

ÉCOLE NATIONALE SUPÉRIEURE  
DES MÉTIERS DE L'IMAGE ET DU SON

# La femis

**International  
partnerships  
and programs**

**2013 - 2014**

Founded in 1986, La Fémis is a National State school supervised by the French Ministry of Culture and Media and funded by the CNC (Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée). International award-winning film director Raoul Peck (*Lumumba, fatal assistance* which was selected in the International Berlin film festival in 2013...) chairs the school. Marc Nicolas is the Director General.

### The school:

Since 1986, La Fémis has trained over 1 000 students in all filmmaking skills: directors, screenwriters, producers, editors, DoP, sound engineers, production designers, continuity supervisors, distributors and exhibitors. In 2013, La Fémis has created a new department training students in TV Series writing.

La Fémis has come to be a reference in France and abroad, providing an excellent level of training (50 students are selected each year among some 1.200 candidates), based on high standards regarding films, permanent transversal collaboration between the various departments and more generally, courses balanced between artistic research, professional development and technical training.

In the last twenty-five years, La Fémis students have directed more than 2 500 short films, fictions and documentaries. Often more than mere exercises, some of these films are genuine works containing the seeds of new talent, which have been selected and rewarded in many festivals (Cannes Film Festival, Berlin Film Festival, Clermont Ferrand Short Film Festival...)

Graduated students became talented directors for instance, Solveig Anspach, Emmanuelle Bercot, Yves Caumon, Jean-Paul Civeyrac, Antony Cordier, Emilie Deleuze, Arnaud des Pallières, Ariane Doublet, Delphine Gleize, Noémie Lvovsky, Laetitia Masson, Orso Miret, François Ozon, Marina de Van, Rebecca Zlotowski and many others. La Fémis has also trained well known directors of photography, sound engineers, mixers, editors...

Since 2004, La Fémis has set as one of its main priorities to develop international partnerships and student mobility:

- Setting up exchange agreements with international film schools,
- Organizing common curricula with partner schools,
- Creating special programs for foreign students,
- Organizing a short program for European documentary filmmakers,
- Actions within the network of film schools.

Recently, the school has developed a consulting activity for countries wishing to create high standard educational film programs.

## I. STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

In today's rapidly changing film environment marked by the globalization and internationalization of the film industry and the rising number of co-productions, it is essential for film schools to build bridges between faculty, students and staff in order to better understand each other's curricula, exchange teachers, and foster contacts and mutual understanding between students who will very likely work together on future films.

Since 2006, La Fémis' aim has been to send all the students from one department for a period going from 2 to 8 weeks to a foreign film school. Ten exchange programs have already been set up concerning all departments: with Columbia University for the screenwriting students, l'Ecole Cantonale des Arts de Lausanne for the editing students, Universidad del Cine – FUC and CalArts for the directing students, Tokyo University of the Arts and KAFA (Korean Academy of Film Arts) for the producing students, INSAS for continuity students, the Filmakademie of Baden-Württemberg for the cinematography students, the VGIK for the sound students, HFF (Hochschule für Fernsehen und Film München) for the distribution and exhibition students and the FTII (Film and Television Institute of India) for production design students.

### 1 – Columbia University in New York (since 2006)

Columbia University website: [www.columbia.edu](http://www.columbia.edu)

#### *La Fémis students at Columbia University:*

6 third-year screenwriting students from La Fémis spend 6 weeks in New York. They first attend a short film scriptwriting workshop run by world known playwright Israel Horovitz with 6 writing students from Columbia University. The second part of their program is focused on a TV series writing workshop taught by TV writers (in 2011: Frank Pugliese – show runner of TV series such as *Oz* or *Homicide*, in 2012: Peter Parnell – co-writer of TV series as *West Wing*, in 2013: Alan Kinsberg – writer of *Law and Order: Criminal Intent* and the animation series *Winx Club*). American TV series and their writing methods are very influential for La Fémis students. They also have the opportunity to attend other classes provided by the Film School of Columbia such as directing classes, courses on US film production...

