



Irish Film Institute



THE MARTELL COGNAC IFI

**FRENCH**  
**FILM FESTIVAL**



**MARTELL**

COGNAC

IN ASSOCIATION  
WITH THE  
FRENCH EMBASSY



22 NOVEMBER -  
1 DECEMBER, 2005

Enjoy Martell Sensibly

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MARTELL, THE ART OF DISCERNMENT

On behalf of the Irish Film Institute, I am delighted to welcome you to the 6th Annual celebration of French Cinema. This year's programme combines the best of arthouse cinema – such as the Larrieu brothers' *Peindre où Faire L'Amour* and Michael Haneke's *Caché*, with the mainstream success of our opening film *36 Quai des Orfèvres*. Our guests include Virgine Ledoyen, Bertrand Tavernier, Anne Fontaine, the Larrieu brothers and Isabelle Carré. A panel discussion on French Cinema will follow the screening of the award-winning *L'Esquive*, while the 20th anniversary of Luc Besson's *Subway* sees a return to the big screen for a special presentation. And this year includes a further development: the festival highlights will also tour to Galway.

**Grainne Humphreys**, Festival Director

### Message from the French Embassy

The French Embassy is very pleased once again to be associated with this important autumnal event.

The Lumière Brothers gave birth to cinema in 1895 in France, where it has flourished ever since. Over 200 movies are being produced and co-produced every year. We cannot show you everything, but we would like to share with you some of the richness and variety of our production. This year's selection is characterised by a mixture of seduction, provocation and originality. We were also careful to choose themes that meet current preoccupations.

We are happy to welcome many actors and directors, who will present and explain their works, which include mainstream movies and art-house films, comedies, musicals and dramas. There will be many opportunities for talks and discussions. So, to all French film enthusiasts and supporters, we wish you many hours of pure viewing pleasure.

### Laure Ecker Tripier

Ambassade de France en Irlande

### Message from Martell Cognac

Welcome to the Martell Cognac French Film Festival 2005. We anticipate that this will be the biggest ever celebration of French cinema in Ireland.

Our partnership with the Irish Film Institute and the French Embassy builds on Martell's global association with the creative arts; other associations include the French Film Festival in Russia, Asian Film Festivals in France and the US, and the 'Martell Artists of the Year' awards in China, as well as links with Cannes Film Festival. With a cognac heritage covering three centuries, Martell is the epitome of creative perfection. Innovation, creativity and independence of mind are attributes both highly valued and shared by Martell, and encouraged by Martell's sponsorships.

We invite you to enjoy the Martell Cognac French Film Festival, and to raise a glass to its success. Martell Cognac & French Film – perfect partners in discerning enjoyment.

### Paul Duffy

Chief Executive  
Irish Distillers Limited

### SPONSORS

Many thanks to our sponsors. Please support them whenever you have the opportunity.



**Acknowledgements** John Tolan, Richard Black, Brendan Buckley and Deirdre Farrell (Martell), Laure Ecker Tripier (Cultural Counsellor, French Embassy), Jean Michel Garcia (Alliance Française), Melanie Crofton-Sleigh (The Sunday Times), Teresa Murphy and Eoin Scott (Air France), Anne Fitzpatrick and Jack Golden (CRH), Francois van den Bosch (BNP Paribas), Liz Barry (Airbus Financial Services), RTÉ Supporting the Arts, Alva Kenny and Liz Godfrey (Morgan Hotel), Noel Canty (TV5), Jaime O'Shea (Carte Noire), Clara Dunne (Caceis).

MARTELL COGNAC IFI  
FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL  
SCREENING SCHEDULE



<b>OPENING NIGHT TUESDAY</b> 22 NOVEMBER	8.30	36 Quai des Orfèvres
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 23 NOVEMBER	6.30	Saint Ange <i>with festival guest Virginie Ledoyen</i>
<b>THURSDAY</b> 24 NOVEMBER	6.30	Les Soeurs Fâchées
<b>FRIDAY</b> 25 NOVEMBER	4.20	Jeanne et le Garçon formidable
	6.30	Eros Thérapie
	8.30	Peindre Où Faire l'Amour
<b>SATURDAY</b> 26 NOVEMBER	12.00	Late August, Early September
	2.00	L'Equipier
	4.00	Les Temps qui changent
	6.30	Un Fil à la Pâtte [The Art of Breaking Up]
	8.30	Caché [Hidden]
<b>SUNDAY</b> 27 NOVEMBER	1.30	Odessa, Odessa...!
	3.00	L'Esquive <i>+ panel discussion on French Cinema</i>
	8.30	Entre ses Mains
<b>MONDAY</b> 28 NOVEMBER	2.10	Le Filmeur
	4.10	La Petite Jérusalem
	6.30	Holy Lola <i>followed by concert with Henri Texier</i>
<b>TUESDAY</b> 29 NOVEMBER	4.30	Doo Wop
	6.30	Les Mauvais Joueurs
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 30 NOVEMBER	6.30	13 (Tzemeti)
	8.30	La Moustache
<b>THURSDAY</b> 1 DECEMBER	6.30	Subway
	8.30	L'Enfer

**TICKETS**

Tickets to all screenings are available from the IFI Box Office or from Ticketmaster.

