

Beat: Arts

THE 77th CANNES FILM FESTIVAL & CINEF UNVEILS THE SHORT THE SHORT FILMS JURY

CHAired BY LUBNA AZABAL

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USPA NEWS - Flanked by Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar, Paolo Moretti, Claudine Nougaret and Vladimir Periši?, the Belgian actress Lubna Azabal will award the Short Film Palme d'or and the 3 La Cinef prizes, the Festival de Cannes' selection dedicated to student films.

The Jury will discover the 11 films in the Short Film Competition and the 18 films in La Cinef selection unveiled today.

JURY MEMBERS OF THE SHORT FILM AND LA CINEF LUBNA AZABAL, PRESIDENT SHORT FILM JURY

After attending the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, Lubna Azabal began her acting career in theater. In 1997, she got her first role in front of the camera in Vincent Lannoo's short film *J'adore le cinéma* (I Love the Movies). She went on to work with directors such as Michel Deville, Ridley Scott, André Téchiné, Nadir Moknèche and Denis Villeneuve. She was noticed for her performance in Tony Gatlif's *Exils*, which won Best Director Award at the Festival de Cannes in 2004. In 2018, she returned to Cannes with director Meryem Benm'Barek's *Sofia*, which won the Un Certain Regard Award for Best Screenplay. In 2019, she presented *Adam* by Maryam Touzani, with whom she was back in Cannes in 2022 for *The Blue Caftan*, which earned her a third Magritte Award for Best Actress in 2024.

MARIE - CASTILLE MENTION-SCJAAR

Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar began her career in the U.S. as deputy international editor at The Hollywood Reporter, then moved to Columbia Pictures to manage remake projects. Returning to France in 1994, she produced some twenty films through her production companies Vendredi and Willow. After co-writing *La Première Etoile*, she wrote and directed her first film *Ma première fois* (2011), followed by *Bowling* (2012) and *Once in a life time* (2014). In 2015, *Heaven Will Wait* was selected at numerous festivals, and earned Noémie Merlant a nomination for the César for Best Emerging Actress. After *All About Mothers* (2017), her sixth film, *A Good Man* is part of the Official Selection 2020 of the Festival de Cannes. Her seventh film, *Divertimento*, was released in January 2023. She is the founder of the Cercle Féminin du Cinéma Français and Officier des Arts et des Lettres.

PAOLO MORETTI

Currently director of the cinema department at the École cantonale d'art de Lausanne (ECAL), director of the Grütli Cinemas in Geneva and cinema curator at the Fondazione Prada in Milan, Paolo Moretti was general delegate of the Directors' Fortnight, the parallel selection of the Festival de Cannes, from 2018 to 2022. He worked for numerous film festivals and institutions in Europe, including the Centre Pompidou and Cinéma du Réel in Paris, the Filmoteca Española in Madrid, the Leeds International Film Festival and the Portuguese Cinematheque in Lisbon. From 2008 to 2011 he was programming advisor and deputy director of the Venice Film Festival. Between 2014 and 2019 he directed the La Roche-sur-Yon International Film Festival and was a member of the selection committees of the FID Marseille and Visions du Réel festivals.

CLAUDINE NOUGARET

Claudine Nougaret is a producer and director. She started out in the film industry as a sound engineer in 1984 on Éric Rohmer's *The Green Ray*. In 1992, together with Raymond Depardon, she founded Palmeraie et Désert to produce quality documentary films including *Urgences*, *Caught in the Acts*, *Africa: How Are You with Pain?*, *The 10th Judicial Court: Judicial Hearings*, *Modern Life*, *Journal de France*, *France*, *12 Days* (presented in 2017 at the Festival de Cannes in Official Selection - Out of Competition). In 2021, she created the CST Award for best young female film technician at the Festival de Cannes, and in 2022 produced the film *Feminist Riposte* by Marie Perennès and Simon Depardon, a documentary about feminist collectives across France (Festival de Cannes 2022, Official Selection).

VLADIMIR PERIŠI?

Graduated from the Fémis film school, Vladimir Periši? presented his graduation film, the short Dremano oko, in the Cinéfondation selection at the Festival de Cannes 2003. In 2009, he directed his first feature film Ordinary People, an intense war film he co-wrote with Alice Winocour, in competition for the Caméra d'Or at the Festival de Cannes 2009. He returned in 2014 with Bridges of Sarajevo, screened in Special Screenings, a collective work by thirteen renowned European filmmakers on the history of the Bosnian capital, for which he directed Our Shadow Will. His latest film, Lost Country (2023), is a critically acclaimed intimate political chronicle. In parallel, he has been one of the programmers of the Belgrade Auteur Film Festival since 2011.

"Traveler, there is no path. The path is made by walking." Antonio Machado. The Festival de Cannes is one of those paths we dream of crossing. The focus on young filmmakers presenting their short films, and the paths they have taken to get there, honor me. I can't wait to discover the richness of it all. It's a journey that I want to be demanding and kind, short after short, step after step. To be selected in this mythical place is a message of love, a worldwide recognition, and to preside over it is a source of pride." LUBNA AZABAL, Short films and La Cinef Jury President, Declared

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