

# 28<sup>th</sup> South Ken kids Festival

16-24 Mar 2026

At the Institut français



A week of live drawing, workshops,  
films, talks and much more

INSTITUT  
FRANÇAIS  
Royaume-Uni

17 Queensberry Place, London, SW7 2DT  
020 78 71 35 15 - [www.institut-francais.org.uk/south-ken-kids-festival](http://www.institut-francais.org.uk/south-ken-kids-festival)

Hildar and Twig: Wake the Ice Man © Luke Pearson. Flying Eye Books - The House with the Little Red Door © Grace Easton. Thames & Hudson - A Better Best Friend © Olivier Tallec. Gecko Press - Porridge Please! © Marc Boutavant. Walker Books - On Dean, Look What I Got! © Michael Rosen. Walker Books - The Big Book of Bugs © Yuval Zommer. Thames & Hudson - The Gruffalo © Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. 1999, 2024, Pan Macmillan.

# Introduction



Let's celebrate children's literature in all its glory with the 28th edition of the South Ken Kids Festival, a festival bursting with activities for children of all ages.

This edition will be a treat for fans of literature and illustration of all ages with a tremendous line-up of authors and artists from both sides of the Channel and beyond: **Axel Scheffler, Luke Pearson, Bethan Woollvin, Joann Sfar, Michael Rosen, Lucie Brunellière, Joe Todd-Stanton, Grace Easton, Olivier Tallec, Yuval Zommer, Joséphine Seblon, Robert Sae-Heng**, and many others will join us, under the ever-generous patronage of our beloved Quentin Blake.

The festival encourages all participants to be creative and explore the art of drawing and illustration. **Brilliantly bilingual**, and even multilingual at times, the South Ken Kids Festival is an occasion to celebrate children's writing, illustration, translation!

- Bringing renowned authors and illustrators for special school workshops: **Clémentine Beauvais, Lucie Brunellière, Grace Eaton, Charlotte Gastaut, Alix Guichard, Luke Pearson, Joséphine Seblon, Olivier Tallec, Joe Todd-Stanton, Bethan Woollvin, and Yuval Zommer**.
- Hosting events at the Institut français tailored specifically for schools, film screenings, and an exciting live show based on the book “Paws Up! (Haut les pattes!).
- Organising a **Multilingual slam poetry competition** for pupils to juggle the spoken word with performance arts in multiple languages.
- Discovering Quentin Blake's *Fantastic Journeys* and *Clown* in a **colourful exhibition of illustrations** specially curated for the festival (25 February – 31 March).

*With special thanks to the Bressler Foundation for its generous support to the festival.*

Look out for the symbols that will help you around the programme:

**FR** – In French

**FR/ENG** – In French or in English (or easy French for French learners)

**ENG** – In English

# Introduction

## Registration deadlines

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January:** deadline to return your form to the French Institute

**“Events at the Institut booking form” to Agathe at  
[schools@institut-francais.org.uk](mailto:schools@institut-francais.org.uk)**

**“Workshops booking form” to Sarah  
at [sarah.sangoi@institut-francais.org.uk](mailto:sarah.sangoi@institut-francais.org.uk)**

**We must remind you that only the requests submitted via the forms will be taken into account.**

# Festival Advice

A member of our festival team would be more than happy to chat with your school and/or answer any questions you might have and talk about the festival, so please don't hesitate to get in touch!

- Louise – Festival coordinator  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7073 1300  
[louise.cambau@institut-francais.org.uk](mailto:louise.cambau@institut-francais.org.uk)
- Sarah – School activities officer, workshops  
[sarah.sangoi@institut-francais.org.uk](mailto:sarah.sangoi@institut-francais.org.uk)
- Agathe – Film Programmer & Events at the Institut booking  
[schools@institut-francais.org.uk](mailto:schools@institut-francais.org.uk)

## Our partner bookshops are here to help!

**Librairie La Page**  
French partner bookshop



In addition of its retail activities, Librairie La Page offers a wide range of services for French schools and other institutional clients: reading recommendation, orders with special discount and conditions, workshops with authors and illustrators, publisher and network evenings. La Page can also provide information about the festival authors and related books.

Contact Aurore at **020 7589 5991** or via e-mail [commercial@librairielapage.com](mailto:commercial@librairielapage.com)  
More info on <https://www.librairielapage.com/>

**Nomad Books**  
English partner bookshop



Located in the heart of Parsons Green, Nomad Books offers a terrific selection of both English and French language books for children of all ages, not to mention available spaces for private hiring for activities of all kinds. Just call 020 7736 4000 or drop an e-mail to [info@nomadbooks.co.uk](mailto:info@nomadbooks.co.uk).  
More info on [www.nomadbooks.co.uk](http://www.nomadbooks.co.uk)

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# How we will do it

If you would like a festival artist to perform a workshop at your school:

- Artists can run **workshops** for your school **from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**, depending on the artist's availability. Artists will be booked for a school for **minimum half a day**, and they can offer **up to 2 workshops per half a day**. If booked for a whole day, they can offer 3 workshops, and up to 4 depending on the format of the workshop.
- Each workshop is **limited to groups of up to 25-30 children**. Workshops will generally last for one hour. The workshop will take place **under the teacher's supervision**.
- Festival artists will be paid directly by IFRU following the French Charter for children's book artists (**£450 a full day, £270 a half day**). The IFRU will invoice you for artists participation in your school.
- Authors strongly recommend pupils to be familiar with their work. For book orders: see p.4 to know more about **our two partner bookshops**.
- Please note we also run a means-based outreach programme, if you think your school might be eligible for this please get in touch.
- If they wish to see more of the artists, children can visit the Institut français with their parents during the weekend for more workshops. More info on our website: <https://www.institut-francais.org.uk/festivals-and-series/south-ken-kids-festival/#/>

## Timeline

- **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025:** Programme sent to schools.  
Please send us your choice of workshops and activities by filling in the booking forms which are available at the end of this document. One form per school.
- **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026:** Last day to return your form to IFRU.
- **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026:** Confirmation of your workshop allocation and dates.  
Don't miss out and register now!

**“Events at the Institut booking form”** to Agathe at [schools@institut-francais.org.uk](mailto:schools@institut-francais.org.uk)  
**“Workshops booking form”** to Sarah at [sarah.sangoi@institut-francais.org.uk](mailto:sarah.sangoi@institut-francais.org.uk)

**We must remind you that only the requests submitted via the forms will be taken into account.**

# CLÉMENTINE BEAUVAIS



Clémentine Beauvais is a French children's author living in the UK. She started reading children's books early, and somehow never stopped. Now she writes her own, in both French and English, for a variety of ages, and is a lecturer in English and Education at the University of York. *Piglettes* won four prizes in France, including the biggest children's book prize, the Prix Sorcières. Film and stage versions are also in production. Now Clémentine has translated her book into English!

## Workshop 1: *Piglettes* in translation with Clémentine Beauvais

Year 2 + | CP + | In English and French | 1 hour

Pupils will discover the art of literary translation through extracts from Clémentine Beauvais's award-winning novel *Piglettes*. They will explore how humour, rhythm, and cultural references can travel or transform between French and English, experimenting with creative ways to make language come alive.

**Materials needed:** Powerpoint access, pen and paper.

## Workshop 2 : *Pierre Bayard* with Clémentine Beauvais

Year 4 – Year 7 | CE2 – 6ème | In French | 1 hour

Inspired by *Pierre Bayard détective privé: enquête sur Peter Pan*, pupils will delve into the mystery of Peter Pan, taking on the role of literary detectives to analyse the hidden clues in the text and develop their own hypotheses.

**Materials needed:** Print the private detective kit provided.

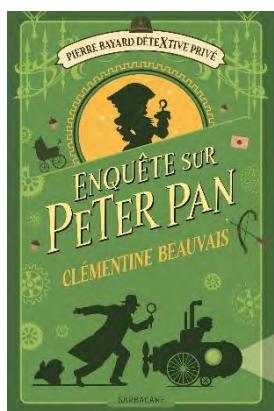
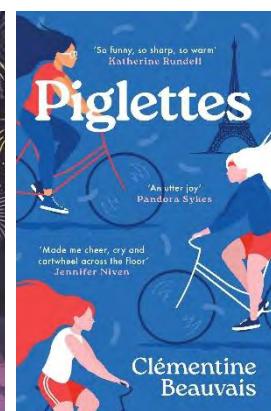
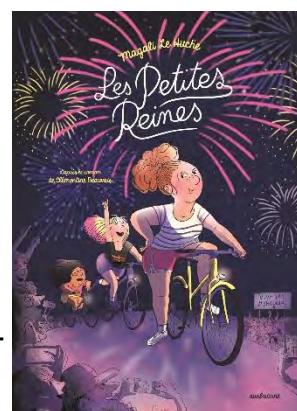
**Availabilities for in-school workshops:** Thursday 19th & Friday 20th March 2026

### Recent books:

*Les Petites Reines* – Sarbacane (2015)

*Piglettes* - Pushkin Children's Books (2017)

*Pierre Bayard DéteXtive Privé: Enquête sur Peter Pan T2* – Sarbacane (2025)



# LUCIE BRUNELLIERE



Lucie Brunellière is a graphic artist and illustrator who has created numerous books for children. She studied applied arts in Angoulême, visual communication in Paris, and at the Strasbourg School of Decorative Arts, France.

## Workshop 1: Workshop with Lucie Brunellière

Year 2 – Year 4 | CP - CE2 | In English and French |  
1 hour 30 minutes – 2 hours (25 pupils max)

Pupils will set off to discover the world by imagining their own landscapes. Together, they will create a large collective map inspired by the graphic universe of Lucie Brunellière, drawing on *Mon tour du monde imaginaire* (My Imaginary World Tour). After a short intro and Q&A, the workshop will begin with a small lucky dip to decide the main features of the map — climate, terrain, rivers. Lucie will use these to shape the background, before inviting pupils to complete the map: they will draw houses, animals, plants, vehicles and more on small squares of paper, cut them out, and place them onto the shared map to bring their imaginary world to life.

