

# CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES FILM FESTIVAL

DU 12 AU 19 JUIN

## INDUSTRY WEEK 2018 - 13 > 15 JUIN CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES FILM FESTIVAL

Thursday, April 19th - Paris

### EDITORIAL - SOPHIE DULAC

«In asserting the independent identity of Champs-Elysees Film Festival and fortified by the success of its first six editions, Industry week comes back this year with the ambition to affirm its position in favor of the emergence of French and American independent cinematography.

Our program *US in Progress*, developed since 2012, has revealed many new talents of American cinema like Michael Tully, Hannah Fidell, Joshua Z. Weinstein, Benjamin Dickinson, Onur Tükel ... This year, it appears in a strengthened version with the spotlighting of 10 American films in post-production offered to a panel of French professionals and for the first time to a jury composed of an exhibitor, a distributor, a producer and a journalist.

The professional days also welcome for this 2018 edition a new program: *US & French Connection*, created in collaboration with *French in Motion* and *IFP*. Our wish through this demanding project is to allow 5 developing American projects, at the scenario stage, to come to meet the French industry.

Our desire and our role is to make Industry Week's new formula, the essential professional gateway between French and American independent cinema.»

Sophie Dulac, President of Champs-Élysées Film Festival



american film festival  
october 23-28, 2018  
wrocław, poland



### CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES FILM FESTIVAL

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## 7TH EDITION OF US IN PROGRESS



The seventh edition of US IN PROGRESS Paris will be held on 13-15 June 2018. The program, a collaboration between the Champs-Élysées Film Festival and the American Film Festival in Wrocław, Poland, seeks to facilitate the circulation of American independent cinema in Europe by bringing Industry decision makers from all over Europe to discover new US filmmakers.

Studio productions often offer a conventional and limited vision of American talents. American independent cinema is in a difficult position, with no public funding for production in the US, no grant for European distribution and no official coproduction agreements between the US and other countries.

US IN PROGRESS aims to fill that void by showcasing 10 American feature-films (documentary and fiction) in postproduction to an audience of European sales agents, festival programmers and producers. Every year, our selection strives to represent the diversity and wealth of this American cinema, even its gray areas that continue to surprise us.

Thanks to US IN PROGRESS, European professionals, faithful to the program since its inception, have been able to discover new filmmakers such as Joshua Z Weinstein, Jessica Orek, Nathan Silver, Mike Ott, Benjamin Dickinson, Matt Porterfield, Mike Tully, Daniel Carbone, Leah Meyerhoff, Onur Tukul and many more.

US IN PROGRESS also enables the development of lasting relationships/collaborations we are pleased to watch evolve over the years.

We wish all the participants of the program a wonderful edition.

### US IN PROGRESS LAUNCHES A NEW JURY

US in Progress Paris developed a long term collaboration with a wonderful Jury composed of heads of post-production and film promotion, but with Industry Week's new formula, we decided to challenge a new Jury including a producer (Emilie Georges – La Cinefacture/Memento Film International), a distributor (Thomas Pibarot – Le Pacte), an exhibitor (Stéphane Goudet – Le Méliès) and a journalist (Vincent Leleurch – Le Film Français). We believe it is essential for the keys actors of the industry that are working in every step of a film's production, to join forces and highlight the strength of American independent films and support thanks to a cash prize of 8000 euros, one film among the 10 selected projects.



**Émilie Georges**  
Producer  
La Cinéfacture /  
Memento Films International



**Thomas Pibarot**  
Distributor  
Le Pacte



**Vincent Le Leurch**  
Journalist  
Le Film Français



**Stéphane Goudet**  
Exhibitor  
Cinéma le Méliès

### THE TEAM

Marie ZENITER – Organiser / Selection - mariezeniter@gmail.com  
Chantal LIAN – Organiser / Selection - clian@cefilmfestival.com  
Ula SNIEGOWSKA (American Film Festival – Wrocław/US in Progress) – Selection  
Monica SEMCZYK – Selection

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## US & FRENCH CONNECTION ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST EDITION

AT THE INDUSTRY WEEK OF CHAMPS-ELYSEES FILM FESTIVAL JUNE 13 -15, 2018.

# US & FRENCH CONNECTION

US & FRENCH CONNECTION is a year-round program created by the INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER PROJECT (IFP) in partnership with FRENCH IN MOTION, two organizations based in New York bringing together film professionals and talents. US & FRENCH CONNECTION is designed for creatives who want to produce international feature and documentary films, as well as series, for which they need partners on both sides of the Atlantic. The Program will be overseen by heads of program Amy Dotson & Nathalie Perus and Gabriele Capolino, Program Producer.

*"IFP is so pleased to be in partnership with French in Motion and Champs Elysees Film Festival through our IFP Expanded program, finding fresh and exciting ways for producers and creatives to grow artistically, expand their professional networks, and find new business opportunities in Paris - and beyond"* says IFP Executive Director, Joana Vicente.

