

Festival du film

Merveilleux *et* Imaginaire

16th
EDITION



Under the patronage of the French National Commission
for UNESCO

SOUS LE PATRONAGE DE LA COMMISSION NATIONALE FRANÇAISE POUR
L'UNESCO

16 – 18 September 2026

Christine Cinéma Club · 4 rue Christine — 75006 Paris

www.festival-film-merveilleux.com



PROGRAMME DOSSIER · 16TH EDITION

26 films, 3 evenings.

Official Competition selection · 16 → 18 September 2026

For its **16th edition**, the Festival du film Merveilleux & Imaginaire brings together **26 short films from 12 countries**, screened in competition over three evenings at the Christine Cinéma Club in Paris. Three themed sessions exploring the marvellous, the imaginary and their shadows.

The festival is held **under the patronage of the French National Commission for UNESCO**. For the first time, the selection is read through the lens of the United Nations **Sustainable Development Goals** (see the end of this dossier).

26 SHORT FILMS	3 EVENINGS	12 COUNTRIES	4h43 OF SCREENINGS
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The sessions at a glance

Wed 16 Sep	« What We Carry Within Us »	8 films
Thu 17 Sep	« Looking It in the Face »	9 films
Fri 18 Sep	« The Imagination and Its Shadows »	9 films



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Festival du film Merveilleux & Imaginaire · Christine Cinéma Club, 4 rue Christine, 75006 Paris · www.festival-film-merveilleux.com

THE FILMS, ONE BY ONE

The 26 short films

Three themed sessions · Christine Cinéma Club, Paris

SESSION 1 « What We Carry Within Us »

Wednesday, September 16 — Cocktail reception 7:00 p.m. · Screening 7:30

p.m. 8 films · total runtime: 1 hr 30

Grown Up Day

Directed by David Caspir — France · Production: Lucie Allafort-Duverger

22'08

MIN

Discovering that Santa Claus doesn't exist. The hardest blow to our childhood dreams? In a world where we haven't lost our childhood dreams... Stéphane, the owner of an architecture firm, retains a childlike sense of wonder and is going through a midlife crisis when he discovers the truth about Santa Claus.

SDG 4

At Night

Directed by Pooya Afzali — Iran

5'00

MIN

In the midst of war, a man watches his beloved one by lighting the three matches he has left. Then, in the pitch darkness, a forest grows from their lovemaking and protects them from the war.

SDG 16

Gian

Directed by Hamed Yousefi — Iran · Production: Mahdiah Bastani

13'00

MIN

The ups and downs in the life of a young mother struggling with addiction, and her eight-year-old daughter who is trying to save her.

SDG 3

La Reine

Directed by Anaëlle Perthuis, Jeanne Trupin, Nour Baz, Mathilde Le Men, Liam Pavie, Lauryne Grisin — France · Production: Pierre Le Pivain

6'25

MIN

In the clash of two armies, both similar to those in a chess game, a soldier, a simple pawn, will try to fiercely defend his life, but above all, the life of his Queen, until he fulfills his destiny.

SDG 16

The Skin I'm In

Directed by Elena Vialykh — United Kingdom · Production: Stellatis Miltiadous

14'32

MIN

A poetic short film rooted in magical realism that explores how women lose and then reclaim parts of themselves.

SDG 5

Our Fleeting Soul

Directed by Marin Caquez, Eva-Louise Moreau, Nour Kharraz — France · Production: Rudy Turkovics

8'06

MIN

Albert, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, clings to a memory he shares with his childhood friend Maya.

SDG 3

No Wind to Hold

Directed by Mickael Abbate & Chris Conti — France · Production: Damien Zoccola, Mickael Abbate, Massimo Zanetti and Victor Basier

14'35

MIN

SDG 3

A summer drawing to a close, an old dock, two childhood friends by the shore of a shimmering lake. But beneath the warmth of their reunion, a troubling truth begins to surface: time is slipping away, and the past is resurfacing.

