



For Immediate Release—

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**FOCUS ON FRENCH CINEMA ANNOUNCES THE LINEUP
FOR THE 14th FILM FESTIVAL
FRIDAY, APRIL 27th - TUESDAY, MAY 1st.**

**18 PREMIERES: 1 WORLD PREMIERE, 6 U.S., 1 EAST COAST, 9 CT and 1 NY
36 César nominations, 9 César Wins, 4 Canadian Screen Awards**

**FESTIVAL WEEKEND IN GREENWICH, CT OPENS WITH CT PREMIERE OF
ALBERT DUPONTEL'S *AU REVOIR LÀ-HAUT (SEE YOU UP THERE)*
Friday, April 27th AND CLOSSES IN MANHATTAN WITH NY PREMIERE OF
GAËL MOREL'S *PRENDRE LE LARGE (CATCH THE WIND)*
STARRING SANDRINE BONNAIRE Tuesday, May 1**

In Person appearances, in alphabetical order : Guilhem Caillard, Manthia Diawara, Natalie Fuchs, Luc Hardy, Gaël Morel, Noah Parker, Pascal Ralite, Colombe Savignac, Thierry Klifa, Alain Zenou.

Greenwich, CT, April 3, 2018 -Now in its 14th year, **Focus on French Cinema (FFC)**, the annual **Francophone** festival for new cutting-edge cinema from France and across the French-speaking world presented by the **Alliance Française of Greenwich, CT**, returns to Connecticut and Manhattan for a five-day festival from April 27- May 1. FFC has announced an exciting lineup of 18 feature-length films in five days including World and U.S. Premieres, multiple César nominees and winners, award-winning short films and continued support of Québécois Cinema based on the FFC partnership with Cinemania.

The 14th edition honors extraordinary women in cinema. Brilliant visionaries, these women are fearless new voices as directors, actors and producers... women who are driven by a sense of freedom and independence. New fresh female voices include Laetitia Dosch, Natalie Fuchs, Camélia Jordana, Sara Giraudeau, Colombe Savignac, Léonor Serraille as well as outstanding performances by established stars

including Hiam Abbass, Fanny Ardant, Sandrine Bonnaire, Suzanne Clément, Diane Kruger and Catherine Deneuve.

Esteemed male directors, actors and producers include Thierry Klifa whose new film *Tout Nous Sépare (All That Divides Us)* will screen in U.S. Premiere at FFC 2018 starring Catherine Deneuve, Diane Kruger, Nicolas Duvauchelle and Lumiere Award nominee, Nekfeu. Producer and screenwriter Luc Hardy returns to Focus on French Cinema 2018 with the World Premiere of the documentary, *Arktika Incognita*, directed by Bertrand Delapierre. **Noah Parker**, the newly discovered young Québécois actor co-stars in the U.S. Premiere of *Ailleurs (Squat)*, directed by Samuel Matteau. He is also the principal actor of *Pauvre Georges*, Claire Devers' highly anticipated film produced by Dominique Besnehard, which will be released in the fall of 2018 in France and Québec.

The 2018 selection of Focus on French Cinema includes a diverse slate of newly-released feature-length and short films amassing an impressive selection. From chilling capers to terrifying thrillers, female resilience to war dramas, environmental adventure to migration, biopics and educational eloquence to heartfelt loss and spiritual enlightenment, FFC continues to honor the vitality of francophone film.

FFC 2018 continues to celebrate the Cinema of Québec with an ongoing partnership with CINEMANIA. Now in its 23rd year, Cinemania is an award winning francophone film festival in Montréal that champions the presence of French cinema in Québec.

Events during the festival include a **Gala Opening Night in Greenwich, CT on April 27th** prior to the CT Premiere of Albert Dupontel's comic caper, *Au Revoir Là Haut (See You Up There)*, a weekend in Greenwich of non-stop premieres, Q & As with directors and actors, a Monday pre-screening party and CT Premiere of Michel Hazanavicius' biopic of Jean-Luc Godard, *Godard Mon Amour (Le Redoutable)* at the AVON Theatre Film Center and a Closing Night Gala and NY Premiere of Gaël Morel's *Prendre le large (Catch The Wind)* co-presented with the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) in Manhattan.

Joe Meyers, FFC 2018 Programming Director :

"The Focus on French Cinema selection committee has come up with another terrific and fantastically varied slate of films for movie lovers of all persuasions. The 2018 films feature veteran stars we already know and love, as well as exciting new actors, including Swann Arlaud and Sara Giraudeau in their César Award-winning performances in *Petit Paysan*.

