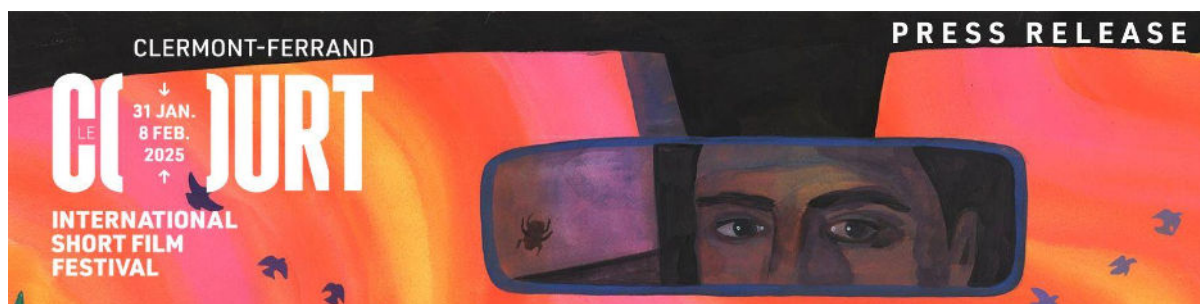


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Thursday, November 14

THE FESTIVAL UNVEILS ITS PANORAMA SECTION: LEBANON AND SOUND IN FILM

The 47th Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival will be held from 31 January to 8 February. As usual, the International, National and Lab Competitions will be accompanied by a thematic retrospective and screenings focusing on a particular geographical area.

In 2025, the festival will focus on the theme of sound in cinema, and the geographical focus will be on Lebanon.



WATCH THE TRAILER

GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS

MAABAR*

A journey across new Lebanese cinema



Maki & Zorro, by Rami Kodeih

Welcome to the land of honey and incense, whose history marked by turmoil is difficult to summarize here. Lebanon saw the thawra (revolution) in 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic, the explosion at the port of Beirut in August 2020, and a new offensive of the Israeli army in 2024. Sites of production were swept up, the Lebanese pound lost 95% of its value, with 82% of the population living under the poverty line. Faced with these circumstances, Lebanese artists persevere and reinvent themselves in spite of the obstacles. For a country half the size of Wales in the UK, smaller than the state of Connecticut in the US, (10,452 km²), filmmaking in Lebanon has flourished remarkably over the past few years. The number of filmmakers is growing, each one shaped by their own experiences and references. This has produced a blend of genres and styles from a cosmopolitan country where ideas and cultures intermingle, where international co-productions and the multiple identities of directors—often jostled between two countries—become elements which foster creativity.

Three programs in the focus showcase this vitality, proposing new ideas for making cinema, sharing films and above all rediscovering lost spaces. One program will stand out from the rest, devoted entirely to Wissam Charaf, a talented and humorous director and friend of the festival. Apart from the core of this focus, there will be other programs and proposals to help you get to know this country even better: two Collections programs, a Decibels! program, podcasts and even a photographic exhibition will be on the program.

Lebanese cinema is soaring. But History does not seem to wish to grant it any respite...

[READ THE FULL EDITORIAL](#)

[VIEW THE LIST OF FILMS](#)

