

# FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL UK



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2024

## LEARNING IN SCHOOLS 28 October to 18 December 2024



Image: Shanna Keill in *Willy and her Mystery*  
Directed by Denis Imbert

[www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk](http://www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk)

# Learning L'école du cinéma



**The French Film Festival UK Learning Programme is offering French-speaking cinema with English subtitles free of charge to schools this autumn and winter. The programme of four films will be available for classes between 28 October and 18 December 2024.**

Teachers can view films in advance to decide which is most appropriate for each of their groups and download free learning resources to use in their classes. The resources are designed in accordance with the Modern Languages Experience and Outcomes for the Curriculum for Excellence and updated in response to teachers' feedback.

The programme is organised and co-ordinated by Sylvia Davidson from the French Film Festival UK, with valuable assistance from a panel of teachers as well as from the Institut français IFCinéma in France's Marion Thevenot, Marine Gaillard and Lucie Guérin; and with the generous support of TotalEnergies, the Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland, and SCILT (Scotland's National Centre for Languages) as well as Screen Scotland and Film Hub Scotland. Prizes will be awarded by the Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland for the best film reviews by pupils. Schools in Scotland taking part in the Learning Programme can also participate in the *Concours de la francophonie* organised by the French Institute in Scotland; for more information contact [ife.francophonie@gmail.com](mailto:ife.francophonie@gmail.com). We are delighted to be able to provide these opportunities for the young audiences of tomorrow.

***Vive le cinéma!***

## HOW TO BOOK

Book your films from mid-August onwards for screenings between 28 October and 18 December 2024.

**TO BOOK CLICK ON THE LINK [BOOK NOW AUTUMN 2024](#)**

**PLEASE BOOK AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE DESIRED SCREENING DATES TO ALLOW TIME FOR ACCOUNT PROCESSING.**

Once booked the Festival will send information on how to access the films requested. Note that it is illegal to replicate any film or to screen films for any other purpose than the agreed in-school programme.

**LEARNING RESOURCES** for each film will be available to download.

**FURTHER INFORMATION** Email: [schools@frenchfilmfestival.org.uk](mailto:schools@frenchfilmfestival.org.uk)

# Learning L'école du cinéma



Lower  
Primary

## Funny Birds *Drôles d'oiseaux*

Themes: **Childhood, Nature, Ecology, Biodiversity**

Sometimes finding school too noisy, Ellie is a quiet little girl who loves birds. She likes to watch and listen to them and observes them in all kinds of situations. In the street, at school and even the library. One day Anna, the librarian, lends Ellie a very special ornithology book. The next day, Ellie goes back to the library to return it, just as they had arranged, but the library is closed. Ellie decides to go to the librarian's house to give it to her in person. Anna lives on an island full of birds in the middle of the Loire River. Thus begins an adventure and an inspiring journey. Nominated as best animated short, 2023 César awards.

Director **Charlie Belin**  
2022 | France, Switzerland | 34 mins  
French with English subtitles

Watch **FUNNY BIRDS** extract (in French)  
Watch **FUNNY BIRDS** interview with director

**A polished gem of a short film.** *Letterboxd*



Upper  
Primary

## Vicky and Her Mystery *Mystère*

Themes: **Family, Childhood, Animals, Ecology**

Stéphane decides to move to the beautiful mountains of Cantal to reconnect with his eight-year-old daughter, Victoria, who has been silent and withdrawn since her mother's death. During a walk in the forest, a shepherd gives Victoria a puppy named Mystery, who will gradually give her a new taste for life. But very quickly, Stéphane discovers that the animal is in fact a wolf. Despite the warnings and the danger of this situation, he cannot bring himself to separate his daughter from this seemingly harmless ball of fur.

Cast **Vincent Elbaz, Marie Gillain, Eric Elmosnino, Tchény Karyo, Shanna Keil**  
Director **Denis Imbert** | 2020 | France | 83 mins  
French with English subtitles

Watch trailer **VICKY AND HER MYSTERY**

**Although the film's storyline is fictional, the seeds lie in reality.** *The Cinemaholic*

**Advisory:** May evoke feelings of loss. Includes some coarse language (very occasional use of "s\*\*t" and one use each of "hell", "crap", "bitching", "jerk" and "screwed up"). Opening scenes show guns and hunting.



