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**Gagarine (12A)**

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**As Recommended by the FAN Young Consultants**

**Dir. Fanny Liatard & Jérémy Trouilh |France|2020|98 mins**

**Distributor:** Curzon  
**Bookings:** Jamie.Mendonca@curzon.com  
**Available:** From Friday 24th September  
**Platform:** Theatrical/Curzon Home Cinema

[**Live Directors’ Q&A Friday 24th September 8.15pm**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UozFu9Ntw3E)

Recording will be available for cinemas to stream

**Synopsis**

The everyday wonders of the world around us dazzle in this thrilling feature debut, about a young Parisian whose dreams are far from Earthbound.

Yuri lives in Cité Gagarine, a vast housing project in Ivry-sur-Seine on the outskirts of Paris. It was opened in the 1960s by the famous Russian cosmonaut, after whom both the building and its young resident are named. Now in a state of disrepair, the building is to be torn down, but this once-thriving hotbed of leftist political activism still hosts a community of residents unhappy at having to leave. None more so than Yuri, who not only figures out a way to stay beyond the council-mandated evacuation order, but to create his own orbital spacecraft within it.

Fanny Liatard and Jérémy Trouilh have skilfully adapted their acclaimed short into an inventive, frequently funny and moving drama. The themes they contend with – racism, social and economic inequality, community action – are handled with an impressive lightness of touch and carried mostly by newcomer Alséni Bathily’s accomplished central performance, allowing us to accompany Yuri on his increasingly otherworldly journey. Beautifully shot by Victor Seguin, *Gagarine* is a dazzling and wholly original take on modern-day city life.

**Social**

Official website: Curzon.com

Official Twitter: @ArtificialEye @CurzonCinemas

Official Facebook: @CurzonArtificialEye

Official Instagram: @artificialeyefilm

Youtube Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBEz83b27X4

Hashtag: #Gagarine

**Press**

[**4\*** Review by Cath Clark - Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/film/2021/sep/23/gagarine-review-close-encounters-of-the-banlieue-kind)

“This mesmerising debut about a teenager looking to fix up his Paris estate passes up the usual angry social-realism in favour of something more celestial”

[Variety Review by Jessica Kiang](https://variety.com/2020/film/reviews/gagarine-cannes-film-review-1234645143/)

“A teenager with dreams of space comes of age as his housing project is scheduled for demolition in this stellar Cannes 2020 breakout.”

[4\* Review by Phil de Semlyen – Time Out](https://www.timeout.com/movies/gagarine-2021)

“This tough-yet-tender drama set in Paris’s projects will fly you the moon”

[4\* Review by Matthew Anderson – Cine-Vue](https://cine-vue.com/2021/03/glasgow-2021-gagarine-review.html)

“Amid the tremendously inventive, imaginative wonderment of this directorial duo’s debut feature – expanded from a 2015 short of the same name – there is a subtle, well-articulated indictment of the French state.”

[**Assets**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zkObroYKdtnqEG6Fyogfj7RM5PCcxaqs?usp=sharing)– Posters, Stills, Trailer, Gif, Synopsis

**BBFC Guidance**

Infrequent strong language, drug misuse

**FAN Young Consultants Feedback**

The [FAN Young Consultants group](https://filmlondon.org.uk/resource/fan-young-consultants) is a 10 strong group of under 30 year olds working in Film Exhibition across the UK. Working with Film Hub London’s Young Audiences Manager [Moira McVean](http://Moira.McVean@filmlondon.org.uk), the group is recommending new release films that they believe will resonate particularly well with their peers and young people aged 16-30.  
  
Previous titles supported by the group include ***Parasite****,* ***Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, *The Assistant*, *Days of the Bagnold Summer, Babyteeth, Socrates, Rocks, County Lines, Mogul Mowgli, Willy’s Wonderland, Sound of Metal, Last Man Standing, Night of the Kings, Limbo, Souad.*** Packs can be downloaded [here](http://filmlondon.org.uk/fan-young-audiences)

**Louise**

“It’s a statement of the people forgotten when it comes to change and progression, especially in cities and with poorer communities. A beautiful but tragic film filled with family, laughter, and joy but also loss and loneliness. Essentially, it’s about a boy with big dreams but also the simplest of dreams who just wants a home, somewhere to belong after constantly losing the places and people he loves. And also the people we meet along the way who are just like him in their own ways, wanting something their position in society makes increasingly difficult, if not impossible to get.

I think incorporating his admiration for space and desire to be an astronaut made the entire film so much more interesting than just a political commentary on social housing. I think it’ll make it a lot more interesting for younger audiences and give them a connection to the characters because it says big things but in an understandable way.”

**Gabrielle**“This film is beautiful! The cinematography is really engaging and the film doesn’t feel ‘’cookie cutter”. It was a memorable watch, full of innocence and hope. I’d recommend this to friends, and also think it would be enjoyed by young people closer to Yuri’s age.”

**Thea**

“I liked this. I thought it was it was a sweet and tender story - makes a nice change from some titles in banlieue cinema which can be relentlessly grim. Beautiful cinematography and really great performances - kinda reminded me of something Michel Gondry might make but not as fluffy/twee. V likeable and I think it would sit well across all audiences. I can already see GCSE/A Level French classes being told to watch this.”

**Caroline**

“I think this film was a cool alternative coming of age film that centres around a whole community’s experience of living in social housing and the impact redevelopment has on so many lives and livelihoods.”

**Comparison/Complementary titles**

* First Man
* Les Misérables
* Girlhood
* Divines
* A Moving Image
* Alphaville

**Themes**

Magical realism, imagination, coping with change, young love, autism, space, architecture, friendship, community

**Recommended age:** 12+ there’s lots in here to appeal to all ages

**Marketing ideas**

* Can you do a ticketing offer? Pay what you can model? 2 for 1 or group discount for up to 6?
* Think about which platforms you’re using to communicate with your audiences, Instagram would work particularly well with this film and its beautiful images
* Caroline suggests programming [Ayo Akingbade’s](http://www.ayoakingbade.com/about/) [short films](https://mubi.com/specials/ayo-akingbade) to complement the film’s social housing/life inside space – particularly her short films *Tower XYZ*, *Dear Babylon* and *Street 66*
* Do you have links with your local secondary schools? French A’ level students would be a great audience for this film.
* Take inspiration from the themes the film highlights to programme a complementary season- perhaps on the impact of gentrification on social housing/community activism, magic realism or space/power of the imagination.
* If not a season, could you engage a local speaker to talk about the themes the film highlights
* The feature is based on a short film, which is itself is based on a real building and community – could you run a filmmaking workshop/masterclass about debut filmmakers developing their short films into features.

**Interesting Articles/Videos/contacts:**

* <https://www.curzon.com/journal/gagarine-an-exploration-of-space-place-and-perspective/>
* [Logan Kenny writing for MASSIVE on the depiction of autism within the film](https://www.massive-cinema.com/storyboard/gagarine-autism-curzon-space)
* [Ayo Akingbade’s Tower XYZ Manifesto for young filmmakers](https://archive.ica.art/bulletin/tower-xyz-manifesto)
* [Mubi Notebook – Ayo Akingbade’s intro to Tower XYZ](https://mubi.com/notebook/posts/ayo-akingbade-introduces-her-film-tower-xyz)
* [Gagarine Q&A with Fanny Liatard and Jérémy Trouilh- Film at Lincoln Centre](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFQJiejBIrI)