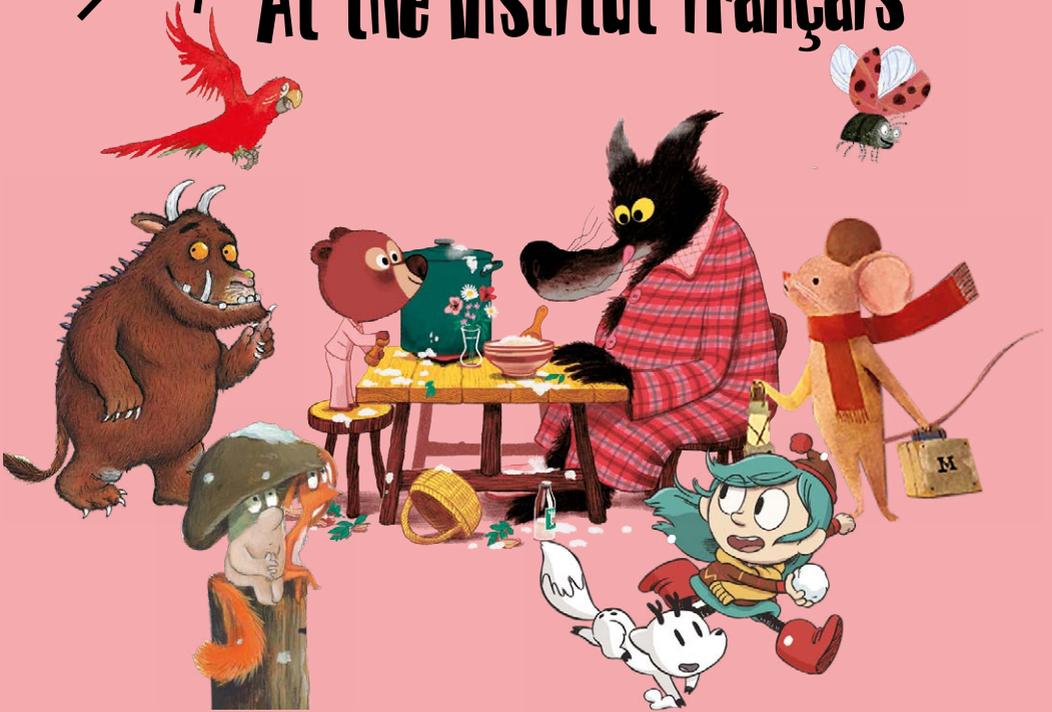


28th

South Ken Kids Festival

16-24 Mar 2026

At the Institut français



INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS
Royaume-Uni

Join the 28th edition of the South Ken Kids Festival!



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 the whole family.

Entirely bilingual, multilingual at times, this edition will be a treat for fans of literature and illustration of all ages.



The tremendous line-up of authors and artists from both sides of the Channel and beyond includes **Guillaume Gallienne, Axel Scheffler, Luke Pearson, Bethan Woollvin, Michael Rosen, Lucie Brunellière, Joe Todd-Stanton, Grace Easton, Olivier Tallec, Yuval Zommer, Joséphine Seblon, Robert Sae-Heng, Clémentine Beauvais, Charlotte Gastaut** and many others. They will join us, under the ever-generous patronage of our beloved **Quentin Blake**.

The French Institute throws open its doors to all readers, young and old, to enjoy children's and young adult's literature, comic books, graphic novels, films and music. Au programme: **storytelling, live drawing, workshops, talks, screenings and book signings!**

All welcome!



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

Schedule

Friday 20 March

16.10 - 17.48 - **Screening** - Arco



Saturday 21 March

10.30 - 14.00 - **Workshop** - **Stop Motion Animation**

10.30 - 12.10 - **Screening** - **The King and the Mockingbird + intro**

11.00 - 12.00 - **Workshop** - **Workshop with Olivier Tallec**

11.00 - 12.00 - **Workshop** - **Workshop with Lucie Brunellière**

12.00 - 12.45 - **Live Event** - **Poetry with Michael Rosen and Michaël Vidon**

12.55 - 14.33 - **Screening** - Arco

13.00 - 14.30 - **Screening** - **My Life in Versailles – UK Premiere**

13.30 - 14.30 - **Workshop** - **Workshop with Charlotte Gastaut**

13.30 - 14.30 - **Workshop** - **Workshop with Luke Pearson**

15.00 - 15.45 - **Live Event** - **Drawing Duo: Axel Scheffler and Grace Easton**

16.15 - 17.15 - **Workshop** - **Workshop with Bethan Woollvin**

16.15 - 17.15 - **Workshop** - **Poetry Workshop with Clémentine Beauvais**

17.30 - 18.30 - **Live event** - **Impro!**

Sunday 22 March

11.00 - 12.00 - **Workshop** - **Workshop with Joséphine Seblon and Robert Sae-Heng**

11.00 - 12.00 - **Workshop** - **Workshop with Yuval Zommer**

11.00 - 12.00 - **Workshop** - **Workshop with the Club Petit Pierrot**

11.00 - 12.32 - **Screening** - Arco

13.00 - 14.00 - **Workshop** - **Translation Workshop with Sarah Ardizzone**

14.00 - 15.00 - **Workshop** - **Workshop with Grace Easton**

14.00 - 15.00 - **Workshop** - **Workshop with Joe Todd-Stanton**

14.00 - 15.00 - **Workshop** - **Kurio Comic Books Workshop**

14.15 - 15.47 - **Screening** - Arco

16.15 - 18.10 - **Screening** - **Little Vampire**



Tuesday 24 March

16.15 - 17.53 - **Screening** - Arco

17.15 - 19.05 - **Screening** - **Asterix & Obelix: God Save Britannia + Q&A**



From 25 February to 31 March

During opening hours of La Médiathèque

Exhibition - **Quentin Blake: Fantastic Journeys and Clown**



Arco

Film | Fri 20 March 16.10 - 17.48, Sat 21 March 12.55 - 14.33, Sun 22 March, 11.00 - 12.32 + 14.15 - 15.47, Tue 24 March 16.15 - 17.53 | 6+ | £14 adult(s) only or £6 / ticket for families with kids
 Dir. Ugo Bienvenu | 82 mins | in French with EN subs

10-year-old Arco comes from the future and lands by mistake in 2075 where he meets Iris. Now stuck in a world where technology has gone too far and the environment is at stake, Arco will count on the strong friendships he makes to return home. Produced by **Natalie Portman**, Ugo Bienvenu's Arco won the **Cristal Award** at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival.



Workshop with Olivier Tallec

Sat 21 March, 11.00 - 12.00 | 7+ (kids only) | £8

Enter the playful world of **Olivier Tallec** and transform yourself with a mask of your own creation! Children will explore shapes, colours, and expressions to design masks that are as funny, wild, or mysterious as they like. A joyful workshop that invites every young artist to slip into someone else's skin!



Stop Motion Animation

Workshop | Sat 21 March, 10.30 - 14.00 | in English | 8+ (kids only) | £30 (includes lunch box)

Discover the art of stop motion through a fun bilingual workshop inspired by *Le Manchot a rudement chaud* (*The Penguin Who's Far Too Hot*) by Vincent Gaudin & Barroux. Working together, under the direction of **Alix Guichard**, children will bring a page of the book to life, drawing, cutting, creating characters and scenery, and animating frame by frame. The group will make a short collective film and record voice-over lines, discovering how a story becomes an animated film.



Workshop with Lucie Brunellière

Sat 21 March, 11.00 - 12.00 | 6+ (kids only) | £8

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!



