

Festival du film

Merveilleux & Imaginaire

16th
EDITION

PRESS RELEASE



Under the patronage of the French National
Commission for UNESCO

16-18 SEPTEMBER 2026

Paris, 2 August 2026

Festival du film Merveilleux & Imaginaire unveils the programme for its 16th edition

26 short films from 12 countries, three evenings of competition and a new reading of the selection through the Sustainable Development Goals.

26
SHORT FILMS

12
COUNTRIES

3
EVENINGS

4 h 43
OF SCREENINGS

DATES 16, 17 and 18 September 2026

VENUE Christine Cinéma Club · 4 rue Christine, 75006 Paris

TIMES Screenings at 7:30 p.m.

HIGHLIGHTS Opening cocktail on 16 September at 7:00 p.m. ·
Closing cocktail and awards ceremony on 18 September after
the screening

From 16 to 18 September 2026, Festival du film Merveilleux & Imaginaire will bring together 26 short films in competition at the Christine Cinéma Club, presented across three themed sessions. Held under the patronage of the French National Commission for UNESCO, the 16th edition invites audiences to discover stories in which the marvellous meets contemporary realities, intimacy, memory, exile, climate, transmission and the diversity of imagined worlds.

Live action and animation form an international selection totalling 4 hours and 43 minutes.

For the first time, films that naturally lend themselves to this approach are also viewed through the United Nations 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2026 EDITION HIGHLIGHTS

AN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

26 short films from 12 countries, presented across three themed sessions.

LIVE ACTION AND ANIMATION

An international selection of films in live action and animation.

STORIES OF OUR TIME

Dreams, memory, health, equality, exile, climate, transmission, peace and otherness.

Three sessions, three perspectives on the marvellous

Each evening develops a distinct tone, moving from intimate stories to collective concerns and then towards more mysterious, poetic and offbeat forms of the imagination.

SESSION 1 · "What We Carry Within Us"

Wednesday 16 September · Opening cocktail 7:00 p.m. · Screening 7:30 p.m. · 8 films · 1 hr 30

Childhood dreams, war, addiction, identity, memory, grief and human bonds shape the opening evening.

Grown Up Day · At Night · Gian · La Reine · The Skin I'm In · Our Fleeting Soul · No Wind to Hold · Bourreau des Cœurs

SESSION 2 · "Looking It in the Face"

Thursday 17 September · Screening 7:30 p.m. · 9 films · 1 hr 37

Climate, freedom to dream, legacy, exile, inequality, inner truth and grief form a session looking directly at a fractured world.

Hope · Above · The Cloud Herder · Sulaimani · Immigrant · Omnivore · Share the Happiness · Lifelines · BRIDGE — My Little Friends

SESSION 3 · "The Imagination and Its Shadows"

Friday 18 September · Screening 7:30 p.m. · Closing cocktail and awards ceremony after the screening · 9 films · 1 hr 36

Grief, myth, black comedy, rural transmission, dependence on machines, personal fears and otherness animate the final evening.

A Brushstroke · El Din · What Keeps Us Together · La ferme de papi · Strive · The Dracula Secret — Piwooz Music-Hall · Sequential · Don't Dust Up · Les bottes de la nuit

Reading the selection through the Sustainable Development Goals

Eight SDGs are highlighted by the 2026 selection: zero hunger and sustainable agriculture, health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, climate action, and peace and justice. Works that are purely artistic or humorous are deliberately left without an SDG association, so that this framework is not imposed on the entire selection.

About the Festival

Festival du film Merveilleux & Imaginaire is a Paris-based event dedicated to short films exploring the marvellous, the imaginary and the diversity of artistic worlds. Since its creation, it has showcased French and international filmmakers and made cinema a meeting place for intercultural dialogue and exchange.

Its 16th edition brings together 26 short films from 12 countries, connecting artistic creation, a diversity of perspectives and major contemporary issues. The Festival's 16th edition is held under the patronage of the French National Commission for UNESCO.

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