

Headline Films 2017  
11-18  
MAY

at the Institut français, London

# BEYOND WORDS

FRENCH Talks  
LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Performances

[www.beyondwordslifest.co.uk](http://www.beyondwordslifest.co.uk)

INSTITUT  
FRANÇAIS

# French literature, live, loud and proud!

Prepare for the new Live French Literature Festival at the Institut français - a six-day programme packed with guest appearances of French-language writers recently translated into English, and English writers who have a special love affair with France. It's been an intense year, and it's time for words, fiction, history, romance, poetry... and for some live literature performances.

The words in this festival will be as bilingual as we can make them, using all that live literature can bring to go beyond the printed pages and out into a world that spans from France to Mauritius and from Spain to the Far East, crossing through decades of history. From book to stage, from page to score, from script to screen, and beyond...

Working closely with publishers of fiction in translation, the Institut français has also teamed up with the British Library and Dulwich Books to invite you to an exciting series of staged reading performances, writers' talks, musical encounters, film adaptations, and collective poetry experiments.

With special thanks to the *Friends of the French Institute* trust and to Vincent and Florence Gombault for their support to this brand new festival.



## ***The End of Eddy* by Edouard Louis**

### **STAGED READING**

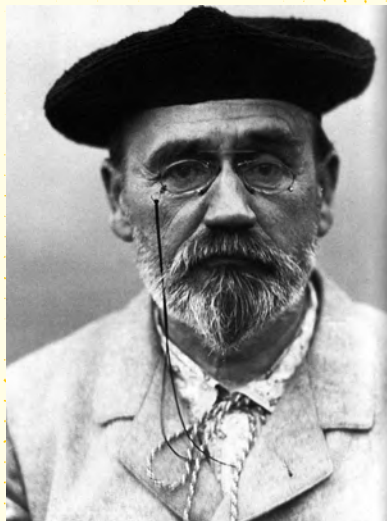
*'Before I had a chance to rebel against the world of my childhood, that world rebelled against me'*. The festival opens with an exceptional staged reading of a book which took the French literary scene by storm. Translated into twenty languages and now into English by Harvill Secker, Edouard Louis' *The End of Eddy* (translated by Michael Lucey) tells the life of a young gay boy growing up in a French town crushed by misery, alcoholism, racism and homophobia. Giving a voice to the voiceless, it is a painful and vibrant story of escape and revolt. How to reinvent what has been forced upon us? How to get the better of a life not chosen? Adapted to the stage by Richard Brunel, director of the Comédie de Valence National Theatre, in collaboration with the Manchester School of Theatre.

**7pm – 8.30pm | £15, conc. £13**

**In English**

**[www.penguin.co.uk](http://www.penguin.co.uk)**

**THURSDAY 11 MAY**



## **Michael Rosen: *The Disappearance of Emile Zola***

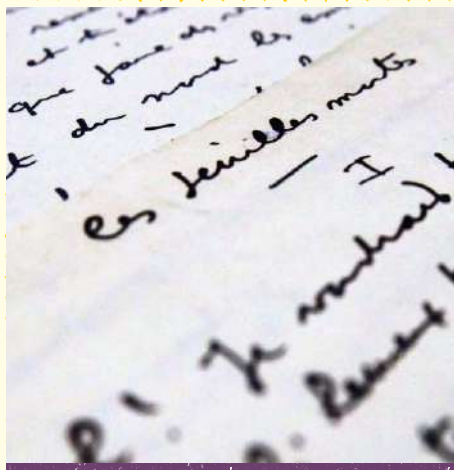
### **TALK**

Discover the incredible story of Emile Zola's escape to London in the aftermath of the scandalous Dreyfus Affair. Michael Rosen, Children's Laureate and author of more than 140 books enjoyed by children and adults alike, offers an intriguing and personal insight into the mind, the love, and the politics of Zola in a book published this year by Faber & Faber. He will take you behind the scenes of the famous *J'accuse* that forced Zola to leave Paris in disgrace.

6pm – 7pm | £10, conc. £8

In English

[www.faber.co.uk](http://www.faber.co.uk)



## **French Poetry Live**

### **SHARED READING**

Poems are to be shared, embodied, whispered and spoken out loud. Pick your favourite poem from the National Poetry Library's collection and bring it to life, in a moment of collective performance led by Erica Jarnès. No preparation necessary, just bring your voice and ears!

