

The LUX family packs for Cannes

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Another year, another edition of the world's most prestigious film event, the Cannes Film Festival. The 72nd edition of the festival, which will take place from 14 to 25 May, is gearing up to be one of the most exciting in years, boosting a line-up that sees many revered maestros alongside new and thrilling talents.

This year, the LUX family will be welcome to the Official Selection's Competition section. **Céline Sciamma**, a 2014 LUX Prize finalist for her ravishing *Girlhood*, will now compete for the first time for the Palme d'Or with her new and eagerly-awaited title *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, for which the director-screenwriter has shun the modern world, delving into the late 18th century, on a remote island in Brittany where a painter is commissioned to paint a young woman's wedding portrait. Incidentally, **Valeria Golino**, a finalist for the 2013 LUX Prize with *Miele*, is starring in the film. Another female director, **Jessica Hausner**, who was chosen for the 2010 LUX Prize Official Selection with her title *Lourdes*, is joining the Palme d'Or competition for the first time, with her new film *Little Joe*, about a plant created via genetic engineering that appears to produce curious changes in the people and animals who come into contact with it. Finally, seasoned directing duo **Jean-Pierre & Luc Dardenne** (2008 LUX Prize winners for *Lorna's Silence*) will come back to fight for the Palme d'Or, a prize they've already won twice, with *Young Ahmed*, in which a Belgian teenager hatches a plot to kill his teacher after embracing an extremist interpretation of the Quran.

These stimulating stories will be in fact judged by some other members of the LUX family. Under the presidency of Oscar-winning Mexican director **Alejandro González Iñárritu**, nine film professionals will be tasked with handing out the Palme d'Or, including Poland's **Pawel Pawlikowski** (2014 winner for *Ida*), Italy's **Alice Rohrwacher** (2014 and 2018 Official Selection with *The Wonders* and *Happy as Lazzaro*, respectively) and **Robin Campillo** (2017

finalist with *BPM (Beats Per Minute)*).

And not only the Competition jury will include LUX-approved talent. The Un Certain Regard Jury, chaired by Lebanon's **Nadine Labaki**, will welcome Belgium's **Lukas Dhont** (2018 finalist for *Girl*) and Germany's **Nurhan Sekerci-Porst**, a regular producer for **Fatih Akin** (and assistant producer for his 2007 winner *The Edge of Heaven*). The Cinéfondation and short films jury, chaired by French master **Claire Denis** (2009 Official Selection with *35 Rhums*), has invited Greece's **Panos H Koutras** (2014 Official Selection with *Xenia*) and Romania's **Catalin Mitulescu** (producer of 2015 Official Selection title *Toto and His Sisters*, directed by **Alexander Nanau**). Finally, the jury for the Critics' Week, chaired by Colombia's **Ciro Guerra**, will have the honour of having Italy's **Jonas Carpignano** (2015 finalist with *Mediterranea* and 2017 Official Selection with *A Ciambra*) and France's **Marianne Slot** (producer of last year's winner, *Woman at War* by **Benedikt Erlingsson**).

Last but not least, **Luca Guadagnino**, who was present in the 2010 Official Selection with *I Am Love*, will visit Cannes for the first time to world-premiere a medium-length film, *The Staggering Girl*, in the Director's Fortnight.

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