



WORLD  
 NEW WAVES OF CREATION\* **A.I.**  
 FILM  
 FESTIVAL

APRIL 21-22, 2026

CANNES

**PROGRAM**

ORGANIZERS



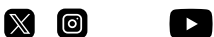
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\*The new waves of creation

g-g guillemette gobbi - direction artistique

WORLD A I FILM FESTIVAL .COM



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# A FESTIVAL...AND A VISION

AI-powered cinema crosses borders, connects cultures and transforms the way stories are told. The journey is just beginning. WAiFF 2026 imagines a new era of cinema where artificial intelligence becomes a creative partner, not a shortcut.

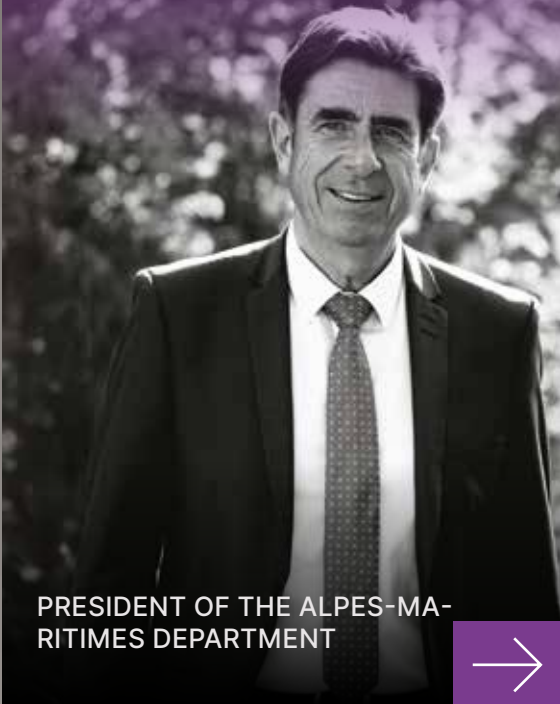
A global festival that connects cultures, platforms and generations, celebrating bold storytelling, hybrid cinema and emerging voices. From shorts to features, we explore how AI transforms imagination into cinematic art.

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# EDITORIALS

## CHARLES ANGE GINÉSY



PRESIDENT OF THE ALPES-MA-  
RITIMES DEPARTMENT



For generations, the Alpes-Maritimes have offered artists a territory where the imagination spontaneously finds refuge. Here, the light sculpts the landscapes, the sea dialogues with the mountains, and every horizon seems to invite the telling of a story. This land of inspiration, which has seen the birth of so many creative impulses, is now opening up to a new page in its history, one where technological innovation meets the power of human creation.

With the second edition of the World AI Film Festival, we are asserting a simple and powerful conviction: artificial intelligence is not a break with art, but an extension of its possibilities. It has become a tool, a new camera, a companion for exploration, expanding narrative forms, inventing new aesthetics and pushing back the frontiers of cinema.

Thanks to La Maison de l'IA, the WAICF and all the initiatives we support, the Alpes-Maritimes is becoming one of the crossroads where this effervescence takes shape, is structured and shared.

I would like to salute the presence of major cinema personalities, including Claude Lelouch, Honorary President, and Gong Li, Festival President, who strongly embody the idea that the warmth of cinema comes from the human heart, and that technology can amplify its radiance.

WAIFF has established itself as a global laboratory for the cinema of tomorrow. By rewarding visionary works, revealing new talent and nurturing a demanding dialogue between art and science, it is helping to shape a future where innovation and creation move forward together.

I'm delighted that on April 21 and 22, 2026, at the Palais des Festivals et des Congrès, Cannes will be hosting the World AI Film Festival, organized on the initiative of Marco Landi by the Europa Institute and Charles Ange Ginésy for the Alpes-Maritimes Department, whose vision and involvement I salute. In a city that embodies cinematic excellence the world over, this festival is a natural fit, just a few weeks after the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the World AI Cannes Festival, the world's leading event dedicated to Artificial Intelligence. The event showcases the emergence of new forms of writing and creation aided by Artificial Intelligence, showcases talent and fuels the essential debate on the conditions under which this technology must be thought out, mastered and placed at the service of human beings.

Because AI must not replace creation: it must remain a tool at the service of the imagination, works and authors.

What's more, the World AI Film Festival is fully in line with the city's "Cannes On Air" program, which aims to make Cannes a major hub for writing and audiovisual creation.

## DAVID LISNARD



MAYOR  
OF THE CITY OF CANNES





## MARCO LANDI

PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPIA  
INSTITUTE  
CREATOR OF WAIFF



As creator of the festival, my mission is to discover new talent, protect their rights and promote fair remuneration.

Today, AI is becoming the new camera at the service of creators, but creativity and the passion to tell a story remain entirely human.

We often hear criticism and fears about AI. However, the high-caliber films I have seen in Brazil, Korea and recently in Japan show that the quality and emotion of cinematographic creation are intact, and that these concerns can disappear.

On April 21 and 22 in Cannes, creators from four continents will be presenting their work and discussing these issues. The Alpes-Maritimes is thus positioning itself as a veritable crossroads for the new creative industry.

The history of cinema has been built on technical revolutions, each giving rise to a new wave. These upheavals have always been greeted with suspicion at first, before being embraced.

As a profoundly optimistic man, I'm convinced that artificial intelligence is one of these revolutions. I'm not afraid of it. It's part of the logical continuity of everything cinema has always gone through: an evolution, not a rupture.

But let's be clear: AI is knowledge. Cinema, on the other hand, will always be a matter of imagination. And imagination cannot be programmed. It lives, it searches, it makes mistakes.

That's why, for all its promise, AI remains a tool. A superpower. Powerful, fascinating, sometimes confusing, but a tool.

I often compare this technology to a Formula 1 car: it goes very fast, but not everyone knows how to drive it. The danger lies not in the machine, but in the way we use it. If it saves us time, it must never make us lose the essential: emotion. Nothing can ever replace actors and the truth in their eyes.

This is precisely why the World A.I. Film Festival exists: to experiment, to make mistakes, to understand.

To open up new avenues for cinema, as every major innovation has done before it. We used to say before and after Jesus Christ. Tomorrow, we may say before and after artificial intelligence.

My presence in this new edition is a curiosity. At my age, I'm still learning. And I'm here to see what this generation will do with the tools we didn't have.