One of our special guests this year is Noah Parker, who gives a star-making performance in the French Canadian drama “Ailleurs.” We will be meeting the remarkable 19-year-actor just before he goes to the Cannes Film Festival. Whether you’re a fan of socially conscious drama, delightful comedy or probing documentaries, we have the perfect movies for you.”

Meyers will lend his cinematic expertise based on years as a writer covering the arts for Hearst Connecticut Media Group which publishes the *Greenwich Time*, the *Stamford Advocate*, the *Norwalk Hour*, *Connecticut Post* and *Danbury News-Times*, as well as his service as a moderator of French Cinémathèque of the Alliance Française of Greenwich featured monthly at the AVON theatre. Meyers works closely with the FFC selection committee in the selection of films for FFC 2018 while moderating Q & As during the festival weekend in Greenwich and at the AVON Theatre screening on Monday, April 30th.

North American and U.S. Premiere include:

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERES

ARKTIKA INCOGNITA

Sunday, April 29- 5:00 PM- 6:20 PM

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Documentary/Adventure

Director - Bertrand Delapierre

Screenplay: Bertrand Delapierre, Luc Hardy, Alain Zenou

Length: 52 minutes

US Release: World Premiere

**Q & A with Luc Hardy (Producer, Explorer an Expedition Leader)
Alain Zenou (Documentary Screenwriter)**

Directed by Bertrand Delapierre, produced by Sagax Entertainment and based on an original idea by Luc Hardy, *Arktika Incognita* goes beyond the arctic circle to the islands of New Siberia that are still Terra Incognita. Rare explorers have stepped upon these white lands. In 1879, aboard the USS Jeannette, Captain George De Long and his crew aspired to reach the North Pole. They discovered islands, later named De Long, but did not reach the famous pole, and the adventure turned tragic. The purpose of this mission is to explore, observe and witness this unknown world of white mounds on the ocean, the sanctuary of an authentic Arctic wildlife. In the manner of 19th-century explorers, scientists,adventurers,artists and freedivers go in search of this Arktika Incognita.

U.S. PREMIERES

Tout nous sépare - All That Divides Us

Saturday, April 28 - 9:00 PM- 11:00 PM

Bow Tie Cinemas , Greenwich, CT

Genre: Thriller

Director: Thierry Klifa

Starring: Catherine Deneuve, Diane Kruger, Nicolas Duvauchelle, Nekfeu

Screenplay: Thierry Klifa, Cédric Anger

Length: 99 minutes

Country: France

US Release: US Premiere

Q & A with Thierry Klifa

In Sète, a bourgeois family in a house in the middle of nowhere clashes with slum-dwellers residing in the projects. A mother and a daughter. Two childhood friends. A disappearance. Blackmail. Catherine Deneuve plays a mother trying to desperately to save her daughter (Diane Kruger) from a questionable relationship.

Un César nommé espoir - In French Only

Sunday, April 28- 10:00 AM - 11:05 AM

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Documentary

Director: Patrick Fabre

Length: 52 minutes

Country: France

Release US : US Premiere

“The César for the Best New Actor or Actress is part of our cinematic lives yet we often ignore it. What do Sophie Marceau, Sandrine Bonnaire and Audrey Tautou have in common? They are exceptional actresses and all three laureates of the César for Best New Actress. This César sounds like the promise of a wonderful career. Mathieu Amalric, Yvan Attal and Mathieu Kassovitz were also once winners

of the Best New Actor. This 52 minute documentary, directed by Patrick Fabre, reveals the behind the scenes of one of the most prestigious acting awards. Fabre mixes archives with modern images, and blends the interviews of former winners with the followings of young people nominated for the César 2018. If this documentary evokes a strong response by the vision of great actors at the beginning of their careers, it refutes nostalgia and turns resolutely towards the future; towards those emerging luminaries who will one day make history in the cinema". Dominique Besnehard, Mon Voisin Productions.

