March 28-31, 2019

Most Beloved French Actor
Thierry Lhermitte Leads Diverse Delegation of Filmmakers

Eight Free Master Classes with actors, directors, authors, screenwriters, and cinematographers
Lock in your pass for the 28th French Film Festival with the 27th festival price

Regular VIP Pass: $115
Instructor VIP Pass: $105
Student VIP Pass: $65
Official Reception Add-On: $25

Make check payable to: French Film Festival

Mark your calendars!
28th French Film Festival
March 26-29, 2020

Offer available only during weekend of Festival – see “Will Call Table”
French Film Festival Schedule

Tuesday, March 26

IN THE BYRD THEATRE
Special Event in anticipation of the 3rd Pocahontas Reframed: Native American Storytellers Film Festival
7:00 p.m. Hochelaga, Land of Souls by François Girard
Presentation by and discussion with director of the Pocahontas Reframed: Native American Storytellers Film Festival, Brad Brown (Pamunkey) and actor George Aguilar (Apache/Yaqui)
All is One by Sky Bear Aguilar and Solange Aguilar
Presentation by and discussion with singer & songwriter Joost Van Lubeek, director Sky Bear Aguilar, producers George Aguilar, Joost Van Lubeek & Jeanne Labrune
The VIP PASS of the French Film Festival—Richmond, Virginia will gain you free entrance to this special screening event. Byrd Theatre tickets available at the door.

Thursday, March 28

IN THE VCU INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART
9:00 a.m. Master Class with film director and author François Troukens
10:30 a.m. Master Class with actors and directors Julie Voisin, Mathieu Simonet and Alexandre Tacchino
1:00 p.m. Master Class & Homage with film director & cinematographer Pierre-William Glenn
2:30 p.m. Master Class & Homage with actor Thierry Lhermitte

IN THE BYRD THEATRE
5:00 p.m. Libre by Michel Toesca
Presentation by and discussion with director Michel Toesca
7:30 p.m. Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge by Robert Enrico
Fait d’hiver by Robert Enrico
Presentation by and discussion with director Jérôme Enrico and cinematographer Pierre-William Glenn
10:30 p.m. A Dry White Season by Euzhan Palcy
Presentation by and discussion with cinematographer Pierre-William Glenn

Friday, March 29

IN THE VCU INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART
9:00 a.m. Master Class with director and author François Troukens
10:15 a.m. Master Class with reporter and director Nicolas Champeaux
11:30 a.m. Master Class with director and cinematographer Gilles Porte
1:45 p.m. Master Class & Homage with Jérôme Enrico and screening of his film Robert Enrico, bref passage sur la Terre

IN THE BYRD THEATRE
4:30 p.m. En mille morceaux by Véronique Mériadec
Presentation by and discussion with director co-author Véronique Mériadec, co-author Gérard Massé, actor Serge Riaboukine and film editor Diane Logan
6:45 p.m. Le Procès contre Mandela et les autres by Gilles Porte and Nicolas Champeaux
Presentation by and discussion with director & cinematographer Gilles Porte and reporter & director Nicolas Champeaux
9:15 p.m. Méprises by Bernard Declercq
Presentation by and discussion with director & screenwriter Bernard Declercq and actress Moana Ferré

Saturday, March 30

IN THE BYRD THEATRE
8:00 a.m. First Short Film Series
Leur jeunesse by David Roux
Sans gravité by Charline Parisot
Obstus by Alexandre Mehring
Charly est vivant by Thomas Chansou
Le Scénariste by François Paquay
KYNG (ROY) – Baptiste Olivetti, Ministre by Julie Voisin, Alexandre Tacchino and Mathieu Simonet
Presentation by and discussion with directors, screenwriters, and actors David Roux, Charline Parisot, Alexandre Mehring, Philippe Bénard, Thomas Chansou, Serge Riaboukine, Julie Voisin, Alexandre Tacchino and Mathieu Simonet

10:00 a.m. Rémi sans famille by Antoine Blossier
Presentation by and discussion with director & screenwriter Antoine Blossier and music composer Romaric Laurence
12:30 p.m. Abdel et la Contesse by Isabelle Doval
Presentation by and discussion with director Isabelle Doval, actors Charlotte de Turkheim and Mathieu Simonet and producers & screenwriters Amélie de Chassey and Pierre Kubel
3:00 p.m. La Finale by Robin Sykes
Presentation by and discussion with director Robin Sykes and actor Thierry Lhermitte
5:40 p.m. Tueurs by François Troukens
Presentation by and discussion with director and screenwriter François Troukens
7:30 p.m. Official Reception at the VCU Institute for Contemporary Art
7:45 p.m. Le Collier rouge by Jean Becker
9:45 p.m. Tout ce qu’il me reste de la révolution by Judith Davis
Presentation by and discussion with music composer Boris Boubill

Sunday, March 31

IN THE BYRD THEATRE
8:00 a.m. Second Short Film Series
1 image Out of 140,000 with Gérard Krawczyk
Ramdam by Zangro
Bloom by Emmanuel Fraisse
Triptyque Raconte... by Robert Boubill
Le Roi des démons du vent by Clémence Poésy
KYNG (ROY) – Paul Farge, Agriculteur by Julie Voisin, Alexandre Tacchino and Mathieu Simonet
Presentation by and discussion with directors, screenwriters, music composers and actors Gérard Krawczyk, Emmanuel Fraisse, Robert Boubill, Geeske Boublil, Boris Boublil, Clémence Poésy, Chloé Astor, Coralie Russier, Julie Voisin, Mathieu Simonet, Alexandre Tacchino
10:30 a.m. Et mon coeur transparent by David and Raphael Vial-Durand
Presentation by and discussion with director Serge Riauboukine
12:45 p.m. Les Chatouilles by Andréa Bescond and Éric Métayer
Presentation by and discussion with directors, screenwriters and actors Andréa Bescond & Éric Métayer
3:15 p.m. L’Échange des princesses by Marc Dugain
Presentation by and discussion with cinematographer Gilles Porte
6:15 p.m. L’Ordre des médecins by David Roux
Presentation by and discussion with director and screenwriter David Roux
8:30 p.m. Le Collier rouge by Jean Becker

Festival Venue
The Byrd Theatre is located at 2908 W. Cary St. in Richmond. A parking deck is located directly behind the theatre.

Master Classes
Eight free and open-to-the-public Master Classes will be held on the VCU campus at the new Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA). Simultaneous interpretation English-French-English headsets provided without charge upon presentation of an I.D. card. The ICA Auditorium has 204 seats. Please reserve your free seat by registering for each Master Class on www.eventbrite.com. VCU Parking Decks are two blocks away from the ICA building: HH Deck (925 W. Grace Street) and BB Deck (926 W. Grace Street) which are pay-as-you-go parking facilities.

Official Reception
The Official Reception is for all festival student, faculty and regular VIP pass holders who have purchased the $25 add-on for the reception. If you have purchased a pass already and did not choose the reception add-on, you still may do so by contacting the Festival office. This special event will be held on the evening of Saturday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. at the Institute for Contemporary Art, a non-smoking venue, located at 601 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA. “Friends of the Festival” pass holders will park directly in the ICA lot QQ. VIP reception pass holders will park in lot EE just across Grace Street behind the ICA. Singer and songwriter Joost Van Lubeek will perform songs from his upcoming album All Is One. Catering provided by Max’s on Broad.
Hochelaga, terre des âmes (Hochelaga, Land of Souls)

feature

Pocahontas Reframed: Native American Storytellers
Film Festival director Brad Brown and actor George Aguilar present Hochelaga, terre des âmes

English synopsis

A tremendous downpour hits Montreal and a spectacular sinkhole opens up in Percival Molson Stadium in the middle of a football game. The stadium is evacuated, and a few hours later, it becomes a protected archaeological site. Centuries of history are revealed beneath the field. Mohawk archaeologist Baptiste Asigny begins investigating, and he will discover the multitude of generations who have occupied this land, each with buried secrets. Several generations of people from different cultures have occupied this place and rubbed shoulders, sometimes in violence. 750 years of history reside in this land. It may even be the place where Jacques Cartier spoke with the Iroquois from the small village of Hochelaga, which would soon be known as Montreal.

Synopsis en français

Une pluie torrentielle s’abat sur Montréal et un immense trou s’ouvre au milieu du Stade Percival Molson au cours d’un match de football. Le stade est évacué et quelques heures plus tard, il devient un site archéologique protégé. Des siècles d’Histoire sont révélés sous le terrain. L’archéologue Mohawk Baptiste Asigny commence ses recherches et découvrira la multitude de générations qui ont occupé cette terre, chacune y ayant enfoui ses secrets. Plusieurs générations de personnes de différentes cultures ont occupé cet endroit et se sont côtoyées, parfois avec violence. 750 ans d’Histoire se sont déroulés sur ce lieu. Ce serait peut-être même l’endroit où Jacques Cartier s’est entretenu avec des Iroquois du petit village Hochelaga, qui allait bientôt porter le nom de Montréal.

