

French film legend is 60



■ **1948:** *Gerard Depardieu* born December 27 in Chateauroux, France

■ **1964:** Studies acting in Paris under *Jean-Laurent Cochet*

■ **1974:** After minor roles, gets big break in Blier's *Les Valseuses*

■ **1986:** Role as tragic, hunchbacked farmer in *Jean de Florette* gains him international fame

■ **1990-91:** Wins Best Actor at *Cannes Film Festival*, and Cesar Award, for *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Oscar-nominated for same role

■ **1996:** Made *Chevalier du Legion d'Honneur*, France's highest award

■ **2005:** Announces intention to retire from acting to concentrate on other interests, notably winemaking

■ **2008:** Son *Guillaume* dies, age 37, from pneumonia