#### *Columbia University students at La Fémis:*

- 2 fourth-year directing students from Columbia University shoot over a period of 10 weeks a short film focused on directing actors with the Drama School of Asnières. They write, prepare, direct and post-produce a 10 to 15 minute film together with all the students from the other departments of La Fémis. The tutor for 2013 of this workshop is the film director Valérie Donzelli (*Declaration of War* which was selected in Cannes in 2011).
- 3 fourth-year producing students from Columbia University follow for 6 weeks the Atelier Ludwigsburg Paris program, covering European co-productions through an internship with a sales agent during the Cannes Film Festival.

Within this exchange program, La Fémis hosts in Paris each year a screenwriting teacher from Columbia University for 5 weeks in June to teach La Fémis 2<sup>nd</sup> year producing students.

Columbia professors are professional screenwriters who teach tools and methodology very specific to the art of storytelling. Since 2007, La Fémis has hosted Dan Kleinman (writer of *Ultra Warrior* directed by Augusto Tamayo San Román & Kevin Tent, *Rage* directed by George C. Scott), Larry Gross (writer of most of director Walter Hill's long features including *48 hours*, *We Don't Live Here Anymore* directed by John Curran), Frank Pugliese (show runner of TV series such as *Oz* or *Homicide*, who has been appointed as one of the 3 heads of the TV series writing department newly created at La Fémis), Malia Scotch-Marmo (writer of *Hook* directed by Steven Spielberg, *Once Around* directed by Lasse Hallström), Andy Bienen (writer of *Girls Don't Cry* directed by Kimberly Pierce, head of the screenwriting department at Columbia University).

This program is supported by the Department of European and International Affairs of the French Ministry of Culture and Media and the French Embassy in the United States of America.

## 2 – Ecole Cantonale des Arts de Lausanne - ECAL (since 1997)

ECAL website: [www.ecal.ch](http://www.ecal.ch)

The third-year editing students from La Fémis study during 5 weeks in L'ECAL (Lausanne – Switzerland), to edit directing students' graduation films (fictions or documentary). The sound-mixing of those films is made at La Fémis with the help of the sound department students.

La Fémis hosts, in exchange, one or two editing students from the ECAL who follow the curriculum of the editing department during a month.

## 3 - The Filmakademie of Baden-Württemberg in Ludwigsburg (since 2007)

Filmakademie website: [www.fimakademie.de](http://www.fimakademie.de)

A complete film crew (screenwriter, director, producer, 2 cinematographers and editor) of students from the Filmakademie spend 15 weeks at La Fémis to prepare, write and shoot a short fiction, along with La Fémis' third-year students. The post-production is made in Germany.

In return, it is planned for cinematography students from La Fémis to attend a workshop on special effects at the Filmakademie in 2014.

## 4 - Universidad del Cine - FUC (since 2008)

FUC website: [www.ucine.edu.ar](http://www.ucine.edu.ar)

Two students trained as directors of photography at the Universidad del Cine attend a 2 month program including a workshop on light with French directors of photography including academy award winning DoP Ricardo Aronovich (DoP of Andrzej Zulawski, Raoul Ruiz ...) and a course on how to be an assistant to a director of photography.

3 third-year directing students from La Fémis shoot a film (fiction or documentary) in Buenos Aires for 6 weeks with the support and assistance of the Universidad del Cine.

This program is supported by the Department of European and International Affairs of the French Ministry of Culture and Media and by the French Embassy in Argentina.

5 – Tokyo University of the Arts - Geidai (since 2010) and Korean Academy of Film Arts – KAFA (start in 2014)

Geidai website: [www.geidai.ac.jp/english/film/index.html](http://www.geidai.ac.jp/english/film/index.html)

KAFA website: [www.kafa.ac](http://www.kafa.ac)

This exchange program concerns the 6 third-year producing students from La Fémis who attend a 2-week intensive workshop in Yokohama at the Tokyo University of the Arts with Korean students from The KAFA. During these 2 weeks, students work on case studies including the production and release of domestic films from the 3 countries and attend a practical filming workshop.

In return, La Fémis welcomes Japanese producing students for a 2-week seminar on French-Asian film co-productions and are taught about the French film financing system.

This program is supported by the Department of European and International Affairs of the French Ministry of Culture and Media and by the French Embassy in Japan.

6 – CalArts – California institute of the Arts (since 2011)

CalArts website: [www.calarts.edu](http://www.calarts.edu)

3 third-year directing students from La Fémis attend during 6 weeks a workshop with Monte Hellmann and classes on scriptwriting with Ernest Marrero. They can also attend other classes offered by the Film Directing Department.

La Fémis hosts two CalArts directing students to shoot over a period of 3 months a documentary film in Paris.

This program is supported by the Department of European and International Affairs of the French Ministry of Culture and Media and the French Embassy in the United States of America.

7 – INSAS – Brussels (since 2011)

INSAS website: [www.insas.be](http://www.insas.be)

La Fémis and INSAS exchange script continuity students to be a member of a student film's crew (third year or graduation film).

8 – VGİK – Moscow (start in 2013)

VGİK website: [www.vgik.info](http://www.vgik.info)

6 VGİK sound students attend during 2 weeks in March two specific trainings: one on direct sound and one on the foley recording.

6 third-year sound students from La Fémis spend 2 weeks in Moscow in April to make the sound-postproduction of the VGİK students' animation films and attend a workshop on music recording.

This program is supported by the Department of European and International Affairs of the French Ministry of Culture and Media and by the French Embassy in Russia.

## 9 - Hochschule Fur Fernsehen und Film München – HFF (start in 2013)

HFF website: [www.hff-muc.de](http://www.hff-muc.de)

8 HFF producing and media students and the 8 exhibition and distribution La Fémis students attend a two week common seminar in October (one week at La Fémis, one week at the HFF) on the acquisition and distribution of French and German films regarding each territory and have practical case studies on the release of German / French films. They will also visit some film theaters in Paris and Munich.

## 10 – Film and Television Institute of India – Pune (start in 2013)

FTII website: [www.ftiindia.com](http://www.ftiindia.com)

2 students from the FTII joint the first year's program and work on a documentary exercise called "portrait / self-portrait" for 4 weeks in October.

2 fourth-year production designing students spend one month in Pune in January to understand the Indian perspective of production design in India by collaborating on short films and have a study tour including a visit to film studio.

This program is supported by the French Embassy in India.

## **II. COMMON CURRICULA ORGANISED WITH PARTNER SCHOOLS**

### 1 - Low Budget Film Forum (since 2008)

La Fémis is one of the four partners of a workshop dedicated to low budget European films conceived by the London Film School and supported by the MEDIA program, also involving the Danske Filmskole (Denmark) and The Budapest Academy of Film and Drama (Hungary). It offers a one-week seminar to twenty students from these 4 schools.

Each day, some directors and producers present case studies of their films produced and directed in France, Hungary, the United Kingdom, and Denmark. Elie Wajeman (*Alyah*), Dexter Fletcher (*Wild Bill*), Jean-Charles Hue (*La BM du seigneur*), Marion Laine (*Un Cœur simple*), Hans Van Nuffel and Dries Phylpo (*Oxygen*)... have taught in this workshop. Participants also meet screenwriters, directors and producers to discuss their own film project.

The workshop already took place in London (2008), Budapest (2009), at the European Film festival of Les Arcs (December 2010), Copenhagen (2011), La Fémis (2012) and at the TIFF (Transilvania International Film Festival) in Romania (June 2013).

### 2 - Making Waves (since 2012)

La Fémis is one of the 6 partners of the workshop dedicated to teaching film distribution in Europe conceived by the London Film School and supported by the MEDIA program. It

involves the DFFB (Germany), the UNATC (Romania), the ESCAC (Spain) and Columbia University (United-States).

