

PRESS KIT

# RENCONTRES PAYSANNES FARMERS DATING

A FILM BY ALEXANDRA HSU

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER  
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Still from animated end credits by Alpha Studios

# RENCONTRES PAYSANNES FARMERS DATING

SHORT FICTION, 11'

## FESTIVAL SPECIFICATIONS

English Title: **Farmers Dating**

French: **Rencontres Paysannes**

Language of Film: **French with English Subtitles**

Film Type: **Fiction, Short Film**

Genre: **Drama Comedy/Dramedy**

Runtime: **10 mins 46 secs**

Camera: **RED EPIC**

Image Format: **16:9/1.85, HD, Color**

Sound Format: **Dolby Surround**

Completed: **2021**

## LOGLINE

In rural France, a young farmer's heart is broken. Struggling to understand the new world of dating via technology, she's not sure her tomatoes are ripe for anyone.

*Written by Catherine Gagne*

## FESTIVAL SELECTIONS



# RENCONTRES PAYSANNES FARMERS DATING

ALEXANDRA HSU



## FILMOGRAPHY

2011 - **Women** - Short Documentary  
2013 - **The L Market** - Short Fiction  
2015 - **Sophie** - Short Fiction  
2018 - **Our Way Home** - Short Fiction  
2021 - **Rencontres Paysannes -  
Farmers Dating** - Short Fiction

## IN POST-PRODUCTION

**POP!** - Short Fiction  
**UNWAVERING** - Short Fiction

## BIOGRAPHY

Alexandra Hsu is a director-producer, born and raised in Orange County, CA. She fell in love with film in high school, and attended the USC Summer Film Program to test her interest. Film was a perfect fit for Alexandra - a combination of her parents' careers - father was an engineer-entrepreneur, mother was an artist-fashion designer. Alexandra has directed short films in Asia, Europe, and USA. Her short film, "Sophie," shot in Hong Kong, screened at twenty film festivals worldwide, including Oscar-Qualifying Festivals such as Austin, Foyle, LA Asian Pacific, and HollyShorts. Alexandra is in post-production on two of her short films - "POP!" and "Rencontres Paysannes." Her most recent short film, "Our Way Home" had its World Premiere at Oscar-Qualifying HollyShorts. Alexandra was a resident in the SFFILM FilmHouse Residency, where SFFILM has supported the development of her first feature, *Queens*, inspired by a 1960s family story focused during the New York World's Fair, and a narrative limited series about the Vincent Chin story and movement. Alexandra was also highlighted on NBC News as the Kearny Street Workshop Featured Artist in Film at the 20th APature Arts Festival (SF). She was selected to direct a short film for the CBS Leadership Pipeline Challenge. With her interest in US-China relations, she became a member of the China Institute Next Gen Leaders Circle last year. Alexandra received her BA from Scripps College, double majoring in Media Studies and Asian Studies. Her undergraduate thesis was a documentary film, "Women: Cultural Revolution to Capitalist Revolution" which received the Media Studies Award and the Pomona College Museum "China Insights" Exhibit Grant. Alexandra graduated from NYU Tisch School of the Arts with her MFA in Film Directing and Production.

## DIRECTORS STATEMENT

When I started working on this project, I was dating a Frenchman. I'd half-jokingly told him that I was going to make a short film in France since he had a car there—in my opinion, if you have a car, you can do anything. In the midst of writing the script with my classmate Chris Vennemeyer, however, the Frenchman and I broke up. The story morphed from a Frenchman in search of WiFi so that he can communicate with his girlfriend abroad to a heartbroken female farmer struggling to understand the new world of dating apps in rural France. In many ways, making this film was a journey through my own heartbreak. Ultimately, *Rencontres Paysannes - Farmers Dating* offers a lighthearted look at what it means to search for love in the digital era. It is a story about cultivating self-love and rekindling joy through the simple pleasures of life, friendship, and, of course, dating.

