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Alliance Française  
**FRENCH  
FILM FESTIVAL**

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**Alliance Française French Film Festival 2015**

**Press release for all regions: Friday 16 January 2015**

**For immediate release**

## **Opening Night Film Announced for the Alliance Française French Film Festival 2015**

Today the Festival Team are delighted to unveil the name of the film that will fill the much-coveted Opening Night slot in the 2015 festival programme.

The festival will kick off in each city with the moving, uplifting and funny new film, *The Bélier Family*, by Eric Lartigau starring much-loved French actors François Damiens and Karin Viard.

In the Bélier family, everyone is deaf, except dutiful sixteen-year-old Paula (captivating newcomer Louane Emera). She acts as an indispensable interpreter for her parents and younger brother, especially in the running of the family dairy farm.

Though her salt-of-the-earth father (François Damiens, *Delicacy*) has decided to run for mayor – spurred on by her vivacious but over-involved mother, portrayed by the wonderful Karin Viard – Paula's attentions are very much elsewhere. She's witnessed the handsome new boy at school sign up for the choir, and impulsively joined too. It's not long before her music teacher (*The Skylab's* Éric Elmosnino) discovers her considerable talent, however his encouragement only exacerbates the matter of Paula's independence...

Building to a heart-soaring finale, *The Bélier Family* is an utter delight. Emera is a true revelation, lending an extraordinary spirit to this raucous and deeply moving crowd-pleaser.

After clocking up over 3 million spectators in the opening weeks of its December French release, *The Bélier Family* has become the talk of the town in France and the Festival Team are so excited to bring this film to New Zealand screens from 19 February.

More information about the opening night events will be launched when the full programme is announced on 29 January. Tickets are on sale from 30 January, early booking recommended.

For all Festival updates and film information, please visit [www.frenchfilmfestival.co.nz](http://www.frenchfilmfestival.co.nz) and register to receive e-newsletters.

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