

The background of the entire page is a vibrant orange color. Overlaid on this are numerous geometric shapes in a lighter, golden-yellow hue. These shapes include long, thin rectangles and parallelograms of various sizes, all oriented at different angles, creating a dynamic, abstract pattern that resembles a stylized sunburst or a collage of architectural elements.

# UNIFRANCÉ

All the accents of creativity

# 10 to Watch

10 rising talents to watch

January 14, 2022



# 10 to Watch

## 10 rising talents to watch

They have been grabbing attention in recent months at the festivals of Berlin, Cannes, Venice, Toronto, New York, San Sebastián... They'll be seen on screens around the world in 2022. They are the new faces of French cinema.

Selected for the excellence of their work by international journalists Lisa Nesselson (*Screen International*), Fabien Lemercier (*Cineuropa*), Elsa Keslassy (*Variety*), and Jordan Mintzer (*The Hollywood Reporter*), these 10 to Watch 2022 embody the renewal of our cinema through their audacity, the diversity of their backgrounds, their freshness, exacting career choices, and their commitment.

Unifrance is proud to focus the spotlight on this new generation of directors, actors, and actresses, who contribute so fully to the effervescence of French cinematographic creation, and to encourage the distribution of their films beyond France's borders.

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CHARLINE BOURGEOIS-TACQUET © DR

# Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet

After studying literature and theater, Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet worked briefly in the publishing world. In 2016, she directed her first self-produced short film. In 2018, she drew attention with her second short, *Pauline Enslaved*, selected at the Semaine de la Critique, followed by the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, where it received the Special Mention of the Jury and the Télérâma Press Award. Shortlisted for the César Awards in 2020, it has received awards in many international festivals. Her debut feature, *Anaïs in Love*, was presented at the Semaine de la Critique in 2021. Both a public and critical success, it has been sold to many countries.





ALICE DIOP © CYRILLE CHOUPAS

## Alice Diop

A writer and director, Alice Diop trained in documentary at the Fémis after studying humanities. She won the César for Best Short Film for *Vers la tendresse* in 2017. The same year, her feature documentary *La Permanence* won the top award in the French Competition section at the Cinéma du réel festival. Her latest film *We* won awards for Best Documentary Film and Best Film in the Encounters strand at the Berlinale in 2021. She then launched into fiction with *Saint-Omer*, a feature film soon to be released, and directed an episode of the Arte series *H24*, about violence against women.





ARTHUR HARARI © PHILIPPE QUAISSÉ / UNIFRANCE

# Arthur Harari

Arthur Harari first drew attention with his short films *The Blow* and *In Vain*. He was then discovered as an actor in *Age of Panic* by Justine Triet. In 2016, his debut feature *Dark Diamond* offered Niels Schneider the César for Most Promising Actor. In 2018, he collaborated on the screenplay of Justine Triet's *Sibyl*, in which he also starred. In 2021, his film *Onoda, 10,000 Nights in the Jungle* opened Un Certain Regard at the Cannes Film Festival, where it received an excellent critical reception. He will soon appear in Triet's *Anatomie d'une chute*, which he co-wrote.



KARIM LEKLOU © JÉRÔME LOBATO

# Karim Leklou

Karim Leklou made his film debut in Jacques Audiard's *A Prophet* in 2009. In 2012, he won the Best Actor Award at the Premiers Plans and Côté Court festivals for his role in Marie Monge's *Marseille by Night*. He then acted for Raphaël Jacoulot, Elie Wajeman, and Katell Quillévéré. He became more widely known in 2018 with Romain Gavras' *The World Is Yours*, reaping a Golden Swann at the Cabourg Film Festival and a nomination for the Most Promising Male Newcomer César. He is one of the protagonists of Thomas Lilti's *Hippocrate* series. In 2021, he starred in Cédric Jimenez's *The Stronghold*. In 2022, he will be on screens in Laura Wandel's *Un monde* and Clément Cogitore's *La Goutte d'or*.





