

Mediawan 345

Build  
YOUR  
*Dream*  
AWARD 2026

First Edition

Press kit



# Editorial

A few months ago, we chose to establish a partnership between BYD and Mediawan, driven by a shared ambition: to foster dialogue between innovation, creativity, and international openness. This partnership is also grounded in a strong conviction: dreams only come to life when they are given the means to exist. The *Build Your Dream Award* is today one of its most tangible expressions.

Together, we set out to create an initiative designed to support the next generation of talent. More than a distinction, the *Build Your Dream Award* represents a commitment to the emergence of new voices, voices that bring forward distinctive, ambitious stories capable of resonating on a broad scale.

Beyond the prize itself, this initiative embodies a vision: one of open, demanding, and deeply international creativity. We believe that stories have the power to bring cultures closer together, broaden perspectives, and inspire change. We also believe that it is our responsibility, as committed players in our respective industries, to help nurture the talents who will shape the narratives of tomorrow.

Launching this award alongside the Cannes Film Festival gives this ambition a particular resonance. In this unique setting, renowned for showcasing cinema, creativity, and talent from around the world, we are proud to establish this initiative as a lasting annual milestone, celebrating promise, boldness, and the future.

We hope that, over time, this award will become a springboard for emerging creators and a symbol of what innovation, creativity, and trust in talent can achieve together.

## STELLA LI

CEO OF BYD  
AMERICAS &  
EUROPE AND MENA

## PIERRE-ANTOINE CAPTON

CO-FOUNDER AND  
CHAIRMAN OF MEDIAWAN  
GROUP



Founded in France at the end of 2015 by Pierre-Antoine Capton, Xavier Niel and Matthieu Pigasse, Mediawan, a leading European studio has, ten years after its creation, established itself as a global leader in independent production across all genres.

As an integrated player operating across the entire value chain, from production to distribution, as well as broadcasting and diversification, Mediawan is a unique creative platform designed to support the world's leading talents.

Today, the group brings together nearly 100\* of the most talented production companies across 15 countries, producing more than 450 works every year, with international successes such as *F1 The Movie*, *Adolescence*, *Slow Horses*, *Miraculous: Tales of Ladybug & Cat Noir* and *Call My Agent! (Dix pour cent)*. Driven by strong artistic standards and a premium ambition, they create distinctive stories capable of reaching wide audiences and resonating with the major issues of our time.

\*Subject to the completion of the transaction with The North Road Company, pending the usual regulatory approvals and expected in the first half of 2026.



BYD is a multinational high-tech company devoted to leveraging technological innovations for a better life. Founded in 1994 as a rechargeable battery maker, BYD now boasts a diverse business scope covering automobiles, rail transit, new energy, and electronics, with over 30 industrial parks in China, the United States, Canada, Japan, Brazil, Hungary, and India. From power acquisition and storage to its applications, BYD is dedicated to providing zero-emission energy solutions that reduce global reliance on fossil fuels. Its new energy vehicle footprint now covers 6 continents, over 100 countries and regions, and more than 400 cities. Listed in both Hong Kong and Shenzhen Stock Exchanges, the company is known to be a Fortune Global 500 enterprise that furnishes innovations in pursuit of a greener world.

Founded in 2003, BYD Auto is the automotive subsidiary of BYD, a multinational high-tech company devoted to leveraging technological innovations for a better life. Aiming to accelerate the green transition of the global transportation sector, BYD Auto focuses on developing pure electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. The company has mastered the core technologies of the entire industrial chain of new energy vehicles, such as batteries, electric motors, electronic controllers, and automotive-grade semiconductors. It has witnessed in recent years significant technological advancements, including the Blade Battery, the DM-i and DM-p hybrid technology, the e-Platform 3.0, the CTB and iTAC technologies, the DiSus Intelligent Body Control System, the XUANJI Architecture, and the Super e-Platform. The company is the world's first carmaker to stop the production of fossil-fuelled vehicles on EV shift and has remained top of new energy passenger vehicle sales in China for 12 years in a row.

For more information, please visit [www.byd.com](http://www.byd.com).

# About the Award

## INAUGURAL EDITION OF THE BUILD YOUR DREAM AWARD

The *Build Your Dream Award* was created by Mediawan and BYD to highlight debut films by emerging filmmakers and to celebrate the inventiveness and originality of new voices in cinema.

The award will run alongside the Festival de Cannes and will recognize every year the best debut feature film released in French theaters over the past year. The first edition will take place in May 2026.

The *Build Your Dream Award* is based on an international selection of 15 films from around the world, all released in France between May 2025 and May 2026, between two editions of the Festival de Cannes. Reflecting the geographical diversity of contemporary filmmaking, the selection was established by Thierry Chèze, Editor-in-chief of *Première* magazine, and includes films not presented at the Festival de Cannes.

The winner will be chosen by an international jury composed of 5 leading figures from the film industry. The award ceremony will take place on May 14, 2026, at the *Terrasse by Albane*. The winning director will receive a €40,000 grant.

The trophy, designed by Victoria Wilmotte, reflects the contemporary and creative ambition behind the award.

## THIERRY CHÈZE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF PREMIÈRE MAGAZINE:



"Each year, dozens upon dozens of new talents emerge from around the world, bringing forward fresh voices and perspectives, or reinventing cinematic forms and aesthetics. Year after year, these emerging filmmakers demonstrate through their work that the scope of what cinema can achieve is virtually limitless and that an infinite number of stories remain to be told.

The creation of the *Build Your Dream Award* is rooted in the desire to celebrate the inventiveness, originality, and power of these emerging voices, as well as the unique experience of the cinema theatre as a place of shared and collective discovery. For its inaugural edition, the selection will bring together fifteen filmmakers at the exciting outset of what promises to be a long and rich relationship with the seventh art. A €40,000 prize will be awarded to support and accompany the winner along the still challenging path toward a second feature film."

# The Jury

## Jury President



**Chen Kaige**

Chen Kaige is a renowned Chinese film director and a graduate of the Directing Department at Beijing Film Academy. Since the 1980s, he has earned international acclaim and established himself as a leading figure in the evolution of Chinese cinema.

In 1993, his film *Farewell My Concubine* won the Palme d'Or, making him the first and only Chinese director to receive this distinction.

Over the past four decades, he has continued creating new works while nurturing the next generation of filmmakers.

*"There are countless young people around the world who dream of becoming film directors. To host the inaugural Build Your Dream Award during the Cannes Film Festival, an award dedicated to emerging filmmakers is, for them, an immensely meaningful and valuable occasion.*

*I still remember when I was once a young man with little knowledge of cinema, yet driven by passion, I became a film director. I remember how I made my first film, how, with youthful imagination, I witnessed the power of ideas transform into people and stories within a tangible world of time and space, gradually unfolding on screen. It is a truly magical process.*

*As President of the Jury for this inaugural edition of the Build Your Dream Award, I will help select the winner. We also sincerely hope that young creators will continue to portray the world we live in through many more cinematic works." – Chen Kaige*

# The Jury

## Jury Members



### Mélanie Laurent

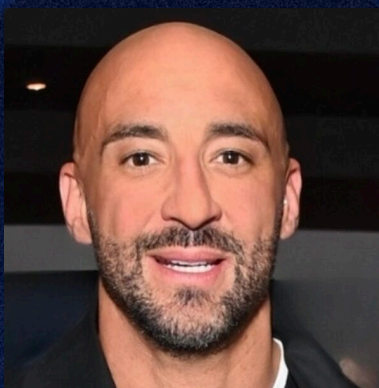
Mélanie Laurent is an actress, director, and screenwriter who first gained recognition for her role in *Don't Worry, I'm Fine*, which earned her the César Award for Most Promising Actress. She went on to build an international career, notably appearing in *Inglourious Basterds*, directed by Quentin Tarantino. Alongside her acting work, she has established herself as a director, with films including *The Adopted*, *Breathe*, *Dive*, and *The Mad Women's Ball*.