Bourreau des Cœurs

Directed by Inès Moussard, Antoine Genza, Ilian Belkilani, Sam Ripart, Alexandre Julhe, Camille Duvere — France · Production: Philippe Meis

6'00

MIN

SDG 11

Grégoire, an employee of Paris City Hall, works to preserve the Pont des Arts by cutting off the love locks that threaten the monument. Sophie, a die-hard romantic, wants, on the contrary, to protect these symbols of eternal love that have become the soul of the city. Together, they will discover that love can heal even the most broken hearts.

SESSION 2 « Looking It in the Face »

Thursday, September 17 — Screening 7:30 p.m. 9 films · total runtime:

1 hr 37

Hope

3'55

MIN

Directed by Jamal Ademola — USA · Production: Nilou Safinya, Tim Pries, PJ Koll, Christine Whithney and Kerry Johnson

SDG 13

After doom-scrolling on social media, a young poet named Salome Agbaroji is thrust into a fantastic journey through a magical animated realm, where she encounters a majestic Black Crowned Crane.

Above

19'49

MIN

Directed by Dmitry Borzykin — Russia · Production: Darra Dmitrieva

SDG 4

A parable about dreams, legacy, and freedom of thought. In a future where space exploration has been deemed unnecessary and banned, a boy discovers an abandoned space museum and its elderly caretaker, who secretly preserves its legacy. From their friendship emerges a certainty: dreams cannot be forbidden.

The Cloud Herder

7'05

MIN

Directed by Aidan McAteer — Ireland · Production: Sarah-Jane Kearns

SDG 13

An ageing herder protects her flock of clouds from a ferocious storm that she herself has caused.

Sulaimani

19'49

MIN

Directed by Vinnie Anne Bose — France · Production: Pentacle

SDG 4

A film created entirely by hand — using puppets and animated ink — that presents two intertwined portraits of Indian women from Kerala.

Immigrant

1'40

MIN

Directed by Nilram Ranjbar — Iran · Production: Elham Assadi

SDG 10

An animated film about being forced into exile out of love for one's country and family.

Omnivore

14'00

MIN

Directed by Daria Garonika — Russia · Production: Inna Popova

SDG 16

A dilapidated hotel hides more than meets the eye: to escape, its guests must confront their true selves.

Share the Happiness

8'00

MIN

Directed by Azimjon Rahimjonov — Uzbekistan · Production: Temurbek Adhamov

SDG 10

The story of an elderly amusement park guard and a little girl who dreams of getting in but can't afford the admission fee. At first determined to chase the intruder away, he sees himself reflected in her eyes and chooses to disobey the rules to give her a moment of pure joy.

Lifelines

Directed by Bruno Richaud — France · Production: Pascal Salafa

In a winter cemetery, Éléonore, devastated by the loss of her husband, is startled by a lively and unexpected voice.

12'57

MIN

SDG 3

BRIDGE — My Little Friends

Directed by Kazuyuki Ishihara — Japan · Production: Makoto Miyusawa

"I'll bring Shiro to you. I promise!" Jin, the cat, made this promise to Mugi, who is deeply sad about losing her beloved dog, Shiro. Jin loves Mugi very much and, after hearing the story of the "Rainbow Bridge" from his owner Aki, he decides to take Mugi to meet Shiro at the Rainbow Bridge! Can Jin heal Mugi's sadness? With the help of nearby pigeons and squirrels, Jin's great plan is now underway!

9'30

MIN

SDG 3

SESSION 3 « The Imagination and Its Shadows »

Friday, September 18 — Screening 7:30 p.m. · Cocktail reception 10:00

p.m. 9 films · total runtime: 1 hr 36

A Brushstroke

Directed by Stéphane Martinet — France · Production: Adeline Burger

Pierre, an internationally renowned painter who has been struggling with a lack of inspiration since his wife's death, paints a nude that becomes an enigmatic masterpiece.

