



Alliance Française

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For Immediate Release

The 26th Singapore French Film Festival 30 September – 10 October 2010

For the past 26 years, The Singapore French Film Festival has brought the French language, arts, history, culture and daily lives to audiences in Singapore. This year, action, adventure and documentaries are added to a rich programme which will be kicked off with Luc Besson's humorous, brave and bold heroine on a quest - **The Extraordinary Adventures of Adèle Blanc-Sec**.

The Opening Film

Les Aventures Extraordinaires de Adèle Blanc-Sec is a tale of a quest set in Paris in the years before and after World War I. It revolves around the protagonist Adèle Blanc-Sec. A cynical heroine, she is initially a novelist of popular fiction, who turns to investigative journalism as her research and subsequent adventures reveal further details of the mystical world of crime. Themes of the occult, corruption, official incompetence, and the dangers of patriotism suffuse the film. This comic imbroglio is adapted from the 1970s graphic novels of Jacques Tardi.

Luc Besson

Luc Besson (born 18 March 1959) is a French film director, writer and producer. Many of Besson's films have achieved popular success including the Fifth Element, *Leon* (The Professional) and *Le Grand Bleu* (The Big Blue).

Closing Film

Petit Nicolas (Little Nicholas) by Laurent Tirard will be screened as the festival's closing film. Nicolas has a happy existence - parents who love him, a great group of friends with whom he has great fun - and all he wants is that nothing changes. One day, he overhears a conversation that leads him to believe that his life might change forever - his mother is pregnant! He panics and envisions the worst: soon a little brother will take a way his parents attention, they will no longer take care of him, they will eventually abandon him in the forest.

Laurent Tirard

Laurent Tirard is a French film director and screenwriter. He wrote and directed his first feature, *The Story of My Life*, in 2004, co-wrote the hugely successful *Prête-moi ta main* (*How to Get Married and Stay Single*) for Alain Chabat in 2005, then wrote and directed his second film, *Molière*, in 2006.

A Tribute to Jean-Pierre Melville

This year's festival will showcase a collection of works by **Jean-Pierre Melville** (October 20, 1917 – August 2, 1973). He was an independent French filmmaker who owned his own studios and became well known for his tragic, minimalist film noirs which included **Le Samouraï** (The Samurai 1967) and **Le cercle rouge** (The Red Circle, 1969). His films starred major, charismatic actors such as Alain Delon (probably the definitive 'Melvillian' actor), Jean-Paul Belmondo and Lino Ventura. His directorial style was influenced by American cinema and glamourised accessories like weapons, clothes and especially hats. His independence and his 'reporting' style of film-making (he was one of the first French directors to use real locations regularly) were a major influence on the French New Wave film movement.

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Award-Winners

Award-winning movies which will be screened during the festival include *La question humaine* (Heartbeat Detector), *Welcome, L'Heure d'été* (Summer Hours) and *Soudain le vide* (Enter the Void).

A brief history of the Singapore French Film Festival

The Singapore French Film Festival was inaugurated in October 1985 at the Alliance Française de Singapour. It was then known as "*La Semaine du Cinéma*". The selection of films presented from 20 to 25 October 1985 did not focus on the latest films being screened exclusively at the Champs-Élysées. Rather, a selection of movies was made from the numerous productions of the three or four preceding years. It represented a general picture, subjective of course, of the French filmmakers of that time. "*La Semaine du Cinéma*" brought to the island-state French films which had never before been screened in Singapore.

This annual event is organised by the Alliance Française de Singapour, the French Embassy and The Cathay Organisation. Air France is the Airline Sponsor of the festival. JCDecaux joins the Festival a second year as the Official Outdoor Media Sponsor, and F*** Singapore is the festival's Official Magazine. The Singapore French Film Festival is a much-anticipated event in the local as well as expatriate cultural calendars. The films will be screened at the Alliance Française Theatre, The Cathay Cineplex and The Picturehouse.

For more information, please contact:

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Venues

The Alliance Française Theatre, The Cathay Cineplex & The Picturehouse

Ticketing Information

Tickets for movies shown at the Alliance Française Theatre are available at all SISTIC outlets island-wide.

Tickets and programme booklets are available at all SISTIC outlets from 10 September 2010 and at The Cathay Cineplexes from 16 September.

Pricing (inclusive of SISTIC fee):

\$10.00 and \$9.00 (concession tickets*).

Please call the SISTIC Hotline for more information:

6348 5555 or visit www.sistic.com.sg

Tickets for movies shown at The Cathay Cineplex and The Picturehouse are available at the Box Office at The Cathay Cineplex, 2 Handy Road, Singapore 229233.

\$10.00 and \$9.00 (concession tickets*).

* Concession tickets are available only upon presentation of valid membership cards from Alliance Française or the Singapore Film Society. One concession ticket per member per screening.

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