



THE FILM  
**VERDICT**  
CANNES REVIEW DAILY



## UN CERTAIN REGARD



### THE DELINQUENTS

**VERDICT:** A delicious reverie on escaping capitalism's numbing daily drudge and finding the true meaning of freedom, "The Delinquents" is a rare three-hour charmer sure to be scooped up in multiple territories.

Jay Weissberg, May 18, 2023

In almost every Cannes there are one or two Un certain regard titles that make everyone wonder why they're not in competition rather than some of the mediocre entries from established auteurs. Rodrigo Moreno's *The Delinquents*, like last year's *Godland* by Hlynur Pálmason, is that film, guaranteed to be talked about and celebrated far more than many in the splashier section. Putting a big ole' bullseye on capitalism yet doing so with a great deal of understated

humor, *The Delinquents* wears its cleverness so lightly you barely realize how expertly Moreno (A *Mysterious World*, *El Custodio*) is weaving together characters and themes, sensationally accompanied by musical selections as compelling as life outside the rat race. Paralleling a couple of bank employees who seek to escape the suffocating grip of daily clock-punching, the film backpedals the heist element to...

[Full Review](#)

## Rai Cinema



Paolo Del Brocco

### €86million Supported the Backbone of the Italian Film Industry

Paolo Del Brocco has been CEO of Rai Cinema, the production arm of Italy's public broadcaster Rai, since 2010. He joined Rai in 1991 and was managing director of Rai Cinema from 2007 to 2010. With investments in roughly half of Italy's film output, Rai Cinema is the most powerful force in the world of Italian film production. Additionally, it is the parent company of 01 Distribuzione, which last year was fourth on the list of Italy's largest film distributors in terms of revenue. All three Italian entries at Cannes this year (Alice Rohrwacher's *La Chimera*, Nanni Moretti's *Il Sole dell'avvenire*, and Marco Bellocchio's *Rapito*) were co-produced by Rai Cinema. Here Del

[\(Continues page 2\)](#)

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**RAI CINEMA** *(Continued)*

Brocco talks with The Film Verdict about Italian cinema and the public role that Rai Cinema plays in strengthening it.

**The Film Verdict: Thank for taking the time to chat with The Film Verdict. Small producers have historically formed the basis of Italian film production and contributed enormously to its success both in Italy and worldwide. How many small producers are currently working with Rai Cinema each year?**

Paolo Del Brocco: Small producers are the backbone of the Italian film industry and as such, they must be supported and appreciated, particularly now that many big international operators have acquired so many Italian independent production companies, creating very large entities. It is, foremost, a question of identity that touches the production of content for our citizens. As a public service, we are conscious of our responsibility to raise the level of quality of the content we produce for the public. It is our mission to support independent producers. In 2022, Rai Cinema contributed to the production of 76 feature films and 46 documentaries – an 86-million-euro investment – and partnered with over 100 producers.

**TFV: In what ways does Rai Cinema help these Italian professionals and small producers?**



PDB: After careful editorial and financial evaluation, which also considers the project's target audience and potential for earnings, Rai Cinema chooses which independent producers' projects to support. The investment in support of the producers is made with a view to closing the financial plan. In other words, we operate as true industry partners. Of course, the type of investment varies, depending on what kind of film is being offered. Through the years we have supported a great many independent producers – some 200 separate companies in the years 2020-2022 – because we are convinced that Rai Cinema plays an important role in the industry.

**TFV: How does this cooperation help strengthen the Italian cinema industry?**

PDB: The only way to keep Italian cinema alive is by supporting the independent producers, specially at a time when content is promoted and conveyed by global companies whose goal is the country's market, not its culture. Supporting the producers means staying on their side during the production of the film, allowing them to grow, and giving them the opportunity to create increasingly more important projects that include not just talents, filmmakers, and screenwriters, but also many excellent but overlooked skilled workers that we have in Italy. As I have always said, every film brings with it a small economy that starts with the writing of the project and continues until even after the film has been released...

[Full Interview](#)







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## COMPETITION



### YOUTH (SPRING)

**VERDICT:** A document of striking social import, though not easy to watch for 3 ½ consecutive hours, Wang Bing's intimate portrait of the Chinese youth who sew the world's clothing for a pittance speaks truth to the global economy.

*Deborah Young, May 18, 2023*

Some 100 miles from Shanghai stands the city of Zhili, known as the center of the Chinese children's clothing, an industry valued at US \$47 billion. Yet as we learn from Wang Bing's *Youth (Spring)*, the city's workshops brim over with young men and women in their twenties working overtime for very little pay. This exhaustive portrait of a slice of Chinese society dives deep into the underbelly of capitalism, probably a lot deeper than most audiences will want to follow. Those who do make the journey will certainly think twice about buying cheap made-in-China wear as they remember the fun-loving, overworked youth in this film.

Five years in the making, the film suffered a further setback from Covid, to finally debut in competition at Cannes. Noted documaker Wang Bing, who comes from the north of China, has previously explored the country's northeast industrial complex in his first film, *Tie Xi Qu: West of the Tracks* (2002) and the northwest in *The Ditch* (2002), about the Chinese imprisoned in a forced labor camp in the Gobi Desert under Mao Zedong. Here he immersed himself in the unfamiliar culture and dialects of provinces along the Yangtsé River, from where much of Zhili's labor force comes.

The city itself is never seen in the film: no drone shots or panoramas from high buildings, no drives through the city center.

[Full Review](#)

## ACID



## ON THE EDGE

**VERDICT:** Nicolas Peduzzi's doc following a devoted Paris psychiatrist on hospital rounds is as warmly human as it is indignant at the capitalist gutting of public services.

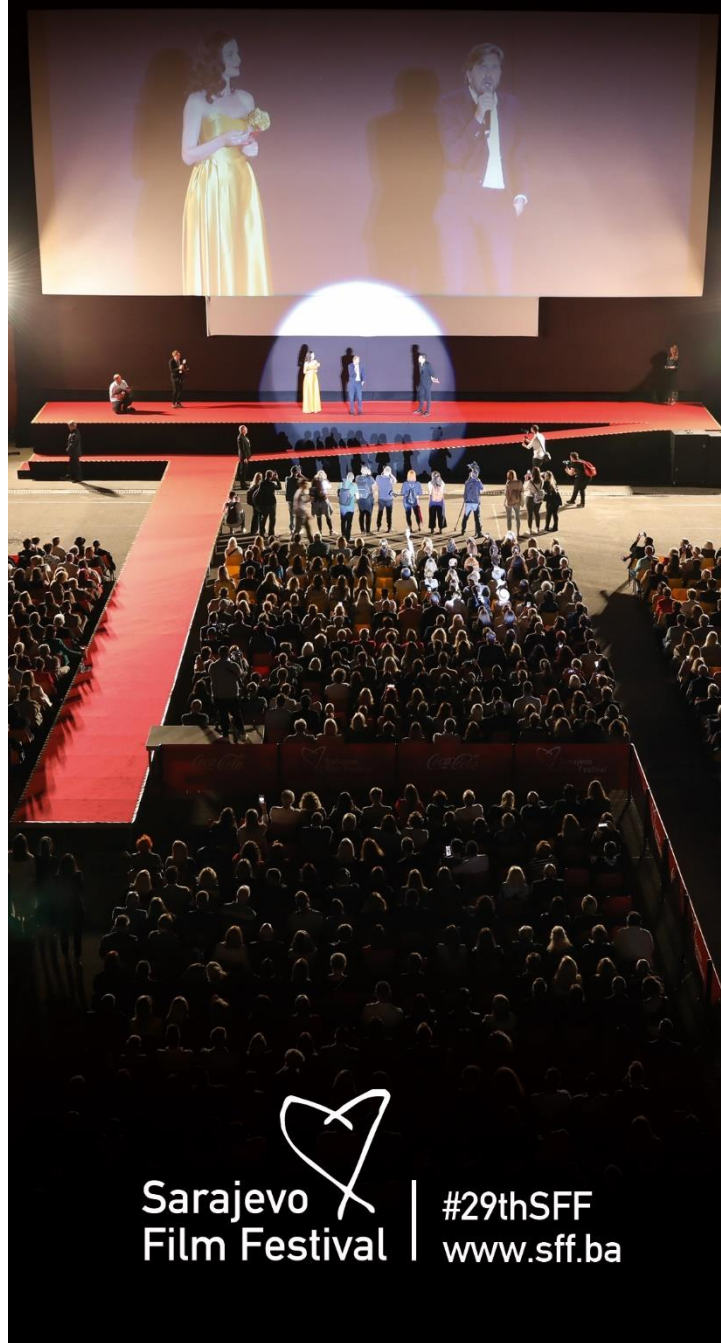
*Carmen Gray, May 18, 2023*

The Beaujon Hospital in the Paris inner suburb of Clichy used to have a psychiatric ward, but now funding is pinched and the understaffed building has only one psychiatrist employed to cope with its hectic rotation of patients in urgent need. French director Nicolas Peduzzi, whose first two feature-length documentaries *Southern Belle* (2017) and *Ghost Song* (2021) were portraits of troubled lives in Houston, Texas, has turned his eye homeward with his third feature *On the Edge*, screening in the Cannes parallel section ACID after garnering a jury Special Mention at documentary festival CPH:DOX in Copenhagen.

We tag along with Beaujon's devoted but overworked psychiatrist, 34-year-old Jamal Abdel Kader, and his interns on their daily rounds. Peduzzi's vision of this often thankless line of work is compassionate and staunchly anti-capitalist. He allows us to connect with both staff and patients as individual personalities in all their human drama, while framing their frustrations as symptomatic of a much wider crisis in public institutions in France, and of a society that insists on quantifying relationships of trust and care that are intrinsically priceless. Hooking audience attention through relatable warmth, humour and pathos, the film speaks to widespread global anxieties about the gutting of public services to bolster unequal wealth; it should also play well to festival audiences outside France.

[Full Review](#)

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## UN CERTAIN REGARD



### THE NATURE OF LOVE

**VERDICT:** A city girl and country boy fall in love in Monia Chokri's dramatic rom-com that presents a superficial look at how opposites attract.

Kevin Jagernauth, May 18, 2023

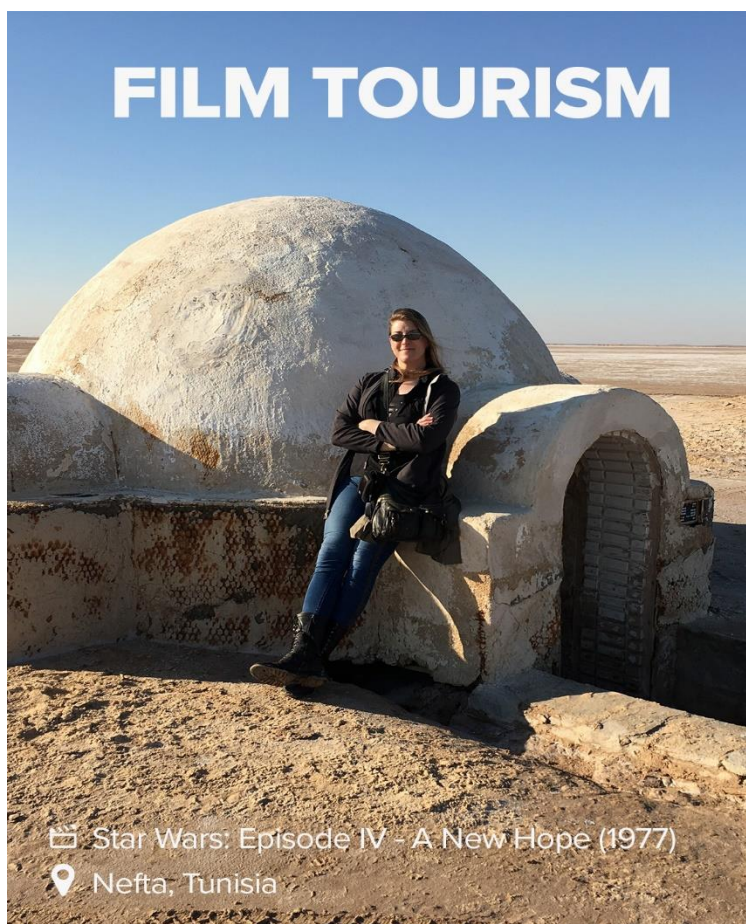
Ever since humans were able to grunt to communicate affection for another person, the world's greatest minds have grappled

with understanding and defining the elusive, unpredictable, and disorienting feeling of desire. If history's deepest thinkers haven't

been able to sort out the riddle of affection, what chance do the rest of us have? Monia Chokri's third feature *The Nature of Love* — and the filmmaker's second to land in Un Certain Regard following her debut *A Brother's Love* — wades into these uncertain waters with a romantic drama whose philosophical musings can't patch over the film's slight, largely inconsequential construct.

On paper, Sophia (Magalie Lépin Blondeau) and Xavier (Francois Létourneau) are the perfect match: intellectual equals living in metropolitan Montreal, with a tight-knit circle of similarly minded, progressive friends. However, the fact they sleep contentedly in separate bedrooms belies a rift in their relationship that they're perhaps not ready to acknowledge. That crack turns into a full blown rupture when Sophia falls for Sylvain (Pierre-Yves Cardinal), [Full Review](#)

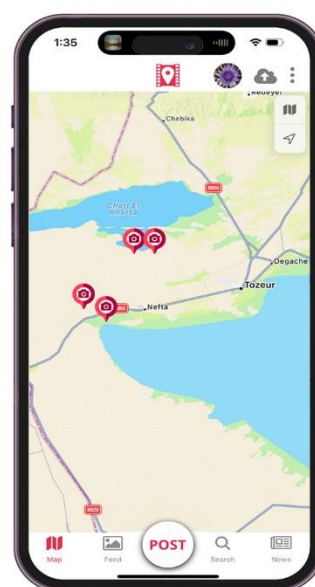
## FILM TOURISM



Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope (1977)

Nefta, Tunisia

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**Carlota Guerrero**  
talks to TFV

setting for Sony Pictures' *Uncharted* starring Tom Holland. HBO's *Westworld*, Netflix's upcoming TV Series *Where Is Erin*, and Peacock's original *Mrs. Davis* that is also available on HBO, are some other examples.

Multilingual crews, used to working in the most time-and cost-effective ways, have a passion for filmmaking, a commitment to work at the highest possible quality standards and renowned hospitality which contribute to creating long-lasting

## MEET Carlota Guerrero, Catalunya (Spain) Film Commission

Catalonia hosts an average of 4,000 productions per year – from short films to feature films and TV series – that make use of the wide array of locations to be found in Catalonia and its capital city Barcelona.

Catalan films selected at international film festivals often showcase local landscapes. 2022's Golden Bear winner, *Alcarràs*, took the Catalan countryside to theatres all over the world. In 2023, *Creatura*, directed by Elena Martín Gimeno, is part of the selection of the Quinzaine des Cinéastes at Festival de Cannes. Shot in Costa Brava, the film revisits the protagonist's childhood and adolescence experiences, set against these particular seascapes, in hopes to reconcile with her own body.

Ever since *Game of Thrones* shot part of season 6 in Girona in 2015, a number of international productions have filmed in Catalonia, either doubling for imaginary or real locations or as the actual setting of the story. *House of the Dragon* used the Costa Brava to double for King's Landing, Barcelona stood in for Paris in *The Crown* and was the

relationships with film professionals that choose our territory as a favourite destination for their projects.

The 100+ features and TV shows that film in Catalonia every year make use of the diverse landscapes of the region. To the north, a 350km mountain range marks the Catalan border with France. To the east, 580 km of Mediterranean coast

*Continued next page*



Photo: Lori Balton



with long sandy beaches, virgin coves, small fishing villages and big commercial ports. Inland, manufacturing cities and old medieval towns boast industrial and cultural heritage alongside dense forests and green hills. Barcelona is a safe and welcoming urban enclave offering all sorts of locations, ranging from Roman archaeological remains to contemporary 21st century architectural designs.

### Financing your project in Catalonia

International producers wishing to access financing in Catalonia can partner with local companies through a coproduction agreement whereby the local company can apply for specific funds, or by hiring their production services and becoming eligible for the tax rebate available for international productions.

The minority coproduction fund awards a maximum of €300,000 per project for feature films intended for theatrical release, while the recently boosted Spanish tax rebate may yield a tax relief of up to €20 million for international productions.

Catalunya Film Commission is part of the film fund and the entry point for filmmakers interested in shooting in the region. It provides guidance on accessing, acts as a link to the local audio-visual infrastructure and local authorities and offers a comprehensive database of locations and companies.

### 2023 Country of Honor

Marche du Film welcomes Spain as 2023 Country of Honor. Spain's participation in Cannes will be organized by Cinema from Spain through ICEX Spain Trade & Investment and ICAA – Institute of Cinematography & Audiovisual Arts, who will work together with the Marche to establish a strong and prominent presence of Spanish talent and content in all sections of the market.



Watch the Trailer of *Creatura*

## Creatura Screening at Directors Fortnight

*Creatura* is directed by Elena Martín, an actress, screenwriter and director from Barcelona. Her debut as a director for which she also took the leading role, *Júlia ist*, was praised by the festival circuit. As an actress, she starred in *Watermelon Juice*, *Facing the Wind* and *Agatha's Friends*. On TV for HBO, she was in the writer's room of *Veneno*, directed two episodes of *Perfect Life* and created an episode of *En casa*. The film follows a seemingly perfect couple. They just can't manage to have sex anymore. While attempting to explain things to her partner, Mila reflects on her sexual awakening, from adolescence back to early childhood. No real defining trauma, no single key event, but an accumulation of humiliations, things unsaid and treated as taboo, filmed starkly and non-melodramatically by the actress-filmmaker. More than a psychoanalytical session, the film is an archaeological expedition into one person's sexuality that is the experience of many.

### Meet Me in Cannes!

Visit us at the Catalan stand at Marché du Film in Cannes to know more about Catalan cinematography, film funds and Catalan companies willing to coproduce or provide production services for your project. For further information, whether financing or filming in Catalonia, don't hesitate to contact us:

**Carlota Guerrero**  
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[www.catalunyawfilmcommission.cat](http://www.catalunyawfilmcommission.cat)  
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# FEST clips

## Locarno Film Festival Announces Jury Chair



Photo: ©Igor Shabalin

Celebrated French actor Lambert Wilson will be President of the Jury awarding the Pardo d'oro (Golden Leopard) – to a film in the Concorso internazionale at the 76th Locarno Film Festival.

Clearly, a quite remarkable artistic personality, as Giona A. Nazzaro, artistic director of the Locarno Film Festival, points out: “In the course of an extraordinary career, enriched by encounters with filmmakers of the caliber of Chabrol, Demy, Żuławski, Techné, Resnais and so many others, Lambert Wilson has left a lasting mark on European and international cinema. Equipped with chameleon-like imitative gifts, he has established himself as one of the best-loved and most recognizable faces for audiences everywhere, moving effortlessly between the stage, independent films, and Hollywood powerhouses like the Matrix franchise. A versatile performer, always willing to take risks, Wilson has long demonstrated an inexhaustible curiosity for the potential of the cinema. All of which makes him the ideal President of the Jury for this year’s Concorso internazionale at Locarno”.