Ticket prices are €9.00, except for the Opening and Closing night screenings which are €15 (price includes reception).

Please note that ticketmaster charges a €1.50 booking fee on each ticket.

**IFI Box Office** (01) 679 3477  
between 1.30pm–7.30pm

**Ticketmaster** 0818 719 300  
open 24 hours or [www.ticketmaster.ie](http://www.ticketmaster.ie)

You must be a member of the IFI to attend all films, which means paying either €1 per day, or €20 per year.

## 36 Quai Des Orfèvres

**Date** Tuesday 22 November  
**Time** 8.30pm  
**Director** Olivier Marchal  
**Cast includes** Daniel Auteuil, Gérard Depardieu

From the opening sequence of *36 Quai des Orfèvres* that shows intercutting parallel sequences between a band of thugs who break into a bar and physically abuse the proprietress and a pair of vandals who pry off a street placard and subsequently emerge in the private room of a bar with other drunken, trigger-happy carousers,



a professional (and inferentially personal) competition between two seasoned law enforcement agency lead investigators Denis Klein (Gérard Depardieu) and Léo Vrinks (Daniel Auteuil) as they try to apprehend the perpetrators responsible for a string of boldly executed, daytime armored car robberies by any means possible in order to secure a promotion to commissioner, the rivalry soon escalates into a protracted, acrimonious, and increasingly reckless and unethical power struggle for professional validation, glory, and revenge. Drawing inspiration from the filmmaker's former career in law enforcement as well as a beloved national cinema legacy of atmospheric and highly stylized crime thrillers (that

include such eminent filmmakers as Louis Feuillade, Jean-Pierre Melville, and Henri-Georges Clouzot), *36 Quai des Orfèvres* is an accomplished and entertaining film that is bolstered by the impeccable performances of a strong lead and supporting cast. **(110mins. 2004)**

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**Tickets to the Opening Night film (€15) include an invitation to a pre-screening reception (7.00pm) hosted by Martell Cognac.**

## Saint Ange

**Date** Wednesday 23 November  
**Time** 6.30pm  
**Director** Pascal Laugier  
**Cast includes** Virginie Ledoyen, Lou Doillon, Catriona MacColl

The remote and recently vacated orphanage of the title, circa 1958, is a less-than-ideal locale for an unwed mother-to-be to wait out her pregnancy. In an eerily atmospheric prologue that establishes *Saint Ange's* look and feel, a creepy accident affects two kids who venture into the orphanage's cavernous communal washroom one stormy night. Shortly thereafter, Anna (Virginie Ledoyen)



is met by stern director Francard (Catriona MacColl) at the rural bus stop in the French Alps near Saint Ange. She soon finds herself virtually alone on the sinister premises, with only girlish nutcase Judith (Lou Doillon) and plump cook and washerwoman Ilinica (Dorina Lazar) for occasional company. Things go bump in the night, mirrors and faucets loom with implied significance and there are intimations of young arrivals suffering back during WWII. In a nicely scored widescreen feast of scant dialogue and evocative settings,

Laugier directs with assured flair, while Virginie Ledoyen provides a game human presence in a truly ghostly domain. **(98mins. 2005)**



**Virginie Ledoyen will attend this event. A post-screening reception will be hosted by Martell Cognac.**

## Les Soeurs Fâchées

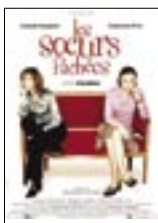
**Date** Thursday 24 November

**Time** 6.30pm

**Director** Alexandra Leclère

**Cast includes** Isabelle Huppert, Catherine Frot

Pragmatic and sensible elder sister Martine (Isabelle Huppert) has consciously worked to shed her provinciality and cultivate an air of sophistication in Paris while the fanciful and quirky Louise (Catherine Frot) remained in Province to lead a humble life as a beautician and aspiring writer. When Louise comes to stay in Paris, however, it is clear Martine's seemingly comfortable, lush life is also far from



her, and invariably, Louise's unpolished manners, idiosyncrasies, and interminably bubbly personality quickly begin to fray her carefully cultivated social decorum. Alexandra Leclère's film is a charming and effervescent comedy on manners, sibling rivalry, and the unbreakable bonds of family. **(93mins. 2004)**

ideal. Trapped in a passionless marriage and bound by social restraints, Martine has become increasingly exacting and hardened to the people around



