



Alliance Française
of Greenwich

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FOCUS ON FRENCH CINEMA 2015 COMPLETE LINEUP ANNOUNCED

**8 World & U.S. PREMIERES, 2 New York Premieres,
25 César Nominations, 10 César Awards, 1 Oscar Nomination**

**FESTIVAL OPENS WITH U.S. PREMIERE OF JEAN-PAUL ROUVE'S
LES SOUVENIRS - STARRING MICHEL BLANC**

**CLOSING FILM IS U.S. PREMIERE OF JEANNE HERRY'S
ELLE L'ADORE - STARRING SANDRINE KIBERLAIN.**

**In Person Appearances include Sandrine Kiberlain, Pio Marmai
Dominique Besnehard, Jean - Paul Rouve, Jeanne Herry, Abd Al Malik,
Fabienne Coste, Dyana Gaye, Antoine Le Carpentier Luc Hardy...**

Greenwich, CT, March 5, 2015 - Now in its 11th year, **Focus on French Cinema**, the acclaimed showcase for new cinema from France and across the French-speaking world, returns to Connecticut and New York March 27- 31st with an exciting line-up of 16 feature films including 1 World Premiere, 6 U.S. Premieres, 2 New York Premieres, 25 César Nominations, 10 César Wins, and 1 Oscar Nomination, as well as an award-winning selection of short films.

Presented by the Alliance Française of Greenwich, CT in partnership with Le Festival du Film Francophone d'Angoulême, UniFrance Films, The Cultural Services of the French Embassy, the French Institute Alliance Française (FI AF), and SUNY Purchase College, Focus on French Cinema will take place at Greenwich's Bow Tie Cinemas, as well IFC Center and FI AF in New York.

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The festival opens with the U.S. premiere of Jean-Paul Rové's family dramedy **Memories (Les Souvenirs)**, starring Michel Blanc and Annie Cordy, at the Bow Tie Cinemas in Greenwich, CT. Closing Night is **Number One Fan (Elle l'adore)**, a comedic thriller about the slippery nature of fame and fandom, nominated for the 2015 César for Best Actress (Sandrine Kiberlain) and Best First Film (Jeanne Herry), at FIAF's Florence Gould Hall in New York.

Other U.S. Premieres include *The Little Queen*, based on the true story of a young cyclist who became embroiled in one of Canada's biggest sports scandals; *I Kissed a Girl*, a comedy about a gay man who discovers he may be a closeted heterosexual; Swiss romantic drama *Pause*; *The Clearstream Affair*, a thriller about an investigative journalist who uncovered Luxembourg's notorious financial scandal; and, in its World Premiere, the documentary *The Pursuit of Endurance... On the Shoulders of Shackleton*, following a group of explorers who retraced the epic endurance expedition.

The selection also includes **acclaimed features** *Life of Riley*, legendary director Alain Resnais's final film; *Hippocrates*, a darkly comic look at the inner workings of a Paris hospital and winner of the 2015 César for Best Supporting Actress; Oscar-nominated drama *Timbuktu*, winner of seven César awards including Best Film, about the corrosive effects of religious fundamentalism in Mali; *Minuscule*, winner of the 2015 César for Best Animated Film, about a ladybug caught between two tribes of warring ants; and *On the Way to School*, winner 2014 César for Best Documentary, which follows four children on the extraordinary paths they take to get to school.

Filmmakers and talent in attendance: Sandrine Kiberlain (actress, *Number One Fan*), Pio Marmis (actor, *Maestro*, *Toute Première Fois*) Dominique Besnehard (producer, festival partner), Jeanne Herry (director, *Number One Fan*), Abd Al Malik (director, *May Allah Bless France!*), Fabien Coste (producer, *May Allah Bless France!*), Dyana Gaye (director, *Under The Starry Sky*), Antoine Le Carpentier (producer, *Les Talents Cannes*) Luc Hardy (director, *The Pursuit of Endurance... On the Shoulders of Shackleton*) and many others.

The selection of Award Winning Short films includes: *A la Française*, *Les Contes de la Goutte d'Or*, *Carnet de voyage au Québec*, *Aubade*, César winner *La Femme de*

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Rio (by Emma Luchini and Nicolas Rey), and others. Also included in the selection: a spotlight on Le Festival du Film Francophone d'Angoulême award-winners. The new-this-year **Out of the Box** programming will feature **New Faces of French Animation**, curated by Marcel Jean, artistic director of the Annecy International Film Festival. **FFC Spotlight:** Young French Producers will highlight *Les Talents Cannes*, a series of short films that premieres at the Cannes Film Festival each year and promotes new French artists, and *The Vian Collection* by Maxime Delauney, winner of the 2015 César for Best Short Film, *La Femme de Rio* (2013).

