

# Cinéfest SUDBURY

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL  
FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DU FILM

THE PEOPLE'S FESTIVAL  
C'EST VOTRE FESTIVAL  
18-26 SEP 2021

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## Cinéfest Sudbury announces 2021 Special Presentations Programme

**SUDBURY** – Cinéfest Sudbury is thrilled to announce selections for the Special Presentations programme for the 33rd edition of the festival. The film program offers a diverse mix of high caliber comedies and dramas, and features some of the finest filmmakers from Canada and around the world.

### **Best Sellers** [Lina Roessler, Canada, 2021]

Harris Shaw (Michael Caine) is still typing on his rickety typewriter, even though he likes to bellow into his rotary dial phone that he is long dead. He coughs and swears, drinks and smokes, quite unlike Lucy Stanbridge (Aubrey Plaza), heir to the publishing house which made it big half a century ago with the author's successful novel, *Atomic Autumn*. While the old curmudgeon has turned his back on life, the energetic young woman jogs through New York's Upper East Side, receiving live updates from her ambitious assistant about falling sales figures and crushing influencer blogs. A book tour, of all things, with the old boy and his new work is meant to save the publishing house but the old codger is a real pain in the arse. Spewed out in a British accent, his "bullshite!" quickly becomes the hashtag of a generation of US hipsters – but it doesn't sell any books.

### **Charlotte** [Tahir Rana & Éric Warin France/Canada, 2021]

*Charlotte* is an animated drama that tells the true story of Charlotte Salomon (Knightley), a young German-Jewish painter who comes of age in Berlin on the eve of the Second World War. Fiercely imaginative and deeply gifted, she dreams of becoming an artist. Her first love applauds her talent, which emboldens her resolve. But the world around her is changing quickly and dangerously, limiting her options and derailing her dream. When anti-Semitic policies inspire violent mobs, she leaves Berlin for the safety of the South of France. There she begins to paint again, and finds new love. But her work is interrupted, this time by a family tragedy that reveals an even darker secret. Believing that only an extraordinary act will save her, she embarks on the monumental adventure of painting her life story.

### **Dear Future Children** [Franz Bohm, Germany/UK/Austria, 2021]

With global protests on the rise, *Dear Future Children* is a film about the new generation at the heart of this seismic political shift. The project follows activists on the protests in Hong Kong against the Beijing-influenced administration under Carrie Lam, the protests in Chile against social inequality in the country and in Uganda at the local Fridays for Future protests and actions for climate justice. The film follows Pepper, Hilda and Rayen, three young female activists facing



almost impossible odds and grappling with the staggering personal impacts of their activism on their personal lives. A film about the next generation, made by the next generation.

### ***Délicieux (Delicious)*** [Éric Besnard, France/Belgium, 2021]

In 1789 France, just prior to the Revolution, gastronomy is strictly the domain of the aristocrats; indeed, the prestige of a noble house is entirely dependent on the quality and reputation of its table. So, when the talented but prideful cook Manceron (Grégory Gadebois) serves an unapproved dish of his own creation at a dinner hosted by the self entitled Duke of Chamfort (Benjamin Lavernhe), the repercussions are brutal, and he is promptly dismissed. The wounded Manceron swears off his passion and retreats with his son to a regional inn visited only infrequently by travellers, and where vegetable soup is the common meal. But when a mysterious woman arrives and offers to pay to become his apprentice, the stage is set for a wildly enjoyable tale of reignited passion, mentorship and revenge... and of the creation of France's very first restaurant. *Délicieux (Delicious)* is a joyous depiction of the preparation and love of fine cuisine.

### ***Jockey*** [Clint Bentley, USA, 2021]

Seasoned horse jockey Jackson (Clifton Collins Jr.) has weathered decades of races on the riding circuit, but he now finds himself facing what could be his last season as his health deteriorates. With the help of Ruth (Molly Parker) and a promising new horse, Jackson starts to prepare for the upcoming championship. His plans take a left turn when a budding young jockey (Moises Arias) shows up and claims to be his son. Caught between yearning for a connection and uncertainty about his own future, Jackson confronts difficult questions regarding his legacy.

### ***Julia*** [Julie Cohen & Betsy West, USA, 2021]

*Julia* tells the story of the legendary cookbook author and television superstar who changed the way people think about food, television, and even about women. Using never-before-seen archival footage, personal photos, first-person narratives, and cutting-edge, mouth-watering food cinematography, the film traces Julia Child's surprising path, from her struggles to create and publish the revolutionary *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* (1961), to her empowering story of a woman who found fame in her 50s, and her calling as an unlikely television sensation.

### ***La parfaite victime (The Perfect Victim)*** [Émilie Perreault & Monic Néron, Canada, 2021]

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After investigating the Gilbert Rozon affair together in October 2017, journalists and directors Émilie Perreault and Monic Néron have analyzed and dissected the journey of several victims who have chosen the legal route in the wake of the #MeToo movement. The result is a powerful questioning of the methods of a system resistant to change. Do victims have a real chance in the criminal complaint process? They certainly have one thing in common: they feel they must be a “perfect” victim to be heard.

***Les Olympiades (Paris, 13<sup>th</sup> District)*** [Jacques Audiard, France, 2021]  
Émilie (Lucie Zhang) meets Camille (Makita Samba) who is attracted to Nora (Noémie Merlant), who crosses paths with Amber (Jehnnny Beth). Three girls and a boy– they're friends, sometimes lovers and often both. *Les Olympiades (Paris, 13th District)* is based on the 2015 hit graphic novel *Killing and Dying* by Adrian Tomine and co-written by Léa Mysius and Céline Sciamma. Filmed in a melancholy black and white, *Les Olympiades (Paris, 13th District)* reflects the millennial experience through a unique sense of urban malaise. Palme D'or winning Jacques Audiard's (*A Prophet*, *Dheepan*) previous film, *The Sisters Brothers*, screened at Cinéfest Sudbury in 2019.

***Maria Chapdelaine*** [Sébastien Pilote, Canada, 2021]  
Maria Chapdelaine (Sara Montpetit), a young woman of 16, lives with her family on land they are clearing near the Péribonka River in rural Québec in early 1900. True pioneers, the Chapdelaine family struggles to push back the forest. In a home where even physical exhaustion cannot diminish the warmth of family life, Maria finds herself faced with a deep dilemma. François Paradis (Émile Schneider), a free-spirited fur trapper and logger, promises Maria to return in spring to marry her, while Lorenzo Surprenant (Robert Naylor) arrives at the farm offering a comfortable existence in an American city, and Europe Gagnon (Antoine Olivier Pilon), a quiet and determined young farmer, has staked a claim on the land next to the Chapdelaine's. Thrust into the adult world, and juggling with thoughts of land, family and love, Maria will suddenly be forced to choose her future as a woman.

***The Middle Man*** [Bent Hamer, Germany/Denmark, 2021]  
*The Middle Man* is a darkly humorous social satire revolving around the characters in a small North American town. The social fabric of Karmack is disintegrating as unusual accidents befall its residents, leading to the newly created position of a “middle man” whose sole job is to inform the next-of-kin after another unfortunate incident. Frank Farrelli (Valheim Hagen) takes the job on with gusto, becoming the town's beacon of bad news. With a new job and a budding romance, Frank uses his new

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position to call in a favour that ends in an absurd but potentially tragic murder.

### ***Mothering Sunday*** [Eva Husson, UK, 2021]

On a warm spring day in 1924, house maid and foundling Jane Fairchild (Odessa Young) finds herself alone on Mother's Day. Her employers, Mr. and Mrs. Niven (Colin Firth & Olivia Colman), are out, and she has the rare chance to spend quality time with her secret lover. Paul (Josh O'Connor) is the boy from the manor house nearby, Jane's long-term love despite the fact that he's engaged to be married to another woman, a childhood friend and daughter of his parents' friends. But events that neither can foresee will change the course of Jane's life forever

### ***Ninjababy*** [Yngvild Sve Flikke, Norway, 2021]

When Rakel (Kristine Kujath Thorp), way too late, finds out she's six months pregnant after a not-so-romantic one-night stand, her world changes. Her boyfriend, who's not the father, is kind of okay with her having a baby. But Rakel is absolutely not ready for being a mother. Since abortion is no longer an option, adoption is the only answer. That's when Ninjababy (Herman Tømmeraas), an animated character who insists on making Rakel's everyday life a living hell, turns up. He climbs out from her notebook, jumps into her teacup, and tells her what a bad person she is.

### ***Petite Maman*** [Céline Sciamma, France, 2021]

Eight-year-old Nelly (Joséphine Sanz) has just lost her beloved grandmother and is helping her parents clean out her mother's childhood home in the countryside. Reflecting upon her final farewell to her grandmother, Nelly expresses regret over how it was said. She explores her grandmother's house and the surrounding woods where her mother, Marion (Nina Meurisse), used to play and built the treehouse she has heard so much about. One day her mother abruptly leaves. That's when Nelly meets a girl her own age in the woods building a treehouse. Her name is Marion (Gabrielle Sanz). Céline Sciamma's previous film, *Portrait de la jeune fille en feu* (Portrait of a Lady on Fire) screened at Cinéfest Sudbury in 2019.

### ***Sam*** [Yan England, Canada, 2021]

Sam (Antoine Oliver Pilon), a 22-year-old swimmer, trains intensively to be the best of the best, with a dream of making it all the way to the Olympics. When a dramatic event with unsuspecting sprawling repercussions interrupts Sam's rigorous lifestyle and jeopardizes his sporting career, Sam is forced to imagine what a life without swimming would be like. Sam adjusts to his new reality by embarking on a journey of self discovery, seeking to regain control of his existence. Psychological sports thriller *SAM* is the latest film by Canadian director, screenwriter, actor and radio presenter Yan England, whose short film *Henry* was nominated for an Oscar at the 25<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards.





### ***Souterrain (Underground)*** [Sophie Dupuis, Canada, 2020]

Maxime (Joakim Robillard), a Val-d'Or native in his early twenties, works in an underground mine near his hometown. He's on a 14 days on, 14 days off schedule. He shares his life between his girlfriend— with whom he's patiently trying to father a child— and his childhood friend Julien (Théodore Pellerin), now disabled following a car accident caused by Maxime a year before. Since then, guilt eats him slowly as he intends to redeem himself, only to find Mario (James Hyndman), Julien's father, on his path, slowing the process down. The father, who works at the mine with him, still holds a grudge for his role in the accident. One night, there is an explosion underground. Maxime heads underground that night with the firm intention to bring all his colleagues back alive.

### ***Tout s'est bien passé (Everything Went Fine)*** [François Ozon, France, 2021]

When André (André Dussollier), 85, has a stroke, Emmanuelle (Sophie Marceau) hurries to her father's bedside. Sick and half-paralyzed in his hospital bed, he asks Emmanuelle to help him end his life. Struggling with the weight of his request, she works with her sister, Pascale (Géraldine Pailhas) to ensure that their father passes peacefully and on his own terms, even though they both agree that their father wasn't a very good parent. Previous films directed by François Ozon that have screened at Cinefest Sudbury include *Angel*, *Ricky*, *Jeune et jolie (Young & Beautiful)*, and *Grâce à Dieu (By the Grace of God)*.

### ***The Worst Person in the World*** [Joachim Trier, Norway/France/Sweden/Denmark/USA, 2021]

Julie (Renate Reinsve) is turning thirty and her life is an existential mess. Several of her talents have gone to waste and her older boyfriend, Aksel (Anders Danielsen Lie) – a successful graphic novelist – is pushing for them to settle down. One night, she gatecrashes a party and meets the young and charming Eivind (Herbert Nordrum). Before long, she has broken up with Aksel and thrown herself into yet another new relationship, hoping for a new perspective on her life. But she will come to realize that some life choices are already behind her. *The Worst Person in the World (Verdens Verste Menneske)* is a comic drama about love in our time and about having all the opportunities in life, but still feeling like the worst person in the world.

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For additional questions or media inquiries, please contact Michael Scherzinger at [mscherzinger@cinifest.com](mailto:mscherzinger@cinifest.com). You can also call us at 705.688.1234, or follow us on Facebook for updated information.