



# Bon anniversaire as festival turns 30

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**Red and blue will unite this March when the Cork French Film Festival celebrates 30 years of Gallic cinema on Leaside.**

This year's festival will feature a total of 20 films, six of which have been nominated for Cesar awards, with one set to make an appearance at the Oscars.

The movies will all be shown at the Gate Cinema and, to mark the occasion, organisers are preparing a packed programme of events to ensure that this year is the biggest and best Cork French Film Festival to date.

Well known French actors, directors and DJs have been invited to Cork to take part in the festival which runs from 3-10 March and will also feature a number of food events.

Things will get underway with an opening gala at which the first movie will be screened followed by a party in St Peter's on North Main Street.

Speaking to the Cork Independent yesterday, Director of Alliance Française de Cork, Jean-Christophe Trentinella, said: "This is a very important milestone for the festival and we plan to celebrate it to the full

extent of our means.

"It is so important to go out and partake in what you might call the ritual of gathering to watch a film. It is then important to discuss it with the people you've watched it with. This is how you create and strengthen relationships."

Although the programme for the festival is yet to be released, Mr Trentinella is confident that there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

He said: "I am very happy with the programme. We have different offerings for different groups of people and this year we really tried appeal to all age groups and audiences, not to mention that many of these films will be premiering during the festival."

The theme of this year's festival is Ensemble or Together, with particular attention being paid to the importance of French-Irish relations.

"There is a long tradition of connection between France and Ireland and it's something we should continue to explore and not take for granted, especially considering that Brexit is almost upon us," concluded Mr Trentinella.



**Aoife Healy, Aoibhe Jacob and Suin Dodd at the announcement of the 30th Cork French Film Festival which will take place from 3-10 March. PHOTO: CLARE KEOGH**