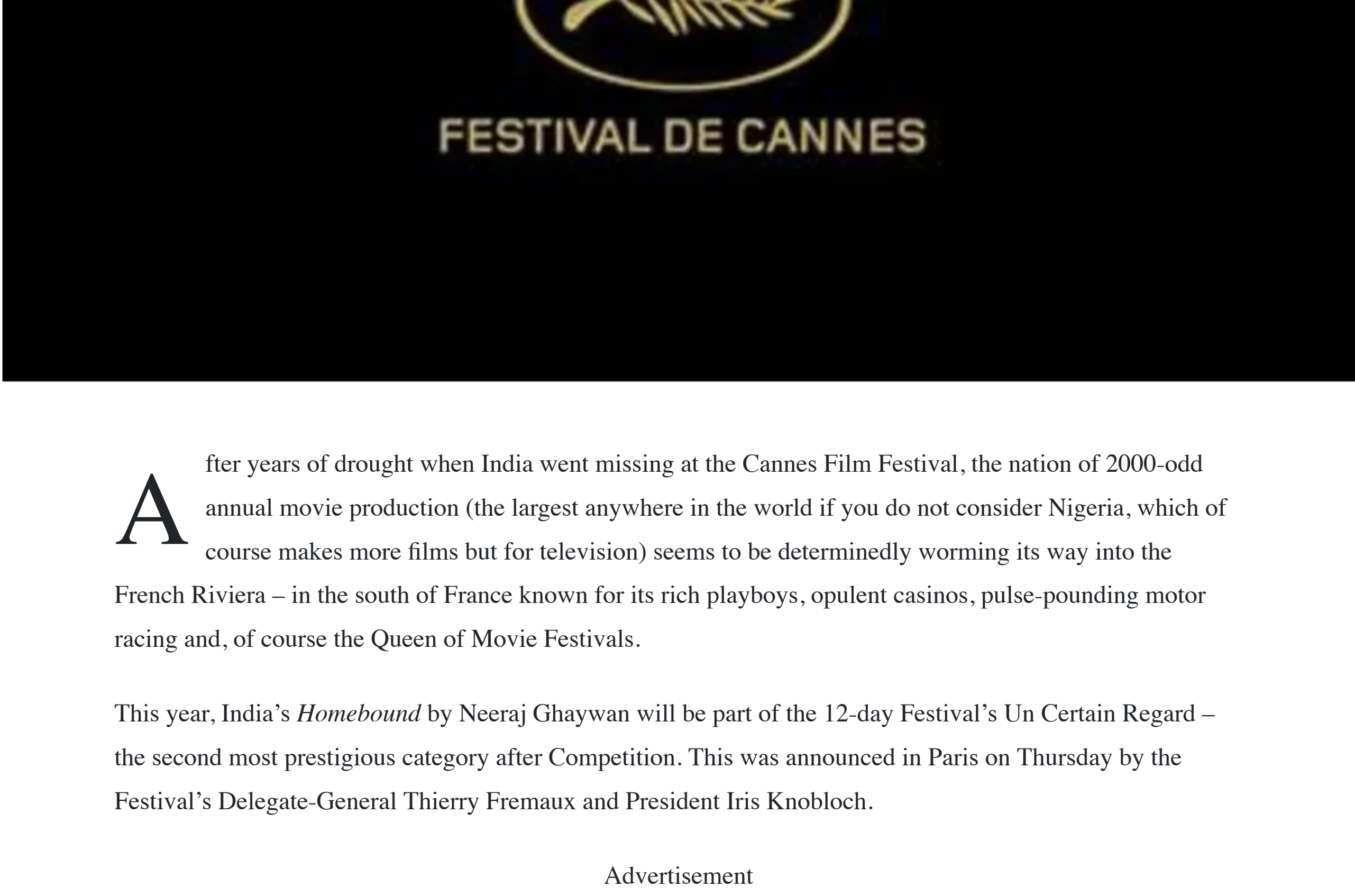
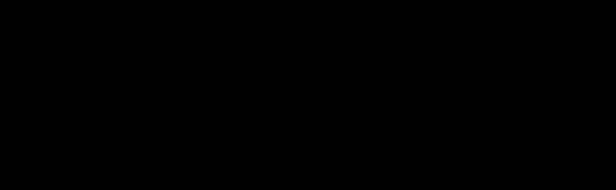


Entertainment

India returns to Cannes Film Festival with Neeraj Ghayawan’s Homebound

This year, India’s Homebound by Neeraj Ghaywan will be part of the 12-day Festival’s Un Certain Regard – the second most prestigious category after Competition.

Gautaman Bhaskaran | April 14, 2025 4:53 pm



After years of drought when India went missing at the Cannes Film Festival, the nation of 2000-odd annual movie production (the largest anywhere in the world if you do not consider Nigeria, which of course makes more films but for television) seems to be determinedly worming its way into the French Riviera – in the south of France known for its rich playboys, opulent casinos, pulse-pounding motor racing and, of course the Queen of Movie Festivals.

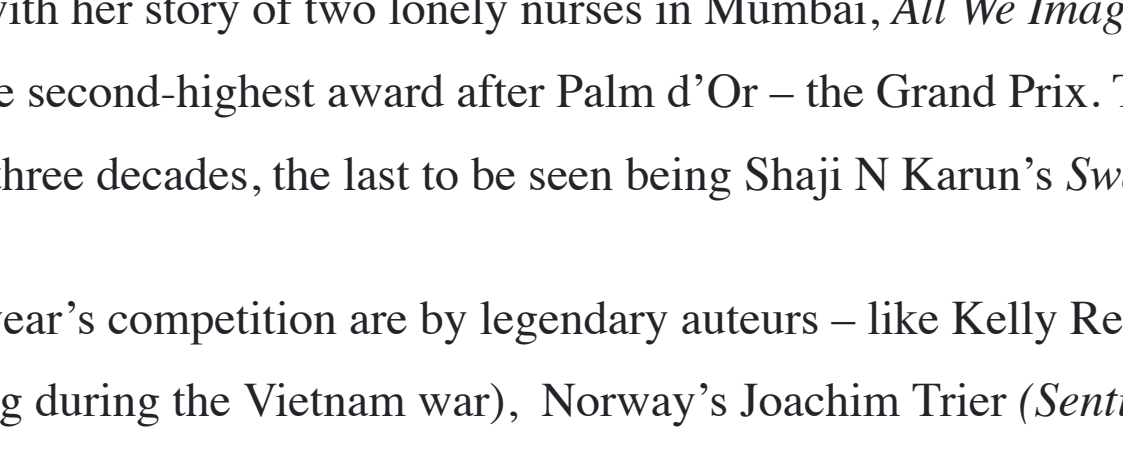
This year, India’s *Homebound* by Neeraj Ghaywan will be part of the 12-day Festival’s Un Certain Regard – the second most prestigious category after Competition. This was announced in Paris on Thursday by the Festival’s Delegate-General Thierry Fremaux and President Iris Knobloch.

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Ghaywan’s debut feature, *Masaan*, was also selected for the Un Certain Regard category in 2015, and It won the Special Prize.

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Last year, Sanjay Suri’s *Santosh* was part of Un Certain Regard.

Also, last year saw, India’s Payal Kapadia arriving at the Croisette (Cannes’ beachfront with its Palace where the Festival takes place) with her story of two lonely nurses in Mumbai, *All We Imagine As Light*. It competed at the Festival and won the second-highest award after Palm d’Or – the Grand Prix. The Cannes Competition saw an Indian entry after three decades, the last to be seen being Shaji N Karun’s *Swaham* in 1994.

Some of the titles in this year’s competition are by legendary auteurs – like Kelly Reichardt (*The Mastermind*, a heist adventure unfolding during the Vietnam war), Norway’s Joachim Trier (*Sentimental Value* coming after his triumphant *The Worst Person of the World*), controversial Iranian director Jafar Panahi (A Simple Drama), two-time Palme d’Or clinchers Dardenne Brothers (*The Young Mother’s Home* about Belgium’s social realism), South African director Oliver Hermanus (*The History of Sound*, a World War I romance on the road) and France’s Dominik Moll (*Dossier 137*, a crime caper).

Some subjects this time seem like shockers. Julia Ducournau, who walked away with the Palm in 2021 for her *Titane* (an explosive body horror), will this time present in competition *Alpha* – which follows an 11-year-old girl who is shunned by her classmates after she is rumoured to be carrying a new disease.

The Un Certain Regard category, which comprises the first and second films of promising directors, also includes Scarlett Johansson’s helming debut *Eleanor the Great*, Morad Mostafa’s *Aisha Can’t Fly Away*, Tarzan Nasser’s and Arab Nasser’s *Once Upon A Time In Gaza*, Harris Dickinson’s *Urchin* and Kei Ishikawa’s *A Pale View of the Hills*.

Also to be seen at Cannes will be Wes Anderson’s *The Phoenician Scheme*, Richard Linklater’s *Nouvelle Vague*, and Ari Aster’s *Eddington*.

Finally, Tom Cruise will be back at Cannes for the world premiere of *Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning*.

Here is the full list of Cannes titles:

COMPETITION

Alpha, Julie Ducournau

Dossier 137, Dominik Moll

The Eagles of the Republic, Tarik Saleh

Eddington, Ari Aster

Fuori, Mario Martone

The History of Sound, Oliver Hermanus

La Petite Derniere, Hafsia Herzi

The Mastermind, Kelly Reichardt

Nouvelle Vague, Richard Linklater

The Phoenician Scheme, Wes Anderson

Renoir, Chie Hayakawa

Romeria, Carla Simone

The Secret Agent, Kleber Mendonça Filho

Sentimental Value, Joachim Trier

A Simple Accident, Jafar Panahi

Sirat, Oliver Laxe

Sound of Falling, Mascha Schilinski

Two Prosecutors, Sergei Loznitsa

Young Mothers, Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne

UN CERTAIN REGARD

Aisha Can’t Fly Away, Morad Mostafa

Eleanor the Great, Scarlett Johansson

Heads or Tails?, Alessio Rigo de Righi, Matteo Zoppis

Homebound, Neeraj Ghaywan

Karavan, Zuzana Kirchnerová

L’inconnu de la Grande Arche, Stéphane Demoustier

The Last One for the Road, Francesco Sossai

Meteors, Hubert Charuel

My Father’s Shadow, Akinola Davies Jr

The Mysterious Gaze of the Flamingo, Diego Céspedes

Once Upon A Time In Gaza, Tarzan Nasser and Arab Nasser

A Pale View of the Hills, Kei Ishikawa

Pillion, Harry Lighton

The Plague, Charlie Polinger

Promised Sky, Erige Schiri

Urchin, Harris Dickinson

OUT OF COMPETITION

Colours of Time, Cedric Klapisch

Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning, Christopher McQuarrie

Partir un jour, Amélie Bonnin – opening film

The Richest Woman in the World, Thierry Klifa

Vie Privée, Rebecca Zlotowski

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Bono: Stories of Surrender, Andrew Dominik

The Magnificent Life of Marcel Pagnol, Sylvain Chomet

Tell Her I Love Her, Romane Bohringer

MIDNIGHT SCREENINGS

Dalloway, Yann Gozlan

Exit 8, Kawamura Genki

Songs of the Neon Night, Juno Mak

CANNES PREMIERE

Amrum, Fatih Akin

Connemara, Alex Lutz

The Disappearance of Josef Mengele, Kirill Serebrennikov

Orwell: 2+2 =5, Raoul Peck

Splitsville, Michael Angelo Covino

The Wave, Sebastián Lelio

(The writer is a senior movie critic and author)

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Cannes Neeraj Ghaywan Tom Cruise



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Hollywood

Scarlett Johansson turns director, heads to Cannes 2025 with debut

‘Eleanor the Great’ centers on a 90-year-old Florida woman who strikes up a surprising and heartfelt friendship with a 19-year-old student in bustling New York City.



