



For Immediate Release

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## **FOCUS ON FRENCH CINEMA ANNOUNCES THE LINEUP FOR THE 15<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FILM FESTIVAL.**

**Friday, April 26- Tuesday, April 30, 2019**

**16 PREMIERES: 1 NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE, 11 U.S. PREMIERES, 1 EAST COAST and 3 CT**

**Festival weekend in Greenwich, CT opens with the U.S. Premiere of Rémi Bezançon's *The Mystery of Henri Pick (Le Mystère Henri Pick)*.**

**In Person appearances, in alphabetical order:** Nathan Ambrosioni, Jean-Carl Boucher, Romane Bohringer, Guilhem Caillard, Geneviève Dulude-De Celles, Guillaume Gouix, Sophie Picciotto, Philippe Rebot.

**Greenwich, CT, April 3, 2019**

**Celebrating its 15h anniversary, Focus on French Cinema, the annual Francophone festival of the Alliance Française of Greenwich for new cutting edge cinema across the French-speaking world returns to Connecticut and Manhattan for a five-day festival from April 26- April 30, 2019. FFC 2019 has announced an exciting lineup of 17 feature-length films in five days including 12 U.S Premieres, multiple César and international festival nominees, award-winning short films and continued support of Québécois cinema based on the FFC partnership with Cinemania in Montreal.**

The 15<sup>th</sup> edition honors veteran stars and directors as well as emerging actors with a **FOCUS on NEW YOUNG WRITERS- DIRECTORS.**

19 year- old first-time feature director-screenwriter, **Nathan Ambrosioni**, is sometimes referred to a " the Xavier Dolan" of France. Laurent Danielou, the co-founder of Loco films told Variety that " he was highly impressed by the maturity and talent of the young filmmaker- the youngest French director to have received the selective subsidy Advance of Receipts from the National Film Board (CNC).

Ambrosioni wrote the script of "**Paper Flags**" while in 12th grade. "As I was becoming an adult, I started thinking about what it meant to be free, and that's the theme or the story," says Ambrosioni.

**Geneviève Dulude-De Celles** has many accolades in film. Recently, she won the Crystal Bear in The Berlin International Film Festival 2019 . *Une Colonie* won the 2019 Canadian Screen Award for Best Motion Picture and Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role for Emilie Bierre. In addition the film won the Audience Award and the Grand Jury Prize in the Quebec City International Film Festival 2018 and The Phillip Boros Award in the Whistler Film Festival 2018.

**Jean-Carl Boucher**, the lead actor in 1991, is a 25 year old Québécois actor and director. He is best known for his role as Diego Molina on the show *Tactik* shown on Télé-Québec. He won Best Actor at the Jutra Awards in 2015 for his role in *1987*, the second film in the Ricardo Trogi trilogy.

**Sophie Picciotto** writes and directs her first short "Virtual Attraction". In 2008, Sophie returned to the role of actress. Her meeting with Philippe Leguay and Fabrice Luchini on the filming of "Women on the 6th floor" will be decisive.

Voices for FFC 2019 include familiar as well as fresh voices: Nathan Ambrosioni, Swann Arlaud , Veerle Baetens, Ramzy Bedia, Lucas Bernard, Rémi Bezançon, Emilie Bierre, Romane Bohringer, Jean- Carl Boucher, Philippe de Chauveron, Christian Clavier, Pauline Clément, Anne Coesens, Catherine Corsini, Irlande Côté, Camille Cottin, Geena Davis, Gérard Depardieu, Geneviève Dulude-De Celles, Virginie Efira, David Foenkinos, Jodie Foster, José Garcia, Guillaume Gouix, Pamela Greene, Audrey Lamy, Fabrice Luchini, Corinne Masiero, Olivier Masset-Depasse, Noémie Merlant, Mehdi Nebbou, Guillaume Nicloux, Michel Ocelot, Jean-Louis Petit, Florence Pernel, Sophie Picciotto, Philippe Rebot, Jean-Paul Rouve, Niels Schneider, Ludivine Sagnier, Gaspard Ulliel, Nicolas Wadimoff, and many others.

The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary selection includes a diverse slate of newly-released feature-length films amassing an impressive selection. From literary and artistic capers, to terrifying thrillers, war dramas, historical documentaries, family films, biographies, and LOL comedies, FFC continues to honor the vitality of francophone cinema.

