



# The Forum des images

The heart of the silver screen beats  
in the center of Paris!



320,000 visitors for 2,000 screenings each year

At least 4 screenings per day, 6 days a week

4 thematic film series and over 20 festivals and events each year

A collection of 7,150 digitized films

350 invited guests from around the world

5 theaters seating from 30 to 444 movie-goers

A restaurant and bar...

... all located in one venue, at the heart of the city that loves cinema!

# WHO WE ARE...

Created in 1988 to compile an audiovisual memory bank of Paris, the Forum des Images has since celebrated cinema and moving pictures of all kinds. Fiction films, documentaries, animated films, shorts and feature films, television series, computer films... at the Forum, all genres, formats and audiovisual disciplines find a unique meeting place designed for sharing ideas and emotions; a place both recognized by industry professionals and tremendously successful with audiences.

Celebrating diversity and international cinema, encouraging cultural exchanges and critical thought, rethinking our era and our world, pushing limits and creating surprise, promoting film literacy amongst the youngest audiences... And all this through the eye of the camera!

## A rich and eclectic program

Thematic film series, the backbone of our programming policy, offer the opportunity to shed new and original light on major social themes by instituting a dialogue between very diverse works, from art house films to mainstream popular productions past and present. Every year, the Forum des Images organizes a dozen festivals, which are open to the general public and which emphasize contemporary productions. It also organizes events centered on animation and documentaries. Last but not least, it offers programs for young audiences, specifically designed for 18-month-old children and older.

## A crossroads to meet and exchange views

**The Académie** is where the Forum stages debates open to all visitors. Guests include industry professionals and influential personalities from other fields who come to share their views on the silver screen: philosophers, sociologists, historians...

**Master classes, discussions and film courses** have already brought together renowned cinema personalities: Michael Caine, Michel Ciment, Francis Ford Coppola, Costa-Gavras, Gérard Depardieu, Amos Gitai, Stéphane Goudet, James Gray, Isabelle Huppert, Mike Leigh, Peter Lord, Axelle Ropert, Jerry Schatzberg, Agnès Varda, etc.

## A collection of films unique in the world

With over **5,000 hours of filmed material**, this priceless cultural heritage focused on the city of Paris harbors treasures dating from 1895 up to the present day in a wide variety of formats and genres: feature films shot in Paris, shorts from the early years of cinema, animated films, documentaries, music videos, advertisements, stock footage, etc.

**All digitized and readily available at all times**, these works can be consulted on individual screens, one person or several people at a time. Cinema à la carte for everyone!

# HISTORY

## **The Forum des Images: past and present**

**In 1988 the Vidéothèque de Paris, ancestor of the Forum des Images, opened in the heart of the underground shopping area of the Forum des Halles as part of City Hall's urban planning project to "add a touch of soul" to the mall. Since then, under the presidencies of Pierre Tchernia (1993-2008), David Kessler (2008-2009) and currently Marc Tessier, it has taken a prominent place in the cultural and urban landscape of the capital and has become influential through its strengthened missions and revitalized activities.**

### **1988: a revolutionary start...**

Originally created by the poet Pierre Emmanuel and designed by architect Paul Chemetov, the Forum des Images was intended as an audiovisual memory bank of Paris. The institution began by bringing together a collection of films about the city shot as early as 1895 with the greatest possible variety of origins, genres and media. Features, shorts, fiction films, documentaries, advertisements, television programs, amateur films, institutional films ... each had its place in the collection.

Conceived as a place for "public viewing," intent on providing easy and immediate accessibility to its exceptional audiovisual collection, the *Vidéothèque* de Paris had a viewing room where all films without exception could be watched at all times. It was the first completely automated videotheque in France to offer easy accessibility to such a large audiovisual collection. Thanks to its avant-garde equipment, each visitor could view the work of their choice on an individual screen. It was such a success that the number of screens was quickly increased. And while the Internet was still in its infancy, all film details were accessible via France's public-access information system, the Minitel—a rare fact at the time. For researchers and for the general public, offering such services was a revolution.