Director of Programming for FFC 2015 Anne Kern says: “We have developed an incredibly loyal audience over 10 years--they trust us to entertain, challenge, and surprise them, which frees us to be creative and daring in our programming. Our selection this year showcases the main strengths of contemporary French and francophone cinema, ranging from popular genre to art film, shorts, animation, and documentary. The films we are presenting touch on some of the most important topics of our time, including religious, cultural and sexual difference, immigration, competition, and celebrity culture.”

Partner and Festival du Film Francophone d'Angoulême Founder Dominique Besnehard says: “Waiting to see the town of Angoulême become the sister-city of Greenwich, which I wish very fondly, we are in communion for this new edition of Focus on French Cinema Festival, as much on the artistic content than its relation to the public.”

11th edition of Focus on French Cinema will present a diverse selection of newly released feature films in the genres of drama, comedy, romance, thriller, documentary and animation exploring the richness, rhythm, sensitivity, curiosity for contemporary topics and specific style of French Language films from around the French-speaking world. A window for French films abroad, Focus on French Cinema 2015 is committed to the challenging and diverse landscape of French cinema today featuring some of the most critically acclaimed and politically charged cinema of the moment. Curating from among the very best filmmakers, masters as well as fresh young voices, the five day long festival returns in 2015 with a cutting edge selection of feature films winning a total of 10 César awards with 25 Césars nominations, an award winning selection of short films, and a special focus on animation. In a world awash in ubiquitous streaming content, FFC has doubled its mission to present a

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unique and exclusive selection of films along with the possibility for our audience (5,000 in 5 days) to meet actors, directors, producers and screenwriters in person. Focus on French Cinema is gearing up for the next decade by broadening our scope and celebrating our commitment to the expansion of French language and culture. Celebrating 10 years of success, Focus on French Cinema has created an **international meeting place to discover the best of everything French.**

EDUCATION INITIATIVE: Focus on French Cinema opened in a university theater in 2005 with the mission of promoting French language and culture through Cinema. Over 6,000 students have participated in the festival over the past 10 years. As Focus on French Cinema advances into the next decade, the festival will continue to expand its educational outreach program with screenings in 2015 for over 1,500 middle School, high School and university students. The educational initiative for Focus on French Cinema offers students of all ages the opportunity to explore French and Francophone cultures through cinema. Multiple screenings throughout the tri-state area this year will culminate in the screening of *May Allah Bless France (Qu'Allah bénisse la France)* at The French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF's) Young Audience program, with director Abd Al Malik in attendance. Yale University joins Focus on French Cinema in 2015 in partnership with the Yale African Student Association for a post festival screening of *Des Etoiles (France/Senegal)* with director Diana Gaye on hand for a post-screening discussion.

From the Opening Night Gala, orchestrated by Jean-Louis Gerin, President of l'Académie Culinaire de France, to the interaction of movie goers with directors, actors, producers, writers, musicians, and film professionals from French speaking countries including France, Belgium, Senegal, Mauritania, Switzerland, and Canada, Focus on French Cinema is a premiere platform for discussion, debate and discovery of the French-speaking world and beyond.

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FILM SELECTION:

Opening Night and Closing Night dates and times below. Dates and times for additional films to be announced shortly.

U.S. PREMIERE- OPENING NIGHT – MARCH 27 AT 7PM, BOW TIE CINEMAS, GREENWICH, CT

Memories (Les Souvenirs)

Genre: Comedy

Director : Jean-Paul Rouve

Starring: Annie Cordy, Michel Blanc, Mathieu Spinosi and Chantal Lauby

France - January 2015

In French with English subtitles

Length: 96 min

The film will be introduced by Olivier Barrot, journalist, producer and writer.

"All the components of a movie that makes you laugh, cry, and in the end want to do good" - Libération

23-year-old Romain aspires to be a writer but is currently working as night watchman in a hotel. His 62 year old father goes into retirement and pretends indifference. His roommate is 24 and has only one thing on his mind: to seduce each and every girl, any way he can. The disappearance of his 85-year-old grandmother from a new nursing home--where she felt out-of-place among the oldsters there--sparks Romain to action. He takes off to go find his grandmother, somewhere in her memories...