The King and the Mockingbird

Film | Sat 21 March, 10.30 - 12.10 6+ | £6

Dir. Paul Grimault | 83 mins | in French with EN subs

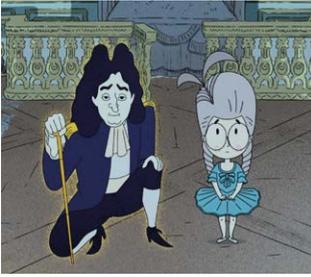
Animator Paul Grimault and poet/screenwriter Jacques Prévert brought us the intergenerational French masterpiece that is *The King and the Mockingbird*. The ruthless King of Takicardia is in love with a beautiful shepherdess, but she is in love with a chimney sweep. **Preceded by an intro with Michael Leader and Jake Cunningham, creators & hosts of Ghibliothèque.**



Poetry with Michael Rosen and Michaël Vidon

Live Event | Sat 21 March, 12.00 - 12.45 | 8+ (for all) | £8

Join **Michael Rosen**, beloved poet, author, and performer, and **Michael Vidon**, poet and spoken word educator, for an unforgettable experience! This lively event brings poetry in French and English, in translation and stories adapted into rap. Expect laughter, rhythm, and creativity in a show that's interactive and fun for the whole family.



My Life in Versailles

Film | Sat 21 March, 13.00 - 14.30

6+ | £6 | UK Premiere

Dir(s) Clémence Madeleine-Perdrillat & Nathaniel H'Limi | 81 mins | in French with EN subs

After her parents' passing, eight-year-old Violet goes to live with her uncle, Regis, a gruff maintenance worker at the Palace of Versailles. Through complex friendships, first loves and a Christmas trip to Violet's grandparents, they slowly create a new life rich in discoveries in the heart of Versailles.



Workshop with Charlotte Castaut

Sat 21 March, 13.30 - 14.30 | 7+ (kids only) | £8

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.



Workshop with Luke Pearson

Sat 21 March, 13.30 - 14.30 | 7+ (kids only) | £8

Cartoonist **Luke Pearson**, creator of the beloved Netflix and comic-book heroine Hilda, 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.



Drawing Duo: Axel Scheffler and Grace Easton

Live Event | Sat 21 March, 15.00 - 15.45 | For all | £8

Father of the *Gruffalo*, **Axel Scheffler** will cross paintbrushes with illustrator **Grace Easton** whose playful, character-driven work includes the much-loved *House with the Little Red Door*. Their worlds and characters will collide on stage for a unique and fabulous drawing duo projected on the cinema screen.



Workshop with Bethan Woollvin

Sat 21 March, 16.15 - 17.15 | 4+ (kids only) | £8

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. Discover how she creates her characters and stories, and create your very own Robin Hood masterpiece to take home! Cut out and assemble the character, then imagine the treasures she takes from the Sheriff and put them in the sack.



Poetry Workshop with Clémentine Beauvais

Sat 21 March, 16.15 - 17.15 | For all £8

Join author **Clémentine Beauvais** for a poetic stroll through the city inspired by *On the Streets of Paris*. This creative workshop invites children to play with words and capture the spirit of the city of lights through poetry, inventing their own verses shaped by the rhythms of Parisian streets.



Impro!

Live Event | Sat 21 March, 17.30 - 18.30 | For all | £8

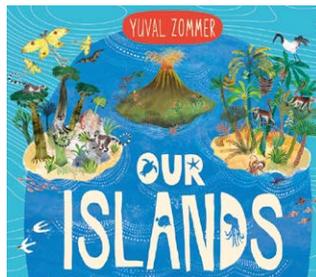
Voted best event of the festival for years, *Impro!* gathers guest illustrators **Axel Scheffler**, **Luke Pearson**, **Bethan Woollvin**, **Lucie Brunellière**, **Joe Todd-Stanton**, **Grace Easton**, **Charlotte Gastaut**, **Robert Sae-Heng**, **Olivier Tallec**, **Lucie Arnoux**, **Yuval Zommer**, and awesome trumpet player **Olivia Cuttill** on stage for a wild and joyful evening of live creation.



Workshop with Joséphine Seblon and Robert Sae-Heng

Sun 22 March, 11.00 - 12.00 | 4+ (kids only) | £8

Inspired by the Romans, children will explore the art of mosaic-making using clay, beans, and seeds. A hands-on workshop found in *We Are Mini Designers*, this workshop will begin with a look at Roman mosaics - often featuring geometric patterns or animals - before children create their own mosaics tiles to take home!



Workshop with Yuval Zommer

Sun 22 March, 11.00 - 12.00 | 6+ (kids only) | £8

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!



