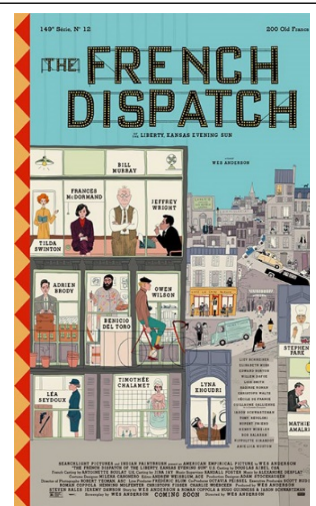


# Movies & Languages Film Festival 2021-2022

## *The French Dispatch*

**About the movie** (in English with English subtitles)

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Wes Anderson
<b>YEAR/COUNTRY</b>	2021/ USA
<b>GENRE</b>	Comedy/ Drama
<b>ACTORS</b>	Benicio del Toro, Adrien Brody, Tilda Swinton, Léa Sedoux, Frances McDormand, Timothée Chalamet, Lyna Khoudri, Jeffrey Wright, Mattieu Amalric, Stephen Park, Bill Murray, Owen Wilson



### PLOT

Anderson called this “A love letter to journalism”. Better put, it is a nostalgic love letter to old-style journalism, art and the intersection of the two. There is no plot, as such, but a series of sub-plots set within a main frame.

The editor of an American magazine (from the Kansas Evening Sun), researched and written in a fictional town in France (Ennui-sur-Blasé) dies and, to meet the terms of his will, the various contributors rush to write the final edition of the magazine.

**Subplot 1:** “The Concrete Masterpiece” tells the story of a convicted murderer who becomes a world-famous artist after being inspired by his guard and lover, plus help from another prisoner.

**Subplot 2:** “Revisions to a Manifesto” recalls the student uprisings of the late 60s, actually reflecting the basic truth – as it was in France, whilst being ironic about journalistic integrity. It features a professional reporter who has a romantic relationship with the student she is writing her story on, who also helps him with his student revolution.

**Subplot 3:** “The Private Dining Room of the Police Commissioner” starts as a simple food review by critic Roebuck Wright but becomes quirkily dramatic after the local police commissioner’s son is kidnapped.

The film is quite dense and complex, but also very funny in places.

### LANGUAGE

British and American English, plus a lot of very fast French. To get the most out of it, you need C1 English and also C1 French (since the French is not subtitled), although the general gist is clear even if you don’t speak French. Should be a fair bit of vocabulary to learn here.

## VOCABULARY

<b>A ream of triple bond Egyptian typing stock:</b> 500 sheets of the very best paper available.	<b>Stretcher:</b> wooden poles with canvas between them to take a sick person to hospital etc./ a wooden frame used to stretch canvas for painting
<b>Hobo:</b> someone who travels and is willing to work as a migrant, usually doing menial jobs	<b>Dung:</b> animal feces/ garden manure/ anything repulsive, which you want no contact with
<b>Pimp:</b> a man who controls prostitutes and arranges clients for them, taking a percentage of their earnings in return	<b>Lusty:</b> healthy and strong/ looking like you want sex
<b>Shrink the masthead:</b> Make the title and headlines smaller	<b>To suck up to someone:</b> try to do things to please a person with authority, to gain advantage
<b>To coddle:</b> to nurture and protect (perhaps too much)	<b>Paddy wagon:</b> slang for a police van or truck
<b>Anguilette:</b> a small, edible eel	<b>To rustle:</b> find (a number of things, animals, ideas etc.) and steal
<b>Marauding:</b> wandering about looking for things to steal or people to attack	<b>Stingy:</b> the opposite of generous
<b>Unwary:</b> unsuspecting; not anticipating danger	<b>On my dime (time):</b> you want me to pay you for this?
<b>Havoc:</b> total confusion, disruption and destruction	<b>Wet dream:</b> an erotic dream which makes you orgasm
<b>Reckless:</b> acting dangerously, without consideration for life	<b>Grumpy:</b> bad tempered and irritable
<b>Sputtering:</b> making a series of soft, irregular explosive sounds	<b>Ruthless:</b> without pity
<b>Seedy:</b> sordid and disreputable	<b>To bicker:</b> to quarrel about something that is not important
<b>Rowdy:</b> noisy and disorderly (e.g. a rowdy pub). Also a noun.	<b>To besmirch:</b> to damage someone's reputation or the pure or artistic appearance of something
<b>Mess hall:</b> the canteen where soldiers who are not yet officers eat	<b>Wastrel:</b> a person who is good for nothing, who wastes money or opportunities
<b>Squalor:</b> very dirty and unpleasant, perhaps as a result of poverty or neglect	<b>Scamper:</b> to run about playfully
<b>Pew:</b> a seat in a church, especially on a bench	<b>Score:</b> many meanings – in numbers, 20
<b>Entreaty:</b> an earnest request	<b>Thumbtacks:</b> pushpins
<b>Stalemate:</b> a situation where no one has the advantage	<b>Thud:</b> a loud, heavy, dull sound, like when a heavy weight falls on a soft surface
<b>Tool:</b> anything you can use to achieve what you want, including a man's penis	<b>Glaring:</b> something that is incredibly obvious
<b>Spillage:</b> what is or what could be spilt	<b>Chicken coop:</b> literally, a place to keep chickens; also has metaphorical and sexual meanings in slang
<b>Lofty perch:</b> (usually refers to birds) a place where you are vastly superior to the others	<b>Ringlets:</b> long, curly hair on the head



<b>Lair:</b> a place a person (usually a criminal or a meat-eating animal) lives and hides in	<b>To jimmy:</b> to use a long metal bar to get something open
<b>Thug:</b> a violent and unintelligent person, usually also large and with criminal intent	<b>To whirr:</b> revolving and making a whooshing sound. Can be used metaphorically of the brain
<b>To rattle someone's cage:</b> make them feel worried or upset	<b>Denizens:</b> a living thing that is found in a particular place, frequently used to refer to criminals
<b>To dog end:</b> to end an experience pleasantly	<b>Goose:</b> apart from the bird, this is a silly person
<b>A lull:</b> a pause (in noise) where nothing is heard	<b>Sun-up:</b> just after dawn
<b>Stakeout:</b> secret observation of a building or an area to observe someone's activities	<b>Underling:</b> a person of no consequence, but in someone's employ
<b>Abscond:</b> leave quickly and secretly, usually to escape from police/ your employers etc.	<b>Sheer:</b> utter, total, complete (utter boredom/ delight etc.)