All Is One

music video & live performance

Director Sky Bear Aguilar, producers George Aguilar & Jeanne Labrune, and singer, songwriter & producer Joost Van Lubeek present All Is One

original music & lyrics Joost Van Lubeek
running time 8min

Singer Joost Van Lubeek will also perform songs from his upcoming album All Is One during the Official Reception of the French Film Festival on Saturday evening, March 30 in VCU’s Institute for Contemporary Art (see page 5).
Meet the French Delegation during our Reception

Saturday, March 30th
7:30-9:30 p.m.
Institute for Contemporary Art at VCU (ICA)
601 W. Broad Street

The Official Reception of the 27th French Film Festival with the delegation of directors, actors and artists from France will include live music by singer/songwriter Joost Van Lubeek who is launching his debut album, *All Is One*, at the Festival.

Catering provided by Max’s on Broad.

Please make sure to purchase the reception add-on to your Festival pass for entrance into the reception.
AT BETHESDA MARYLAND
FROM AGE 2 TO 12TH GRADE
AUTHENTIC FRENCH IMMERSION

Let’s all GO to “rō - sham - bō”!

- Multilingual
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- Decision-maker of tomorrow

Proud sponsor of the 27th French Film Festival and Master Classes

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Introduction to the Master Classes

This year, eight free and open-to-the-public Master Classes will be held on the VCU campus at the new Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA). Simultaneous interpretation headsets will allow everyone to participate in the discussions regardless of English or French proficiency levels. The ICA Auditorium has 204 seats. Please reserve your free seat by registering for each Master Class on www.eventbrite.com.

Human rights, social justice, mental health and aging, environmental activism, immigration, reconciliation, artistic freedom and expression are some of the themes weaved throughout the selection of films in this year's Festival. These two days of Master Classes permit a better understanding into how directors, screenwriters, actors, and artist-technicians create ingenious ways through the visual and aural power of cinema to communicate important issues facing our world today while captivating and entertaining the viewer. Discussions in the Master Classes also reveal from whom artists have drawn inspirations and with whom they elaborated, or pushed even further, certain styles and cinema genres.

On Thursday, director Gérard Krawczyk kicks off the Master Class series with an intriguing project he designed, aimed at sparking ideas and creative incentives to move more students and citizens into the arts of screenwriting and film production.

Actors, writers and producers Julie Voisin, Alexandre Tacchino and Mathieu Simonet invite us into the development of their new and highly original television series. A series where History and each character’s (hi)story enter into new contextual and artistic articulations ultimately challenging spectators to re-evaluate our present situation: consumerism, social and political formatting weighing down citizens, their lives and their (our) future(s).

Both cinematographer Pierre-William Glenn and actor Thierry Lhermite will share more insights into their distinguished and illustrious careers during two Master Classes – Homages. Thank you Pierre-William and Thierry for all that you have given to cinema and to our Festival throughout the years!

On Friday, the Master Class series start up with Belgian director François Troukens whose personal career path leading him into professional filmmaking is definitely not the norm. His entry into writing, publishing and filming continues a trajectory to a specific style of French cinematic storytelling. One will see during the Master Classes several links, influences and a sort of visual interconnectivity between a new generation of filmmakers like Troukens, Voisin, Tacchino and Simonet with celebrated directors such as author and director José Giovanni, directors Jean Becker, Jean Renoir, Bertrand Tavernier, Pierre-William Glenn, Gérard Krawczyk, and stunt coordinator Rémy Julienne.

Director and reporter Nicolas Champeaux with director Gilles Porte will carry on the important, critical work of militant, engaged, “citizen camera” filmmaking. Champeaux and Porte will unveil the creative genesis as well as their innovative storytelling methods behind their poignant documentary, The State Against Mandela and the Others: generated from the audio recordings of the entire judicial proceedings in 1963 and 1964 against Nelson Mandela and his fellow freedom fighters. The trial which ultimately set into motion, and finally realized twenty-seven years later, the end of Apartheid.

Gilles Porte will also elaborate on the artistic and technical choices he decides to make when working as director and/or cinematographer on documentaries, features, animations or virtual-reality films.

The director Jérôme Enrico will cap the Master Class series with a presentation of the remarkable career of his father, director Robert Enrico, and a special screening of his new documentary Robert Enrico, A Brief Passage on Earth, a true Master Class in itself and an excellent way to tie-in together these two days of discussions on filmmaking.

So, mark your calendar, reserve your free seat, grab your simultaneous interpretation headset at the ICA, and then enter into the transformative worlds of cinema.

“Your Festival’s Master Classes are so beneficial because they provide direct interaction with the creators and artists. Each Master Class gives us critical insights and real knowledge about so many aspects of filmmaking from the professionals themselves. It changes, for the better, the way we understand, appreciate and critically view films. They are packed with crucial hands-on information that traditional academic film courses simply cannot provide.” - (From a former student attendee)

The Festival acknowledges and thanks Le Lycée Rochambeau for a new partnership that helps provide some of the funding necessary to continue offering these special exchanges with professionals in the film industry. Le Lycée Rochambeau has incorporated the Master Classes and the Festival itself as an integral part of their students’ experiences in its cinema and theater programs.

Simultaneous interpretation headsets provided without charge upon presentation of an I.D. card. Reserve your free seat on www.eventbrite.com for each Master Class. VCU Parking Decks are two blocks away from the ICA building: HH Deck (925 W. Grace Street) and BB Deck (926 W. Grace Street) which are pay-as-you-go parking facilities.
Genesis and Diversity in Cinematic Writing from Image(s) and Sound(s)

With director, screenwriter, cinematographer and author Gérard Krawczyk & with the short film competition winner from EICAR (École Internationale de Création Audiovisuelle et de Réalisation, Paris)
Thursday, March 28, 9:00-10:20 a.m.
FREE and open to the public

The photo exhibit, 1 Image Out of 140,000, whose world première took place at the 25th French Film Festival, continues to be a springboard for the creative imagination. The premise of the exhibit: a photo taken from a sequence of an imaginary, potential, film is proposed with its possible script and with an original musical composition created by Armand Amar, Maidi Roth or Pierre Oberkampf. It is, then, up to the viewer to invent the rest of the story, the film, triggered uniquely from that single shot, script and accompanying music.

Now, two years later, film students from the EICAR School, in Paris, have actually generated their own short films, all sparked from one of these single images, its short contextual description, and original musical composition. The school then selected twelve scenarios and asked the students to go into production.

Initiator of this EICAR short film project, Gérard Krawczyk, a renowned director and cinematographer in his own right, will share during this Master Class the creative steps students underwent in order to bring their diverse ideas into the filmmaking process. Some of these short films will be shown during the Master Class. The winner of the competition, selected by a jury of film industry professionals, for best artistic creation will accompany Gérard Krawczyk and elaborate on his/her own experience: a collaborative process incorporating the ideas and talents of fellow peers specializing in screenwriting, music composition, sound, cinematography, costumes, set-design and additional trades of artist-technicians.

Gérard Krawczyk and the laureate of the EICAR film competition will present the winning film during the Sunday morning shorts (see page 35).
Bringing Originality to the Cinematic Art of Television Series

With Julie Voisin (director & screenwriter), Alexandre Tacchino (author & actor) and Mathieu Simonet (cinematographer & actor)
Thursday, March 28, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
FREE and open to the public

Have you ever wondered: How does one transform one’s dreams into an attractive, concrete, achievable cinematographic project?

This Master Class strives to answer that specific question. Julie Voisin, Alexandre Tacchino and Mathieu Simonet will illustrate just that by presenting their new series, KYNG (ROY) and its first five pilot shows.

With them, we will explore the entire creative process by addressing its different stages, from the initial original, imagined universe, to writing stages, and then on to fundraising.

From utopia to uchrony*, KYNG is an ambitious project with a specifically original social and contemporary context steeped in history. The French royalty survived the Revolution of 1789 and now the Kingdom, its subjects – our contemporaries – are dealing with today’s recession.

How can one bring to life an historical period through images infusing the past into the political and social context of today, and achieve this with a limited production budget?

How does the creation of an imaginary and historical world make it possible to address current issues?

What effective cinematic strategies to use in order to shake-up and change present political, economic and social complacency?

(*Uchrony: Fictional reconstruction of history, recounting the facts as they might have occurred.)

With the explosion of TV series all over the world, this Master Class on an original project blending past with present unveils the developmental and creative cinematic process from the ground-up.

Julie Voisin, Alexandre Tacchino and Mathieu Simonet will present two episodes of their series during the Saturday and Sunday short screenings (see page 36).
A Cinematographer’s Time is One of Eternity

With cinematographer and director Pierre-William Glenn
Thursday, March 28, 1:00 - 2:20 p.m.
FREE and open to the public

If there is one French cinematographer that all American moviegoers should know, it is Pierre-William Glenn. His camerawork in La Nuit américaine (Day for Night) by François Truffaut is a reference used in film classes around the world. Pierre-William Glenn is also a pioneer for incorporating new cinema technologies, be it new cameras and accessories like the steady-cam (ex. scenes shot with perfection in Coup de torchon (Clean Slate) and La Mort en direct (Death Watch) for films by director Bertrand Tavernier) or in beta-testing the latest generations of cameras, lenses, 35mm/digital sensors and film stock. In his more than 100 films as cinematographer, Pierre-William has consistently shared his craft of filmmaking, his incredibly innovative visual, framing and lighting techniques while working with world-renowned directors and actors, and it is an impressive list indeed.

The generosity of Pierre-William Glenn does not stop on a film set. With other iconic cinematographers, such as Raoul Coutard, Pierre Lhomme, Henri Alekan, Pierre-William founded the AFC (Association for French Cinematographers). For years, he has been a professor and the director of the Image Department at the prestigious film school in Paris, La FEMIS, from where he and other notable directors graduated when it was called IDHEC. As the President, and now Honorary President, of the High Commission on Cinema Technologies (CST), he and his team of artist-technicians have ensured the highest projection standards for the profession as well as serving as the responsible agency for all of the projections at the Cannes International Film Festival and our own Festival. Pierre-William Glenn is also responsible for securing the tradition at the Cannes Film Festival of awarding, by a special jury of professionals, the Vulcain Prize to the most original and distinctive work by an artist-technician among the films in official competition. He also serves as President to the Association for Assistance to Cineastes (Association d’entr’aide aux cinéastes - AEC), to the Parisian based Association French Cinema in America (FCinA), and as Honorary President to the annual VCU & UR French Film Festival. He is more than a colleague; Pierre-William is a brother, he is family, to us here in Richmond.

For this special Master Class and Homage, VCU & UR film students have created a short film pulling scenes and spectacular visual images from films created by the cinematographer and also the director Pierre-William Glenn. He will discuss those filming techniques and styles developed throughout his ever-busy and on-going career and his collaborations with a host of directors. The stories Pierre-William has to share could, and should be, hopefully one day, a book and reference in itself on the history and the technologies of filmmaking from the origins of cinema to today. The audience attending this special Homage and Master Class is in for a true treat. One will quickly realize the reasons why Pierre-William Glenn is a leader and master in the field of cinematography, and respected as such by the profession.

Pierre-William Glenn will present A Dry White Season by director Euzhan Palcy on Thursday, March 28 at 10:30 p.m. in the Byrd Theatre and will also present with director Jérôme Enrico the feature film Fait d’hiver by director Robert Enrico the same evening, at 7:30 p.m. in the Byrd Theatre. Pierre-William Glenn was the cinematographer for both films. (see pages 17 & 18)
Thierry Lhermitte:
A Heart Throb
Pouring Laughter
and Love Into
Acting and Life

With French actor
Thierry Lhermitte
Thursday, March 28,
2:30-4:00 p.m.
FREE and open to the public

Twenty-three years ago, the VCU & UR French Film Festival audiences became too large for any of the cinema spaces on or near campus. That year 1996, the 4th Festival relocated its screenings into the Byrd Theatre and moreover it was also when the Festival decided to move from teleconferencing with the delegation members to inviting them to Richmond in-person. The first guest: actor Thierry Lhermitte, who came to present the film *Le Zèbre* directed by Jean Poiret. Throughout the years, Thierry has been a faithful friend, an ambassador and advocate for our annual celebration of French cinema and culture. This year, it is quite fitting that we honor Thierry who is returning to the Byrd Theatre, accompanied by director Robin Sykes, to present their latest film *La Finale*, and who is offering us this special Master Class.

In fact, one cannot honestly claim to know French film, theatre or culture if they are not familiar with Thierry Lhermitte, the actor, but also all that Thierry Lhermitte, the down-to-earth great guy, who does, away from the spotlights, so much for people. This Master Class is designed so everyone can get to know Thierry and his career even better. VCU & UR film students have created a short homage film tracing Thierry’s career from the early days with the comic theatre troupe at Le Spendide, the stage and screen blockbuster hits and their sequels like *Le Père Noël est une ordure*, *Les Bronzés*, *Les Ripoux* up through his latest films like *La Nouvelle Vie de Paul Sneijder* and *La Finale*. The versatility and range of his acting for theatre and for cinema is only matched by his off-screen dedication to important charities, like his work for the past fourteen years with *La Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale* (FRM).

Thierry will give us a privileged look into his acting craft, the interaction he has had with a diverse range of directors, actors and actresses, and into what makes this icon of French cinema tick.

On Saturday, March 30 at 3:00 p.m. in the Byrd Theatre, Thierry Lhermitte with director Robin Sykes will present their film *La Finale* (see page 25).
Master Class

From Shadow to Light

With director and author
François Troukens

Friday, March 29, 9:00-10:00 a.m.
FREE and open to the public

Crime Thrillers have been part of filmographies by such famous French directors as Henri Georges Clouzot, Jean-Pierre Melville, José Giovanni and Robert Enrico, just to name a few. François Troukens continues the tradition but brings both personal and professional new twists and turns to the genre.

During this Master Class, the Belgian filmmaker, author and screenwriter will, on the one hand, share his cinematographic approaches and techniques to filmmaking, and on the other hand, mesmerize the audience, to the extent of their jaws dropping, regarding the circumstances that brought him to become an author, a publisher, a film director and screenwriter. He will also describe his activism against prison radicalization through his Chrysalibre association, and his advocating for more culture in the prison environment. François Troukens will explain the reasons for his incarceration and how he, while being inside, was able to reconcile with society through literary studies and film production training.

He will also emphasize how José Giovanni has been particularly important to him, as he is the one who advised him to start writing, and to train to embrace a new direction, a new career: writing and film directing. Having gone through similar life predicaments before becoming a notorious writer, screenwriter and film director, Giovanni was the first one to see Troukens’ talent and the relevance of applying his previous life’s experiences directly to filmmaking.

François Troukens will present his feature film Tueurs in the Byrd Theatre at 5:40 p.m. on Saturday, March 30 (see page 26).
Archives: A Goldmine for Radio and Cinema Production

With director and journalist-reporter Nicolas Champeaux
Friday, March 29, 10:15-11:15 a.m.
FREE and open to the public

Nicolas Champeaux is a French-American journalist. He has been using archives as a starting point for a wide range of productions throughout his career, notably as journalist in some of the most dangerous areas in Africa. In 2013, he produced a radio and multimedia series based on a rare manuscript he found whilst reporting in Timbuktu, for Radio France Internationale. The document is the secret roadmap for Mali written by the head of Al Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, who occupied northern Mali with other extremist militants for ten months.

In 2016, he produced a radio program based on the audio archives of the Rivonia trial (the trial of Mandela). Then he teamed up with Gilles Porte and Oerd to create the feature documentary *The State Against Mandela and the Others (Le Procès contre Mandela et les autres)* based on the 256 hours of the trial’s audio recordings. In February this year, he produced a one-hour radio documentary « *Ahmed and Sylvia, Letters of Apartheid* » based on the twenty year correspondence between Ahmed Kathrada, one of Mandela’s inmates on Robben island, and his fiancée and fellow activist, Sylvia Neame, who was in exile in England and Germany.

In his Master Class, Nicolas Champeaux will explore the infinite ways of incorporating archives into various media formats, without jeopardizing the authenticity of these pieces of history.

Nicolas Champeaux and Gilles Porte will present their new film *The State Against Mandela and the Others* on Friday, March 29 at 6:45 p.m. in the Byrd Theatre (see pages 20-21).

“Archives are tough to beat when it comes to telling a story with accuracy, and I find raw and authentic material very moving. Archives do come with a challenge, but challenges call for creative and innovative solutions, that’s why I find them exciting.”

- Nicolas Champeaux
Which Image for Which Film?

With director, screenwriter and cinematographer Gilles Porte
Friday, March 29, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
FREE and open to the public

President of the AFC (French Association of Cinematographers), Gilles Porte addresses during this Master Class his work with images, reasons for choices of images, framing and light all depending upon the nature of the film in question whether social dramas, documentaries, virtual reality or animations. Showing examples of his work as a cinematographer, more than 29 feature films to date, Gilles Porte will illustrate his reasoning for professional and artistic choices he makes. In addition to his discussions, spectators at the Festival will have the occasion to discover two aesthetically different films shot by Gilles, L’Échange des princesses directed by Marc Dugain and his latest feature documentary The State Against Mandela and the Others, co-directed with Nicolas Champeaux.

Following Nicolas Champeaux’s Master Class, Gilles Porte will give further insights of how they worked together, alongside illustrator Oerd, to create The State Against Mandela and the Others. From sound-only archives, how can this historical trial, which did not have a visual recording, be relayed with authenticity and truthfulness? Which images to choose and adopt in order to make the voices of the accused, judged 57 years ago by the South African State, resound in the ears of the audience? In front of the camera, the surviving defendants listened for the first time, headphones on, to their confrontations with their prosecutor half a century earlier. How can the choice of images avoid the risk of attenuating, covering up the original voices of the accused? Gilles Porte, Nicolas Champeaux and Oerd have constructed visuals to accompany the voices of those men and women who actually put Apartheid on trial, at the risk of their own lives.

Gilles Porte and Nicolas Champeaux will present The State Against Mandela and the Others on Friday, March 29 at 6:45 p.m. in the Byrd Theatre. On Sunday, March 31 at 3:15 p.m. in the Byrd Theatre, Gilles Porte will also present L’Échange des princesses by director Marc Dugain for which he was the cinematographer (see pages 20-21 and 31).
Robert Enrico, A Brief Passage on Earth: Portrait of a Filmmaker by his Son

With director Jérôme Enrico
Friday, March 29, 1:45-3:30 p.m.
FREE and open to the public

“My father, Robert Enrico, directed twenty-two films! The most famous? *Le Vieux fusil (The Old Gun)*, *Les Grandes Gueules (The Wise Guys)*, *Les Aventuriers (The Last Adventure)*... and for connoisseurs a short film, *Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge*, for which he received the Palme d’Or in Cannes and an Oscar in Hollywood. My father was a filmmaker, I am a filmmaker... Like bakers, we passed along from father to son the tradition of making films. So the least I could do was to make one about him. But where do you start? By the only film that does not appear in his filmography, the only film he dreamed of and that, in this sense, belongs to him forever: *Coup de Foudre (Love at First Sight)*, with Catherine Deneuve and Philippe Noiret, a film that no one will ever see!"

From these recovered and never projected images, Jérôme Enrico enters the footsteps of his father, a son of Italian immigrants, passionate about cinema and who will succeed in making his place among the great names of the profession. *Robert Enrico, A Brief Passage on Earth* is a personal quest nourished by numerous archives and testimonies. His film takes us through French cinema from the 1960s to the 1990s and evokes with great emotion and sensitivity the art of filmmaking, its creation, its filiation and its transmission.

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Jérôme Enrico

Jérôme started as an assistant director to his father, Robert Enrico, as well as to Patrice Chéreau and Robert Altman. He also became a professor and Director at ESEC (École Supérieure d’Études Cinématographiques), a renowned professional school of film and audiovisual techniques in Paris. He has continued his career as a director and scriptwriter for numerous television programs and documentaries. Recently, he authored and directed three features films: *Paulette* (2013), *Cerise* (2015) and *Robert Enrico, bref passage sur la Terre* (2018).

Jérôme Enrico will present his father’s highly acclaimed and award-winning short film *Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge* followed by Robert Enrico’s last feature film *Fait d’hiver* to be screened on Thursday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Byrd Theatre alongside the cinematographer of the film, Pierre-William Glenn (see page 17).
documentary

French director, screenwriter and cinematographer Michel Toesca presents *Libre*

ALL AUDIENCES

director Michel Toesca
cinematographer Michel Toesca
screenwriter Michel Toesca
music composer Magic Malik
producer Jean-Marie Gigon
starring Cédric Herrou
running time 1h 40min

**English synopsis**

The Roya is a valley in Southern France located near the Italian border. An olive grove farmer, Cédric Herrou, lives in this valley. The day he comes across migrants, he decides, with other nearby inhabitants, to welcome them. He offers them shelter and assists them in their applications for legal asylum. For doing so, he is declared to be an outlaw by the French judicial system. . . Michel Toesca, Cédric Herrou’s longtime friend who also lives in the Roya, spent three years following him. A concerned and sensitive witness, Michel, camera in hand, participates in and documents this citizen resistance day after day. This film tells the story of the fight led by Cédric and many others.

**Synopsis en français**

La Roya, vallée du sud de la France frontalière avec l’Italie. Cédric Herrou, agriculteur, y cultive ses oliviers. Le jour où il croise la route des réfugiés, il décide, avec d’autres habitants de la vallée, de les accueillir, de leur offrir un refuge et de les aider à déposer leur demande d’asile. Mais en agissant ainsi, il est considéré hors-la-loi... Michel Toesca, ami de longue date de Cédric et habitant aussi de la Roya, l’a suivi durant trois ans. Témoin concerné et sensibilisé, caméra en main, il a participé et filmé au jour le jour cette résistance citoyenne. Ce film est l’histoire du combat de Cédric et de tant d’autres.
**Fait d’hiver** [Till Death Do Us Part]

**feature**

French director Jérôme Enrico and French cinematographer Pierre-William Glenn present **Fait d’hiver**

**ALL AUDIENCES**

director Robert Enrico

cinematographer Pierre-William Glenn

screenwriters Robert Enrico, Jean-Claude Grumberg

music composer Jean-Yves d’Angelo

producers François Cohen-Séat, Gilbert Hus, Jean-Pierre Fabre-Bernadac, Bernard Berge

starring Charles Berling, Béatrice Palme, Jean-François Stévenin, Claude Brasseur, Michel Dufchaussoy, Romaric Perche, Jessica Lecucq, Camille Du Fresne

running time 1h 45min

**English synopsis**

January 1970, in the countryside, not far from Montauban, France. Louis Riquier has custody of his children for the weekend and decides not to return them to their mother Lucianna. The younger ones are delighted to stay in the country house, which they transform into a fort, barricading doors and windows with the help of their father. Lucianna has filed a complaint but the gendarmerie Commander, Ducroix, stalls for time: he knows and appreciates Riquier who served under his command during the Algerian war. The media steps in . . .

**Synopsis en français**

Janvier 1970, en pleine campagne, non loin de Montauban. Louis Riquier a pour le week-end la garde de ses enfants et a décidé de ne pas les rendre à leur mère Lucianna. Les plus jeunes sont ravis de rester dans la maisonnette qu’ils transforment en fortin, barricadant avec leur père portes et fenêtres. Lucianna a porté plainte mais le commandant de gendarmerie Ducroix temporise : il connaît et apprécie Riquier qu’il a eu sous ses ordres pendant la guerre d’Algérie. Les médias s’emparent de l’affaire . . .

These two films are associated with Jérôme Enrico’s Free Master Class and screening of his new documentary **Robert Enrico, bref passage sur la Terre**, taking place on Friday, March 29 in VCU’s Institute for Contemporary Art (see page 15).

**Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge**

**short**

French director Jérôme Enrico presents **Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge**

**ALL AUDIENCES**

director Robert Enrico

cinematographer Jean Boffety

screenwriter Robert Enrico

based on the short story *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge* by Ambrose Bierce

music composer Henri Lanoë

producers Paul de Roubaix, Marcel Ichac

starring Roger Jacquot, Anne Cornaly, Anker Larsen, Stéphane Fey, Jean-François Zeller, Pierre Danny, Louis Adelin

running time 28min

**English synopsis**

In 1862, during the American Civil War, a Southern civilian is about to be hanged for attempting to sabotage a railway bridge. When the execution takes place from the bridge, the rope breaks and he begins his escape toward home.

**Synopsis en français**

En 1862, pendant la guerre civile américaine, un civil du Sud est sur le point d’être pendu pour avoir tenté de saboter un pont ferroviaire. Lorsque l’exécution a lieu depuis le pont, la corde se rompt et il commence sa fuite en direction de sa maison.

Oscar - Best Short Film 1964

Palme d’Or Cannes – Best Short Film 1962
English synopsis
Ben du Toit is a school teacher who has always considered himself a caring and rightful man, at least on the individual level. When his gardener’s son is brutally beaten up by the police during a demonstration by black schoolchildren, he starts to realize that his own society is built on a pillar of injustice and exploitation.

Synopsis en français
Ben du Toit est un instituteur qui s’est toujours considéré comme un homme d’attention et de justice, du moins sur le plan personnel. Lorsque le fils de son jardinier est passé à tabac par la police lors d’une manifestation d’élèves noirs, il commence peu à peu à réaliser que sa propre société est construite sur l’injustice et l’exploitation.

This special screening is associated with Friday’s film The State Against Mandela and the Others (Le Procès contre Mandela et les autres) by directors Gilles Porte and Nicolas Champeaux and with Free Master Classes by Pierre-William Glenn, Gilles Porte and Nicolas Champeaux taking place on Thursday, March 28 and Friday, March 29 in VCU’s Institute for Contemporary Art (see pages 10, 13-14, 20-21).
**En mille morceaux**  [In a Thousand Pieces]  

**feature**
French director, co-producer & co-screenwriter Véronique Mériadec, co-screenwriter & co-producer Gérald Massé, actor Serge Riaboukine, and film editor Diane Logan present *En mille morceaux*

**English synopsis**
In 1977, Éric Gaubert murdered Nicole Parmentier’s child Olivier. Twenty-five years later, this mother, whose life has been shattered, asks to meet her son’s murderer who has been just released from prison. What is the purpose of such a meeting? Vengeance? Or, the need to understand what pushed this man to commit something so irreparable?

**Synopsis en français**
1977, Éric Gaubert assassine Olivier, l’enfant de Nicole Parmentier. Vingt-cinq ans plus tard, cette mère à la vie brisée donne rendez-vous au meurtrier de son fils qui vient de sortir de prison. Quel est le but de cette rencontre ? Une simple vengeance ou la volonté de comprendre ce qui a poussé cet homme à commettre l’irréparable ?

**ALL AUDIENCES**

**director** Véronique Mériadec  
**cinematographer** Pierre Baboin  
**screenwriters** Véronique Mériadec, Gérald Massé  
**music composer** Elisa Eden  
**producers** Véronique Mériadec, Gérald Massé, Yannick Bernard, Soraya Mounir  
**film editor** Diane Logan  
**starring** Serge Riaboukine and Clémentine Célarié  
**running time** 1h 22min

**Restorative Justice like never felt nor filmed before on the big screen. Mesmerizing performance. An actors’ film.**
**Le Procès contre Mandela et les autres**
(The State Against Mandela and the Others)

**documentary**

French cinematographer & director Gilles Porte and French-American reporter and director Nicolas Champeaux present *Le Procès contre Mandela et les autres*

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**English synopsis**

History remembers only one man in the struggle against Apartheid: Nelson Mandela. He would have been 100 years old last year. He was at the center-stage of a historic trial in 1963 and 1964. Also on trial were eight others who, like Mandela, faced the death sentence. Up against an overzealous Prosecutor, they decide together to turn their trial into a rostrum against Apartheid. Based on recently recovered sound archives of those hearings, the film permits us to relive the intense power struggle within these decisive courtroom battles.

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**Synopsis en français**


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This screening is associated with Thursday’s film *A Dry White Season* (*Une saison blanche et sèche*) presented by cinematographer Pierre-William Glenn and with Free Master Classes by Pierre-William Glenn, Gilles Porte and Nicolas Champeaux taking place on Thursday, March 28 and Friday, March 29 in VCU’s Institute for Contemporary Art (see pages 10, 13-14, 18).
**Sex**  
Belgian director and screenwriter Bernard Declercq and French actress Moana Ferré present Méprises

**MATURE AUDIENCE**

director Bernard Declercq  
cinematographer C.L. Zvonock  
screenwriter Bernard Declercq  
adapted from the novel Côté jardin by Alain Monnier  
music composer Yves Gourmeur  
producers Nicolas George, Jean-Luc Van Damme, Nadia Khamlichi, Adrian Politowski, Gilles Waterkeyn  
starring Moana Ferré, Pascal Greggory, Benjamin Ramon, Fabrizio Rongione, Nicolas Vaude  
running time 1h 30min

**English synopsis**
Doctor Lepage knows his wife, Françoise, very well. He protects her, watches over her... Masterfully, he keeps away all the 'butterflies' that approach her. Françoise knows that she is beautiful. She feels the desire lodged in the gaze of men lusting after her. But with Jacques, she is sure, it is going to be different.

**Synopsis en français**
Le docteur Lepage connaît bien sa femme, Françoise. Il la préserve, veille sur elle... D’une main de maître, il éloignera tous les « papillons » qui s’approcheront d’elle. Françoise sait qu’elle est belle, elle le voit dans le regard effrayant de désir qu’elle suscite auprès des hommes. Mais avec Jacques, elle en est sûre, ce sera différent.

Cinema has not had this since Hitchcock. A stunning thriller and psychological drama encompassing three chronologically unveiled points of view exponentially making relationships even more complex. Therefore the title.
Rémi sans famille [Remi, Nobody’s Boy]

feature
French director & screenwriter Antoine Blossier and music composer Romaric Laurence present Rémi sans famille

ALL AUDIENCES

director Antoine Blossier
cinematographer Romain Lacourbas
screenwriter Antoine Blossier
adapted from the novel Sans famille by Hector Malot
producers Eric Jehelmann, Philippe Rousselet
music composer Romaric Laurence
starring Daniel Auteuil, Maleaume Paquin, Virginie Ledoyen, Jonathan Zaccăï, Jacques Perrin, Ludivine Sagnier
running time 1h 48min

English synopsis
Adapted from Hector Malot’s celebrated classic novel, Sans famille, follows the adventures of Rémi, a young orphan raised by the kind Mrs. Barberin. At age ten, he is torn away from his adoptive mother and placed in the care of Signor Vitalis, a mysterious traveling performer. With him, Rémi learns the arduous life of a wandering entertainer and sings to earn his keep. With their loyal dog Capi and the little monkey Joli-Coeur, Rémi embarks on a long journey through France. The encounters, friendships and acts of solidarity he experiences along the way eventually lead him to the secret of his origins.

Synopsis en français
Rémi sans famille, adaptation du célèbre roman d’Hector Malot, retrace les aventures du jeune Rémi, orphelin recueilli par la douce Madame Barberin. À l’âge de 10 ans, il est arraché à sa mère adoptive et confié au Signor Vitalis, un mystérieux musicien ambulant. À ses côtés, il va apprendre la rude vie de saltimbanque et à chanter pour gagner son pain. Accompagné du fidèle chien Capi et du petit singe Joli-Coeur, son long voyage à travers la France, fait de rencontres, d’amitiés et d’entraide, le mène au secret de ses origines.

Continuing the Saturday morning tradition of the Festival, this family film takes viewers through late nineteenth century France with excitement and breath-taking moments. A style of French filmmaking that makes Disney jealous.
Abdel et la Comtesse

feature
French director Isabelle Doval, actors Charlotte de Turckheim and Mathieu Simonet and producers & screenwriters Amélie de Chassey and Pierre Kubel present Abdel et la Comtesse

ALL AUDIENCES
director Isabelle Doval
cinematographer Gilles Henry
screenwriters Amélie de Chassey, Pierre Kubel, Sophie Glass, Colombe Savignac
composers Krishna Levy, Mickael Winter
producers Amélie de Chassey, Pierre Kubel, Michel Rosenberg
starring Charlotte de Turckheim, Mathieu Simonet, Amir El Kacem, Margaux Chatelier, Anne Consigny, Sam Karmann
running time 1h 35min

English synopsis
After the death of the Count, Countess of Montarbie d’Haust must hand down the nobility title and the domain to a man in the family, as aristocratic tradition requires. Nevertheless, she cannot resign herself to hand down the domain to Gonzague, an arrogant and cupid nephew, instead of to her own daughter.

Suddenly comes Abdel, a resourceful and clever young man from the projects who has taken refuge in the castle. His meeting with the Countess is going to make sparks! They both come from two different worlds, but still might be able to help each other . . .

Synopsis en français
A la mort du Comte, la Comtesse de Montarbie d’Haust doit transmettre le titre de noblesse et le domaine à un homme de la famille, comme le veut la tradition aristocratique. Elle ne peut cependant se résoudre à transmettre le domaine à Gonzague, un neveu arrogant et cupide, plutôt qu’à sa fille. Quand Abdel, un jeune de cité débrouillard et astucieux, trouve refuge dans leur château, sa rencontre avec la Comtesse va faire des étincelles ! Issus de deux mondes que tout oppose, ils pourraient bien s’aider mutuellement…

Here is a comedy that expresses what all human beings know deep within themselves. People from all cultures can live together. No moats, no gated-communities, no fences nor walls needed.
French actor Thierry Lhermitte and director Robin Sykes present _La Finale_

**English synopsis**
Everyone in the Verdi family takes great care of Roland, the grandfather, who is starting to lose his mind. Everyone, that is, except JB, the teen of the family. He has one goal: to go to Paris with his basketball team for the championship final. However, his parents, detained that weekend, ask him to give his dream up in order to watch over his grandfather. JB decides to take his grandfather along. Nothing on this trip will go as planned... 

**Synopsis en français**
Toute la famille Verdi est aux petits soins pour s’occuper de Roland, le grand-père, qui perd un peu la boule ces derniers temps. Tous sauf JB, l’ado de la famille, qui n’a qu’un seul but : monter à Paris pour disputer sa finale de basket. Mais ses parents, bloqués ce week-end-là, lui demandent d’y renoncer pour surveiller son grand-père. JB décide alors de l’embarquer avec lui. Pendant ce voyage, rien ne se passera comme prévu... 

**ALL AUDIENCES**

**director** Robin Sykes  
**cinematographer** Jean-François Hensgens  
**screenwriters** Robin Sykes, Antoine Raimbault  
**music composer** Etienne Forget  
**producers** Thibaut Gast, Matthias Weber  
**starring** Thierry Lhermitte, Rayane Bensetti, Emilie Caen, Lyes Salem, Cassiopée Mayance  
**running time** 1h 25min

This screening is associated with Thierry Lhermitte’s Free Master Class & Homage on Thursday, March 28 in VCU’s Institute for Contemporary Art (see page 11).
**feature**

Belgian director and screenwriter François Troukens presents *Tueurs*

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**English synopsis**

Frank Valken, mastermind in bank robberies, has just pulled off his final heist without a hitch. At least that’s what he believes. . . Wrongly labeled as prime suspects, Valken and his gang find themselves embroiled in a thirty-year-old criminal conspiracy case. . .

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**Synopsis en français**

Frank Valken, braqueur de haut vol, vient de réaliser un dernier casse magistral sans accroc. Du moins c’est ce qu’il croit… Suspects idéaux, Valken et sa bande se retrouvent mêlés à une affaire criminelle vieille de trente ans.

