



Irish Film Institute



The Irish Film Institute's

FrenchFilmFestival

11th-20th November 2008



Ambassade de France en Irlande

Introduction

What a watershed year it has been for French Cinema! We've seen a French film break all domestic box office records (*Welcome to the Sticks/Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis*) and a French film win the prestigious Palme d'Or at Cannes (*The Class/Entre les murs*) for the first time in 30 years. In between these two ends of the spectrum, the French film industry continues to produce an astonishing number of films, and, more importantly, films of superb quality.

The emphasis of this year's festival is very much on new features, with a total of 20 Irish premieres, some of which have only just been released domestically in France. Our opening film, *Faubourg 36* from director Christophe Barratier, promises to have you singing (and possibly dancing) in the aisles. We have three films which feature the wonderful presence of screen icon

Catherine Deneuve: *Après lui*, Gaël Morel's story of a grieving mother; *Je veux voir*, a documentary about her visit to war-torn Lebanon; and our charming closing film, Arnaud Desplechin's dysfunctional family saga *Un conte de Noël*.

Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the programme is our screening of the restored French version of Max Ophuls' masterpiece *Lola Montès*. Technology now allows us to see this film as it was originally meant to be seen. This screening of the gleaming new print from the Cinémathèque française will truly be a major cinematic event. We are also delighted to offer families a chance to revisit Albert Lamorisse's classic children's film *Le Ballon rouge/The Red Balloon*.

Guests are an important part of any festival and the IFI is honoured to welcome three

important faces of French cinema to Dublin. Actress Elsa Zylberstein, who has recently charmed IFI audiences in *I've Loved You So Long*, will introduce her new film *La Fabrique des sentiments*. The much loved character actor Jean-Pierre Darroussin will present Robert Guédiguian's new film *Lady Jane*, and veteran director Jean Becker will return to Ireland with his recent film *Deux jours à tuer*, which was partially shot in Galway.

There is so much on offer over the 10 days of the festival that we have introduced a French Film Festival passport, designed to enable our most committed viewers to see more French cinema at a discounted price.

Nous vous souhaitons à tous un excellent festival!

Alice Black
Festival Director

IFI Principal Funder



Lead Partners



Secondary Partners



Cover: *Capitaine Achab*
Philippe Ramos, Director



Schedule

Tues 11	18:30	Faubourg 36
Wed 12	19:00	Après lui
Thurs 13	18:30	La Fabrique des sentiments
Fri 14	13:00	La Fabrique des sentiments
	15:30	Actrices
	18:30	Un baiser s'il vous plaît
	20:30	Eldorado
Sat 15	12:00	Le Ballon rouge / Crin-Blanc
	14:00	Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis
	16:00	Lola Montès
	18:30	Actrices
	20:30	J'ai toujours rêvé d'être un gangster
Sun 16	14:30	Je veux voir
	16:00	Élève libre
	18:00	Deux jours à tuer
	20:45	Inju, la bête dans l'ombre
Mon 17	14:00	Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis
	16:00	C'est dur d'être aimé par des cons
	18:30	Dialogue avec mon jardinier
	20:30	Le Pressentiment
Tues 18	14:00	Un baiser s'il vous plaît
	16:00	La Frontière de l'aube
	18:30	Lady Jane
	20:45	Sagan
Wed 19	14:00	Inju, la bête dans l'ombre
	16:00	J'ai toujours rêvé d'être un gangster
	18:30	Capitaine Achab
	20:30	Les Liens du sang
Thurs 20	13:00	La Frontière de l'aube
	15:00	Sagan
	17:15	La Vie moderne
	19:00	Un conte de Noël

Booking Information

Ticket cost €9, except for the opening and closing films which include a post-screening reception and cost €15 each. There are special package prices of €40 for 5 films and €70 for 10 films, but each ticket purchased must be for a different film and the package excludes the opening and closing films.

Tickets are available from IFI, 6 Eustace Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2 or from the box office on 01 679 3477 or online at www.ifi.ie

We'd love to hear about your experiences at the IFI, so please email any comments to feedback@irishfilm.ie

Membership is required for all films. Daily membership costs €1 and annual membership entitles the bearer to discounts on screenings, free preview screenings of selected films throughout the year, one complimentary ticket and a host of other benefits. See www.ifi.ie or call 01 679 5744 for further information.