### **... and an immediate success**

The idea of compiling and organizing Paris's audiovisual memory bank, and offering in counterpoint an eclectic selection of films and events, quickly caught on. The project was such a success that what was originally destined for parisians alone quickly spread beyond the capital thanks to the variety of public transportation options serving the Forum des *Halles*. Dynamic and inventive, the *Vidéothèque* de Paris broadened the scope of its activities beyond the Parisian themes and began offering an exploration of all types of film documents, and in particular contemporary creations.

### **1998: new name, new directions**

As the *Vidéothèque* confirmed its showcase status for all cinemas, the institution's identity evolved and it widened its film catalogue, activities and critical orientation. A name change seemed a natural outcome and thus the *Vidéothèque* de Paris became the *Forum des Images*.

Bringing people together, stimulating debate, encouraging relations between industry professionals and the public and developing film literacy, the Forum invited visitors to look at the world through the eye of the camera and through the eye of the filmmakers of today and yesterday.

With its increasing popularity, especially after the year 2000, the *Forum des Images* welcomed up to 340,000 visitors a year and became a technological and cultural reference locally, regionally and nation-wide. But after 17 years of attracting crowds, renovation work was in order...

### **2005: the Forum des Images during alterations**

During three years, the *Forum des Images* experienced a radical transformation and prepared to shed a new skin. While its theaters and office spaces were being renovated, it relocated its eclectic and original activities to Parisian venues and theaters such as the Max Linder, the Arlequin or the Pompidou Center.

### **2008: the Forum des Images finds a new image**

After three years of renovation and 7.6 million euros in city subsidies, the *Forum des Images* and its redesigned space resumed their dual activity of preservation and programming. Having enriched its collection with the works of young filmmakers and works absent from mainstream distribution, the *Salle des Collections* became once more a pioneer in France with close to 5,000 hours of film transferred to digital format. The institution also joined forces with the movie complex *UGC Ciné Cité Les Halles* and the François Truffaut Library of Cinema to create a cultural pole turned toward cinema inside the *Forum des Halles*, on the *Rue du Cinéma*.

Always ready to take on new technological developments and movie-going practices, and ready to adapt to the audience's desires, the *Forum des Images* clearly has a modern approach: It is turned toward world diversity and the future.



# MISSIONS

## Understanding the world through film

"Forum des images , the place where cinema speaks up." Such is the promise the *Forum des images* holds as it sheds light on and raises questions about today's society through its yearly programming, events and discussions. Its role as an interface between a work and the audience is expressed through a dual activity at the foundation of its mission: preservation and programming. The singularity of this unique institution is to combine commonly dissociated missions in a coherent and mutually enriching fashion.

## Preserving an invaluable collection: the memory of Paris and gems of the silver screen

One of the *Forum's* original missions was to compile a living memory bank of Paris, one of the most frequently filmed cities in the world. With over 5,000 hours of digital content, the collection—which harbors footage of the capital dating from 1895 up until today—holds an array of formats and genres: documentaries, news reels, advertisements, fiction, shorts, medium-length and feature films, etc.

The collection, which continues to expand every year with the acquisition of film rights and prints, forms an invaluable heritage for Paris and Parisians. Since 2008, "parallel" have entered the collection—with works from La Fémis, Les Films d'ici, L'Agence du court métrage, Lobster, Canal du savoir, pointlignepian, Ciné-Archives (The French Communist Party's audiovisual archives) and soon the Simone de Beauvoir and Mosfilm collections, etc.—in the hope of supporting young filmmakers and film and television productions which are absent from mainstream circuits.

## Programming a different kind of cinema

Since its creation in 1988, the *Forum des images* has established a special place for itself in the audiovisual landscape of Paris. The specific perspective that it strives to develop on cinematic art strengthens its legitimacy; a legitimacy that rests in particular on the film series it offers, cornerstone of its programming policy. Programming by theme allows the *Forum* to create a resonance between a great diversity of works, eras and points of view. Audiences are invited to (re)view, in an original, new and eclectic way, major social themes as seen through the camera lens. Throughout the year, the program is accompanied by festivals, discussions, debates, workshops, Master Classes, film courses and events.

With over 2,000 screenings each year, the Forum des images offers cinema-lovers of all ages a rich and diverse selection. At its location on the *Rue du Cinéma*—where several facilities dedicated to cinematic art coexist, including the François Truffaut Library of Cinema and the movie complex *UGC Ciné Cité Les Halles*—the *Forum des images* offers complementary and innovative activities on a daily basis.

## **Acting as a go-between: film literacy for all**

Bringing together, inter-connecting and comparing so many diverse works increases the possible ways in which to interpret each one: such is both the belief and ambition of the *Forum des images*, all the more firmly asserted that the *Forum* is open to all types of film documents and to all audiences. From neophytes to the most specialized movie buffs, from 18-month-old children to students, from researchers to industry professionals, all come together in the 5 screening rooms, conference rooms, workshops or even the collection room, which offers free and immediate access to 7,150 digitized films.

The *Forum des images* strives to offer easy access to the greatest number of people and this is perfectly embodied by the *Salle des collections*, which revolves around digital technology. The highly eclectic collections are very carefully curated: discovering "the city's audiovisual memory bank" is innovative driven by search engines. They offer multiple entries and tools: clickable maps of Paris, timelines, interactive games and texts organized by theme, which are an invitation to discovery...

This collection of films is viewable on site and is also linked to a larger body of films from around the world that have Paris as subject or setting. *The Forum des images* database, which is available on the Internet, has become a standard reference tool for finding film documents on Paris and now reaches beyond the scope of its sole collection.

## **Developing critical thinking: a meeting place to exchange ideas**

Open to and curious about all forms of research and critical thought, the *Forum des images* does more than just offer screenings in multiple, original and inventive conditions. If the institution makes a daily effort to ignore distinctions of genre, format and artistic expression, it is also very keen to bolster its screenings with interesting perspectives, rich debates and pluridisciplinary conferences with special guests: French and foreign filmmakers and actors, sociologists, philosophers, historians, critics, authors or city planners, all come to discuss—among themselves and with the audience—the issues each film raises.

Through its *Académie*, *the Forum des images* is able to offer Master Classes, film courses, workshops... all unique and privileged, instructive and enlightening, unconventional and personal moments about great names of the silver screen, its founding themes and life behind the scenes.

## **An educational mission: introduction to film literacy**

Apart from programming films specifically intended for younger audiences, every year the *Forum* welcomes close to 30,000 students from day-care to high school, who come to screenings and participate in activities centered on film, the city of Paris and social themes. They compare film documents from yesterday and today with the help of multimedia analytical tools. The *Forum's* educational approach pays special attention to the personal, emotional and critical expression of school children.

Teachers can also sign up for classes or workshops and benefit from direct access to the exceptional audiovisual collection. The *Forum des images* is also a partner of choice for those who wish to develop specific projects in line with state curriculums or in collaboration with the Ministry for the Arts and Communication.

# ARCHITECTURE

## A showcase made of light, space and color

The *Forum des images* owes its strong identity to its innovative activities in programming and preservation. But the impact it has made on the world of cinematic and audiovisual arts and culture is also embodied by a strong physical and architectural identity designed by architect Anouk Legendre from the firm X-TU and lighting designer Georges Berne. A long-standing part of community life at the *Forum des Halles*, the *Forum des images'* renovated spaces assert the institution's elegance and modernity.

## In the heart of Les Halles, a street dedicated to cinema

In the heart of Paris, the *Forum des images* stretches along *Rue du Cinéma*, an underground street linking *Porte du Jour* to the *Porte Saint-Eustache* and which features—for the enjoyment of the general public—a succession of facilities dedicated to the silver screen: the *Forum des images*, the François Truffaut City Library of Cinema and the movie theater complex *UGC Ciné Cité Les Halles*. Offering activities that range from premieres of recent films to viewing rarities from our cultural heritage to finding books on cinema, here the City of Paris has created a one-of-a-kind movie hub. As a part of the global restructuring project of Les Halles, an array of other complementary services is also available in this innovative crossroads in the center of the capital.

A symbol of this complementarity is the 230-foot-long (70 m) facade which links the *Forum des images* to the François Truffaut Library. The 4,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (1,200 m<sup>2</sup>) library was designed by the architecture firm X-TU to fit in perfectly with the *Forum des images*. 19,000 books, 6,200 magazines, 2,000 CDs and 10,000 DVDs are on loan or can be consulted on site.

## Clean lines and light

Created by architect Paul Chemetov and inaugurated in 1988, the *Forum des images* underwent substantial renovation between 2005 and 2008. Under the supervision of Anouk Legendre from the firm X-TU—which restores many public and institutional buildings in France and abroad—two goals guided the renovation: asserting the architectural identity of the cinematic institution and restoring the building's spatial unity, which covers 19,685 ft<sup>2</sup> (6,000 m<sup>2</sup>) on several levels. Aiming for clean lines and open spaces, the firm X-TU worked in particular around the idea of creating "clear masses." The transparent facade immediately reveals the *Forum* as home to film. Through its tall bay windows passersby immediately perceive the diverse activities taking place inside. X-TU emphasized the building's surfaces and volume through a "double skin" effect created by the continuity between the floors, walls and ceilings, and by playing with alternately smooth, opaque or transparent materials.

The choice of a pure color like "hollyhock" pink, combined with light gray and black, creates a dynamic unity throughout the various spaces and the chromatic combinations underline the elegance and warmth of the *Forum des images*.

## Staged lighting

Lighting is a crucial part of the site's architectural identity, and the firm X-TU chose to work with world-renowned specialist Georges Berne. After collaborating with the Guimet Museum and the Picasso Museum, Georges Berne staged the lighting of the *Forum* using neon ribbons with changing rhythms, nuances, intensities and colors.

Visitors stroll through the *Forum des images* moving from one lighting atmosphere to another. And because the lighting connects the different surfaces and helps shape the different volumes, it actually improves the fluidity of foot traffic between spaces, creating a warm and friendly atmosphere. Visitors move progressively and smoothly from broad daylight to the darkness of the theater, and back again.



## The art of signage

Very modern signage was created specifically for the *Forum des images*. The graphic and typographic research was entrusted to artist Pierre di Sciullo. Known for the quality of his work, in particular at the *Centre National de la Danse* in Pantin, Pierre di Sciullo imagined for the *Forum* a system of signs and directions with a compelling identity which reconciles practicality and elegant shapes. In keeping with the aesthetic choices made by X-TU, the original typography specially made for *the Forum—the Kujje*—guides visitors inside and outside the building.

## Five perfectly equipped movie theaters

The *Forum des images* hosts screenings, events and cultural events welcoming thousands of visitors year-round. All theaters are wheelchair accessible, with state-of-the-art equipment and a seating capacity adapted to each event.

The theaters *Salle 500* (444 seats), *Salle 300* (276 seats), *Salle 100* (100 seats) and *Salle 30* (30 seats) were from the outset intended to present works from a large variety of media. The projection rooms are equipped for practically every possible film or video format, from the rarest to the most common: an early print screened in 18-frames-per-second can be followed by a 2K digital screening. Lastly, *Salle 50* (50 seats) is specifically designed for video screenings and welcoming school groups. Its removable chairs make it possible to adjust seating as required, even clearing the floor entirely for specific activities, such as hands-on workshops.

## **A collection room adapted to all**

Dedicated to the consultation of 7,150 digital documents from the *Forum's* collection, the *Salle des Collections* can welcome up to 86 visitors and offers optimal comfort with state-of-the-art ergonomics, soundproofing and architecture. In its 1,312 ft<sup>2</sup> (400 m<sup>2</sup>) space four types of viewing possibilities coexist, each destined for a specific usage.

Dedicated to leisure consultations, the *Grand Salon*—the main space covering 656 ft<sup>2</sup> (200 m<sup>2</sup>)—holds 16 individual screens to be used one or two persons. Eight alcoves offer individual consultation screens with more privacy. Two adjoining *Petits Salons* are reserved to groups of seven people maximum who wish to share a film with family or friends. Adapted to collective use, the *Petit Amphithéâtre* can welcome up to 32 visitors for group consultations and research.

