



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

2017  
MARCH 27  
- APRIL 2

Monday  
Tuesday - Thursday  
Friday - Sunday

# EDUCATIONAL GUIDE

## For Teachers and Students

Le Ciel Attendra (Heaven Will Wait)  
A film by Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar

France / 2016 / 90 mins

Screenplay: Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar, Emily Freche

Cast: Noemie Merlant, Sandrine Bonnaire, Naomi Amarger

# EDUCATIONAL GUIDE



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# Storyline

- Sonia, a 17 year old student, almost left her family to wage jihad. She was convinced that this was the only way for her and her family to go to heaven. She finally was reintegrated into her family and came back to her senses. Melanie however, a teenager (raised by her mother) who had no history radical extremism and whose life revolved around school, her friends and her cello lessons, met a so-called “prince” on the Internet, with whom she entered into an online dialogue. He managed to brainwash her and draw her into ISIS.
- The parents of these girls were filled with guilt for not having seen the signs of radicalization and watched helplessly the dramatic changes in their children.

## Who is Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar



- Writer, director and producer, Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar joined forces with Pierre Kubel and Frederic Bourboulon to create the production company Vendredi Film. Together they produced many films, including two directed by Antoine de Caunes (Monsieur N., Perfect Disagreement) and Pierre Jolivet (Zim and Co., I Believe I Love Him).
- In 2009, she starred in the comedy *La Première Etoile*, then soloed and directed her first film, the romantic and melodrama *Ma Première fois* (2012), inspired by her first great love story and as a tribute to his deceased companion. The same year played in *Bowling*, with Catherine Frot, Mathilde Seigner and Firmine Richard. This social comedy is inspired by a French news item of 2008 where all the inhabitants of Carhaix demonstrated during 17 weeks in order to prevent the closure of the maternity service of their hospital.
- For her third feature, *Les Héritiers*, Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar once again draws her inspiration from a topical fact, as it stages the preparation of a second class of a high school in Créteil that takes part, Under the guidance of their history professor, at the national deportation competition.
- *Le Ciel Attendra* is her fourth feature film and has been nominated for a Cesar award.

# Character Analysis

- How does Sonia personality change as she becomes radicalized? Why does she become enamored of extreme radical Islam?
- How does Melanie behavior change as she becomes brainwashed into believing violent radical ideas?

# Questions and areas of thought

- What is the role of the internet in brainwashing young adults to join ISIS?
- How did Sonia and Melanie change in their daily lives and family environment as they slowly got drawn into this group?
- How did their parents and professionals succeed in helping them?
- Do you think this could happen here?

## ABOUT FOCUS ON FRENCH CINEMA (FFC)

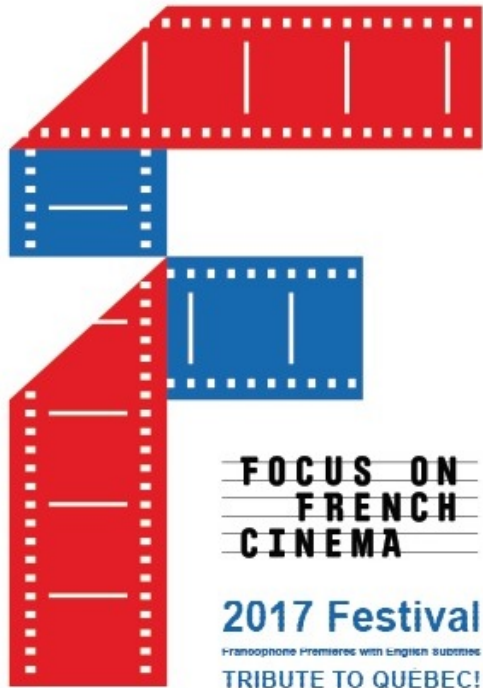
# Mission



[www.focusonfrenchcinema.org](http://www.focusonfrenchcinema.org)



## ABOUT FOCUS ON FRENCH CINEMA (FFC)



Launched in 2005, Focus on French Cinema is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization presented by the Alliance Française of Greenwich, CT.

As an independent film festival it has the freedom to curate from among the best filmmakers, screening a cutting edge selection of award-winning feature films, short films, documentaries and a special focus on animation.

Focus on French Cinema encourages “**educational outreach**” as a way to promote cinema awareness, acknowledging film not only as entertainment but as a powerful educational and storytelling medium for cultural exchange in the tri-state community (CT, NY, NJ).

#FFC

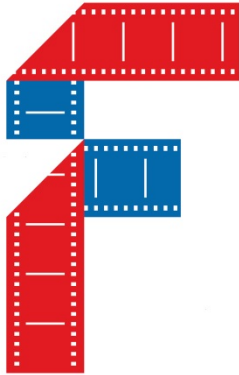
@FocusOnFrenchCinema

## FOCUS ON FRENCH CINEMA (FFC) – EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Over the past 12 years, Focus on French Cinema (FFC) has organized several cinema activities for students:

- ❑ **Round Tables** featuring visiting actors, directors and cinema professionals, open to the public
- ❑ **Special screenings with post screening Q&A** specially targeted to college students
- ❑ **Special screenings with pedagogical materials** for middle and high school students
- ❑ **Film Review Writing Contests** for area schools
- ❑ **Short film-making workshops** for college level film students taught by a Film Director
- ❑ **On-campus Master classes** with Directors or Actors for Purchase College Students
- ❑ **Family Films** on Sunday morning
- ❑ **Semester-long internships** for college students
- ❑ **Volunteer opportunities** for high school and college students during the festival.

**LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AT FFC 2017!**



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