### Materials needed:

- For Lucie: very large sheets of paper (white, light blue, green and yellow), glue sticks (x2)
- For pupils: Felt-tip pens in all colours, 10 squares of drawing paper (approximately 3 cm by 3 cm), scissors.

## Workshop 2 : Workshop with Lucie Brunellière

Year 2 – Year 4 | CP- CE2 | In English and French |  
1 hour 30 minutes – 2 hours (25 pupils max)

What makes a flower beautiful? Its colour, its scent, or the joy it brings? Illustrator Lucie Brunellière invites children to dive into her vibrant picture book *Un beau bouquet* (a beautiful bouquet) and craft their own paper blooms. Using coloured paper, scissors, and glue, kids will cut, collage, and assemble their very own bouquet of dahlias, peonies, and roses to take home — a perfect mix of creativity and nature!

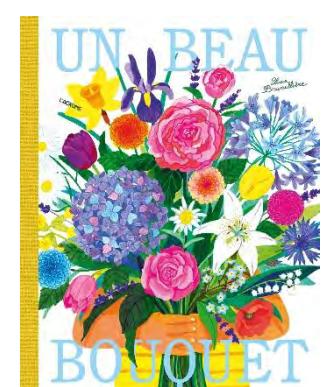
**Materials needed:** A4 drawing paper, 1 set of felt-tip pens for each participant (pink, orange, yellow, light blue, dark blue, light green, dark green, purple, neon pink), 1 glue stick per participant.

**Availabilities for in-school workshops:** Thursday 19th & Friday 20th March 2026

### Recent books:

*Mon tour du monde imaginaire* – Albin Michel (2020)

*Un beau bouquet* – L'agrume (2024)



# GRACE EASTON



Grace Easton is an author and illustrator based in London. She is Senior Illustrator at luxury goods company Smythson of Bond Street and a former designer for Anorak magazine and Penguin Books. She is the illustrator of the bestselling children's edition of *Prisoners of Geography*, shortlisted for the Waterstones Book of the Year and Children's Travel Book of the Year. She is also a contributing illustrator to *Everything Under the Sun*.

## Workshop with Grace Easton

Year 2 – Year 6 | CP – CM2 | In English | 1 hour

Step into the magical world of *The House with the Little Red Door* with author and illustrator Grace Easton! In this draw-along workshop, children will imagine cosy animal homes hidden inside everyday objects — a teapot for a fox, a shoe for a mouse, or a book for a cat! Let your creativity run wild and design the perfect little house for your favourite animal.

**Materials needed:** pen and drawing paper, felt-tip pens.

**Availabilities for in-school workshops:** tbc

### Recent books:

*The House with the Little Red Door* – Thames & Hudson (2025)

*La maison à la petite porte rouge* – Bayard Jeunesse (2025)



# CHARLOTTE GASTAUT



Charlotte's reinterpretations of classic fairytales, including *Thumbelina* and *Sleeping Beauty* (Tate Publishing), showcase a distinctive decorative style characterised by fluid, sensitive lines, rich patterns and highly expressive figures. To date, she has illustrated more than fifty books, many of which have been translated into several languages. Charlotte has collaborated with clients including Fendi, Diptyque, L'Occitane, Van Cleef & Arpels, Godiva, and Hermès.

## Workshop with Charlotte Gastaut

Year 3 + | CE1 + | In French and English | 1 hour

Step into an enchanted forest with illustrator Charlotte Gastaut, for a workshop inspired by her own retelling of the *Sleeping Beauty*. Children will imagine a world where nature reclaims its place, drawing luxuriant landscapes, birds, and flourishing plant life.

**Materials needed:** coloured paper, pen, scissors, felt-tip pens, glue.

**Availabilities for in-school workshops: Thursday 19th & Friday 20th March 2026**

### Recent books:

*La Belle au bois dormant* – Editions Amaterra (2020)  
*Sleeping Beauty* - Tate Publishing (2023)



# ALIX GUICHARD



Alix Guichard is a passionate freelance filmmaker, for whom cinema has become a way to explore and share creativity. In 2018 she created her first film production workshop with the aim to initiate young children to the art of filmmaking. Since then, she has been closely collaborating with creative companies who promote filmmaking courses such as Heyday UK and the Young Film Academy.

## Workshop with Alix Guichard

Year 4 + | CE2 + | In French and English |

2 options:

- Half-day (approx. 3 hours) | £360
- Full day | £500

Inspired by *Le Manchot a Rudement Chaud* by Vincent Gaudin & Barroux

Children will work in small groups of 2–3 to animate one page of the book. Together, the whole class will create the complete film, from interpreting the story to animating it frame by frame, all the way to editing and recording the voice-over. A fun, bilingual session where young participants explore stop-motion animation and experience the joy of making a film together.

