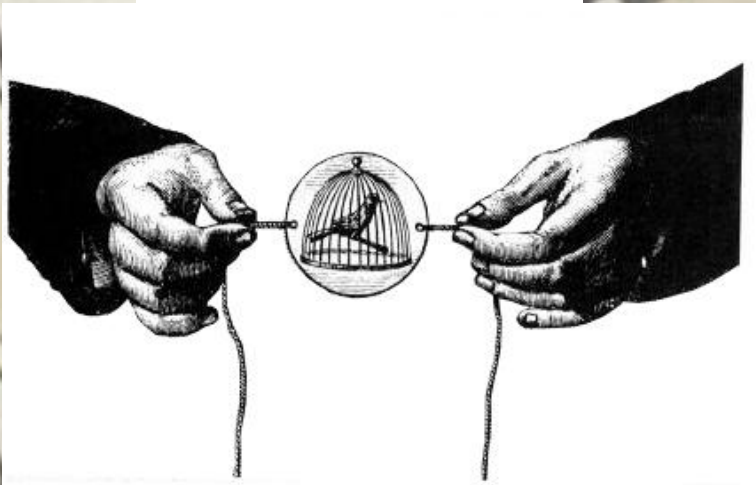


A photograph of a theater interior. The foreground is filled with rows of dark, empty seats. In the background, a large white screen is illuminated, displaying the title 'French Cinema' in a large, black, sans-serif font. Below the title, the authors 'By: Sara Cowell and Lauren Wrenn' are listed in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The theater has a dark ceiling with recessed lights and red curtains on the sides. The overall atmosphere is dimly lit, typical of a cinema.

French Cinema

By: Sara Cowell and Lauren Wrenn

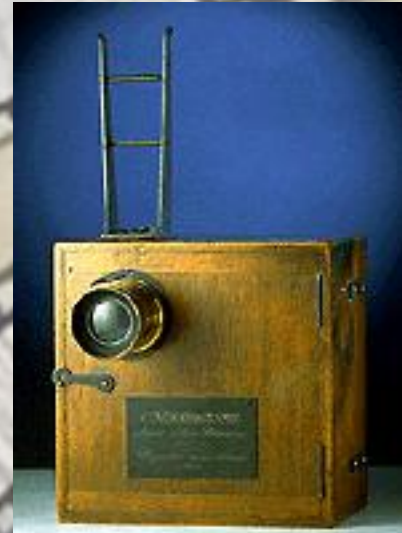
Before the beginning...



- *The inspiration for cinematic film was in the early 1820's with Dr. Mark Roget.*
- *Dr. Roget noticed that as the wheel turned behind the shutters of a fence, the fence played tricks on his brain which resulted in a distorted image of the wheel's spokes.*
- *The small toy known as a thaumatrope was created to simulate this optical illusion.*
- *The toy is made of a cardboard disc with an image of a bird on one side and an empty cage on the other. As you spin the disc, the images superimpose, and appear as one.*

The Lumiere Brothers

- *Auguste and Louis Lumiere were born in the Haute-Saone District in 1862 and 1864 respectively.*
- *Although the first still photograph was taken in 1827, it wasn't until the 28th of December in 1895 that the brother's held the world's first public film screening using a device they called the cinematograph.*
- *The showing included ten short films which lasted only about 16 seconds each.*
- *In total, the brother's were credited with more than 1,425 short films and even filmed aerial shots, which were especially unique since this was years before the invention of the airplane.*