### Hafsia Herzi

Hafsia Herzi first gained recognition for her performances in *The Secret of the Grain and Mektoub, My Love*, both directed by Abdellatif Kechiche. She quickly distinguished herself, receiving the Marcello Mastroianni Award at the Venice Film Festival, followed by the César Award for Most Promising Actress. She has since built a strong presence in auteur cinema, with films such as *House of Pleasures*, *The Prisoner of Bordeaux*, and *Borgo*. In parallel, she has developed her work as a director and received the César Award for Best Actress in 2025 for her role in *Borgo*.



### Yann Demange



Yann Demange is a French-Algerian director known for his distinctive visual style and assured storytelling. He gained recognition with *Top Boy, '71*, for which he received the British Independent Film Award for Best Director, *White Boy Rick*, and *Lovecraft Country*. He has also directed campaigns for major international brands, including Nike, FIFA, Instagram, EA Sports, Johnnie Walker, and Meta.

# The Selection

<b>Familiar Touch</b>	Sarah Friedland (United States)
<b>Christy And His Brother</b>	Brendan Canty (Ireland)
<b>Fire On The Plain</b>	Ji Zhang (China)
<b>Dìdi</b>	Sean Wang (United States / Taiwan)
<b>Disco Afrika: A Malagasy Story</b>	Luck Razanajaona (Madagascar)
<b>Honeymoon</b>	Zhanna Ozirna (Ukraine)
<b>In The Summers</b>	Alessandra Lacorazza (United States / Colombia)
<b>Little Trouble Girls</b>	Urska Djukić (Croatia)
<b>Muganga, The One Who Treats</b>	Marie-Hélène Roux (France)
<b>On Falling</b>	Laura Carreira (Portugal)
<b>We Believe You</b>	Charlotte Devillers & Arnaud Dufeyts (Belgium)
<b>That Summer In Paris</b>	Valentine Cadic (France)
<b>A Sad And Beautiful World</b>	Cyril Aris (Lebanon)
<b>Together</b>	Michael Shanks (Australia)
<b>Truly Naked</b>	Muriel D'Ansembourg (Netherlands)

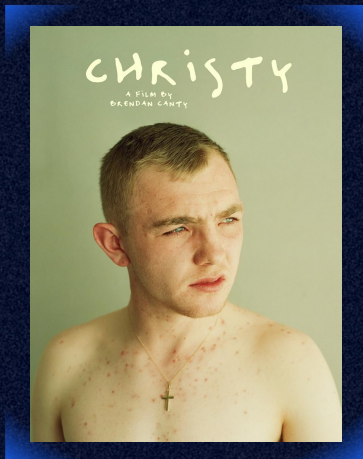
# The Selection



## Familiar Touch

Directed by: Sarah Friedland  
Written by: Sarah Friedland  
Cast: Kathleen Chalfant, Carolyn Michelle, Andy McQueen  
Produced by: Rathaus Films, Go for Thurm  
Year of Production: 2024

Ruth Goldman, an elegant woman in her eighties, invites a man over for lunch. Just as she thinks she's heading off on a romantic date to a surprise destination, she finds herself taken to a nursing home. Driven by an insatiable zest for life and despite her failing memory, Ruth reclaims her age and her desires there.



## Christy And His Brother

Directed by: Brendan Canty  
Written by: Alan O'Gorman  
Cast: Danny Power, Diarmuid Noyes, AJ Brown  
Produced by: Sleeper Films, Wayward Films, Nite Owl Film & TV  
Year of Production: 2025

After being kicked out of his foster home, 17-year-old Christy ends up staying with his half-brother, a young father he barely knows. His half-brother is struggling with this arrangement, which he hopes will be temporary, but Christy quickly feels at home in this working-class neighborhood of Cork, making friends and reconnecting with his mother's family. The two brothers will have to confront their turbulent past in order to envision a future together.