Hollywood

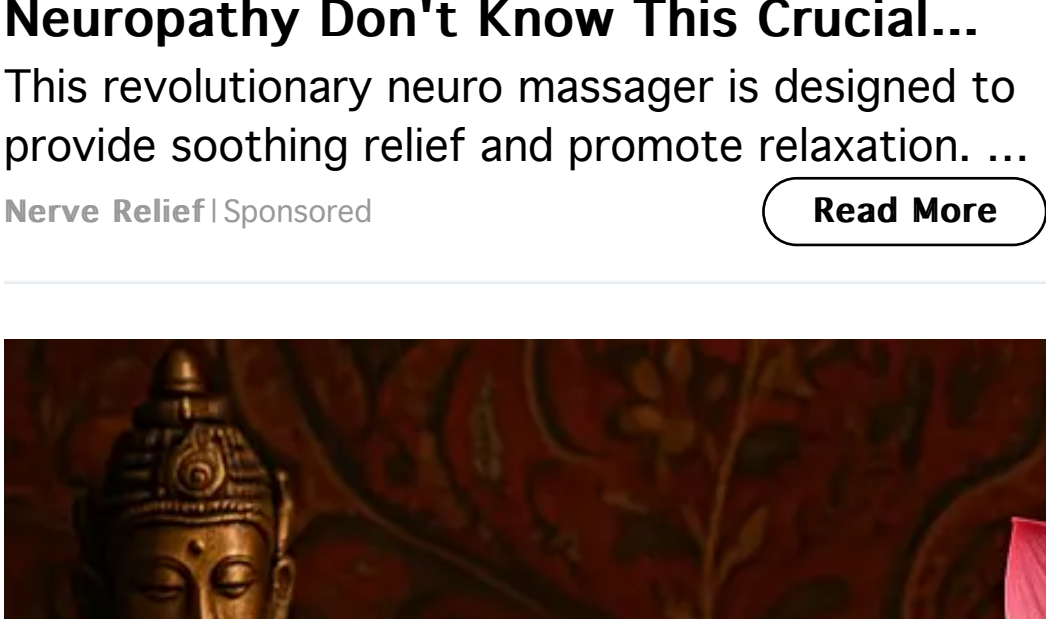
‘Mission Impossible’ 8: Tom Cruise’s last dance as Ethan Hunt to premiere at Cannes

Ahead of its theatrical release, ‘Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning’ will premiere at the 78th Cannes Film Festival, out of competition.



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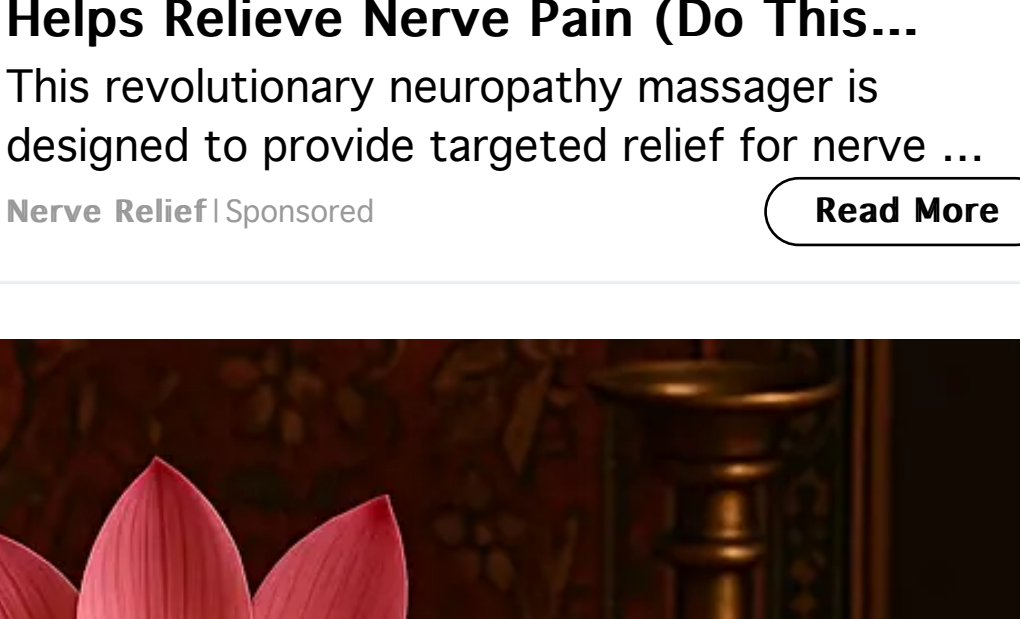
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