Gaumont Studios & Alice Guy

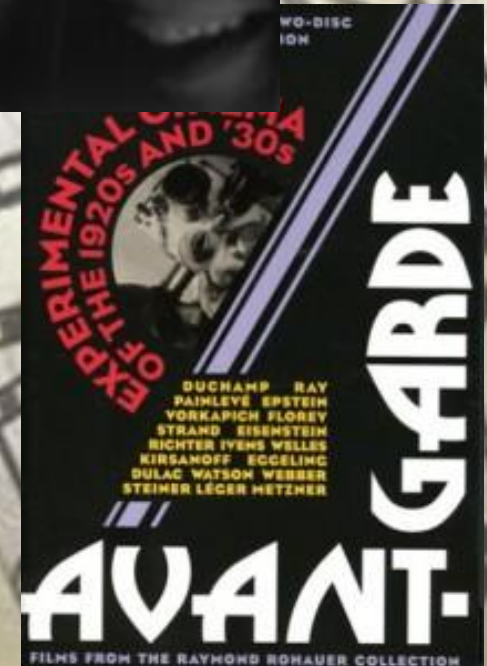


- Alice Guy was a secretary for the owner of a rising photographic company in France, called Leon Gaumont.
- In 1896, with the production of “La Fee aux Choux”, Guy became the first woman in history to stand behind the camera and direct.
- In 1907, she moved to America where she continued to direct until 1920.
- The company for which she worked, Gaumont, remains one of France’s largest production companies to this day.



Avant Garde Cinema

- *Beginning around 1928, the Avant Garde period of cinematic productions began.*
- *Marked by the application of new techniques in the content and compilation of the film, often referred to as experimental cinema.*
- *The films created during this period were usually opposed to mainstream filmmaking.*
- *The characteristics of Avant-Garde films include the absence of a linear narrative, use of abstract techniques (out of focus, painting, or even scratching), and possibly the absence of a soundtrack.*
- *The purpose is to place the viewer in a more active and thoughtful relationship with the film.*



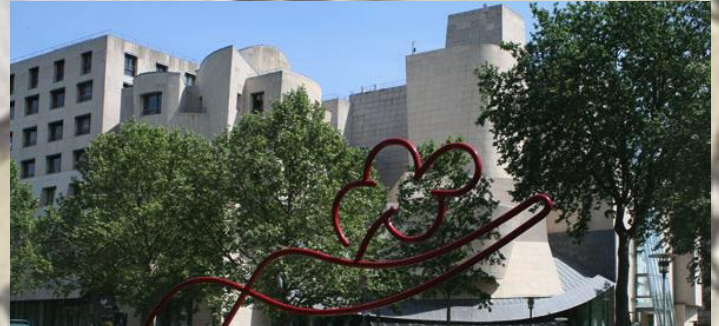
“Un Chien Andalou”



- *This film was released in 1929, under the direction of filmmaker Luis Bunuel.*
- *Salvador Dali and Bunuel collaborated on this piece in an attempt to bring the revolutionary Surrealist art movement into the cinematic world, which would be known as part the avant-garde movement of the 1920's.*
- *Only 16 minutes in length, the film has no conventional plot, but is produced in a dreamlike manner which shifts from scene to scene.*

La Cinémathèque Française

- *In 1936, three cinematic colleagues joined together to save French films which were at risk of being destroyed because of the Nazi invasion.*
- *This began as a type of film club to show old films.*
- *The club soon became the hangout for individuals forming the New Wave in French cinema.*
- *Today, the Cinémathèque is the largest film archive in the world, and is legendary for its resources of cinéphiles.*



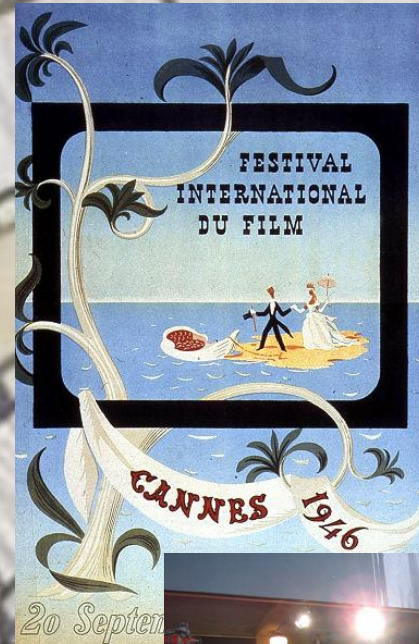
Les Enfants du Paradis



- Produced during the Golden Age of Sound, this three-hour love story was dubbed the French equivalent to “Gone with the Wind.”
- Made secretly during the Nazi occupation of France, the completed reels of the film were hidden by the director and writer until after France was liberated, and the film could be finished in its entirety.
- This 1945 film is about a courtesan and the four men who all love her in their own, unique way.
- Today, the film is regarded as one of the best French films ever.

