

Short Films
Headlines

2022

MAY 16-22

at the Institut français, London

BEYOND WORDS

Talks

FRENCH

LITERATURE FESTIVAL

www.beyondwordstifest.co.uk

Performances

LES
SALONS

INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS
ROYAUME-UNI

Beyond Words at a Glance

MONDAY 16 MAY

6.30pm – Talk + Readings
Jeanne Benameur, Bill
Johnston & Tice Cin
8pm – Film – **Lost Illusions**

TUESDAY 17 MAY

6pm – Talk + Readings
Nathacha Appanah & Rosie
Goldsmith
7.30pm – Talk – Kamel
Daoud, Ben Okri & Agnès
Poirier
8.30pm – Films + intro
143 Sahara Street + Elles

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY

6.10pm – Film – **Muriel ou le
temps d'un retour**
6.30pm – Talk + Readings –
Living with Marcel Proust:
Christopher Prendergast &
Antoine Compagnon
7.30pm – Talk – Céline:
Journeys to the Extreme
8.30pm – Concert – **Musical
Tribute to Marcel Proust**

THURSDAY 19 MAY

6.30pm – Talk + Readings
Faïza Guène & Sarah
Ardizzone
8.30pm – Film + intro **Their
Algeria**

FRIDAY 20 MAY

7pm – Talk + Readings
Deborah Levy, Marie
Darrieussecq & Lauren Elkin

8.20pm – Film + intro

Happening

8.30pm – Film – **Benediction**

SATURDAY 21 MAY

10.30am – Talk – **Café Philo**
12.45pm – CinéFamilies – **The
Adventures of Tintin: The
Secret of the Unicorn**
3pm – Workshop – **Thomas
Gerbeaux: How Are Books
Made?**
3pm – Film – **Lost Illusions**
5pm – Talk + Readings – **Lola
Lafon, Sarah Vaughan
& Catriona Morton**
6pm – Film + Q&A **Returning
to Reims with Didier Eribon**
6.30pm – Film – **Their Algeria**
8.15pm – Film – **Benediction**
8.35pm – Film – **Guermantes**

SUNDAY 22 MAY

2pm – Film – **Muriel ou le
temps d'un retour**
3.30pm – Films – **143 Sahara
Street + Elles**
5pm – Talk – **Hervé Le Tellier,
Brian Clegg & Adriana Hunter**
6pm – Films – **At War for
Algeria**
6pm – Performance – **Molière:
Je t'aime moi non plus**
7pm – Talk – **Sidi Molière**
8.10pm – Film – **Benediction**

French literature, live, loud and proud!

Beyond Words Festival of literature is back for a 6th edition to remember!

From 16 to 22 May, the Institut français goes Beyond Words to cross borders and genres and takes us on a literary journey through lively discussions, powerful readings and inspiring live performances and screenings.

Audiences can expect the latest and hottest publications from both sides of the Channel and a great line-up including acclaimed authors and new voices.

This year, our programme celebrates literature in all its glory and diversity, giving centre stage to feminist novelists in particular. It also pays tribute to Proust and Molière, and marks the 60th anniversary of Algeria's independence with several debates and films.

Discover new stories, enjoy screen adaptations, hear your favourite authors, revisit Molière, have your book signed, take part in the discussion, share your passion for literature: join the Beyond Words Festival!

With special thanks to Florence and Vincent Gombault for their support to the festival.

MONDAY 16 MAY

Jeanne Benameur © Richard Guesnier / Bill Johnston / Tee Cin © Christy Ku



Jeanne Benameur in Conversation with Bill Johnston and Tice Cin

TALK + READINGS

Awarded the UNICEF Prize for her debut novella *Les Demeurées*, and the Grand Prix RTL-Lire for her novel *Profanes*, **Jeanne Benameur** is a prolific writer of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and plays. Her recently published UK debut *The Child Who* is a poetic exploration of grief, intergenerational silences, and nature's power to heal. She will discuss it with her translator **Bill Johnston** and critically acclaimed debut author of *Keeping the House* **Tice Cin**.