THE FOCUS AT A GLANCE

20
films
made between
2004 and 2024

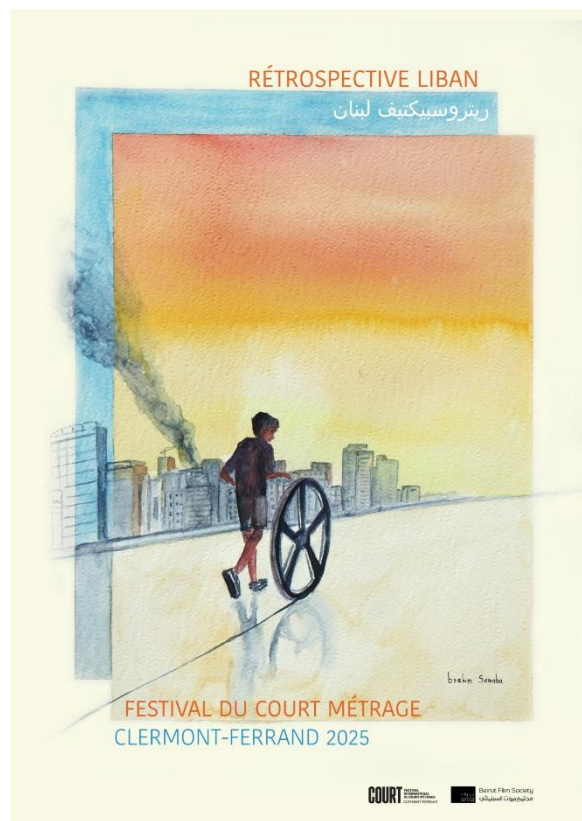
10
new films
at the festival

15
fictions
(including 1 animation)

5
documentaries
(including 1 experimental
& 3 audio)

THE LEBANESE FOCUS ALSO INCLUDES

An original poster



The poster for this focus is made by Lebanese artist **Brahim Samaha**, a painter and engraver. He is also the founder of the [Cabriolet Film Festival](#), which has been held in Beirut for the last fifteen years.

He will be attending the Festival and taking part in the *Anatomie du Labo* exhibition at Le Lieu-Dit.

A program devoted to Wissam Charaf and a masterclass



Wissam Charaf is a regular at the Clermont-Ferrand short film festival. He has won several awards, notably at the last festival, where his film *If the Sun Drowned Into an Ocean of Clouds* (photo above) won the National Special Jury Prize. He was also a member of the jury in 2020. An entire programme will be devoted to him, and he will also be giving a masterclass to find out more about his commitment and his creative process.

Masterclass
Tuesday 4 February from 16:00 to 18:00

Collections section

A program devoted to Jocelyne Saab...



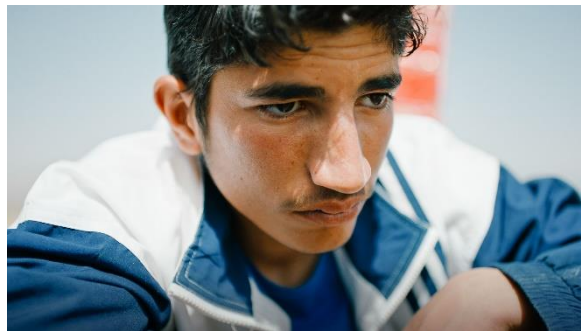
Jocelyne Saab was a photographer and filmmaker. Born in 1948 in Beirut, this Franco-Lebanese artist started out as a war reporter before going on to make over 30 award-winning documentaries worldwide, 3 of which will be presented in this Collections program.

... and a second entitled *Letters*



At the end of 2023, faced with the violence in Gaza, 18 Lebanese filmmakers got together to share their distress. They exchanged letters by lot, and the 17 short films in this collection are taken directly from the letters received by each of them.

A dedicated *Decibels!* program



Heart of Sky videoclip performed by Damian Lazarus & The Ancient Moon, directed by Jessy Moussallem

Thanks to Oiseaux-Tempête, in the film *Khamsin* we had the chance to meet activists and artists who decided that creation and action should prevail and open up a happier cycle for the country. This very important music will be featured in a *Decibels!* program devoted entirely to Lebanon.

A photo exhibition by **Lara Tabet**



Lebanese photographer **Lara Tabet** will be exhibiting at the Hôtel Fontfreyde from 3 February. Lara Tabet is a biologist and transdisciplinary artist, working at the intersection of art, ecology, biomedical science and politics. She will be a member of the Lab Jury.

3 February to 29 March
Hôtel Fontfreyde - Clermont-Ferrand photographic center

Opening: Thursday 6 February at 18:30

Cine-concert by Nâr



The Lebanese artist Nadia Daou (stage name **Nâr**) will be taking advantage of this special moment to create a film-concert that will take place on the Dark Lab stage during the festival.

