



Suin Dodd, Aoibhe Jacob and Aoife Healy, at the announcement that the 30th Cork French Film Festival will take place from March 3 to 10. The theme for this year's Festival is "Together".
 Picture: Clare Keogh

Let's 'Ensemble' for film festival

FAMOUS French actors, directors and DJs have been invited to Cork to take part in the Cork French Film Festival this year to celebrate its 30th anniversary.

The festival will run from Sunday, March 3 to Sunday, March 10 and the films will be screened at The Gate Cinema. The theme of this year's festival is "Together" or "Ensemble." Organisers say this theme aims to explore "the various ways in which we are interconnected," and how we come together to face and overcome life challenges. The opening gala of the festival will be a big event this year with the screening of the opening movie followed by a party at St Peters.

There will also be a number of food events during this year's festival as well as a focus on environmental issues in partnership with the Cork Environmental Forum. Organisers claim it will be the biggest and best Cork French Film Festival yet, and among this year's sponsors are the Cork City Council and the French Embassy to Ireland. Jean-Cristophe Trentinella is Director

■ Fergus Efe O'Donoghue

of Alliance Française de Cork, a Cork-based organisation founded in 1947, which focuses on promoting French language and culture through language courses which is involved in organising the Cork French Film Festival. He commented that recent fears caused by Brexit are making people feel more interdependent than usual, and reinforcing the strong ties between Ireland and France.

Because of this, he says: "This year's programme is incredibly in tune with what's happening today in our societies in general and French society in particular."

"Some of the films might be difficult, with themes such as unemployment and social struggles, because these films give us a glimpse in other people's life, their hopes and their challenges." He added that he was proud of what he felt was the personal accuracy of this year's program. The Cork French Film Festival is one of more than 65 festivals and occasions in Cork, with about half being in the city alone. The programme has yet to be announced.