FFC 2019 continues to celebrate the cinema of Québec with an ongoing partnership with CINEMANIA and Managing Director Guilhem Caillard. Approaching its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Cinémania is an award winning francophone film festival that champions the presence of French-language cinema in Québec.

Joe Meyers, FFC 2019 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 2019 films feature veteran stars we already know and love, such as Gérard Depardieu, as well as emerging actors like Camille Cottin of the hit Netflix series *Call My Agent* and our opening night film *Le Mystère Henri Pick*.

I am especially excited to present two young writer-directors and their new films: “Les drapeaux de papier” by Nathan Ambrosioni and *Une colonie* by Geneviève Dulude-De Celles. I am confident both of these filmmakers are at the start of major careers and I am delighted they are joining us with their extraordinary movies.”

Meyers will lend his cinematic expertise based on years as a writer covering the arts for Hearst Connecticut Media Group as well as his monthly service as moderator of French Cinémathèque of Focus on French Cinema of the Alliance Française at the Avon Theatre Film Center.

**Events** during the festival include a **Gala Opening Night in Greenwich, CT on Friday, April 26 with NEW FFC OPENING NIGHT PARTNER - THE GREENWICH ARTS COUNCIL** prior to the U.S Premiere screening of *The Mystery of Henri Pick (Le Mystère Henri Pick)* at Bow Tie Cinemas in Greenwich.

Les Maîtres Cuisiniers de France and L'Académie Culinaire de France return to FFC celebrating the best of francophone cuisine for the Opening Night Party.

VIP guests will also enjoy a “**Look Back at 15 Years of FFC**” exhibition of posters from our favorite films from 2005-2018.

Other events during the 5 day festival begin on Friday afternoon April 26th following the education screening of *Le Mystère Henri Pick* with a masterclass at the French-American school (FASNY) with guest director Nathan Ambrosioni. **New This Year!** Meet the Directors Breakfast on Saturday, April 27th at 11am at Bow Tie Cinemas. Additional screenings and parties include the Monday, April 29th Avon Theatre Film Center screening and party and Closing Night Film and Gala on Tuesday, April, 30th at the French Institute Alliance Française (FI AF) in Manhattan.

## US PREMIERES

### ***Le Mystère Henri Pick - The Mystery of Henri Pick***

Friday, April 26 - 11am

Friday, April 26 - 8pm

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

**Genre:** Comedy

**Director:** Rémy Bezançon

**Screenplay:** Vanessa Portal, Rémy Bezançon

**Starring:** Fabrice Luchini, Camille Cottin, Alice Isaaz, Bastien Bouillon

**Length:** 100 min

**Countries:** France

**US Release:** US Premiere

**Distributor:** Gaumont

In a strange library in the heart of Brittany, a young editor finds an extraordinary manuscript. She immediately decides to publish it. The novel becomes a bestseller. But the author, Henri Pick, a Breton pizza chef who died two years earlier, "never wrote anything besides a grocery list", according to his widow. Suspecting a literary hoax, a famed critic decides to investigate, with the unexpected help of the daughter of the mysterious Henri Pick.

### ***Virtual Attraction***

Friday, April 26 - 1:30 pm

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

**Genre:** Romance Comedy

**Director:** Sophie Picciotto

**Screenplay:** Sophie Picciotto

**Starring:** Florence Pernel, Eric Perez, James Gerard, Raphaël Desprez, Bernard Yerles

**Length:** 15 min

**Country:** France

**US Release:** US Premiere

**Distributor:** Pixaway

### **Introduction with director Sophie Picciotto**

Married to Laurent for more than 20 years, Elizabeth loves her job and her daily life. She never leaves anything to chance and, above all, never lets herself go. But the day when she mistakenly friends Gontrand on Messenger, all of her certainties are shattered. Without ever meeting Gontrand, Elizabeth will live a carnal passion on the web and this experience will awaken a forgotten and liberating desire.

### ***Lola et ses frères - Lola and her brothers***

Friday, April 26 - 1:30 pm

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

**Genre:** Dramatic Comedy

**Director:** Jean -Paul Rouve

**Screenplay:** Jean-Paul Rouve and David Foenkinos

**Starring:** Ramzy Bedia, José Garcia, Jean Paul Rouve, Ludivine Sagnier, Pauline Clément  
from La Comédie Française

**Length:** 105 min

**Country:** France

**US release:** US Premiere

**Distributor:** TF1 Studio

Lola (Ludivine Sagnier) has two brothers: Benoît (Jean-Paul Rouve), who is getting married for the third time, and Pierre (José Garcia), who shows up late for the wedding. Excuses, reproaches, arguments, misunderstandings... beneath it all, they're just doing their best to live their own lives. Benoît is about to become a father, but he's not ready yet. Lola meets Zohar (Ramzy Bedia) while she's still going through her divorce. Pierre's professional problems take a turn for the worse. Though everything in their lives seems to be pulling them apart, the three of them stick together - an inseparable trio.

### ***Qu'est-ce qu'on a fait encore au Bon Dieu? - Serial (Bad) Weddings 2***

Saturday, April 27 - 3:00pm

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

**Genre:** Comedy

**Director:** Philippe de Chauveron

**Screenplay:** Guy Laurent - Philippe de Chauveron

**Starring:** Christian Clavier, Chantal Lauby, Ari Abittan, Medi Sadoun

**Length:** 99 minutes

**Country:** France

**US release:** US Premiere

**Distributor:** TF1 Studio

In this sequel to *Serial Bad Weddings*, Claude and Marie Verneuil face a new crisis . When they discover that their daughters are not only married to “ foreigners” but are planning to move to foreign countries for multiple reasons the duo scheme to convince their children of the charms of French living and keep them at home.

### ***Une colonie - A colony***

Saturday, April 27 - 5:10pm

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

**Genre:** Drama

**Director:** Geneviève Dulude-De Celles

**Screenplay:** Geneviève Dulude-De Celles

**Starring:** Emilie Bierre, Irlande Côté, Jacob Whiteduck-Lavoie, Cassandra Gosselin-Pelletier, Robin Aubert, Noémie Gaudin-Vigneau

**Length:** 102 min

**Country:** Canada

**US Release:** US Premiere

**Distributor:** Indie Sales

### **Q & A With Geneviève Dulude-De Celles**

Mylia, a timid 12-year-old child, is about to leave her native countryside to begin high school. Lost in this new hostile environment, she copes as well as she can, sometimes awkwardly, dealing with the absurdities, discomforts and small victories of adolescence. Along the way she encounters Jimmy, a young indigenous outsider from the neighboring reservation, who will help her stand her ground and embrace who she really is.

### ***Duelles - Mothers' instinct***

Saturday, April 27 - 8:00pm

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

**Genre:** Drama, Thriller

**Director:** Olivier Masset-Depasse

**Screenplay:** Olivier Masset-Depasse, Giordano Gerlini

**Starring:** Veerle Baetens, Anne Coesens, Mehdi Nebbou

**Length:** 90 min

**Country:** France, Belgium

**US Release:** US Premiere

**Distributor:** Indie Sales

Brussels, early 60's.

Alice and Céline live in twin bourgeois houses. They are best friends as are their children, Theo and Maxime, who have grown up like brothers. Both families spend all their time together.

This perfect harmony is broken when Maxime, Céline's son, tragically falls to his death from his bedroom window. This accident happens very quickly and Alice, witness of the scene, can't save him.

Blinded by the pain, Céline blames Alice for not saving her son. Céline's behavior becomes more and more suspicious... Alice fears her friend is seeking revenge on her son Theo...

### **1991**

Sunday, April 28 - 2:10 pm

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

**Genre:** Comedy -Drama

**Director:** Ricardo Trogi

**Screenplay:** Ricardo Trogi  
**Starring:** Sandrine Bisson, Jean-Carl Boucher  
**Length:** 141 minutes  
**Country:** Canada  
**US Release:** US Premiere  
**Distributor:** Go Films

### **Q & A with Jean- Carl Boucher**

Middle aged Ricardo Trogi continues to recount key periods in his formative years. This time, the year is 1991 when he was a twenty-one year old student in the screenwriting program a UQAM.