### Materials needed:

- Colouring pencils, felt pens, scissors, glue
- Slightly thick A4 paper (dark blue, light blue, white, black, yellow)
- Blu tack
- Tape

For more information: [www.alixguichard.com](http://www.alixguichard.com)

**Availabilities for in-school workshops: from Monday 16th to Friday 20th March 2026**

### Films:

“Jeu m’imagine”, Nikon Film Festival 2021: <https://vimeo.com/513903804?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

“Unknown Player”, in collaboration with a secondary school in Hackney, 2024: <https://vimeo.com/1133860178?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

# LUKE PEARSON



Luke Pearson is the creator of the *Hilda* comic book series. He was also a writer and co-executive producer of the BAFTA and Emmy award-winning animated series of the same name. Outside of his work on *Hilda*, Luke has been an illustrator, a storyboard artist and has drawn a range of other comics. In 2025, *Hilda and Twig: Hide from the Rain* became the first British comic to win the Eisner Award for Best Publication for Early Readers!

## Workshop with Luke Pearson

Year 3 + | CE1 + | In English | 1 hour

Step into the world of *Hilda*! Cartoonist Luke Pearson, creator of the beloved Netflix and comic-book heroine, guides children through the process of inventing their own magical creature. From first sketch to final details, kids will discover how to bring myths and legends to life — just like Hilda's adventures in Trolberg and beyond.

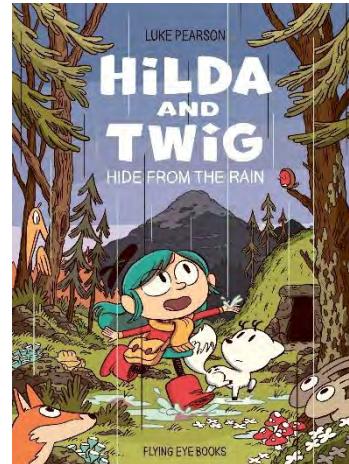
**Materials needed:** pen and paper.

**Availabilities for in-school workshops:** Thursday 19th & Friday 20th March 2026

### Recent books:

*Hilda & Twig: Hide from the Rain* – Flying Eye Books (2024)

*Hilda & Twig: Le Réveil de l'Homme de glace* – Casterman (2025)



# JOSÉPHINE SEBLON



Joséphine Seblon studied art history at the École du Louvre and now works in publishing in London. She cocurated VIEW, a festival of art history at the French Institute in London. Through her Instagram @weareminiartists, she shares the creative fun she has with her two young children, learning about and making art.

## Workshop 1: Split pin puppet workshop with Joséphine Seblon

Reception + | MS + | In English and French | 50 minutes

Join author Joséphine Seblon for a hands-on workshop inspired by Joséphine Seblon and Robert Sae-Heng book *Mini Designers*, and design your own articulated toy! Inspired by the iconic Colouring Toy box created by Charles and Ray Eames, this workshop invites you to create your own split pin puppets. A hands-on craft activity that can easily lead to follow-up projects in class — from storytelling to imaginative play with the characters you bring to life.

### Materials needed:

- White paper or white card
- Pencil
- Felt-tip pens
- Scissors
- Split pins
- Sticky tape
- Lollipop sticks.

## Workshop 2: Medieval scribe workshop with Joséphine Seblon

Year 2 + | CP + | In English and French | 50 minutes

Inspired by the Medieval scribes, design our own illuminated letter! Drawing from Joséphine Seblon and Robert Sae-Heng's *Mini Designers*, this workshop is a great activity for anyone learning about the Middle Ages — and a playful way to bring history and creativity together.

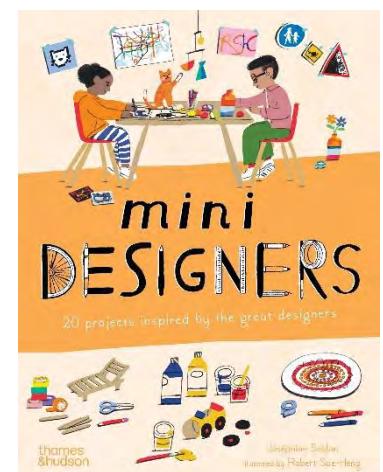
### Materials needed:

- White paper
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Coloured pencils
- Gold and silver glitter glue (optional).

**Availabilities for in-school workshops: Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th & Friday 20th March 2026**

### Recent book:

*Mini Designers: 20 Projects Inspired by the Great Designers* – Thames & Hudson (2025)



# OLIVIER TALLEC



Olivier Tallec was born in Brittany, France. After graduating from the École Supérieure d'Arts Appliqués Duperré in Paris, he travelled extensively and now lives and works in Paris. He has illustrated more than 60 books for children.

## Workshop with Olivier Tallec

Year 2 – Year 3 | CP – CE1 | In French and English | 1 hour

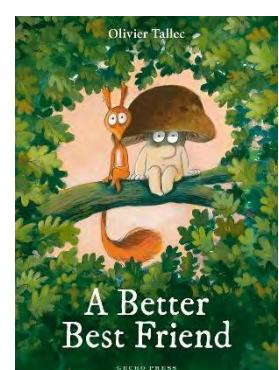
Join us for a heartwarming and humorous workshop exploring the ups and downs of friendship. Through drawing and storytelling, children will imagine their own “best friends”, real or imaginary! With expressive sketches, bold colours, and Olivier’s signature humour, this creative session invites young artists to step right into the playful world of *A Better Best Friend*.