## Jeanne et le Garçon Formidable [Jeanne and the Perfect Guy]

**Date** Friday 25 November

**Time** 4.20pm

**Director** Jacques Martineau and Olivier Ducastel

**Cast includes** Virginie Ledoyen and Mathieu Demy

A free-spirited and cheerfully promiscuous young Parisian given to alternating bouts of girlishness and snobbishness, Jeanne (Ledoyen) is a receptionist at the Jet Tour travel agency. An equal opportunity lover, Jeanne's involved in affairs with both conceited agency executive Jean-Baptiste and a lowly delivery boy



make love on the empty train, but this time there's a difference: Jeanne just knows that Olivier is the perfect guy. When they meet again later, outside a sold-out screening of *Springtime in Paris*, Olivier reveals that a past drug addiction has left him HIV positive. "We used a condom, didn't we?" says Jeanne by way of acceptance. Yet when Olivier disappears after being

— both of whom, of course, are far more lovestruck than she is. One day Jeanne meets Olivier (Mathieu Demy) on a subway car. Smitten, they

discharged from the hospital following a collapse, Jeanne must learn to go on without him. **(98mins. 1997)**



## Eros Thérapie [Eros Therapy]

**Date** Friday 25 November

**Time** 6.30pm

**Director** Danièle Dubroux

**Cast includes** Catherine Frot, Isabelle Carré, François Berléand, Melvil Poupaud, Julie Depardieu

An intellectual comedy that ranks as one of the funniest French films of the year, *Eros Thérapie* is a keenly calibrated mix of sex and social satire bound to tickle those who enjoy seeing upper-middle-class angst get a thorough drubbing. Director Danièle Dubroux's suspenseful comedy about a man intent on wooing back his wife can be profitably analyzed for



deeper meanings, but works just fine as pure entertainment. Agnès has been living with her lesbian lover, Catherine Hoffmann, a pretentious film critic, for the past six months in a suburban house outside Paris. Adam, Agnès's husband, has been relegated to the garage. He hopes to win his way back into his wife's good graces. The ensemble cast perfectly fuels a tale of desire and death inhabited by a bisexual publicist, a lesbian film critic, a cuckolded lawyer and the staff of an

unusual therapeutic institute.

**(106mins. 2004)**



## Peindre ou Faire L'amour

[Paint or Make Love]

**Date** Friday 25 November

**Time** 8.30pm

**Directors**

Arnaud Larrieu, Jean-Marie Larrieu

**Cast includes** Sabine Azéma, Daniel Auteuil, Amira Casar, Sergi Lopez



She meets Adam, cultured, clever and blind (Sergi Lopez) the fascinating village mayor, and his partner. He persuades them to move to an isolated house in

"The film is stronger for its initial coyness and gentle pacing, as its lush visuals, and surprising turns carry us down unexpected, but ultimately worthwhile, paths." - **Montreal Film Festival (100mins. 2004)**

The Larrieu Brothers will attend this screening

Married for a long time, and retired early, William and Madeleine, played by Daniel Auteuil and Sabine Azéma, live in a town at the foot of the mountains. When their only daughter leaves, they find themselves without much to occupy themselves. One day Madeline decides to paint an old house situated nearby in the foothills.

the heart of the Vercoors mountains. Very soon the two couples get to know and like one another in the manner of those no longer tied to the yoke of daily pressing engagements.

A house fire then leads to them sharing one roof, and shortly thereafter to tasting the delights of swapping partners. Sowing the seeds of doubt



## Fin Août, Début Septembre

[Late August, Early September]

**Date** Saturday 26 November

**Time** 12.00pm

**Director** Olivier Assayas

**Cast includes** Virginie Ledoyen, Mathieu Amalric, Jeanne Balibar and François Cluzet



reappearance of an old illness forces Adrien to come to terms with his mortality and acts as a catalyst in the changing relationship between his

Assayas's most mature and affecting work to date, this marvellous movie has attractive performances from a large ensemble cast, and a fluid camera style that gives this movie a life-like touch. **(112mins. 1999)**

Struggling publishing editor Gabriel (Mathieu Amalric) splits up with his long-time girlfriend Jenny (a delightfully loopy Jeanne Balibar) and hesitantly takes up with the highly-sexed Anne (Virginie Ledoyen). Gabriel's friend Adrien (François Cluzet) is a talented but insecure writer who's having an affair with a 15-year-old girl. The

friends. *Late August, Early September* is composed of a series of seemingly isolated sequences, each of which provides a different perspective on the characters and their relationships. The film itself succeeds in capturing a strong sense of lives being lived and characters being transformed by the exigencies of human existence.