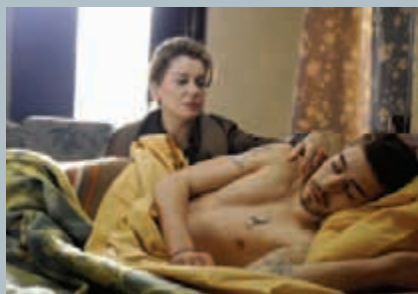
Faubourg 36 (Paris 36)

TUESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER, 18:30

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Christophe Barratier**France-Germany-Czech Republic • 2008 • 120 minutes**

Christophe Barratier follows up his much loved *Les Choristes* with a tribute to the bygone days of musical theatre. Set in a quaint outer suburb of Paris, against the historical backdrop of the French Popular Front, *Faubourg 36* follows one small community's passion for their beloved theatre, The Chansonnia. But when debts start to mount up it is promptly shut down. This leaves stagehand Pigoil (played by the wonderful Gérard Jugnot) and all his co-workers out of work. A motley crew of comedians, musicians and backstage workers, they decide to repossess the theatre and return it to its former glory. When a beautiful young singer from the city arrives to join the troupe, their fortunes start to change...



Après lui (After Him)

Gaël Morel first burst onto the scene as an actor in André Téchiné's *Les Roseaux sauvages* and later forged a reputation as a director in his own right with *À toute vitesse*. *Après lui* marks his second collaboration with Christophe Honoré (*Le Clan*) and explores a central theme that appears in both their work – grief and mourning.

Catherine Deneuve stars as a mother who becomes obsessed with her son's best friend after her child dies unexpectedly in an accident. It is a pleasure to see Deneuve tackling such a different role, opening all registers of motherly love and desperation in her difficult journey to come to terms with a loss that goes against all natural laws.

WEDNESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER, 19:00

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Gaël Morel**France • 2007 • 92 minutes**



THURSDAY 13TH NOVEMBER, 18:30
FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER, 13:00

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Jean-Marc Moutout
France • 2008 • 104 minutes



FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER, 15:30
SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER, 18:30

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Valeria Bruni Tedeschi
France • 2007 • 107 minutes



FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER, 18:30
TUESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER, 14:00

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Emmanuel Mouret
France • 2007 • 96 minutes

La Fabrique des sentiments

(The Feelings Factory)

Introduced to Irish audiences in the charming *Mina Tannenbaum*, Elsa Zylberstein returned to our screens earlier this autumn in Phillipe Claudel's powerful film *I've Loved You So Long*. In *La Fabrique des sentiments*, Zylberstein takes centre stage as Eloïse, a property lawyer based in Paris. Young, good-looking and successful, she seems to have it all. But, single and lonely, Eloïse decides to apply the same determination and ruthless ambition that has controlled her career to her love life. She joins a speed-dating club which promises a fast, easy and efficient way to find a mate. But the magic formula of 7 men, 7 women, 7 minutes doesn't work out exactly to plan for Eloïse.

Actrices (Actresses)

Valeria Bruni Tedeschi made her mark as a director with her debut feature *Il est plus facile pour un chameau* (FFF 2003). Here she collaborates once again with writing partner Noémie Lvovsky to tell the story of Marcelline, an actress whose neurotic and fragile state of mind is complicated by visions of her dead father (played by Maurice Garrel), her first lover, and the character she is currently rehearsing in Turgenev's *A Month in the Country*. Her frantic desire for a child leads her to consider the play's tempestuous director (Mathieu Amalric) and her young co-star (Louis Garrel) as possible fathers.

Although she might be eclipsed at the moment by her famous sister (Carla Bruni), Bruni Tedeschi has proven herself as one of France's most well respected actresses, writers and directors.

Un baiser s'il vous plaît

(Shall We Kiss?)

Often described as a combination of Woody Allen and Eric Rohmer, Emmanuel Mouret was introduced to Irish audiences with his charming *Changement d'adresse* (FFF 2006). Part screwball comedy, part sophisticated French farce, *Un baiser s'il vous plaît* follows two best friends: Nicolas (played by Mouret himself) and Judith (his frequent collaborator Virginie Ledoyen). Each regularly confides in the other and Judith is the first person Nicolas comes to when he finds his relationships lacking in physical intimacy. When Nicolas asks if she would help him out by giving him one kiss, Judith decides to give it a try. Unexpected twists and turns in the characters' relationships mark the rest of this delightful film, which vacillates between burlesque and romantic comedy.



FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER, 20:30

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Bouli Lanners

Belgium-France • 2008 • 80 minutes

Eldorado

Although Belgian filmmaking is well known for the thought-provoking work of the Dardenne brothers, *Eldorado* represents the idiosyncratic and darkly funny side of the country's humour. Writer, director and star Bouli Lanners' film was selected for the prestigious Director's Fortnight section at Cannes this year, where it proved to be an audience favourite and won three well-deserved jury prizes.

Lanners plays Yvan, a world-weary vintage car dealer who returns from work to find his house being burgled by Elie, a young local junkie. A standoff ensues between the two men, and several hours later they have formed an uneasy camaraderie. The two men embark on a cross country road trip in a 1979 Chevy to return Elie to his family...



SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 12:00

Le Ballon rouge (The Red Balloon)

France • 1956 • 34 minutes

Crin-Blanc (White Mane)

France • 1953 • 40 minutes

Classic Children's Films

We are delighted to present this double bill of children's films by director Albert Lamorisse.

Le Ballon rouge is a charming story about a little Parisian boy (played by the director's son Pascal) who finds an unlikely companion in a big red balloon. Since it was released in 1956, *Le Ballon rouge* has become a something of a cult classic, lodged in the visual memory of millions.

Crin-Blanc is a magnificent stallion, leader of a herd of wild horses that are too proud to let themselves be broken by humans. Only Falso, a young fisherman, manages to tame him. A strong friendship grows between the boy and horse. Together, they will go looking for the freedom that humans won't let them have.



SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER, 14:00

MONDAY 17TH NOVEMBER, 14:00

Director: Dany Boon

France • 2008 • 106 minutes

Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis

(Welcome to the Sticks)

Actor-comedian Dany Boon (*Mon meilleur ami*) takes on French regional stereotypes in this affectionate look at life in Northern France, which has become the biggest box office smash in recent memory, clocking up more than 20 million admissions. It's a classic fish-out-of-water tale in which Kad Merad plays southerner Philippe Abrams, a low-level manager in the French postal service who is desperate for a promotion to the Côte d'Azur. He makes such a mess of his interview that he is instead downgraded to working in a small-town post office in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region, where he encounters the police, terrible weather and the incomprehensible Ch'tis dialect, all of which allow Boon the chance to milk the southerner's fear of the north for all it is worth.

Lola Montès

NEWLY RESTORED FRENCH VERSION

SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER, 16:00

Director: Max Ophuls

France • 1955 • 115 minutes

Andrew Sarris, the writer who imported French *auteur* criticism to America in the 1960s, famously put his reputation on the line by declaring *Lola Montès* “the greatest film ever made.” A foolish claim, perhaps, but Sarris’ polemic did have the beneficial effect of forcing fellow critics to see that director Max Ophuls was more than a mere stylist. Indeed, the meaning of Ophuls’ films is so inextricably bound up with his style — or *mise-en-scène* — that the two cannot be separated. This becomes very clear when watching the beautifully restored version of *Lola Montès*, whose dreamy flashbacks, vivid colours, sumptuous wide-screen compositions and elaborate camera movements have been miraculously reconstructed so that future generations can appreciate one of cinema’s richest visual treats.

Loosely based on the life of Lola Montez, the Irish-born 19th century adventuress and courtesan, the film is set in a gaudy circus where the ageing heroine is forced to relive her supposedly scandalous past for the entertainment of a prurient public. Ophuls’ sublime artistry transforms this potentially salacious spectacle into a profound meditation on the intricate workings of desire and memory. The whole set-up can be seen as a metaphor for the film viewing experience itself, but Ophuls’ aesthetic strategies are so subtle and refined they almost defy analysis. Seeing *Lola* in this splendid new print, it’s easy to imagine why Andrew Sarris got carried away all those years ago.

Peter Walsh.