**Materials needed:** scissors, tape, glue, thick felt-tip pens or thick oil pastels, pencils, gouache, brushes.

**Availabilities for in-school workshops:** Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th & Friday 20th March 2026

### Recent books:

*Un meilleur meilleur ami* – Ecole des Loisirs (2023)  
*A Better Best Friend* – Gecko Press (2024)



# JOE TODD-STANTON



As a dyslexic, young British illustrator Joe Todd-Stanton never thought he would write anything himself, but, encouraged by his publisher, he finally took the plunge. A big fan of Hayao Miyazaki, he regularly re-watches *Spirited Away*, which he discovered at the age of eleven and whose rich detail stimulates his mind.

## Workshop 1: Workshop with Joe Todd-Stanton

Year 1 – Year 5 | GS – CM1 | In English | 1 hour

Using a slideshow of mythological creatures from *Leo and the Gorgon's Curse*, pupils will explore different beasts and their features before inventing a fantastic creature of their own. By mixing details and animal parts, they'll create an imaginative hybrid inspired by Greek mythology and let their creativity run wild.

**Materials needed:** projector and visualiser/paper and easel with markers, pen and paper for children.

## Workshop 2 : Workshop with Joe Todd-Stanton

Year 1 – Year 5 | GS – CM1 | In English | 1 hour

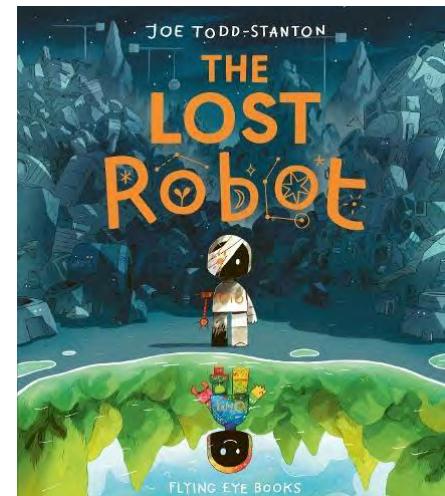
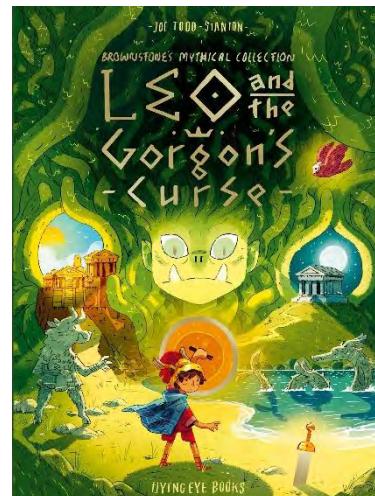
What if rubbish could come alive? Join Joe Todd-Stanton, creator of *The Secret of Black Rock* and *The Comet*, for a fun-filled eco-workshop inspired by *The Lost Robot*. Using recycled materials, children will invent and build their own friendly robot companions — proving that a little imagination can turn trash into treasure!

**Materials needed:** visualiser or paper and easel with markers, pen and paper for children.

**Availabilities for in-school workshops:** tbc

### Recent books:

*Leo and the Gorgon's Curse* - Flying Eye Books (2020)  
*The Lost Robot* – Flying Eye Books (2026)



# BETHAN WOOLLVIN



Bethan Woollvin won the Macmillan Prize for Illustration in 2014 for *Little Red* – her classy, bold interpretation of Little Red Riding Hood. It was a startlingly confident debut which she followed with an equally striking and feminist take on Rapunzel, with not a handsome prince in sight. The eldest in a family of ten children, Bethan understands well what appeals to a variety of age groups, and all her work exudes a natural dry wit and charm. She graduated from Anglia Ruskin University with a First Class Degree in Illustration in 2015 and now lives in Sheffield.

## Workshop 1: Workshop with Bethan Woollvin - Collage

Year 3 – Year 4 | CE1 – CE2 | In English | 60-75 minutes

Calling all young adventurers and artists! Join author/illustrator Bethan Woollvin for a fun-filled workshop inspired by her brand-new twist on *Robin Hood*. Bethan will bring her story to life, share how she creates her bold characters and fairy-tale retellings, and guide you in making your very own *Robin Hood* collage to take home.

*Please note: It would be good to have Robin Hood, as well as Bethan's other fairytales: Rapunzel, Hansel & Gretel, Little Red (all published by Two Hoots).*

**Materials needed:** a computer and screen to display a presentation.

If collaging: Children would need pencils, scissors, glue and plain paper. I would supply the printed worksheets.

## Workshop 2 : Workshop with Bethan Woollvin - Drawing

Year 3 – Year 4 | CE1 – CE2 | In English | 45-60 minutes

Calling all young adventurers and artists! Join author/illustrator Bethan Woollvin for a fun-filled workshop inspired by her brand-new twist on *Robin Hood*. Bethan will bring her story to life, share how she creates her bold characters and fairy-tale retellings, and guide you in making your very own *Robin Hood* masterpiece to take home.