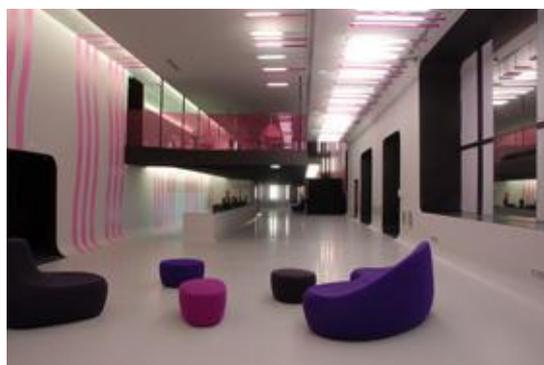
The 16 specially-equipped computers in the amphitheater make note taking and working frame-by-frame possible. This space, adapted to group tutorials and workshops, puts a variety of tools at the instructor's disposal, including a big-screen video projector and access to a corpus of digital media. Whether they come alone, in work groups, with family or friends, visitors can also obtain advice and guidance concerning the full-range of available services and the prolific collection.

## **An open meeting place for work and play**

Spacious, the public entrance covers 1,089 ft<sup>2</sup> (332 m<sup>2</sup>) to welcome visitors in optimal conditions. Because of the great number of visitors, a long reception desk centralizes ticket sales and information about programs, collections and available equipment.

Visitors with tickets are then free to go to the *Grand Foyer* to wait for their screenings, sit in the *Salon de Lecture* (reading area) or have a drink at the 7<sup>th</sup> Bar, situated on the mezzanine. Open during the day and evenings, the café offers a pleasant setting to meet before a screening or carry on a discussion after a film. With a seating capacity of up to 36 patrons, the 7<sup>th</sup> Bar serves market fresh Mediterranean dishes—natural, balanced and specially created by Café Lemoni. The perfect place for a light meal in a friendly atmosphere.

Last but not least, the *Rotonde* (rotunda) is a unique meeting room reserved for professional use and remarkable for its rounded walls, imposing skylight and impressively large table designed by architect Jean-Michel Wilmotte.



# STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**The *Forum des Images* is a cultural institution subsidized by the City of Paris. Our team counts 70 staff members, all departments included.**

## Forum Des Images Staff

General Director: Laurence Herszberg

Managing Director: Séverine Le Bescond

Assistant Managing Director: Anna Fontaine

Director of Programming: Jean-Yves de Lépinay

Director of Educational activities: Frédéric Lavigne

Communications Director: Anne Coulon

Director of Special Events: Jeffrey Bledsoe

Technical Director: Philippe Boulanger



## Forum Des Images Board Of Directors

- President: Marc Tessier (Director of Netgem, President of Video Futur Entertainment Group, President of IDF1, President of the Syndicat des Editeurs de Vidéo à la Demande/VOD Editors' Union, France)
- Honorary President: Pierre Tchernia (director, actor, screenwriter)
- Vice President: Patrick Sobelman (producer - Agat Films)
- Treasurer: Claude-Eric Poiroux (General Director of Europa Cinemas and the festival Premiers Plans d'Angers)
- Secretary: Régis Wagnier (director, screenwriter)
- Bruno Julliard (Deputy Mayor of Paris in charge of cultural affairs)
- Véronique Bedague-Hamilius (General Secretary of the city of Paris)
- Carole Desbarats (cinema essayist)
- Sylvain Garel (member of the Paris City Council)
- Laurence Goldgrab (member of the Paris City Council)
- Jean-François Legaret (member of the Paris City Council, Mayor of the 1st arrondissement)
- Hélène Mace de Lepinay (member of the Paris City Council)
- Marie Masmonteil (productrice, Elzevir Films)
- Alain Sussfeld (directeur général d'UGC)
- Régine Vial (producer, distributor - Les Films du Losange)

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