This film has been restored by La Cinémathèque française. In collaboration with Les Films du Jeudi, Les Films de la Pléiade, Marcel Ophuls, La Fondation Thomson pour le Patrimoine du Cinéma et de la Télévision and Le Fonds Culturel Franco Américain, DGA / MPAA / SACEM / WGA. Thanks to the sponsorship of L'Oréal, agnès b. With the support of Filmmuseum München, La Cinémathèque Royale de Belgique, La Cinémathèque de la Ville de Luxembourg.



SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER, 20:30
WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER, 16:00

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Samuel Benchetrit

France • 2007 • 117 minutes

J'ai toujours rêvé d'être un gangster

(I Always Wanted to Be a Gangster)

Wry, nostalgic and wonderfully nutty, Samuel Benchetrit's comedy, appropriately shot in black and white, is a warm if cockeyed homage to old-time crime movies. Told in four episodes, the film is mostly set in a roadside diner where all the characters intersect. It begins with a petty thief who considers holding up the diner even though he hasn't got a gun. The second episode features Bouli Lanners and Serge Larivière as hapless kidnapppers who quickly become surrogate parents to the rich, spoiled teenager in their care. In the third story, pop stars Alain Bashung and Arno play themselves as they meet by chance and reopen old professional wounds. And the final chapter provides a wonderful spin on feelings of nostalgia for crime capers of yore.



SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER, 14:30

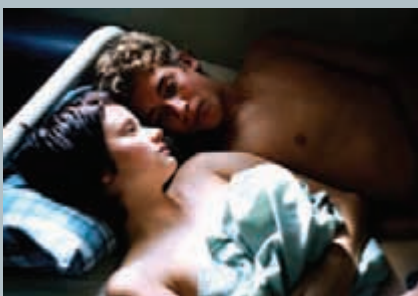
Directors: Joana Hadjithomas, Khali Joreige

France-Lebanon • 2008 • 75 minutes

Je veux voir (I Want To See)

(I Want To See)

War broke out in Lebanon in July 2006 and the country was devastated by bombings. Two young directors chose to tell the story to the West with this unusual film. Not quite documentary fact but not quite fiction either, *Je veux voir* follows screen icon Catherine Deneuve on a road trip through Beirut and the surrounding countryside. She travels with the Lebanese actor Rabih Mroué into areas most stars would not dare to tread. Deneuve, who's known for her involvement with UNESCO and other aid organisations, generously allows the audience to join her on a fascinating journey of discovery.



SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER, 16:00

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Joachim Lafosse

Belgium-France • 2008 • 105 minutes

Élève libre (Private Lessons)

(Private Lessons)

Director Joachim Lafosse, who was introduced to Irish audiences with the dysfunctional family drama *Nue propriété* (*Private Property*), has again proven himself a director who isn't afraid to tackle difficult subject matter.

When sixteen-year-old Jonas fails his school exams he decides to devote himself professionally to tennis. His absent parents don't even notice as Jonas' world falls apart after his failure in the national athletic competition. He then meets 30-year-old Pierre, who is moved by his situation and decides to help Jonas retake his final year. Incapable of setting the boundary lines of their relationship, Pierre's tutoring takes a turn that is more than merely academic. Both seductive and deeply disturbing, the film takes an uncompromising look at the abuse of trust which can happen after parental support falls away.



SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER, 18:00

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Jean Becker

France • 2007 • 109 minutes

Deux jours à tuer (Love Me No More)

During a meeting with a client, advertising executive Antoine (Albert Dupontel) starts unexpectedly abusing both the product and the client. Advised to take some time off, Antoine goes one step further and quits the company, which he co-owns. Since this day happens to be his birthday, it's suggested that Antoine is having a massive midlife crisis, but he seems more hellbent on inducing a crisis in everyone else around him. Antoine then takes off on a road trip that leads him to the wilds of Connemara, where he confronts his father (Pierre Vanneck), a loner who has never met his grandchildren.

Deux jours à tuer may sound like a melodrama about male anxiety, but it becomes more than that in the hands of masterful director Jean Becker who makes good use of some spectacular Irish locations.



SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER, 20:45

WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER, 14:00

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Barbet Schroeder

France • 2008 • 105 minutes

Inju, la bête dans l'ombre

(Inju, The Beast in the Shadow)

Barbet Schroeder (*Terror's Advocate*) returns to fiction filmmaking with this adaptation of a book by legendary Japanese *noir* specialist Edogawa Rampo.

