



NIGHT OF IDEAS

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 26 January

Master of ceremonies: **Marc Bena**

Welcome Remarks: **TOGETHER**

17:45 - 18:30

Catherine Colonna, French Ambassador to the UK, will launch the Night of Ideas 2021. This new edition will focus on what does “Together” mean today.

Leila Slimani, Author & personal representative of the French president Emmanuel Macron to the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie.

Debate

Feeling for Others

18:35 - 19:35

The health crisis we are experiencing has produced new practices of sociability, a need for more inclusiveness and a call for compassion. What are the new solidarities that have emerged? To what extent can feeling or caring for others change our way of life?

With

Tinneke Beeckman, Philosopher of Moral Science & Writer

Sandra Laugier, Philosopher in Gender Studies and Ethics of Care, Sorbonne University

Christie Watson, Former Nurse & Author of *The Courage To Care*

Chaired by **Rachel Cooke**, Journalist & Columnist for *The Observer*

Debate
Lonely Together

19:40 - 20:40

Social media bring individuals together, opening them up to the world while enclosing them in bubbles of mimetic identification. Digital networks can increase social withdrawal, but it has also proved to be a unique way to combat lockdown loneliness. Can we be emotionally connected in the digital world?

With

Fay Bound Alberti, Author of *A Biography of Loneliness* & Cultural Historian, University of York

Manuel Arias-Maldonado, Professor of Political Science, University of Malaga

Clémentine Lalande, CEO of *Once* online dating app

Chaired by **Tim Markham**, Professor of Journalism and Media, Birkbeck College, University of London

Film
Un film dramatique

20:45-21:45

For four years French artist Éric Baudelaire regularly met with students from the film group at Dora Maar middle school in Saint-Denis in the North of Paris. Compiling individual and communally-made film footage, *Un film dramatique* – which won Baudelaire the Prix Marcel Duchamp in 2019 – features the students' insights on their young lives. Time for them to grow together, time to find the form of a film in which they would be the true subjects: its characters, its authors and its promise.

Wednesday 27 January

Film

L'Apprentissage (Décolonisations)

18:30 - 19:30

The first episode of the 3-part documentary series *Décolonisations* by Karim Miské, Marc Ball and Pierre Singaravélou, *L'Apprentissage* brings a new understanding of colonisation through the point of view of the colonised. Made over several years and using a trove of archival footage and sound, the whole series highlights the role of famous and lesser known figures who, from Asia to Africa, have organised their own form of resistance to the empire.

Debate

Old Empires and New Umpires

19:35 - 20:35

A half-century of post-colonial studies has enshrined the idea that empires have essentially undermined societies around the world and left psychological scars that may never heal. Contemporary anti-imperialists construe colonial empires as historical singularities that mankind has a moral duty not to replicate. Yet, aren't we witnessing a rebirth of imperialist temptations whose *raison d'être* seems more acceptable only because they are the product of new regional powers?

With

Pierre Singaravélou, Film Director & Professor of Contemporary History, Sorbonne University

Samir Puri, Senior Fellow, International Institute for Strategic Studies, Singapore

Olivette Otele, Historian of Slavery and Memory of Enslavement, University of Bristol, & Vice President, Royal Historical Society

Chaired by **Natalya Vince**, Historian of Modern and Contemporary Algeria and France, University of Portsmouth

Thursday 28 January

Together: a French-British perspective

17:45 - 18:00

During an all-night marathon of talks streamed live by the French Institute from different countries all around the world, Catherine Colonna, French Ambassador in the UK, will be in conversation with Philippe Sands, Professor of Law at University College London and president of English PEN, on various topics such as freedom of speech, the future of Europe, and the recent turmoils on the world stage.

With

Catherine Colonna, French Ambassador to the UK, will launch the Night of Ideas 2021. This new edition will focus on what does “Together” mean today.

Philippe Sands, Professor of Law, University College London

Debate

Living with One Another

18:05 - 19:05

Now that the UK is not a member of the EU anymore, maybe it's time to question the European identity. Is the idea of “nation” back on tracks or are there new forms of social cohesion, a new sense of belonging and citizenship? Where do younger generations place their hopes? What do we mean when we say “we” on a political level?

With

Stephen Clark, Director for relations with citizens in the Directorate-General for Communication, European Parliament

Robert Tombs, Author & Historian, Cambridge University

Ulrike Guérot, Head of the Department for European Policy and the Study of Democracy, Danube University Krems

Louis Williams, Author of *An Optimist's Brexit: A Millennial's Vision*

Chaired by **Matthew Parris**, Former MP, Writer & Broadcaster

Debate
Speaking to Each Other

19:10 - 20:10

The social fabric is being ripped apart by violent forms of intolerance. The increasing number of conflicts born of intellectual oppositions often lead to radicalisation that affects us all. How can we produce a genuine debate of ideas while avoiding intolerance, exclusion or ideological conformism? Is free speech still a right?

With

Lionel Shriver, Author of *We Need To Talk About Kevin*

Thomas Chatterton Williams, Author & Contributing Writer for *The New York Times Magazine*

Anastasia Colosimo, Professor of Political Theology, Sciences Po Paris

Chaired by **Philippe Sands**, Professor of Law, University College London

Friday 29 January

Debate
Looking at Others

18:00 -19:00

History of art can be read as an objectification of women. In this aspect, the “female gaze” we can now experience in some contemporary works of art is a real revolution, literally giving voice to the voiceless. But as we fight against old and rooted stereotypes, isn’t there a risk of creating new ones?

With

Fatoş Üstek, Independent Curator & Former Director of the Liverpool Biennial

Laure Prouvost, Visual Artist

Camille Morineau, Art Curator & Co-founder and Director of AWARE (Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions)

Debate
Different Together

19:05-20:05

Racial discrimination has been an awful part of European history. Successive waves of national emancipation and progressive laws have slowly built a theoretically inclusive society of equals, regardless of race or origin. However, aren't Africa and the people (wrongly or duly) associated to it still objectified in European discourse, be it artistic or political?

With

Patrice Naiambana, African Performing Artist & Founder of *Tribal Soul Arts*

Chi-Chi Nwanoku, Founder, Artistic & Executive Director of *Chineke! Orchestra* and *Chineke! Junior Orchestra*

Éric Baudelaire, Artist & Filmmaker *Un Film Dramatique* (Prix Marcel Duchamp 2019)

Pap NDiaye, Author & Professor of History, Sciences Po Paris

Chaired by **Anne-Elisabeth Moutet**, Journalist & Columnist for *The Telegraph*

Closing Concert

20:10 - 20:40

French composer and musician Angèle David-Guillou - a 2020 laureate of the Diaphonique fund for contemporary music - will close the Night of Ideas with original music from her albums released on independent label Village Green. *"I approach instruments lyrically, thinking about the meaning of what's being said. I need to hear an instrument speaking. I'm always thinking about this as I write music."*

The programme includes:

Vraisemblance ('En Mouvement')

Anti Atlas ('Kourouma')

L'Enfer C'est Les Autres ('Kourouma')

Forgetting Trees ('A Question of Angles')

Too Much Violence ('En Mouvement')

With

Angèle David-Guilloux, Composer, Musician and Producer

Film

Un film dramatique

21:00-22:00

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