## L'Équipier [The Light]

**Date** Saturday 26 November

**Time** 2.00pm

**Director** Philippe Lioret

**Cast includes** Sandrine Bonnaire, Philippe Torreton, Gregori Derangère



Torreton) during their periods of extended isolation, working together in the offshore lighthouse. But back onshore, the newcomer is unable to

that lash the island to the thundering seas buffeting the lighthouse. **(105mins. 2003)**

Into the tight-knit community comes soulful stranger Antoine (Gregori Derangère), a young veteran of the Algerian war, assigned to join the team of lighthouse keepers despite the locals' feeling that the job should have gone to one of their own. Easygoing and good-humoured despite the animosity directed toward him, Antoine slowly bonds with sullen, unfriendly Yvon (Philippe

disguise his deep attraction to Yvon's wife Mabe (Sandrine Bonnaire), who clearly reciprocates. Perhaps the drama's most distinctive aspect is its majestically lonely physical setting, which recalls Irish cinema more than French fare. Director Philippe Lioret ably harnesses elemental forces for dramatic intensity, from the winds



## Les Temps qui Changent

**Date** Saturday 26 November

**Time** 4.00pm

**Director** André Téchiné

**Cast includes** Catherine Deneuve, Gérard Depardieu, Gilbert Melki

In *Les Temps qui Changent* André Téchiné has extracted the best performance we've seen from Gérard Depardieu in recent and not-so-recent memory. Téchiné's extraordinary accomplishment in this film is that he effortlessly achieves a graceful balance between the genre of French vacation film (country home, pool, family reunion) and that of French film shot à l'étranger. After convincing



his company to post him there to oversee a construction job, Antoine (Gérard Depardieu) arrives in Tangier in search of Cécile (Catherine Deneuve), the first love of his life. He aims to win her back. However, Cécile has changed much more than he could have imagined, is married to a Moroccan and isn't interested. Antoine persists, until an accident turns the tables. This film is quintessential Téchiné, and is to be cherished. **(90mins. 2004)**



## Un Fil à La Patte

[The Art Of Breaking Up]

**Date** Saturday 26 November

**Time** 6.30pm

**Director** Michel Deville

**Cast includes** Emmanuelle Béart, Charles Berling, Sara Forestier, Dominique Blanc, Mathieu Demy, Julie Depardieu

Veteran director Michel Deville – in what is his last film – takes full advantage of Emmanuelle Béart's brimming energy, as pent up chanteuse Lucette, and the spot-on comic timing of a fabulous cast caught in her irresistible orbit – in a romp of a bedroom farce. An ex-husband, a



wealthy suitor and an adoring journalist vie for her attention, but Lucette reunites with Edouard, the lover she's missed so fervently – who is a caddish lothario. But a circus of mistaken identities and slamming doors prevents Lucette from learning that her true love is attempting to break it off with her so he can marry the heiress Viviane that afternoon. Adding to the general air of merriment are a host of note-perfect performances, particularly Berling, in a rare comic turn, suffering every mishap that befalls him with a delicious,

slow-burn frustration; and Béart, ever so bemused by the madness that surrounds her and able to manage it fantastically. **(80mins. 2005)**



## Caché [Hidden]

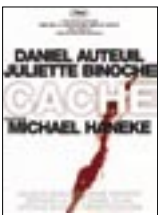
**Date** Saturday 26 November

**Time** 8.30pm

**Director** Michael Haneke

**Cast includes** Daniel Auteuil, Juliette Binoche, Maurice Bénichou

The Paris-based Austrian filmmaker Michael Haneke is a peerless artist-provocateur who has never met a situation of bourgeois stasis he didn't want to explode – quietly, precisely, and with devastating effect. *Caché*, though, may be his best and most meaningful detonation yet – an absolutely, excitingly unnerving study in middle-class disequilibrium brought on by realistic urban paranoia and



inflamed by a latent racism in all its ugliness. Daniel Auteuil and Juliette Binoche are brilliantly cast as Georges and Anne, a sophisticated couple tormented by the arrival of anonymous surveillance videos of their everyday lives – shot secretly from the street – and obscure drawings. Gradually, the footage on the tapes becomes more personal, bringing a sense of menace to George and his family, but, as no direct threat has been made, the police refuse to help. **(117mins. 2005)**



