



2026 Jury

11th edition for L'Œil d'or – The documentary prize, created by the Cannes Film Festival and La Scam, in partnership with INA.

Since 2015, this award has honored a film presented in the Official Selection of the Cannes Film Festival: Competition, Un Certain Regard, Out of Competition, Midnight Screenings, Special Screenings, and Cannes Classics. Documentaries from the Directors' Fortnight, Critics' Week, and ACID are also invited to participate.

The 2026 jury will be composed of:

Mstyslav Chernov
Ukrainian director
-Chairman-

Tabitha Jackson
American director of the New York Film Forum

Géraldine Pailhas
French actress

Lina Soualem
French-Algerian-Palestinian director and actress

Victor Castanet
French Journalist

L'Œil d'or – The documentary prize will be given out on **Friday, May 22nd at 12:00 PM** at the Palais des Festivals.



Mstyslav Chernov, Ukrainian director -Chairman-

Mstyslav Chernov is a Ukrainian filmmaker, war correspondent and novelist. He has established himself as one of the leading voices in contemporary frontline filmmaking and journalism, covering some of the most significant conflicts of recent years: the 2014 Ukrainian Revolution, the war in Donbas, the downing of flight MH17, the Syrian civil war, the battle of Mosul in Iraq and the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.

His work on the Siege of Mariupol has earned him international recognition, including the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. Footage from Mariupol became the basis for the documentary *20 Days in Mariupol*, which received the Oscar for Best Documentary at the 2024 Academy Awards and BAFTA.

Mstyslav Chernov is the President of the Ukrainian Association of Professional Photographers (UAPP) and has been a member of Ukrainian PEN since 2022. His work addresses conflicts, social issues, and environmental crises in all formats : films, photography, text, and virtual reality. Chernov has been wounded several times while covering wars.

His latest film, *At 2,000 Meters to Andriivka*, released in September 2025, depicts Ukrainian soldiers on the frontlines and the conditions of modern warfare in a jarring and immersive way.



Tabitha Jackson, American director of the New York Film Forum

Tabitha Jackson is the Director of Film Forum — New York City's sole autonomous nonprofit cinema, and for more than fifty years a defining institution of independent film culture in the United States. She arrived there after a thirty-year career moving through the independent media ecosystem: from public broadcasting in the UK at the BBC and Channel 4, to executive producing documentary film at Film4, to leading the Sundance Institute's Documentary Film Program for seven years, to becoming the first woman and person of color appointed Director of the Sundance Film Festival — where she stewarded two pandemic editions that required fundamentally reimagining what a festival could be and who it could be for. Those questions — of who cinema can be for, and how its animating values of free human expression and exchange can be cultivated, defended, and amplified — now shape her work at Film Forum. Jackson is an Emmy-winning director-producer, a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and a research fellow at MIT's Open Documentary Lab.

Photo : Henry Garfunkel



Géraldine Pailhas, French actress

Born in Marseille, Géraldine Pailhas rose to public prominence in *La Neige et le feu* by Claude Pinoteau (1991), a role that earned her the César Award for Most Promising Actress. That same year, she starred alongside Yves Montand in *IP5: L'île aux pachydermes* by Jean-Jacques Beineix. Two years later, Maurice Pialat cast her alongside Gérard Depardieu in *Le Garçu*. That same year, she shared the screen with Johnny Depp, Marlon Brando, and Faye Dunaway in *Don Juan DeMarco*.

Géraldine Pailhas then appeared in successful comedies such as *Les Randonneurs* by Philippe Harel (1997), *Peut-être* by Cédric Klapisch (1999), and *La Parenthèse enchantée* by Michel Spinosa (2000). In 2002, her performance in *Le Coût de la vie* by Philippe Le Guay earned her a César nomination for Best Supporting Actress.

She has since worked with many acclaimed directors such as Robin Campillo, Pascal Bonitzer, Nicolas Saada, Raphaël Nadjari, and Thierry Klifa. She has participated in the Festival de Cannes Competition several times, notably with François Dupeyron in 2001, Nicole Garcia in 2002, Lodge Kerrigan in 2010, and with François Ozon for *Jeune et Jolie* in 2013—which earned her a third César nomination—and for *Tout s'est bien passé* in 2021.

In 2022, she starred in the second feature film by Christopher Thompson, *Tendre et saignant*, and came back for her role in the series *OVNI(s)* by Antony Cordier for a second season broadcast on Canal+.

Photo : Mathieu Zazzo / Pasco



Photo : Mathilde Marc

Lina Soualem, French-Algerian-Palestinian director and actress

Lina Soualem is a French-Algerian-Palestinian director and actress. After studying history and political science at the Sorbonne University, she worked as a programmer for several film and contemporary art festivals.

She directed her first feature-length documentary, *Leur Algérie*, which premiered at Visions du Réel in 2020. The film went on to win around ten awards in France and internationally. In 2020, she also contributed to the writing of the series *Oussekine*, directed by Antoine Chevrollier.

Her second feature documentary, *Bye Bye Tiberias*, had its world premiere at the Venice International Film Festival in 2023. The film represented Palestine at the 2024 Academy Awards and was nominated for Best Documentary at the Film Independent Spirit Awards 2024, the European Film Awards 2024, and the César Awards 2025. In 2025, Lina Soualem received the Alice Guy Award for Best Director of the Year. As an actress, Lina starred in four feature films by the female directors Hafsia Herzi, Hiam Abbass, Rayhana and director Cédric Kahn.



Photo : Vincent Capman / Flammarion

Victor Castanet, French journalist

Victor Castanet is an independent investigative journalist and the author of in-depth books on major social issues affecting vulnerable people. He is the recipient of the Albert-Londres Prize for his bestseller *Les fossoyeurs* (2022), which shook up the long-term care facility sector. He has also published *Les Ogres* (2024), a sensational investigation into the management of private daycare centers.

His various works have had a significant impact on French society, leading to inquiry commissions, the passage of new laws, economic transformations, and more. They have been adapted for television and film, both as documentaries and fictional works.