

French Film Festival With English Subtitles Festival Season – Jan to May 2026

FOCUS ON FRENCH CINEMA 2026: FESTIVAL FACTS

21st Edition of the Annual Hybrid Francophone Film Festival

The 21st edition of **Focus on French Cinema (FFC 2026)**, presented by the Alliance Française of Greenwich, delivered a compelling combination of in-person and virtual programming that attracted more than **4,000 viewers** across Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey.

Festival Highlights

FFC 2026 presented **12 newly released French and Francophone films**, including:

- 3 U.S. Premieres
- 4 East Coast Premieres
- 5 Connecticut Premieres

Audience Award

Cédric Klapisch's *Colours of Time (La Venue de l'avenir)* received the **FFC 2026 Audience Award**. The sweeping comedy-drama follows four cousins whose discovery of a family secret creates an unexpected connection between the present day and Paris in 1895, at the height of the Impressionist movement. *Dalloway (La Résidence)*, Yann Gozlan's psychological thriller exploring artificial intelligence, artistic creation, and surveillance, was a close second.

Special Events and Guests

The festival featured engaging post-screening conversations and Q&As with an impressive group of filmmakers, actors, and producers, including:

Luc Hardy, producer and director of *Cobalt Miners in the DRC*; **Jérémy Renier**, Director, screenwriter and acclaimed actor and star of *D'un monde à l'autre*; **Nathan Ambrosioni**, director of *Out of Love*; **Fabien Gorgeart**, director of *What Is Love?*; **Mathieu Denis**, director of *Cost of Heaven*; and **Arnaud Desplechin**, director of *Two Pianos (Deux Pianos)*.

These interactive sessions enriched the audience experience and offered greater insight into the films, their themes, and the creative process behind them.

Hybrid Format, Broader Reach

The festival's hybrid structure—combining in-person and online screenings—remains central to the identity of Focus on French Cinema. Developed in response to pandemic-era theater closures, the format continues to provide greater accessibility and expand the festival's regional reach.

In-person screenings were held at the Bruce Museum, further integrating the festival into the cultural life of Greenwich. Virtual screenings enabled audiences throughout the tri-state area to participate from home.

"The online portion of the festival, which grew out of the theater closures of the COVID era, continued to delight our supporters while expanding our reach beyond Fairfield County," said Joe Meyers, Director of Programming for Focus on French Cinema. "Since theatrical movie attendance has still not returned to pre-COVID levels, virtual screenings remain vital—and audience feedback has been unanimously positive."

Educational Impact

FFC 2026 continued its commitment to cultural and educational outreach through a special in-person screening of Yann Gozlan's *Dalloway* and an online presentation of Luc Hardy's documentary *Cobalt Miners in the DRC*.

Together, these educational screenings reached more than **950 French and American middle and high school students** throughout the tri-state area, introducing young audiences to contemporary Francophone cinema and important international issues.

Closing Film

The festival concluded, in partnership with the Bruce Museum, with the U.S. Premiere of *Colours of Time (La Venue de l'avenir)*, directed by Cédric Klapisch. With its intergenerational story, historical richness, and vivid evocation of Paris and the world of Impressionism, the film resonated deeply with audiences and provided a memorable conclusion to the 2026 festival.

FFC 2026 was the result of a full year of our selection committee watching and evaluating dozens of submissions," Meyers said. "We are already looking forward to discovering the next wave of Francophone cinema for FFC 2027."

Looking Ahead: A Year-Round Festival

COVID and the demolition of the Bow Tie Cinemas in Greenwich turned Focus on French Cinema into a nomadic film festival for five years," Meyers said. "It is difficult to overstate my gratitude to the Bruce Museum for giving us a Greenwich home for our in-person screenings this year.

"The six films presented there were tremendous successes with our audiences, and I am delighted that we plan to return to the Bruce this fall for monthly screenings that will make Focus on French Cinema a year-round event. This is an exciting development in our 21-year history. See you in the fall!