## Odessa... Odessa!

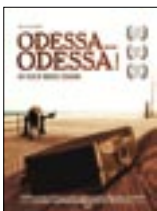
**Date** Sunday 27 November

**Time** 1.30pm

**Director** Michale Boganim

**A Documentary Film**

This hauntingly beautiful documentary from Israeli filmmaker Michale Boganim is no ordinary travelogue. Using the symbolic figure of a weary traveler carrying a battered valise, the film is instead a psychic map of the Jewish Diaspora. The voyage begins in Odessa. The city seems suspended in time, existing only as a collective memory dreamt by the Jews who have already left... Inspired by the Odessa stories of Isaac Babel, Boganim has



beautifully evoked Odessa not as a real-life locale, but a state of mind – a lodestar of powerful *nostalgia* that continues to exert its force on those

who felt compelled to search elsewhere for what Jews have always dreamt of: a homeland. Like the wandering Jews of the film, Jakob Ihre's camera rarely settles in one place. Gliding ghost-like through the streets of Odessa, Brooklyn and Ashdod, it perfectly captures a sense of rootlessness, displacement and exile. **(96mins. 2004)**



## L'Esquive

**[A Game of Love of Chance]**

**Date** Sunday 27 November

**Time** 3.00pm

**Director** Abdellatif Kechiche

**Cast includes** Osman Elkharraz, Sara Forestier, Sabrina Ouazani

Portraits of Paris' racially mixed banlieues have predictably tended to focus on crime and violence, but *L'Esquive*, from Tunisian-born director Abdellatif Kechiche adopts a rewardingly different approach: the film is a sensitive observational portrait of young love. It follows restless 15-year-old Krime (Osman Elkharraz) as he develops a crush on blond classmate



Lydia (Sara Forestier), who is rehearsing for a theatre performance of Marivaux's "A Game of Love of Chance." Lydia persuades

Krime to join her in the production, and Krime uses this opportunity to get closer to Lydia. Kechiche elicits rich performances from his non-professional youth cast. This film recently swept the Césars, winning four awards including Best French Film. **(117 mins. 2002)**



## Entre ses Mains

**Date** Sunday 27 November

**Time** 8.30pm

**Director** Anne Fontaine

**Cast includes** Isabelle Carré, Benoît Poelvoorde and Jonathan Zaccàï

On one level, *Entre ses Mains* is a very fine psychological thriller. It tells the story of a growing relationship between a young married woman and a charming but enigmatic middle-aged man who may be responsible for a series of gruesome murders. But as with the best films in this genre it is an absorbing and penetrating insight into attraction and, ultimately, love. Claire Gautier (Isabelle Carré) is an insurance



adjuster who is in love with life, her husband and her five-year-old child. Well adjusted in every sense of the word, she is rational, composed and in control. She

meets veterinarian Laurent Kessler (Benoît Poelvoorde) when he files a claim with her company. Awkwardly and tentatively, his interest in her blooms, and before long he's looking for excuses to knock on her door. Meanwhile, there is a killer loose in the city and Claire finds herself asking herself whether her new friend is the

"Doctor Death" for whom the police are hunting. Blessed with a tight and controlled script, as well as stunning performances by Carré and Poelvoorde, Fontaine plumbs every situation for its maximum power. **(90mins. 2005)**

**Isabelle Carré will attend this screening**



## Le Filmeur

**Date** Monday 28 November

**Time** 2.10pm

**Director** Alain Cavalier

With Christian Boltanski, Danielle Bouilhet, Camille de Casabianca

One of the most poignant moments at Cannes 2005 came with the appearance on stage of filmmaker Alain Cavalier at the screening of *Le Filmeur*. Cavalier is little known in Ireland but has a special following in France where he has made acclaimed films for six decades. His biographical take on his career and the cancer he carries with him, *Le Filmeur* is an honest, intimate, humorous,



painful and moving self-portrait. The camera started rolling on this documentary in the summer of 1994 – a ten-year diary of someone to whom filming is like breathing. Official Selection at this year's Cannes Film Festival. **(97mins. 2005)**



## La Petite Jérusalem

**Date** Monday 28 November

**Time** 4.10pm

**Director** Karin Albou

**Cast includes** Fanny Valette, Elsa Zylberstein, Bruno Todeschini

Religion, philosophy and romantic love all vie for the heart and mind of a smart teenage girl Laura (Fanny Valette), in this skilfully balanced debut feature from writer-director Karin Albou. Set in the suburban Paris neighbourhood of Sarcelles, known as 'Little Jerusalem' due to its large Jewish population, Laura lives with her widowed mother (Sonia Tahar), sister (Elsa Zylberstein) and brother-in-law (Bruno Todeschini).



