

celebs

Cannes Film Festival: the 21 films vying for the top prize

AFP | Paris, France

The Cannes Film Festival listed 21 films in its main competition at next month's event, with at least one more movie set to be announced at a later date.

"Paper Tiger" with Adam Driver and Scarlett Johansson by American director James Gray has been widely tipped to join the line up.

Here are the films confirmed so far, listed with title and director:

"Amarga Navidad" (Bitter Christmas) by Pedro Almodovar

A seventh selection for the Spanish filmmaker with his latest film, already released in Spain, that tells the story of a director who draws on the lives of those close to her to write her stories.

"Histoires Parallèles" (Parallel Stories) by Asghar Farhadi

The exiled Oscar-winning Iranian filmmaker directs a French cast comprising Catherine Deneuve, Isabelle Huppert and Pierre Niney to tell "several stories that intertwine in a corner of Paris", according to festival director Thierry Fremaux.

"La Vie d'une Femme" (A Woman's Life) by Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet

French actress Lea Drucker plays a stressed-out surgeon in a hospital who encounters a novelist who comes to watch her work -- one of four French-made films in the line-up.

"La Bola Negra" (The Black Ball) by Javier Calvo and Javier Ambrossi

A Spanish historical film exploring gay lives, featuring Glenn Close and Penelope Cruz, that revisits a moment from the country's Civil War.

"Coward" by Lukas Dhont

This film from a highly rated young Belgian director is set in the First World War with visuals "inspired by the colour photographs of the period", Fremaux noted.

"Das Getraumte Abenteuer" (The Dreamed Adventure) by Valeska Grisebach

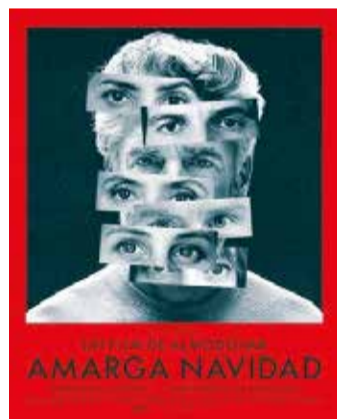
The story of a woman living in the border region between Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey who agrees to a deal to help a friend. From the German director of "Western".

"Soudain" (Suddenly) by Ryusuke Hamaguchi

After the worldwide success of "Drive My Car", the Japanese filmmaker returns with a film shot in France, with Virginie Efira as the director of a nursing home who befriends a Japanese



Cannes film festival General Delegate Thierry Fremaux (L) and Festival President Iris Knobloch pose after a press conference to announce the official selection of the 79th edition of the Cannes Film Festival, at the Pathe Palace cinema in Paris



The Cannes Film Festival, held each year in the city of Cannes, is one of the world's most prestigious film events, and its top prize, the Palme d'Or, is considered among the highest honours in cinema.

stage director.

"l'Inconnue" (The Unknown Woman) by Arthur Harari

The screenwriter of the 2023 Palme d'Or winner "Anatomy of a Fall" adapts the graphic novel he wrote with his brother about a man who wakes up in the body of a mysterious stranger.

"Garance" by Jeanne Herry

Cannes favourite Adele Exarchopoulos plays a heavy-drinking actress in this French production.

"Sheep in the Box" by Hirokazu Kore-eda

The latest film by the Japanese winner of the 2018 Palme d'Or for "Shoplifters" is about a couple who welcome a cutting-edge robot into their home.

"Hope" by Na Hong-jin

Starring Michael Fassbender and Alicia Vikander, this film about a port city facing unexplained events is by South Korea's sole representative in the main competition this year.

"Nagi Notes" by Koji Fukada

After tackling the pop industry's exploitation of young Japanese women in his last film "Love on Trial", Fukada heads to rural Japan for a feature about an encounter between two lonely souls.

"Gentle Monster" by Marie Kreutzer

The Austrian director brings together French stars Lea Seydoux and Catherine Deneuve -- both in two in-competition movies at Cannes -- in a story about a couple in which one partner suddenly reveals a monstrous side.

"Notre Salut" (Our Salvation) by Emmanuel Marre

The Belgian director revisits everyday life under the Vichy regime and the behaviour of civil servants attempting to govern the country.

"Fjord" by Cristian Mungiu

The Romanian winner of the 2007 Palme d'Or for "4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days" this time

sets a story in Norway with Renate Reinsve about the emergence of a conflict between two families in a remote village.

"Les Histoires de la Nuit" (Stories of the Night) by Lea Mysisius

The third feature from this rising French director is an adaptation of an award-winning novel by Laurent Mauvignier. It features Monica Bellucci alongside French stars Bastien Bouillon and Hafsia Herzi.

"Moulin" by Laszlo Nemes

The Hungarian director of the acclaimed "Son of Saul" returns to Cannes with a biopic about the life of French Resistance hero Jean Moulin.

"Fatherland" by Pawel Pawlikowski

The Polish filmmaker, who won the best foreign language film Oscar for "Ida" in 2015, presents a black-and-white movie about writer Thomas Mann's return to Germany in 1945.

"The Man I Love" by Ira Sachs

The story of an artist at the start of the AIDS pandemic in New York in the 1980s, starring Rami Malek, who won an Oscar for his role as Freddie Mercury in "Bohemian Rhapsody".

"El Ser Querido" (The Beloved) by Rodrigo Sorogoyen

The Spanish director of "As Bestas" and creator of the series "Los Anos Nuevos" appears in competition for the first time with a film about a director, played by Javier Bardem, who reunites with his actress daughter on a film shoot.

"Minotaur" by Andrey Zvyagintsev

The exiled Russian filmmaker follows up on previous visually stunning works "Leviathan" and "Loveless" with a film about the Russian bourgeoisie grappling with army conscription.

Game of Thrones actor Michael Patrick dies at 35

TDT | agencies

Actor and writer Michael Patrick has died at the age of 35.

The Irish native, who appeared in a season 6 episode of Game of Thrones, died while in hospice care, his wife Naomi Sheehan announced on Instagram on Wednesday, April 8. Patrick had been battling Motor Neuron Disease, which rapidly "attacks the nerves that control movement so muscles no longer work" and is incurable, according to the MND Association. ALS is the most common form of the disease, though his family didn't reveal his exact diagnosis.

"Last night, Mick sadly passed away in the Northern Ireland Hospice," Sheehan began. "He was diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease 1st February 2023. He was admitted 10 days ago and was cared for by the incredible team there. He passed peacefully surrounded by family and friends. Words can't describe how broken-hearted we are."



Michael Patrick

The MND Association states that the condition "leads the muscles to weaken, stiffen and waste," potentially impacting a person's capability to walk, talk, eat, drink and breathe. While symptoms vary among those affected, it is a "life-shortening" disease.

Katy Perry shares new photo with Justin Trudeau, calls it "rewarding karma"

TDT | agencies

Pop star Katy Perry shared a new affectionate photo with Justin Trudeau on social media, captioning it, "Never knew karma could be so rewarding."

The image, part of a recent Instagram post, offered fans another glimpse into their growing relationship, which has drawn widespread attention. The post included a mix of personal moments, including pictures of Perry, Trudeau and other snapshots from her life.

The couple, first linked in 2025 and later confirming their relationship publicly, have continued to share light-hearted and affectionate updates online, signalling a strong and evolving bond.



Their relationship has remained in the spotlight, with fans reacting warmly to the latest post, which highlights their ongoing connection despite busy schedules and long-distance commitments.

Amanda Seyfried to voice Cinderella in Netflix's 'Steps'

TDT | agencies

Amanda Seyfried is set to voice Cinderella in Steps, an upcoming animated feature by Netflix that offers a fresh twist on the classic fairy tale.

The film shifts focus from the traditional story to the often-misunderstood stepsisters, reimagining them in a more sympathetic light. Seyfried joins a voice cast that includes Ali Wong and Stephanie Hsu, who play the stepsisters.

Directed by Alyce Tzue and John Ripa, the film follows Lilith, one of the stepsisters, who is blamed for disrupting the royal ball with a stolen magic wand. In the process, she accidentally turns her sister into a frog and throws the kingdom into chaos. She must then team up with Cinderella

and others to restore order and prove that so-called villains deserve a second chance.

Filmmakers said Seyfried brings emotional depth and relatability to the iconic character, presenting a modern Cinderella who is both flawed and human.

The animated film is expected to premiere on Netflix later in 2026.