I firmly believe that the future of cinema will not depend on artificial intelligence, but on human intelligence and emotions in the face of it. And if this festival can help us keep that priority, then it will already have succeeded.



## CLAUDE LELOUCH



DIRECTOR  
PRODUCER

# THE FESTIVAL

## A 2026 EDITION PRESIDED OVER BY GONG LI

Gong Li, a towering figure in world cinema, made her mark on the history of the seventh art form as soon as she was discovered by Zhang Yimou in *Le Sorgho rouge*, before turning audiences upside down with *Épouses et concubines* and *Vivre!* Her talent shone far beyond France's borders, most notably in *Memoirs of a Geisha*.

Winner of numerous awards at major international festivals, from the Venice Film Festival to the Cannes Film Festival, she embodies with grace and exacting standards the cinema d'auteur as well as the great international cinema.

It's a great honor to welcome her as president of this year's festival.



I'm very honored to preside over the World AI Film Festival. For me, the warmth of cinema always comes from the human heart, and technology allows us to express this emotion with unprecedented freedom and depth.

Today, we are witnessing the encounter between Artificial Intelligence and the art of filmmaking.

It's not just a technological breakthrough, it's a new lease of life for the imagination.

I'm looking forward to being at Cannes on April 21 and 22.



# AN EXCEPTIONAL INTERNATIONAL JURY



||

I have to tell you that I'm one of the many people terrorized by AI and all the fantasies it represents, and it's partly for this reason that I accepted your proposal. Because, whether we like it or not, AI exists and we might as well go and find out what it's all about, rather than letting our fears and rumors overwhelm us. So it's with great interest and curiosity that I've come to discover the festival's films and attend the conferences.

||



## AÏSSA MAÏGA

A renowned French actress, she has left her mark on the cinema with a number of major roles. Her career combines high artistic standards, stage presence and commitment.



## ROGER AVARY

Roger Avary won the Oscar for best original screenplay for Pulp Fiction. He is recognized for his powerful style and singular voice in contemporary cinema.



## ELSA ZYLBERSTEIN

A major French actress, Elsa Zylberstein has a rich career spanning both auteur and mainstream cinema. Winner of the César for Best Supporting Actress, she recently played Simone Veil on screen.



## KAVAN CARDOZA

Los Angeles-based director Kavan Cardoza specializes in new visual writing and AI-assisted cinema. His work blends technological innovation with cinematic storytelling.



## **REZA SIXO SAFAI**

Award-winning filmmaker Reza Sixo Safai has presented his work at Sundance, Cannes and Tribeca. He is also a pioneer of AI-generated cinema and co-founder of Massive Studios.



## **JOANNA POPPER**

An award-winning producer and director, she specializes in projects combining cinema and artificial intelligence. Her work has been presented at Sundance, Venice, Tribeca and SXSW. Co-founder of SatireAI, she has also held positions at CAA, NBCUniversal, HP and Singularity University.



## **SERGE HAYAT**

Serge Hayat has been supporting film creation for many years. His career links finance, media and commitment to cinema.



## **RUBY YANG**

Oscar-winning Hong Kong-born director Ruby Yang works between the United States, Beijing and Hong Kong. She is renowned for her powerful storytelling in both documentary and fiction.



## **ROBERTO AMOROSO**

Italian film and TV producer Roberto Amoroso has over twenty years' experience in the audiovisual industry. He has contributed to the development of major cinema and platform productions.



## **NA-YOUNG NAM**

A leading South Korean film editor, Na-young Nam is best known for her work on Squid Game. She has worked on over 60 films and with many of Korea's leading directors.



# MA

## La Maison de l'IA

### MISSIONS

- Sensibiliser à l'Intelligence Artificielle
- Fédérer l'écosystème IA du territoire
- Valoriser nos talents
- Inspirer une dynamique autour de l'IA



[maison-intelligence-artificielle.com](https://maison-intelligence-artificielle.com)

# THE SELECTION

**FOR THIS  
SECOND EDITION,  
THE OFFICIAL  
SELECTION BRINGS  
TOGETHER 75  
FINALISTS FROM 20  
COUNTRIES**

Across 13 categories – from narrative shorts to vertical micro-series, documentary and advertising – this edition illustrates the diversity of formats and uses that are redefining creation today.

Led by a new generation of international designers, this selection marks a turning point: AI is no longer a field of experimentation, but a veritable artistic language, capable of giving rise to ambitious, accessible and profoundly contemporary works.

**+ OVER 5,400 FILMS RECEIVED  
80 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED  
400 FILMS PRE-SELECTED FOR THE CANNES EDITION,  
PASSED ON TO THE SCREENING COMMITTEE  
54 FILMS IN THE OFFICIAL SELECTION**

The competition will be held in four categories at the Espace Miramar, as part of the professional meetings. Each category will be presented by one of our official partners:

**Studio Laffitte, TechCannes,  
Genario BetaSeries**

The other nine awards will be presented during the gala evening on **Wednesday April 22** at the **Théâtre Debussy** in the **Palais des Festivals et des Congrès de Cannes**.



Short, serial formats designed for mobile platforms and uses. Direct, rhythmic writing at the heart of new narratives.

## **FINALISTS:**

### ***Devoured***

Eun Young LEE / Heui Song SON (South Korea)

### ***Clay&Pot***

Céline GUIBOURGÉ (France)

### ***SpellCraft***

Daric LOO (United States)

### ***Lost Toy Requiem***

Kenji ISHIHARA (Japan)



A first film revealing a new generation of hybrid creators.  
A voice, an intention, the beginnings of tomorrow's cinema.

**FINALISTS:**

***Before***

Giuseppe CELESTINO (Spain)

***SUMMER1990***

Loïs LEVY (Germany)

***AnotherDetail***

Denis LARZILLIÈRE (France)

***TheBeginning***

Ibraheem DIAB (Jordan)

***The Black Swan Event***

Pedro Barbero ABREU (Spain)



A work that invents a new form of narrative at the crossroads of cinema, animation and storytelling.  
An emerging form in which the image no longer reproduces reality, but reinvents it.

**FINALISTS:**

***Present***

Dario CIRRINCIONE (Switzerland)

***6000Lies***

Simon RIETH (France)

***The Shadow Weaver***

Anne HOREL (France)

***The Interview***

Joseph VINU (India)

***Cohabitation***

Melody BOSSAN (France)



Advertising creations that reinvent brand storytelling thanks to AI. A field of experimentation between creativity, storytelling and innovation.