Making Waves brings together six European graduates from each film training institution for a collaborative workshop aimed at understanding emerging strategies in European independent film distribution.

The annual workshop meeting, hosted in parallel to the Berlinale, immerses graduating students from the six schools, working in international teams, to a series of plenary sessions and team work to edit trailers, design posters and develop distribution strategies using case studies from within the European Film Market's new films, and thereby challenging participants to create campaigns and roll-out plans for actual independent films in actual territories.

### 3 – DFFB / La Fémis (since 2011)

In October 2012, 30 German students came to La Fémis for a 3-day session where both students' films were screened. A special masterclass with Gaspar Noé was also set up with the screening of his last film *Enter the Void*. In March 2013, 30 Fémis students spent 3 days in Berlin at the DFFB. Students exchanged ideas about films coproduction between the two schools and one TV series is going to be developed by some students of both schools.

## **III. PROGRAMS FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS**

La Fémis organizes specific programs for partners, inspired by its own teaching methods of learning through the practice of cinematography.

### 1 – Summer University of La Fémis (since 1989)

The Ministry of Foreign affairs and La Fémis have annually joined together to offer a Summer program open to foreign film and television students, along with young film industry professionals, who wish to develop their practical and theoretical knowledge of documentary filmmaking in France.

The summer university program runs for 9 weeks of intensive classes 5 days per week. It takes a maximum of 15 students from different countries: North Africa, Africa, Chili, Russia, India, Iran...

#### *Selection:*

The participants are selected jointly by the cultural services of the French embassies, the Director of Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of La Fémis on applications and a film made previously by potential students.

#### *Program:*

The students follow 3 weeks of classes, including many film screenings. These classes are given by professionals teaching at La Fémis on the following themes: filming reality,

writing, screenplay structure, directing and documentary shooting, script development, distribution of foreign films in France, French funding for foreign co-productions, and the economic and institutional framework of French cinema.

The second part of the program is dedicated to the practical nature of making the documentary. The students are implicated in the various stages of the project's development: writing, location scouting, shooting, editing, and sound mixing. Each student makes a 10-minute documentary film. Each, in turn, assumes the different positions in the making of the films. Throughout these exercises the students are supervised by professionals.

## 2 – Training workshops designed for partners (since 2007)

La Fémis can design specific programs of different lengths (from 3 weeks to 8) to respond to the expectations of training partners. Those programs are inspired by the curriculum of La Fémis and propose a practical experience of film making besides artistic teaching and technical training.

To write, prepare, shoot, and edit, inspired by the great themes of French cinema today, through meetings with directors and screenings of emblematic films are the founding principles of those programs set up by La Fémis.

In this spirit, a program of 5 weeks specifically designed for Harvard University (United States of America), combining a course on contemporary French cinema given by Harvard professors, and a session of short fiction filmmaking overseen by La Fémis, was set up in 2007 and 2008.

## **IV. SHORT PROGRAM FOR EUROPEAN DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS**

### Archidoc (since 2002)

#### *Objective:*

La Fémis organizes Archidoc, a continuous training program for 10 European directors who wish to develop a documentary film project based on archives. The MEDIA Program of the European Commission supports this program.

Three working sessions (1 week each) are organized at La Fémis and in an international documentary film festival (Doctisboa, One World - Prague ...).

#### *Program:*

- Analysis of project, re-write with tutors who are renowned European documentary filmmakers,
- Preparation of a project dossier (note of intent, synopsis, trailer) for financiers,
- Master class on documentary films presented by their directors and study of artistic and legal issues with European experts,



- Positioning in the web of producers and broadcasters,
- Pitching session to major European commissioning editors.

## **V. ONE YEAR PROGRAM FOR YOUNG EUROPEAN PRODUCERS**

### Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris (since 2002)

Following the system of dual diplomas which exist in Europe, La Fémis and the Filmakademie of Baden-Württemberg have created a common continuous training program, which is validated by both schools.

