

Celebrating French Culture at TIFF 2019

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French cinema, food, and visual arts spice up the program of the **18th edition of the Transilvania International Film Festival**. Between **May 31-June 9**, the **French Focus** will present Romanian premieres of new, diverse productions signed by emerging French directors. Additionally, throughout the festival, the **French-Romanian Culinary Caravan** will offer specialties prepared by famous chefs from the two countries, while visual arts will meet cinema in the show **An Evening in My Parents' Studio** — all part of the Romania-France Season 2019.

Focus France

Olivier Assayas's *Doubles Vies / Non-Fiction* (Venice, Toronto), featuring Guillaume Canet and Academy Award-winner Juliette Binoche (for her role in the 1997 *The English Patient*) is among the confirmed titles and events for the **Focus France section**: a Parisian comedy about a successful editor who needs to adapt to the digital era in which books no longer exist in physical form, the idea of a couple is stretched beyond the simple math of two, and real life is run by virtual social networks.

Jean Paul Gaultier Freak & Chic, Yann L'Hénoret's most recent documentary, follows the legendary French designer's creative process for six months. Actors, dancers, circus artists, cabaret performers, pop references, and flamboyant creatures come together in a revolutionary concept show by the *enfant terrible* of French fashion. Intimate details, key moments of his 40-year long international career, bows to his most important role models, cameos by Madonna or Vanessa Paradis, are all woven through the spectacular imagery of Jean Paul Gaultier's show, which has its Romanian premiere at TIFF.

Director Eva Ionesco's sophomore feature *Une jeunesse dorée / Golden Youth* is an autobiography peppered with music and light from the 1970s Le Palace club in Paris, where Karl Lagerfeld, Mick Jagger, or Andy Warhol came to spend their nights. For 16-year-old Rose, the escape from the institution where she grew uptakes the shape of a young man who introduces her to the extravagant world of Parisian parties — Michael, played by the director's son Lukas Ionesco, who will accompany the Romanian-French director to TIFF. The couple's life seems charmed until they come across a middle-aged couple played by Isabelle Huppert and Melvil Poupaud.

In Frederic Tellier's second feature, *Sauver ou périr / Through the Fire*, another unexpected event changes the life of Frank, a young firefighter whose face is completely destroyed in a fire. The protagonist, a young husband and a future father phenomenally played by Pierre Niney (who won a César in 2013 for his *Yves Saint Laurent*), fights to recover his former life.

French star Benoît Poelvoorde surprises his fans with two comic roles: in *Raoul Taburin*, Pierre Godeau's adaptation of Jean-Jacques Sempé's comic book, the actor plays a bicycle salesman who just cannot balance on two wheels. Equally absurd is his turn in *Au poste! / Keep an Eye Out*, Quentin Dupieux's absurd comedy (following the killer *Rubber*), in which two policemen investigate a crime among accidental deaths, unforeseen events, and tons of black humor. Dupieux's most recent film, *Deerskin*, is set to open this year's Director's Fortnight in Cannes.

Finally, this year's Berlinale winner *Synonyms*, Nadav Lapid's third feature, will have its Romanian premiere at TIFF as part of Focus France. Another premiere in this section is Jean-Michel Bernard's previously announced cine-concert *Soundrack of Dreams*. Other titles will be unveiled in the coming weeks.

French-Romanian Culinary Caravan

In a four-months itinerary that includes Paris, Bordeaux, Calais, Montpellier, and Marseille, the **French-Romanian Culinary Caravan** stops at TIFF 2019 between May 31-June 9. This food and design project that proposes traditional cuisine reinterpreted by Romanian and French chefs is the result of a collaboration between artistic director Marie-Josée Ordener and designers Maria Decu and Mihai Dumitrache (MD Studio), who created the food truck for the event. A guest French chef and a local partner will offer audiences a unique cultural experience: between May 31-June 2, Georgiana Viou, the famous Benin-born Marseille chef and founder of Georgiana, will pair up with Cluj chef Horia Simion to prepare gourmet food for cinephiles attending Romania's foremost film event.

Art Show: An Evening in My Parents' Studio

The show **An Evening in My Parents' Studio** is at the confluence of painting and cinema, as well as at the confluence of two generations of artists: the couple Maria Manolescu and Romelo Pervolovici (who came together in 1998 as Group 2META) and their children, an architect and a director. This project curated by Georgiana Buț starts from Eva Pervolovici's film, which uses autobiography to explore the visual art practices of her parents, as

well as the means of transmission for artistic imagery. Radu Pervolovici's set design alternates painting and film to bring forth the linkages between the two media and the artistic dialogue between the two generations. The discourse moves between two spaces, each dedicated to one of the parents: My Father's Paintings (La Cave Gallery in the Cluj French Institute, Str. Ion I. C. Brătianu 22) and My Mother's Paintings (Gallery 45, Str. Iuliu Maniu 45).

The project is supported by the META Cultural Foundation in Bucharest with the participation of AFCN. AFCN also financed the film from Romania, alongside the Paris City Hall on the French side.

Focus France, the **French-Romanian Culinary Caravan**, and **An Evening in My Parents' Studio** exhibitions are presented at TIFF as part of the Romania-France Season 2019 with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Institut Français, and Groupama. Details at www.sezonulromaniafranta.ro

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