

**INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS**
ROYAUME-UNI



**WOMEN
SHAPING
THE WORLD**

THE FESTIVAL

8 - 13 March 2022

Women Shaping the World

The Festival



All the year long, the Institut français in London addresses the issues and perspectives of women's rights and women's creation through Women Shaping the World, its series of events, film screenings, discussions, and podcasts with and about women shaping the world.

It is now launching a new event, the Women Shaping the World Festival, taking place from 8 to 13 March, around International Women's Day, and at the crossroads of arts, culture and feminism.

The artists presented in the programme are committed to the idea that society should aspire to gender and sexual equality.

From Audrey Diwan's beautifully crafted adaptation of Annie Ernaux's book *Happening* (8 March) to liberated opera singers (11 March), from feminist art history memoirs (9 March) to Drag Kings declaring ownership over masculinity (13 March), the festival is a place to showcase, discover and explore the extraordinary wealth of contemporary talents in France and the UK.

From Haiti to Kosovo, the Festival also celebrates the many ways of being a woman in every corner of the world. It pays tribute to these anonymous heroines and their daily struggles, resilience, courage, and dignity, with such films as *H24 – 24 Hours in a Woman's Life* (8 March), *Freda* (12 March) and *Hive* (13 March).

Catch also our new releases in March: *Ali & Ava* by Cléo Barnard and *Aline, the Voice of Love* by and with Valérie Lemerrier, a re-imagined biopic of the one and only Céline Dion. On stage, behind, or in front of the camera, women have got talent!

Eye-opening, bold and inspiring!

Tuesday 8 March

H24 - 24 Hours in a Woman's Life

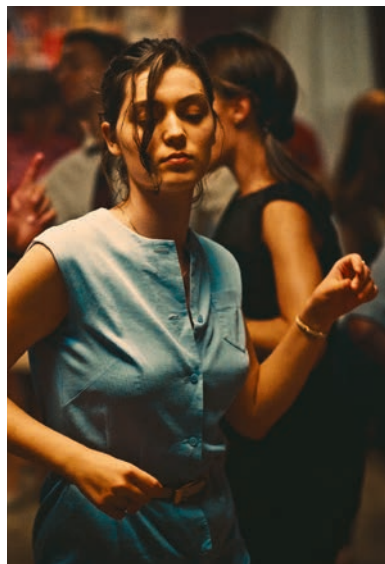
6.15pm | Screenings + Readings

UK Premiere

H24 was conceived as 24 short films, 100% created by a host of globally renowned female writers, directors, and actors, all based on women's real-life experiences of sexism, harassment, and violence. Premiered on ARTE channel in 2021, these testimonies on female daily resistance has had a big impact as a post #MeToo era manifesto.

The screening of a selection of ten episodes will be accompanied by the reading of two texts by actor **Marilyne Canto** and a discussion with co-creator and director **Valérie Urrea**.

2021 | conceived by Nathalie Masduraud and Valérie Urrea | 10 x 5 mins | £8



Happening

8.30pm | London Premiere

Based on the semi-autobiographical novel *L'Événement* by Annie Ernaux, Audrey Diwan's *Happening* follows student Anne in the early 1960s. A bright young woman with a promising future ahead of her, Anne's chance to escape the constraints of her provincial town soon begins to disappear when she discovers she is pregnant. Winner of the Venice Golden Lion and nominated to the 2022 BAFTAs, *Happening* is a timely tale that considers questions of choice and the female body.

2021 | dir. Audrey Diwan | 99 mins
£13, conc. £11

Wednesday 9 March

Zizanies - Conversation with Clara Schulmann and Lauren Elkin

6.30pm | Discussion and Reading

Art critic **Clara Schulmann** will discuss her picturesque essay, *Zizanies* with writer and translator **Lauren Elkin**. In the context of an academic and artistic research, she was driven to explore the polyphony of female voices of novelists, theorists, friends, strangers: Donna Haraway, Vinciane Despret, Nathalie Quintane, Valeria Luiselli, Chris Kraus, Denise Riley, Mary Anne Doane, Susan Howe and many more. Translators of the English version to be published by Les Fugitives, **Jenny Higgins**, **Natasha Lehrer** and **Naima Rashid** will be reading extracts from this empowering essay.

£7, conc. £5

Part of Art Matters, our series of talks on contemporary art



© Pauline Seckel



© Julie Cherki

Thursday 10 March

Wonderland! by Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu

7.30pm | Concert

Led by the charismatic mezzo-soprano **Axelle Verner**, this programme takes us to Wonderland and features pieces by composers such as Playford and Purcell. Expect magical effects and all the charm of English Baroque under the direction of **Franck-Emmanuel Comte** and his ensemble **Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu**.