Benoît Magimel stars as Alex, a French crime writer whose work has been heavily influenced by the enigmatic Japanese author Shundeï Oe. Riding high on the success of his latest bestseller, Alex is visiting Japan when strange happenings convince him that he is being stalked by the elusive Oe. Through a chance encounter with Tamao, the beautiful geisha and ex-lover of Oe, Alex finds himself drawn into a violent world of bondage and danger. Blurring the lines between fantasy and nightmare, reality and fiction, Schroeder weaves *film noir* and samurai motifs together in a puzzle of a film which will leave you guessing long after it is over.



MONDAY 17TH NOVEMBER, 16:00

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Daniel Leconte

France • 2008 • 110 minutes

C'est dur d'être aimé par des cons

(It's Hard Being Loved by Jerks)

"Muhammad overwhelmed by fundamentalists" was the title on the front page, followed by a cartoon of a weeping Prophet with a speech bubble saying "It's hard being loved by jerks." This issue of French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* sold over twice as many copies as usual and stirred up a religious debate that led to a legal battle when Philippe Val, the magazine's editor, was taken to court.

Filmmaker Daniel Leconte covered this extraordinary trial in real time, aiming to decipher the international political and media-related issues with the participation of the key players. The resulting film provides a fascinating reflection on Islam, on the press and on the state of public opinion in French society.



MONDAY 17TH NOVEMBER, 18:30

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Jean Becker

France • 2007 • 109 minutes



MONDAY 17TH NOVEMBER, 20:30

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Jean-Pierre Darroussin

France • 2006 • 100 minutes



TUESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER, 16:00

THURSDAY 20TH NOVEMBER, 13:00

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Philippe Garrel

France • 2008 • 106 minutes

Dialogue avec mon jardinier

(Conversation with my Gardener)

Daniel Auteuil plays a successful artist retreating to his family home in the country after the death of his parents and the failure of his marriage. An old school classmate (Jean-Pierre Darroussin) turns up on his doorstep to work as his gardener. The two men get reacquainted over the vegetable patch and talk about everything from their love of plants to their love of women.

The script is an adaptation of a semi-autobiographical novel by Henri Cueco. Becker uses the idyllic setting to illustrate the divide as well as the common ground that exists between these very different men. Auteuil gives a remarkably restrained performance and Darroussin shines as a man who has lived a rich life despite a lack of material wealth.

Le Pressentiment (The Premonition)

After appearing in nearly 80 films, Jean-Pierre Darroussin makes his directorial debut with this adaptation of a 1936 novel by Emmanuel Bove, a writer little-known outside France and much admired by Samuel Beckett.

Updating the novel to contemporary Paris, Darroussin plays Charles Benesteau, a wealthy lawyer who drops out of his bourgeois lifestyle to move into a small apartment in a multi-ethnic working-class neighbourhood. Charles hopes to find happiness in anonymous solitude but finds his new existence brings its own problems...

Le Pressentiment is a striking look at modern day France and the perils its class system projects upon its citizens.

La Frontière de l'aube

(Frontier of the Dawn)

When this new film from veteran director Philippe Garrel was screened in Cannes this year, it was met with both applause and jeers. Garrel has followed up his epic May '68-inspired *Regular Lovers* (FFF 2006) with a more intimate film that explores issues of fate and obsessive love. The director's son Louis plays François, a photographer hired to shoot Carole, a tempestuous young actress (played by Laura Smet, daughter of Johnny Halliday and Nathalie Baye). They fall in love, but François is unable to cope with her emotional volatility and quickly finds an excuse to end the relationship. Carole refuses to let go and François finds himself haunted (literally) by his former love. Beautifully shot in black and white, *La Frontière de l'aube* pays homage to the work of Jean Cocteau.



TUESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER, 18:30

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Robert Guédiguian
France • 2008 • 104 minutes



TUESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER, 20:45

THURSDAY 20TH NOVEMBER, 15:00

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Diane Kurys
France • 2008 • 117 minutes



WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER, 18:30

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Philippe Ramos
Sweden-France • 2007 • 97 minutes

Lady Jane

Robert Guédiguian (*Marius et Jeannette*) once again returns to the working-class suburbs of Marseille and reunites his ensemble of regular actors: Jean-Pierre Darroussin, Ariane Ascaride and Gérard Meylan. Ascaride (in her 14th collaboration with Guédiguian) takes centre stage as Muriel, who, along with her childhood friends François and René, has cut short her career as a thief after a job went horribly wrong. To keep a low profile, the friends have seen very little of each other for the past few decades. When Muriel's son is kidnapped, she reluctantly enlists the help of her childhood friends to find him.

Amongst a stellar cast, Jean-Pierre Darroussin is particularly good, portraying a man whose depressing middle-aged life is reinvigorated by a return to crime.

Sagan

Originally conceived as a two hour mini-series, *Sagan's* producer Luc Besson became convinced the film should be shown on the big screen and persuaded director Diane Kurys (*Les Enfants du siècle*) to release a theatrical version.

Sylvie Testud takes on the daunting role of Françoise Sagan, the rebellious French writer who achieved fame as a teenager with her first novel — *Bonjour tristesse*, a precocious tale of sexual disillusionment — but whose international reputation dimmed as literary tastes changed. Sagan refused to conform to society's norms and throughout her life gained a reputation for living on the edge, with gambling and fast cars being just two of her vices. And despite all the trappings success brought to her life, Sagan was ultimately left a lonely, penniless figure.

Capitaine Achab (Captain Ahab)

While prequels are all the rage at the moment, it still takes some courage to tackle one of literature's best-loved characters. With *Capitaine Achab*, writer-director Philippe Ramos vividly imagines the formative years of the protagonist of Herman Melville's classic *Moby-Dick*. Told in five chapters by five different narrators, the film tells the story from Ahab's birth to his death at sea.

Capitaine Achab, which won Best Director and a FIPRESCI award at the Locarno Film Festival last year, uses an eclectic musical score and a painterly sense of visual composition, giving Ahab the biography he was denied in the novel. The film manages to engage with the essential mystery of the character as it offers up a vision of America that is unforgettable.



WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER, 20:30

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Jacques Maillot
France • 2008 • 106 minutes

Les Liens du sang (Rivals)

Set in the 1970s and filled with leather jackets, tight jeans, big moustaches, Renault 5s and disco sounds, Jacques Maillot's *Les Liens du sang* is clearly influenced by the French crime films which starred Alain Delon or Jean-Paul Belmondo. Loosely based on a true story, it stars Guillaume Canet and François Cluzet as two brothers living on different sides of the law.

What could have easily descended into cliché and formula is saved by the two central performances. Reunited again after their excellent turns in the successful thriller *Tell No One*, Cluzet and Canet have an on-screen chemistry that's credible and mesmerising.



THURSDAY 20TH NOVEMBER, 17:15

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Raymond Depardon
France • 2008 • 88 minutes

La Vie moderne (Modern Life)

In 1999, Magnum photographer and filmmaker Raymond Depardon returned to his native Haute-Garonne region to make *Profils paysans*, a series of portraits of the people and places that had shaped his own life. *La Vie moderne* is the third and final instalment in this series.

The film follows an octogenarian set of brothers as they reluctantly give over the family farm to their nephew and his new wife, a city woman. As he takes a series of living portraits, Depardon becomes a witness to these farmers' lives, values and family stories. What binds them all together is the land and its legacy. Depardon asks the question: what will become of this way of life as the people begin to disappear?



THURSDAY 20TH NOVEMBER, 19:00

IRISH PREMIERE

Director: Arnaud Desplechin
France • 2008 • 150 minutes

Un conte de Noël

(A Christmas Tale)

CLOSING FILM

Arnaud Desplechin's long-awaited follow-up to his masterful *Kings and Queen* is a Christmas tale of love, death, family strife and, ultimately, forgiveness. Catherine Deneuve plays Junon, the matriarch whose eldest child Joseph has died at an early age from Burkitt's lymphoma. The repercussions of this loss affect each family member in a different way, but when Junon is diagnosed with the same life-threatening illness, they must all pull together. As they gather in the family home, longstanding tensions don't so much bubble to the surface as explode.

Despite the gloomy subject matter, *Un conte de Noël* has a certain lightness of tone as well as Desplechin's trademark witty dialogue. The star-studded cast members (including Mathieu Amalric and Chiara Mastroianni) clearly relish the roles they've been given.

Guests

The Irish Film Institute is delighted to welcome our distinguished guests to Dublin for the IFI French Film Festival.



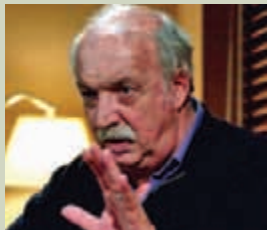
Elsa Zylberstein

La Fabrique des sentiments

Elsa Zylberstein trained as a classical dancer before shifting her studies to the dramatic arts. She made her screen debut in *Baptême* (1988) and won the Most Promising Actress César for Maurice Pialat's *Van Gogh* (1991). But it was in *Mina Tannenbaum* (1994) that Zylberstein had her first true leading role. Starring alongside Romane Bohringer as one of two Jewish girls growing up as best friends in Paris, the actress earned rave reviews for her performance.

Zylberstein has since forged her reputation for playing intelligent, complex women in dramas and screwball comedies alike. She was last seen on our screens very recently in Philippe Claudel's powerful drama *I've Loved You So Long*.

Personal appearance and Q & A for *La Fabrique des sentiments* 13th November at 18:30



Jean Becker

Dialogue avec mon jardinier and *Deux jours à tuer*

Jean Becker is part of a French Cinema family which began with his father, the legendary director Jacques Becker, but also includes his brother, a cinematographer, and his son, a producer. Jean Becker honed his craft in the world of commercial cinema, television and advertising.

He is probably best known to Irish audiences for his award-winning thriller *L'Été meurtrier* and the charming *Les Enfants du marais* which was a huge success both in France and abroad.

Personal appearance and Q & A for *Deux jours à tuer* 16th November at 18:00 and *Dialogue avec mon jardinier* 17th November at 18:30



Jean-Pierre Darroussin

Lady Jane, Le Pressentiment and *Dialogue avec mon jardinier*

Jean-Pierre Darroussin's acting career began when he was still in school. Since his first (uncredited) appearance in Jean-Jacques Annaud's *Coup de tête* in 1979, Darroussin has become a well-respected and well-loved presence in French cinema. He has forged a strong relationship with several key French directors including Bertrand Blier, Agnès Jaoui and Robert Guédiguian, with whom he has worked on no fewer than ten films.

His versatility is one of his greatest strengths – Darroussin takes on comic and serious roles in mainstream and arthouse films. In 2006 he stepped behind the camera for his directorial debut, *Le Pressentiment*.

Personal appearance and Q & A for *Dialogue avec mon jardinier* 17th November at 18:30, *Le Pressentiment* 17th November at 20:00 and *Lady Jane* 18th November at 18:30

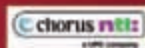


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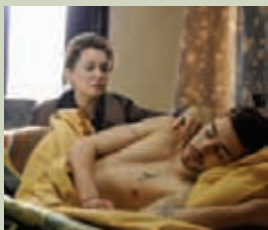
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TV5MONDE

IFI French Film Festival on tour

Galway



Après lui see p4



Eldorado see p6



Deux jours à tuer see p9

Monday
17th November
19:30

Après lui

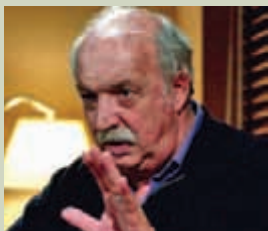
Tuesday
18th November
19:30

Eldorado

Wednesday
19th November
19:30

Deux jours à tuer

Special Guest



Veteran director Jean Becker is part of a French Cinema family which began with his father, the legendary director Jacques Becker, but also includes his brother, a cinematographer, and his son, a producer. Jean Becker honed his craft in the world of commercial cinema, television and advertising. He is probably best known to Irish audiences for his award-winning thriller *L'Été meurtrier* and the charming *Les Enfants du marais* which was a huge success both in France and abroad.

He will be in Galway to introduce his newest film - *Deux jours à tuer* - which features stunning Co. Galway locations.

Personal appearance and Q & A for *Deux jours à tuer*
20th November at 19:30



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