Workshop with the Club Petit Pierrot

Sun 22 March, 11.00 - 12.00 | 4+ (kids only) | £8

Club Petit Pierrot invites you to a fun and interactive workshop based on the picture book *C'est mon arbre* by Olivier Tallec. Young readers will develop their reading and speaking skills while discovering the story together and taking part in a guided discussion about nature, sharing and caring for the environment, encouraging curiosity, reflection and playful learning.



Kurio Comic Books Workshop

Sun 22 March, 14.00 - 15.00 | 7+ (kids only) | £8

Let's learn how to draw characters from *KURIO!* Grab your pens, pencils and paper because it's time for *How to Draw Kurio Characters!* Come and discover how to draw the Kurio Kat and his friends from the brand new magazine Kurio 7+. With editor/cartoonist **Alex Barrow**, you'll follow a step-by-step guide to creating your favourite Kurio friends.



Workshop with Grace Easton

Sun 22 March, 14.00 - 15.00 | 6+ (kids only) | £8

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.



Workshop with Joe Todd-Stanton

Sun 22 March, 14.00 - 15.00 | 5+ (kids only) | £8

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!



Translation Workshop with Sarah Ardizzone

Sun 22 March, 13.00 - 14.00 | 7+ (kids only) | £8

Join award-winning translator **Sarah Ardizzone** for a creative, hands-on workshop inspired by Joann Star's comic adaptation of *The Little Prince*. Explore how to translate words, images and sounds, and what happens when St Exupéry's classic meets Star's playful graphic universe. This workshop celebrates the 2026 reissue of Star's version, marking the 80th anniversary of the original French edition.



Little Vampire

Film | Sun 22 March, 16.15 - 18.10 6+ | £6

Dir. Joann Sfar | 82 mins | in French with EN subs

Little Vampire has been 10 years old for the last 300 years. Despite living in a haunted house with a merry group of monsters, he is bored to death... His dream? Going to school to meet other kids. Unfortunately, his parents won't let him leave the mansion, as for them, the outside world is way too dangerous! Accompanied by his trusted bulldog Phantomato, Little Vampire secretly sneaks out on a quest for new friends.



Asterix & Obelix: God Save Britannia

Film | Tue 24 March, 17.15 - 19.05 6+ | £6-£14

Dir Laurent Tirard | 110 mins | in French with EN subs

Struggling to resist Julius Caesar's conquest of Britain, Queen Cordelia sends her most faithful officer Anticlimax to seek aid in Gaul, where he finds Asterix and Obelix. They already have their hands full, since their chief has entrusted them with his good-for-nothing nephew Justforkix. However, they travel together to Britain with a barrel of their famous magic potion, and nothing quite turns out as planned...

Q&A with Guillaume Gallienne

Quentin Blake: Fantastic Journeys and Clown

Exhibition | 25 Feb - 31 March, during opening hours of La Médiathèque

Discover **Quentin Blake's** *Fantastic Journeys* and *Clown* in a colourful exhibition of prints specially curated for the festival.

Ahead of the Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration opening next May, step into his world of mischievous characters, tender clowns and joyful chaos – a unique chance for children and grown-ups alike to explore the artwork up close.



Info & Booking

Online: www.institut-francais.org.uk/south-ken-kids-festival

Box office: 020 7871 3515

Please note that all information is correct at the time of print but liable to change. Do check our website for updates and additional events. Tickets are neither exchangeable nor refundable. If not specified otherwise, all workshops are for kids only. Other events welcome both parents and children (one ticket per person necessary).



Book Signing

Come and browse through hundreds of books from our on-site booksellers: **Nomad Books** for the English editions and **La Page** for those who can read in French. Artists will be happy to sign their books. Please check our website for the book signing schedule.



Social Media

#SKKF2026

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Venue

Institut français
17 Queensberry Place
London SW7 2DT
Tube: South Kensington



For Schools

The South Ken Kids Festival has at heart to reach out across London and beyond. During the week of the festival, we offer different workshops, talks with authors, film screenings, and a play at the French Institute or at your school.



To see or download the school programme, visit: www.institut-francais.org.uk/south-ken-kids-festival

Press Enquiries

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