6.30pm – 7.30pm | £10, conc. £8

In English and French

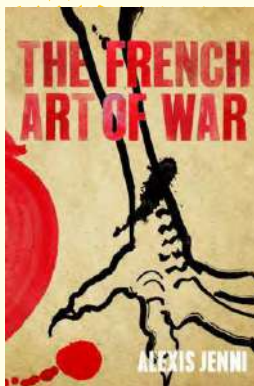
[www.poetrylibrary.org.uk](http://www.poetrylibrary.org.uk)

FRIDAY 12 MAY

## Alexis Jenni and Hisham Matar: Rewriting History

### TALK

To celebrate the UK launch of *The French Art of War* (Atlantic Books) and the French publication of *The Return* (Penguin / Gallimard), we welcome Goncourt prize winner Alexis Jenni and PEN America 2017 laureate Hisham Matar. Jenni's novel spans essential decades of recent French history, from the aftermath of the Second World War in the 1950s, to the decolonisation and Algerian war of the 1970s. Meanwhile, Matar tells his illuminating journey to find his father, kidnapped and handed over to the Libyan regime in 1990, and retraces his steps to rediscover his country after years of exile. Both authors will be joined by their translators, French writer Agnès Desarthe and Frank Wynne, for a discussion on writing, generations, history and violence.



7.30pm - 9pm | £10, conc. £8

In English and French

[www.atlantic-books.co.uk](http://www.atlantic-books.co.uk)

[www.gallimard.fr](http://www.gallimard.fr)

[www.penguin.co.uk](http://www.penguin.co.uk)

## Corniche Kennedy

### FILM

dir. Dominique Cabrera, 2016

Adapted from a novel by Maylis de Kerangal, *Corniche Kennedy* follows a group of adolescents from the working-class neighbourhoods of Marseille who defy the laws of gravity in this ode to youthful sincerity and blue summers by the Mediterranean sea. Maylis de Kerangal has just been shortlisted for the Wellcome Trust prize for *Mend the Living* (MacLehose Press).

Followed by a Q&A with director Dominique Cabrera.

8.40pm - 10.30pm | £12, conc. £10

In French with English subtitles

[www.gallimard.fr](http://www.gallimard.fr)



SATURDAY 13 MAY

## Truth and Fiction

### CAFÉ PHILO

For this special festival edition of our Café Philo, come and discuss the question of truth and fiction. In times of Post-Truth and alternative realities, what do we hope for when we read fictional stories? To what extent do fragments of reality impact the imaginary quality of the narrative? What narratives and fictions seem most relevant to today's concerns?

10.30am – 12pm | £2

In English



## Emmanuelle Pagano and Ananda Devi

### TALK

Join Emmanuelle Pagano, Ananda Devi and the brand new Librairie Caravanserail for an afternoon of readings and more. In *Trysting* (And Other Stories), Emmanuelle Pagano presents a myriad of minutely choreographed vignettes on love and desire. Ananda Devi

sets *Eve Out of Her Ruins* (Les Fugitives) in her native island Mauritius, telling the loss of innocence of four teenagers against the backdrop of postcolonial fin-de-siècle. Pagano and Devi will talk about their work and the influences of other voices and art forms. The conversation will be followed by a drink to celebrate the launch of Caravanserail.

3pm – 4pm | £10, conc. £8

In English and French

[www.andotherstories.org](http://www.andotherstories.org)

[www.lesfugitives.com](http://www.lesfugitives.com)

## A Woman's Life

### FILM

dir. Stéphane Brizé; 2016

In this compelling adaptation of Guy de Maupassant's *A Woman's Life*, Jeanne, a young noblewoman, copes with the loss of her ideals as she sets out on the path of adulthood and gradually experiences the harsh realities of a woman's life in the nineteenth century.

4pm – 6pm | £12, conc. £10

In French with English subtitles





## Mathias Malzieu: *Diary of a Vampire in Pyjamas*

### TALK

*'To have had my life saved has been the most extraordinary adventure I have ever had'* says Mathias Malzieu. Best known as the lead singer of the French band Dionysos, Mathias is now also an acclaimed writer. He will join us – possibly with some music – on the occasion of the UK launch of his latest book, *Diary of a Vampire in Pyjamas* by Quercus. Insightful, tragic and funny, it is the memoir of one who lives to tell the tale of his close encounter with death, and of his addictive wonder at the triumph of the human spirit.

5pm – 6pm | £10, conc. £8

In English and French

[www.quercusbooks.co.uk](http://www.quercusbooks.co.uk)

## Man Booker International Readings READINGS AND MUSIC

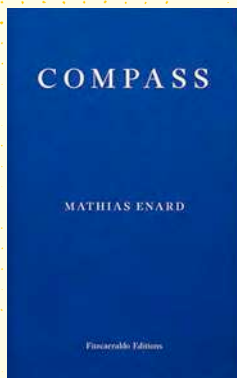
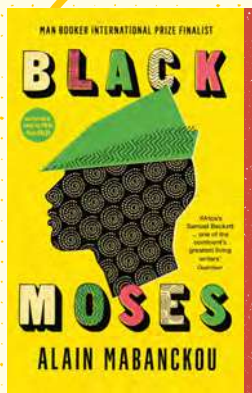
Mathias Enard's nocturnal and musical Goncourt-winning novel *Compass* (Fitzcarraldo Editions) spans the restless night of an insomniac musicologist drifting between dreams and memories of the Middle East, of Aleppo, Damascus and Tehran, as well as of various writers, artists, musicians and orientalists. Meanwhile, Alain Mabanckou's *Black Moses* (Serpent's Tail), a larger than life comic tale set in 1970s Congo, shows the struggle of a young man obsessed with helping the helpless in an unjust world. Storytellers Alia Alzougbi and David Mildon, accompanied by oud player Rihab Azar, invite you to celebrate these French language novels, both longlisted for the 2017 Man Booker International Prize.

6.30pm - 7.30pm | £10, conc. £8

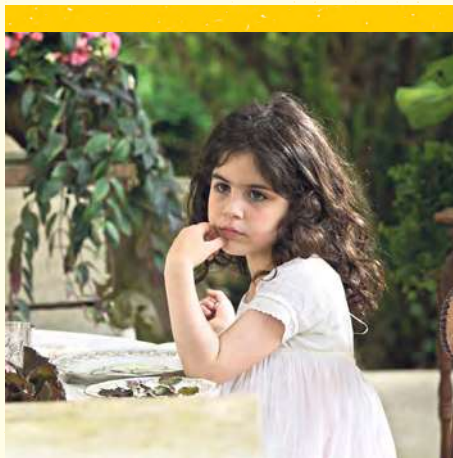
In English and French

[www.fitzcarraldoeditions.com](http://www.fitzcarraldoeditions.com)

[www.serpentstail.com](http://www.serpentstail.com)



SUNDAY 14 MAY



## **Sophie's Misfortunes**

### **FILM - KIDS**

dir. Christophe Honoré, 2016

Christophe Honoré's recent adaptation of the Comtesse de Ségur's classic collection of stories about mischievous little Sophie will delight kids and young at heart. Far from being a model little girl, she's constantly up to no good, cutting her mother's fish into tiny pieces, making chalk tea or torturing her wax doll.

**11am - 1pm | £5 | 6+**

*in French with English subtitles*



## ALAIN RESNAIS **HIROSHIMA MON AMOUR**

## **Hiroshima mon Amour**

### **FILM**

dir. Alain Resnais, 1959

One of the most influential films of all time, Alain Resnais' *Hiroshima mon amour* features Marguerite Duras's clear, minimalist and haunting prose and revealed Emmanuelle Riva to the world as a French actress who engages in a brief, intense affair with a Japanese architect in postwar Hiroshima.

**2pm - 3.30pm | £9, conc. £7**

*in French with English subtitles*



## **Lydie Salvayre: *Cry, Mother Spain*** **TALK AND READINGS**

Goncourt Prize-winning *Cry, Mother Spain* takes us to the heart of the Spanish Civil War, as seen through the delicate transcription of a politically, emotionally and linguistically charged conversation between mother and daughter. Montse is fifteen as Franco's forces begin their murderous purges and cities across Spain rise up against the old order. Those troubled times, both the happiest and most miserable years of Montse's life, are set against darker extracts taken from the contemporary account *Les Grands Cimetières sous la lune* by Georges Bernanos. Lydie Salvayre will be in conversation with her translator Ben Faccini.

**4pm – 5pm | £10, conc. £8**

**In English and French**

**[www.maclehosepress.com](http://www.maclehosepress.com)**



## **Delphine de Vigan: *Based on a True Story***

### **TALK**

*Based on a True Story* by Delphine de Vigan is a prize-winning, sophisticated and chilling novel of suspense which continually blurs the line between fact and fiction. Just published by Bloomsbury in a translation by George Miller, this unputdownable book takes the reader into a nightmarish story of master manipulation. Rarely seen in London, Delphine de Vigan will tell us more about the boundaries between reality and fantasy, friendship and fascination, and a little too about her previous bestselling books *No* and *Me* and *Nothing Holds Back the Night*.

**5.30pm – 6.30pm | £10, conc. £8**

**In English and French**

**[www.bloomsbury.com](http://www.bloomsbury.com)**

TUESDAY 16 MAY



## Laurent Binet: *The Seventh Function of Language*

### TALK

February 1980. Roland Barthes is knocked down in a Paris street by a laundry van. History tells us it was an accident. But what if it were an assassination? What if Barthes was carrying a document of global importance? A document explaining the seventh function

of language – which gives whoever masters it the ability to convince anyone, in any situation, to do anything. Who can you trust when the idea of truth itself is at stake? Laurent Binet, author of the bestselling *HHhH* and winner of the Goncourt first novel prize, will be presenting this brilliantly erudite comedy, published by Harvill Secker, in discussion with British author and journalist Alex Preston.

6.30pm – 7.30pm | £10, conc. £8

In English and French

[www.penguin.co.uk](http://www.penguin.co.uk)



## Jonathan Coe and Barbara Carlotti: *The House of Sleep*

### PERFORMANCE

French singer and songwriter Barbara Carlotti joins novelist Jonathan Coe on stage for an exceptional musical and poetic performance. Between Jonathan Coe's *House of Sleep* and Barbara Carlotti's *laboratoire onirique*, dreams, memories, and fantasies interweave with reality, composing a free poetic digression between art and science, sound, text and song.

8pm – 9pm | £10, conc. £8

In English and French

[www.penguin.co.uk](http://www.penguin.co.uk)



# Beyond our Walls

## ***Dulwich Books: France Country of the Month***

A discussion with Alexis Jenni, Emmanuelle Pagano, Mathias Malzieu and Ananda Devi led by British author, historian and French literary critic Graham Robb. Dulwich Books, shortlisted for the British Book Awards 2017 Independent Bookshop of the Year, celebrates France as their country of the month this May.

**Sunday 14 May**

**3pm - 5pm | £5**

**Venue: Dulwich Books Bookshop  
6 Croxted Road, West Dulwich  
London SE21 8SW**

**[www.dulwichbooks.co.uk](http://www.dulwichbooks.co.uk)**

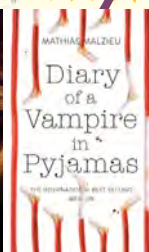
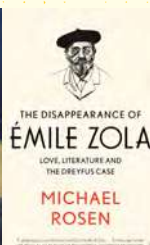
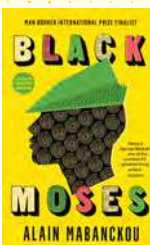
## ***Le Grand Tour: The Best of Contemporary French Fiction***

Join the crème de la crème of French authors, Alexis Jenni, Lydie Salvayre and Delphine de Vigan at the British Library, where they will showcase their newly translated works through readings and short-performances.

**Monday 15 May**

**7pm - 8.30pm | £12, conc. £8**

**Venue: British Library  
Knowledge Centre Theatre  
96 Euston Road  
London NW1 2DB  
[www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)**



## Info & booking

[www.beyondwordslitfest.co.uk](http://www.beyondwordslitfest.co.uk)

020 7871 3515

Early booking essential

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

*Please check our website for updates*

## Venue

Institut français



17 Queensberry Place, South Kensington

London SW7 2DT

## 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.

## Stay connected

  ifru\_london #BeyondWordsFest

 InstitutFrancaisLondon

## 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. Keep up also with the latest literary news and reviews with the French Books UK blog.

[www.culturetheque.com](http://www.culturetheque.com)

[www.culturetheque-blog.com](http://www.culturetheque-blog.com)

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