

10 TO WATCH

10 FRENCH RISING
TALENTS TO WATCH

They have made the headlines at the last Sundance and Berlin film festivals, they have received the Cannes or the Annecy label, they will soon be under the spotlights at the Toronto and San Sebastián film festivals... These ten talents to watch embody the best of recent French cinema with their creativity, their modernity and inventiveness.

The eclecticism of their career and the singularity of their works reflect the diversity and richness of French cinema. Let us bet today that the power and emotion of their films and their acting performances will cross numerous borders and contribute to the success of French cinema around the world.

In this very particular year, UniFrance would like to thank the following international journalists for participating in the selection of the 2020-2021 edition of the 10 to Watch: Lisa Nesselson (*Screen*), Fabien Lemercier (*Cineuropa*), Elsa Keslassy (*Variety*) and Jordan Mintzer (*The Hollywood Reporter*). UniFrance will be there throughout the year to accompany these artists and promote French cinema, including these 10 to Watch's inspiring films.

September 11, 2020

A black and white portrait of actress Noée Abita. She is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression, her hands resting on her cheeks. The background is dark, and there is a pink triangular graphic element on the left side of the image.

NOÉE ABITA

© MATIAS INDJIC / UNIFRANCE

First brought to fame in 2017 by Léa Mysius in *Ava*, presented at Critics' Week at Cannes, Noée Abita was nominated the following year for the César Award for Most Promising Actress. She went on to play Jean-Hugues Anglade's daughter in *Sink or Swim* by Gilles Lellouche, selected at Cannes, and co-starred in *Genesis* by Canadian director Philippe Lesage, presented in the International Competition at Locarno. In 2019, she played opposite Vincent Lacoste in *My Days of Glory* by Antoine de Bary and starred alongside Laetitia Casta in the TV series *Apnea*. In 2020, she gives a powerful performance in *Slalom*, debut feature by Charlène Favier, selected at Cannes.



ANTHONY BAJON

© PHILIPPE QUAISSÉ / UNIFRANCE


Anthony Bajon began his movie career in *Ogres* by Léa Fehner, playing opposite Adèle Haenel. He went on to appear in a number of productions before his breakout role in *The Prayer* by Cédric Kahn, becoming the seventh French actor to win the Silver Bear for Best Actor at the Berlinale and earning his first nomination for the César Award for Most Promising Actor. He was later hailed for his performance in *You Deserve a Lover* by Hafsia Herzi and *In the Name of the Land* by Édouard Bergeon, for which he scored his second César nomination for Most Promising Actor. In 2020, he stars in *Teddy* by Zoran and Ludovic Boukherma (Cannes 2020 Label) and *The Third War* by Giovanni Aloi (Venice Film Festival).



RÉMI CHAYÉ

© MATIAS INDJIC / UNIFRANCE

Rémi Chayé discovered the world of animation by chance while working as an illustrator. In 2003, he enrolled at La Poudrière animation school, where he made three short films. He went on to work as a storyboard artist and/or assistant director on a number of films, including *Brendan and the Secret of Kells* (Oscar nominee for Best Animated Feature), *The Painting* (César Award for Best Animated Film), and *Eleanor's Secret* (Special Mention at Annecy). *Long Way North* (Audience Award at Annecy), for which he was also graphic designer, was his debut feature film. He returns in 2020 with *Calamity*, which won the Cristal Award for Best Feature Film at Annecy.

A portrait of Maïmouna Doucouré, a Black woman with long, dark, wavy hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and large gold hoop earrings. She is sitting on a yellow tufted sofa against a green textured wall. The image is partially framed by a pink triangle on the left side.

MAÏMOUNA DOUCOURÉ

© SACHA MARIC FOR NETFLIX

Maïmouna Doucouré started out in the industry with a self-produced film she directed with support from a screenplay competition. She then wrote and directed the short film *Mother(s)*, selected in around 200 international film festivals and winning over 60 awards, including the Jury Award at Sundance, Best Short Film at Toronto, and the 2017 César Award for Best Short Film. In 2019, she was granted the Gold Fellowship for Women from the AMPAS, awarded to emerging female filmmakers. Released in 2020, her first feature, *Cuties*, portrays the hyper-sexualization of young girls. It won the Directing Award at Sundance and a Special Mention from the Generation Kplus Jury at the Berlinale.

A portrait of actress Zita Hanrot. She is sitting on a wooden chair, leaning forward with her arms resting on a wooden table. She is wearing a white tank top and a light-colored, pleated skirt. Her hair is short and dark, and she is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. A large pink triangle is visible on the right side of the image.

ZITA HANROT

© MARCEL HARTMANN FOR NETFLIX

After studying at the Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Art Dramatique, Zita Hanrot started out as an actress in supporting roles in films by Romain Lévy, François Ozon, and Mia Hansen-Løve. Her career took a critical turn in 2015 with her performance in *Fatima* by Philippe Faucon, winning her the César Award for Most Promising Actress. A succession of films followed, including *Carnivores* (alongside Leïla Bekhti), *The Party Is Over*, *Breath of Life*, and *School Life*. She played the title role in the Netflix series *The Hookup Plan* and directed her first short film, *Fish Mom*. In 2020, she has earned high praise for her role as Nour in *Red Soil* by Farid Bentoumi (Cannes 2020 Label).

A portrait of actress Camélia Jordana with dark, curly hair, looking upwards and to the side. The image is set against a light brown background and is partially framed by a pink geometric shape on the left.

CAMÉLIA JORDANA

© HELLENA BURCHARD

Camélia Jordana began her acting career in 2013 in *The Stroller Plan*, playing alongside Raphaël Personnaz and Charlotte Le Bon. The following year she appeared in *Bird People* by Pascale Ferran, presented at Un Certain Regard. She then played in a string of comedies, in which she excels (including *I'm All Yours*, *Some Like It Veiled*, *Team Spirit*), as well as standout performances in *Le Brio* by Yvan Attal (César Award for Most Promising Actress), *Sisters in Arms* by Caroline Fourest, and *Curiosa* by Lou Jeunet. In 2020, she can be seen in *Night Ride* by Frédéric Farrucci, *The ABCs of Love* by Noémie Saglio, and *Love Affair(s)* (Cannes 2020 Label) by Emmanuel Mouret.



FANNY LIATARD & JÉRÉMY TROUILH

© JPMOULET

Fanny Liatard and Jérémy Trouilh met while studying at the Sciences Po university, joining forces some years later to write and direct drama films. After winning the “HLM sur cour(t)” screenplay competition, they directed their first short film, *Gagarine*, in 2014, screened at Message to Man, Flickerfest, and the Sundance Channel Shorts Competition. It was followed by *The Republic of Enchanters* (selected at Palm Springs and Clermont-Ferrand) and *Blue Dog* (César Award nominee and winner of MyFrenchFilmFestival’s International Press Award), shot alongside residents of working-class districts. Their first feature, *Gagarine*, developed from their earlier short film, received the Cannes 2020 Label.

A black and white portrait of Suzanne Lindon, a young woman with dark hair, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The image is partially obscured by a large pink triangle on the right side.

SUZANNE LINDON

© AVENUE B PRODUCTIONS

It was in 2015, the year she began her high school studies at the Lycée Henri-IV, that Suzanne Lindon set to work on writing the screenplay for her first feature film, *Spring Blossom*. After graduating in 2018, she took a one-year preparatory course in drawing, then entered the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs de Paris. In 2019, during the summer of her 19th year, she launched into making *Spring Blossom*, which she directed and stars in alongside Arnaud Valois. Highly acclaimed, the film was granted the Cannes 2020 Label and is presented at Toronto and San Sebastián in 2020.

A portrait of Hugo Sélignac, a young man with dark, wavy hair and light skin, looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a dark jacket over a dark t-shirt. The background is a light blue gradient with a pink geometric shape on the right side.

HUGO SÉLIGNAC

© MARCEL HARTMANN

After working for ten years at the Productions du Trésor (where he was line producer for Alain Attal on *Little White Lies*), Hugo Sélignac founded Chi-Fou-Mi Productions in 2012. He first produced *The Marchers* by Nabil Ben Yadir, then coproduced *Elle l'adore* and *In Safe Hands* by Jeanne Herry. Committed to supporting young directors (Sarah Forestier, the Renier brothers), he has also produced ambitious comedies including *The World Is Yours* by Romain Gavras and *Sink or Swim* by Gilles Lellouche. In 2019, Chi-Fou-Mi teamed up with Jérôme Seydoux and Alain Attal to produce *The Wolf's Call* by Antonin Baudry. In 2020, the company will present *Bac Nord* by Cédric Jimenez and *Mandibles* by Quentin Dupieux (Venice Film Festival).

A close-up portrait of actor Benjamin Voisin, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a soft blue, and the lighting is natural, highlighting his features. The image is partially framed by a pink geometric shape on the left.

BENJAMIN VOISIN

© PHILIPPE QUAISSE

After studying at the Cours Florent drama school and the Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Art Dramatique, Benjamin Voisin played the lead role in the TV movie *Je sais tomber*, winning him the ADAMI Award for Most Promising Actor at the La Rochelle Festival of TV Fiction. He started out in the cinema working alongside Gérard Depardieu and Catherine Deneuve (*Nobody's Perfect!* by Florence Quentin), then under the direction of Rupert Everett (*The Happy Prince*). In 2020, he played in *Simon's Got a Gift* by Léo Karmann, *My Guy* by Benjamin Parent, and *Summer of 85* by François Ozon (selected at Cannes, Toronto, and San Sebastián). He will soon be seen as the lead character in *Comédie humaine* by Xavier Giannoli.