JAN. 18 **The Sower**

In 1851, France's autocratic President Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte has ordered the arrest of all men in a remote mountain farming village following a Republican uprising. The women who have been left in isolation take an oath: if a man comes, they will share him as a lover. But when a mysterious, handsome stranger arrives, he ignites passions and jealousies that threaten to destroy the tight-knit



community. In the vein of *The Beguiled* and *The Guardians*, Marine Francen presents a strikingly beautiful debut feature that heralds a new wave of female-focused historical drama.

FEB. 15 STYX

Premiering at the Berlinale, where it opened the Panorama Special section, *STYX* is a work of unrelenting intensity and technical brilliance. ER doctor Rike embarks on a one-woman solo sailing trip to Ascension Island in the Atlantic. When Rike comes across a sinking ship of refugees, she is quickly torn out of her contented and idealized world and must make a momentous decision. Aptly



named after the mythological river that separates the living from the dead, *STYX* is an astute modern day parable of Western indifference in the face of marginalized suffering.

MARCH 21 Rafiki

Bursting with the colorful street style and music of Nairobi's vibrant youth culture, *Rafiki* is a tender love story between two young women in a country that still criminalizes homosexuality. Kena and Ziki have long been told that "good Kenyan girls become good Kenyan wives" — but they yearn for something more. Despite the political rivalry between their



families, the girls encourage each other to pursue their dreams in a conservative society. When love blossoms between them, Kena and Ziki must choose between happiness and safety.

APRIL 25 The Third Wife

In 19th-century rural Vietnam, 14-yearold May becomes the third wife of wealthy landowner Hung. Soon, she learns that she can only gain status by asserting herself as a woman who can give birth to a male child. May's hope to change her status turns into a real and tantalizing possibility when she gets pregnant. Faced with forbidden love and its devastating consequences, May



finally comes to an understanding of the brutal truth: the options available to her are few and far between.

MAY 9 *Ulysses & Mona*Ulysses, fifty-five years old, is a Contem-

Ulysses, fifty-five years old, is a Contemporary artist. Four years ago, Ulysses ran away from his family and put an end to his career. Nowadays, he lives alone with his dog Joseph, in an old manor in the middle of the forest. He spends his days playing tennis on his own against a pitching machine or listening to horror movie soundtracks. In short, Ulysses is bored to death, but he is too proud to admit it.



Mona is twenty and is an arts student. Her life as an artist couldn't be more uneventful, between still, nude drawing workshops or theory classes, taught by geriatric teachers. Mona decides out of the blue to go and meet Ulysses. After a laborious first attempt and some misfortune, both of them will end up on a journey that will change their lives forever.

JUNE 20 Genesis

Three teenagers are shaken up by their first loves in the turmoil of their youth. At a time when others are conforming, they stand their ground and assert their right to love and be free.