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This screening is associated with director, author and screenwriter François Troukens’ Free Master Class taking place on Friday, March 29 in VCU’s Institute for Contemporary Art (see page 12).
**English synopsis**

The year is 1919. In a small town wilting under the crushing summer heat, a war hero is held prisoner in an abandoned barracks. Outside, his mangy dog barks day and night. Not far off in the countryside, a young woman, worn out by working the land, too educated however to be taken for a simple peasant, is waiting and hoping. A judge, who comes to sort out this particular case, is an aristocrat whose principles have been shaken by the war. Three characters and in their midst, a dog which holds the key to this dramatic affair. . .

**Synopsis en français**

Dans une petite ville, écrasée par la chaleur de l’été, en 1919, un héros de la guerre est retenu prisonnier au fond d’une caserne déserte. Devant la porte, son chien tout cabossé aboie jour et nuit. Non loin de là, dans la campagne, une jeune femme usée par le travail de la terre, trop instruite cependant pour être une simple paysanne, attend et espère. Le juge qui arrive pour démêler cette affaire est un aristocrate dont la guerre a fait vaciller les principes. Trois personnages et, au milieu, un chien, qui détient la clef du drame…

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**ALL AUDIENCES**

**director** Jean Becker  
**cinematographer** Yves Angelo  
**screenwriters** Jean Becker, Jean-Christophe Rufin, Jean-Loup Dabadie  
**based on the eponym novel by** Jean-Christophe Rufin  
**music composer** Johann Hoogewijs  
**producers** Louis Becker, Claire Maillard  
**starring** François Cluzet, Nicolas Duvauchelle, Sophie Verbeeck  
**running time** 1h 23min

A dog gives us a real lesson on the absurdities of human warfare.
toucitqu‘ilme restede la révolution
Whatever Happened to My Revolution

feature
French music composer
Boris Boublil presents
Tout ce qu‘il me reste
de la révolution

English synopsis
Angèle was 8 years old when the first McDonald's opened in East Berlin... Since then, she has been fighting against the curse of her generation: being born “too late”, into today's worldwide political depression. She comes from a family of activists, but her mother gave up her political combat overnight and moved to the countryside alone, and her sister chose the business world. Only her father, a former Maoist with whom she moves back in to live, remained faithful to his ideals. Angry and determined, Angèle tries as hard as she can to both change the world and to flee from romantic encounters. What remains for her from the revolution, from its heritage, its missed appointments and its hopes waiting to still be actualized? Sometimes Don Quixote, sometimes Bridget Jones, Angèle tries to find a balance...

Synopsis en français
Angèle avait 8 ans quand s‘ouvrait le premier McDonald’s de Berlin-Est... Depuis, elle se bat contre la malédiction de sa génération : être née « trop tard », à l‘heure de la déprime politique mondiale. Elle vient d‘une famille de militants, mais sa mère a abandonné du jour au lendemain son combat politique, pour déménager, seule, à la campagne, et sa sœur a choisi le monde de l‘entreprise. Seul son père, ancien maoïste chez qui elle retourne vivre, est resté fidèle à ses idéaux. En colère, déterminée, Angèle s‘applique autant à essayer de changer le monde qu‘à fuir les rencontres amoureuses. Que lui reste-t-il de la révolution, de ses transmissions, de ses rendez-vous ratés et de ses espoirs à construire? Tantôt Don Quichotte, tantôt Bridget Jones, Angèle tente de trouver un équilibre...
English synopsis
My name is Lancelot Rubinstein; my wife died on that day. Her name was Irina. It is the strangest thing: how you only really discover the person you live with . . . once she is dead.

Synopsis en français
Je m’appelle Lancelot Rubinstein, ma femme est morte ce jour-là. Elle s’appelait Irina. Le plus étrange dans cette histoire c’est de découvrir la personne avec laquelle on vit … une fois qu’elle est morte.

feature
French actor Serge Riaboukine presents Et mon coeur transparent

PARENTAL DISCRETION
directors David Vital-Durand, Raphaël Vital-Durand
cinematographer Jérôme Robert
screenwriters Stéphane Miquel, David Vital-Durand, Raphaël Vital-Durand
based on Véronique Ovaldé’s eponym novel Et mon coeur transparent
music composer Erwan Coïc
producers Rémi Veyrié, Marc Andreani, Erwan Coïc, Véronique Navette
starring Julien Boisselier, Caterina Murino, Serge Riaboukine, Sara Giraudel
running time 1h 26min
Les Chatouilles [Little Tickles]

**feature**

French directors, screenwriters and actors Andréa Bescond and Éric Métayer present Les Chatouilles

**English synopsis**

Odette is 8 years old, she loves drawing and dancing. Why should she be suspicious of a friend of her parents who offers her to “play tickling”? As an adult, Odette dances her anger, frees her speech and embraces life with rage.

**Synopsis en français**

Odette a huit ans, elle aime danser et dessiner. Pourquoi se méfierait-elle d’un ami de ses parents qui lui propose de « jouer aux chatouilles » ? Adulte, Odette danse sa colère, libère sa parole et embrasse la vie avec rage...
English synopsis
1721. A bold idea is brewing in the head of Philip of Orléans, Regent of France. Eleven-year-old Louis XV is soon to become King, and an exchange of princesses would allow the Nation to consolidate peace with Spain after years of war that have bled the two kingdoms’ coffers dry. He therefore marries off his 12-year-old daughter, Mademoiselle de Montpensier, to the heir of the Spanish throne, in exchange for which Louis XV must marry the Spanish Infante, 4-year-old Mariana Victoria. But this precipitated introduction to the world of courtly manipulation and power games will soon get the better of the young princesses and their carefree spirits.

Synopsis en français
1721. Une idée audacieuse germe dans la tête de Philippe d’Orléans, Régent de France. Louis XV, 11 ans, va bientôt devenir Roi et un échange de princesses permettrait de consolider la paix avec l’Espagne, après des années de guerre qui ont laissé les deux royaumes exsangues. Il marie donc sa fille, Mademoiselle de Montpensier, 12 ans, à l’héritier du trône d’Espagne, et Louis XV doit épouser l’Infante d’Espagne, Anna Maria Victoria, âgée de 4 ans. Mais l’entrée précipitée dans la cour des Grands de ces jeunes princesses, sacrifiées sur l’autel des jeux de pouvoirs, aura raison de leur insouciance...

A beautifully filmed historical drama, based on actual events which unfolded during the 18th-century, that also poignantly reminds U.S. viewers of the crucial importance today to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
L’Ordre des médecins [Breath of Life]

feature
French director and screenwriter David Roux presents L’Ordre des médecins

ALL AUDIENCES
director David Roux
cinematographer Augustin Barbaroux
screenwriters David Roux, Julie Peyr
music composer Jonathan Fitoussi
producers Candice Zaccagnino, Olivier Aknin
starring Jérémie Renier, Marthe Keller, Zita Hanrot
running time 1h 33min

English synopsis
Thirty-seven year-old Simon is an experienced doctor who rubs shoulders with death on a daily basis in his pulmonology department. As any good professional, he has learned to shield himself from it. But when his own mother is hospitalized in a critical condition in a nearby unit, his private and professional lives collide. Simon’s whole world, his certainties and beliefs are shaken to the core.

Synopsis en français
À trente-sept ans, Simon est un médecin aguerri, qui côtoie la mort tous les jours dans son service de pneumologie. En bon professionnel, il a appris à s’en protéger. Mais quand sa mère est hospitalisée dans un état critique dans un service voisin, l’intime et le professionnel se télescopent. Tout l’univers de Simon, toutes ses certitudes et ses convictions vacillent.

Major life-events and reactions to them influence how one decides to live life for the better. David Roux has Simon confront deontological ethics in a sensitive, emotional drama.
**Leur jeunesse**

**short**

French director and screenwriter David Roux presents *Leur jeunesse*

**ALL AUDIENCES**

**director** David Roux  
**cinematographer** Léo Hinstin  
**screenwriter** David Roux  
**producers** Jessica Rosselet, Marc-Benoît Créancier  
**starring** Gisela Ion, Iacob Ion, Amandine Dewasmes, Pierre Cognon  
**running time** 12min

**English synopsis**

This morning could have been like any other for Gisela, a young Rom teenager, and her little brother Iacob. However, for the last few days, their camp has been living in fear of an imminent eviction. However, like every morning, Gisela and her brother will go to school.

**Synopsis en français**

Ce matin-là aurait pu être un matin comme un autre pour Gisela, une jeune adolescente Rom, et son petit frère Iacob. Mais depuis quelques jours leur campement vit dans l’angoisse d’une expulsion imminente. Comme tous les matins, pourtant, Gisela et son frère iront à l’école.

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**Sans gravité**

**short animation**

French director and screenwriter Charline Parisot presents *Sans gravité*

**ALL AUDIENCES**

**director** Charline Parisot, Jérémy Cissé, Ludovic Abraham, Flore Allier-Estrada, Maud Lemaître-Blanchart, Fioretta Caterina Cosmidis  
**screenwriter** Charline Parisot  
**music composer** Arslan Elbar  
**producer** RUBIKA - L’Ecole des Talents de la Création Numérique  
**running time** 8min

**English synopsis**

An astronaut comes back to Earth and tries to fit back in.

