

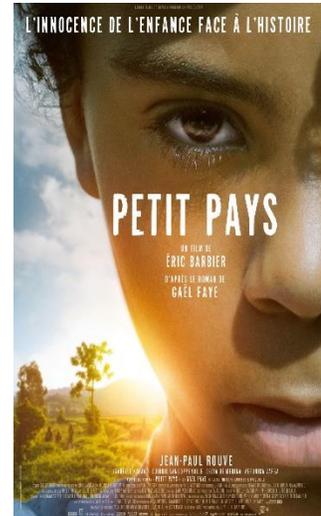
T.Y. French Trip

By Orla Banville and Yvette McDonnell



On Tuesday 15th of February at 8 a.m. the G.P. area was packed with transition year French students, waiting to get on the bus to Dublin. The plan for the day was to begin by watching a French film and later go on to Dundrum for some shopping. The film was screened in the IFI (Irish Film Institute) in Temple Bar. The IFI was founded in 1943, with the aims of educating the people of Ireland about both Irish and International film. However, different from most other cinemas, this one does not allow popcorn or slushies. The film shown was called 'Petit Pays', translating to 'Small Country'. Released in early 2020, the film was a hit in France and other Francophone countries.

'Petit Pays', directed by Éric Barbier, follows the childhood of ten-year-old Gabriel (Djibril Vancoppenolle) who lives in Burundi, a small country in east-central Africa. The film takes place in 1993, amidst rising tensions between Burundi and neighboring Rwanda. In addition to rivalry between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups. These tensions seem to be background noise to Gabi's carefree life with his family and group of friends. However, Gabi's innocence is disrupted when these tensions reach a boiling point and brutal civil war begins. 'Petit Pays' is a moving display of how devastating war can be. Told from the perspective of a child, the most vulnerable member of society. Gabi, like many children in war-torn countries, is forced to grow up too quickly. His family and home-life are torn apart by the tragedy of civil war. The film was rich with drama that kept me on the edge of my seat throughout its entirety. The director does not shy away from depicting the harsh brutality of war which results in many scenes that would not be suitable for young audiences. I would definitely recommend this film to those who have an interest in history or is looking to improve their French. I would give this film four out of five stars.



After such a great film, we were ready to hit the shops. Loreto took to Dundrum and for two hours the girls had free roam (in the shopping Centre). With the warning to be back at the bus by half three we



were gone. Two hours later, after everyone was hauled back, we were ready to go home. The French Trip was a great day out and enjoyed by all. As the French would say ' C'est magnifique'.