Ailleurs- Squat

Saturday, April 28- 1:45 PM - 3:50 PM

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Drama

Director : Samuel Matteau

Screenplay: Guillaume Fournier

Starring: Noah Parker, Théodore Pellerin, Clémence Dufresne- Deslières, Antoin DesRochers, Christian Michaud, Emmanuel Schwartz

Length: 98 minutes

Country: Canada

US Release: US Premiere

Q & A with Noah Parker

Ailleurs(Squat) is the first feature film by Samuel Matteau showcasing two exceptional young actors: Noah Parker and Théodore Pellerin. The film tells the story of Samu and Tève, two 15 year old boys on a journey through the alleyways of the city of Québec. They are desperate to flee their lives at the Seminary of the Marist Fathers and escape to the bright colors and warmth of California. When Samu stabs his father in a heated argument, the two best friends flee in the night. However with no financial means, they end up finding refuge with local "squatters". Best friends, their friendship is tested... they are being sought by the police. Brilliant performance by newly discovered 19 year old Noah Parker who is starring in the highly anticipated Claire Devers' film, *Pauve George!* , produced by Dominique Besnehard which will be released in the fall of 2018 in France and Québec.

Ondes de choc -Journal de ma tête - Shock Waves, Diary of my Mind.

Saturday, April 28- 11:15 AM- 12:35 PM

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Drama

Director: Ursula Meier

Screenplay: Antoine Jaccoud, Ursula Meier

Starring: Fanny Ardant, Kacey Mottet Klein, Jean-Philippe Ecoffey, Stéphane Blanchoud.

Length: 70 minutes

Country: Switzerland

US Release - US Premiere

A few minutes before killing his father and mother in cold blood, Benjamin Feller - a young 18-year-old who apparently has no prior criminal history... mails his intimate diary, in which he explains and confesses his act to his French teacher. The teacher finds herself being questioned by authorities ... What if her taste in literature that is obsessed with the sufferings of the human soul has blinded her student's distress and to what was hidden in the feverish prose he had shown her well before his crime.

KALACHAKRA

Sunday, April 29- 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre Documentary

Director Natalie Fuchs

Screenplay Natalie Fuchs

Starring Tenzin Norzom, Nepal Tamang (Jampa) Tenzin Khetsun, Natalie Fuchs

Voiceover Uma Thurman

Length 83 minutes

Countries France/ India

US release US Premiere

Q & A with Natalie Fuchs

Immersed in the colorful and vibrant setting of Dharamsala, India, Natalie Fuchs and 3 individuals from very different backgrounds come together to face their deepest fears, as they approach the transformational power of the Kalachakra initiation, led by the Dalai Lama and followed by millions. Kalachakra is the most sacred teaching in Tibetan buddhism; the initiation is generally given over 11 days. Kalachakra means "wheel of time". Rarely filmed, this initiation has long remained secret. The

Dalai Lama gives it for peace in the world. Through this film, we enter an ancient and unknown dimension, where death meets life, and we are changed forever.

Le Rire de ma mère - My Mother's Laugh

Sunday, April 29- 12:00 PM- 2:15 PM
Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Drama

Directors: Colombe Savignac and Pascal Ralite

Screenplay: Colombe Savignac and Pascal Ralite

Starring: Suzanne Clément, Pascal Demolon, Sabrina Seyvecou, Igor Van Dessel

Length: 96 minutes

Country: France

Release US : US Premiere

Q & A with Colombe Savignac and Pascal Ralite

Adrien is a shy, lost boy with divorced parents. Bouncing back and forth between his mom and dad, Adrien realizes something that will change everything for him and his family. In the meantime, he decides to join a theatrical production to get to know the young girl he is in love with. During this complicated period in his life, Adrien searches to learn the meaning of bravery. *My Mother's Laugh*, directed by Colombe Savignac and Pascal Ralite, mixes emotion and humour in a true celebration of life.

EAST COAST PREMIERES

La Promesse de L'Aube - Promise at Dawn

Sunday, April 29 - 7:30 PM- 9:50 PM
Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Biography/Drama/Romance

Director: Eric Barbier

Starring : Pierre Niney, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Didier Bourdon

Screenplay: Eric Barbier and Marie Eynard

Country: France/Belgium

US Release: East Coast Premiere

From a childhood in Poland to adolescence in Nice to year as a student in Paris and tough training as a pilot during World War II, this tragi-comedy tells the romantic comedy of Romain Gary, one of the most famous French novelists and sole writer to have won the Goncourt Prize for literature twice.

CONNECTICUT PREMIERES

Le Brio

Friday, April 27 - 11:00 AM- 1:30 PM

Saturday, April 28 - 4:15 PM- 6:00 PM

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Comedy/Drama

Director: Yvan Attal

Screenplay: Yaël Langmann, Victor Saint Macary, Yvan Attal, Noé Debré, Bryan Marciano

Starring : Daniel Auteuil, Camélia Jordana, Yasin Houicha, Nozha Khouad

Length: 95 minutes

Country: France

US Release : CT Premiere

Neïla Salah grew up in the Paris banlieue of Créteil, dreaming of becoming a lawyer. On her first day at the prestigious Université D'Assas, she faces off with Pierre Mazard, a teacher known for his outrageous and provocative behavior. To redeem himself, the professor agrees to prepare Neila for the prestigious contest of eloquence. Pierre could become the mentor she needs... But they must both overcome their prejudices. The script was inspired by the annual rhetoric competitions held in France's most prestigious law schools, where students are invited to plead on a wide range of subjects in the most eloquent and imaginative ways possible.

CONNECTICUT PREMIERES

Montparnasse Bienvenue - Jeune Femme

Friday, April 27 - 3:30 PM - 5:15 PM

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Drama

Director: Léonor Serraille

Screenplay: Léonor Serraille

Starring: Laetitia Dosch, Grégoire Monsaingeon, Souleymane Seye Ndiaye and Léonie Simaga

Length: 97 minutes

US Release - CT Premiere

A young woman tries to reinvent herself after the end of a toxic 10-year relationship. Paula is back in Paris after a long absence and shows up with a cat, no money and no idea what to do with her life. Paula resorts to a series of desperate lies in order to keep a roof over her head and after several interesting encounters, she is ready for a fresh start.

Debut feature by La Fémis graduate Léonor Serraille and starring rising star Laetitia Dosch, *Jeune Femme* is the story of a strong and capable woman dealing with a brand new life.

Au revoir là haut- See you up there - OPENING NIGHT FFC 2018

Friday, April 27- 8:00 PM- 10:30 PM

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Drama

Director: Albert Dupontel

Screenplay: Albert Dupontel and Pierre Lemaître

Starring: Nahuel Pérez Biscayart, Albert Dupontel, Laurent Lafitte and Niels Arestrup.

Length: 117 minutes

Country: France/Canada

US Release : CT Premiere

November 1918, a few days before the Armistice: Edouard Péricourt saves Albert Maillard's life. These men have nothing in common but the war they are fighting. By ordering a senseless assault, Lieutenant Pradalle destroys their lives but binds them as companions in misfortune. Condemned to live, the two create an extraordinary scam during the effervescent period of the 1920's... Based on the novel by Pierre Lemaître (winner of the Prix Goncourt in 2013)... The director and ensemble cast have created a magnificent film destined to become a classic.

Petit Paysan

Saturday, April 28- 9:00 AM - 10:55 PM
Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Drama

Director: Hubert Charuel

Screenplay: Hubert Charuel, Claude Le Pape

Starring: Swann Arlaud, Sara Giraudeau, Bouli Lanners, Isabelle Candelier

Length: 90 minutes

Country: France

US Release: CT Premiere

Pierre is a dairy farmer in his mid-thirties whose life revolves around his farm, his veterinarian sister, and the parents whose farm he has just taken over. As the first indications of a deadly epidemic based on Mad Cow disease are announced in France, Pierre discovers that one of his cows has been infected and resorts to drastic measures in order to protect both his flock and his livelihood.

Hochelaga, terre des âmes - Hochelaga, Land of Souls

Saturday, April 28- 11:15 AM- 1:10 PM
Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich , CT

Genre: History

Director: François Girard

Screenplay: François Girard

Starring: Raoul Trujillo, Tanaya Beatty, David La Haye

Country: Canada

US Release: CT Premiere

Mohawk archaeologist Baptiste Asigny engages in search for his ancestors following a tragic collapse of earth at Percival Molson Stadium. Baptiste and his research team believe that they are on the brink of linking the site to the Iroquois village of Hochelaga, the probable location of the meeting between Jacques Cartier and the Iroquois people in 1535. This film is a grand fresco of 750 years of Montreal history.

Le Sens de la fête - C'est La Vie - (Not yet confirmed)

Saturday, April 28 - 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM
Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Comedy

Directors: Eric Toledano, Olivier Nakache

Screenplay: Eric Toledano, Olivier Nakache

Starring: Jean- Pierre Bacri, Jean- Paule Rouve, Gilles Lellouche, Vincent Macaigne

Length: 177 minutes

Country: Belgium/Canada/France

US Release: CT Premiere

Retiring caterer Max Angélique, played by Jean- Pierre Bacri, is catering the last wedding of his long career. The event is set in a 17th century French chateau, where every conceivable nightmare that could happen is going to happen. From the earliest preparations to the crack of dawn, we live the evening from behind the scenes, along with Max's staff, who are forced to count on the one thing they have in common: how to throw a great party! Aided by the directors' use of documentary-style camera work and unique jazz music to complement the rising tensions of the wedding, Max brings the audience along in his desperate attempt to keep everything together.

Une Famille Syrienne - Insyriated

Sunday, April 29- 2:30 PM- 4:35 PM

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Drama/war

Director: Philippe Van Leeuw

Screenplay: Philippe Van Leeuw

Starring: Hiam Abbass, Diamond Bou Abboud, Juliette Navis

Length: 85 minutes

Country: Belgium/France/Lebanon

US Release: CT Premiere

A brutally tough drama set in a Damascus apartment where a family with a tragic secret have barricaded themselves. Effectively imprisoned by the civil war outside, this nerve-wracking study of life in Damascus won an audience award at Berlinale. Hiam Abbass plays Yazan, the stern matriarch who, through sheer force of will, is keeping the family together.

An Opera of the World

Sunday, April 29- 10:00 AM- 11:40 AM
Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT 06830

Genre: Documentary
Director: Manthia Diawara
Length: 70 minutes
Country: Portugal/US/Mali
US Release: CT Premiere

Q & A with Director, Manthia Diawara

Diawara's film serves as a mirror to build an aesthetic and reflexive story, through song and dance, about the current yet timeless drama of migration between North and South as well as the ongoing refugee crisis. The success and limits of fusing African and European perspectives are tested by interlacing performances from the Bintou Were Opera, past and present archival footage of migrations, classic European arias, and interviews with European and African intellectuals.

Ayiti Mon Amour

Sunday, April 29- 11:30AM-1:30PM
Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Genre: Drama
Director: Guetty Felin
Screenplay: Guetty Felin
Starring: Joachim Cohen, Anisia Uzeyman, Jaures Andris
Length: 88 minutes
Country: Haiti
US Release: CT Premiere

Q & A with Guetty Felin

Haiti, five years after the earthquake...

In a coastal town forgotten by the rest of the world, the sea is gaining ground and although the memories of the great disaster still haunts the villagers, life must go on... Shot in the mist and sunlight, *Ayiti Mon Amour*, is the story of old wounds that need healing in order to begin anew.

Le Redoutable - Godard Mon Amour

Monday, April 30- 7:30 - 10:30

Avon Theatre, Stamford, CT

Genre: Biography/Comedy/Drama

Director: Michel Hazanavicius

Screenplay: Michel Hazanavicius

Starring: Louis Garrel, Stacy Martin, Bérénice Bejo, Grégory Gadebois, Micha Lescot

Length: 107 minutes

Country: France

US Release: CT Premiere

With his romantic and slyly funny Godard, *Mon Amour*, the Academy Award-winning director of *The Artist*, Michel Hazanavicius, once again transports moviegoers back to a unique time and place in cinematic history: France in the late 1960s. Actress Anne Wiazemsky (Stacy Martin) finds herself juggling political protests and artistic challenges in her married life with renowned filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard (Louis Garrel). As her country undergoes enormous cultural change, so too does Anne's dynamic with her husband. *Godard Mon Amour* is a story of both real love and reel love.

NY Premiere

Closing Night Film

Co-presented with the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)

Prendre le large - Catch the wind

Tuesday, May 1- 7:30 PM- 10:30 PM

French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)

Florence Gould Hall

Genre: Drama

Director: Gaël Morel

Screenplay: Gaël Morel, Rachd O.

Starring: Sandrine Bonnaire, Moutta Fettou, Kamal El Amri, Ilian Bergala

Length: 103 minutes

Country: France

US Release: NY Premiere

When her textile factory closes, Edith, a seamstress, astonishes everyone when she decides to forgo her severance package and follow her job to Morocco where the factory has been relocated. Edith must contend with new surroundings and an unusually challenging workplace. Sandrine Bonnaire's performance as Edith proves that she is one of the finest actresses working today.

Catch the Wind is presented as part of Tales of Europe, a program of Europa Cinemas and Europa International with the support of Creative Europe Media.

**MORE DETAILED INFORMATION AND MATERIAL AVAILABLE ON
WWW.FOCUSONFRENCHCINEMA.ORG**

Focus on French Cinema is presented by the Alliance Française of Greenwich, CT, in partnership with CINEMANIA, the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF), The Avon Theatre Film Center, UniFrance Films, The Cultural Services of the French Embassy, The Consulate General of Switzerland in New York, The International Organization of La Francophonie, The Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN, SODEC, The Delegation of Québec in Boston, The Delegation General of Québec in New York, and the Consulate General of Canada in New York.

Since 2005, Focus on French Cinema has been committed to screening a wide selection of newly released narrative and documentary films. FFC presents international cinema that reflects the aesthetic, challenging, inspiring, and authentic landscape of French-language films from around the world while fostering dialogue on the diversity of French culture.

From the Opening Night VIP Cocktail at the prestigious Delamar Greenwich Harbor Hotel and L'Escale Restaurant in Greenwich, CT to the superb film programming, round-table discussions as well as multiple Q&As for cinephiles with directors, actors, producers, writers and film professionals from around the Francophone world, Focus on French Cinema continues to be a platform for discussion, debate and discovery of the French-speaking world.

The 14th edition of Focus on French Cinema (FFC) continues to offer a diverse slate of U.S. Premiere and feature films in multiple genres exploring the richness of contemporary and classic cinema. FFC curates from the very best master filmmakers

as well as fresh young voices and features some of the most critically acclaimed and politically charged cinema of the moment. FFC has broadened its footprint in the NY and CT area adding multiple venues to accommodate our expanding audience (7,000 in 7 days) and provide a larger platform to meet actors, directors, producers and experts from the film industry. The Focus on French Cinema festival is organized by a passionate and committed team of volunteers and will take place at the AVON Theatre Film Center in Stamford CT, The French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) in NY, Le Lycée Français of New York, The United Nations and Bow Tie Cinemas in Greenwich, CT. Focus on French Cinema is a premiere platform for discussion, debate and discovery of the French-speaking world.

EDUCATION INITIATIVE: Focus on French Cinema (FFC) opened at Purchase College, NY in 2005 with the mission of promoting French language and culture through cinema. Over 11,000 students have participated in the festival over the past 13 years. As FFC continues to advance into the next decade, the festival continues to expand its educational outreach program with screenings in 2018 for over 1,500 middle school, high school and university students. The educational initiative for FFC offers students of all ages the opportunity to explore French and Francophone cultures through workshops with our guest actors and directors, festival internships, a “BE A FILM CRITIC CONTEST” as well as master classes at Yale University and student workshops and Master Classes at The French American School (FASNY) The mission of FFC is to cultivate the next generation of cinéphiles while broadening their knowledge of Francophone culture. Multiple screenings throughout the metropolitan area will be highlighted by the CT Premiere of Yvan Attal’s *Le Brio* based on the annual rhetoric competitions held in France’s most prestigious law schools where students are invited to plead on a wide range of subjects in the most eloquent and imaginative way possible.

OUR PARTNERS:

The Alliance Française of Greenwich, CT

Since 2005, the Alliance Française of Greenwich has presented Focus on French Cinema, the largest Francophone festival presented by an Alliance Française in North America. The Alliance Française of Greenwich was founded in 1911 as a non-profit organization with 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.

CINEMANIA, takes place every year in Montreal, Canada, and is an internationally recognized film festival dedicated to French-language films. Since its inception in 1995, it has become an annual rendez-vous for cinéphiles to preview quality feature films. The festival presents recent films, master classes, retrospectives, gala evenings, and summer screenings in parks in Montreal. CINEMANIA also co-hosts with SODEC, the Francophone Co- Production Market gathering over 250 professionals for panel discussions, workshops and parties. The 23rd edition of the festival will be held from November 2- November 12th, 2017.

Cultural Services of the French Embassy

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

French Institute Alliance Français (FIAF)

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

The International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF)

The International Organization of La Francophonie represents one of the biggest linguistic zones in the world. Its members share more than just a common language. They also share the humanist values promoted by the French language. The International Organization of La Francophonie was created in 1970. Its mission is to embody the active solidarity between its 80 member states and governments (57 members and 23 observers), which together represent over one-third of the United Nations' member states and account for a population of over 880 million people, including 220 million French speakers.

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 a 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 of 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.

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.

The 14th edition of Focus on French Cinema benefits from the support of BNP PARIBAS, the Presenting Sponsor of FFC, JC Decaux, The Royce Foundation, BWR - Brands Within Reach, FIERA Capital, SODEC, TV5 Monde, RATP, La Compagnie, The French American School (FASNY) EI NYC, SAGAX Entertainment and others.

Tickets are available at www.focusonfrenchcinema.com