Unable to escape her Orthodox upbringing, she studies Western philosophy and begins to find herself falling for its exotic influences, torn by a reluctant exposure to romance, but determined not to succumb. **(96mins. 2004)**



## Holy Lola

**Date** Monday 28 November

**Time** 6.30pm

**Director** Bertrand Tavernier

**Cast includes** Jacques Gamblin, Isabelle Carré, Bruno Putzulu

Unable to have a child of their own, Pierre and Géraldine (Jacques Gamblin and Isabelle Carré) decide to adopt an orphan in Cambodia. Their trip winds up in a Phnom Penh hotel – one that's booked solid with other French couples looking for Cambodian orphans. Battling a hostile natural climate of steady rainfall and ever-present mosquitoes and an inhospitable bureaucratic climate of documents,



signatures and passports, Pierre and Géraldine soon realize that their dream of having a child may take far longer than expected, unless certain palms are greased and certain rules broken. There are no villains in *Holy Lola*, nor heroes; instead, Bertrand Tavernier offers an almost documentary-like account of the adoption process, of Cambodia itself and of First Worlders in the Third World, with all the vast colonial legacies of mistrust, rage and frustration that implies. **(128mins. 2004)**



**Bertrand Tavernier will attend this screening**

Music composer Henri Texier will give a live jazz concert of his score for this film after the screening. See page 12 for more details.

## Doo Wop

**Date** Tuesday 29 November

**Time** 4.30pm

**Director** David Lanzmann

**Cast includes** Mikaël Fitoussi, Caroline Ducey, Clovis Cornillac

A “Parisian” road movie, filmed mostly with a hand-held camera, *Doo Wop* tells of the wanderings of Ziggy (played with effortless charm by Mikaël Fitoussi), a young music producer and ingenious dreamer, with problems of both heart and wallet. He brawls with nightclub owners, tries in vain to rekindle old romances, and is on the run from loan sharks. In desperation, he takes up with barmaid Maya, who offers him a



hiding place. Lanzmann manages the laid-back style of the film adeptly, allowing time and depth for its quieter moments,

capturing exquisite scenes of the bright lights of bohemian Paris, whilst gradually thickening the plot. The first feature by David Lanzmann (son of Claude) *Doo Wop* is being called a clarion of the French New Wave.

**(90mins. 2004)**

David Lanzmann will attend this screening



## Les Mauvais Joueurs

[Gamblers]

**Date** Tuesday 29 November

**Time** 6.30pm

**Director** Frédéric Bolekdjian

**Cast includes** Pascal Elbé, Simon Abkarian, Isaac Sharry

Vahé Krikorian’s life in the garment district in Paris is falling apart. He works in the family store, riddled with debts and soon to shut down. Lu Ann, who’d been living with him for some years, has just left him. And the scams that he and his friend Sahak and his brother Toros have been running aren’t working out so well. He then finds himself saddled with illegal immigrant Yuen, the newly-arrived



brother of his ex Lu Ann. The younger man’s hair-trigger temper brings all of them into conflict with a ruthless gang of Armenian mobsters,

culminating in a stomach-tightening chase through the Parisian metro. Brilliantly depicting a marginal, little-seen milieu and capturing a sense of the hardscrabble existence of migrant communities, first-time writer-director Frédéric Bolekdjian manages to combine an edgy sense of menace with a wry, almost ramshackle humour. **(85mins. 2005)**



## 13 (Tzamet)

**Date** Wednesday 30 November

**Time** 6.30pm

**Director** Géla Babluani

**Cast includes** George Babluani, Aurélien Recoing, Philippe Passon, Pascal Bongard

Shot like the grunge version of a '50s noir thriller from France (or Soviet Georgia), the black-and-white *13 (Tzamet)* turns into a shocker of Tarantino proportions in protracted sequences of explosive violence that leave viewers quaking. Sébastien (George Babluani), a clean-faced 20-year-old who lives in dire straits with his immigrant family, is hired to



repair the roof of the morphine-addicted Godon (Philippe Passon). The old man dies before Sébastien can be paid, but not before the boy overhears a

conversation that seems to promise easy money. He impulsively decides he will follow the instructions meant for Godon, coming face to face with a degenerate ring of clandestine gamblers who bet on human lives. He suddenly finds himself Player No. 13 in a terrible game. The director has absorbed a lot from classic East European cinema, including a feeling

for eerie faces and images, and a knack for building tension.

**(86mins. 2005)**



## La Moustache

**Date** Wednesday 30 November

**Time** 8.30pm

**Director** Emmanuel Carrère

**Cast includes** Vincent Lindon, Emmanuelle Devos, Mathieu Amalric

One day, on a whim, Marc decides to shave off the moustache he's worn for years. He waits to note his wife's reaction, but neither she nor their friends so much as bat an eyelid. Not only that, when he finally does point it out (amused, but also slightly annoyed: his little joke, you see, has fallen flat), she tells him not to be so foolish: he never had a moustache. And with that apparently casual comment, the entire



His subsequent search for an explanation, which will take him halfway around the world to Hong Kong, only serves to amplify the terrors of the unknown. And like the best conspiracy thrillers, the film suggests the horrifying plausibility of the irrational: the sense that, not only are there forces out there beyond our control, but also our comprehension.

fabric of the universe seems to shift; Marc comes to understand that he is living (or had, perhaps, been living until this moment) in a parallel reality.