*Please note: It would be good to have Robin Hood, as well as Bethan's other fairytales: Rapunzel, Hansel & Gretel, Little Red (all published by Two Hoots).*

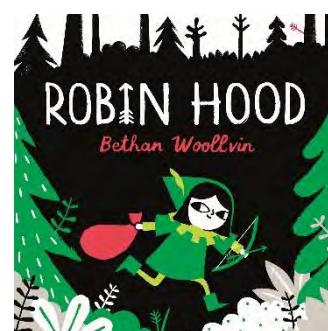
**Materials needed:** a computer and screen to display a presentation.

If drawing: Children will need pencils, paper and something to lean on. I would also need something to draw on, like a flipchart or whiteboard.

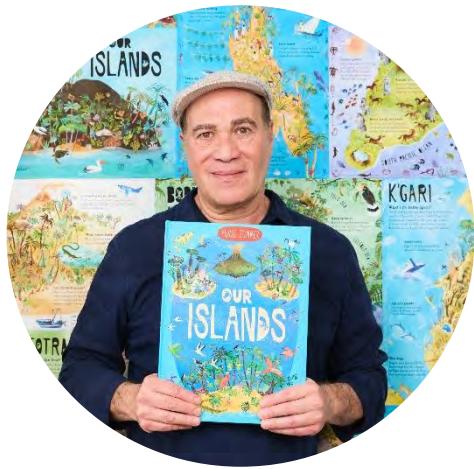
**Availabilities for in-school workshops: Thursday 19th & Friday 20th March 2026**

### Recent books:

*Robin Hood* – Two Hoots (2025)  
*Romane des bois* – Kimane (2025)



# YUVAL ZOMMER



Yuval Zommer is an award-winning and bestselling author, illustrator and environmentalist based in London. He studied at the Royal College of Art, and worked for many years as a creative director at leading advertising agencies before becoming an author and illustrator. Titles in his Big Book series have been worldwide bestsellers, with over two-million copies in print across twenty-eight languages.

## Workshop with Yuval Zommer

Year 2 – Year 5 | CP – CM1 | In English | 1 hour

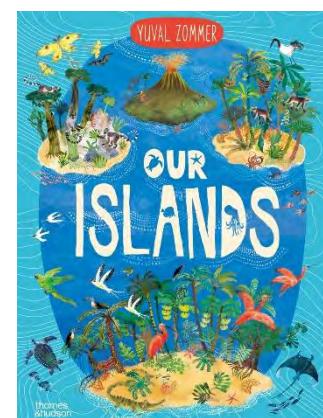
Set sail with Yuval Zommer, author and illustrator of *Our Islands*, on an artistic island-hopping adventure! Through lively storytelling and illustrations, Yuval will introduce some of the magical islands featured in his new book before guiding children to design their own dream island — complete with plants, animals, and hidden treasures. Grab your pencils and let your imagination drift away!

**Materials needed:** crayons, coloured markers for the kids to share, some glue sticks, paper and clipper boards.

**Availabilities for in-school workshops:** tbc

### Recent book:

*Our Islands* – Thames & Hudson (2025)



# At the Institut français

The Institut français has decided to offer events to schools within the SKKF week on **booking only**. Schools might have different restrictions, so please contact **Agathe** if you want to organise a booking just with your school.

**Agathe Morisse**  
[schools@institut-francais.org.uk](mailto:schools@institut-francais.org.uk)  
Direct + 44 (0)20 7871 3511  
- Not in the office on Mondays -

## If you would like to bring your class to the Institut français:

- **Booking is mandatory** for all film screenings, exhibitions and workshops even if they are free; extra sessions can be organised for your school only (year group or bubble class) for a fee.
- All sessions are free for accompanying adult.

# At the Institut français Koalako: PAWS UP!

## Live Show: PAWS UP!

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30am - 11.30am

Year 1 + | GS + | in French and English | 55 mins | £10/pupil

Billy's father is a famous gangster. But he worries about his son:  
'I wonder if you can become a good gangster, Billy. You're too kind.'  
So, he gives him an old unloaded pistol, a belt and a hat so that he can test his ability to scare those he meets on his way.  
Will Billy, with the help of the audience, succeed in his mission while THE FOX is lurking around?

This English adaptation of the famous children's book by Catharina Valckx 'PAWS UP!' ("Haut les pattes !") is a poetic, interactive and funny show. It is performed in French and English and is suitable for an audience not speaking any French!

After 'Jackie and the Giant' and 'Jackie and the Horrible Family' by David Fisher, the Koalako Company adapts 'Paws up!' by Catharina Valckx, an essential children's album which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2020.

An introduction to French from 5 years old.

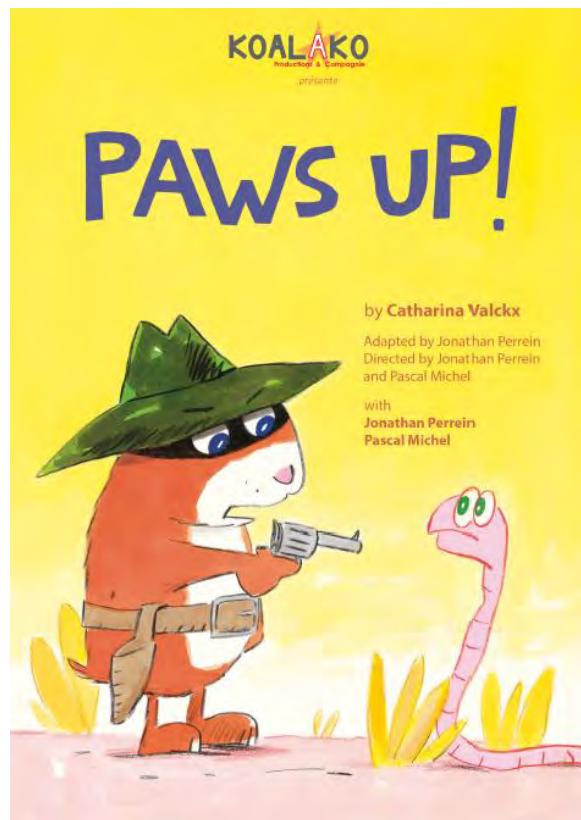
### Detailed Features

Author: Catharina Valckx - adaptation Jonathan Perrein

Directed by Jonathan Perrein and Pascal Michel

Performed by Jonathan Perrein and Pascal Michel

### Company: Koalako



# At the Institut français

## Multilingual Poetry Slam Competition

### Workshop : Multilingual Poetry Slam 2026 – Where Languages Collide and Creativity Thrives!

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March (at the Institut français)

Year 6 – Year 13 | CM2 - Terminale | In English | 1 day | free for state schools / £120/class for independent schools

Get ready for the 10th edition of the Multilingual Poetry Slam at the South Ken Kids Festival! This electrifying event transforms poetry into a vibrant performance art, blending words from French, English, Spanish and many more languages into powerful group creations.

Students from diverse schools will collaborate, write, rehearse, and perform multilingual poems in a single day, guided by expert poets and educators. Expect a stage bursting with rhythm, emotion, and linguistic flair as teams compete for prizes like Best Imagery, Best Collaboration, Best Performance, Best combination of Languages, Best Expression of Feelings and the classic poetry slam winner decided by audience members with scores out of 10 (and a decimal!).

Hosted by event creator Michaël Vidon, poet and spoken word educator, the slam celebrates language learning, creativity, and confidence. It's warm, rowdy, and unforgettable—where every voice matters and every language shines!

*Thanks to the European Union for funding this event.*

#### Programme of the day:

10.30-13.00: Writing session  
13.00-13.45: Lunch  
13.45-14.45: Rehearsals  
15.00-16.00: Poetry Slam

#### For whom?

Language students of French, German and Spanish of all abilities. Any students with a home language or with an interest in languages.

#### Benefits for students

*Literacy skills:* creative writing in English, confidence in speaking in public and developing fluidity and spontaneity in a foreign language. Self-esteem and emotional literacy: expressing and talking about feelings and thoughts.

*Metalinguistic skills:* switching between different languages and translating, comparing linguistic structures. Collaborative skills working with students from other schools and backgrounds. Use of GCSE and A Level topic in a meaningful and creative way.

Prizes include tokens from the Institut français for the winners of the different categories (best imagery, best collaboration, best performance, best combination of languages, most expressive and audience choice).

# At the Institut français Multilingual Poetry Slam Competition



**Michaël Vidon**

Creative educator passionate about inspiring curiosity and confidence in language learners, Michaël Vidon blends innovative creative methods inspired by poetry and rap with school curricula. When he is not teaching French and leading his department in an Outstanding state school, he empowers students on multilingual creative projects and collaborates with Institut Français du Royaume-Uni, European Union, Stephen Spender Trust and other arts organisations. He is one of a few poets in the world to have been selected on the groundbreaking Spoken Word Education Programme at Goldsmiths University.

Vidon writes and performs in English, in French but his favourite thing is the mix French and English. Translation processes are at the heart of Vidon's work. They are dynamic tools : the original, in French or English, morphs in tandem with its target. Vidon navigates the space between meanings in his writing and with learners while celebrating and elevating their lived experiences and wealth of languages.

Michaël can be booked in the weeks preceding, to do introduction to multilingual poetry. For any question about introductory workshops, please contact him on [Michael.vidon@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.vidon@gmail.com)

This year, Michaël will be joined by Elida Silvey, Steve Larkin, and Keith Jarrett.

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**Elida Silvey**

Elida Silvey is a self-taught Mexican-American writer, editor and artist living in London. Her work is concerned with visual theory as it relates to the concepts of identity, time and “the self”, experienced through (collective) memory. She regularly writes in experimental forms about this topic on her Substack, Through the Eye of the Needle. She is the assistant editor for Montez Press and is ½ of Dream Club, an experimental film club. Her debut novel ‘Paola &’ will be published by Montez Press for 2027.