Wednesday 5 February
Dark Lab - Le Lieu-dit
10 rue Fontgèze - Clermont-Ferrand

THEME IN FOCUS

SHORTS SOUNDS

Sound in film



Awasarn Sound Man, by Sorayos Prapapan

Sound is flowing through Clermont: In 2025, cinema is getting ready to be heard. This retrospective invites you to rediscover cinema through the prism of sound, a universe in which each murmur becomes a vital actor of the plot.

Though born silent, film has always been animated by sound. From its very beginnings, pioneers such as Léon Gaumont sought to synchronize images with sound. Dolby Atmos, DTS: X, Auro 3D... Today, even if sound only represents a small portion of production costs, it has become essential to the cinematic experience. As Alfred Hitchcock once said, "Sound is 50% of the image." This retrospective pays homage to the creators of these auditory universes, to the artists who capture and transform sounds in order to create a cinematic language.

We invite you, through these four programs, to discover films in which each sound tells a story, where each vibration amplifies an emotion. Foley artists, boom operators, sound engineers and field recordists create atmospheres that surround the onscreen image, transforming sound into its own narrative component.

[READ THE FULL EDITORIAL](#)

[VIEW THE LIST OF FILMS](#)

THE RETROSPECTIVE AT A GLANCE

26
films
made between
2004 and 2023

17
countries
represented

11
new films
at the festival

19
fictions
(including
3 animations)

6
documentaries

THE SOUND RETROSPECTIVE ALSO INCLUDES

BLOOD: the horror screening returns

For the fourth year running, the genre cinema slot is back for a one-off screening with a (very) large audience.

Designed specifically in the spirit of the themed retrospective, this BLOODY NIGHT program aims to thrill you with the sound of 8 films: frightening music, creepy ASMR, fatal compositions, gnashing of teeth or shrill screams, get ready to take a sound bath !



Tiny Thing directed by Joshua Giuliano (USA, 2023)

One screening only:
Friday 7 February at 21:30
Cocteau theater (Maison de la culture)

**A special guest:
Michelle Couttolenc**



Michelle Couttolenc is a sound engineer originally from Mexico. She has been involved in the sound production of more than 130 films, including *Pan's Labyrinth*, *Güeros*, *Silent Light*, *I'm Not There...* Her exceptional career has been crowned with numerous awards, she has won the Ariel Awards for Best Sound in Mexico 6 times, and in April 2021 she won the Oscar for Best Sound for her work on Darius Marder's *Sound of Metal*.

She will be present at the festival as a member of the International Jury and will be giving a masterclass on 'Sound in cinema, the art of storytelling'.

Masterclass
Wednesday 5 February at 10:00
Le studio (La Comédie)

The OST Challenge finale



As part of the Festival's official program, the Original Soundtrack Challenge is an international competition open to composers of all ages and nationalities, offering

the opportunity to compete in four categories: feature film, animated film, experimental film and script-based music composition. Candidates may compete in one or more categories.

The entries will be performed by the Orchestre National d'Auvergne, a 21-strong string orchestra conducted by Fabrice Pierre.

One screening only:
Thursday 6 February at 19:30
Opéra-théâtre

MORE INFO

A theme-based exhibition



As in previous years, this exhibition brings together some thirty artists from Clermont-Ferrand who are revisiting the essential role of sound in cinema. Through drawings, paintings, photos, sculptures and installations, they explore how sound, whether subtle or powerful, contributes to the creation of the image and the emotion of a film.

Silences
3 February to 29 March
Chapelle des Cordeliers

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

The Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival is the world's leading event dedicated to short films. Organized by the *Sauve qui peut le court métrage* association, the 47th festival (and its short film market) will take place from January 31 to February 8, 2025. It will feature masterpieces of animation, comedy, contemporary reality, genre films, graduation works from the world's top schools, and documentaries from around the globe.

Once again, short films will be revealed in all their richness and diversity in Auvergne, in the heart of winter.

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Photos © Sauve qui peut le court métrage, Camille Dampierre (Wissam Charaf), Baptiste Chantat (theme-based exhibition, OST Challenge) / Angélique Stehli (Nâr).

THEY SUPPORTED US IN 2024

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THE CLERMONT-FERRAND INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL IS ORGANISED BY

LE COURT

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