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**Happening (15)**

**As Recommended by the FAN Young Consultants**

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**Dir. Audrey Diwan |France |2021|100 mins**

**Distributor:** Picturehouse  
**Bookings:** Bill Sich bill.s@picturehouses.co.uk>

**Available from:** Friday 22nd April  
**Platform:** Theatrical only until at least early July

**Accessibility:** HOH

**Q&A – a recording made be made available to cinemas, check when booking**

**Cast:** Anamaria Vartolomei, Kacey Mottet Klein, Sandrine Bonnaire

**Language:** French with English subtitles

**BBFC** Abortion scenes, strong sex, nudity

**Trigger warning (wording taken from the BBFC)**Abortion is a theme of the film. There are a couple of scenes of abortion, including a scene of self-administered abortion, and a scene in which a woman undergoes an abortion procedure. The scenes are impactful and tonally strong, although there is limited detail with the exception of some occasional bloody detail.

**If you’re new to Trigger Warnings,** [**this article**](https://www.themix.org.uk/mental-health/looking-after-yourself/a-guide-to-content-and-trigger-warnings-37946.html) **helps explain their value, why and how to use them**

**Synopsis**

France, 1963, Anne (Anamaria Vartolomei) is a bright young student with a promising future ahead of her. But when she falls pregnant, she sees the opportunity to finish her studies and escape the constraints of her social background disappearing. With her final exams fast approaching and her pregnancy progressing, Anne resolves to act, even if she has to confront shame and pain, even if she must risk prison to do so. Winner of the Golden Lion at Venice Film Festival and now BAFTA nominated, HAPPENING is the acclaimed new film from Audrey Diwan.

**Social**

**Official website:** [**https://happeningfilm.com**](https://happeningfilm.com) **(listings site)**

**Official Twitter:**

**Official Facebook**: <https://www.facebook.com/HappeningFilm>

**Official Instagram:** [@picturehouses](https://www.instagram.com/picturehouses/?hl=en)

**Official hashtag:** #HappeningFilm

**Social handles:**

@AudreyDiwan (Twitter)  
@audrey.diwan (Instagram)

## @ anamariavartolomei\_ (Instagram)

## Press

**\*WINNER\* Golden Lion, Venice Film Festival 2021**

**\*WINNER\* Best Actress, Dublin International Film Festival 2022**

**\*WINNER\* Most Promising Actress, 2022 César Awards**

**\*NOMINEE\* - Best Director, 2022 BAFTA Awards**

**★★★★**   
*Film of the Week*  
"An impeccably produced movie"  
*Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian*

**★★★★**  
"A drama that will make your heart race...deftly adapted by director Audrey Diwan from a novella, Happening is a period piece, but it's acted and shot with a shivery immediacy"  
*Robbie Collin, The Telegraph*

**★★★★**  
"A performance of astonishing isolation and intimacy from Anamaria Vartolomei anchors this inevitably harrowing but elegantly told French abortion drama"  
*The Times*

**★★★★**  
"Anamaria Vartolomei is superb"  
*Financial Times*

**★★★★**  
"An atmospheric, gripping drama with a poignant contemporary relevance"  
*Time Out*

**★★★★**  
"Anchored by a revelatory performance from Anamaria Vartolomei...it's a powerful story told with fearless passion"  
*Empire*

**★★★★**  
"Happening is likely to remain relevant for decades to come"  
*Irish Times*

**★★★★**  
*Film of the Week*  
"Happening will make your heart race"  
*The Sun*

**★★★★★**  
"One of the year's best films"  
*Little White Lies*

**★★★★★**  
"Happening is luminous and enormously moving. It is impossible to look away"  
*The i*

**★★★★★**  
"Incredible...astonishingly immersive and intimate"  
*The List*

**★★★★★**  
"Powerful, harrowing and anchored by a remarkable lead performance by Anamaria Vartolomei"  
*The Skinny*

[**Assets**](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xarrb79x3ioqdvq/AACmSo166Yli9BJb54rLW2tYa?dl=0)

**PW: Happening**

* Artwork
* Stills
* Synopsis
* Trailer
* 30" Trailer
* Website assets

**Creative Responses Artwork and Assets (commissioned by Picturehouse) – see Marketing section for inspiration on how these are being used online.**

[**CREATIVE RESPONSES FOLDER**](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/15vG5Tvmm6ASFTiNOLFbffT17jV9OZtx2)

***\*\*\* Please note: Could everyone who shares the Creative Responses please mention that "Happening is in cinemas now". The url is***[***happeningfilm.com***](http://happeningfilm.com/)***\*\*\****

Each Creative Response has a one-sheet with some extra information for context. See below.