**Steve Larkin**

Steve Larkin is a trailblazing spoken word artist, writer, and educator, best known as the founder and director of Hammer & Tongue, the UK's leading poetry slam organisation. A former International Poetry Slam Champion and nominee for Oxford Professor of Poetry, Larkin has spent over two decades shaping the spoken word scene. Beyond performance, Steve is a passionate educator. He has lectured in poetry, storytelling, and creative writing at Oxford Brookes University and led workshops in schools, community centres, and prisons. His projects explore the intersections of language, creativity, and social engagement. He is a regular of the Multilingual Poetry Slam



**Dr Keith Jarrett**

Dr Keith Jarrett is an acclaimed writer, performer, and educator from London, celebrated for his dynamic spoken word and page poetry. A UK Poetry Slam Champion and International Slam Winner, Jarrett has been a leading voice in contemporary British poetry. His work explores themes of identity, race, sexuality, and cultural heritage, often drawing on Black British and Caribbean histories and religious traditions. Jarrett's debut pamphlet, *I Speak Home* (Eyewear, 2015), was followed by his full-length collection *Selah* (Burning Eye Books, 2017), praised for its lyrical richness and emotional depth. He also wrote the play *Safest Spot in Town*, performed at the Old Vic and aired on BBC Four as part of the *Queers* series.

# At the Institut français

## Cinema programme

Monday 16th March  
13h-14h40



### **FILM – The King & the Mockingbird + Intro Michael Leader (Ghibliotheque)**

*Le Roi & L'Oiseau* | FR | 1980 | 83 mins | dir. Paul Grimault | Cert. U | in French with Eng subs | from Y5 | £3/pupil

Animator Paul Grimault and poet/screenwriter Jacques Prévert collaboration over 30 years brought us the intergenerational French masterpiece that is *The King & the Mockingbird*. Adapted from a Hans Christian Anderson fairytale, we follow the King of Takicardia feared by all the kingdom and its subjects. The King is in love with a beautiful shepherdess in a painting on his wall, but she is in love with a chimney sweep from another artwork. Often considered one of the best animated features of all time and winner of the Prix Louis Delluc, this animation film has been cited by Studio Ghibli's Hayao Miyazaki and Isao Takahata as a profound influence on their work.

Tuesday 17th March  
10h30-11h55



### **FILM – My Life in Versailles (UK Premiere)**

*La Vie de Château Mon Enfance à Versailles* | FR | 2025 | 81 mins | dir. Clémence Madeleine-Perdrillat & Nathaniel H'Lim | Cert. TBC | in French with Eng subs | from Y4 | £3/pupil

Clémence Madeleine-Perdrillat & Nathaniel H'Lim's first feature film strucks to the heart with humour and candour. After her parents' passing, eight-year-old Violet goes to live with her uncle, Regis, a gruff maintenance worker at the Palace of Versailles. Despite a rocky start, Violet and Regis learn to live and face life's challenges together. Through complex friendships, first loves and a Christmas trip to Violet's grandparents, they slowly create a new life rich in discoveries and tender moments in the heart of Versailles.

Tuesday 17th March  
13h00-14h30



### **FILM in Partnership with the INTO FILM FESTIVAL – The Bears' Famous Invasion of Sicily**

*La Fameuse Invasion des Ours en Sicile* | FR/IT | 2019 | 82 mins | dir. Lorenzo Mattotti | Cert. TBC | in French with Eng subs | From Y4 | FREE

To find his long-lost son and some food to survive the winter, the great bear king leads his clan down from the mountains and into the world of men. After escaping terrible monsters and defeating an evil duke, the bears and men live together in peace – for a time.

# Booking forms

All forms are to be returned to **Sarah Sangoï** at [sarah.sangoi@institut-francais.org.uk](mailto:sarah.sangoi@institut-francais.org.uk) or **Agathe Morisse** at [schools@institut-francais.org.uk](mailto:schools@institut-francais.org.uk)

## Contact detail:

Name of your school:

Address:

Reference person and email address:

Phone number:

Contact of the teacher or librarian who will be present at Institut français:

Email address:

Phone number:

**"Events at the Institut booking form"** is to be returned to **Agathe Morisse** at

[schools@institut-francais.org.uk](mailto:schools@institut-francais.org.uk), **before Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**.

*Subject to availability and health and safety regulations*

### 1. Event:

Number of classes and pupils:

Class:

Number of accompanying adults:

Contact of teachers who will come to the French Institute: **Name - Email - Phone number:**

### 2. Event:

Number of classes and pupils:

Class:

Number of accompanying adults:

Contact of teachers who will come to the Institut français: **Name - Email - Phone number:**

### 3. Event:

Number of classes and pupils:

Class:

Number of accompanying adults:

Contact of teachers who will come to the Institut français: **Name - Email - Phone number:**

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***List a maximum of three artists who will deliver workshops (in order of preference!).  
The session is for one class only.***

1. Name of the artist:

Date and time preferred for the session:

Class:

Number of pupils:

2. Name of the artist:

Date and time preferred for the session:

Class:

Number of pupils:

3. Name of the artist:

Date and time preferred for the session:

Class:

Number of pupils: