



2023  
cannes

the party  
FILM SALES



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OFFICIAL COMPETITION



FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
COMPETITION  
2023 OFFICIAL SELECTION

# FOUR DAUGHTERS

BY KAOUTHER BEN HANIA

Between light and darkness stands Olfa, a Tunisian woman and the mother of four daughters. One day, her two older daughters disappear. To fill in their absence, the filmmaker Kaouther Ben Hania invites professional actresses and invents a unique cinema experience that will lift the veil on Olfa and her daughters' life stories.

An intimate journey of hope, rebellion, violence, transmission and sisterhood that will question the very foundations of our societies.

Tunisian director Kaouther Ben Hania is constantly going back and forth between documentary and fiction. Her previous film *The Man Who Sold His Skin* was nominated for The Academy Award for Best International Feature Film at the Oscars 2021 and had its world premiere at the 77th Venice International Film Festival, Orizzonti Competition. Her film *Beauty and the Dogs* premiered at the Cannes Film Festival official selection Un Certain Regard in 2017. All her other movies premiered in prestigious festivals: Cannes, Venice, AFI Los Angeles, Locarno, IDFA, Hot Docs Toronto...

## CAST

OLFA HAMROUNI, EYA CHIKHAOUI, TAYSSIR CHIKHAOUI, NOUR KAROUI,  
ICHTRAQ MATAR AND MAJD MASTOURA

WITH THE EXCEPTIONAL PARTICIPATION OF HEND SABRI

TANIT FILMS — CINÉTELEFILMS — TWENTY TWENTY — RED SEA — ZDF — ARTE — JOUR2FÊTE  
• FRANCE — TUNISIA — GERMANY — SAUDI ARABIA • 110' • 2023 • DOCUMENTARY



A woman with her hair in a bun is focused on sewing a piece of yellow fabric on a vintage-style sewing machine. The machine sits on a wooden table. In the background, a large collage of many small photographs of children in various outfits is pinned to the wall. To the right, a window with a diamond-patterned metal grille looks out onto green foliage. The scene is lit with warm, natural light from the window.

QUINZAINÉ  
DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT  
CANNES 2023

# MAMBAR PIERRETTE

BY ROSINE MBAKAM

The city of Douala is in trepidation for the start of the new school year. A long line of customers come to Mambar Pierrette, the neighbourhood dressmaker, to have their clothes ready for imminent social events and ceremonies. More than just a sewer, Pierrette becomes the confidant of her customers, of a generation. But when the rain starts pouring down and threaten to flood her workshop – one of several successive misfortunes – Pierrette will have to stay afloat.

Rosine Mbakam grew up in Yaoundé in a popular neighborhood that nourished her imagination as a filmmaker. After working for 3 years at STV in Douala as a director and producer, she joined INSAS, a Belgian film school. Her graduation film *You Will Be My Ally* was very well received internationally. In order to be independent, she founded her own production company Tândor Productions. She directed 4 feature-length documentaries that were selected in the most important film festivals in the world. She is also a teacher and researcher at KASK in Ghent. The New Yorker defines her as “an original filmmaker of exceptional sensitivity; one of the greatest documentary filmmakers working today”. *Mambar Pierrette* is her first feature film.

## CAST

PIERRETTE ABOHEU, KARELLE KENMOGNE, CÉCILE TCHANA,  
FABRICE NDJEUTHAT

TÂNDOR PRODUCTIONS — TÂNDOR FILMS • BELGIUM — CAMEROUN • 93' • 2023 •  
FEATURE FILM





# WE HAVE A DREAM

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 • 93' • 4K • 2023 • DOCUMENTARY



# 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.

*"Hair-raising, super-inventive, intelligent and funny"*  
CINEUROPA

*"Playful but challenging, moving and meticulous,  
this is a film that sees pigeonholes as something we should all fly away from"*  
SCREENDAILY

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 **Cesar 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

*"An intense and uncompromising debut that sets a very high bar for this year's international arthouse sector"*

DEADLINE

*"An unflinching exploration of human nature"*

SCREENDAILY

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





# 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.



COMPLETED



## 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

COMPLETED



## 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



COMPLETED



## 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

COMPLETED



GIORNATE  
degli AUTORI

## 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 ZAOUÏ, IMEN NOËL, NADIA TERESZKIEWICZ

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



COMPLETED



## 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 BOUTEFU

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

COMPLETED



## THE WILD ONE

BY TESSA LOUISE-SALOMÉ

*The Wild One* explores the work of Jack Garfein - Holocaust survivor, Actors Studio figure, controversial filmmaker - revealing how his experience propelled his defiance of censorship in postwar America.

### NARRATED BY

WILLEM DAFOE

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



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' • 2023 • FEATURE FILM

UPCOMING



## MILK

BY MAYA KENIG

Tala, 33, an Israeli offbeat musician, just had her first baby. Desperate to make a living and support her kid with no father in the picture, she takes up a job at the "Milky Way". In this dairy for breast milk, you can get the best newly mothers can offer: vegan, high-rate of protein, with top-quality essential nutrients milk. In this dystopic dark comedy, Tala embarks on a journey navigating the complexities of motherhood, while taking a glimpse into the wealthy lives she is supplying.

Maya Kenig is an Israeli screenwriter, director, and editor. Her first feature film *Off White Lies* (2012) was selected in many prestigious international film festivals (Berlinale, Busan IFF, Palm Springs FF) receiving local and worldwide recognition. She directed with filmmaker Gur Bentwich, the feature documentary *The Bentwich Syndrome*, screened internationally. As an editor, she won an Israeli Academy Award, and her projects span from TV to cinema. Currently, she is writing a series for HOT cable TV, titled *Doctor End*.

### CAST

HILLA RUACH, HADAS YARON, ORLY FELDHEIM, TAL SHARON, NURIA DINA LUZINSKI, SEYMOR DANIEL

GREEN PRODUCTIONS — LES FILMS DU POISSON • ISRAEL — FRANCE • 95' • 2023 • FEATURE FILM



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