6.30pm - £9, conc. £7

In English and French

Lost Illusions

FILM

dir. Xavier Giannoli, 2021, 149 mins | UK Premiere

Adapted from Honoré de Balzac's masterpiece, *Lost Illusions* charts the life of ambitious romantic poet Lucien de Rubempré (Benjamin Voisin) as he ascends through the hierarchy of 19th century high society. *Lost Illusions* is an epic and visually sumptuous costume drama that chronicles the erosion of romanticism and idealism as Lucien is corrupted by the trappings of success and falls victim to his own hubris. The film won 7 César Awards this year, including Best Film, and will be screened exclusively at Ciné Lumière from 16 May until July.

8pm - £8

Also showing on Sat 21 May (3pm)

In French with EN subs





Nathacha Appanah & Rosie Goldsmith: *The Sky Above the Roof*

TALK + READINGS

Join award-winning Mauritian-French author **Nathacha Appanah** in conversation with the journalist and director of the European Literature Network, **Rosie Goldsmith**. Marking the translation of her latest novel *The Sky Above the Roof*, Nathacha will share her thoughts on her poetic approach to relationships and the narratives of displacement, separation and rebuilding.

6pm - £9, conc. £7

In English and French



The Outsiders: Kamel Daoud, Ben Okri & Agnès Poirier

TALK

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Algeria's independence and the 80th anniversary of Albert Camus's novel *The Outsider*, let's meet Algerian writer **Kamel Daoud**, author of *The Meursault Investigation* which won him the 2015 Prix Goncourt du premier roman, and Booker Prize winning Nigerian poet and playwright **Ben Okri**. Together they will share their respective views on Albert Camus's legacy in light of the post-colonial turn in a conversation chaired by journalist and author **Agnès Poirier**.

As part of *Voices of Algeria*

7.30pm - £9, conc. £7

In English and French

TUESDAY 17 MAY

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143 Sahara Street + Elles

FILMS

As part of our strand Voices of Algeria, we present two visions of Algeria from 1966 to 2019. Hassen Ferhani's quiet documentary *143 Sahara Street* is an intimate portrait of a woman, a landscape, and even a country, Algeria. In Ahmed Lalle'm's 1966 short film *Elles*, Algerian schoolgirls elucidate on their position in society four years after the country gained independence from France, revealing how they envisage the future, democracy, and their place in society.

As part of Voices of Algeria

8.30pm + intro by author Kamel Daoud

£13, conc. £11

Also showing on Sun 22 May (3.30pm)

in French with EN subs

International Day Against Homophobia: Fatima Daas

ONLINE REPLAY & PODCAST

Identifying as a Muslim, feminist, and gay writer, **Fatima Daas** is becoming the new voice of her generation. Watch the replay of her talk at the French Institute last March, on the occasion of the publication of *The Last One*, and listen to her in the Institute's Women Shaping the World podcast. As part of International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

Free - Online

In English and French





Muriel ou le temps d'un retour FILM

dir. Alain Resnais, 1963, 110 mins

Delphine Seyrig stars as H el ene, a suburban widow who attempts to rekindle her romance with her childhood sweetheart, whilst her afflicted stepson Bernard is haunted by memories of a girl named Muriel whom he helped torture during the Algerian War. Like much of Resnais's work, Muriel elaborates on memory and the irrepresentability of horror and violence with a style that borders between classicism and disconcertment.

As part of Voices of Algeria

6.10pm - £12, conc. £10

Also showing on Sun 22 May 2pm - £10,
conc. £8

in French with EN subs

Living with Marcel Proust: Christopher Prendergast & Antoine Compagnon

TALK

Antoine Compagnon, Professor of French Literature at Coll ege de France and **Christopher Prendergast**, Fellow of King's College of Cambridge will meet for a discussion on their common passion: Marcel Proust and his *oeuvre*. Marking the 100th anniversary of Proust's death, they will explore how his monumental novel *In Search of Lost Time* can still shape our imaginations and influence our lives.

Chaired by **Louise Ferris**.

6.30pm - £9, conc. £7

In English and French



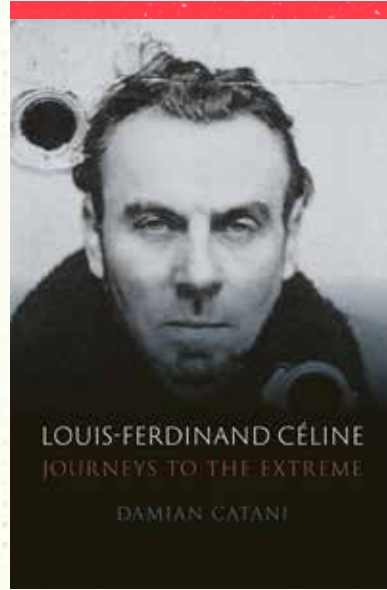
Marcel Proust © J.-E. Blancliche

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY

Céline: Journeys to the Extreme TALK

In a Q&A session with **Professor Patrick Baert**, **Dr. Damian Catani** will present his biography of one of the most innovative novelists of the twentieth century, Louis-Ferdinand Céline. This book sheds light on Céline's ground-breaking novels, which remain fresh and urgent today despite its author's abhorrent political views. As the first English-language biography of Céline in over two decades, this book explores new material and reminds us why the author belongs in the pantheon of modern greats.

7.30pm - £9, conc. £7
in English



Musical Tribute to Marcel Proust

CONCERT

Let's explore the musical landscape of the celebrated author of *In Search of Lost Time* with pianist **David Bismuth** and violinist **Geneviève Laurenceau**. This concert will present pieces by emblematic composers of the late 19th century and early 20th century such as Camille Saint-Saëns or César Franck.

8.30pm - £15, members £13, students £5

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY



Out of Algeria: Faïza Guène & Sarah Ardizzone

TALK + READINGS

Best-selling author with her teenage debut novel *Just Like Tomorrow*, **Faïza Guène** has quickly become an outspoken French-Algerian voice. She will talk about her latest novel *Discretion* with her translator, **Sarah Ardizzone**. Seeking to “fix the offence of forgetting”, Faïza Guène will address the hardships of motherhood in the context of immigration.

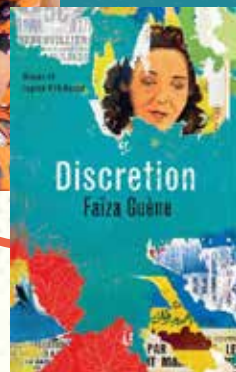
As part of Voices of Algeria

6.30pm - £9, conc. £7

In English and French



Faïza Guène © Marie Huguenin



Their Algeria

FILM

dir. Lina Soualem, 2020, 70 mins

After 62 years of living together, Lina's grandparents, Aïcha and Mabrouk, have decided to separate. Together, they came from Algeria to Thiers, a small town in France, over 60 years ago. Side by side, they have experienced this chaotic immigrant life. For Lina, their separation is an opportunity to question their long journey of exile and their silence.

8.30pm + intro by author Faïza Guène - £12, conc. £10

Also showing on Sat 21 May (6.30pm) - £10, conc. £8

In French and Arabic with EN subs

THURSDAY 19 MAY



The Writing Life: Deborah Levy, Marie Darrieussecq & Lauren Elkin

TALK + READINGS

Acclaimed by critics and readers, British playwright, novelist and poet **Deborah Levy** and French writer **Marie Darrieussecq** are both considered to be amongst the leading voices of their generation. In a conversation chaired by the author and translator **Lauren Elkin**, they will examine how they address the contemporary world within creative and political spaces.

7pm - £9, conc. £7

In English and French

Happening

FILM + INTRO

dir. Audrey Diwan, 2021, 99 mins

Winner of the Venice Golden Lion and a César Award for Best Newcomer for lead actor Anamaria Vartolomei, *Happening* is based on the semi-autobiographical novel *L'Événement* by Annie Ernaux. A bright young woman with a promising future ahead of her sees her chances to escape the constraints of her provincial town compromised when she discovers she is pregnant.

8.20pm + intro by authors Deborah Levy & Marie Darrieussecq) £13, conc. £11

In French with EN subs



Benediction

FILM

dir. Terence Davies, 2021, 137 mins

Terence Davies' *Benediction* offers a portrait of the life of decorated soldier and renowned poet Siegfried Sassoon. Experiencing the trauma, loss, and failure of the First World War, Sassoon is discharged to a psychiatric military hospital where he meets fellow poet and soldier Wilfred Owen. The two develop a tender though short-lived relationship.

8.30pm - £13, conc. £11

Also showing on Sat 21 May (8.15pm) & Sun 22 May (8.10pm)

In English



Café Philo - The Meaning of Independence

TALK

Open to everyone interested in discussing philosophical issues in an informal setting, this festival edition of the Café Philo will be debating the notion of independence when applied to a nation. In a world where our fate is deeply interdependent on economic, climatic, health and safety levels, what does national independence mean?

10.30am - £3

In English

The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn

CINÉFAMILIES

dir. Steven Spielberg, 2011, 107 mins

None other than Steven Spielberg and Peter Jackson have joined their talent and creativity to celebrate the much-loved Franco-Belgian comic book about the intrepid reporter Tintin and his loyal dog Snowy. In this adventure, Tintin and short-tempered Captain Haddock embark on a treasure hunt around the world for a sunken ship in the open ocean.

12.45pm - £5 - Age 8+

In French with EN subs



Thomas Gerbeaux: How Are Books Made?

WORKSHOP

Award-winning author **Thomas Gerbeaux** will explain the stages of the creation of books, from the initial idea to the publication. He will unveil some behind the scenes tips and show how he wrote such books as *The Incredible Story of the Sheep that Saved a School* or *The Unbelievable Tale of the Lobster that Saved its Shell* along with illustrator Pauline Kerleroux.

3pm - £9, members £7 - Age 8 +

In English and French

SATURDAY 21 MAY

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Stories of Resilience: Lola Lafon, Sarah Vaughan & Catriona Morton

TALK + READINGS

In *Reeling*, acclaimed French writer **Lola Lafon** explores the fragility and strength of a young girl's psyche, whilst in *Anatomy of a Scandal*, best-selling British author **Sarah Vaughan** disentangles the relationship between the political and the personal to uncover a wider web of abuses of power. In a conversation chaired by writer **Catriona Morton**, host of the BBC Sounds podcast *After: Surviving Sexual Assault*, they discuss how a feminist approach might push the limits of story-telling to allow for a more nuanced exploration of survival, healing and solidarity.

5pm – £9, members £7

In English and French



Lola Lafon © Lynn SK
Sarah Vaughan © Johnny Ring
Catriona Morton



Didier Eribon © Isolde Ohlbaum

Returning to Reims with Didier Eribon

FILM + Q&A

dir. Jean-Gabriel Périot, narrated by Adèle Haenel, 2021, 83 mins

A fascinating reflection on working class life in France over the past 70 years, Jean-Gabriel Périot's documentary is a loose adaptation of fragments from Didier Eribon's 2009 memoir *Returning to Reims*, in which he evokes his return to the hometown he had abandoned 30 years earlier.

6pm + Q&A with Didier Eribon - £13, conc. £11

in French with EN subs

Guermantes

FILM

dir. Christophe Honoré, 2021, 139 mins

Set in the summer of 2020, an acting troupe reconvenes to rehearse Marcel Proust's *Le Côté de Guermantes* after months of isolation due to the coronavirus pandemic. After it becomes clear that the performance will be cancelled, they decide to forge ahead out of passion for the art of acting. With Proust's source material overflowing into their real world, *Guermantes* is a brilliant tribute to theatre and delivers a timely message of hope and resilience.

