



Alliance Française
of Greenwich

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FOCUS ON FRENCH CINEMA 2016 FEATURED 24 FILMS AND 30 SCREENINGS FOR THE FIVE DAY FESTIVAL INCLUDING 1 WORLD PREMIERE, 10 US PREMIERES, 2 NY and 8 CT PREMIERES.

Focus on French Cinema 2016, presented by the Alliance Française of Greenwich, CT, welcomed 6,500 spectators to the five day festival in Greenwich, CT, Stamford, CT and Manhattan.

Nathalie Baye, legendary actress, was honored as the « Marraine ».

Guest Actors, Directors and Experts present for the Round Table Discussion, festival workshops, Q & A and special events included: Nathalie Baye, Alix Delaporte, Dr. Alison Estabrook, Mélanie Laurent, Lionel Baier, Dominique Besnehard, Christian Carion, Carlos Chahine, Cyril Dion, Matthew Rhys and Dr. Claude Rosenthal.

Air France Public Choice Awards: *Come What May (En mai fait ce qu'il te plait-* Opening Night US Premiere) and *One Man and His Cow (La Vache – North American Premiere).*

Highlights of the 2016 edition include :

« **Festival Eve** », **March 31st** screening of the César winning documentary, *Tomorrow (Demain)*, with directors Cyril Dion and Mélanie Laurent in attendance as well as a panel of scientific experts including Biologist Elizabeth Hadley and Anthony D. Barnosky, Economist Michael H. Shuman and Special Adviser to the Secretary General, David Nabarro. The UN screening marked the « first ever »

collaboration of Focus on French Cinema and the **International Organisation of La Francophonie**.

The Avon Theatre Film Center in Stamford CT partnered with Focus on French Cinema for the screening of the new digital restoration of the classic, *The Return of Martin Guerre (Le Retour de Martin Guerre)* in the presence of Nathalie Baye and Dominique Besnehard.

A « **Spotlight on Lebanese Cinema** » honored the cinema of Lebanon. One of the most culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse countries in the Middle East, Lebanon has produced, since the 1920's a unique selection of over 500 films. In 2016, Focus on French Cinema highlighted the cinema of Lebanon as the cinema of the future.

Educational Initiatives:

Master Class at The French American School (FASNY) with Dominique Besnehard and Nathalie Baye.

Master Class at Yale University with Director, Alix Delaporte (*The Last Hammer Blow (Le Dernier Coup de Marteau)*)

Student Screening of *Tomorrow (Demain)* to students from the metropolitan area in the presence of Mélanie Laurent and Cyril Dion with a team of scientific experts also featured at the UN screening.

Other Festival Events:

The Opening Night US Premiere film, *Come What May (En mai fais ce qu'il te plait)* and Opening Night Gala Party were the most successful in festival history. French chefs from Les Maitres Cuisiniers de France, L'Academie Culinaire de France and the New England Culinary Institute featured the best of French Cuisine highlighted by the Avalon Jazz Band with rising star Tatiana Eva-Marie. The Closing Night US Premiere film, *The Assistant (La Volante)* with Nathalie Baye in attendance was a « sold out » event at the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) followed by an « After Party »

Focus on French Cinema continues to work closely with our partners, Le Festival du Film Francophone d' Angouleme, The Cultural Services of the French Embassy, UniFrance, The French Institute Alliance Française (FI AF), The Avon Theatre Film Center and Purchase College in order to share cinema, le septième art, as a site for reflection, discussion, debate and discovery of the French speaking world today.

Focus on French Cinema is grateful for the support of Air France, the Official Sponsor of Focus on French Cinema, « Presenting Sponsors- BNP Paribas, Renault Nissan, JC Decaux and Lacoste as well as our « Supporting Sponsors », - Capgemini, The Hospital For Special Surgery and The Avon Theatre Film Center.