This one-year fulltime program designed for young European producers and distributors was created with the support of the French and German states, the MEDIA program and the OFAJ. Since 2007, one session of the course takes place in London in partnership with the National Film and Television School.

Its objective is to offer a new generation of future producers and distributors a realistic and concrete view of present strategies in screenwriting, financing, production, distribution, marketing and selling of European cinematic works, specifically in France, Germany, and England. The mission of this course is also to teach participants the development of a commissioned production in common.

#### *Selection:*

University or film school graduates (minimum baccalaureate + 3) with prior experience in audiovisual production or very motivated by this sector, coming from the wider European Union and not over the age of 30.

#### *Program:*

- Workshops, seminars and meetings with professionals,
- Practical case studies,
- Active presence at Angers, Berlin and Cannes film festivals,
- Production of a short film project.

#### *Calendar:*

The training program takes place in France, Germany and England from the beginning of October until the end of August and is divided into 6 sessions: 2 sessions at the Filmakademie of Baden-Württemberg, 2 sessions at La Fémis with an active presence of one week at the Angers and Cannes film festivals, 1 session in London at the NFTS, and 1 session in Berlin during the Berlinale.

Training languages: respectively French OR German AND English

## VI. LA FÉMIS, AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE NETWORK OF INTERNATIONAL FILM SCHOOLS

La Fémis is a member of the CILECT and the GEECT. Marc Nicolas, Director General of La Fémis was elected President of the GEECT at the Cilect Congress in Madrid in 2006.

La Fémis initiated a series of meetings for film schools in 2002 to facilitate a pedagogical reflection and encourage the setting up of actions for student mobility within European film schools. It took an active and decisive part in the reflections that led the European Commission to create in 2007 the MEDIA Initial Training program.

### European Film School Network

Conceived by La Fémis in partnership with the LFS (London Film School) and the VSMU (Bratislava – Slovakia), and with the support of the MEDIA program, this seminar aims at a better knowledge of each school, their pedagogical options and their areas of excellence.

Since 2004, La Fémis has proposed case studies on the following subjects: evaluation in art schools vocation, European system of ECTS, adhesion to Erasmus, co-productions of school films, specific courses for students in mobility, BMD, research in films schools... In 2013, the topic was how to teach cinematography in film schools: *Teaching cinematography – from film to digital*.

These meetings have helped set up a network of partners, conscious of the need for an international experience for their students and strongly inspired by the creation of mobility projects.

Over 30 representatives of film schools, almost all of the member states of the European Union - IAD, RITS (Belgium), Academy of Dramatic Arts (Croatia), FAMU (Czech Republic), Baltic Film and Media School of Tallin University (Estonia), Aalto University and UIAH (Finland), Ecole Nationale Louis Lumière (France), HFF Potsdam and Munich (Germany), The Budapest Academy of Film and Drama (Hungaria), IADT (Ireland), Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia (Italy), Nederlandse Film en Televisie Academie (Netherlands), UNATC (Romania), Edinburgh Napier University (Scotland), ESCAC (Spain), University of Gothenburg and Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts (Sweden), ECAL (Switzerland), NFTS and University of Westminster (UK)... participate in these annual meetings.

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Partner schools:

Budapest Academy of Film & Drama, CalArts, Columbia University, Danske Filmskole, DFFB, ECAL, ESCAC, Filmakademie of Baden-Württemberg, FTII, FUC, HFF, INSAS, LFS, NFTS, Tokyo University of the Arts, UNATC, VSMU, VGIK

Financial partners:

The MEDIA Program  
Department of European and International Affairs of the French Ministry of Culture and Media  
French Embassy in Argentina  
French Embassy in India  
French Embassy in Japan  
French Embassy in Russia  
French Embassy in the United-States of America  
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs  
Ile de France Region (AMIE – international mobility for students)

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