*"We're thrilled to launch this two-way program with our partners at IFP and Champs Elysees Film Festival. Even if there is no co-production agreement between France and the US, both countries share a common culture and unconditional love for independent films and auteur cinema. It's the mission of US & French Connection to bring creators and stories together and open up ways for international creation."* Nathalie Perus, French In Motion President.

*"By re-centering the objectives of Industry Week on American production projects, we hope to work with trans-Atlantic partners who have the potential to bring further expertise to the original event. "US & French Connection," a program initiated by IFP and French in Motion, allows us to have some projects in progress, and get head start on projects that US in Progress Paris plans for the next year. A certain synergy is necessary to facilitate the development of a network of American directors and producers in Paris."* Chantal Lian, organization / selection US in Progress & Champs-Élysées Film Festival

The selection is made upon a call for applications, in March for American projects and in May for French projects. The first workshop takes place in Paris, June 13-15, 2018, at the Champs Elysees Film Festival's 'Industry Week'. U.S. teams will meet with their French peers from the program as well as industry decision makers (producers, financiers, distributors, sales agents, broadcasters, etc.) who can help move their projects forward. The second workshop takes place in New York at IFP Week September 15- 20, 2018, where French teams come to meet the American industry.

The five American projects selected on script and application for this first edition and whose producers / directors will be present at the Champs Elysees Film Festival are:

- **AU PAIR** : Feature Film- Prod. And Dir. Jason Cortlund & Julia Halperin ('Barracuda', 'Now, Forager'). An American woman searches for her adopted son, who has gone missing while trying to reconnect with his birth mother in rural France.
- **KIDS GO FREE TO FUN FUN TIME** : Feature Film- Dir. Ben Hicks, Prod. Liz Cardenas ('A Ghost Story,' 'Never Goin' Back'). A young, adventurous couple struggles to evolve together – as they live in Japan, Taiwan, and Spain – over the course of ten years.
- **THE EXPAT** : Feature Film- Dir. Daniel Laabs ('Jules of Light and Dark') Prod. Jeff Walker ('Jules of Light and Dark'). One man's terrifying retreat into another man's lawless paradise of rum, survival and midnight shark fishing.
- **THE FIREBIRD** : Feature Film- Writer Suzanne Egan, Prod. Amy Rapp ('Return', 'Tower'), Nora Unkel, Devin Shepherd. During the Russian civil war, a runaway princess finds refuge at a ballet academy. As the red army marches closer, she searches for a safe escape while keeping her identity a secret.
- **THE GYMNAST** : Feature Film- Dir. Charlotte Glynn ('Rachel Is', 'The Immaculate Reception'), Prod. Mike Harrop ('Billions', 'I Smile Back'), Brian Koppelman & David Levien ('Billions', 'Ocean's Thirteen', 'The Girlfriend Experience'). In a former mill-town devastated by loss of industry, a 14-year-old aspiring Olympic gymnast and her single father, a die hard "gym dad", must fight to reinvent themselves after a potentially career ending injury.

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## ABOUT IFP :

The Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP) champions the future of storytelling by connecting artists with essential resources at all stages of development and distribution. The organization fosters a vibrant and sustainable independent storytelling community through its year-round programs, which include IFP Week, IFP Labs, IFP Expanded, Filmmaker Magazine, IFP Gotham Awards, and the Made in NY Media Center by IFP, a new incubator space developed with the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment located in Brooklyn. IFP represents an ever-growing network of 20,000+ storytellers around the world (alumni include Debra Granik, Andrew Haigh, Barry Jenkins, Dee Rees, and Denis Villeneuve), and plays a key role in developing 350 new fiction and nonfiction works each year. Founded in 1979, IFP is the largest and oldest not-for-profit dedicated to independent film and storytelling on all formats and platforms. In 2018, IFP launches IFP Expanded programming and produces international labs to increase creative and business opportunities in film, television, web & digital media, audio storytelling, at all stages of the process.

## ABOUT FRENCH IN MOTION :

FIM is a New York-based organization created in May 2016 that reunites film, television and new media professionals. All functions are represented: screenwriters, directors, producers, editors, film crews, distributors, broadcasters, etc. FIM connects projects and talents on both sides of the Atlantic. For the last two years, FIM has been a partner of IFP Week (the only international co-production market in the US) where it presents international projects in development initiated in France, from movies to tv-series and documentaries.

## ABOUT CHAMPS ELYSEES FILM FESTIVAL :

Champs-Élysées Film Festival is a film festival created in 2012 by Sophie Dulac which takes place in June in Paris. Its ambitions to promote American and French independent cinema to new audiences. Its events are dedicated to the general public: competition films, previews, masterclasses, special nights, conferences ... Champs Élysées Film Festival hosts an Industry Week for professionals, composed of the US IN PROGRESS program for American films in the post-production phase, and the US & FRENCH CONNECTION program for films in the development and production phase.

## THE TEAM :

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2018

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