



The 22nd edition of the Marrakech International Film Festival
takes place from November 28th to December 6th, 2025

THE MARRAKECH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL REVEALS ITS OFFICIAL SELECTION

For its 22nd edition, which takes place from November 28th to December 6th, 2025, the Marrakech International Film Festival celebrates world cinema with a selection of 82 films from 31 countries, presented in several sections: the Official Competition, Gala Screenings, Horizons section, the 11th Continent, Moroccan Panorama, Young Audiences and Families, and films screened in parallel with Tributes given to film personalities. Nine of these films unspool as world or international premieres, nine have received the support of the Atlas Workshops, the Festival's industry and talent development platform, and fourteen represent their countries in the race for the Academy Awards.

The Official Competition showcases new talent in world cinema with 14 first and second feature films that compete for the Étoile d'or, awarded by a jury headed this year by filmmaker **Bong Joon-ho**. This year's selection reveals a current, politically aware cinema that questions the injustices of the world through intimate or historical narratives, and that is characterized by great freedom of tone and remarkable formal audacity.

Presented as a world premiere, Meryem Benm'Barek's ***Behind the Palm Trees*** is a tense psychological thriller that examines the class relations and social domination inherited from the colonial past. Australian photographer James J. Robinson presents the international premiere of his ***First Light***, a visually striking moral drama in which a Filipino nun questions her faith in the face of corruption.

Several filmmakers revisit decisive political moments in their countries through semi-autobiographical narrative: Shih-Han Tsao's ***Before the Bright Day*** evokes the anxiety of a generation faced with the threat of war in Taiwan in 1996; Akinola Davies Jr.'s ***My Father's Shadow*** follows a father and his sons in Nigeria during the 1993 electoral crisis; and Zamo Mkhwanazi's ***Laundry*** recounts the dreams of a young South African man during apartheid.

Two debut feature films—Siyon Tan's ***Amoeba*** and Imran Perretta's ***Ish***—accurately explore teenage friendship as it faces the challenge of political awakening, respectively in Singapore and suburban London. Three films portray women who demonstrate resistance and reinvent their destinies: Erige Sehiri's ***Promised Sky***, a luminous tale of female solidarity in the face of racism in Tunisia; Ondřej Provozník's ***Broken Voices***, a chilling drama about the abuse of authority; and Morad Mostafa's ***Aisha Can't Fly Away***, a fantasy thriller that follow a Sudanese woman's quest for freedom in Cairo.

In the deeply moving documentaries ***Memory*** and ***My Father and Qaddafi***, directors Vladlena Sandu and Jihane K, respectively, revisit their childhoods in Chechnya and Libya, weaving powerful narratives of families at the crossroads of personal memory and collective history.

Finally, ***Straight Circle***, an incisive satire about the absurdity of conflict, reveals director Oscar Hudson's astonishing visual inventiveness, while ***Forastera***, a luminous summer tale of mourning by Lucía Aleñar Iglesias, testifies to the vitality of new voices in contemporary cinema as it combines formal audacity with universal emotion.



Nine Gala Screenings showcase some of the most eagerly awaited international films of the year. **This 22nd edition opens** with *Dead Man's Wire*, Gus Van Sant's dark and jubilant comedy, which delivers a brilliant satire on the media and capitalism. Maryam Touzani presents *Calle Málaga*, a tender and generous portrait of a woman from the Spanish community in Tangier, beautifully interpreted by Carmen Maura. As part of the Tributes program, Guillermo del Toro unveils his gothic and romantic vision of *Frankenstein* with Jacob Elordi, while Jodie Foster presents *A Private Life*, Rebecca Zlotowski's delightful crime comedy.

Two world premieres bring together the biggest stars of Egyptian and Tunisian cinema: *El Sett*, Marwan Hamed's biopic about the diva Oum Kalthoum, played by Mona Zaki; and *Sophia*, a chilling thriller directed by and starring Dhafer L'Abidine. A gala evening will celebrate *Hamnet* by Chloé Zhao, a moving tale of family love, in which the loss of a child inspires the legendary play *Hamlet*. Filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan comes to Marrakech with *Homebound*, a touching melodrama about the friendship and dreams of two young Indians played by rising Bollywood stars Ishaan Khatter and Vishal Jethwa.

The festival closes with Annemarie Jacir's *Palestine 36*, which brings together some of the greatest actors in the Arab world in a historical drama that recounts a decisive moment for the Palestinian people.