Carrère has a fine story here, and he tells it superbly well.

**(86mins. 2005)**



## Subway

**20th Anniversary Screening**

**Date** Thursday 1 December

**Time** 6.30pm

**Director** Luc Besson

**Cast includes** Christophe Lambert, Isabelle Adjani, Richard Bohringer

Luc Besson's second feature went a long way in establishing both his style and his reputation. A rambling plot follows dinner-suited safecracker Fred (Lambert) as he tries to blackmail rich party girl Helena (Adjani). Deciding he might be in love with her, he dives down into the Metro system and hooks up with a bunch of colourful Parisian losers. There's roller-skating purse-



them, but Fred is determined not only to win Helena, but also to stage a gig for his band. This was a time when films that looked like expensive rock videos were considered a good thing (such style over content French films of this era were called 'cinema du look'). So, from Lambert with his Billy Idol hair (the part was originally offered to Sting) to

snatcher The Roller (Jean Hughes Anglade), a dodgy florist (Richard Bohringer) and Jean Reno's silent, nameless drummer. Some comically inept cops are after

the synthetic funk-rock soundtrack, the film is firmly rooted in the 80s. Besson isn't taking all this too seriously, though this film's style exceeds its substance, its style is still pretty darn impressive.

**(104mins. 1985)**



## Closing Film

**Hell [L'Enfer]**

**Date** Thursday 1 December

**Time** 8.30pm

**Director** Danis Tanovic

**Cast includes** Emmanuelle Béart, Karin Viard, Marie Gillain, Carole Bouquet

Danis Tanovic, director of the Academy Award®-winning *No Man's Land*, returns with another masterful and compelling film. Linking up with some of France's major actors – including Emmanuelle Béart, Carole Bouquet and Karin Viard – Tanovic drills into a haunting screenplay by Krzysztof Piesiewicz that is loosely inspired by the second part of Dante's "Inferno." The



a metaphysical ghost story. The story emerges through a series of characters: a mother who has been placed in an elegant home in the countryside and her three grown daughters, now mature adults with their own tangled web of relationships. The world depicted here, much like Piesiewicz's famous scripts for Krzysztof Kieslowski, balances fate with free will. **(98mins. 2005)**

result is a whirling, epic portrait of a family torn apart by events from the past that still trouble them years later. The result is thoroughly chilling, often feeling like



**Tickets to the closing film (€15) include an invitation to the closing night party.**

**VIRGINIE LEDOYEN**  
FESTIVAL GUEST  
OF HONOUR

**Ledoyen Retrospective Screenings**

*Saint Ange*

23 November, 6.30pm

*Jeanne et le Garçon Formidable*

25 November, 4.20pm

*Fin Août, Début Septembre*

26 November, 12.00pm



**CREDITS**

La Doublure (2005),  
Holly (2005)  
The Backwoods (2005)  
Gang de requins (2004)  
Saint Ange (2003)  
Mais qui a tué Pamela Rose?  
(2002)  
Bon voyage (2002)  
8 femmes (2001)  
De l'amour (2000)  
La Plage (1999)  
La Fille d'un soldat ne pleure  
jamais (1998)  
Fin Août, Début Septembre  
(1998)  
En plein coeur (1998)  
Jeanne et le garçon  
formidable (1997)  
Héroïnes (1997)  
La Vie de Marianne (1997)  
Ma 6-T va crack-er (1996)  
Mahjong (1996)  
La Fille seule (1995)  
Sur la route (1995)  
La Cérémonie (1994)  
L'Eau froide (1994)  
La Folie douce (1994)  
Les Marmottes (1993)  
Le Voleur d'enfants (1991)  
Mima (1990)

A model from the age of two, at nine Virginie Ledoyen enrolled in a performing arts school in Paris, and was cast in her first film the same year. In 1993 she appeared in Christian de Chalonge's *Le Voleur d'Enfants* with Marcello Mastroianni, and Elie Chouraqui's *Les Marmottes* with Jacqueline Bisset and Jean-Hughues Anglade. Playing a troubled teenager in Olivier Assayas' *L'Eau Froide* (1994) brought her to the attention of French audiences, and she quickly followed up this breakthrough role with Claude Chabrol's *La Cérémonie* alongside Isabelle Huppert and Sandrine Bonnaire.

In 1995 she starred in Benoît Jacquot's *La Fille Seule*, for which she was nominated for the Most Promising Young Actress at the 1996 César Awards. Playing the lead role in Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau's *Jeanne et le Garçon Formidable*, Ledoyen won the Best Actress Award at the Paris Film Festival in 1998. However, it was in the Hollywood blockbuster *The Beach* (1998) alongside Leonardo di Caprio that Virginie Ledoyen reached world-wide audiences and became a bona fide movie star. She turned her back on the offers of further work in America and returned to France to work on films as diverse as a grungy shoplifter in Pierre Jolivet's *En Plein Coeur*. She then went on to star in James Ivory's Paris based drama *A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries* and she reunited with Olivier Assayas on the wonderful family saga *Fin Août, Début Septembre*.

François Ozon's *8 Women* brought together the cream of French actresses (the entire cast carried off the Silver Bear for outstanding artistic achievement at the Berlin Film Festival in 2002) and *The Guardian* noted that 'Ledoyen's place in the line-up of

François Ozon's *8 Women* effectively anoints her as a member of the French acting aristocracy'. It was François Ozon who aptly describes her appeal, 'She is the classic ingenue heroine. She looks very pretty, natural and simple. But underneath she's more perverse than you can imagine.'

As the Face of L'Oréal, Ledoyen has a higher profile in the media than many of her contemporaries, yet she has never taken the easy option. In her most recent film, Pascal Laugier's stylish ghost film *Saint Ange*, (quirkily reminiscent of Roman Polanski's *Rosemary's Baby*) Ledoyen proves her mettle dealing with the supernatural. In a career that is still in the ascendance, the Irish Film Institute is delighted to welcome Virginie Ledoyen to Dublin to present her films and participate in a public interview after the screening of *Saint Ange*.



**Past Festival Guests**

Jeanne Moreau  
Patrice Leconte  
Anna Karina  
Jean-Pierre Léaud  
Jane Birkin  
Jean Marc Barr  
Olivier Assayas  
Claude Miller

**Tuesday 22 November**

**Gala Opening Night**

Limited tickets to the opening night of the festival are available at €15. They entitle you to come to the Martell Cognac-hosted opening night party before the screening of *36 Quai Des Orfèvres*.

**Friday 25th November**

**The Larrieu Brothers**

The directors of *Peindre Où Faire l'Amour* will be present at this screening, and for a Q&A afterwards.

**Sunday 27th November**

**Isabelle Carré**



Actress from *Entres Ses Mains*, *Holy Lola* and *Eros Thérapie* will be present at the screening of *Entres Ses Mains*.

**Monday 28th November**

**Festival Debate following screening of *L'Esquive***

*“France, French Cinema and Francophonie”*

A panel debate about the emerging voices of French Cinema and their relationship to French culture and French Cinema throughout the world.

**Panelists:**

Frédéric Grasset (The French Ambassador to Ireland)  
Lara Marlowe (Irish Times)  
Bertrand Tavernier (Filmmaker)

**Monday 28th November**

The director of *Holy Lola*, **Bertrand Tavernier** will be present at this screening (6.30pm) for a Q&A.

Following this, **Henri Texier**, who wrote and performed the score on *Holy Lola*, will give a concert. Tickets are available from the IFI Box Office for this.

**Henri Texier's Strada Quintet**

Gueorgui Kornazov, *trombone*  
Sebastien Texier, *saxophone*  
Manu Codija, *guitar*  
Christophe Marguet, *drums*  
Henri Texier, *bass*

One of the great patriarchs of French jazz, Henri Texier returns to Ireland for a unique performance with his Strada Quintet, as part of The French Film Festival. It will be introduced by one of his most avid admirers, filmmaker



Bertrand Tavernier, for whom Texier provided the score for *Holy Lola*, which receives its Irish premiere at the festival. Tavernier,

whose portrayal of the jazz life in *Round Midnight* (1986) is a high watermark, is one of several European directors to find kinship in the expressive music of this gifted composer and virtuoso bassist. Fired by the spirit of iconic musicians like Bud Powell, Dexter Gordon and Don Cherry, all of whom he performed with in the halcyon days of the Parisian post war jazz scene, Texier's own creative journey has drawn him to the sounds of West Africa and the Mahgreb, always reflecting the cultural flux of his native city.

“Strada Sextet is determinedly contemporary, with harmonic and rhythmic reference points that stretch from The Balkans to The Middle East, but there are many nods to jazz’s rich history.” – *The Guardian*

**Tuesday 29th November**

**David Lanzmann**

The director of *Doo Wop* will be present at this screening (4.30pm), and for a Q&A afterwards.




**Tour of Festival Highlights**

22nd November to 23rd November  
**The Eye Cinema in Galway.**

Screening include:  
*Eros Thérapie* and *Les Temps qui Changent*

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**La boum 2** with Sophie Marceau, Pierre Cosso.... on 29 December at 9.25 pm.

**La boum** with Brigitte Fossey, Claude Brasseur.... on 22 December at 9.25 pm.

**Scout toujours** with Agnès Blanchot, G. Jugnot.... on 15 December at 9.25 pm.

**Le sucre** with J. Carmet, G. Depardieu, N. Borgeaud.... on 1 December at 9.25 pm.

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