**Synopsis en français**

Un astronaute revient sur Terre et tente d’y retrouver sa place.
**Obtus**

**short**

French director & producer Alexandre Mehring
and screenwriter, producer & actor
Philippe Bénard present Obtus

**ALL AUDIENCES**

director Alexandre Mehring

cinematographer Romain Ferrand

screenwriter Philippe Bénard

producers Kathleen Doyle Bates,
Philippe Bénard, Alexandre Mehring

starring Cédric Ben Abdallah,
Philippe Bénard, Fabrice Blind

running time 9min

**English synopsis**

Two cops pull over and issue a ticket to a man driving over the speed limit. What was supposed to be a simple routine traffic stop turns out to be more complex than expected.

**Synopsis en français**

Deux gendarmes contrôlent un véhicule. Ce qui était censé être un contrôle de routine s’avère plus complexe que prévu.

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**Charly est vivant**

**short**

French director, screenwriter and actor
Thomas Chansou presents Charly est vivant

**ALL AUDIENCES**

director Thomas Chansou

screenwriter Thomas Chansou

producers Vincent Trintignant,
Divali Films

starring Karine Thibault, Emilie Atlan,
Marie-Amel Karrai, Laure Rivaud-Pearce,
Eric Fardeau, Michael Brice,
Thomas Chansou

running time 8min

**English synopsis**

“In the 80s and 90s, a bald guy was either a sick person, a six feet tall skinhead with a bombers jacket, or a Kojak fan... I was classified in the category “sick”. And no matter how much I was suffering, I was insulted and laughed at.” Charly Blast, dealing with leukemia since the age of six, has been trying for 35 years to live his life like everyone else. It is without counting on fate which is lashing out on him repetitively. To move forward, he must put up with the effects of treatments, medical verbiage and the gazes of others. Not so simple... Who is Charly Blast? This story is the one of Thomas Chansou.

**Synopsis en français**

“Dans les année 80 et 90, un gars chauve c’était un malade, un facho d’un mètre quatre-vingt-cinq avec un bombers ou un fan de Kojak... Moi on m’a classé dans la catégorie « malade ». Et peu importe ma souffrance, on m’insultait et on se moquait de moi. » Charly Blast, atteint de leucémie à l’âge de six ans, cherche depuis trente-cinq ans à vivre sa vie comme tout le monde. C’est sans compter sur le sort qui s’acharne sur lui. Pour avancer, il doit faire face aux effets des traitements, au discours médical et au regard des autres. Pas si simple... Qui est Charly Blast ? Cette histoire, c’est celle de Thomas Chansou.
**English synopsis**

Eager to complete his screenplay, Jonas accepts the conditions imposed on him by his producer: rework his screenplay with the help of a super-talented Parisian scriptwriter, Jean Loubric. A really great guy who can turn any dud into a masterpiece! He will come to live at the house for a few weeks, which is not going too well with Hélène, Jonas’s wife. One night, Loubric shows up unannounced. . .

**Synopsis en français**

Pour terminer son scénario, Jonas accepte les conditions que lui impose son producteur : retravailler son scénario avec l’aide d’un scénariste parisien surdoué, Jean Loubric. Un type fantastique capable de retourner n’importe quel navet en chef d’œuvre ! Il viendra vivre quelques semaines à la maison, ce qui n’est pas pour plaire à Hélène, la femme de Jonas. Une nuit, Loubric débarque à l’improviste…

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**French actor Serge Riaboukine presents Le Scénariste**

**ALL AUDIENCES**

**director** François Paquay  
**cinematographer** Frédéric Martin  
**screenwriter** François Paquay  
**freely adapted from the eponym novella Le Scénariste by** Xavier Diskeuve  
**composer** Simon Fransquet  
**producers** Gregory Zalcman, Alon Knoll  
**starring** Serge Riaboukine, Vincent Lécuyer, Sandrine Blancke  
**running time** 27min

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**Une image sur 140.000 : Lauréat du projet EICAR**

**short**

French director Gérard Krawczyk and the winner of the EICAR film competition present *Une image sur 140.000*

**ALL AUDIENCES**

**English synopsis**

The French director Gérard Krawczyk and initiator of the short film competition, *1 Image Out of 140,000*, at the International Film and Television School (EICAR) in Paris, will present the winning film selected in March by a jury of professionals. Gérard Krawczyk will be accompanied by the young director, author of the film.

**Synopsis en français**

Le réalisateur français Gérard Krawczyk et initiateur du concours, *Une image sur 140.000*, de l’Ecole Internationale de Création Audiovisuelle et de Réalisation (EICAR), présentera le court-métrage sélectionné en mars par un jury de professionnels. Gérard Krawczyk sera accompagné par le jeune réalisateur, auteur de ce film.

This screening is associated with Gérard Krawczyk’s Free Master Class taking place on Thursday, March 28 in VCU’s Institute for Contemporary Art (see page 8).
French director & screenwriter Julie Voisin, cinematographer & actor Mathieu Simonet, and actor Alexandre Tacchino present two episodes of their original series KYNG

ALL AUDIENCES
director Julie Voisin
cinematographer Mathieu Simonet
screenwriter Julie Voisin
original idea Alexandre Tacchino
film editor Thierry Brunello
sound design Lou Cuberte
starring Mathieu Simonet, Charlie Rae, Alexandre Tacchino, Xavier Maly, Benoit Blanc, Louis Carlier, Armelle Abibou, Neil Adam, Karl Houze, Robert Voisin

running time 4min

English synopsis
In recent years, the recession is raging in the Kingdom of France. Successive governments are joining the world of finance and imposing austerity. The monarchy is confined to its opulent showcase, the Louvre Palace, and the people... The people are despaired, disheartened. They are impeded, body and soul. Some are losing their livelihood. Some are even losing their moral sense.

Synopsis en français
Depuis quelques années, la récession fait rage dans le Royaume de France. Les gouvernements successifs se rallient au monde de la finance et imposent l’austérité. La monarchie est cantonnée à son opulente vitrine du Palais du Louvre, et les gens… Le peuple est désespéré, découragé, paralysé, corps et âme. Certains y perdent leur gagne-pain. D’autres y perdent même leur conscience.

These two screenings are associated with Julie Voisin, Mathieu Simonet and Alexandre Tacchino’s Free Master Class taking place on Thursday, March 28 in VCU’s Institute for Contemporary Art (see page 9).
Ramdam

**Ramdam**

**ALL AUDIENCES**

**director** Zangro  
**screenwriter** Yvan Delatour  
**producer** Zangro  
**starring** Lyes Salem, Sid Ahmed Agoumi, Yamin Dib, Walid Ghezzoul  
**running time** 26min

**English synopsis**

In a small mosque located in the South-West of France, a child’s drawing representing a masked character is controversial: superhero or jihadist? Amine, Imam by profession, will have to manage the unmanageable...

**Synopsis en français**

Dans une petite mosquée du sud-ouest de la France, le dessin d’un enfant représentant un personnage masqué est controversé : super-héros ou djihadiste ? Amine, Imam de profession, va devoir gérer l’ingérable...

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Bloom

**short**

French director, screenwriter, cinematographer and music composer Emmanuel Fraisse presents *Bloom*

**ALL AUDIENCES**

**director** Emmanuel Fraisse  
**cinematographer** Emmanuel Fraisse  
**screenwriters** Emmanuel Fraisse, Simon Serna  
**music composer** Emmanuel Fraisse  
**producers** Benjamin Chevallier, Chloé Cavillier  
**starring** Chloé Cavillier  
**running time** 19min

**English synopsis**

A monkey has dreams of deers in an empty town, and of the ghost who draws close to them.

**Synopsis en français**

Un singe rêve de biches dans une ville déserte, et du fantôme qui s’en approche.
Triptych of three shorts

French producer & screenwriter, Robert Boublil with producer Geeske Boublil and music composer Boris Boublil present Raconte...

ALL AUDIENCES

English synopsis
You, tell. . . is a triptych. Three stories about death and resurrection. Three stories of children whose lives were devastated by their Nazi tormentors and their accomplices. Based on Robert Boublil’s poems We Won’t Talk About It, The Accordion, and You, Tell My Story.

Synopsis en français
Raconte... est un triptyque. Trois histoires de morts et de résurrections. Trois histoires d’enfants dont les bourreaux nazis et leurs complices ont dévasté la vie. Inspiré des poèmes de Robert Boublil Nous n’en parlerons pas, L’Accordéon, et Raconte mon histoire.

Raconte mon histoire

directors Gregory Shepard and François Combin
screenwriter Robert Boublil
producer Robert Boublil
voice Philippe Torreton
music composer Boris Boublil
set Geeske Boublil

Nous n’en parlerons pas

director Jean-Marc Culiersi
cinematographer Pierre Larribe
screenwriter Robert Boublil
music composer Boris Boublil
producer Mémo Arts
starring Michel Kornfeld
running time 8min

English synopsis
Abraham, who survived the death camps, is getting ready to recount his ordeal after sixty years of silence.

Synopsis en français
Abraham, revenu des camps de la mort, se prépare à aller livrer son témoignage après soixante années de silence.