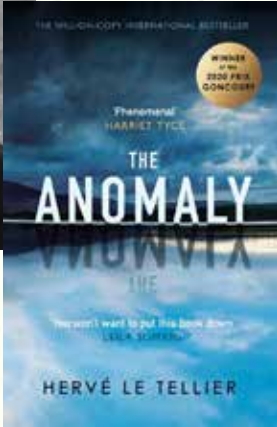
8.35pm - £13, conc. £11

in French with EN subs





Hervé Le Tellier © Cathy Bistour



Science and Fiction: Hervé Le Tellier, Brian Clegg & Adriana Hunter

TALK

Literature meets science in this discussion with Oulipo president and 2020 Goncourt Prize winner **Hervé Le Tellier** (*L'Anomalie*) and popular science writer **Brian Clegg**. They will share their views on the supposedly unbridgeable gap between the arts and science, reason and intuition, and fact and fiction, in a conversation chaired by translator **Adriana Hunter**.

5pm - £9, conc. £7

in English

At War for Algeria

FILMS

dir. Rafael Lewandowski, narrated by Lyna Khoudri, 2022, 2x 52 mins

In 1954, the Algerian war of liberation began, shaking the French colonial regime that had been in place since 1830. It was the beginning of eight long years of bitter conflict, one of the most traumatic of the century. On the 60th anniversary of the Evian agreements that ended the war, this landmark documentary series tells in vivid detail the story of this painful conflict through archive footage and interviews.

As part of Voices of Algeria and in partnership with Arte.

6pm - £8

In English



SUNDAY 22 MAY

SUNDAY 22 MAY

Molière : Je t'aime moi non plus

PERFORMANCE

Join two actors and a director stuck in a room with Molière's greatest scenes. What does he have to say to us about the way we feel? This is an encounter. With Molière. With ourselves. *Je t'aime moi non plus* is the latest production by the team that created the hit play *Ionesco/Dinner at the Smiths* – **Marianne Badrichani** and **Edith Vernes**.

6pm - £25, conc. £12 (including talk *Sidi Molière*)



Sidi Molière

TALK

In a discussion led by **Marianne Badrichani**, director of the play *Je t'aime moi non plus*, **Clare Finburgh Delijani**, Professor of European Theatre at Goldsmiths University, will discuss the profound impact of "Sidi Molière" - (Sir Molière) as he's called in the Maghreb - on theatre in North Africa and the Middle East. She asks us to consider whether his theatre is truly of global appeal, or if we must reassess the limits of universality when it comes to art.

7pm - £7, conc. £5

As part of Molière's 400th anniversary celebrations.

Double bill - Performance Molière:

Je t'aime moi non plus + Talk : £25, conc. £12



Beyond our Walls

Edinburgh

14 May – Talk - Jeanne Benameur in Conversation – Institut français d’Ecosse

www.ifecosse.org.uk

London

19 May – Literary Concert - Timothée de Fombelle & Albin de la Simone: Soirée à Neverland - French Protestant Church of London

www.librairielapage.com

Bristol

22 May – Screening – Returning to Reims + Q&A with Didier Eribon – Watershed

www.watershed.co.uk



Lost Illusions

Book signings

Come and browse through hundreds of books from our on-site booksellers: both English and French editions will be available. All the authors will be happy to sign after their events.

And further...

Ahead of (and after) the festival, you can find the featured books in our in-house library, La Médiathèque, and on our digital library, Culturethèque.

www.institut-francais.org.uk/la-mediathèque

www.culturetheque.com

Info & booking

www.beyondwordslitfest.co.uk

020 7871 3515

Early booking essential

All information is correct at the time of print but subject to change.

Please check our website for updates

Venue

Institut français

17 Queensberry Place, South Kensington

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