

**The Alliance Française French Film Festival Announces *Planetarium* Director
Rebecca Zlotowski as Special Guest**

**Press Release for Auckland and Wellington: Alliance Française French Film Festival
2017**

Press release for 23 February, 2017

The Alliance Française French Film Festival is delighted to announce director Rebecca Zlotowski will travel to New Zealand to present her stunning feature film *Planetarium* at selected screenings in Auckland and Wellington.

Rebecca Zlotowski has a reputation for films of emotional depth and striking visuals. Taking us back to the height of studio cinema, *Planetarium* showcases opulent costumes and stunning cinematography. Starring Natalie Portman and Lily-Rose Depp, two sisters who have the ability to contact ghosts and perform as psychic mediums, the film is set at the close of the 1930s in Paris. There, in the city of light, they catch the eye of film producer Korben (Emmanuel Salinger) who becomes obsessed with the idea of filming the supernatural. The sisters become embroiled in the world of cinema, blissfully unaware of the worldwide turmoil of the years to come.

After graduating from the prestigious Ecole Normale Supérieure and being a French Language and Literature agrégée, Rebecca Zlotowski joined the famous Paris film school La Fémis where she encountered other distinctive filmmakers such as Teddy Lussi Modeste, Jean-Claude Brisseau, Philippe Grandrieux, Antoine d'Agata (with whom she will collaborate on a future project), and Lodge Kerrigan. Selected at the 2010 Cannes Critics' Week, her first directorial effort *Belle Épine* won the Prix Louis Delluc as well as the Critics' Award for Best First Feature Film. Three years later, *Grand Central* was selected at the Un Certain Regard in Cannes. *Planetarium* is Zlotowski's third feature film.

Rebecca Zlotowski will present her film at the Wellington screening on 12 March at Embassy Theatre. A Q+A will follow the screening, moderated by writer and reviewer Brannavan Gnanalingam. She will also introduce her film in Auckland on 13 March at Rialto Cinemas Newmarket. A Q+A will follow the screening.

Rebecca Zlotowski's trip to New Zealand is made possible thanks to support from UniFrance, Alliance Française New Zealand, and the Embassy of France in New Zealand.

Tickets are now available from screening venues and the AF FFF website.

The Alliance Française French Film Festival will run from 1 March - 12 April 2017 in 12 cities across New Zealand. For full programme information, including dates and venues, visit www.frenchfilmfestival.co.nz

ENDS