·  **GIRLS ON FILM PODCAST**/ Anna Smith | [One-sheet](https://url6b.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1neHYm-0008Lv-4E&i=57e1b682&c=3gapu8GDk7V-dEaZlgzcL4hUZDzOZmYmvUW4ShHQzOkO4Lz-oGX7paUYByQX6zubPfym3fGE9Ha-tHonn4MlVAN4fKH1LgOInaFb66ecRpnBSYlTDjJQ4T94Bj1wnCdPOxXsBaj-Zpgx_-ajltKfej22afNsjnPQGADgeq0HJYzS8GOj1I3df7yfOC2R2fzUPiHGYEVxrk7aodNNYdzdP8iCvYzSzZYiHSbGtwcY-kZYhIHj1ZtSmrGje-mnVmhnBlXar3gzpbdlxi-hPeD-cPF9s0tnehBZWS8Z-e0sx2U) [we don't have Anna Smith's podcast for download but it can be linked to [here](https://podfollow.com/girls-on-film/view)]

·  **POETRY** / Sophie Herxheimer | [One-sheet](https://url6b.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1neHYm-0008Lv-4E&i=57e1b682&c=P4YxhEPnQAwfYvcl_coFIM8oOxQR8d44fDs7t57Ija_cJJO9NYXsaiCW-YP0ZrrxDCo6mDNgFjVzBJQzDacVXLlljH-GmYwc-MRBjsv3ApDJ_dwUWCDXQ1Y0cTDLNvH66UfixGH5JdfkXpNFQI7RPvGWGKxajAQPkZhvCxNpqgwlugN2M3SJf82zFnFk7rhfs1nxQa70fEqD9GsPL20b91RMQp2FY6n--m-mno1d2xjD7zlrgU45tvmO3Vn3a4iSt26XSj50zSewvfPkDejK6Z9H6RY4Qp48_tohWQzXRlE)

·  **ILLUSTRATION**/ Maylou Faure  | [One-sheet](https://url6b.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1neHYm-0008Lv-4E&i=57e1b682&c=0BNCJ7_d-pLb9GAuWb956F7cc0p1cKG5FQh0k45QKlyRm9PFMu_V5596vpOITJ-A-CikxYC00eCEqrnAEGTKdMAV6Bi-9SEPcQYdb1K7jSkMIQDFLIzQt1CSWaACyWdeUXLasbR4mXWl3gkenS2OWMcgs7ZiIgcKLz4gbqZckc33GOA4P1Yamn0HmwWlZAR81m4nCdpKnh_bFMhFkCD1CKPcRmor24sN77csdqkeRiC-w8dfx06vfoi5R2UtkAxtvc6SHVNSLEJgspi-kVFxu919sqjE_HXltbiybmxgJX0)

·  **PHOTOGRAPHY** / Ruth Medjber  | [One-sheet](https://url6b.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1neHYm-0008Lv-4E&i=57e1b682&c=P1lu9XvfXUTcFxiRYqWEvavPCiMGl_2jMqIEEPZMVpuPeZTw6EBoa4wq4YGLCRK5C-1_Foe5hy1eySJLZQe_5Nma-PBM-eo58DDSen0JpkhVnuWtTorSOuu-X9XZTp-tFEQ7K5dyYI9VC7OC1Pe1KQY3NGoysx7wLuW2YpjTU_uwuHd7OZkSV6VhSjY7Sh2CMyfCf5XuTA_ZlYcGjTJTRcQzR5cP0T9hAQNhzMbLfO4iGLE_sHbkpFeslor9w9pB1CN-oMfQgxadrtZnwpqo4I86A9tMziWG3YhfdmSRdgk)