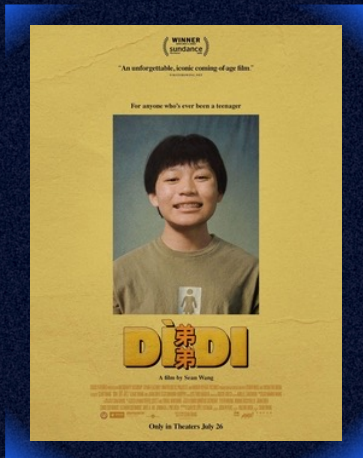


## Fire On The Plain

Directed by: Ji Zhang  
Written by: Liu Cao, Baiyang Li, Xuetao Shuang  
Cast: Dongyu Zhou, Haoran Liu, Ting Mei  
Produced by: Tianjin Maoyan Weying Media  
Year of Production: 2021

China, 1997. A series of murders casts a dark shadow over the town of Fentun. The murders mysteriously come to an end before the authorities can solve the case. Eight years later, a young police officer closely connected to one of the victims decides to reopen the investigation.

# The Selection



## Didi

Directed by: Sean Wang  
Written by: Sean Wang  
Cast: Izaac Wang, Joan Chen  
Produced by: AntiGravity Academy, Spark Features, Unapologetic Projects  
Year of Production: 2024

California, summer 2008. At 13, Chris, aka Didi, is growing up between two worlds. At home, they speak Chinese and observe traditions, under the watchful eye of Chungsing, the family matriarch. Outside, it's a realm of freedom, filled with skateboarding, friends, and first crushes. For Chris, this summer will be one of new experiences, like saying goodbye to his childhood.



## Disco Afrika: A Malagasy Story

Directed by: Luck Razanajaona  
Written by: François Hébert, Marcelo Novais Teles, Ludovic Rianando Randriamanantsoa  
Cast: Parista Sambo, Laurette Ramasinjanahary, Joe Lerova  
Produced by: WE FILM, Africamadavibe Production  
Year of Production: 2024

Madagascar, nowadays. Kwame, 20, tries to make a living in illegal sapphire mines. Following an unexpected turn of events, he is forced to return to his hometown, where he reunites with his mother and old friends, but also confronts the corruption that plagues his country. Torn between conflicting emotions, he must choose between easy money and brotherhood, individualism and the awakening of a political conscience.



## Honeymoon

Directed by: Zhanna Ozirna  
Written by: Zhanna Ozirna  
Cast: Ira Nirsha, Roman Lutskiy  
Produced by: Toy Cinema  
Year of Production: 2024

February 2022. Olya and Taras are happy to be spending their first night in their new apartment. At dawn, they are awakened by a series of explosions. The Russian invasion has begun, and the young couple are trapped in their home, surrounded by enemy soldiers. They will experience conflicting emotions: fear, but also love and hope. They will then learn to survive...

# The Selection



## In The Summers

Directed by: Alessandra Locarazza  
Written by: Alessandra Locarazza  
Cast: Residente, Sasha Calle, Lío Mehiel  
Produced by: Toy Cinema  
Year of Production: 2024

Every summer, Vio-le-ta and Eva visit their father Vicente, a man both loving and reckless. He creates a wonderful world, but behind the cheerful facade, he struggles with an addiction that is gradually eroding the magic. Vicente tries to make amends for past mistakes, but the wounds are not easy to heal.



## Little Trouble Girls

Directed by: Urška Djukic  
Written by: Urška Djukic, Maria Bohr, Jérémie Dubois  
Cast: Jara Sofiya Ostan, Mina Švajger, Saša Tabaković  
Produced by: SPO Films, Staragara, 365 Films  
Year of Production: 2025

Lucia, a shy young girl, joins her school choir and befriends Ana-Maria, a popular and attractive girl. Faced with an unfamiliar environment and the awakening of her sexuality, Lucia begins to question her beliefs, disrupting the choir's harmony.



## Muganga, The One Who Treats

Directed by: Marie-Hélène Roux  
Written by: Marie-Hélène Roux, Jean-René Lemoine, Denis Mukwege Mukengere  
Cast: Isaach de Bankolé, Vincent Macaigne, Manon Bresch  
Produced by: Petites Poupées Production, 1divided Films  
Year of Production: 2025

Denis Mukwege, a Congolese doctor and future Nobel Peace Prize laureate, treats while risking his own life thousands of women who have been victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. His meeting with Guy Cadière, a Belgian surgeon, will give new life to his commitment.