# RENCONTRES PAYSANNES FARMERS DATING

CAST

MARION SERVOLE



photographer: Amandine Gaymard



Marion SERVOLE is a French actress, born and raised in Paris. After following a French Classical Theatre training in Paris in a District Conservatory, she moved to New York and joined the prestigious Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute

She started her film career in NY, starring in Richard Ledes' *The Caller* (2008), alongside Frank Langella and Elliott Gould. The film premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. Back in France, Marion starred in several projects including short films, commercials, and a French TV series, *Section de recherches*. She spoke both French and English in these projects.

Because Marion is bilingual, she often works with international teams. One of her latest international collaborations is with Chinese- American filmmaker Alle Hsu in short film, "Farmer's Dating (Rencontres Paysannes)" in which she plays the lead character, Victoire.

Marion has also written several short screenplays, some of which she has also directed, such as "An unlucky way to get lucky," "Blanche Neige," "Aux Poils !" and "Sam Samuel", which were Official Selections at different film festivals in France and Russia.

# RENCONTRES PAYSANNES FARMERS DATING

CAST

ROMANE ARKI



photographer: self



Born Sophie Barge, this actress finds her stage name «Romane Arki» in 2015, at the renowned Studio Pygmalion Paris, Montrouge Area, which was able to welcome important personalities such as Marion Cottillard, Anne Parillaud or Sophie Marceau.

She grew up in a difficult area and discovered the theatre at the age of 11. She pursued many workshops around the stage until she was 16. In 2002, she managed to enter the Superior Theater Class at the Lycée International des Pontonniers (20 profiles accepted out of 500). She works with actors from the Strasbourg's National Theater. At the age of 17, she wrote her first play «The appearance of the light is sometimes unexpected» recounting first loves. At the age of 21, she wrote her first screenplay, a 25-minute drama fiction, "La Vie de Rêve."

It describes a world where Emotion is a Business. It works at the service of TV audiences to the detriment of the human condition. She made this film on her own in 2012 with 34 volunteers. The film suffers from many mistakes but confirms the actress in the courage of her ambitions. She left her hometown and moved to Paris in 2013, accepted at Studio Pygmalion. She stayed there until 2015. Since then she has been shooting in a youtube series, several short-metragés and giving her voice to the dubbing studios.

# RENCONTRES PAYSANNES FARMERS DATING

CAST

WILLIAM PRUNCK



photographer: Marion Servole



William PRUNCK is a French actor living in Paris. He studied acting in two public schools in Paris where he was given a classical stanislavskian approach of acting and later, he entered during three years a Paris high school of dramatic art called ESAD (Dramatic Art Superior School) in which he could experiment various technics of acting (meyerholdian way of acting by using the body in peculiar, clown, masks in actor training, movie acting...). He also learnt how to dance and to sing. First he was an actor of theater : here are some pieces, Blasted of Sarah Kane, Das brennende Dorf of Fassbinder but several improvised comical sketches based on clowny situations. On the other hand, he was interested in pictures too since he was a teenager : his first founder movie is A clockwork orange of Stanley Kubrick, but also movies of Charlie Chaplin and mainly Buster Keaton ! That's why, he is interested in acting into features films like Open Tables of Jack C. Newell. You can see him in a lot of short movies, one of these The Teletraining of a french director Guillaume de Ginestel, goes round the world, from Mexico to Italy and Japan : in this short movie he plays a novice and necessarily hit man. He has won a small part in a big French movie directed by Mia Hansen- Løve. He also plays in TV movies like Je te promets, Paris etc of Zabou Breitman, Nina, L'art du crime, Scènes de ménage... Recently, he plays in La pièce rapportée de Antonin Peretjatko and Madame Claude of Sylvie Verheyde. Finally, he keeps on writing : his two short movies called Jack Line1 & 2 won prices.

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## KEY CREW



### PRODUCER MUFEI XU

MuFei Xu was born on May 1990 in Beijing, China. After completing her undergraduate producer program at Beijing Film Academy in 2012, she gained her MFA degree from New York University Tisch School of the Arts Asia in 2017. Her graduate thesis film MILESTONES was selected into Cyprus International Film Festival, Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival etc. She has global film production experience, and as producer, her projects have been shot in China, U.S, France, Singapore and Japan, and won numerous awards in film festivals such as Chicago International Film Festival, Atlanta Film Festival, Shanghai Film Festival and Short Shorts Film Festival.

### CO-WRITER CHRISTOPHER VENNEMEYER



### DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ENRIQUE UNZUETA

Enrique Unzueta is a Mexican director and cinematographer based in Southern California. Unzueta graduated with an MFA in filmmaking from New York University. He has directed short films in Singapore, Philippines, Mexico, and the US. Unzueta's work as a cinematographer has been shot in 10 countries around the world including China, South Korea, Singapore, India, Vietnam, France, Czech Republic, Puerto Rico, Mexico and the US. In 2019, Unzueta was a fellow in Film Independent's signature program Project Involve, and in the year 2020 he was a recipient of the Global Migration, Refugees and Resettlement Reporting Fellowship by The Ground Truth Project. He is currently teaching at Universidad de las Californias Internacional in his hometown of Tijuana, Mexico while working on his first feature.



# RENCONTRES PAYSANNES FARMERS DATING

## CAST

Marion Servole

Romane Arki

William Prunck

Paula Duteil-Becker Lucero

Kyrah Abad Banks

Olivier Dixneuf

Louise-Carole Mambi

Lili Roux

Luke Melling

## CREW

Written by Alexandra Hsu and Christopher Vennemeyer

Directed by Alexandra Hsu

Cinematography by Enrique Unzueta

Executive Producers: Alexandra Hsu, Lily Hsu, and Tony Hsu

Produced by Alexandra Hsu and MuFei Xu

Production Design by Yun Liang

Costume by Yun Liang

Assistant Director: Louise-Carole Mambi

Casting: Ilaria Camplone, Nathanaël de Tarade, Alexandra Hsu, MuFei Xu

Hair and Makeup by Kyrah Abad Banks

Gaffer/Grip: Laura Mohai

1st Assistant Camera: Florent Salzard

2nd Assistant Camera/DIT: Poppy Van Oorde-Grainger

Sound Mixer: Olivier Leroy

Boom Operator: Alexander Kalachnikov

Edited by Marc Wiltshire

Additional Editing by Imran J. Khan and Zekun Mao

Sound Design by Olivier Leroy

Original Score by Elisa C. Rice

Post-Production Services by Tunnel Post

Main and End Titles by Alpha Studios





# RENCONTRES PAYSANNES FARMERS DATING

FILM STILLS



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## LINKS TO PRESS

[BendFilm Press Release: Announcement of World Premiere](#)

[Foyle Film Festival Press Release: Announcement of International Premiere](#)

Foyle Film Festival Press Release featured on [Coleraine Chronicle](#)

Foyle Film Festival Press Release featured on [Derry Now](#)

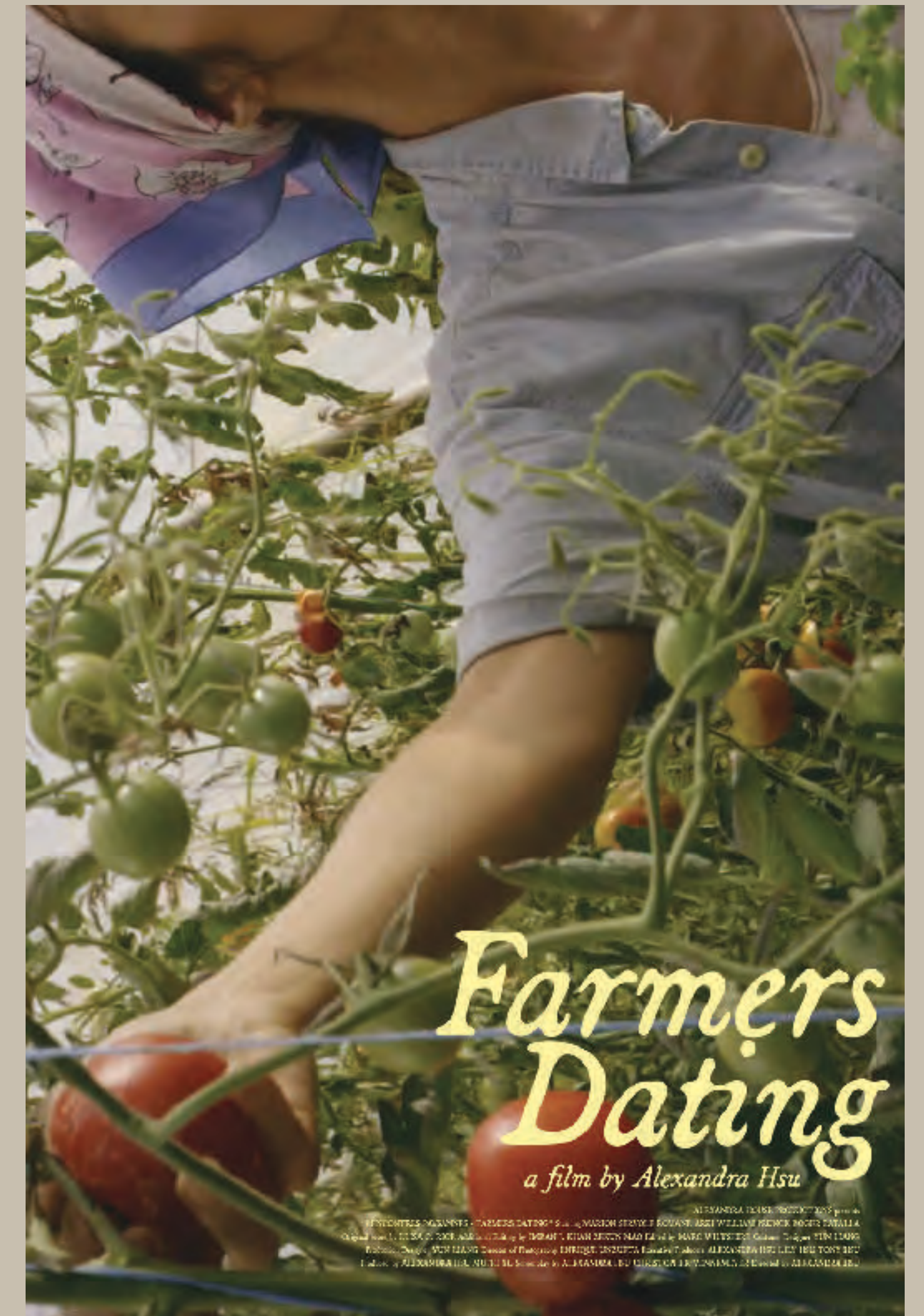
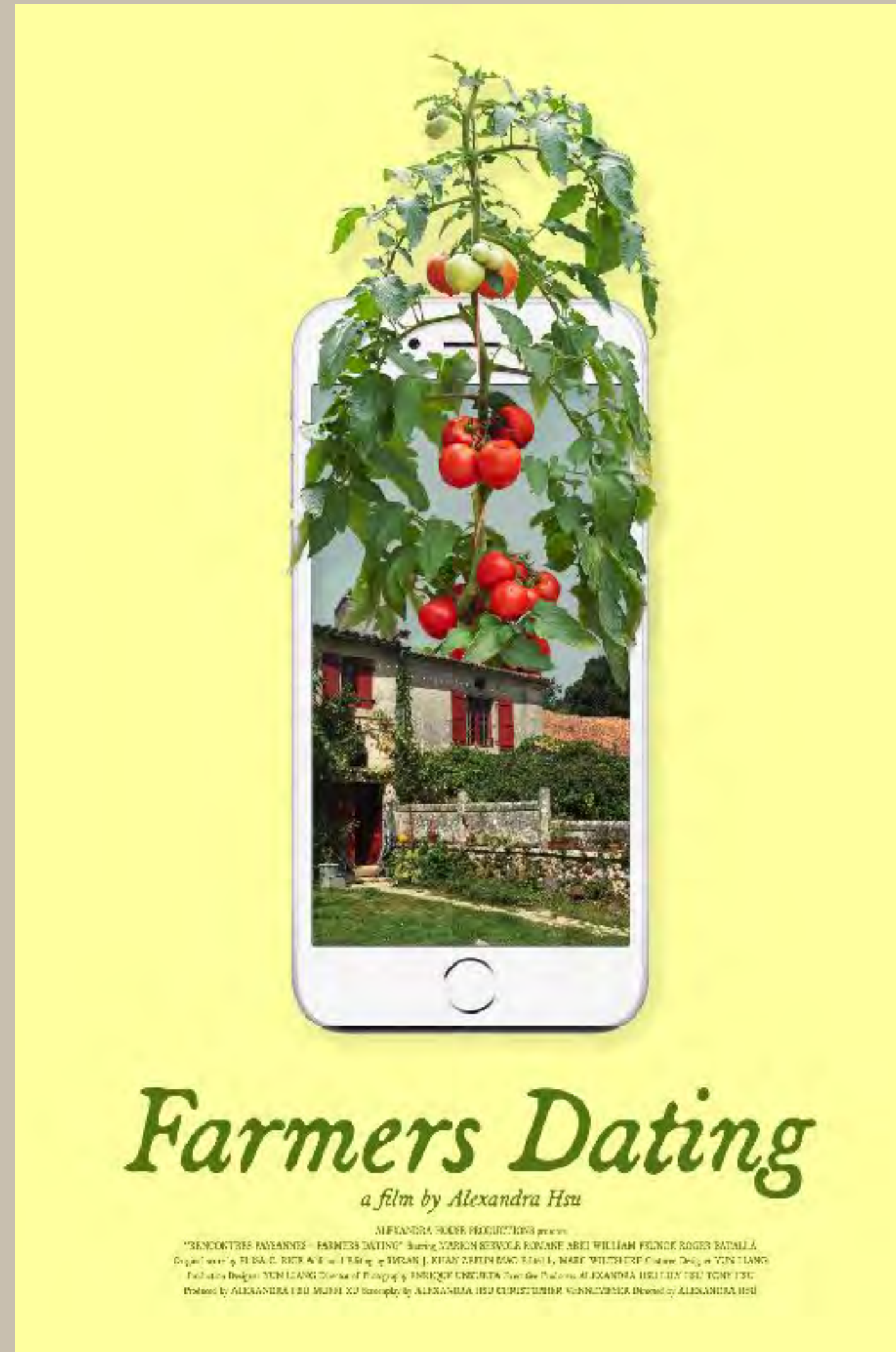
The International Shorts Programme is full of rich stories centred around universal themes of family, loss, conflict, choices and consequences. *Trigger Charlie One*, directed by Dan Clifton, features *Walking Dead* actor David Morrissey (*Doctor Who*) and tells the story of a naval commander, who in the face of her own doubts, must follow orders and press the launch button triggering the earth's final nuclear apocalypse. British theatre and film legend Juliet Stephenson (*Truly, Madly Deeply*, *Bend It Like Beckham*) features in Werner Vivier's *Walls Like Windows*. When Maggie invites a stranger into her home, she is confronted with the very thing she has been trying to avoid. Festival alumni Alexandra Hsu returns with her short film *Farmers Dating* which offers a light-hearted look at what happens when a French farmer's marriage dissolves and she is thrust back out into the dating market — this time online

**FINALISTS  
ANNOUNCED FOR  
THIS YEAR'S  
LIGHT IN MOTION  
AWARDS AS PART  
OF FOYLE FILM  
FESTIVAL 2022**

The screenshot shows the Foyle Film Festival website with a dark background. At the top left is the festival logo, and at the top right are navigation icons. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. The main content area features a large white headline: "FINALISTS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FOR THIS YEAR'S LIGHT IN MOTION AWARDS AS PART OF FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL 2022". Below the headline, there is a paragraph of text: "A total of 68 films are in contention for Best International Short Film, Best Irish Short Film and Best Animated Short Film, with winners being announced during the festival in November." A second paragraph follows: "Recipients of the Light In Motion (LIM) Awards qualify for consideration in the Live Action Short Film Category and Animated Short Category of the Annual Academy® Awards without the standard theatrical run. British short films and animations which screen as part of the Light In Motion Awards are eligible for consideration in the Short Film Awards at BAFTA."

# RENCONTRES PAYSANNES FARMERS DATING

POSTERS - English



# RENCONTRES PAYSANNES FARMERS DATING

POSTERS - French