Arguably, the two items foremost on his mind are having to deal with a genetic issue, and being in love with Marie-Ève Bernard, who he met the year before. Although he does not see her as being perfect, he does see her as the mother of his future children. When Marie- Ève tells him that she is going on an exchange program in Perugia the story begins... affected by a his paternal family's mushroom risotto recipe, a contributing factor to women having fallen in love with Trogi men...

The film finished 2018 as the year's top-grossing Canadian film and was named winner of the Golden Screen Award at the 7th Canadian Screen Award.

### ***Un amour impossible - The Impossible Love***

Sunday, April 28, - 5:15pm

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

**Genre:** Drama

**Director:** Catherine Corsini

**Screenplay:** Catherine Corsini, Laurette Polmanss

**Starring:** Virginie Efira, Niels Schneider, Jehnny Beth, Estelle Lescure

**Length:** 135 min

**Country:** France

**US release:** US Premiere

**Distributor:** Le Pacte

At the end of the 1950s, Rachel (Virginie Efira), a young government clerk living in Chateauroux meets Philippe (Québec's Niels Schneider), a brilliant young interpreter of bourgeois background. They share an intense but short-lived romance and the result is a daughter, Chantal. Philippe refuses to marry outside of his social class and Rachel raises her daughter alone. Over the next 50 years, their lives will be shaped by the unconditional love between a mother and her daughter, overshadowed by the impossible love of a woman for a man that rejects her, and of a daughter for an absent and abusive father.

Based on the acclaimed novel by Christine Angot, « Un Amour Impossible » (Editions Flammarion 2015).

### ***L'amour flou - In the move for love***

Sunday, April 28 - 8:00 pm

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Tuesday, April 30- 7:30 pm

French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)

Followed by Closing Night Party

**Genre:** Comedy

**Director:** Romane Bohringer, Philippe Rebbot

**Screenplay:** Romane Bohringer, Philippe Rebbot

**Starring:** Romane Bohringer, Philippe Rebbot, Rose et Raoul Rebbot-Bohringer, Reda Kateb

**Length:** 97 min

**Country:** France

**US release:** US Premiere

**Distributor:** Rezo Films

### **Q & A with Romane Bohringer**

After 10 years together, two children and a dog, Rose and Raoul find they have fallen out of love. But they still love each other. Rather than separate completely, they decide to build a "separtment": two distinct living spaces connected by the children's room. A play on the phrase l'amour fou or crazy love, which was the title of a 1969 Jacques Rivette film, *L'Amour Flou* translates to uncertain love, which Rose and Raoul navigate with comedic flair. Obscuring fact and fiction, it stars real-life couple Romane Bohringer as Rose and Philippe Rebbot as Raoul. A comedy with a lesson of kindness and love.

### ***L'Apollon de Gaza - The Apollo of Gaza***

Sunday, April 28 - 9:45 am - Theater 2

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

**Genre:** Documentary

**Director:** Nicolas Wadimoff

**Screenplay:** Nicolas Wadimoff

**Length:** 79 min

**Country:** Switzerland, Canada, Palestine

**US Release:** US Premiere

**Distributor:** AKKA Films

### **Introduction and Q & A with Kirsten J. Reinhardt, Registrar Bruce Museum**

In summer 2013, a statue of Apollo more than 2500 years old is discovered in the nets of a fisherman from Gaza. Then, the statue vanishes, opening all sorts of speculations: hidden in a tunnel, hostage of armed groups, destroyed by fundamentalists or resold to international traffickers of art. Proven or fantasized, the wildest assumptions circulate about the statue. It is like a symbol of what this region of the world means in everybody's imagination. God of

the Arts and Poetry, but also of the Oracles and the Divinations, who would know better than the Apollo to put his witty and elevated look on this part of the world prey to the madness of the Men?

### ***Les Confins du Monde - To the Ends of the World***

Sunday, April 28 11:30 am- Theater 2

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

**Genre:** War Drama

**Director:** Guillaume Nicloux

**Screenplay:** Jérôme Beaujour, Guillaume Nicloux

**Starring:** Gaspard Ulliel, Gérard Depardieu, Guillaume Gouix

**Length:** 103 min

**Country:** France

**US Release:** US Premiere

**Distributor:** Orange Studio

Indochina-war, 1945: Robert Tassen (Gaspard Ulliel) is the only survivor of a massacre in which his brother has been killed. Hacking through the jungles of Indochina, Robert is intent on revenge on the elusive Viet Minh commander who is responsible for the massacre of his family. But meeting the young Indochinese Maï disrupts his mission. France's Vietnam colonial adventure (1887-1954) predates the American incursion, both ending in disastrous conflict and eventual withdrawal. This haunting and magnificently filmed WWII story seen through one man's experiences confirms that "war is hell".

