



**From**

Prices valid until  
 30th December 2022

days  
 Duration

**Tasmania**  
 Destination

Level 1 - Introductory to  
 Moderate  
 Activity

# Masterpieces of French Cinema | Summer School course

## Masterpieces of French Cinema Summer School course

Each day of the program is devoted to a different masterpiece of French cinema. The mornings will start with an interactive lecture on the different visual languages and conventions that film critics tend to associate with these traditions. We then hone in on a particular director, exploring his or her larger body of work, before introducing the necessary context for the afternoon’s film. After the screening, we will



discuss some of the technical aspects of the film (including camerawork, lighting, music, etc.) as well as broader themes and ideas. Throughout the course, we'll also be thinking about how foreign-language films are consumed by different audiences, and how the meaning of such films changes when they are screened in different contexts.

The course is designed to introduce participants to a range of French films that are artistic and left-of-centre, but which are also accessible and entertaining selections!

The course begins in the silent era, with Carl Theodor Dreyer's masterpiece *The Passion of Joan of Arc* (1928), an unforgettable film about the trial of Joan of Arc. We then turn to Jean Renoir's 1939 film *The Rules of the Game* (*La Règle du Jeu*), before studying Jacques Tati's 1953 comedy *Mr. Hulot's Holiday* (*Les Vacances de Monsieur Hulot*). In the final stages of the week, we explore Jean-Luc Godard's groundbreaking 1960 film *Breathless* (*À bout de souffle*), as a representative of French New Wave cinema, before turning to a more recent masterpiece, Xavier Beauvois's *Of Gods and Men* (2010).

## Summer School classes for mature and senior travellers

Odyssey offers a collection of week-long learning programs offered each January in Hobart, Tasmania. Courses are refreshed for each year's programs. Classes are limited to 15 people.

Over the last twenty-five years, Odyssey's small group Summer School Program has given countless travellers an unforgettable educational and travel experience. Each summer, we prepare and offer fun and challenging special interest courses and programs designed to give travellers the options and opportunity to learn about history, religion, Australian culture, and the arts, among many other topics. These courses are designed in such a way that enthusiasts can deepen their knowledge of a particular topic or be initiated into new understandings

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on a subject.

These programs offered are tailor-made for mature-aged and senior travellers who are eager to explore in-depth a particular topic. Summer school learning programs for mature and senior travellers who are and remain curious about the world. Read more about our [philosophy of the Odyssey Summer Schools](#).

## Highlights

1. Discover five masterpieces of French cinema, and learn about their production and cultural significance.
2. Think more about how French films are received by different audiences, and how their meanings shift in different contexts.
3. Deepen your understanding of the French cinematic tradition, and learn more about various film techniques, theories, and ways of approaching cinema aesthetics.
4. Visit the beautiful State Theatre of Hobart, a historic, art-deco cinema built in 1913, for a screening of a newly-released arthouse film (if possible, a recent French film).
5. Visit the Tasmania Museum to see the collection devoted to Louise Lovely, the first Australian film star in Hollywood.

## Itinerary

### Day 1

**Locations:** Hobart

**Overview:**

The tour will begin with a welcome dinner at the hotel, where we have the chance to meet other Summer School participants.

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart or similar

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## Day 2

**Locations:** Hobart

### Overview:

On the first day of the program, we begin at 9.30am with a lecture on the silent era, centered around Carl Theodor Dreyer’s masterpiece *The Passion of Joan of Arc* (1928), an unforgettable film about the trial of Joan of Arc. We also learn about the early developments of cinema in France, with brief screenings of silent shorts by Melies. We learn about the extraordinary technical difficulties involved in producing Dreyer’s film, and think through its artistic response to European civilization. The lecture also sets up the context of the film and explores various reception issues.

After a break for morning tea at 11am, we begin the film, which continues until lunch at roughly 12.30/1pm. After the lunch break, we enjoy a detailed group discussion about the film.

### Accommodation:

Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart or similar

## Day 3

**Locations:** Hobart

### Overview:

Today, we begin at 9.30am with a lecture on Jean Renoir’s 1939 classic *The Rules of the Game* (*La Règle du Jeu*),. We learn about the historical significance of this film, and set up its complex use of framing and shots to generate an unforgettably intimate film experience.

After a break for morning tea at 11am, we begin the film, which continues until lunch at roughly 12.30/1pm. After the lunch break, we enjoy a detailed group discussion about the film.

### Accommodation:

Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart or similar



## Day 4

**Locations:** Hobart

**Overview:**

Today, we begin at 9.30am with a lecture on Jacques Tati's 1953 comedy *Mr. Hulot's Holiday* (*Les Vacances de Monsieur Hulot*), which documents the madcap exploits of an eccentric traveller. Together, we explore the cultural significance of this film, and think through its long legacy in French cinema.

After a break for morning tea at 11am, we begin the film, which continues until lunch at roughly 12.30/1pm. After the lunch break, we enjoy a detailed group discussion about the film.

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart or similar

## Day 5

**Locations:** Hobart

**Overview:**

Today, we begin at 9.30am with a lecture on Jean-Luc Godard's groundbreaking 1960 film *Breathless* (*À bout de souffle*), as a representative of French New Wave cinema,. The lecture situates this vibrant cinematic movement in post-war French society, and explores its many cinematic innovations. Together, we explore the complex relationship at the heart of this film, and consider its oscillation between sentimentalism and realism. We also look at what a number of film theorists have had to say about its use of perspective and focalisation.

After a break for morning tea at 11am, we begin the film, which continues until lunch at roughly 12.30/1pm. After the lunch break, we enjoy a detailed group discussion about the film.

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart or similar



## Day 6

**Locations:** Hobart

**Overview:**

On the final day of the program, we meet at 9.30am with a lecture on Xavier Beauvois's *Of Gods and Men* (2010). The lecture asks why this film might be so revered in France and little-known throughout the rest of the world, as well as exploring its complex treatment of religion and colonialism.

After a break for morning tea at 11am, we begin the film, which continues until lunch at roughly 12.30/1pm. After the lunch break, we enjoy a detailed group discussion about the film. In the afternoon, we also head down to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, to see the material relating to Louise Lovely, Australia's first Hollywood film star.

**Evening** We enjoy a farewell dinner together with other Odyssey Summer School groups.

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart or similar

## Day 7

**Locations:** Hobart

**Overview:**

The tour will end after breakfast.

## Inclusions / Exclusions

**What's included in our Tour**

- 6 nights in full en suite accommodation
- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches, and 2 dinners.
- Lectures and handouts as indicated.
- Services of a study leader and lecturers.

- Complimentary wifi.

**What's not included in our Tour**

- Comprehensive travel insurance.
- Costs of a personal nature.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.