·  **VIDEO ESSAY**/ Jessica McGoff | [One-sheet](https://url6b.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1neHYm-0008Lv-4E&i=57e1b682&c=zxxndhdYx9w67OkcjdUYHjrnPIa0Z3QMXJVBiIBPDGsLAlm5qCpCWuT3ucnzvm8zPHQgk6Qs8CB53N9tobydxnwqFicu8eYyNTjyjzLUynwqTtzTruyo1JeBDfI-_ZHoGdw8gN-bMuCT4Nage4FY2TABID-Y4B0R7Mf-IPA3BdSmPS4Qc5GqjIZzaecZL8zmTuqAtjCCcyOpRzs-BZqcnGE2aqeeV9p6Irq1O6c0MdyvRfQQWjMaWRLTKRdWrycxo0veIAiLvwZJ7hKnTeX-RpVSrrSpQoOgTekCpYwZ1jg)

·  **ANIMATED PAINTING** / Anna Bunting-Branch | [One-sheet](https://url6b.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1neHYm-0008Lv-4E&i=57e1b682&c=SNNS8poeIipC_9W4IfBCeQux0N_Zb7U305r_OAQHUXxzxflobLRwgaUS-wDT0NDvjmcXQKqtKvYEKaTGQMNm3NoPr4c8Xv9-PJjO3ii7zYABHt2TFjLl_oi9wQV2MwI7hyqzySzXmnYgh6KgN_qjG_kaXdyxuyyw7eSfydYkcuFPXZOZoGxmdrZW-Ba5gizdyrEImG0j9BW3uYiyPVtUk1NlEndIB-RJAVeEYz_Sd68IyVgh5FQgEpZNI_fhOHJJlPKmN1E6R-QiTcPodiLsb9xGYS7xp1K7uH5jTAlhPHs)

·  **VIDEO INTRODUCTION** / Rhianna Dhillon | [One-sheet](https://url6b.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1neHYm-0008Lv-4E&i=57e1b682&c=QtzNvbYbAFWyE0d7Zp8x31MY-gs6Xqk8ziXhARKBdX--3XsbTwoYduOV5w3F3R07oRNnxl8Z5OagVxN2jztRuRIUeiyiM4QgKoBdFOLtAJmRPdzX5w83r0eN6-nC5hcc9WLm47WfrW74OgjfPBOaHhgLF2OJ1XG5HPuKjNakIjMuPHmEGYK2JZ40H_WS3ayNLXWfsTBtmRaMN_cJuQtC4f6ykaDTKWza4831-EUWFroWwPKOc_komEk4Shf_XJW-XM9-amcJxlls0LjDFGWRD5pheN3Yt7FJGVnBmSdEhas)

·  **ILLUSTRATION** / Ruby Taylor | [One-sheet](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZbQhZGadg6gy034OBE1INzpRZWDv9_r5e_gwUck7lIE/edit)

**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, Gagarine You Will Die at Twenty, Petite Maman, Bad Luck Banging: or Loony Porn, Boiling Point, Belle, Flee, Ali & Ava, The Worst Person in the World.*** Packs can be downloaded [here](http://filmlondon.org.uk/fan-young-audiences)

**Louise**

I liked Happening, more than I expected, especially from reading the short synopsis. It's a film that packs a big punch and is graphic in that it's unsettling and uncomfortable but considering the topic, is probably expected. It felt almost unassuming watching it, you don't really think much of it, but then certain moments hit you and make you pay attention to it. I thought all of the acting was great and visually it looked great too. I think it'd be good for people 18+ because of the university setting. It's a film that I think could cause a lot of internal conflict while watching, especially towards the end but also, at least in my case, evokes a sense of understanding and empathy as well.

**James**

It was as good for me as everyone had hyped it up to be. It started off with this Girlhood vibe which I really liked and then went in the direction I think we were all expecting it to and it delivered a hell of a punch.

Happy to go with all the usual superlatives here – it looks gorgeous, it’s well paced and 90 mins is the perfect length for something like this, and all the acting is top tier for me.

The one thing I didn’t realise going in was that it was based off someone’s memoirs. Whilst I’d assumed there had to be some truth in it somewhere, the fact it’s an actual true story makes it even more heart-breaking.

If I was trying to promote the film, that’s what I’d be leaning into. I really don’t think the Golden Lion from Venice is going to attract a young audience at all, but that true story angle could drive some people towards it.

**Thea**

I thought this was just utterly brilliant. A really gripping French social realist drama and the lead performance is so captivating - you totally believe her fear at the possibility of having her future taken away from her, having her autonomy stripped from her. In a time where women all over the world do not have autonomy over their own bodies, this speaks so much to now and how important it is for women to have choice. Really hard to watch in places but the way the camera moves brings you in and makes you just hope that Anne succeeds.   
  
**Alex**

Happeningtakes place in the early 1960's, however this is not immediately evident, there are no title cards, instead it's a slow realisation to the decade to which we are watching. Time is unimportant here, it's all about the story, one about abortion and women's rights that feels very contemporary. Whilst abortion laws are not as tough now as they were half a century ago, we are still not too far removed from them, and the topic of choice is still topical and hotly debated in the world today. The story of Anne is an important one as it is one of many young women, the film puts a face to the heavy topic and does not shy away from reality, observing rarely talked about moments through a number of visceral scenes, demonstrating the resilience and determination of women who 'dare' to make a choice over their own bodies when the world, and all the male doctors in it, are against them.

**Feedback from students at the London College of Communications**

The students are part of the BA (Hons) Film and Screen Studies at London College of Communication, University of the Arts, London. They study the historical, theoretical, cultural, and critical analysis of film and screen, developing the next generation of filmmakers and influencers in the commissioning, distribution, curation and exhibition of film and screen.

**Group feedback**We feel the film will resonate with a student audience and can be used as a starting point to create discursive educational space to address its themes in a sensitive way…We understand abortion is a difficult topic so it needs to be approached with care and compassion. We suggest using content warnings and creating a supportive atmosphere so young people can engage with the topic of abortion without feeling stigmatised.

**Comparison/Complementary titles:** *Girlhood, The Impossible Life of Euridice Gusmao, Grandma, Never Rarely Sometimes Always, Lingui the Sacred Bonds, 4 Months, 3 weeks and 2 days*

**Themes**

* Relationships, dating, life stages/expectations, identity, illegal abortion, health reproductive rights, sex positivity, secrets, choices, academia.

**Recommended age**

18+ with a sweet spot of 18-25

**Marketing/Eventising 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 and Twitter recommended for this title and target age group)
* Can you host an introduction or post screening discussion about the themes of the film? For example, FAN Young Consultant Thea Berry curated [a special event and panel session at Picturehouse Central](https://www.picturehouses.com/movie-details/022/HO00011649/preview-happening-plus-women-s-rights-discussion?utm_source=together&utm_medium=outreach&utm_campaign=happening) with guest speakers including sex educator, writer, and content creator Rukiat Ashawe and Dr Annabel Sowemimo, a Sexual and Reproductive Health doctor and founder of Decolonising Contraception. The panel was hosted by film critic Caitlin Quinlan.
* See above re information on how to use Trigger Warnings and the value of them. You may want to list organisations able to offer support on the topic as well (see below for some examples of these)
* There’s lots happening (!) on social media for the film. Be sure to take a look across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter using #Happeningfilm for inspiration and ideas of how to promote the film to your audiences. For example this thread from the Showroom Cinema & BFI’s tweet utitlise the 10 creative responses to the film commissioned by Picturehouse (see link to assets above) [Showroom Cinema Twitter thread](https://twitter.com/showroomcinema/status/1517175354930212866) & [BFI tweet about Jessica McGoff’s Video Essay](https://twitter.com/BFI/status/1517208383257985025)
* As highlighted by the LCC students, this film will appeal to students! They recommend connecting with your local University, particularly if they have groups such as this one at the University of the Arts [UALWomenInMedia](https://www.arts-su.com/yourcommunities/societies/soc/7618/)

**Interesting Articles/Videos/contacts:**

* [Variety article that recommends 12 films that tackle abortion](https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-reviews/12-movies-about-abortion-1235022140/)
* [BBC News interview piece with Audrey Diwan](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-61150391)
* [Sundance interview with Audrey Diwan & Anamaria Vartolomei](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7p2_OLpVS4)
* [Countries where Abortion is illegal in 2022](https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-where-abortion-is-illegal)

**Abortion support organisations**

* [Abortion Support Network](https://www.asn.org.uk/) (supporting those that need to travel to access safe abortions)
* [Abortion Recovery Care and Helpline](https://www.archtrust.org.uk/)
* [Abortion rights the National pro choice campaign](https://abortionrights.org.uk/)
* [Decolonising contraception](https://decolonisingcontraception.com/)
* [Samaritans](https://www.samaritans.org/)
* [MSI Reproductive Choices UK](https://www.msichoices.org.uk/)