# Cannes Film Festival returns as powerhouse for Oscar contenders and directorial debuts



The Cannes Film Festival, an emblem of cinematic prestige, is set to commence shortly, attracting a constellation of Hollywood stars including Scarlett Johansson, Jennifer Lawrence, and Tom Cruise. Renowned for its ability to propel films into the awards season, Cannes serves as a pivotal platform for emerging Oscar contenders, making this year's festival an eagerly anticipated event on the film calendar.

A recent trend has seen Cannes re-establish itself as a launchpad for award hopefuls, with many films that have garnered the revered Palme d'Or—such as "Anatomy of a Fall" by Justine Triet, which clinched the top prize in 2023—going on to achieve significant success at the Oscars. The festival is known for its trendsetting nature, evidenced by the fact that four of the last five Palme d'Or winners received nominations for Best Picture at the Academy Awards. The current jury, led by French icon Juliette Binoche, also features prominent figures like Halle Berry and Jeremy Strong, all of whom will evaluate the works vying for this year's top accolade.

With a packed lineup, films like Lynne Ramsay’s adaptation of Ariana Harwicz's "Die My Love," starring Lawrence, promise to captivate audiences and critics alike. Additionally, Josh O’Connor, famed for his roles in both "Challengers" and "The Crown," is set to showcase his versatility with performances in two separate films—"The Mastermind" and "The History of Sound." The anticipation surrounding Wes Anderson’s "The Phoenician Scheme," which boasts a stellar cast including Johansson, Tom Hanks, and Benedict Cumberbatch, further enhances the festival's appeal.

Beyond the spotlight on acting, some Hollywood celebrities are making their directorial debuts at Cannes. Johansson will unveil her film "Eleanor the Great," which chronicles the life of a 94-year-old woman thrust into the limelight, while Kristen Stewart will present her adaptation of "The Chronology of Water." British actor Harris Dickinson also turns director with "Urchin," a poignant tale narrating the struggles of a rough sleeper in London. These films will compete in the festival's "Un Certain Regard" section, which highlights unique storytelling perspectives.

The festival has maintained its commitment to addressing pressing global issues through film, exemplified by notable documentaries this year, such as "Put Your Soul On Your Hand And Walk." This film pays tribute to Fatima Hassouna, a Palestinian war photojournalist tragically killed in an Israeli airstrike. The heightened interest around her story has underscored the festival's role in amplifying urgent narratives. Additional poignant documentaries include "Once Upon a Time In Gaza," directed by Palestinian twins Tarzan and Arab Nasser, and films focused on U2's Bono and writer George Orwell, offering a diverse range of storytelling that reflects societal concerns.

Hollywood legends will also take centre stage: Robert De Niro is set to receive the honorary Palme d'Or, while Spike Lee’s collaboration with Denzel Washington, titled "Highest 2 Lowest," will premiere out of competition, offering a contemporary twist on Akira Kurosawa's classic. Additionally, attendees can look forward to Jodie Foster’s participation in "Vie Privée," showcasing her range within the festival circuit.

Cannes continues to grapple with its own complexities, including discussions surrounding the #MeToo movement, exemplified by the ongoing sexual assault trial of French actor Gérard Depardieu. These undercurrents highlight the festival's place not only as a celebration of cinematic artistry but also as a platform for critical cultural discourse.

As the curtains rise on this year’s festival, the combination of star power, compelling narratives, and socio-political engagement promises a showcase that is not only entertaining but also thought-provoking, setting the stage for another unforgettable year in film.

### Reference Map

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0j78v19gp2o> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thewrap.com/cannes-film-festival-2023-awards/> - This article provides a comprehensive overview of the 2023 Cannes Film Festival awards. It details the winners, including 'Anatomy of a Fall' by Justine Triet, which won the Palme d'Or. The article also lists other awards such as the Grand Prix, Jury Prize, Best Director, and Best Actor and Actress categories. Additionally, it mentions the Camera d'Or for Best First Film and the Short Film Palme d'Or. The piece concludes with a note on the festival's significance in the film industry and its role in launching award contenders.
3. <https://aframe.oscars.org/news/post/cannes-film-festival-2023-palme-dor-winners-list> - This article from the Academy's official newsletter announces the winners of the 2023 Cannes Film Festival. It highlights 'Anatomy of a Fall' by Justine Triet as the Palme d'Or winner. The piece also lists other awards, including the Grand Prix, Jury Prize, Best Director, Best Actress, Best Actor, Best Screenplay, Camera d'Or, and Short Film Palme d'Or. The article emphasizes the festival's role in recognizing cinematic excellence and its impact on the film industry.
4. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bread_and_Roses_(2023_film)> - This Wikipedia page provides detailed information about the 2023 documentary film 'Bread and Roses,' directed by Sahra Mani and produced by Jennifer Lawrence. The film focuses on Afghan women under Taliban rule and premiered at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival. The page covers the film's production, themes, reception, and its significance in shedding light on the experiences of Afghan women. It also discusses the film's acquisition by Apple Original Films and its release timeline.
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Daughters_(2023_film)> - This Wikipedia page details the 2023 documentary film 'Four Daughters,' directed by Kaouther Ben Hania. The film tells the story of a Tunisian family after two daughters join Daesh fighters in Libya. It premiered at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival, where it competed for the Palme d'Or. The page provides information on the film's production, themes, reception, and accolades, including its selection as the Tunisian entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 96th Academy Awards.
6. <https://www.euronews.com/culture/2023/05/27/cannes-film-festival-justine-triets-anatomy-of-a-fall-wins-palme-dor> - This article from Euronews covers the 2023 Cannes Film Festival, focusing on the award-winning film 'Anatomy of a Fall' by Justine Triet, which won the Palme d'Or. It provides details about the film's plot, reception, and significance. The article also mentions other award winners, including the Grand Prix, Jury Prize, Best Director, Best Actress, and Best Screenplay. It highlights the festival's role in recognizing cinematic achievements and its impact on the film industry.
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2023_Cannes_Film_Festival> - This Wikipedia page offers an overview of the 2023 Cannes Film Festival, including its dates, location, and key events. It details the official awards presented during the festival, such as the Palme d'Or, Grand Prix, Jury Prize, Best Director, Best Actress, Best Actor, and Best Screenplay. The page also discusses the Un Certain Regard section and its awards, as well as the Honorary Palme d'Or recipients. It provides insights into the festival's significance in the film industry and its role in showcasing international cinema.