# The Selection



## On Falling

Directed by: Laura Carreira  
Written by: Laura Carreira  
Cast: Joana Santos, Inês Vaz, Piotr Sikora  
Produced by: Sixteen Films, Bro Cinema  
Year of Production: 2024

Aurora, a Portuguese immigrant in Scotland, works as an order picker in a warehouse where every minute counts. On the brink of poverty and alienation, she seizes every opportunity to keep from falling, including the comforting presence of her new Polish roommate.



## We Believe You

Directed by: Charlotte Devillers, Arnaud Dufeys  
Written by: Charlotte Devillers, Arnaud Dufeys  
Cast: Myriem Akheddiou, Laurent Capelluto, Natali Broods  
Produced by: Makintosh Films, Shelter Prod  
Year of Production: 2025

Alice faces a judge, knowing she can't go wrong. She must defend her children, as their custody is at stake. Will she be able to protect them from their father before it is too late?

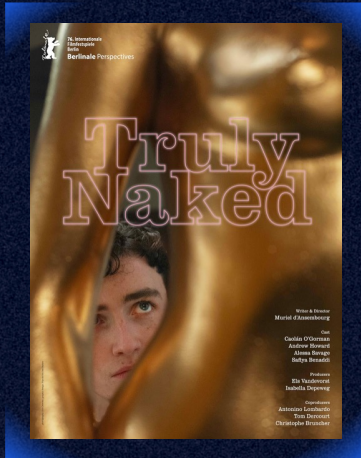


## That Summer In Paris

Directed by: Valentine Cadic  
Written by: Valentine Cadic, Mariette Désert  
Cast: Blandine Madec, India Hair, Arcadi Radeff  
Produced by: Comme des Cinémas, Cinq de Trèfle Productions  
Year of Production: 2025

At the heart of the 2024 Paris Olympics. Blandine, 30, has come from Normandy to watch the swimming competitions and reconnect with a half-sister she hasn't seen in 10 years. Accustomed to peace and solitude, Blandine finds herself in a bustling city whose ways she doesn't understand. As the days go by, the young woman meets new people, gets lost, hesitates, tries to (re)build connections, and navigate the heart of Paris, swept up in the excitement of this extraordinary event...

# The Selection



## Truly Naked

Directed by: Muriel D'Ansembourg  
Written by: Muriel D'Ansembourg  
Cast: Andrew Howard, Lyndsey Marshal, Kate Kennedy  
Produced by: Isabella Films B.V.  
Year of Production: 2026

For Alec, who lives alone with his father Dylan, a porn actor, desire and pornography are one and the same. It becomes increasingly difficult for him to hide his true self as he grows closer to Nina, a classmate. To embrace his feelings, Alec will have to let go and be willing to bare his soul.



## A Sad And Beautiful World

Directed by: Cyril Aris  
Written by: Cyril Aris  
Cast: Mounia Akl, Hasan Akil, Julia Kassar  
Produced by: Reynard Films, About Productions  
Year of Production: 2025

Nino and Yasmina fall in love in the courtyard of their school in Beirut, dreaming of their adult lives and imagining a wonderful world. Twenty years later, they run into each other by chance, and it's love at first sight all over again: a magnetic, fiery passion. Is it possible to build a future in a fractured country that you're trying to leave, yet holds you back with an irresistible pull?



## Together

Directed by: Michael Shanks  
Written by: Michael Shanks  
Cast: Dave Franco, Alison Brie, Damon Herriman  
Produced by: Picturestart, Tango Entertainment, 30West  
Year of Production: 2025

Tim and Millie have been together for years when they decide to leave everything behind and move to the countryside. With tensions already running high, a supernatural force turns their dream into a nightmare, threatening their relationship, their love... and even their physical safety.

# Build YOUR *Dream* AWARD 2026

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