

Celebrate 60 Years of Coffee at Cannes. ☕



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FESTIVAL DE CANNES

From May 16 to 27, the city of Cannes will play host to the 60th anniversary of the world's most famous film festival. It is beyond dispute that glamour plays a key role at the festival. Thanks to the sexiness of the Cote d'Azur, the aura of the stars and starlets, colourful anecdotes about the actors and directors, and their innumerable glittering promenades along many a red carpet. For two weeks every year, the city is virtually submerged in a wave of glamour. Everybody who is anybody in the film business and everyone else who means to have a say comprise the crème de la crème along La Croisette, while curious crowds comb the beach for stars, and hopeful starlets, yet to be discovered, show off their best.

SENTA BERGER

At age 19, the press celebrates Senta Berger as a Viennese "sex bomb" but the young actress has greater ambitions than being just another pretty face. Which is why she leaves Europe in 1962 to try her luck in Hollywood, where she manages to land roles alongside major stars such as Charlton Heston, Frank Sinatra and John Wayne. And yet, disillusioned by the confines of the Hollywood lifestyle, she returns to Europe and works on her European career in Italy and France. The photo shows Senta Berger in a Cannes café in 1969, after her successful transformation from pin-up girl to internationally renowned actress. Two films in which she stars, "Bisturi, la mafia bianca" (1975) and "Le due vite di Mattia Pascal" (1983), the latter featuring Marcello Mastroianni, are entered at the Cannes Festival.



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SOPHIA LOREN



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The year 1961 belongs to Sophia Loren who is awarded the Best Actress award for "La Ciociara", a major triumph for the Italian star. Born out of wedlock and in humble circumstances, Loren meets influential film producer (and future husband) Carlo Ponti on the occasion of a beauty contest (Miss Italia) in 1950. Ponti becomes her patron and moulds her into a respected actress. In 1957 he introduces her to Hollywood, where she soon stars alongside such screen icons as Cary Grant, Marlon Brando, Charlton Heston and Clark Gable, her international career in full swing.

SERGE GAINSBOURG

They are the undisputed dream couple of French pop culture – charismatic singer/songwriter Serge Gainsbourg and androgynous singer/actress Jane Birkin, whose short but memorable nude appearance in Antonioni's film "Blow Up", which is awarded the Palme d'Or in 1967, made her an overnight sex symbol of the swinging sixties. Birkin and Gainsbourg first meet during the shooting of "Slogan" in 1969 and soon hit the big time with the notorious Gainsbourg-penned duet "Je t'aime ... moi non plus", which sells more than a million copies within a month of its release and turns the two performers into superstars. The photo shows them in a street café, deep in conversation. So deep, in fact, that Miss Birkin seems not to be aware just how high her mini-dress has ridden up.



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ALAIN DELON

This photo dates from the 1959 Cannes Festival, shortly after Romy Schneider and Alain Delon publicly announce their engagement. The couple meet during the shooting of "Christine". Delon, three years older than Schneider and totally unscrupulous, uses a foolproof ruse to conquer the delicate and naive actress. After the film is wrapped, he announces that she is a nothing but a provincial German girl. The bluff works perfectly and the Austrian actress succumbs to the charm of the Frenchman, smitten by his impertinence and unconventional lifestyle as much as by some of the auteur movies Delon acts in. At the engagement party, Delon gets fake rings for Schneider and himself, a bad portent of things to come. The couple splits up in 1963.



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CHARLES AZNAVOUR



© DALMAS/SIPA

An Armenian beloved by the French, Aznavour is a truly exceptional talent. As a composer and singer he is responsible for no less than 1,000 songs and 100 albums, as an actor he has participated in 60 movies. Hardly surprising, then, that he is a Cannes regular. The photo shows him in 1963 and his obvious good mood is probably due to the fact that "Le Rat d'Amérique", in which he stars, is his first film to be entered in the competition at Cannes. He plays in a total of four films so honoured, including Schlöndorff's "The Tin Drum" that wins the "Palme d'Or" in 1979, while in 1986 Aznavour is himself a member of the jury. Truly a man who knows the Cannes Festival from all perspectives!