



# The history of cinema and the role of French filmmaking with Bertrand Tavernier

In this special event, acclaimed filmmaker Bertrand Tavernier will speak at The University of Western Australia about his work in the context of French filmmaking.

## About Bertrand Tavernier

Bertrand Tavernier decided to be a filmmaker when he was very young. At 14, he discovered the cinemathèque, the impact of Renoir, Fritz Lang and Buster Keaton's movies. He started as an assistant for Jean-Pierre Melville on *Léon Morin, Prêtre*. In 1974 his first feature film, *The Clockmaker of Saint-Paul*, won the Silver Bear in Berlin and the Silver Hugo in Chicago. *Que la Fête Commence* (1975) and *The Judge and the Assassin* (1976) won several French Awards. With *Dead Watch* (1980) made in English in Scotland with Romy Schneider and Harvey Keitel, he won international recognition.

The same year, he filmed *Une Semaine de Vacances* with Nathalie Baye. In 1982, he adapted Jim Thompson's novel *Clean Up*, starring Philippe Noiret and Isabelle Huppert. In 1984, *Un Dimanche à la Campagne* won the Best Director Award in Cannes, the New York Critics' Award and the British Critics' Award. Then, in 1985, he made *'Round Midnight*, a documentary about jazz, for which Herbie Hancock won the Academy Award for Best Score.

Tavernier tackled the conflict of war in *La Passion Béatrice* in 1987 and the hit film *La Vie et Rien d'Autre* about the Hundred Years and World War I, respectively. Noiret was awarded the César and Félix for best actor for *La Vie et Rien d'Autre*.

After *Daddy Nostalgie* (1990), Tavernier returned to documentaries in 1991 with *La Guerre Sans Nom*, about the Algerian War. He then described in *L627* corruption in a police station in France. With *The Bait* (1995), he won the Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival. *Capitaine Conan* in 1996, earned Tavernier the César for Best Director and Philippe Torreton the César for Best Actor. *It all Starts Today* (1999), dealt with the fight of a teacher and administrator against the ravages of the recession in the north of France. The film won the Audience Award in San Sebastian. Jacques Gamblin earned the Silver Bear for Best Actor in *Safe Conduct* (2002) and plays in Tavernier's film, *Holy Lola* (2004) with Isabelle Carré, the story of a couple and their arduous but fulfilling quest: the adoption of a Cambodian baby. Last year Tavernier directed *In the Electric Mist* in United States, the story of a detective, Dave Robicheaux (Tommy Lee Jones), in Louisiana who is led to a local crime kingpin Baby Feet Balboni (John Goodman). The film will be released in 2009.



## Event Details

**Date:** Wednesday 3 December 2008

**Time:** 4.30-5.30pm

**Venue:** Social Science Lecture Theatre, UWA

(The nearest carpark is P3 off Hackett Drive Entrance 1)

This lecture is free and open to the public, no RSVP required

Enquiries: [iasuwa@admin.uwa.edu.au](mailto:iasuwa@admin.uwa.edu.au) or (+61 8) 6488 1340

## Movie Screening - *Laissez-Passer*

*Laissez-passer* (Safe Conduct) will be screened at Cinema Paradiso, Northbridge on December 3 at 6.45pm.

Contact Cinema Paradiso (08) 9227 1771 for ticket information.

**Bertrand Tavernier's visit to Perth is supported by the Institute of Advanced Studies at The University of Western Australia, Alliance Française de Perth, Unifrance, Film & Television Institute WA Inc, Cinema Paradiso and the French Embassy of Australia.**