L’Accordéon

director Jean Marc Culiersi
cinematographer Pierre Larribe
screenwriter Robert Boublil
music composer Boris Boublil
producer Mémo Arts
starring Rachel Jedinak, Jeanne Torreton, India Boublil, Boris Boublil, Emma Boublil, Léa Boublil, Anne-Cécile Declercq
running time 12min

English synopsis
Rachel Jedinak, an eight-year-old girl taken twice in a Nazi round up, has miraculously succeeded in escaping and surviving through the memories she has kept of her assassinated parents.

Synopsis en français
Rachel Jedinak, une petite fille de huit ans rafliée deux fois, a miraculeusement réussi à s’échapper et à survivre réfugiée dans son souvenir de ses parents assassinés.

Raconte mon histoire

directors Gregory Shepard and François Combin
screenwriter Robert Boublil
producer Robert Boublil
voice Philippe Torreton
music composer Boris Boublil
set Geeske Boublil

starring Oberon Boublil, Simon Torreton, Marion Corrales, Vaidehi Nota, Jeanne Torreton and India Boublil
running time 6min

English synopsis
At the age of five, Maurice is carted away with his family during the Vel d’Hiv Round-up, in which 13,152 Jews were arrested by French police in Paris during the summer of 1942. He relies on Simon, friend from a future time, to relate his story...
Le Roi des démons du vent

short

French director and screenwriter Clémence Poésy and French actresses Chloé Astor and Coralie Russier present Le Roi des démons du vent

ALL AUDIENCES
director Clémence Poésy
cinematographer Joe Russell
screenwriters Éric Forestier, Clémence Poésy
music composer Jackson
producers David Atrakchi, Gaël Cabouat, Serge de Poucques, Sylvain Goldberg, Boris Mendza, La Baraque à films, Umedia, Ufund, Short’s TV
starring Chloé Astor, Paul Delbreil, Guillaume Pottier, Coralie Russier, Ingrid Heiderscheidt
running time 16min

Cannes Film Festival 2018
Adami Cannes Talent

English synopsis
New Year’s Eve. Sophie, an intern in the emergency psychiatric ward on the brink of a burnout, is responsible for admitting Marie, a disturbed patient who was brought to the hospital by the police following a breakdown. Despite her incoherent ramblings and obvious psychic distress, there is something special about Marie that baffles Sophie. During their conversation, Marie sees straight through Sophie and reveals things to her that lead Sophie to deeply question her relationship with Vincent, her lover. After this New Year’s Eve, nothing will ever be like it was before.

Synopsis en français
31 décembre. Sophie, interne aux urgences psychiatriques au bord du burnout, est chargée d’admettre Marie, une patiente perturbée qui a été amenée au service par la police après une crise. Malgré ses divagations incohérentes et sa détresse psychique évidente, il y a quelque chose de spécial chez Marie qui trouble Sophie. Au cours de leur conversation, Marie voit clair en Sophie et lui révèle des choses qui amènent Sophie à s’interroger profondément sur sa relation avec Vincent, son amant. Après cette veille de jour de l’An, plus rien ne sera comme avant.

What Does It Mean to Be a Filmmaker Today?

One filmmaker answers this question before each feature.
director, cinematographer and originator Steve Moreau
production coordinators Marc Legrand and Caroline Santiard
mixing Samuel Mittelman
color grading Paul Wattebled
subtitles Jean Achache
production Les films du voilier/l’ARP
running time 2min each

Strange paradox at a time when cinema attendance rate is excellent. Screens of all kinds, globally, invade our daily lives and trivialize images as never before.

Today, everyone makes images. But making images does not mean making a movie. Tomorrow, who will make movies, and will we still even talk about movies? The great American filmmaker of Italian origin Franck Capra had this maxim: “A man, a film”. Behind each film, one must (or should) feel the presence of a filmmaker. A man or a woman who defends and expresses his or her ideas against all odds and shares them with us.”

But today, the notions of gaze, of point of view, are mishandled and threatened for a lot of reasons, instead of being taken into consideration. But without a point of view, a film is useless. Hence the absolute need to give and/or to give back his/her place to the filmmaker.

Every time I happen to cross the path of a true filmmaker, I am full of respect and truly amazed by his or her career trajectory and energy. Most are fighting against hurdles and walls of increasing difficulties. That is why, it seemed important to me to go and meet them with my little camera to feel their pulse with this banal, and yet not so obvious question: “What does it mean to be a filmmaker today?”

After all, who better to answer this question?

Steve Moreau,
director and cinematographer
Create a wonderful Festival keepsake or purchase a gift for friends and family. Do not forget to have members of the 27th French Film Festival delegation sign your copy when you see them in the lobby of the Byrd Theatre.
La CST est une association de professionnels du cinéma, de l’audiovisuel et du multimédia, de techniciens et d’artistes techniciens. La CST réunit aujourd’hui près de 500 membres.

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- Défendre la créativité, l’innovation technologique et artistique du cinéma et de l’audiovisuel.
- Défendre l’indépendance, la liberté d’action et d’expression dans nos activités professionnelles.

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SACD's various missions all have the same goal: to defend and accompany authors in France and abroad. To protect their rights, to guarantee their remuneration through an efficient collection and distribution scheme, to offer them workspaces and places to meet, to negotiate their first contract, to offer legal guidance, to finance creations thanks to the private copying levy... SACD offers a comprehensive range of reliable services well adapted to the needs of authors. In this context, SACD goes into action to strengthen the recognition of the rights of authors and especially the rights of its scriptwriters and directors.

French Film Festival
SACD supports the authors

La SACD soutient les auteurs

Les nombreuses missions de la SACD s'organisent autour d'un objectif unique : la défense et l'accompagnement des auteurs en France et à l'international. Protéger leurs droits, garantir leur rémunération par un système de perception et de répartition efficace, leur offrir des espaces de travail et des lieux de rencontres, négocier un premier contrat, apporter un conseil juridique, financer des créations via la copie privée... La SACD propose une gamme complète de services performants et spécialement adaptés aux auteurs. Dans ce contexte, la SACD se mobilise pour consolider la reconnaissance du droit d'auteur et plus particulièrement des droits des scénaristes et des réalisateurs qu'elle représente.
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Sessions after each screening. A master class opens the festival on. The French actors and directors come to town to present their new films. The immersion French cultural weekend is a collaboration among

VCU College of Humanities and Sciences, VCU School of World

Community Engagement, the Cultural Services of the French

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Félicitations à Françoise et Peter pour la 27ème édition du Festival du Film Français.
French Cinema in America – French Film Festival in Richmond, Virginia is a proud recipient of the Foundation Audiens Générations 2017 award.


Catch the Energy of the French Film Festival throughout the year

**VCU Courses**
- FREN 307 Conversation & French Film
- FREN 422 French Cinema
- FREN/WRLD 493 French Film Festival Internships
- FREN 511 French Film Festival Graduate Course for Teachers
- FREN 530 Concepts in World Cinema: Art of Subtitling

**UR Courses**
- FREN 301 French Conversation through Cinema
- FREN 465 French Film
- FREN 467 French Culture in the Making: Conception and Actualization of a French Film Festival

Subtitling and production of DVD and Bluray versions of French films with a focus on training students and interns on the skills of closed-captioning & subtitling as well as film packaging, marketing and distributing throughout the United States.

In cooperation with the American Association of the Teachers of French & Foreign Language Association of Virginia, a director from this year’s Festival tours Virginia high school and college campuses.

Distribution of feature, documentary and short films in schools, community centers, libraries, Alliances Françaises and art-house cinemas via the Festival’s DVD and DCP sales and rental program.
Nos remerciements à

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Screenings of all French Film Festival feature films and short films will be held at the historic Byrd Theatre in Carytown. Eight Free Master Classes will be held at the Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA) on the VCU campus. The reception with the French Delegation will be held on Saturday evening from 7:30pm to 9:30pm also in the ICA. Student, Faculty and Regular VIP passes include guaranteed seating at all screenings and Q&A sessions with the actors and directors. There is a $25 add-on cost per pass for admission to the reception Saturday evening.

Special screening and music event promoting the 3rd Pocahontas Reframed: Native American Storytellers Film Festival will be held at the Byrd Theatre on March 26th at 7pm (Free admission with Festival pass otherwise tickets sold at the door).

Tickets for each film are available for $15 at the box office. Tickets will be available at the box office 30 minutes before each screening. To guarantee your seating and to avoid lines at the door, buy a pass today.

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Please return this form and payment to: Virginia Commonwealth University French Film Festival Office 920 West Franklin Street, Room 304 P.O. Box 843073 Richmond, Virginia 23284-3073 Phone: (804) 827-3456 (FILM) (office and passes) Fax: (804) 287-6446 Email: richmond@frenchfilm.us www.frenchfilmfestival.us

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The immersion French cultural weekend is a collaboration among VCU College of Humanities and Sciences, VCU School of World Studies, VCU Office of Continuing & Professional Education, VCU Division of Community Engagement, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the American Association of Teachers of French of Virginia.
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