£15, members £13, students £5

Part of Les Salons en Musique

Friday 11 March

Can Opera Be Feminist? The Problem with Carmen

7pm | Talk + Recital

Cultural historian **Claire Lozier**, opera critic **Erica Jeal**, and director **Cecilia Stinton** join Opera Holland Park's Head of Communications and Insight, **Anna Picard** to consider how *Carmen* can be viewed through a feminist lens. They will examine cultural stereotyping, and the troublesome trope of the *femme fatale* in Prosper Mérimée's novel and its operatic adaptation by Bizet, with live music accompaniment by mezzo-soprano **Clare Presland** and conductor and pianist **Sonia Ben Santamaria**.

£15, members £13, students £5

In partnership with Opera Holland Park



Saturday 12 March

Story Time: Superheroines

11am | Reading Session

Let your kids' imagination run wild in our story time session! Our librarians have chosen stories by French authors about superheroines, independent princesses and other empowering and empowered little girls.

in (easy) French | ages 2-6
£7, members £5, carers £3



Gendering Language

11.30am | Writing Workshop

Shaping the world is one thing, but what about shaping the language? Despite attempts at feminising masculine words or implementing an inclusive writing in the French language, there is still a long way to go. Can we make French less gendered? Let's take up the challenge with writing coach **Dominique Pourtau-Darriet**

in French | age 16+ | £9, members £7

What Does your Hidden Princess Look Like?

3pm | Reading + Workshop

Everyone knows Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty. But have you heard of Capriciosa, Catch-Catch or von Badaboum? Let's shine a light on these hidden princesses with a reading session of Philippe Lechermeier and Rébecca Dautremer's book *Princesse oubliées ou inconnues*, followed by a hands-on workshop.

in (easy) French | ages 8+ | £7, members £5

Freda

5.55pm | Screening + Discussion | UK Premiere

Presented at the Cannes Film Festival and awarded the Prix du Film Francophone TV5 Monde 2021, Gessica Geneus's film pays tribute to the youth of Haiti by painting a complex portrait of a woman. Following the precarious lives of Freda and her family, the film offers insight into the challenges of a country still paralysed by the 2010 earthquake.

Followed by a discussion with **Dr Rachel Douglas**, Lecturer in French (University of Glasgow), and **Dr Sabine Cadeau**, historian of the Caribbean (University of Cambridge)

2021 | dir. Gessica Geneus | 99 mins | £13, conc. £11
As part of Le Mois de la Francophonie



Sunday 13 March

Craftivism with Dr Katja May

11am | Live Podcast + Workshop

What is the connection between textile crafts and feminist politics? Find out with **Dr Katja May**, a passionate London-based quilter and an interdisciplinary researcher who specialises in feminist theory, affect, social transformation and textile crafts.

£10



King Max

3.30pm | Screening

In this short film, Maximilienne discovers a new side of herself while playing with her appearance alone in her bedroom. One night, she finds herself in a nightclub at a drag king show. A new world opens itself before her. She has found a new family.

Followed by a Q&A with director **Adèle Vincenti-Crasson**, and Drag King **Jay des Adelphe**s, and a life-drawing session (see below).

2021 | dir. Adèle Vincenti-Crasson | 21 mins
£13, conc. £11

Drink & Draw: Live Drag Kings

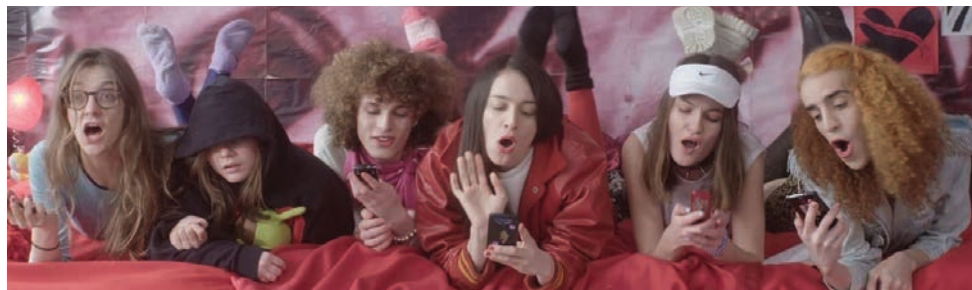
4.20pm | Life-Drawing + Drink

Drag Kings Jay des Adelphe (France) and Loose Willis (Pecs Drag Kings, UK) strike a pose for an afternoon of music, wine and life-drawing. Putting gender-bending and queerness at the centre of their performance, Drag Kings invite us to question our relation to gender expression, showing us the myriad of ways masculinity and femininity can be twisted, turned, changed.

Free for **King Max** ticket holders

In partnership with Lady of the Grapes





Bande de Filles: the Movies of Alexis Langlois

6.30pm | Screenings | 3 x 28 mins | ages 18 +

Defining the work of *enfant terrible* Alexis Langlois is not an easy feat. It is queer, feminist, revolutionary, joyful, crude. Written with a group of girlfriends, his movies are also an homage to genre films and pop culture. This special screening includes: *Your Young Years Will Dry Your Tears* (2018), *Terror, Sisters!* (2019), and *The Demons of Dorothy* (2021), introduced by director **Alexis Langlois** and actors **Justine Langlois** and **Nana Benamer**.

£13, conc. £11

Content Warning: These films are cathartic, but depict events of gender-based violence, homophobia, and transphobia. Viewer's discretion is advised.

Hive

6.45pm | Preview Screening

Awarded at the 2021 Sundance Festival and Kosovo's entry for Best International Feature at the 94th Academy Awards, Blerta Basholli's debut is a devastating portrait of loss and recovery, based on a true story. A mother lives with fading hope and burgeoning grief since her husband went missing during the war in Kosovo. She pulls the other widows in the village together to launch a business selling a local food product. Together, they find healing and solace.

2021 | dir. **Blerta Basholli** | 84 mins | £13, conc. £11



Ali & Ava

New Release

Despite their divergent backgrounds and differences in their stages of life, Ali (Adeel Akhtar) and Ava (Claire Rushbrook) find themselves irresistibly drawn to one another. From writer/director Clio Barnard (*The Selfish Giant*, *The Arbour*) who has established herself as one of the UK's most distinctive cinematic voices.

11 – 17 March



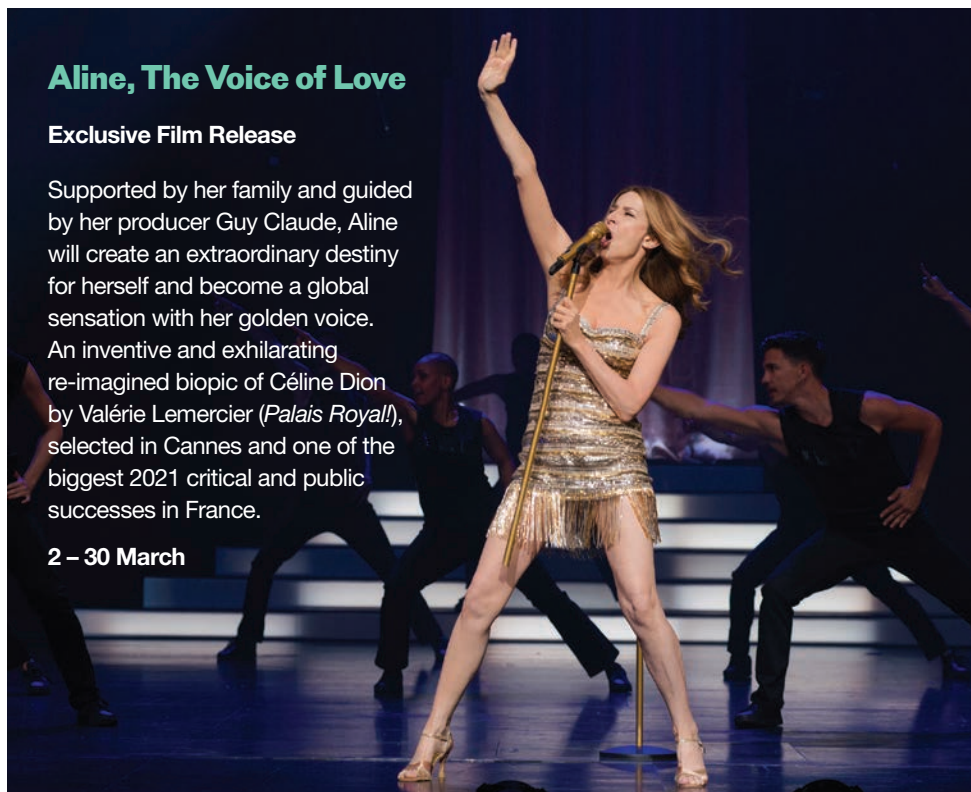
Aline, The Voice of Love

Exclusive Film Release

Supported by her family and guided by her producer Guy Claude, Aline will create an extraordinary destiny for herself and become a global sensation with her golden voice.

An inventive and exhilarating re-imagined biopic of Céline Dion by Valérie Lemerrier (*Palais Royal*), selected in Cannes and one of the biggest 2021 critical and public successes in France.

2 – 30 March



Venue

Institut français du Royaume-Uni
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Stay Tuned

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