Life of Riley (Aimer, boire et chanter)

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich CT

Genre: Comedy -Drama

Director: Alain Resnais

France: March 2014

In French with English subtitles

Starring: Hippolyte Girardot, Sabine Azéma, André Dussolier and Sandrine Kiberlain

Length: 108 min

Winner of the FIPRESCI and Albert Bauer Awards at the 2014 Berlin Festival.

In the Yorkshire countryside, the life of three couples is upset for a few months, from spring to fall, by the enigmatic behavior of their friend George Riley.

" The last pirouette of a cinematic magician before his farewell to the stage" – Le Monde

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"Resnais orchestrates all with such graceful ease" – Variety

NEW YORK PREMIERE

Under The Starry Sky (Des Étoiles)

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Drama

Director: Dyana Gaye

France/Senegal: January 2014

In French with English subtitles

Starring: Ralph Amoussou, Mareme Demba Ly, Souleymane Seye N'Diaye

Length: 98 min

Turin, Dakar, New York. Sophie, Abdoulaye, Thierno. Three destinies crossing each other's paths, echoing one another, delineating a constellation of exile.

Sophie, 22 years old, leaves Dakar to join her husband Abdoulaye in Turin. However, Abdoulaye has left for New York, through a smuggler's network. 19-year-old Thierno is traveling to Africa for the first time. *Under the Starry Sky* takes us on a journey with these three characters, scouring and wandering among the diversity of cities across three continents, and confronting us with the realities, hopes and dreams of contemporary emigration.

Hippocrate (Hippocrates)

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Comedy-Drama

Director: Thomas Lilti

France: September 2014

In French with English subtitles

Starring: Vincent Lacoste, Reda Kateb, Jacques Gamblin, Marianne Denicourt.

Length: 102 min

Nominated for 7 César Awards. Winner of the César for the Best Supporting Actor for Reda Kate. Benjamin is meant to be a great doctor, he's certain of it. But his first experience as a junior resident in the hospital ward where his father works does not turn out the way he hoped it would. Responsibility is overwhelming, his father seems omnipresent, and his co-junior partner, a foreign doctor, is far more experienced than he is. This internship will force Benjamin to confront his limits ... and start his way to adulthood.

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US PREMIERE

The Little Queen (La Petite Reine)

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Drama - Sports

Director: Alexis Durand Brault

Québec June 2014

In French with English subtitles

Starring: Laurence Leboeuf, Patrice Robitaille, Denis Bouchard

Length: 97 min

"The biggest sport scandal in Québec's history (Films Quebec)

"A riveting cycle"- (La Presse, Québec)

Based on the true story of one of the biggest scandals in Québec's history, *La Petite Reine* follows Julie, a young cycling star, two races away from winning the World Cup - her reward for years of intense training. Then Julie is denounced for doping. Alone and with no knowledge of the world outside the realm of racing, Julie must find a way out. The problem is that while she has been ruthlessly manipulated by others, Julie is nevertheless guilty as charged.

Maestro

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Comedy

Director: Léa Fazer

Screenplay: Léa Fazer and Jocelyn Quivrin

France: July 2014

In French with English subtitles

Starring: Pio Marmai, Michael Lonsdale, Deborah François and Alice Belaidi

Length: 85 min

"Featuring first run turns from rising star Pio Marmaî and veteran stage and screen "great," Michael Lonsdale" – The Hollywood Reporter

"A fun film, very charming, about a filmmaker and his singular cinema" – Le Monde

Henri, a young actor who wants nothing more than to star in *The Fast and the Furious*, gets a part in the latest film of Cédric Rovère, a monument of auteur cinema. The filming conditions aren't exactly what Henri expected.... But his acting partner's charm and the film master's benevolence will make him grow and express feelings he had never known before. Rovère, who is taken by Henri's youthfulness and whimsy will experience this shoot much like an unexpected gift.

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Timbuktu

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Drama

Director: Amderrahmane Sissako

France/Mauritania - December 2014

English subtitles

Starring Ahmed Ibrahim, Toulou Kiki and Abel Jafri

Length: 92 min

The film will be introduced by Charles Cohen

Winner of 7 2015 César Awards including Best Film, Best Director, Best Cinematography, Best Sound, Best Original Score, Best Screenplay et Best Editing. The film was also nominated for Best Foreign film at the 2015 Oscars.

Not far from Timbuktu, now ruled by religious fundamentalists, Kidane lives peacefully in the dunes with his wife Satima, his daughter Toya and Issan, their 12-year-old shepherd. In town, people suffer, powerless, from the regime of terror imposed by the Jihadists, determined to impose their faith. Music, laughter, cigarettes, even soccer have been banned. The women have become shadows but resist with dignity. Every day, the new improvised courts issue tragic and absurd sentences.

May Allah Bless France! (Qu'Allah bénisse la France)

Bow Tie Cinemas Greenwich, CT and FIAF's Florence Gould Hall

Genre: Drama

Director: Abd Al Malik

France: 2014

In French with English subtitles

Starring: Marc Zinda, Sabrina Ouazani, Larouci Didi, Michael Nagenraff

Length: 96 min

The film will be presented by France-Amérique President Guy Sorman.

"This fun and riveting portrait describes the suburbs with a personal take. A breath of hope" - Le Figaro

The true story of a French teenager escaping the underprivileged suburbs through love, education and rap music. Regis is a culturally gifted boy who dreams of success for his rap band through hard work and loyalty, but he must accept drug money for the sake of his project. Discovering Islam and music, he bears with the harsh loss and paybacks of delinquency, until he finds from within the strength to express himself through rap music and slampoetry -- and ultimately becomes a major artist of the French music scene.

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NEW YORK PREMIERE

Once in a Lifetime (Les Héritiers)

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Drama

Director: Marie- Castille Mention - Schaar

France: December 2014

In French with English subtitles

Starring : Ariane Ascaride, Ahmed Dramé, Noémi Merlanat, Geneviève Mnich, Stéphane Bak

Length: 105 min

Nominated for the 2015 César for Most Promising Actor for Ahmed Dramé

Based on a true story, a teacher at the Léon Blum high school - in a tough Parisian suburb - enters her struggling 10th-grade class in a national history contest to examine the Holocaust from the point of view of its impact on young people. This experience will change their lives—in understanding history, they will change their own.

U.S. PREMIERE

I Kissed a Girl (Toute Première Fois)

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Comedy

Director: Noémi Saglio and Maxine Govare

France: January 2015

In French with English subtitles

Starring: Pio Marmai, Franck Gastambide, Adrianna Gradziel, Lannick Gautry, and Camille Cottin

Length: 98 min

Winner of 4 awards at Alpes d'Huez film festival: Grand Prize, Audience Award, Best Actor

"A half-social, half romantic satirical comedy" - Le Figaro

Jeremie, 34 years old, awakes one morning in an unknown apartment in bed with Adna, a beautiful Swede as funny as she is charming. Is this the beginning of a fairy tale. Highly doubtful as Jérémie is... gay, and about to get married to Antoine! The overall tone is set early on when best friend Charles uses a football analogy to sum up Jérémies dilemma. " It's as if all your life you have been a supporter of Olympique Marseilles" he explains" only to discover that in fact you prefer Paris Saint Germain."

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Minuscule: Valley of the Lost Ants
Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT
Genre: Animation/Adventure/Family for ALL AGES
Director: Hélène Giraud and Thomas Szabo
France: January 2014
No language /No subtitles
Length: 89 minutes

Winner of the 2015 César Award for Best Animated Film.

In a peaceful little clearing, the remains of a picnic hastily abandoned during a summer storm spark warfare between two tribes of ants. At stake is a box of sugar. A bold young ladybug finds himself caught in the middle of the battle. He befriends one of the black ants and helps him save the anthill from the assault of the terrible red ant warriors.

La Sapienza
Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT
Genre: Drama
Director: Eugène Green
France/Italy: 2014
In French and Italian with English subtitles
Starring: Fabrizio Rongione, Christelle Prof, Ludovico Succio and Arianne Nastro
Length: 80 min

At the height of his career, Alexandre decides to set off for Italy with the idea of completing his draft – interrupted years earlier – of a book on Borromini. He is accompanied by his wife Alienor who feels her relationship with her husband gradually slipping away along with the passion it used to inspire. Having reached Stresa they happen to meet Goffredo and Lavinia, a pair of siblings who live there: the former is about to embark in architectural studies, the second is suffering from a nervous disorder."

