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THE STRANGER

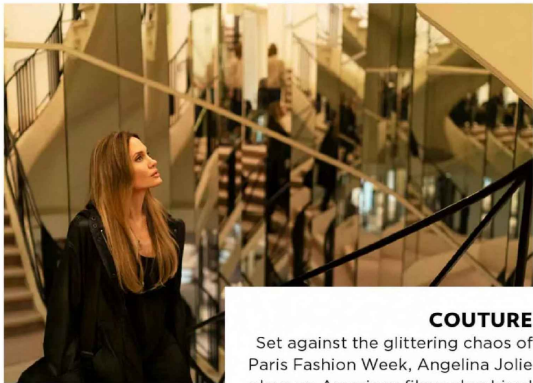
One blisteringly hot afternoon in 1938 Algeria, an inexplicable moment unfolds on a beach. What follows is the unravelling of an unassuming clerk's life, as one senseless act places him on trial. A sensual cinematic feast, *The Stranger* captures heat, desire and tension through stunning black-and-white imagery.

**FRENCH
FLICKS**

Calling all Francophiles: the annual Alliance Française French Film Festival is about to commence

Australia's biggest showcase of French cinema is back. The Alliance Française French Film Festival (AFFFF) screens at independent cinemas across several major cities, featuring an impressive lineup of more than 35 films. From Cannes highlights to France's biggest box-office hits, the 2026 program spans poignant literary adaptations, sun-drenched satires, feel-good romantic comedies and a razor-sharp sci-fi thriller. Here are our top seven picks.

The AFFFF 2026 is screening at select cinemas across Australia from March 3 to April 28. Visit affrenchfilmfestival.org



COUTURE

Set against the glittering chaos of Paris Fashion Week, Angelina Jolie plays an American filmmaker hired to direct a fashion video, only to find herself pulled into the lives of the women behind the spectacle.

Shot in English and French, this film is a must-see for any fashion devotee, peeling back the glamour to reveal the raw human stories behind the world of haute couture.



CULTURE

LEAVE ONE DAY

Opening the Cannes Film Festival in 2025 as the first-ever debut feature selected for the honour, this joyously entertaining musical romance follows a talented Parisian chef forced to return to her small-town roots after an unexpected trip home. Tender and witty, it weaves music seamlessly through family tensions, old memories and a resurfacing first love.



DOG 51

In the near-future, Paris is a dystopia divided by class and policing is controlled by a predictive AI system. When its creator is murdered, two officers are forced to work together on an investigation that quickly exposes unsettling truths about the city and the technology governing it. A high-octane sci-fi thriller with a sharp political edge.

JEAN VALJEAN

Set in 1815 Provence, France, this poignant new adaptation of Victor Hugo's famous *Les Misérables* traces the origin of Jean Valjean, the tale's iconic protagonist. Newly released from prison, Valjean is turned away as he seeks refuge for the night, until a compassionate bishop offers him shelter. That single act of mercy sets Valjean on a path to rebuild his life.



THE PARTY'S OVER!

A wickedly entertaining South of France-set satire, *The Party's Over!* charts the escalating clash between an entitled wealthy couple and the family living on their property. As tensions mount, simmering resentment curdles into a confrontation, exposing just how far the powerful will go to protect their comfort, status and sense of control.

WHAT IS LOVE?

For a feel-good pick, *What is Love?* serves up witty, warm-hearted chaos as two former lovers are thrown back together to untangle the fine print of their marriage annulment, and revisit their shared history.



Images courtesy of the Alliance Française French Film Festival