DÉBORAH LUKUMUENA © PHILIPPE QUAISSÉ / UNIFRANCE

# Déborah Lukumuena

Déborah Lukumuena's acting début was in *Divines*, by Houda Benyamina, a performance that earned her the César for Best Supporting Actress in 2017. She then drew attention in *Invisibles* by Louis-Julien Petit and continued to act in productions for the small screen, including the series *Call My Agent!*, *Narvalo*, and the TV movie *Belle, belle, belle*. In 2021, she performed opposite Gérard Depardieu in *Robust* by Constance Meyer (which opened the Semaine de la Critique), and starred in *The Braves* by Anaïs Volpé (selected at Directors' Fortnight) and in the series *H24*. She will soon be seen in Delphine Lehericéy's *Last Dance* and Alice Diop's *Saint-Omer*.



## Rabah Nait Oufella

Rabah Nait Oufella earned attention for his debut performance in Laurent Cantet's *The Class* in 2008, Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. He then went on to act in *Girlhood* by Céline Sciamma, and *Nocturama* by Bertrand Bonello. In 2016, he gave a striking performance in Julia Ducournau's *Raw*, selected at Critics' Week and winner of the FIPRESCI International Critics' Prize. In 2020, he starred in *Ibrahim* by Samir Guesmi, selected at the Cannes Film Festival and awarded the Grand Prix at the Premiers Plans d'Angers. The same year, he played the title role in *Arthur Rambo* by Laurent Cantet, presented at the Toronto and San Sebastián film festivals.





THIMOTÉE ROBART © PHILIPPE QUAISSÉ / UNIFRANCE

# Thimotée Robart

Both a film technician and actor, Thimotée Robart's first appearance was in Stéphane Batut's debut feature, *Burning Ghost*, in which he starred opposite Judith Chemla. The film was presented in the ACID strand at the Cannes Film Festival 2019. His performance earned him a place in the 2020 César Revelations, highlighting remarkable emerging French actors. In 2021, he played the lead role in *Magnetic Beats* by Vincent Maël Cardona. Selected at Directors' Fortnight, the film won the SACD Prize and then traveled to many international festivals, including Namur, Busan, São Paulo, and COLCOA. He will next be seen in *À mon seul désir* by Lucie Borleteau, alongside Zita Hanrot.



AGATHE ROUSSELLE © PHILIPPE QUAISSÉ / UNIFRANCE

# Agathe Rousselle

Agathe Rousselle studied theater before appearing in short films, including *Looking for the Self*. Julia Ducournau offered Rousselle her first major role in *Titane*, in which she plays the lead and co-stars with Vincent Lindon. Winner of the Palme d'Or in Cannes in 2021, the film has gone on to be presented in many international festivals (Toronto—where it received an Audience Award, Busan, New York, San Sebastián, and Mar del Plata, to mention just a few) and represented France at the Oscars in 2022. Her performance earned Agathe Rousselle a nomination for the Best Actress Award at the European Film Awards and for the Prix Lumières Most Promising Actress.





ANAMARIA VARTOLOMEI © FRANÇOIS BERTHIER

# Anamaria Vartolomei

Anamaria Vartolomei began her film career at the age of ten and a half in *My Little Princess*, by Eva Ionesco, in which she acted opposite Isabelle Huppert. This first role earned her a nomination for Most Promising Newcomer at the Prix Lumières. She then made a series of film appearances in *Jacky au royaume des filles* by Riad Sattouf, *Ma révolution* by Ramzi Ben Sliman and *The Ideal* by Frédéric Beigbeder. In 2017, she acted in Marc Dugain's *The Royal Exchange*, then in Martin Provost's *How to Be a Good Wife*, in 2020. She is the heroine of *Happening* by Audrey Diwan, adapted from the novel by Annie Ernaux. The film received the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival in 2021.





LUCIE ZHANG © PHILIPPE QUAISSE

## Lucie Zhang

With a dual French-Chinese background, Lucie Zhang has been passionate about cinema since high school, after which she did a few theater classes. A student in economics and management at the Université Paris-Dauphine, she acted in several short films before attracting attention in a lead role in Jacques Audiard's *Paris, 13<sup>th</sup> District*, selected in Official Competition at Cannes 2021 and then presented in many international festivals, including those of London, Chicago, Sydney, Karlovy Vary, and the AFI FEST. Her performance in the role of a free and rebellious young woman has been widely praised by film critics.