The film focuses on the dynamic between the desire to live a useful life, achieving something meaningful and admirable, and the anxiety of mortality; it is mortality which limits our attempts to perceive or even achieve the sublime" – Alison Frank - Film Divider

"A travelogue about couples and architecture" where by the end love and purpose are restored for all" (Carson Lund) - Slant Magazine

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US PREMIERE

Pause

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Comedy/ Romance/Music

Director: Mathieu Urfer

Switzerland: October 2014

In French with English subtitles

Starring: Baptiste Gilliéron, Julia Faure, André Wilms and Nils Althaus.

Length: 82 min

Nominated for 4 2015 Swiss Film Awards including Best Film (Mathieu Urfer), Best Actor (Baptiste Gilliéron), Best Performance in a Supporting Role (Nils Althaus), and Best Music (Mathieu Urfer, Marc de Morsier, John Woolloff, Ariel Garcia).

Sami, a laid-back songwriter, is shocked when Julia, a brilliant lawyer with whom he's been living for the last four years, decides to put their relationship on hold. Coached by his old friend Fernand, an alcoholic country musician living in a nursing home for the elderly, he tries to achieve the impossible to prove to her she's the only woman for him.

US PREMIERE

Asterix and the land of the gods (Astérix et le domaine des dieux)

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich ,CT

Genre: Comedy- Animation

Screenplay: Louis Clichy and Alexandre Astier

France - November 2014

In French with English subtitles

Staring: Lorant Deutsch, Laurent Lafitte, Alain Chabat, Florence Foresti

Julius Caesar unveils his latest plan to get rid of those indomitable Gauls once and for all. As his army has not been able to crush " the last pocket of resistance", he decides to try a stealth invasion: civilization delivered to the village gates! He builds a new Rome- The Land of the Gods – around Asterix's village, pressuring the Gauls to assimilate or vanish. Despite Asterix and Obelix's plans to stop the construction work, the buildings quickly rise and the Roman citizens start to peacefully invade their surroundings, bringing chaos to Asterix's village. Could this finally mean victory for Caesar?

The Origins of Asterix:

The Astérix comic, created in 1959 by René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo is a veritable French cultural gem. The franchise includes 35 comic books published in over 100 languages, 17 movie adaptations in both live-action and animated formats ,multiple games as well as an amusement park near Paris that attracts 1.6 million visitors each year.

" Asterix is both an auteur film and a great piece of popular cinema but also gives us the impression that Astier and Clichy have found the recipe for the magic potion (Première)

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US PREMIERE

The Clearstream Affair (L'Enquête)

Monday, March 30, 7:30pm

IFC Center, New York, NY

Genre: Thriller

Director: Vincent Garenq

France/Luxembourg/Belgium: February 2015

In French with English subtitles

Starring: Gilles Lellouche, Charles Berling, Laurent Capelluto

Length: 106 minutes

2001. The journalist Denis Robert sparked a storm in the world of finance in France by denouncing the murky operations of Clearstream, a banking firm. His quest for truth and his attempts to reveal the "th "Affaire des affaires" connects with the investigation carried out by Judge Renaud Van Ruymbeke, deeply committed to fighting against corruption. Their paths will lead them to the heart of a political /financial intrigue called the "Clearstream Affair," one of France's biggest financial and political scandals which would rock the foundations of the Fifth Republic.

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WORLD PREMIERE

The Pursuit of Endurance... On the Shoulders of Shackleton (Poursuite de l'Endurance... Sur les épaules de Shackleton)

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Documentary

Director: Luc Hardy

Subtitled in French

100 years after the epic Endurance expedition, nine adventurers follow in the footsteps of the explorer Ernest Shackleton, hero of one of the greatest survival stories of Antarctic exploration. Their goal, relive part of the epic voyage of the 1914 team, but also live a personal adventure 800 miles between Elephant Island and South Georgia in a sailing boat on skis, and a pulka (a reindeer-drawn sleigh) while gathering information and oceanographic and scientific data which will provide for a better understanding of this part of the world.

On the Way to School (Sur le Chemin de l'Ecole)

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Documentary

Director: Pascal Plisson

France/China/South Africa...2013

In Spanish, Berber, Tamil, and Maasai with English subtitles.

Winner of the 2014 César for Best Documentary Film

The children depicted in this film have understood that only education will allow them to improve their lives, so they set out on hugely risky journeys through extraordinary landscapes on their quest for knowledge. "Jackson, the Kenyan; Carlito, the Argentinian; Zahira, the Moroccan; Samuel the Indian... four children who live light years away from each other and who have never met but who have a common point: they have to cover enormous distances to reach their school. On foot, on horseback or in a wheelchair, but all with extraordinary determination" (Guy Bellinger). *On the Way to School* allows us to share with them a path that we have all taken – but never quite in this way.

U.S. PREMIERE – CLOSING NIGHT FILM

Monday, March 31 at 4 and 7 pm

FIAF, Florence Gould Hall, New York, NY

Number One Fan (Elle l'Adore)

Genre: Comedy/Thriller

Director: Jeanne Herry

France - September 2015

In French with English Subtitles

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Starring: Sandrine Kiberlain, Laurent Lafitte, Pascal Demolon
Length: 105 min

Nominated for the 2015 César Awards for Best Actress (Sandrine Kiberlain) and Best First Film (Jeanne Herry (director), Alain Attal (producer), Hugo Sélignac (producer)).

"Starring the terrific Sandrine Kiberlain" – The Hollywood Reporter

"A tour de force from young director, Jeanne Herry - ELLE (France)

Muriel Bayan is a divorced beautician and mother of two who loves to tell stories. And for the past two decades, Muriel has been the number one fan of French crooner Vincent Lacroix. Most of her spare time is dedicated to keeping up with his songs and his concerts. Then one night, she opens her door to find Vincent – her idol – standing on her doorstep. His arrival turns Muriel's life upside down as she embarks on a journey that even she couldn't have imagined.

OUR PARTNERS:

The Alliance Française of Greenwich, CT

The Alliance Française of Greenwich since 2005 has presented Focus on French Cinema, the largest Francophone festival presented by an Alliance Française in North America. Founded in 1918 as a non-profit organization, the Alliance Française of Greenwich has a mission to encourage and develop knowledge of the French language and French and Francophone cultures and to foster cultural, intellectual and artistic exchanges between the United States and French speaking countries. www.afgreenwich.org

Le Festival du Film Francophone d'Angoulême

Le Festival du Film Francophone d'Angoulême joined Focus on French Cinema as a partner in 2014 for the 10th anniversary. Created by Marie- France Brière, Dominique Besnehard, and Patrick Mardikian in 2008, Le Festival du Film Francophone d'Angoulême is France's premiere Francophone film festival that welcomes close to 50,000 cinéphiles to the city of Angoulême during the last week of August. In 2014 there were close to 50 films screened, 10 in competition with homage paid au "cinéma birkinabé" and to the festival le FESPACO as well as a focus on Laurent Cantet and various master-classes. *Hippocrate*, winner of the Valois d'or and *Elle L'Adore*, winner of the Valois for best actress (Sandrine Kiberlain) will both be featured at Focus on French Cinema in addition to *La Petite Reine*, *Aimer, Boire et Chanter* and *Timbuktu*. A spotlight on Angoulême Award Winners will also be part of the festival programming.

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Cultural Services of the French Embassy

The Cultural Services is a division of the French Embassy in the United States. The Cultural Services of the French Embassy provide a platform for exchange and innovation between French and American artists, intellectuals, educators, students, the tech community and the general public. Based in New York City, Washington D.C. and eight other cities across the U.S., the Cultural Services develops the cultural economy by focusing on six principal fields of action, the arts, literature, cinema, the digital sphere, French language and higher Education.

Unifrance Films:

Founded in 1949, Unifrance Films is a government –sponsored association of French film industry professionals dedicated to the international promotion of French films. Unifrance provides financial and logistical support to theatrical distributors and major film festivals showcasing new and recent French cinema throughout the world and a French film festival online.

The French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)

The French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) is New York's premiere French Cultural Center. FIAF's mission is to create and offer New Yorkers innovative and unique programs in education and the arts that explore the evolving diversity and richness of French cultures. FIAF seeks to generate new ideas and promote cross- cultural dialogue through partnerships and new platforms of expression.
www.fiaf.org

Purchase College, State University of New York

Purchase College is a four- year college located in Purchase, New York. Founded by Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1967 as cultural gem of the SUNY system, one of 13 comprehensive colleges in the State University of New York, Purchase College offers a unique education that combines programs in the liberal arts with conservatory programs in the arts in ways that emphasize inquiry, mastery or skills and creativity. Focus on French Cinema opened at Purchase College in 2005 and has had a long- standing relationship with the School of Film and Media studies that houses undergraduate programs in cinema studies; film; media, society, the arts and new media.

**For more information on Focus on French Cinema 2015 visit the website at
www.focusonfrenchcinema.org.**

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