lives are thrown into turmoil. Claire claims she didn't know she was pregnant, but how could one not notice it? As her best friend and lawyer Sophie builds her defense, the very essence of motherhood soon becomes the heart of the case.

*Born in 1964, Béatrice Pollet is a French filmmaker. From 1988 to 2011, she worked as a script supervisor with directors Philippe Lioret, Raül Ruiz, Hiner Saleem and many others. She has directed three short films as well as documentaries. Her first feature film, **Le Jour de la grenouille** was released in 2012. **And Yet We Were All Blind** is her second feature.*

Cast Maud Wyler, Géraldine Nakache, Grégoire Colin

SENSITO FILMS • FRANCE • 95' • 2022 • FEATURE FILM



• PARADISE

BY ALEXANDER ABATUROV

In the summer 2021, an exceptional heatwave and drought led to giant fires that ravaged 19 million hectares of land in northeastern Siberia. In this region at the heart of the taiga lies the village of Shologon soon to be blanketed by a thick cloud of smoke. Spread by the wind, the black ashes carry alarming news: the forest is on fire and the flames are fast approaching. The government having left them to fend for themselves, the inhabitants must rally to fight The Dragon.

*Alexander Abaturov was born in Russia in 1984. After graduating from Gorki University, he became a journalist. In 2010, he received a Masters degree from the French documentary School in Lussas. In 2013, he directed his first documentary, **Sleeping Souls**, selected in numerous festivals and awarded with the Institut Français Prize at the Cinéma du Réel Festival. **The Son**, his first feature length documentary, premiered in the Berlinale Forum and was selected at many other festivals such as ArtDocFest, Message to Men, Cinéma du Réel, and several others.*

PETIT À PETIT PRODUCTION - INTERMEZZO FILMS - SIBÉRIADE - ARTE FRANCE
CINEMA • FRANCE - SWITZERLAND • 89' • 2022 • DOCUMENTARY



THE LOST SOULS OF SYRIA •

BY STÉPHANE MALTERRE & GARANCE LE CAISNE



27,000 photos of civilian detainees tortured to death were stolen from the Syrian regime's secret archives by a military defector codenamed Caesar and made public in 2014. Director Stéphane Malterre and his co-author and historical advisor, Garance Le Caisne, investigated to what extent international justice proves impotent in prosecuting the criminal Syrian state. As the case seems doomed to oblivion, the victims' families, along with activists and Caesar himself, seek truth and justice through state courts across Europe instead. More than five years of investigation and struggles will lead to the first trial against the high officials of the Syrian death machine.

Stéphane Malterre and Garance Le Caisne are French journalists who both studied Syria in their respective previous works. While Malterre made a dozen documentaries for TV, the latest of which having been filmed in Syria for three years and premiering at Fipadoc, this is Le Caisne's first feature documentary after working on the Syrian regime's crimes for ten years.

LES FILMS D'ICI - KATUH STUDIO • FRANCE - GERMANY • 99' • 2022 • DOCUMENTARY



• A COUPLE

BY FREDERICK WISEMAN

Leo and Sophia Tolstoy were married for 36 years, had 13 children. Each kept a diary. *A Couple* is Sophia's monologue about the joys and struggles of their life together, loosely drawn from her diary and their letters to each other.

Cast Nathalie Boutefeu

WAT FILMS LLC in association with ZIPPORAH FILMS, INC. and TOUT DE MÊME • USA - FRANCE • 64' • 2022 • FEATURE FILM



THE LAST QUEEN •

BY DAMIEN OUNOURI & ADILA BENDIMERAD



Algeria, 1516. The pirate Aroudj Barbarossa frees Algiers from the tyranny of the Spanish and seizes power over the kingdom. Rumor has it he murdered King Salim Toumi despite their alliance. Against all odds, one woman will stand up to him: Queen Zaphira. Between history and legend, this woman's journey tells of a struggle, of personal and political turmoil endured for the sake of Algiers.

*Damien Ounouri is an Algerian-French director based in Algiers. Adila Bendimerad is an Algerian actress (Merzak Allouache, Georges Hachem), scriptwriter, and producer. In 2011, she founded the production company Taj Intaj aiming to promote young Algerian talents. After his documentary *Fidai* (TIFF, 2012), Ounouri directed the short film *Kindil El Bahr* cowritten with Bendimerad and produced by Taj Intaj (Cannes Directors' Fortnight, 2016). *The Last Queen* is the duo's directorial debut.*

Cast Adila Bendimerad, Dali Benssalah, Tahar Zaoui, Imen Noel, Nadia Tereszkiewicz

TAJ INTAJ - AGAT FILMS - ORANGE STUDIO - BIRTH - CADC - LONG HU BAO - TAICCA - SOFINERGIE 5 - THE RED SEA FILM FESTIVAL FOUNDATION • ALGERIA - FRANCE - QATAR - SAUDI ARABIA - TAIWAN • 113' • 2022 • FEATURE FILM



• **ASHKAL**
BY YOUSSEF CHEBBI

In the Gardens of Carthage, a district of Tunis initiated by the former Regime which construction stopped at the beginning of the Revolution, two cops, Fatma and Batal, find a burnt body in one of the lots. As construction slowly resumes, they start looking into this mysterious case. When the event repeats itself, the investigation takes a puzzling turn.

*Youssef Chebbi was born in Tunisia in 1984. After studying art, he directed two short films, *Vers le Nord* and *Les Profondeurs* selected in several international festivals. In 2012 he codirected the documentary *Babylon* which won the Jury Prize at the FID of Marseille and was presented at MoMA. *Ashkal* is his first feature film.*

Cast Fatma Oussaifi, Mohamed Houcine Grayaa

SUPERNOVA FILMS - POETIK FILM - BLAST FILM • FRANCE - TUNISIA - QATAR • 92' • 2022 • FEATURE FILM

COMPLETED



TOP DOGS •

BY JULIEN GUETTA



Antoine and Christian, two long-estranged brothers from Normandy, couldn't be more different from each other: while the former is happily married with two kids and a successful boat driver, the latter is a facetious, globe-trotting hustler who likes to get into bar fights. But when Antoine becomes involved in sleazy activities, Christian flies to his rescue. In an unexpected bonding adventure, they take it upon themselves to defend the family they thought they'd never be.

Graduated from La Fémis in 2009, Julien Guetta directed several short films such as *Le Vacant* selected in Competition in Clermont-Ferrand in 2011. After co-signing scripts for feature-length films and winning the Emergence and Anger Workshop in 2017, he wrote and directed his first feature film *The Troubleshooter* starring Eric Judor and Laure Calamy which was acclaimed by the critics. *Top Dogs*, his second feature with Jean-Paul Rouve (*Les Tuche*) and Grégoire Ludig (*Mandibles*), is produced by Nolita.

Cast Jean-Paul Rouve, Michel Blanc, Grégoire Ludig

NOLITA CINEMA - PRINCESSE BELI PRODUCTIONS • FRANCE • 90' • 2022 • FEATURE FILM

COMPLETED



• GREEN CITY LIFE

BY MANON TURINA & FRANÇOIS MARQUES

How do we build the city of tomorrow? One that combines the benefits of the countryside with the advantages of the urban world? Manon and François, two young city dwellers, traveled between Mexico, Europe, and the US in search of concrete and revolutionary initiatives at every scale that bring nature back to the heart of cities. Accompanied by associations, business leaders, and city experts, they provide inspiring ideas to propel cities into the 21st Century: from revegetation to urban farming and bio-waste recovery. By making the link between all these solutions, they offer us their vision of what the green city of tomorrow could be, calling on government, private companies, and citizens to take action.

DAO PRODUCTION - JOUR2FÊTE PRODUCTION • FRANCE • 85' • 2023 • DOCUMENTARY

COMPLETED



THE WILD ONE •

BY TESSA LOUISE-SALOMÉ



An innovative, cinematic exploration of acting as a form of survival, through the life and work of Jack Garfein: Holocaust survivor, Actors Studio co-founder, controversial stage and screen director. A journey of an enigmatic, censored artist, *The Wild One* explores the importance of his legacy and questions how art can draw on personal memory to better enlighten our present.

Tessa Louise-Salomé is a screenwriter, director and producer for Petite Maison Production which she founded in 2006. An artist-portraying specialist, she has directed or worked on several documentaries focusing on the art world. Her first feature-length documentary *Mr. X*, a portrait of French filmmaker Leos Carax caught the attention of Sundance Film Festival where it premiered in 2014.

Narrated by Willem Dafoe

PETITE MAISON PRODUCTION • FRANCE • 94' • 2022 • DOCUMENTARY

COMPLETED



• POLARIS

BY AINARA VERA



Hayat, an expert sailor in the Arctic, navigates far from humans and her family's past in France. But when her little sister Leila gives birth to a baby girl, their worlds are turned upside down; we witness their journey, guided by the polar star, to overcome the family's fate.

Ainara Vera was born in Spain in 1985. After studying cinema, her first short documentary *Sertres* premiered at Locarno in 2014. She then directed a medium-length film *See you tomorrow, God Willing!* which premiered at IDFA and was selected in many festivals including Doc NYC, DocsBarcelona. *Polaris* is her first feature doc.

POINT DU JOUR - LES FILMS DU BALIBARI - ÁNORÂK FILM • FRANCE - GREENLAND • 78' • 2022 • DOCUMENTARY

COMPLETED



BAMBI, A FRENCH WOMAN •

BY SÉBASTIEN LIFSHITZ — DIRECTOR'S CUT

From the day she was born in Algiers, Marie-Pierre has always wanted to wear dresses and has stubbornly refused her given name: Jean-Pierre. At the age of 17, her life took a major turn when she came upon a drag show on tour: *le Carrousel de Paris*. Marie-Pierre became *Bambi*, and within a few years established herself as a legendary figure of the Parisian cabaret scenes of the 50s and 60s. By collecting the story of one of the first transgender women, Sébastien Lifshitz continues his work initiated with *Wild Side* and *Little Girl* and portrays a forceful personality.

