



MARCHÉ DU FILM
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

PRESS REVIEW
The Hollywood Reporter

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Author: Georg Szalai

‘The Girl With the Needle,’ ‘The Ties That Bind Us’ Directors to Pitch New Films to Investors at Cannes Market

The fourth edition of the Marche du Film's event for VIP private investors will feature eight new projects, including one from the writer of 'Dheepan' and one from the director of 'The Settlers.'

The fourth edition of the Cannes Investors Circle, the [Marché du Film](#)'s initiative connecting private investors with high-end film projects, has unveiled a showcase of eight projects from auteurs for the [79th edition](#) of the [Cannes Film Festival](#) next month, including new films from the directors of [The Girl With the Needle](#), [The Ties That Bind Us](#) and [The Settlers](#), as well as the screenwriter of [Dheepan](#).

“The 2026 edition will spotlight eight never-before-seen feature projects, presented by leading producers and visionary directors in a private, invitation-only setting to a select group of VIP private investors,” organizers said on Tuesday. “This year’s curated lineup reflects the breadth of contemporary [international](#) cinema, bringing together distinctive directorial voices from a wide range of territories, with a particular focus on European talent. Their works have premiered and been recognized at the world’s leading festivals – spanning a broad range of cinematic approaches, with budgets ranging from €1.0 million (\$1.2 million) to over €12 million (\$13.9 million).”

Titles or working titles of the projects being pitched on the Croisette weren’t immediately disclosed. The Cannes Investors Circle 2026 is scheduled for Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17 at the Plage des Palmes, the official beachside venue of the Marché du Film.

“Following last year’s edition, the Investors Circle has already led to concrete investment outcomes, with projects, such as *Gentle Monster* by Marie Kreutzer and *Poeta Chileno* by Sebastián Lelio securing investors through the program,” said [Guillaume Esmiol](#), executive director of the Marché du Film. “At the same time, participating filmmakers were also represented across prestigious festival selections. For this new edition, we are further refining the selection process, and we will once again have a very prestigious selection of projects.”

He added: “We also plan to expand the initiative beyond Cannes through year-round activities, such as the recent workshop we did in Trieste during When East Meets West.”

Alexandra Zakharchenko, head of the Investors Circle program, said: “This year’s selection reflects a deliberate effort to bring together projects at different stages of development and financing, spanning a wide range of budgets, genres and narrative approaches. Particular attention has been given to projects that are ready to engage with private investment, combining clear market potential with strong creative positioning, including a growing presence of elevated genre-driven works.”



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The 2026 selection process was overseen by Zakharchenko, in collaboration with this year's committee of industry figures, namely Céline Dornier (content executive, IPR.VC), Jean des Forêts (founder & CEO, Petit Film), Alice Laffillé (vp of international sales, FilmNation Entertainment) and Anthony Muir (senior executive for international co-productions, Film i Väst).

Check out the directors featured at the 2026 Cannes Investors Circle below:

Noé Debré (France) – screenwriter of *Dheepan*, Palme d'Or winner at the Festival de Cannes and collaborator of filmmakers, including Jacques Audiard and Romain Gavras. He made his directorial debut in 2024 with *A Nice Jewish Boy*.

Ismaël El Iraki (Morocco/France) – He is an alumn of French film school La Fémis, where his short films screened at Cannes and Clermont-Ferrand. His debut feature *Zanka Contact* premiered in Orizzonti at the Venice Film Festival, where its actress Khansa Batma won best actress. The film has since toured major international festivals.

Felipe Gálvez (Chile) – Chilean filmmaker, writer and editor based in Paris. His debut feature *The Settlers (Los Colonos)* premiered in Un Certain Regard at the Cannes Film Festival, where it received the FIPRESCI Prize. His short film *Rapaz* was also selected at the Critics' Week in Cannes.

Atsuko Hirayanagi (Japan/USA) – Award-winning screenwriter and director based in San Francisco. Her short film *Oh Lucy!* screened at major festivals, including Cannes and Sundance, winning more than 35 awards. Her debut feature of the same name premiered at Critics' Week in Cannes.

Juho Kuosmanen (Finland) – Helsinki-based filmmaker whose works have all been awarded at the Festival de Cannes, including *The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli Mäki* (Un Certain Regard) and *Compartment No. 6*, which won the Grand Prix in Competition at Cannes.

Emanuel Pârvu (Romania) – Director, screenwriter and actor. His debut feature *Meda* earned best director at Sarajevo, followed by *Mikado* (San Sebastián). His latest film, [Three Kilometres to the End of the World](#), premiered in competition at Cannes, where it won the Queer Palm.

Carine Tardieu (France) – French director and screenwriter known for her nuanced portrayals of intimacy and contemporary family structures. Her films include *Ôtez-moi d'un doute* (Directors' Fortnight, Cannes 2017) and *The Ties That Bind Us (L'Attachement)* (Venice 2024), which won the César for best film and best adaptation.

Magnus von Horn (Sweden/Poland) – Graduate of the Łódź Film School, his debut *The Here After* premiered at Directors' Fortnight in Cannes and won multiple awards. *Sweat* (2020) screened in the Festival de Cannes' official selection, and *The Girl with the Needle* (2024) also premiered in competition, earning major international recognition, including Golden Globe and Academy Award nominations.

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