

Arthouse cinemas in the EU: Showcasing European talent

The fourth European Arthouse Cinema Day will take place on 13 October 2019 in some 700 cinemas all over the world. The idea is to showcase both the cultural diversity of European productions and the total commitment of the Europa Cinemas network to supporting demanding and original programming.

Background

[European Arthouse Cinema Day](#) is back for the fourth time. Launched in 2016 by the [International Confederation of Arthouse Cinemas](#) and the [Europa Cinemas](#) film theatre network, it is the first joint international initiative designed to actively promote European films and the local cinema experience, in direct collaboration with distributors, producers and filmmakers.

The day also provides an opportunity for the cinemas taking part to celebrate European talent and contribute to higher global audiences and better circulation of European productions. The focus this year is on young cinema-goers.

In 2018 more than 650 cinemas in 39 countries took part in the event, which is continuing to expand beyond continental Europe and currently includes the United States, Colombia and Iran.

LUX Prize and arthouse cinemas: a joint venture

The [European Parliament's LUX Film Prize](#) has been bringing European cinema into the limelight every year since 2007. Over the past 12 years, the prize has helped to promote over 100 films, supporting the dissemination of European (co-)productions in a bid to overcome the language and distribution barriers faced by the European film industry.

The LUX Film Prize focuses on fundamental EU values, such as the fight against poverty, the need to combat violence against women, and the integration of vulnerable communities. Prize-winners have been very successful in the EU and beyond, thus turning the LUX Prize into a synonym for quality film-making.

The prize helps support distribution – European cinema's weak spot. Whereas European filmmakers produced 1 847 films in [2018](#) – over twice the number made in the US (758) – US films account for 63 % of the EU market, compared with European films' 29 % share.

This year, Arthouse Cinema Day will be championed by LUX Prize-winning directors Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne (2019 best director winners at Cannes for [Young Ahmed](#) and 2008 LUX Prize-winners for [Lorna's silence](#)), director Céline Sciamma (2019 best screenplay winner at Cannes for [Portrait of a Lady on fire](#) and runner-up in the 2016 LUX Prize with [My life as a courgette](#)) and Sandra Hüller (leading actress in 2016 LUX Prize winner [Toni Erdmann](#)). In addition, the LUX Prize has contributed to the event by offering its catalogue to provide inspiration for cinema programmers.

Europa Cinemas

The 'Europa Cinemas' film theatre network was set up in 1992 as part of the MEDIA programme (predecessor to [Creative Europe MEDIA](#), the EU support programme for the film and audiovisual industries) with additional funding from the French Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée. It is the first film theatre network to promote European films. Europa Cinemas now numbers nearly 1 200 cinemas, totalling some 3 000 screens in more than 700 cities and 43 countries.

The International Confederation of Arthouse Cinemas (CICAE)

CICAE is an umbrella organisation gathering 10 national arthouse cinema associations, including France's AFCAE, Germany's AG Kino and Italy's FICE. Supported by Creative Europe MEDIA, CICAE brings together over 4 000 screens in 41 countries, alongside 15 festivals, as well as a number of film distributors.

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