

US & FRENCH
CONNECTION



the gotham
FILM & MEDIA INSTITUTE

Gotham Week 2021: US & French Connection Project Line-Up Unveiled

As part of the US & FRENCH CONNECTION program, FRENCH IN MOTION and THE GOTHAM FILM & MEDIA INSTITUTE (formerly IFP) are thrilled to announce their selection for the 2021 Gotham Week, which will be held virtually September 19-24, 2021. US & French Connection program is run in partnership with Series Mania and is supported by the Centre National du Cinéma et de l'image animée (CNC), the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States, UniFrance and Banque Transatlantique.

Gotham Week (formerly IFP Week) is a cornerstone of independent filmmaking and the oldest and largest forum in the US for the discovery of new voices. Every year, key players from the entertainment industry (HBO, AMC Networks, Warner, Sony Pictures, NEON, A24...) rush to the East Coast to meet the rising stars of American and international indie filmmaking. Barry Jenkins, Ava DuVernay, Richard Linklater or Chloe Zhao, to name a few, were discovered there.

With US & French Connection, their bilateral annual program, French in Motion and The Gotham have been bringing together talent from both sides of the Atlantic since 2016 to foster the development of international co-productions. Earlier this year, THE MAN WHO SOLD HIS SKIN, a feature film which was selected as part of the program at an early development stage, earned a nomination at the 93rd Academy Awards in the Best international Picture category.

The three projects selected on script for the 2021 edition and whose producers/directors will get the chance to meet with key industry players at Gotham Week are the following:

THE MYSTERIOUS GAZE OF THE FLAMINGO - a feature film written and directed by Diego Céspedes, produced by Justin Pechberty from LES VALSEURS (Cannes Short Film Competition *Sideral*, Oscar and César nominated *Nefta Football Club* and César winner *Vilaine Fille*), Giancarlo Nasi from QUIJOTE FILMS and Pablo Zimbrón Alva from VARIOS LOBOS.

1982. Chile. A little girl fights against the rumor of a disease said to be spread by gay men through their gaze.

GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS - a feature film written and directed by Shuchi Talati. Produced by Claire Chassagne from DOLCE VITA FILMS, Sanjay Gulati & Pooja Chauhan from CRAWLING ANGEL FILMS, and Richa Chadha & Ali Fazal from PUSHING BUTTONS STUDIOS.

Sixteen year-old Mira finds her sexy, rebellious coming of age hijacked by her mother who never got to come-of-age herself.

GOLIATH & ME - an animated feature film by Michelle and Uri Kranot (*The Hangman at Home*, The Grand Jury Prize for Best VR Immersive Work at La Biennale di Venezia – 77th Venice Film

Festival). The film is adapted from the graphic novel GOLIATH by Tom Gauld. Produced by Katayoun Dibamehr & Avi Amar from FLORÉAL FILMS.

Goliath & Me is a comic retelling of the David and Goliath story. A poignant tale of heroes, genders, humanity and the pointlessness of war.



With the support of the Center for National Cinema (CNC), the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, UniFrance and Banque Transatlantique.



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ABOUT US & FRENCH CONNECTION: US & French Connection is a year-round program created by FRENCH IN MOTION and THE GOTHAM. The program is designed for producers looking for co-production and distribution partners on the other side of the Atlantic. Earlier this year, THE MAN WHO SOLD HIS SKIN, a program alum feature film project, earned a nomination at the 93rd Academy Awards (Best international Picture category) and LITTLE PALESTINE, DIARY OF SIEGE, an alum documentary project, got selected at Cannes' ACID program. US & French Connection program is run by Esther Bensadon and Marine Notté (French In Motion) and Gabriele Capolino (The Gotham).

ABOUT FRENCH IN MOTION: French In Motion is a New York-based independent nonprofit organization created in 2016 with chapters in Los Angeles and Washington DC. It brings together a growing community of film & tv professionals and fosters transatlantic collaboration by connecting international filmmakers with industry players and creating opportunities for international creation and partnerships.

Website: <https://www.frenchinmotion.org/>

Press Contact : marine@frenchinmotion.org

ABOUT THE GOTHAM FILM & MEDIA INSTITUTE: Founded in 1979 as the Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP), The Gotham Film & Media Institute is the largest and long-running not-for-profit of its kind. The Gotham fosters a vibrant and sustainable independent creative community, represents a growing network of storytellers around the world, and plays a key role in developing 350 fiction and nonfiction works each year. During its more than 40-year history, The Gotham has supported over 10,000 projects and offered resources to more than 30,000 filmmakers, including Barry Jenkins, Dee Rees, Laura Poitras, Richard Linklater and Ava Duvernay. The Gotham offers support to creators in varying stages of their project: funding, development, pre-production, production and distribution. Year-round public programming also offers creative insight as well as technological and business guidance, which includes Filmmaker Magazine, Gotham Week, the Gotham Awards, the Gotham Labs, and Gotham EDU.

Website: <https://thegotham.org/>