



FALL

2023

the party
FILM SALES

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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.

MENUS PLAISIRS LES TROISGROS

BY FREDERICK WISEMAN

Founded in 1930 in central France, the Troisgros family restaurant has been holding 3 Michelin stars for 55 years over four generations. Michel Troisgros, the third generation to head the restaurant, has turned over the responsibility for the cuisine to his son César, the 4th generation of Troisgros chefs. From the market to pick fresh vegetables, to a cheese processing plant, a vineyard, an organic cattle ranch to the backyard garden supplying the restaurant, Wiseman embarks us on a mouthwatering and sense-pleasing journey into the family's three restaurant kitchens. An immersive experience, showing the great artistry, ingenuity, imagination, and hard work of the restaurant staff in creating, preparing, and presenting meals of the highest quality.

Mr. Wiseman is a film and theater director of 46 films, primarily focusing on American institutions. His most recent film *MENUS PLAISIRS - LES TROISGROS* will be released in Fall 2023. In 2019, he was the honoree of the Library Lions Award from the New York Public Library and received the Pennebaker Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Critics' Choice Documentary Awards. In 2018, he was the Charles Eliot Norton Professor of Poetry at Harvard University. In 2016, he received an Honorary Award for lifetime achievement from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Board of Directors. He is a MacArthur Fellow, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He has won numerous awards, including four Emmys. In recent years, he directed *The Belle of Amherst*, Beckett's *Happy Days* in Paris and Vasily Grossman's *The Last Letter* at the Comédie-Française in Paris and Theatre for a New Audience in New York. A ballet inspired by his first film, *Titicut Follies* (1967), premiered at the New York University Skirball Theater in 2017.

HEARTLESS

BY NARA NORMANDE & TIÃO

Summer 1996, north-east coast of Brazil. Tamara is enjoying her last weeks at the fishing village she lives in before departing to Brasilia for her studies. One day, she hears about a teenager nicknamed Heartless after a scar she has on her chest. Over the course of the summer, Tamara feels a growing attraction for this mysterious girl.

Nara Normande was born in Alagoas/Brazil. In 2014, she directed with Tião *Sem Coração* which received the Illy Prize for best short at **Cannes Directors' Fortnight**. In 2018, her animated short film *Guaxuma* has been selected in **Toronto** and won 70 prizes such as best animation at **SXSW**. *Sem Coração*, the homonymous film based on the short, is her first feature film. Tião was born in Recife. In 2008, his film *Muro* was awarded with the prize **Un Regard Neuf** of best short at **Cannes Directors' Fortnight**. His film *Animal Político* premiered at **Rotterdam IFF** in 2016.

TORONTO



OFFICIAL SELECTION

tiff

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL 2023

SOLITUDE

BY NINNA PÁLMAÐÓTTIR

A farmer that lives a quiet life in the countryside is forced by the state to sell his home. He leaves everything behind, relocates to the capital, and soon meets a 10-year-old paper delivery boy. Their friendship proves to be transformative for them both.

Ninna Pálmadóttir is an award-winning Icelandic filmmaker. She graduated with an M.F.A in film directing / screenwriting from NYU Tisch School of the Arts in 2019, and holds a B.A in film studies & literature from the University of Iceland. She grew up in a small town in north Iceland, surrounded by magnificent and raw nature that formed her style and personality in the arts.

PEGASUS PICTURES – NUTPRODUKCIA – JOUR2FÊTE PRODUCTION – HALIBUT •
ICELAND – SLOVAKIA • 75' • FEATURE FILM

TORONTO



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,
ICHRAQ 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

TORONTO



QUINZAINÉ
DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT
CANNES 2023

OFFICIAL SELECTION
tiff
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL 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



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.

COMPLETED



FACING DARKNESS

BY JEAN-GABRIEL PÉRIOT

The Siege of Sarajevo lasted from April 1992 to February 1996. Young men were called up to protect their city, a few of them chose to take along their cameras to face the violence they witnessed throughout those grueling 1,425 days.

Now, 30 years later, they show us their films and share their wartime filming experiences and thoughts on cinema as a means of survival and resistance.

Born in France in 1974, Jean-Gabriel Périot has made many short films on the edge of documentary, experimental and fiction.

He has developed his own editing style that questions violence and history, based on film and photographic archives material. His first feature film, *A German Youth* opened the **Panorama section** at the 2015 **Berlinale**, before being released on German, Swiss and French cinemas and honored with several awards. *Summer Lights*, his first feature-length fiction film, premiered at the **San Sebastian Film Festival** and *Our Defeats*, a feature-length documentary, was presented at the **Forum** of the 2019 **Berlinale**.

His latest feature film, *Returning to Reims*, a documentary adapted from Didier Eribon's book and starring Adèle Haenel, was presented at the **Directors' Fortnight** in **Cannes** and released in 2021. The film won the **Best Documentary Cesar Award** in 2023

ALTER EGO PRODUCTIONS – ALINA FILMS – MEIKE MARTENS, BLINKER
FILMPRODUKTION – KUMJANA NOVAKOVA, PRAVO LJUDSKI • FRANCE – SWITZERLAND
GERMANY – BOSNIA • 110' • 2023 • DOCUMENTARY

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.

COMPLETED



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

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.

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



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 *Fidaï* (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



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

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



THE MILKY WAY

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, TALİ SHARON,
NURIA DINA LUZINSKI, SEYMOR DANIEL

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

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