The Horizons section presents 19 contemporary films that paint a panorama of world cinema, from new and established filmmakers. It welcomes new work from major filmmakers Claire Denis, Valérie Donzelli, Ildikó Enyedi, Jim Jarmusch, Richard Linklater, Jafar Panahi, Park Chan-wook, and Kelly Reichardt, and also highlights a new generation of auteurs: Ali Asgari (*Divine Comedy*), Simón Mesa Soto (*A Poet*), Teona Strugar Mitevska (*Mother*) and Mélisa Godet (*A Place for Her*). The Horizons selection also celebrates the vitality of Arab cinema, with several films that have made their mark at major festivals: Cherien Dabis's *What's Left of Us* won acclaim at the Sundance Film Festival; both Hasan Hadi's *The President's Cake* and Arab & Tarzan Nasser's *Once Upon a Time in Gaza* won awards at the Festival de Cannes; and Cyril Aris's *A Sad and Beautiful World* and Kaouther Ben Hania's *The Voice of Hind Rajab* saw success at the Venice International Film Festival. Two captivating documentaries complete the selection: Raoul Peck's *Orwell: 2+2=5* by and Hélène Harder's *Fatna, a Woman Named Rachid*, presented as a world premiere.

The 11th Continent program consists of six fiction and nine innovative documentary films that explore a cinema without borders, free in both form and vision. The section presents new films by critically acclaimed filmmakers, including Massoud Bakhshi, Oliver Laxe, Lucrecia Martel, and Hlynur Pálmason, while celebrating daring auteurs like Kamal Aljafari, Lana Daher, Damien Hauser, Dima El-Hor, Gianluca Matarrese, Namir Abdel Messeeh, Lemohang Mosese, and Tamara Stepanyan. The program also includes restored versions of three classics of Arab cinema, including *The Mirage* by Ahmed Bouanani (1980), which has been restored especially for this occasion.

The Moroccan Panorama delivers seven fiction and documentary films by Moroccan filmmakers, of which two are world and international premieres: *Five Eyes* by Karim Debbagh and *Porte Bagage* by Abdelkarim El-Fassi. Moroccan cinema is further highlighted this year with a total of 15 films presented across the various sections of the festival.

The Young Audiences and Families section offers a program aimed at children and youth aged 4 to 18, as well as families, with 13 screenings that celebrate curiosity and an awakening to the art of cinema.

Rounding up this year's wealth of 82 films, a selection of films by and featuring Jodie Foster, Guillermo del Toro, Raouya, and Hussein Fahmi, personalities to whom the festival offers **Tributes** this year, are presented at the Palais des Congrès, the Cinéma le Colisée, and the Musée Yves Saint-Laurent.

OFFICIAL COMPETITION

AISHA CAN'T FLY AWAY

by Morad Mostafa

Egypt, France, Germany, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Sudan
with Buliana Simon, Ziad Zaza, Mamdouh Saleh, Emad
Ghoniem, Maya Mohamed, Mohamed Abd Elhady

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AMOEBA

by Siyou Tan

Singapore, Netherlands, France, Spain, South Korea
with Ranice Tay, Nicole Lee, Lim Shi-An, Genevieve Tan,
Jack Kao, Ng Mun Poh

BEFORE THE BRIGHT DAY (NAN FANG SHI GUANG)

by Shih-Han Tsao

Taiwan
with Hsuan-Li Chen, Kang-Ren Wu, Shu-Mei Sun, R.D.
Huang, Yu-Chieh Cheng

BEHIND THE PALM TREES (DERRIÈRE LES PALMIERS)

by Meryem Benm'Barek

France, Morocco, Belgium, United Kingdom
with Sara Giraudeau, Driss Ramdi, Nadia Kounda, Carole
Bouquet, Olivier Rabourdin, Soumaya Akaaboune

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[World Premiere](#)

BROKEN VOICES (SBORMISTR)

by Ondřej Provazník

Czech Republic, Slovakia
with Kateřina Falbrovová, Juraj Loj, Maya Kintera, Zuzana
Šulajová, Marek Císovský, Ivana Wojtylová

FIRST LIGHT

by James J. Robinson

Philippines, Australia
with Ruby Ruiz, Maricel Soriano

[International Premiere](#)

FORASTERA

by Lucía Aleñar Iglesias

Spain, Sweden, Italy
with Zoe Stein, Lluís Homar, Núria Prims, Nonni Ardal,
Martina García

ISH

by Imran Perretta

United Kingdom
with Farhan Hasnat, Yahya Kitana, Avin Shah, Sudha
Bhuchar, Joy Crookes, Arman Mohammed

LAUNDRY (UHLANJULULO)

by Zamo Mkhwanazi

Switzerland, South Africa
with Ntobeko Sishi, Tracy September, Zekhethelo Zondi,
Siyabonga Shibe, Bukamina Cebekhulu

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MEMORY

by Vladlena Sandu

France, Netherlands
with Amina Taisumova, Selima Agamirzaeva, Vladlena
Sandu

MY FATHER AND QADDAFI

by Jihan K

United States, Libya – Documentary

MY FATHER'S SHADOW

by Akinola Davies Jr.