Lower  
Secondary

## The Little Gang *La Petite Bande*

Themes: **Adolescence, Friendship, Ecology**

Known for his intelligent and well-turned comedies, director Pierre Salvadori returned to the roots of his youth in Corsica, to make an inventive tale about five friends who transform themselves into eco-warriors. The story begins in a small town where 12-year-olds Cat, Fouad, Antoine, Sami and Aimé have hatched a plan to set fire to the Chambon Factory which is polluting the most beautiful river in the area. A classic children's adventure story – featuring cabins, binoculars, kayaks, bikes, friendships, tricky or secret romances, and more – bursting with ideas.

Cast **Aymé Medeville, Paul Belhoste, Mathys Clodion-Gines, Colombe Schmidt, Redwan Sellam**

Director **Pierre Salvadori** | 2022 | France | 106 mins  
French with English subtitles

[Watch trailer THE LITTLE GANG](#)

**An ecological fable for children... as delightful as it is endearing.** *Cineuropa*

**Advisory:** Some use of coarse language, mainly mild, including “dammit”, “bullshit”, “crap” and “pissed off”; also stronger terms such as, “hell”, “s\*\*t”, “ba\*\*\*rd” and “for f\*\*k’s sake”. Occasional scenes of violence where characters punch or use a heavy instrument to hit each other.



Upper  
Secondary

## Divertimento

Themes: **Equality, social background, teaching, women's rights, cultural identity, immigration, performance, music**

A determined, gifted 17-year-old musician, Zahia has but one dream – to become a conductor. Her twin sister Ferrouma is also a musician and music is a life they share with the entire family. Yet, in 1995, all odds seem to be stacked against Zahia. She's a woman, the daughter of Algerian immigrants and comes from a working-class background in the Paris suburbs. None of that plays well at her stuffy Parisian conservatoire, or at the competitions she embarks upon. Zahia's path is strewn with obstacles, but driven by determination, passion, courage and the drive to make symphonic music accessible to all the sisters create their own orchestra – *Divertimento* – based in their own Parisian immigrant neighbourhood. It will be a game-changer. *Divertimento* is inspired by the life of Zahia Zouani, one of the few worldwide renowned female conductors.

Cast **Oulaya Amamra, Lina El Arabi, Niels Arestrup**

Director **Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar** | 2022 | France | 110 mins  
French with English subtitles

[Watch trailer DIVERTIMENTO](#)

**This real-life journey will inspire youngsters (and even the not so young) to fight for their dreams...** *Le Parisien*





# Prizes offered for best reviews of films in the Learning Programme

**The Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland will present prizes for the best reviews of a film screened at each level in this year's Learning Programme in schools and cinemas.**



The four winners will receive a year's subscription for their school to a French language magazine appropriate for the age group of the film in question.

The reviews can be up to 250 words in length and can be written in French or English, either typed or handwritten and can contain drawings. The language used by entrants will be corrected and translated into the other language (French/English, English/French).

Remember that the panel of judges are looking for a review of the film, and not just a summary of the plot. As well as the subscriptions, a special certificate will be presented to each prize winner by the FSSS. The winning reviews will be published in the FSSS Bulletin and, with permission from the winners, on the French Film Festival website.

Teachers should collate the entries and include the name, age, contact details and school of each participant and the title of the film.

Only pupils attending schools in Scotland are eligible to enter.

Entries can be submitted via email to [schools@frenchfilmfestival.org.uk](mailto:schools@frenchfilmfestival.org.uk)

LAST YEAR'S WINNERS: Pupils from Law Primary School, North Berwick, East Lothian and Sir E Scott School, Tarbert, Isle of Harris.





The talents  
of today are  
the energies  
of tomorrow.



**TotalEnergies**