### **NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**

### ***Un beau Voyou - A Clever Crook***

Sunday, April 28 - 12:00pm

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

**Genre:** Comedy

**Director:** Lucas Bernard

**Screenplay:** Lucas Bernard

**Starring:** Charles Berling, Swann Arlaud, Jennifer Decker

**Length:** 104 minutes

**Country:** France

**US Release:** NORTH AMERICAN Premiere

**Distributor:** Pyramide Distribution

Commissioner Beffrois waits for retirement with mixed enthusiasm when a theft of paintings catches his attention. Is it the elegance of the process? The audacity of the crime? The beauty of the stolen work? Belfry launches in search of an atypical thief, a real draft, an acrobat in his spare time.

## **EAST COAST PREMIERE**

### ***Les drapeaux de papier - Paper Flags***

Saturday, April 27 - 12:30pm

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

**Genre:** Drama

**Director:** Nathan Ambrosioni

**Screenplay:** Nathan Ambrosioni

**Starring:** Guillaume Gouix, Noémie Merlant, Sébastien Houbani, Jérôme Kircher, Alysson Paradis, Anne Lioret

**Length:** 102 min

**Country:** France

**US Release:** East Coast Premiere

**Distributor:** The Festival Agency, Loco Films

### **Q & A with Nathan Ambrosioni and Family ReEntry**

Charlie (Noémie Merlant), soon to be 24 years old, lives a simple life: she dreams of becoming an artist and struggles to make ends meet. When her brother Vincent (Guillaume Gouix) returns after 12 years in prison her life is turned upside down. However, he is still her brother and despite his anger and uncontrollable behavior she is ready to help him adapt to a life no longer behind bars. He has everything to learn in a world he does not recognize.

## **CONNECTICUT PREMIERES**

### ***Les Invisibles - Invisibles***

Friday, April 26 - 3:50 pm

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

Tuesday, April 30 - 4 :00pm

French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)

**Genre:** Comedy, Drama

**Director:** Louis-Julien Petit

**Screenplay:** Marion Doussot, Claire Lajeunie, Louis-Julien Petit

**Starring:** Audrey Lamy, Corinne Masiero, Noémie Lvovsky, Déborah Lukumuena

**Length:** 102 minutes

**Country:** France

**US Release:** CT Premiere

**Distributor:** Apollo Films

When a town in France decides to close a homeless shelter for women, the social workers have only three months to help its residents get back on their feet and reintegrate into society. Inspired by a book and documentary by author/filmmaker Claire Lajeune, director Louis-Julien Petit cast well-known comedic actors alongside nonprofessional ones,

including a few women who appeared in Lajeune's film. The result is a film that humorously honors the resiliency of the human spirit while poignantly bringing attention to an underserved community.

***Dilili à Paris - Dilili in Paris***

Sunday, April 28 - 10:00 am

Bow Tie Cinemas, Greenwich, CT

**Genre:** Animation, Family

**Director:** Michel Ocelot

**Screenplay:**

**Starring:** Enzo Ratsito, Natalie Dessay, Elisabeth Duda

**Length:** 95 min

**Countries:** France, Belgium, Germany

**US Release:** CT Premiere

**Distributor:** Samuel Goldwyn

With the help of her delivery-boy friend, Dilili, a young Kanak, investigates a spate of mysterious kidnappings of young girls that is plaguing Belle Epoque Paris. In the course of her investigation she encounters a series of extraordinary characters, each of whom provides her with clues that will help her in her quest... After Kirikou and Azur & Asmar, Michel Ocelot returns with an enchanting new tale of brave young heroes, mysteries and discoveries, kidnappings and ordeals, extraordinary places and magical encounters, in which good must challenge dark forces and triumph.

