

EUROPEAN FIRST FILM FESTIVAL PREMIERS PLANS // FESTIVAL D'ANGERS

Premiers Plans adapting to January theatre closures

Premiers Plans had planned to run the Festival from 25 to 31 January in three cinema theatres, Pathé and the 400 Coups in Angers for the Official Competition, and the Forum des Images in Paris for the tribute to Chantal Akerman.

The latest postponement of the opening of cultural establishments means that it will not be possible to welcome audiences to the big screens in cinemas for this first period of the Festival.

In January, online screenings for audiences with *La Vingt-Cinquième Heure*

The event will therefore adapt to this new situation and give **free access** to audiences for **virtual screenings** for the first films in Competition in virtual cinemas in partnership with [La Vingt-Cinquième Heure](#).

During the week spectators will be able to choose their screenings, book their places on the Premiers Plans website and see a good part of the Festival programme on their home screens.

We want to maintain the Festival's chronological sequence with **two screenings per day**. The schedule will soon be put up on the Festival's site, along with the date of the opening for bookings.

Access to screenings will be free, and within the limits agreed with rights holders. The screenings will be presented by members of the Festival with, if possible, the participation of the director or a member of the production team. Films in foreign languages will be sub-titled in French.

Although we will lose the quality and the warmth of an actual public screening, we will nevertheless maintain a form of community as the spectators will see **the same film at the same time**. Together they will discover young auteurs and their first works which have been selected for them by the Premiers Plans team for this 33rd edition.

Four Juries and an Awards Ceremony on 31 January.

The feature film jury (Pierre Salvadori, president, Elsa Amiel, Leyla Bouzid, Filippo Meneghetti) and the members of the three other juries for short films, school films and animation will see the whole of the Competition online and announce the winners online and present the awards on 31 January.

Postponement of the tribute to Chantal Akerman

The tribute to Chantal Akerman, which was planned to take place with restored prints in theatres, will be postponed until a later date during the first half of 2021 and the films selected will be screened at the Forum des Images and the 400 Coups, those presenting the films have agreed to maintain their presence for the introductions and debates. The online part will be maintained on LaCinetek in January-February.

Professionals, journalists, and critics, from France and abroad, will be able to see the whole of the Competition with English subtitles on the dedicated Premiers Plans platform on the site of our partner **Festival Scope Pro** for a period of two weeks starting on 25 January. Access will be free of charge and limited to 1000 accreditations.

"Heritage" VOD collection for audiences. For a period of one month starting on 25 January audiences in France will also be able benefit from a "Pass Premiers Plans" at a price of €7 on the platform of our partner [LaCinetek](#) which will be showing a total 12 titles by Chantal Akerman, Federico Fellini, and the theme of "Escape". Several of these films will be presented by filmmakers chosen jointly by LaCinetek and Premiers Plans.

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Premiers Plans continuing until August in reopened theatres

As we announced last December, the 2021 edition of the Festival will begin on 25 January but will continue through until 31 August with several public events in Angers, the surrounding towns, the Maine-et-Loire department, and the Pays de la Loire region:

- Several screenings of films from the 2021 Selection, either previously unreleased or as premiers, will be organised in theatres in partnership with **exhibitors** and **librarians** in the region during the whole of the first half of the year. There will be discussions with the directors along with screenings for local school audiences.

- Several films by Fellini will be presented over the coming months at the 400 Coups for audiences and schools. A date will be given for the tribute to Christian Petzold once details of his visit to Angers have been finalised. The tribute to Chantal Akerman will also be programmed during the first half of the year.

- Screenings originally planned for **family and school audiences** will take place from 25 to 30 May at the Pathé and 400 Coups cinemas in partnership with *Benshi*.

- As for the period usually reserved for the **Ateliers d'Angers** at the end of August, this year it will be occupied by the **summer part of** Premiers Plans with premiers, screenplay readings, workshops for children, open-air screenings, and professional encounters.

This will mark the official ending of this exceptional, extended, and decentralised edition before the Festival team starts work on preparing the 34th edition of Premiers Plans in January 2022.

Happy New Year, and have a great 2021 Festival!

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