**FINALISTS:**

***Grippy***

Felipe VALERIO (Brazil)

***MaginMirrorAI***

Sungmin JI (South Korea)

***Lee***

Bruce HUNT (Australia)

***Woolit***

Raphaël FRYDMAN (France)

***Cats from the Louvre***

Rui NIU (China)

***Let Animals Grow Old***

Ruf Lanz STORIES (Switzerland)

***Life is About the Ride***

Aurélien BIGOT (France)

***Goldilocksretold***

Tiffany SMITH(USA)

# PALAIS DES FESTIVALS - THÉÂTRE DEBUSSY

## SHORT FORMATS & EXCEPTIONAL



### ACTION

A work where narrative intensity and staging push back the limits of the spectacular, thanks to AI.  
A cinema of movement, energy and visual mastery.

#### FINALISTS :

##### ***A Dollar Story***

Qiu CHENG (China)

##### ***One DAY***

Samir MALLAL (United Kingdom)

##### ***Which Color?***

Arda AKOGUL (Turkey)

##### ***Prompted***

Oliver ROEGER (United States)



### ANIMATION

A creation that explores new visual languages through AI-assisted animation.

#### FINALISTS:

##### ***This is Me***

Marika HIRATA (Japan)

##### ***We Looked Away***

Kim WONKYOUNG (South Korea)

##### ***Mechanical Selection***

Jules BLACHIER (France)

##### ***The Shadow Weaver***

Anne HOREL (France)

##### ***Neo The Prophecy***

Matteo GIOVANELLI (Italy)

##### ***Lilly***

Zoubeir JLASSI (Tunisia)



### EMOTION

A film capable of arousing deep emotion through sensitive, sincere writing. AI becomes a vector of intimacy and human connection.

#### FINALISTS :

##### ***WarpedMemories***

Pedro BAYEUX (Brazil)

##### ***TheFracture***

Jacopo REALE (Italy)

##### ***Cohabitation***

Melody BOSSAN (France)

##### ***Fractal***

Marco MAGARIO (Italy)

##### ***The Beginning***

Ibraheem DIAB (Jordan)



### FANTASTIC

A work that unfolds rich imaginary universes, freed from the constraints of reality. An immersive journey where AI opens up new visual territories.

#### FINALISTS:

##### ***Costa Verde***

Léo CANNONE (United Kingdom / France)

##### ***Sign***

Jiازه LI (United Kingdom)

##### ***Unmasked***

Karthik MSN (India)

##### ***Khlyst***

Rafal KIJAS (Poland)

##### ***Valentine's DA.I.***

Sebastian LOPEZ (Argentina)



A film designed for young people, especially teenagers, with accessible, contemporary writing.  
A cinema capable of speaking to a new generation, between entertainment, emotion and a look at the world.

**FINALISTS :**

***Seed***

Adrien COHEN (France)

***Sky Nomads***

Shamir RAIAPOV (Kyrgyzstan)

***Vishwamitra***

Sunil Teli STR (India)

***RendAI-vous***

Marius DOICOV (France)



Rewards a film for the quality and originality of its AI-enhanced musical composition. A sound creation at the service of the cinematic experience.

**FINALISTS :**

***Steam***

Fabio BONVICINI (Italy)

***Summer 1990***

Loïs LEVY (Germany)

***D'ombre et de lumière***

Fabien LOIACONO (France)

***The Secret Life of Display Artists***

Carmen Gloria PÉREZ (Norway)

***The Woman and the Wolf***

Benoit COURTI (France)



**2 AWARDS PRESENTED DURING THE FESTIVAL TO THE FINALISTS OF THE OFFICIAL SELECTION**

## SHORT FORMATS



A striking creation, at least in part, created with CapCut, highlighting new creative and editing uses. An award dedicated to next-generation creative workflows that are accessible, agile and powerful.

### FINALISTS:

#### **A Death Comes True**

rafaelborna

#### **The box**

Malel V

#### **Nevermore**

Victor Freitas

#### **Kaso**

Narumi

#### **Restricted**

Gerardo Becker

#### **A Gorgeous Jump**

KK\_No\_Limited

#### **Apocalypse: The Art Of Tovar**

Agency Indigo

#### **Chronos Invasion**

ChiakiAkagi

#### **Night Creatures!**

mcvrodrigo

#### **Anatomy of Silence Fragments of a Lost Identity**

ThinkIALab Studio

#### **Grimfel: Swords Of Solitude**

GrimfelOfficial

#### **Janaina**

maxxfigueiredo

## LONG FORMATS



Long works with ambitious narratives, driven by a genuine cinematic vision. This edition puts the spotlight on documentary, revealing how AI can interrogate reality, reconstruct it, or propose new readings of it.

### FINALISTS :

#### **Napoleon III - The price of daring**

Jacques EDOUARD (France)

#### **Iron Mask, The Enigma of the Sun King**

Benoît & Lucas POISSON (France)

#### **Knut, The Viking Emperor**

Valentine JORDAN (France)

# FOCUS ON

# THE INTERNATIONAL

Since its launch in 2025, the Festival has crossed borders to reach out to other creative territories, other narrative cultures, other visions of AI. This international deployment marks a new stage: that of a Festival that is no longer content to observe change - it accompanies it, wherever it occurs.

Because innovation doesn't just speak one language. It was born in Africa, Asia and Latin America, in studios and teenage bedrooms alike. WAIFF aims to capture this global energy, circulate ideas, cross-reference stories, and highlight those who are writing the future with new tools.

This move towards openness affirms a strong ambition: to make WAIFF a veritable global hub for augmented narrative creation, a place where emerging talent, cutting-edge technologies, singular viewpoints from the four corners of the globe and the industry can connect.