19'33

MIN

SDG 3

El Din

Directed by Julien Regnard and Pascal Giraud — Belgium / France · Production: Super Tchip and Autour de minuit

The full moon rises over a village on the banks of the Nile. A stray dog, half jackal, half god, roams the streets in search of a soul to take away. The dog god then spots an old musician playing the flute by a fire. Will the musician manage to charm the dog god with his music?

5'14

MIN

SDG 11

What Keeps Us Together

Directed by Sergei Annenkov — Russia · Production: Artem Zegallo and Sergei Annenkov

Black comedy: a stranger tries to convince Max that his wife is a witch who must be killed.

13'00

MIN

La ferme de papi

Directed by Elise Coupet, Matthis Acker, Yseult Duval, Yves Dubois, Anaïs Mulier, Camille Majorczyk — France · Production: Carlos de Carvalho

After her grandfather's absence, a young girl wonders about the future of the family farm.

6'17

MIN

SDG 2

Strive

Directed by Jussi Rautaniemi — Finland · Production: Mark Lwoff

In a future dominated by machines, 17-year-old Toni longs for something real and joins a street race. A powerful coming-of-age story.

14'50

MIN

SDG 3

The Dracula Secret — Piwooz Music-Hall

Directed by Giovanni Gasparetto — France · Production: Giovanni Gasparetto

Piwooz, the little companion of emotions, reveals the hidden side of the deepest feelings of fantastical beings.

2'30

MIN

SDG 3

Sequential

Directed by Bruno Caetano — France, Italy, Poland, Portugal · Production: Bruno Caetano

In a fantastic series of events, a young man confronts his personal fears and life's adversities.

12'05

MIN

SDG 4

Don't Dust Up

Directed by Anastasia Pastory — Russia · Production: Ekaterina Ushakova and Vitaly Mokrushin

Zina's grandmother's life is turned upside down the day her granddaughter gives her a robot vacuum cleaner... that talks.

10'06

MIN

SDG 3

Les bottes de la nuit

Directed by Pierre-Luc Granjon — France · Production: Pentacle

A coming-of-age story about friendship and otherness, created using pin-screen animation. Festival du Film Merveilleux & Imaginaire de Paris Christine Cinéma Club — 4 rue Christine, 75006 Paris contact@festival-film-merveilleux.com · www.festival-film-merveilleux.com

12'22

MIN

SDG 4

Sustainable Development Goals

Press memo · United Nations 2030 Agenda

17 goals

2030 Agenda · UN

8 in the 2026 line-up

The Festival reads its selection through the lens of the **17 Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations member states as part of the 2030 Agenda. This memo gathers the 17 goals and what each stands for. The marked goals are those that one or more films of the **2026 selection** illuminate most

naturally. ● Goal illuminated by a film in the 2026 selection

1	No Poverty End poverty in all its forms everywhere.	2	Zero Hunger ● End hunger, achieve food security and sustainable agriculture.
3	Good Health and Well-being ● Ensure healthy lives and well-being for all, at every age.	4	Quality Education ● Ensure inclusive, equitable education and lifelong learning.
5	Gender Equality ● Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.	6	Clean Water and Sanitation Ensure access to water and sanitation for all.
7	Affordable and Clean Energy Ensure access to affordable, reliable, modern energy.	8	Decent Work and Economic Growth Promote inclusive growth and decent work for all.
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure Build resilient infrastructure and foster innovation.	10	Reduced Inequalities ● Reduce inequality within and among countries.
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities ● Make cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable.	12	Responsible Consumption and Production Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13	Climate Action ● Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.	14	Life Below Water Conserve and sustainably use the oceans and marine resources.
15	Life on Land Protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity.	16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions ● Promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies.
17	Partnerships for the Goals Strengthen the means and global partnership for the goals.		

Partners & support

FESTIVAL DU FILM MERVEILLEUX & IMAGINAIRE · 2026

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French National Commission for UNESCO

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CHRISTINE
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Christine Cinéma Club —
festival venue



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The festival also warmly thanks its partners and supporters — including Solidatech and the City of Paris — as well as all the filmmakers, volunteers and audiences who bring it to life.

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