United Kingdom, Nigeria
with Şopé Dirisù, Chibuike Marvellous Egbo, Godwin Egbo

PROMISED SKY (PROMIS LE CIEL)

by Erige Sehiri

France, Tunisia, Qatar
with Aïssa Maïga, Laetitia Ky, Debora Lobe Nanay,
Mohamed Grayaa, Foued Zaazaa, Estelle Kenza Dogbon,
Touré Blamassi

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STRAIGHT CIRCLE

by Oscar Hudson

United Kingdom
with Luke Tittensor, Elliot Tittensor, Neil Maskell



GALA

Opening film

DEAD MAN'S WIRE

by Gus Van Sant

United States

with Bill Skarsgård, Dacre Montgomery, Al Pacino, Colman Domingo, Myha'la, Cary Elwes, Kelly Lynch

CALLE MÁLAGA (RUE MÁLAGA)

by Maryam Touzani

Morocco, France, Spain, Germany, Belgium

with Carmen Maura, Ahmed Boulane, Marta Etura

FRANKENSTEIN

by Guillermo del Toro

United States

with Oscar Isaac, Jacob Elordi, Christoph Waltz, Mia Goth, Felix Kammerer

HAMNET

by Chloé Zhao

United Kingdom

with Jessie Buckley, Paul Mescal, Joe Alwyn, Emily Watson, Zac Wishart, James Lintern

HOMEBOUND

by Neeraj Ghaywan

India

with Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa, Janhvi Kapoor

A PRIVATE LIFE (VIE PRIVÉE)

by Rebecca Zlotowski

France

with Jodie Foster, Daniel Auteuil, Virginie Efira, Mathieu Amalric, Vincent Lacoste

EL SETT

by Marwan Hamed

Egypt

with Mona Zaki, Sayed Ragab, Ahmed Khaled Saleh, Mohamed Farag, Karim AbdelAziz, Ahmed Helmy

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World Premiere

SOPHIA

by Dhafer L'Abidine

Tunisia, United Kingdom

with Jessica Brown Findlay, Dhafer L'Abidine, Jonathan Hyde, Kais Setti, Hiba Abouk, Maya Celine Gharbi

World Premiere

Closing film

PALESTINE 36

by Annemarie Jacir

Palestine, United Kingdom, France, Denmark, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Jordan

with Hiam Abbass, Kamel Al Basha, Yasmine Al Massri, Jalal Altawil, Robert Aramayo, Saleh Bakri, Dhafer L'Abidine, Jeremy Irons

HORIZONS

ALL THAT IS LEFT OF YOU (ALLY BAQI MINK)

by Cherien Dabis
Germany, Cyprus
with Saleh Bakri, Cherien Dabis, Adam Bakri, Maria Zreik, Mohammad Bakri, Mohammad Abd Elrahman
[Supported by the Atlas Workshops](#)

AT WORK (À PIED D'OEUVRE)

by Valérie Donzelli
France
with Bastien Bouillon, André Marcon, Virginie Ledoyen

DIVINE COMEDY (KOMEDIE ELAHI)

by Ali Asgari
Iran, Turkey, Italy, France, Germany
with Bahram Ark, Sadaf Asgari, Bahman Ark, Faezeh Rad, Mohammad Soori, Milad Ashkali

FATHER MOTHER SISTER BROTHER

by Jim Jarmusch
United States, Ireland, France
with Tom Waits, Adam Driver, Mayim Bialik, Charlotte Rampling, Cate Blanchett, Vicky Krieps

FATNA, A WOMAN NAMED RACHID (FATNA, UNE FEMME NOMMÉE RACHID)

by Hélène Harder
Morocco, France, Belgium – Documentary
with Fatna El Bouih
[World Premiere](#)

THE FENCE (LE CRI DES GARDES)

by Claire Denis
France
with Isaach De Bankolé, Matt Dillon, Mia Mackenna-Bruce, Tom Blyth, Brian Begnan, Moussa Thiam

IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT (UN SIMPLE ACCIDENT)

by Jafar Panahi
Iran, France, Luxembourg
with Vahid Mobasseri, Mariam Afshari, Ebrahim Azizi, Hadis Pakbaten, Majid Panahi

THE MASTERMIND

by Kelly Reichardt
United States
with Josh O'Connor, Alana Haim, John Magaro, Gaby Hoffmann, Eli Gelb

MOTHER

by Teona Strugar Mitevska
Belgium, North Macedonia, Sweden, Denmark, Bosnia & Herzegovina
with Noomi Rapace, Sylvia Hoeks, Nikola Ristanovski

NOUVELLE VAGUE

by Richard Linklater
France
with Guillaume Marbeck, Zoey Deutch, Aubrey Dullin, Adrien Rouyard, Antoine Besson, Jodie Ruth-Forest

NO OTHER CHOICE (EOJJEOL SUGA EOPDA)

by Park Chan-wook
South Korea
with Lee Byung-hun, Son Ye-jin, Park Hee-soon, Lee Sung-min, Yeom Hye-ran, Cha Seung-won

ONCE UPON A TIME IN GAZA

by Arab Nasser & Tarzan Nasser
France, Palestine, Germany, Portugal, Qatar, Jordan
with Nader Abd Alhay, Ramzi Maqdisi, Majd Eid, Issaq Elias
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ORWELL: 2+2=5

by Raoul Peck
United States, France – Documentary
with Damian Lewis

A PLACE FOR HER (LA MAISON DES FEMMES)

by Mélisa Godet
France
with Karin Viard, Laetitia Dosch, Oulaya Amamra, Eye Haïdara, Pierre Deladonchamps, Juliette Armanet

A POET (UN POETA)

by Simón Mesa Soto
Colombia, Germany, Sweden
with Ubeimar Rios, Rebeca Andrade, Guillermo Cardona, Allison Correa, Margarita Soto, Humberto Restrepo

THE PRESIDENT'S CAKE (MAMLAKET AL-QASAB)

by Hasan Hadi
Iraq, United States, Qatar
with Baneen Ahmed Nayyef, Sajad Mohamad Qasem, Waheed Thabet Khreibat, Rahim AlHaj

A SAD AND BEAUTIFUL WORLD (NOUJOU AL AMAL WAL ALAM)

by Cyril Aris
Lebanon, United-States, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Qatar
with Mounia Akl, Hasan Akil, Julia Kassar, Camille Salameh, Tino Karam, Nadya Chalhoub
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SILENT FRIEND (STILLE FREUNDIN)

by Ildikó Enyedi
Germany, Hungary, France
with Tony Leung, Chiu-Wai, Luna Wedler, Enzo Brumm, Sylvester Groth, Martin Wuttke, Johannes Hegemann, Léa Seydoux

THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB (LA VOIX DE HIND RAJAB)

by Kaouther Ben Hania
Tunisia, France
with Saja Kilani, Motaz Malhees, Clara Khoury, Amer Hlehel

11th CONTINENT

ALL MY SISTERS (TOUTES MES SOEURS / 3 KHÂHAR)

by Massoud Bakhshi
Austria, France, Germany – Documentary
with Zahra, Mahya, Maleka

ANCESTRAL VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

by Lemohang Mosese
France, Lesotho, Germany, Qatar, Saudi Arabia –
Documentary

AND THE FISH FLY ABOVE OUR HEADS (WAL ASMAK TATIR FAWKA ROU'OUSSINA)

by Dima El-Horr
France, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia – Documentary
with Reda Sheib, Adel Slim, Qassem Abani

DO YOU LOVE ME

by Lana Daher
France, Lebanon, Germany, Qatar – Documentary

I WANT HER DEAD (IL QUIETO VIVERE)

by Gianluca Matarrese
Italy, Switzerland – Documentary

LANDMARKS (NUESTRA TIERRA)

by Lucrecia Martel
Argentina, United States, Mexico, France, Netherlands,
Denmark – Documentary

LIFE AFTER SIHAM (LA VIE APRÈS SIHAM)

by Namir Abdel Messeeh
Egypt, France – Documentary
with Siham Abdel Messeeh, Waguih Abdel Messeeh,
Nermine Abdel Messeeh, Namir Abdel Messeeh

Supported by the Atlas Workshops

THE LOVE THAT REMAINS (ÁSTIN SEM EFTIR ER)

by Hlynur Pálmason
Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, France
with Saga Garðarsdóttir, Sverrir Guðnason, Ída Mekkín
Hlynisdóttir, Grímur Hlynsson, Þorgils Hlynsson