## “ THE ROAD TO CANNES ”



WAIFF BRASIL  
**SÃO PAULO**  
27-28 février

### Cold

PRESOTTO MARCELO



### Grippy

VALERIO FELIPE



### Hallucination

MONTENEGRO MILTON



### True

ROTH RODOLFO



### Warped memories

BAYEUX PEDRO



WAIFF CHINA  
**PEKIN**  
15 avril

### A Dollar Story

QIU SHENG BOBO LAU



### One Thought

LIANGSUN



### The Crested Ibis

BALAILENG



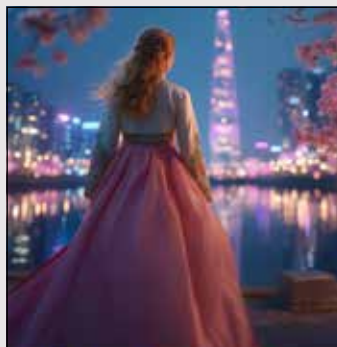
### The messenger

BIXIANLI



### The Unlucky One

CHENLI



WAIFF CORÉE  
**SEOUL**  
6-7 mars

### Octopus

OCTOPUS  
&MePARKELHEN



### Losing

DAYOUNG LIM



### MagicMirror.AI

JISUNGMIN



### We looked Away

WONKYOUNGKIM2



WAIFF JAPON  
**KYOTO**  
12-13 mars

### Lost Toy Requiem

KENJIISHIHARA



### Re Right

SUGURUNIINO



### Samurai Egg

MANABUNAKATANI



### Swetos

THEONEAILAB



### This is me

MARIKAHIRATA

# PROTALKS SEASON 2

## THE MUTATION

### WAIFF IS BACK, AND THIS TIME IT'S EXPERIMENTING.

In 2025, we've laid the foundations: bringing together cinema, TV series and artificial intelligence. In 2026, we enter a new phase. Because a revolution is underway, discreet but massive: that of new formats.

On TikTok, YouTube or Instagram, a generation is inventing without asking permission. They use AI as a narrative engine. They move from content to narrative, from post to series, from short format to cinema. New genres are exploding, boundaries are breaking down. New talents are telling stories - elsewhere, differently, faster. A new grammar is emerging - fast, hybrid, fluid.

WAIFF 2026 takes this wave head-on. It connects two worlds that used to look at each other from afar: the audiovisual industry and digital creators.

The festival becomes a laboratory: we test, we prototype, we manufacture.

Keynotes, panels, new tools: this new edition of Pro Talks is a positive zone of friction between cinema and avant-garde storytelling. A space where formats hybridize, where all kinds of encounters are permitted, where new talents take the lead.

Here, the industry doesn't just come to understand. It comes to learn.

WAIFF 2026 is where new formats become a new standard.

In the space of a year, artificial intelligence hasn't just progressed - it's changed scale.

What used to be experimental has become widespread. Uses have become industrialized, tools have been perfected, and the speed of execution now exceeds that of our ability to structure the framework in which they are used.

Debates have progressed. Awareness too. Yet fundamental questions remain unanswered. First and foremost, rights. Those of remuneration, traceability and artists' consent.

To date, neither in France nor in Europe has an operational framework been established that would enable all players in the audiovisual sector to align their efforts. We produce faster than we regulate. And yet, without security for creators, there can be no lasting transformation. It is precisely in this area of uncertainty that WAIFF is essential.

More than a festival, it's a place of convergence and experimentation, where the entire ecosystem can meet, compare practices and come up with concrete solutions. But it's also a revealer. Revealing new uses. Revealing new models. And above all, it reveals a new generation of artists - hybrid, agile, capable of seizing these tools to invent new forms of narrative.

Because cinema is evolving, both in its processes and in its writing.

In the face of these changes, one thing is clear: responsibility. The environmental footprint of these technologies is real - understanding them better and using them more effectively is essential if we are to control their impact.

For all these reasons, it is urgent to continue the discussion, to structure the uses, and to set the rules.

And above all, never to lose what is at the heart of cinema: a look, a voice, an intention.

The future of cinema can't be taken for granted. It's written.

*Sarah Lelouch*

SARAH  
LELOUCH





RÉMI  
TERESKIEWICZ →

▶ betaseries

**When data becomes history.**

3.3 million engaged viewers. Tens of thousands of series followed, rated, discovered and shared. BetaSeries is much more than a community of fans – it's a unique, living window on what audiences really want to watch.

For producers, distributors and media platforms, this usage data is both valuable and directly exploitable. Thanks to its AI-powered discoverability solutions, based on 15 years of user data and the most advanced algorithms, BetaSeries helps the entire media ecosystem connect content to its natural audiences, across all territories. Every piece of content is unique and finds its community.

WAIFF is at the forefront of identifying creators who use AI to amplify their artistic vision. BetaSeries has established itself as a natural partner – one that connects these talents with the emotions of millions of viewers in search of new stories and experiences made possible by AI.

Technology doesn't create anything. Artists do. Artificial intelligence opens up an immense field. But without vision, without intention, without writing, it produces nothing but noise. What WAIFF reveals today is not a technical revolution.

It's the emergence of a new generation of creators.

Hybrid authors. Able to write, generate, edit and produce. Able above all not to copy cinema – but to invent a new grammar. An image that no longer reproduces reality. An image that lives, transforms and seeks.

The only way is to create something else. At the frontier of cinema, animation, the novel and opera. A form where image, sound, voice and narrative are no longer separate, but merge into a single writing.

At STUDIO GENARIO, this is the heart of our work. Putting technology to work for artists. Creating the conditions for these forms to emerge – and hold. WAIFF is the meeting point for this energy. Not a showcase. A signal. A signal that cinema is changing its language. And that, as always, it's the creators who are writing the future.



← DAVID  
DEFENDI

GENARIO



JULIEN  
RAOUT →

In just a few months, generative AI has established itself as a new creative tool in its own right. What was once a matter of experimentation is now part of an established artistic approach, with works that are finding their place in the audiovisual landscape.