***Soyez naturel: l'histoire inédite d'Alice Guy Blaché - Be Natural - The Untold Story of Alice Guy Blaché***

Monday, April 29 - 7:30PM

6:30PM Cocktail Reception

The Avon Theatre, 272 Bedford Street, Stamford, CT

**Genre:** Documentary

**Director:** Pamela B. Greene

**Starring:** Alice Guy, Geena Davis, Ben Kingsley, Ava Duvernay, Agnès Varda

**Narrated by:** Jodie Foster

**Length:** 103 min

**Country:** USA

**US Release:** CT Premiere

**Distributor:** Zeitgeist Films

**Q & A with Professor and Avon Film Advisory Board Member Anne Kern**

She saw the future through the camera lens. The incredible story of a filmmaking pioneer and the world's first female director.

In addition to being the first female director, Alice Guy-Blaché was one of the first filmmakers to produce narrative fiction films. While running her own film studio, which was the largest pre-Hollywood studios, she was responsible for the creation of more than 1,000 films. Alice is known for experimenting with sound syncing, color tinting, interracial casting, and special effects long before the giants of early cinema had even begun to consider it. Pamela B. Green's energetic film about pioneer filmmaker Alice Guy-Blaché is both a tribute and an investigative story, tracing the circumstances by which this extraordinary artist faded from memory and the path toward her reclamation.

**MORE DETAILED INFORMATION AND MATERIAL AVAILABLE ON**  
[WWW.FOCUSONFRENCHCINEMA.ORG](http://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 (FI AF), 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 and others.

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 Greenwich Art Council 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 15<sup>th</sup> edition of Focus on French Cinema continues to offer a diverse slate of U.S. Premiere and feature films in multiple genres exploring the richness of contemporary and relevant French-language cinema. FFC curates from the best current and master filmmakers with a *focus* in 2019 on New Young Voices.

FFC has broadened its footprint in the NY and CT area adding multiple venues to accommodate the expanding audience (7,000 in 5 days) and provide a larger platform to meet actors, directors, producers and experts in the film industry. The Focus on French Cinema festival is organized by a passionate and committed team of volunteers and will take place at Bow Tie Cinemas in Greenwich, CT, The Avon Theatre Film Center in Stamford, CT and The French Institute Alliance Française (FI AF) in Manhattan.

Focus on French Cinema is a premiere platform for discussion, debate and discovery of the French-speaking world.

### **Education Initiative – 15 years.**

Focus on French Cinema opened at Purchase College in 2005 with the mission of promoting French language and culture through cinema. Over 12,000 students have participated in the festival over the past 14 years. As FFC evolves into the next decade, we will continue to expand the education outreach program that will reach 2,000 elementary, middle school, high school and university students in the tri-state area. The educational initiative offers students of all ages the opportunity to explore French and Francophone cultures through workshops with our guest actors and directors, festival internships, the annual *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 École in Manhattan and Lyceum Kennedy in Ardsley, NY and Manhattan. The mission of FFC is to cultivate the next generation of cinéphiles while broadening their knowledge of French culture. Multiple screenings throughout the metropolitan area will be highlighted by the U.S. Premiere student screening and Opening Night screening of *The Mystery of Henri Pick (Le Mystère Henri Pick)*

### **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.

#### **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](http://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 Greenwich Arts Council**

The Greenwich Arts Council was incorporated as a 501©(3) non-profit arts organization in 1973. It was formed as a direct outcome of the 1971 Development Action Plan of the Town of Greenwich which identified the need to develop greater encouragement of, and access to, the arts in the Town and surrounding area. Initially located in space at the Greenwich Library, GAC moved in 1980 to occupy the second and third floors of the Old Town Hall Building on Greenwich Avenue in the heart of the downtown business district where it created an Arts Center for its own programs and those of other arts organizations in Greenwich.

It is the Mission of the Greenwich Arts Council to promote the visual, performing and literary arts in our community by encouraging artists, presenting their work, building audiences for the arts and supporting the arts and cultural organizations within the Town of Greenwich.

The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Focus on French Cinema benefits from the support of BNP PARIBAS, the Presenting Sponsor of FFC2019, JC Decaux, The Royce Foundation, BWR Group, TV5 Monde, La Compagnie, The French American School (FASNY), The École, Lyceum Kennedy, Sagax Entertainment and many others.

Tickets are available at [www.focusonfrenchcinema.com](http://www.focusonfrenchcinema.com) or by calling 203-629-1340