Cannes Film Festival

- *Around the end of World War II, a simple festival was held in Cannes' old casino.*
- *There were originally only 44 films in competition, with 11 winners of the top prize (the Grand Prix).*
- *What was a simple festival started in 1946 and held on the French Riviera, has now turned into one of the largest and most important film festivals in the world today.*



New Wave Cinema



- *Between the 1950's and 1960's French filmmakers were highly influenced by the Italian Neorealism and classical Hollywood cinema.*
- *These movies were characterized by unparalleled feats of expressionism and inclusion of existential themes.*
- *Many of these films were produced on limited budgets using director's friends and family as cast and crew.*
- *These complex settings and arrangements made the directors of this time, such as Jean-Luc Godard and Jean-Pierre Melville, some of the most well known in cinematic history.*

Cahiers du Cinema

- *In 1951, a film critic and theorist by the name of Andre Bazin founded a new film magazine known as Cahiers du Cinema (Cinema Notebooks).*
- *While Cahiers' writers expressed their opinions, they also attempted to find criteria by which they could evaluate the films acting, cinematography, film structure and editing.*
- *Between 1950 and 1960, Cahiers' was considered the most distinguished and influential film magazine in the world.*
- *The magazine helped launch the careers of many future filmmakers.*



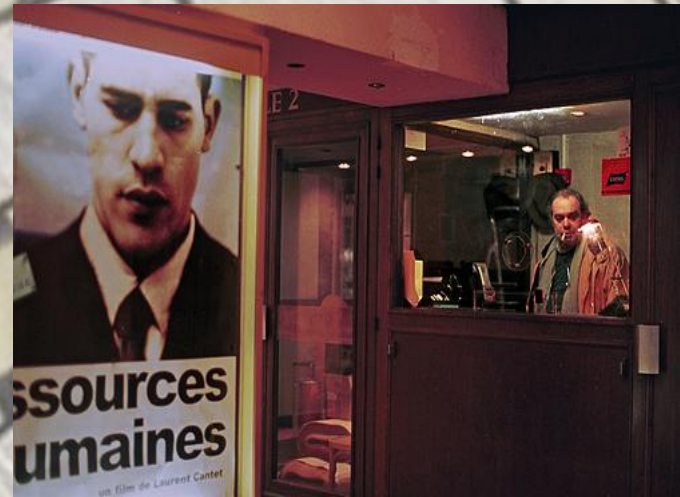
After the New Wave



- *The films created after the New Wave were focused more on the looks and aesthetic appeal of the film, as opposed to the novelty.*
- *As a part of the Psychological cinematic movement, films produced around 1970 were meant to provoke thought in the audience.*
- *Many films were meant to appeal to the mind-set of the citizens of France during this time period.*

Current Trends in French Cinema

- *By the early 1990's the film industry in France was producing some 140 films each year, but was facing great competition from the U.S.*
- *Many French film goers prefer to see the films in their original version (with French subtitles, if imported); these films bear the inscription VO (version originale).*
- *Some citizens avoid films marked VF (version française) as these are dubbed in French and the mouths fail to match the words, which makes the film confusing.*
- *In Paris, the cinema is still quite large as cinema-goers may enjoy over 300 different film showings every week.*



Random Facts

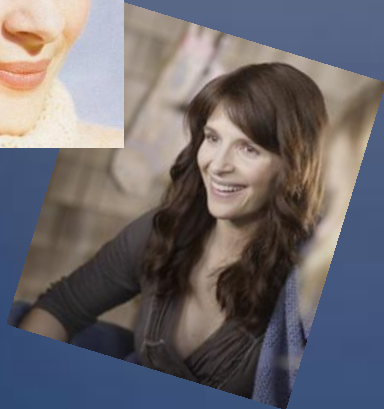


- During the 2009 Cannes Film Festival, the first animated film to open in France, "Up" was debuted.
- Don't forget to tip the usherette (10%); it's the only pay she receives.
- Ironically, smoking is now universally forbidden in French movie theaters.
- French movies are unique from the films of other nations because they commonly have a slower plotline, strong character development, and a deviance from happy or conclusive endings.

Spotlight On....

Juliette Binoche

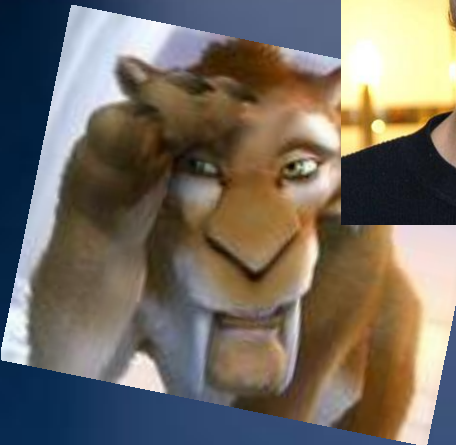
- ✦ Born in Paris, France to an actress and a sculptor.
- ✦ Was only 23 years old when she was first recognized by international film critics.
- ✦ Nominated for a Tony Award in 2001 for her Broadway appearance in "Betrayal."
- ✦ She is known for being the highest paid French actress in history.
- ✦ Most recognize her as 'Kathryn' from the film "Wuthering Heights," based on the novel by Emily Bronte.



Spotlight On....

Vincent Cassel

- ✦ Born in Paris, France
- ✦ Father was a French actor and his mother was a journalist.
- ✦ Enrolled in circus school before pursuing his acting career.
- ✦ Known for his appearance in Ocean's Eleven and as the voice of Diego in the Ice Age trilogy
- ✦ Has won over 4 major awards, including a Cesar in France, for his work.



Spotlight On....

Gerard Depardieu

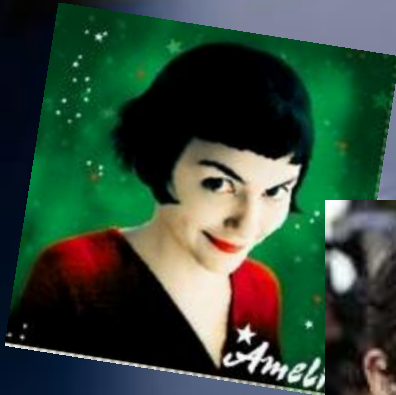
- ✦ Born in Chateauroux, Indre, France
- ✦ Began his acting career in a small traveling theatre called "Café de la Gare."
- ✦ Nominated for 15 Cesar awards in France.
- ✦ Best known in America for his roles in Disney's 102 Dalmatians as Monsieur Le Pelt and as Chef Didier in The Last Holiday with Queen Latifa.



Spotlight On....

Audrey Tautou

- ✦ Born in Beaumont, Puy-de-Dome, France.
- ✦ Began her acting lessons at a very young age at the “Cours Florent,” in Paris.
- ✦ When she won a Best New Actress Cesar, she told the informer she must have dialed the wrong number.
- ✦ Most famous for her lead role in the films “Amelie,” and “The DaVinci Code.”



Spotlight On....

Michael Vartan

- ✦ Born in Boulogne-Billancourt, Hauts-de-Seine, Ile-de-France, France.
- ✦ Was shipped back and forth between France and America, as his parents each lived in another country.
- ✦ Decided on an acting career after declining to join the French military.
- ✦ Best known for his roles in Alias opposite Jennifer Garner and as the boyfriend of Jennifer Lopez in "Monster in Law."