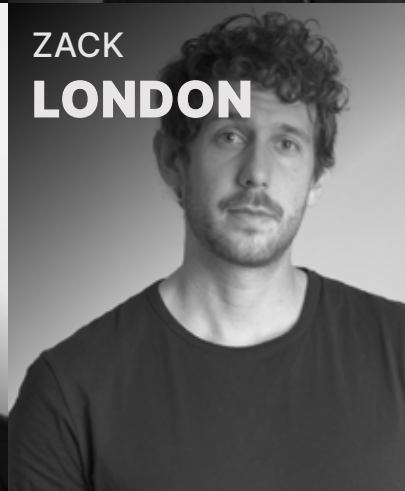
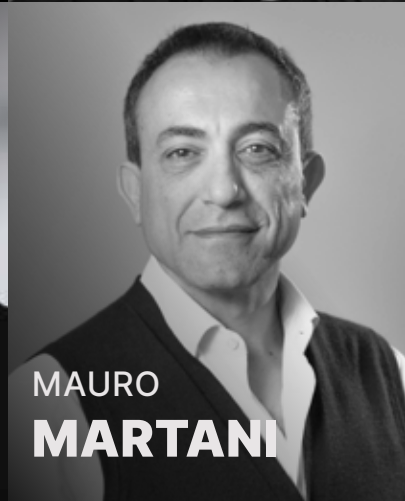
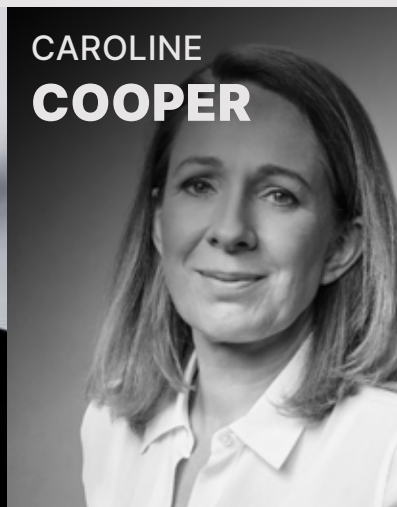
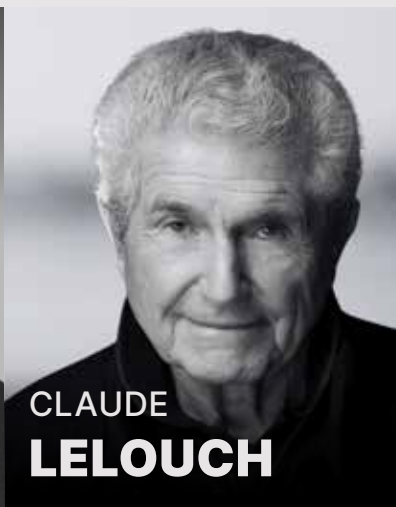
We often talk about lower production costs. It's real. But the essential is elsewhere: in the emergence of new artistic proposals, often marked by a surrealist, free aesthetic, freed from the constraints of reality.

Established directors have taken up the cause, but a new wave of creators is emerging. Many first films, many singular looks. Genuine democratization of access to filmmaking.

The tipping point is here: when everything becomes technically possible, feasibility is no longer an issue. What counts now is vision. Intention. And above all, the narration.

This transformation cuts across all formats: short films, documentaries, advertising, virtual reality and gaming. Studio Laffitte will present the Best IA Advertising Award.

# THE SPI



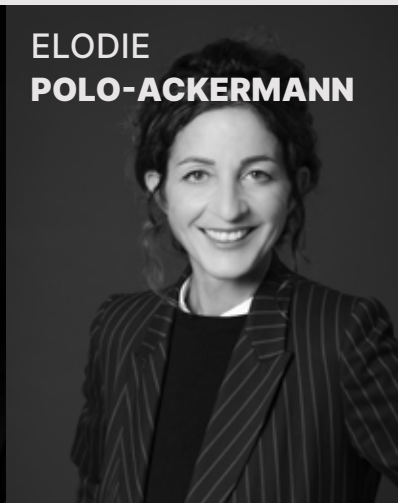
# MAKERS



DANIEL  
**SHI**



ELENA  
**LYUBARSKAYA**



ELODIE  
**POLO-ACKERMANN**



ENORA  
**CONTANT**



JAVISHTH  
**CHABRIA**



JD  
**KANANI**



JEAN-MICHEL  
**JAR**



JOANNA  
**POPPER**



NATHALIE  
**MARCHAK**



JOHANN  
**CHORON**



SANDRA  
**RICHARDSON**



CHRIS  
**BRANCH**



AGNÈS  
**JAOUI**



JÉRÔME  
**ENRICO**



REZA  
**SIXO SAFAÏ**



# PROGRAM

Pro Talks sessions celebrate the talents, tools, platforms and studios that are reinventing the language of cinema – shaping new formats, new financing models (legal and economic), and new experiences for audiences. Join leading producers and creators at round tables and keynotes, where they'll explore how artificial intelligence tools and social platforms are transforming production, budgets and creative possibilities

**DAY 1 - TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.**

## ESPACE MIRAMAR

### The creative revolution

An in-depth immersion in digital creation, artificial intelligence and the new economy of creators. Sessions will address generative AI, augmented creativity, production workflows and new content business models.

#### PANEL 1

### ARTISTIC CREATION: WHAT AI CAN REALLY DO

10H30

AI is increasingly shaking up artistic creation. But how? What is possible / desirable to do or not to do? During this first panel, professionals share their experiences to better understand the assets and limits of AI in creation.

#### Introductory keynote :

**Jean-Michel Jarre** "AI: augmented imagination

#### Moderator: Serge Hayat jury member, CEO Ozma Labs

- Nathalie Marchak (Director and Writer)
- Enora Contant (Producer Ah! Production)
- Elena Lyubarskaya (Writer, producer / The Different Machine)
- Daniel Shi (MiniMax Artistic Director)
- Gilles Guerraz (CEO NexTrend)

11:50 A.M.: PRESENTATION OF THE "BEST ADVERTISING FILM" AWARD

#### PANEL 2

### IA & CINEMA: WHO BENEFITS FROM VALUE?

15H30

AI not only transforms costs, it also reshuffles the deck. Behind the promise of faster, cheaper production, AI is profoundly reshaping the cinema economy. Costs are shifting, risks are evolving, and new sources of value are emerging, from production to untapped catalogs. Financiers, producers and creators confront their visions in an unfiltered exchange to understand how these changes are reshaping the value chain... and identify who will come out on top.

#### Moderator: Eric Lentulo (AI/ Creative Industries Consultant)

- Cécile Lacoue (Director of Studies and Research, CNC)
- Caroline Cooper (COO, Sky Entertainment Group)
- Mauro Martani, (CEO PlusOne)
- Antoine Bodet (Managing Partner, AXIO)
- Laurent Jaoui (CEO, TéléFan)

4:15PM: "BEST MICRO-SERIES" AWARD CEREMONY

#### REGARD CROISÉ 4:30 p.m. :

Conversation between **Mathieu Kassovitz (Director / Producer)** and **Claude Lelouch (Director / Producer)**

## DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY APRIL 22, 9AM TO 5PM

### ESPACE MIRAMAR

#### The new Creator Economy model

An exploration of AI-powered production workflows, emerging legal frameworks and the future of creative production.

#### 10:05am: Minimax conference

#### PANEL 3

### AI & CREATION: WHAT IF WE FINALLY DECIDED?

10H20

Europe has made copyright a fundamental right. It's up to her to invent tomorrow's rules - before fear stifles creation. In 1793, France invented copyright - the first nation in the world to recognize the sacred bond between a creator and his work. Two and a half centuries later, technology is advancing at breakneck speed, but our legal frameworks are stagnating. We legislate late, negotiate in silos, protect poorly. Meanwhile, artists hesitated, feared and censored themselves. This round table does not pretend to solve everything - but it does have the ambition to clearly name what's blocking it, and together lay the foundations for a European charter that will finally protect those who create.

#### Moderator: Sarah Lelouch (CEO TechCannes)

- Gaili Meiri (CEO, Taasiya)
- Tim Kraft (German media/IA lawyer)
- Jérôme Enrico (Chairman ARP / Director)
- Agnès Jaoui (Actress, Director)
- Mathieu Kassovitz (Director)

#### Introductory keynote :

**Johann Choron (Gen AI Lead Google), Sarah Cledy (Google Government Affairs and Public Policy Manager)**

"The future of Creation and AI, on the internet".

11:20 A.M.: "BEST 8<sup>th</sup> ART FILM" AWARDS CEREMONY

#### PANEL 4

### CREATING AN AI STUDIO: TOOLS, WORKFLOWS AND STORYTELLING

11H35

A new generation of AI studios is emerging, driven by creators with millions of subscribers who already dominate the platforms.

The professionals present are all part of this same movement.

Between influence, creation and structuring, together they redefine what a studio is in the age of AI.

#### Moderator: David Defendi

- Nancy Hamilton (CEO, Golden Eagle AI)
- Brad Minnich (VFX, Independent)
- Zack London (CEO, Gossip Goblin Inc)
- Fabrice Nadjari (CEO, Ministudio)
- Chris Branch: (CapCut Representative Founder of Seedily)

#### Introductory keynote :

**REZA SIXO SAFAI (FOUNDER MASSIVE A.I)** "Making independent films today".

3:15PM: "BEST FIRST FILM" AWARDS CEREMONY

**Creation. Production. Distribution.  
Spectator experience.**

AI doesn't just transform films - it transforms the entire chain. To close WAIFF, 5 leaders who are shaping the future of media share their uncompromising vision: what's changing, what's resisting, and what we need to decide now.

An unfiltered, transatlantic conversation.

**Moderator: Rémi Tereskiewicz**

- Joanna Popper (Media Tech Exec / Producer)
- Elodie Polo-Ackermann (Founder Imagissime / Mediawan)
- Sandra Dee Richardson (award-winning American director, producer)
- JD Kanani (CEO, Morphic)
- Gregg Bywalski (CEO Webedia Pôle Créateurs)

**Introductory keynote :**

**Javishth Chabria (CEO, Just Videos Studios)** "Pre-Production in the age of AI".

**ACCESS TO ESPACE MIRAMAR  
ACCREDITATION REQUIRED :**



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# FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DES FILMS DES ÉCOLES DE CINÉMA 2<sup>E</sup> ÉDITION

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# CEREMONIES

## AT THE PALAIS DES FESTIVALS

TUESDAY APRIL 21 - OPENING NIGHT

### THÉÂTRE DEBUSSY - PALAIS DES FESTIVALS & DES CONGRÈS DE CANNES

The World AI Film Festival opens this new edition at the Théâtre Debussy in the Palais des Festivals et des Congrès with an exceptional evening of glamour, creation and innovation.

After a warm welcome, the traditional "montée des marches" will bring together guests of honor, film stars and international talents to launch the festival in style.

The opening ceremony will showcase the international WAIFFs, reflecting the resolutely global dimension of the event and the diversity of viewpoints shaping tomorrow's cinema. Featuring speeches, artistic sequences and emotional moments, the evening will offer an immersive experience where images, music and artificial intelligence come together.

The highlight of the evening will be a performance by the Seoul Symphony Orchestra to mark 140 years of relations between France and South Korea. Accompanied by Italian musicians, it will offer an original creation combining music and AI, for a performance at the crossroads of cultures and technologies.

A vibrant, inspiring opening to set the tone for a forward-looking festival.

**7:00 PM: DOORS  
OPEN**

**8:30PM: LAUNCH  
OF THE CEREMONY**

**\*BY INVITATION ONLY.**  
(More information on [departement06.fr](http://departement06.fr))

WEDNESDAY APRIL 22 - AWARDS CEREMONY

### THÉÂTRE DEBUSSY - PALAIS DES FESTIVALS & DES CONGRÈS DE CANNES

The World AI Film Festival awards ceremony brings the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition to a close. After a warm welcome and a walk up the steps with jury and winners, the evening opens with a cinematic immersion before giving way to a celebration of talent.

Led by the President of the Jury, Agnès Jaoui, the ceremony will honor the most outstanding works by awarding prizes for creativity, innovation and excellence.

Punctuated by high points and moments of sharing, this evening celebrates the diversity of viewpoints and the emergence of new writing in the age of artificial intelligence.

**6:30 PM: DOORS  
OPEN**

**8:00 PM:  
CEREMONY  
LAUNCH**

**\*BY INVITATION ONLY.**  
(More information on [departement06.fr](http://departement06.fr))

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WORLD'S LEADING FESTIVAL  
& EVENT DESTINATION



# PROGRAM

# CINEMA

# THE ARCADES

## PROGRAM

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**HALL 1**

**240 SEATS**

*Official selections and documentary programming*

**10:10 - 10:50 am:** Action shorts | For ages 12 and up

**10:55 - 11:40 am:** Animated shorts | For ages 12 and up

**11:45 am - 12:25 pm:** Fantastic short films | For ages 16 and up

- Break -

**1:00 - 2:10pm:** *Napoléon III - Le prix de l'Audace*, in the presence of director **Edouard Jacques** -

*Production: Bonne Pioche Télévision* | For ages 12 and up



### AI TOOLS AT WORK" DEMONSTRATIONS

**2.15pm-2.30pm:** By **Minimax** in the presence of Esther YU

**14h35-14h50:** Par**CapCut**

**3:00 - 5:00 pm:** *The Iron Mask*, all 4 episodes (unabridged) in the presence of the production team: **Ah! Production / Canal+** | from 12 years old

**ROOM 2**

**128 SEATS**

*International selections: IA & children's films*

**10:10 - 11:00am:** Short films for young people and discussion led by the mediation teams of La Maison de l'IA (Youth Selection of the Alpes-Maritimes Department) | For ages 12 and up

**11.05am - 12.05 pm:** Short films Brazil | For ages 12 and up

- pause -

**1:00 - 2:00 pm:** Polish short films | For ages 12 and up

**2:05 - 3:00 pm:** Special selection / Short films | For ages 12 and up

**3:10 - 4.55pm:** **CapCut** selection | For ages 12 and up

**ROOM 3**

**DEBATES AND MEETINGS ROOM**



*Hosted by Skolae*

**11.15am - 12:00:** Masterclass 1 - AI, revealing talent. Hosted by Sarah Lelouch, CEO techcannes | For ages 12 and up

**12:00 - 12:45pm:** Debate 1 - Cinema - At the dawn of a new AI revolution? Moderated by Ludovic Place, Skolae | For ages 12 and up

- Break -

**2:15pm - 3pm:** Debate 2 - Will AI overturn the codes of brand content? Moderated by Marc-Antoine Bonniez, Skolae | For ages 12 and up

**3:30 pm - 4:15 pm:** Masterclass 2 - AI and creation: On the road to an 8<sup>th</sup> art? Hosted by David Defendi, CEO Genario Studio

## HALL 1

240 SEATS

### Official selection

10:10-11:00 am: *Emotion short films* | For ages 12 and up

11:05-11:15 am: *Short films Advertising* | For ages 12 and up

11:20 am-12:10 pm: *Short films first film* | For ages 12 and up

- Break -

1:30 - 2:30 pm: *Short films 8th art* | For ages 12 and up

2:40 - 3:55 pm: *International preview. Chasseur de Fauves, with the film's director and producer. A coproduction AH PRODUCTION & ADLINE* | For ages 12 and up

4:00 - 5:00 pm: *Mayas, la guerre des rois divins, in the presence of the director* | For ages 12 and up

22  
-  
04

## ROOM 2

128 SEATS

### International and youth selection

10:00 - 11:00am: *Short films for young people and discussion led by La Maison de l'IA's mediation teams (Youth Selection of the Alpes-Maritimes Department)* | For ages 12 and up

11:00 am-12:00: *AI selection / Japanese short films* | For ages 12 and up

- Break -

1:30 - 2:30 pm: *AI selection / Korean shorts* | For ages 12 and up

2:35pm - 2:50 pm: *Demonstration: AI tools at work by Minimax* | For ages 12 and up

2:55pm - 4:20 pm: *AI Selection / Short films China (Complementary program)* | For ages 12 and up

## ROOM 3

DEBATE ROOM  
AND MEETINGS



Skolae

### Hosted by Skolae

10:30 - 11:15 am : *Debate 1 - Cinema: the dawn of a new AI revolution? Hosted by Ludovic Place, Skolae*

11:15 am - 12:00 : *Debate 2 - Schools face up to the challenges of new job opportunities and professions. Hosted by Ludovic Place, Skolae*

- Break -

2:30 - 3:00 pm: *Presentation of the Student Film Prize / Skolae schools*

4:00 - 5:00 pm: *AI and the cultural and creative industries: what impact? Hosted by David Oksenberg*

