

Reopening of the Institut français in London From 17 May 2021

The Institut français du Royaume-Uni reopens its doors on 17 May 2021 with a bang! Novelties and festivities include a revamped foyer and a new space, L'Atelier, the launch of Beyond Words Literature Festival, and a preview screening of Academy Awards and BAFTA-winning *The Father* by Florian Zeller.

The Cultural Centre, comprising Ciné Lumière, La Médiathèque and the Café Tangerine, will **welcome back visitors in the safest way**, subject to the UK Government plans, with a rich programme ranging from film screenings to debates, from kids' activities to concerts.

During its 5 months closure, the Institute has carried on **activities online** (French Courses, cultural activities live streamed) and led an important **renovation of the Foyer of its Cultural Centre**, with the support of its Trust. The visitor's experience will be improved thanks to a better signage, new screens and a second lift making public spaces now 100% accessible to all. The unique Art Deco features have been highlighted, new designer furniture and special lighting added, and an acoustic treatment conducted. A new **multifunctional room, L'Atelier**, has been created, so young audiences can enjoy and learn more about cinema in a friendly environment.

The **Médiathèque** (Adults' Library and Bibliothèque Quentin Blake) **fully reopens its doors** on afternoons, from Wednesday to Saturday and the **Language Centre carries on its French courses, mainly online**, with a new Summer term to look forward to, from 8 June.

The 4th edition of **Beyond Words Literature Festival** will take place from 17 to 23 May onsite and online and feature acclaimed authors Maylis de Kerangal, Laurent Binet, Ananda Devi, Douglas Stuart or Eric Vuillard to name but a few. More than 30 authors in total will take part in debates on current affairs ranging from the Syrian war to decolonial feminism, literary discussions, book launches and readings.

A **preview screening** of Academy Awards and BAFTA-winning *The Father*, attended by screenwriter Christopher Hampton and production designer Peter Francis, will kick off both the Festival and film programme on 17 May.

The **most talked-about movies** will be released on the big screens of Ciné Lumière, including Academy Awards top winner *Nomadland* (Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actress), *Another Round* by Thomas Vinterberg, *Ammonite* by Francis Lee and *Frankie* starring Isabelle Huppert, or showcased as part of our **Best of César 2021** season (*De Gaulle* with Lambert Wilson, *La Bonne épouse* with Juliette Binoche, *My Donkey*, *My Lover and I* with Laure Calamy, etc).

European and world cinema is also on the menu. Almodovar's *The Human Voice*, after Jean Cocteau's play, will be shown on 19 & 29 May and followed by a recorded Q&A with the director and Tilda Swinton. Several screenings from international festivals are also planned until mid-July as well as a season of classics, ***Pioneer Women Filmmakers in French Cinema***.

Our **CinéFamilies programme** will feature a wider diversity of films and slots than previously, complemented by Q&As and events, while our new series, **Anima(c)tion** will focus on French animated gems.

More artistic rendezvous await audiences in the forthcoming weeks and months, including a **concert by violinist Agathe Max** and **pianist Anne Lovett** on 20 May.