This updated version of the film extends and deepens the short-film released in 2013 to become the feature-length version the director has always dreamt of making.

UN MONDE MEILLEUR • FRANCE • 83' • 2022 • DOCUMENTARY

COMPLETED



• THE TAKEOVER

BY GILLES PERRET

Cédric is a worker in a precision mechanics factory in the French Alps. When he finds out that the factory is about to be sold to an investment fund, he joins forces with two of his childhood friends to pull off an epic heist. With the help of occasional allies from the corporate world, this unexpected team of amateurs will learn the ropes of business and try to beat the financial system at its own game to put the company back into its employees' hands.

Gilles Perret is a French filmmaker focusing on French politics and social movements. He directed 13 documentaries and worked with journalist and filmmaker, François Ruffin - a Member of the French parliament - on two documentaries, *A Place in the Sun* and *Those who Care*, two great popular successes. *The Takeover* is Perret's first feature film.

Cast Pierre Deladonchamps, Laetitia Dosch, Grégory Montel, Vincent Deniard, Finnegan Oldfield

ELZÉVIR FILMS • FRANCE • 105' • 2022 • FEATURE FILM

UPCOMING



MORRISON •

BY PHUTTIPHONG AROONPHENG

Jimmy, a 40-year-old former popstar turned engineer, is sent to the region of his childhood to supervise the renovation of an old hotel. Once settled, Jimmy finds out the once flamboyant hotel has become a ruin, a maze of narrow corridors and a relic of a bygone era, which still bears the scars of the American occupation. In the heart of this mysterious place, Jimmy will wander between dream and fantasy and retrace his family's history.

*Phuttiphong Aroonpheng studied fine arts at Bangkok's Silpakorn University. His 2015 short **Ferris Wheel** won many awards on the festival circuit. He also works extensively as a DoP, with credits including **Vanishing Point** and **Anatomy of Time**, directed by fellow Thai filmmaker Jakrawal Nilthamrong. His debut feature film **Manta Ray** won the Orizzonti Award for Best Film at the 2018 Venice FF.*

Cast Hugo Chulachak Chakrabongse, Chicha Amatayakul, Joe Cummings

DIVERSION - CG CINÉMA • THAILAND - FRANCE • 106' • DELIVERY 2023 • FEATURE FILM

UPCOMING



• HAPPY! (WORKING TITLE)

BY PASCAL PLISSON

Who said living with disabilities meant giving up one's greatest dreams? Across the world, Pascal Plisson met Maud (France), Charles (Kenya), Nirmala and Khendo (Nepal), Xavier (Rwanda) and Antonio (Brazil): extraordinary children who will prove that love, inclusive education, humour and courage can move mountains, and that fate is sometimes full of surprises.

*Pascal Plisson is a French screenwriter and a self-taught documentary filmmaker who began his career in 1984. One of his noted documentary films **On the way to school** has reached 1.4 million admissions in France, has been sold in 18 countries around the world and won the 'Best Documentary' Cesar Award in 2014.*

EADY EAST PROD • FRANCE • DELIVERY 2023 • DOCUMENTARY • 4K



THE MATRIX, INSIDE & OUT •

BY BENJAMIN CLAVEL

In 1999, a unique cinematographic object shook an entire generation and reached the top of the box-office world-wide. *The Matrix* saga was born and quickly became a pop-culture phenomenon revealing a duo of filmmakers: the Wachowskis. Its prophetic aspects will be at the heart of this unprecedented documentary. By propelling the audience into the 21st Century, it foresaw many social and political issues of our current times: use of technologies, hacking, gender and identity issues, fake news, conspiracy-theory... Forging ahead, the Wachowskis' cinema has been leading a global fight for emancipation, inspiring generations in their quest for truth, choice and freedom.

BELLOTA FILMS • FRANCE • 52' • DELIVERY SPRING 2023 • DOCUMENTARY



• U-96, THE TRUE STORY OF “DAS BOOT”

BY RAPHAËL MILLET

The international success of the film *Das Boot* by Wolfgang Petersen made the U-96 one of the most famous submarines in cinematic history. But the true story of one of Hitler's most fearsome U-boats and its crew goes far beyond fiction. For the first time, this documentary sheds light on the reality behind the fiction through exclusive interviews with the makers and actors of *Das Boot*, as well as the last survivors of the time. In doing so, this documentary explores how Hitler's propaganda images may have influenced the visual and narrative force of *Das Boot*.

NOCTURNES PRODUCTIONS - GIRELLE PRODUCTION - ADV PRODUCTIONS • FRANCE
- BELGIQUE • 52' & 70' • 2023 • DOCUMENTARY

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