MEMORY OF PRINCESS MUMBI

by Damien Hauser
Switzerland, Kenya, Saudi Arabia – Mockumentary
with Shandra Apondi, Ibrahim Joseph, Samson Waithaka

THE MIRAGE (MIRAGE / AS-SARAB)

by Ahmed Bouanani
Morocco – 1980 – Restored version
with Mohamed Habachi, Mohamed Saïd Afifi, Fatima
Regragui, Mohamed Razine, Mostafa Mounir
World Premiere

THE MUMMY–THE NIGHT OF COUNTING THE YEARS (AL-MOMIA)

by Shadi Abdel Salam
Egypt – 1969 – Restored version
with Ahmed Marei, Ahmed Hegazi, Zouzou Hamdi El
Hakim, Nadia Lutfi

MY ARMENIAN PHANTOMS (MES FANTÔMES ARMÉNIENS)

by Tamara Stepanyan
France, Armenia, Qatar – Documentary

SAÏD EFFENDI (SAEED EFFENDI)

by Kameran Hosni
Iraq – 1956 – Restored version
with Youssef Al-Ani, Zainab Hosni, Abdel-Wahid Taha,
Jaafar Al-Saadi

SIRÂT

by Oliver Laxe
Spain, France
with Sergi López, Bruno Núñez Arjona, Richard Bellamy,
Stefania Gadda, Joshua Liam Henderson, Tonin Janvier,
Jade Oukid

WITH HASAN IN GAZA

by Kamal Aljafari
Palestine, Germany, France, Qatar – Documentary



MOROCCAN PANORAMA

THE ANTS (LES FOURMIS)

by Yassine Fennane

Morocco

with Marame Ndiye, Nadia Kounda, Hicham Slaoui, Majdouline Drissi, Mansour Badri

AUTISTO

by Jérôme Cohen-Olivar

Morocco

with Loubna Abidar, Sam Kanater, Youssef Bougerra, Sandia Aboutajedyne

BAD WEATHER (MAUVAIS TEMPS)

by Madane El Ghazouani

Morocco

with Abdenbi Benniwi, Hajar Graigaa, Mohammed Maroua, Abdelghani Sennak, Noufissa Doukkali

FIVE EYES (CINQ REGARDS)

by Karim Debbagh

Morocco, France – Documentary

with Paul Bowles, Mohamed Choukri, Mohammed Tamsamany, Mohammed Mrabet, Abdelouahid Boulaich, Karim Debbagh

World Premiere

MIRA

by Nour-Eddine Lakhmari

Morocco, Saudi Arabia

with Safae Khatami, Zaynab Lalj, Fatima Atif, Omar Lotfi, Moussa Sylla, Ismail Fallahi

PORTE BAGAGE

by Abdelkarim El-Fassi

Netherlands

with Ahlaam Teghadouini, Mahjoub Benmoussa, Mohammed Chaara

International Premiere

THOSE WHO WATCH OVER (CEUX QUI VEILLENT)

by Karima Saïdi

Belgium – Documentary



CINEMA FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES & FAMILIES

ARCO

by Ugo Bienvenu

France, United States

with Oscar Tresanini, Margot Ringard Oldra, Alma Jodorowsky, Swann Arlaud, Vincent Macaigne, Louis Garrel

THE BARONNESSES (LES BARONNES)

by Nabil Ben Yadir & Mokhtaria Badaoui

Belgium, Luxembourg, France

with Saadia Bentaieb, Rachida Bouganhem, Halima Amrani, Rachida Riahi, Sanya Sridi

International Premiere

GUILLERMO DEL TORO'S PINOCCHIO

by Guillermo del Toro, Mark Gustafson

United States

with (French voices) Gaël Raës, Pierre Santini, Jacques Verzier, Michel Lerousseau, Thierry Hancisse, Anne Alvaro

THE SONGBIRDS' SECRET (LE SECRET DES MÉSANGES)

by Antoine Lanciaux

France, Belgium

with Lucie Leontadis, Anton Souverbie-Giorgis, Marina Le Guennec, Yannick Jaulin

TUMMY TOM AND THE LOST TEDDY BEAR (TOM LE CHAT : À LA RECHERCHE DU DOUDOU PERDU / DIKKIE DIK EN DE VERDWENEN KNUFFEL)

by Joost van den Bosch & Erik Verkerk

Netherlands, Belgium

with (French voices) Martin Spinhayer