

A LA UNE

**INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS**
ROYAUME-UNI



January - March 2022 Highlights

Books & Ideas



Reading Group

Join our monthly book club and discover the **best of French literature**, from *The Art of Patience: Seeking the Snow Leopard in Tibet* by Sylvain Tesson, a requiem to the fading grace of the wild, *Beirut 2020: The Collapse of a Civilization*, Charif Majdalani's journal exploring the Lebanese economic crisis, and *The Last One* by Fatima Daas on finding one's identity and sexuality in an Algerian household.

13 Jan, 7pm – on Sylvain Tesson
3 Feb, 7pm – on Charif Majdalani
3 March, 7pm – on Fatima Daas

Before the Night

In the run-up to the Night of Ideas, *Before the Night* will be exploring several themes of this year's edition, through a selection of **thought-provoking films and discussions**. Don't miss *The Velvet Queen* presented by Sylvain Tesson, *Returning to Reims*, a loose adaptation of fragments from Didier Eribon's memoir, and *Memory Box* by Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige. A programme on memory and identity curated by students of the NFTS will also be presented.

21 – 26 Jan

Night of Ideas

How can we rebuild tomorrow's world together? On the backdrop of global socio-economic and environmental crises a collective desire for action and new initiatives is arising. Crossing French, British and European perspectives, the Night of Ideas will engage audiences in **free debates with 40 leading figures** including anthropologist Philippe Descola, economist Mariana Mazzucato, novelist Elif Shafak and artist Zineb Sedira.

Thu 27 Jan, 6pm – 12am

Visual & Performing Arts



From Stage to Screen

Two exceptional productions from the French stage will be broadcast live on the big screen at Ciné Lumière: choreographer Angelin Preljocaj's exhilarating interpretation of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* performed at Chaillot, Théâtre national de la danse, as well as Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* live from the splendid Paris Opera at Palais Garnier.

Thu 6 Jan – Swan Lake
Thu 3 Feb – The Marriage of Figaro

Salons en Musique

The Salons en musique invite us to a musical voyage through the seas. In January, Arthur Sajas and friends will premiere his latest graphic partition inspired by the book *The Sea Around Us* by marine biologist Rachel Carson. Later in March, the **Concert de l'Hostel-Dieu** chamber ensemble will trace Odysseus's journey with a programme melding traditional music from the British Isles and pieces by Purcell.

27 Jan – Arthur Sajas and friends
10 March – Concert de l'Hostel-Dieu

Art Matters with Clara Schulmann

Art critic **Clara Schulmann** will be discussing the rich voices that inspired her and her picturesque essay, *Zizanies*. Discovered behind her research and through artistic academia, these are the voices of women, heard on the radio, in podcasts, songs, and films; voices of novelists or theorists, friends or strangers: Donna Haraway, Vinciane Despret, Nathalie Quintane, Valeria Luiselli, Chris Kraus, Denise Riley, Mary Anne Doane, Susan Howe... As part of Women Shaping the World.

Tue 8 March, 6.30pm

The Magic of Cinema



François Truffaut Revisited

Cine Lumière in partnership with the BFI is presenting a two-month retrospective season of films and talks on the lasting relevance of **François Truffaut's** influential work. Leading figure of the New Wave and passionate about cinematic history, Truffaut imbued his films with personal stories, as well as references to directors he admired. Rediscover *The 400 Blows* and *Jules et Jim*, re-released in brilliantly restored versions, among a selection of his most iconic titles.

Jan – Feb



Cinema of the World

The best of world cinema will be showcased at Ciné Lumière, from ***A Hero*** by Iranian director Ashgar Farhadi, to ***Memoria*** by Apichatpong Weerasethakul, which respectively won the Grand Prix and the Jury Prize at Cannes, Maggie Gyllenhaal's directorial debut ***The Lost Daughter***, and Pedro Almodóvar's highly anticipated ***Parallel Mothers***. Fans of Italian cinema are also in for a treat with the return of **Cinema Made in Italy** on the big screen. *Viva cinema!*

Jan – March



Paris, 13th District

Jacques Audiard (*Rust and Bone*, *A Prophet*) ventures into new territories with a vibrant and uplifting take on modern love and Paris, based on three stories by cartoonist Adrian Tomine, and co-written for cinematic adaptation by Céline Sciamma and Léa Mysius. Four characters cross paths and destiny in a culturally, sexually, and racially diverse contemporary city.

From 4 March

Kids' Corner



CinéFamilies

The **CinéFamilies'** new *Rebellious & Glorious Season* celebrates determination and difference with Truffaut's *The 400 Blows*, *L'Enfant sauvage*, and Jared Bush's *Encanto*, to name a few. Through our animation series, **Anima(c)tion**, we will also screen the best of Annecy International Animated Film Festival, with the preview of *Flee*, and exclusive screenings of *My Life in Versailles*, *Mum is Pouring Rain* and *Vanille*.

Jan – March



French Clubs & Story Times

Why not begin this new year with our new activities for kids? Babies and toddlers can enjoy rhyme-times and storytelling, while older kids up to 12 can practice through games, or discover French culture through our Arts & Craft Club. As part of the French reading celebration **Nuit de la lecture**, budding readers and their parents will enjoy a musical session inspired by the theme **Love**.

Jan – March



Little Night

Ahead of and during the Night of Ideas, we invite young ones to join creative **workshops** or produce **audio clips** designed to familiarise them with the theme **Rebuilding Together**. In **Mapping Controversies**, an innovative teaching method introduced by Bruno Latour, Lycée français Charles de Gaulle students will debate live on public statues dedicated to controversial colonial figures.

26 Jan, 5pm – Debate: Mapping Controversies

27 Jan, 4pm – Workshop: Woodland Community Project

Mois de la Francophonie



Fatima Daas: The Last One

Identifying as a Muslim, feminist, and gay writer, **Fatima Daas** is becoming the new voice of her generation. Drawn from her experiences growing up in a Paris banlieue, her powerful, lyric debut *The Last One* explores the diverse, often conflicting facets of her identity. Catch her at the Institut (2 March) or at the Limerick Festival (26 Feb), the Institut français d'Ecosse (28 Feb), and at the Alliance Française de Glasgow (1 March).

Wed 2 March, 6.30pm



Giving Shape to the World with Leïla Slimani

First Franco-Moroccan woman to win the prestigious Prix Goncourt for her novel *Lullaby*, **Leïla Slimani** was appointed personal representative of President Macron to the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. She will discuss how literature and art shape our world with **Dr. Joseph Ford** (Institute of Modern Languages Research, UL) and **Dr. Amaleena Damlé** (Durham University). She will also take part in an event at the Maison Française d'Oxford (23 March).

Thu 24 March, 6.30pm



Choix Goncourt UK

The **Choix Goncourt UK** gives a voice to students from 15 British universities to further their passion for contemporary French literature. With **Françoise Rossinot**, General Delegate of the Académie Goncourt, and **Didier Decoin**, president of the Académie Goncourt, students will discuss books from the Prix Goncourt and award their own Choix Goncourt.

Fri 25 March, 6.30pm



Music Rendezvous with Sages comme des sauvages

From the calypso and maloya of Réunion to Greek rebetiko, enjoy a joyous blend of French chanson with various musical styles from around the globe delivered by the playful duo Sages comme des sauvages. Formed a decade ago, it features Franco-American raised in Greece **Ava Carrere** and Belgo-Corsican **Ismaël Colombani**. Their concert will be followed by a Q&A with the audience.

Thu 17 March, 7pm



Jeux de mots

For Francophonie Month, students, teachers and all are put to the test! While pupils from UK schools spar in fierce **debate competitions**, which will culminate in National finals on 16 March, more creative classes from Primary and Secondary schools can record a video clip of their own in the **French Pop Competition**. With the online **Quiz de la francophonie**, all can see how well they know the Francophone world. Au top!

Jan – March



European Enrichment Days

The Institut français, Goethe-Institut, and Consejería de Educación, join forces to promote the teaching of European languages in the UK. The 3 European cultural centres in London will organise an online workshop dedicated to trainee teachers, recently qualified teachers, MFL assistants and PGCE students in French, Spanish, or German.

Wed 12 Jan, 4.30pm

Women Shaping the World



Titane

After her coming of age horror drama *Raw*, **Julia Ducournau** returns to the big screen with the **Palme d'Or** winning, unpredictably gripping, genre-flipping *Titane*. Only the second woman to win the iconic Cannes prize, Julia Ducournau offers a feverish, violent, and frequently jaw-dropping ride! The main inspiration behind *Titane*, David Cronenberg's *Crash* will also be screened in January, as an accompanying piece.

From 4 Jan



The Podcast

Our podcast offers a platform to discuss the links between culture and feminism. We will question the cultural glass ceiling with researcher **Reine Prat**, author of *Explorer le plafond: précis de féminisme à l'usage du monde de la culture*, and **Lucy Kerbel**, founder of Tonic Theatre, and author of *All Change Please*. **Jude Kelly**, founder of the Women of the World festival, will tell you all about feminist festivals. Stay tuned!

Jan – March



The Festival

For International Women's day, we will be celebrating creative women from every field with the Women Shaping the World Festival. Join us for a discussion with artist **Clara Shulmann**, a live podcast with **Marina Warner**, films by **Gessica Geneus** and **Alexis Langlois**, live drawing with **drag kings**, workshops, talks and much more!

8 – 13 March

The Earth Here and Now



Taming the Garden

A poetic ode to the rivalry between men and nature, *Taming the Garden* recounts how a powerful man indulges in the unusual hobby of having century-old trees transplanted from communities along the Georgian coast to his private garden, at great cost and inconvenience. A touching **reflection on our relationship to nature**, this film plays with the concept and metaphor of uprooting.

Mon 24 Jan, 6.15pm



The Velvet Queen

In the heart of the Tibetan highlands, award-winning wildlife photographer Vincent Munier brings writer and adventurer Sylvain Tesson (*In the Forest of Siberia*) on his quest to find the legendary, elusive snow leopard. During their journey through the mountains, inhabited by many animals often invisible to us, they discuss humankind's place amongst magnificent creatures and sublime landscapes.

Tue 25 Jan, 6pm



A Decolonial Ecology

Civil and environmental engineer and Doctor of political philosophy **Malcom Ferdinand**, author of *A Decolonial Ecology: Thinking from the Caribbean World* (Polity, 2021), will be speaking with researcher in critical ecologies **Shela Sheikh**. They will discuss political actions and artistic practices that attempt to pave the way to a non-toxic, post-colonial world. In partnership with Polity.

Fri 18 Feb, 6pm





JOIN US!

Each annual membership allows you to enjoy our unique events and create lasting memories!

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CAFÉ TANGERINE

**A Café-Restaurant with a French Touch
and a British Twist!**

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La Médiathèque

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Stay Tuned

Please note that the events listed here are only some of the highlights of our programme and are correct at the time of print, but liable to change.

For full events, films programme and updates:

- check our website: www.institut-francais.org.uk
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