



FOCUS ON
FRENCH
CINEMA
GREENWICH, CT
STAMFORD, CT
NEW YORK, NY

2016

April 1-3

April 4

April 4-5

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Renée Amory Ketcham

T: 203-531-9101 email: amory777@aol.com

FOCUS ON FRENCH CINEMA 2016 , THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF FRENCH LANGUAGE FILMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, APRIL 1-5, 2016.

NATALIE BAYE TO BE HONORED AS THE “ MARRAINE” – GUEST OF HONOR

SPOTLIGHT ON LEBANESE CINEMA

“LE VILLAGE” AT FOCUS AT FRENCH CINEMA – APRIL 1 – APRIL 3 AT GREENWICH TRAIN STATION

AVON THEATRE FILM CENTER TO HOST “NEW THIS YEAR” STAMFORD SCREENING – MONDAY, APRIL 4

FRENCH INSTITUTE ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE (FIAF) TO HOST OFFICIAL FESTIVAL CLOSING NIGHT IN MANHATTAN-TUESDAY, APRIL 5

Greenwich, CT, January 25, 2016

Celebrating its 12th year, FOCUS ON FRENCH CINEMA (#FFC12th), the highly anticipated festival of contemporary French-language films returns to Connecticut and Manhattan from April 1-5, 2016 with a soon to be announced line-up of 12 newly released “main slate” feature-length films as well as a variety of documentaries, short films, TV series, animated films and classic retrospectives. FFC 2016 will expand its international reach with a NEW spotlight on **Lebanese Cinema**, screening a curated selection of contemporary as well as classic Lebanese films.

Presented by the Alliance Française of Greenwich, in partnership with Le Festival du Film Francophone d’Angoulême, UniFrance Films, The Cultural Services of the French Embassy, The French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF), The Avon Theatre Film Center, Purchase College and others, FFC 2016 will take place at multiple venues in the tri-state area. The expanded program will include, “**Festival Eve**”, a U.S. Premiere screening at the United Nations on Thursday, March 31st. The UN screening will close the annual “Mois de la Francophonie”, a month long celebration promoting French language and culture around the world. Ambassador de la Francophonie, M. Paul-Robert Tiendrébégbo will be in attendance for the VIP pre-festival screening in Manhattan.

Opening Night, Friday, April 1st rolls out the red carpet in Greenwich, CT at Bow Tie Cinemas with a U.S. Premiere film in the presence of world-renowned actress **Nathalie Baye**, our “Honoree” or “Marraine” for 2016. Nathalie Baye has appeared in more than 80 feature-length films and has won 4 Césars in her international career including the César in 2005 for “*Le Petit Lieutenant*”, one of the most popular opening night films at Focus on French Cinema (2006). The festival will present a selection of her most recent films as well as honor her with a retrospective of her classic performances.

Les Maîtres Cuisiniers de France, L’Académie Culinaire de France and The New England Culinary Institute will again host the Opening Night Gala at Arch Street, The Greenwich Teen Center, with a “*Film to Table*” buffet dinner featuring the very best of French cuisine.

Other **special events** include “*Le Village at Focus on French Cinema*” located in the main entrance to the Greenwich Train Station, just steps away from Bow Tie Cinemas. Festival guests will be invited to cultivate their interest in French culture shopping for unique and luxurious French products including French food, wine, accessories, trips and more...

For the first time, Focus on French Cinema will feature a **Stamford, CT screening at the Avon Theatre Film Center**, a long time partner of the festival. The special screening will feature a U.S. Premiere film and Q & A, preceded by “Cocktails and Amuse-Bouches” hosted by Serendipity Magazine.

The “Official” Festival Closing Night and Closing Night party of FFC 2016 will be held at the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) Florence Gould Hall in Manhattan. A U.S. Premiere film will culminate five days of the best of French language films from around the world and honor our invited guests at a VIP Closing Night Party at FIAF’s famous Le Skyroom.

For more information on Focus on French Cinema 2016 visit: www.focusonfrenchcinema.com or call Festival hotline at 203-629-2301

299 Greenwich Avenue
Greenwich, CT 06830
Tel: 203-629-1340
www.afgreenwich.org