Born into an acting family – his father Georges Wilson worked for over sixty years on stage, film, and television – Lambert Wilson made his debut on the big screen aged only twenty, cast by Fred Zinnemann in *Julia* (1977). Over the following decade, his face became familiar to mainstream audiences thanks to his many appearances on TV and in popular hits such as *La boum 2* (1982). The new millennium saw Wilson successfully transition to the Hollywood blockbuster, as he became the Merovingian in the Wachowskis’ *The Matrix* Franchise and more recently he starred in *Les Choses simples*.

The Jury of the Concorso internazionale chaired by Lambert Wilson will award the Pardo d’oro on the closing night of the Festival.

**Locarno Film Festival runs August 2 - 12**

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# Marché news & reviews

## White Plastic Sky



Salto Films

**VERDICT:** Prize-winning Hungarian director duo Tibor Bánóczki and Sarolta Szabó foresee a bleak future for humankind in their visually striking debut feature, an animated eco-disaster thriller with a lyrical fairy-tale edge.

[Full Review](#)

**Saturday May 20**  
**16:00 Olympia 3**  
**FILMS BOUTIQUE**

## When it Melts



**VERDICT:** A hard-hitting and very cruel story of youth from Belgian actress turned first-time director Veerle Baetens.

[Full Review](#)

**Saturday May 20**  
**12:00 Palais G**  
**THE PARTY FILM SALES**

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UK-based sales firm 101 Films International, an Amcomri Entertainment company, unveils exclusive first look trailers for WW2 war films *War Blade* and *Fortunes of War* produced by independent film production company Picture Perfect, at the Cannes Film Festival.

*War Blade* is a WW2 adventure film from the multi-award-winning director Nicholas Winter (*Robin Hood: The Rebellion*, *Breathe*, *Bone Breaker*), and stars Joseph Mills on (*Casino Royale*, *The Last Kingdom*), Paul Marlon (*Renegades*), Michael McKell (*Jekyll and Hyde*), Rebecca Scott (*Pride and Prejudice* and *Zombies*), Ade Dimberline (*George Michael: Portrait of an Artist*) and Ronan Summers (*Guardians of the Galaxy*). The creative team also includes producers Jeet Thakrar, Lucinda Rhodes Thakrar and Sammy Measom.

*Fortunes of War* is directed by Bill Thomas (*Guardians Of The Galaxy*), produced by Lucinda Rhodes Thakrar and Lucy Sanders and stars James Oliver Wheatley (*The Lost Pirate Kingdom*, *The Liberator*) and Sophie Craig (*The Adventures Of Maid Marian*).

Eoghan Burke, VP of International Sales, 101 Films International comments, "We're very excited to have these two brand new movies to offer our clients at the Marché. With high production values and strong casts they both have gripping storylines which will have audiences on the edge of their seats."



GFM Animation, Threshold Entertainment and Syco Entertainment have announced a new animated feature film *X Factor In The Jungle*.

The movie is based on Simon Cowell's multi award winning singing competition phenomenon TV series *The X Factor*. The series has run for 20 years with 178 international adaptations with artists discovered by The X Factor – including artists such as One Direction and Fifth Harmony, selling more than 500 million records worldwide, making it the most prolific TV show in history for finding chart superstars.

GFM Animation Ltd is a production, financing and distribution sales company which has been developing a strong, dedicated animation slate since inception some 7 years ago.

Threshold Entertainment makes movies, animated movies and Location-Based Entertainment (LBE) largely based on some of the world's biggest brands, such as Spiderman, Mortal Kombat & Lego.

Syco Entertainment is one of the world's leading global music, television and film production companies, responsible for some of the most successful global entertainment formats. Syco's television assets include Got Talent and The X Factor in addition to America's Got Talent Super Stars Live residency in Las Vegas.