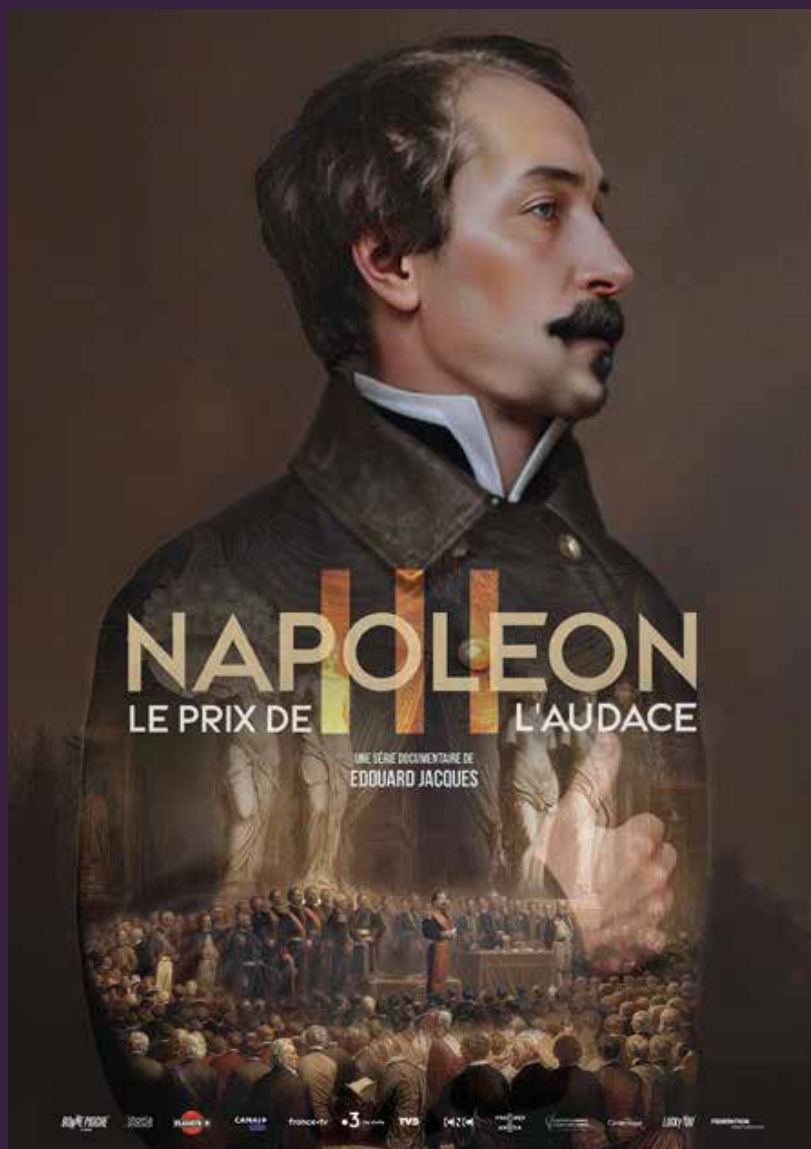
# NAPOLEON III THE PRICE OF AUDACITY

April 21, 1:00  
PM–2:10 PM

**EPISODE 1 – THE CONQUEST FOR POWER** | Ages 12 and up

## SUMMARY

In August 1840, Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, nephew of Emperor Napoleon I, landed on the French coast with about sixty armed men in uniform, intending to seize power in a coup. But ill-prepared, he and his men were arrested and brought to trial. Charles Bonnin, a young (fictional) journalist, was assigned by his editor to cover the case. From there, Bonnin became fascinated by the adventures of this self-proclaimed heir to the great emperor and followed his many escapades in the second half of the 19th century. It must be said that Louis Napoleon Bonaparte was full of surprises.



In this first episode, the young prince goes from prison to exile and from exile to the National Assembly. From the seats of the Palais Bourbon, he is elected the first president of the French Republic. Finally, as a president thwarted in his ambitions for the country, he ends up committing the ultimate crime, a coup d'état, by which he overthrows the institutions of the Second Republic, placing him alone in control of the country's destiny.

# THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK, THE ENIGMA OF THE SUN KING

April 21, 3:00  
PM – 5:00 PM

**A DOCUMENTARY SERIES WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY BENOÎT  
POISSON AND LUCAS POISSON / 4 x 30 min. | for ages 12+**

*Produced by Ah! Production - Original PLANETE Creation*

## **SUMMARY**

Masked until his last breath, imprisoned for 34 years without ever being brought to trial, the mysterious prisoner in the iron mask still haunts French history. Was he a hidden brother of Louis XIV? A spy? A simple valet, an unwitting witness to a state secret? Or a man whose face alone could not be seen?

Told in the first person by the Sun King himself, this documentary series reopens the investigation through captivating storytelling, expert analysis, and striking visual reconstructions created by AI.

From the dungeons of Pignerol to those of the Bastille, each episode unfolds a hypothesis, dismantles false leads, and reveals the political machinations of a carefully suppressed scandal. For behind this mask, it is the obsession with secrecy... and the legend of Louis XIV that take shape.



# WORLD GAME HUNTERS

April 22, 2:40  
PM – 3:55 PM

## **A FORGOTTEN STORY OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE**

À partir de 12 ans (avec avertissement  
concernant certaines scènes).

### **PREMIERE DOCUMENTARY / 52'**

*A co-production of AH PRODUCTION & ADLINE, with the participation of NOVO 19, Toute l'Histoire, SVT, and Focus-Mediaset.*

### **SUMMARY**

This documentary explores a largely forgotten dimension of circus games: the animals. Through the stories of a hunter, a slave, and a lion, it reveals the large-scale organization that supplied the Roman arenas. From the far reaches of Europe to the African continent, thousands of animals were captured, transported, and prepared for the spectacle. Drawing on the work of historians and informed by the perspective of a big cat expert, the film reveals the scope of this system, at the heart of power and the spectacle of Rome. By showcasing this rarely told reality, it sheds new light on circus games and opens a broader reflection on the relationship human societies have with the animal world.



# MAYA, THE WAR OF THE DIVINE KINGS

April 22, 4:00  
PM – 5:00 PM

**4-EPIISODE SERIES (45min)** | Ages 12 and up

## **SUMMARY**

Deep within the Mesoamerican jungle, vast Mayan cities once flourished, ruled by divine kings. But between 500 and 700 AD, all-out war erupted when the ambitious Snake Kings of Calakmul challenged the might of Tikal. Alliances, betrayals, assassinations, and dark rituals plunged civilization into chaos—a veritable Game of Thrones. In less than a century, the greatest kingdoms crumbled, swallowed by the jungle. Now, thanks to scientific advances, archaeologists are finally uncovering the epic and tragic story of this lost empire.



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## PALAIS BEACH STÉPHANIE



La plage Palais Stéphanie Beach incarne toute l'élégance de la Riviera. Face aux eaux cristallines de la Méditerranée, cette plage privée offre un cadre exclusif où se mêlent confort, raffinement et service attentif. Côté table, le restaurant propose une cuisine internationale aux influences variées, sublimée par une touche d'inspiration japonaise, pour une expérience culinaire à la fois moderne et raffinée. Idéal pour un déjeuner ensoleillé ou une parenthèse chic en bord de mer, la plage Palais Stéphanie Beach célèbre l'art de vivre méditerranéen dans toute sa splendeur.

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*Palais Stéphanie Beach embodies the elegance of the French Riviera. Overlooking the crystal-clear waters of the Mediterranean, this private beach offers an exclusive setting combining comfort, sophistication, and attentive service. On the culinary side, the restaurant features an international menu enhanced by subtle Japanese influences, creating a modern and refined dining experience. Perfect for a sunny lunch or a chic seaside escape, Palais Stéphanie Beach captures the essence of Mediterranean lifestyle.*

PALAIS STÉPHANIE BEACH  
50 Boulevard de la Croisette, 06400 Cannes  
04.92.99.52.32

Au cœur du JW Marriott Cannes, Scalini célèbre l'excellence de la gastronomie italienne dans un cadre élégant et chaleureux. Alliant tradition et créativité, le restaurant met à l'honneur des produits d'exception à travers une cuisine authentique et raffinée. Le soir, l'expérience se prolonge dans une atmosphère vibrante avec des dîners accompagnés de musique live, offrant un moment unique où plaisirs culinaires et ambiances sophistiquées se rencontrent. Une adresse incontournable pour savourer l'Italie avec élégance, au rythme de la Riviera.

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*At the heart of the JW Marriott Cannes, Scalini celebrates the excellence of Italian gastronomy in a refined and welcoming setting. Blending tradition with creativity, the restaurant showcases exceptional ingredients through authentic and elegant cuisine. In the evening, the experience comes alive with live music dinners, creating a vibrant atmosphere where fine dining meets sophisticated entertainment. A must-visit destination to enjoy Italy with elegance on the Riviera.*

SCALINI CANNES  
50 Boulevard de la Croisette, 06400 Cannes  
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2<sup>e</sup> édition 21-22 avril 2026



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