

Clooney and Roberts star in the Jodie Foster-directed thriller *Money Monster*, which is about a desperate man who holds a TV anchor (Clooney) hostage live on air.

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Also appearing in Cannes will be Jesse Eisenberg and Kristen Stewart, who co-star in Woody Allen's *Café Society*, which opens the festival.

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The programme's lack of films that tackle the contemporary issues of terrorism and religious conflict has been seen by some as a concerted attempt to avoid any tension.

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It has been rumoured that the latest film from Bertrand Bonello was rejected because of its plot, described by the director as "young people planting bombs in Paris in the present day".

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Organisers and local politicians are keen to strike a balance between ensuring the safety of attendees and retaining Cannes's exuberant (and already highly exclusive) atmosphere.

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Even the yacht-owning elite will be under great scrutiny, with the chief of police telling *Le Monde* : "No single boat will enter the Cannes bay without being checked."

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The city's mayor, David Lisnard, defended the high-security approach earlier this week, saying: "Do you think an attack brings merriment?"

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Cannes must be protected not because of the cocktail parties, but because it is a professional event of a high level which brings honour to France."

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Lisnard has recruited former Israel Defence Force general Nitzan Nuriel to consult on the possibility of a "multi-terror event", while last month French security forces simulated an attack on the festival's key venue, the Grand

Palais.

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Video footage of the simulation showed four masked men, dressed in black and carrying machine guns, emerge from a car and fire blank rounds at pretend bystanders and police officers.

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Medical teams attended the wounded who lay on the ground wearing red bibs. In a separate exercise, a team of bomb disposal officers acted out the removal of an explosive device.

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The need for such a public demonstration worried some festival goers, but Lisnard defended the decision to broadcast the city's readiness.

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“The exercise is not reality, but the exercise helps to prepare for the reality and to limit the risk,” he told the French magazine Le Point.

“????????????????????????????????????”????????Le Point??