

**A Franco-British Festival celebrating children's literature
Under the patronage of Quentin Blake
15 – 21 November 2021 at the Institut français in London**

"I was lucky enough to be involved in our festival right from the start. I have seen this celebration of writing and reading and drawing grow – it becomes more and more amazing!" Sir Quentin Blake

Organised by the Institut français du Royaume-Uni, **the South Ken Kids Festival** is back for its 24th edition!

Under the patronage of Quentin Blake, the Festival **promotes the best of children's literature** from both sides of the Channel. Working with **20 French and British publishers**, this festival highlights the talents in a thriving children's literature market and fosters cultural cooperation between France and the UK.

From 15 to 21 November, the festival will welcome **15 writers** and **illustrators**, as well as musicians and actors for a celebration of children's literature in all its glory.

They will take part in a great range of **educational activities** organised with more than **40 schools** spreading over 14 London boroughs, and in **public events held at the Institut français**, from **workshops, talks, live drawing and storytelling**, to **films, concerts and book signings**.

Quentin Blake is in the spotlight this year with an **exhibition** of his original works, some celebrating the Nature's beauty, others revisiting the famous *Fables* of Jean de la Fontaine, for the 400th anniversary of the French poet. The world premiere of the **documentary *Quentin Blake: The Drawing of My Life***, in which Quentin tells the story of his 70-year long career, will wrap up the Festival on Sunday 21 November.

Another giant of French literature, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, will be celebrated through a musical adaptation of ***The Little Prince*** performed by storyteller **Matthew Crampton** and pianist **Olga Jegunova** (21 Nov).

More multifaceted performances which mix drawing and music are on the menu. A **recital by pianists Louise Cournarie and Antoine Pr at**, completed by on-stage **live drawing by Jo Weaver**, will take place on 18 November. The Festival's illustrators will come up on stage to draw live to the sound of Sarah Brand's trombone and Will Glaser's drums in the **giant drawing and music jam, *Impro!***, a multi-handed performance on 20 November.

Exceptional live drawing duo events on Saturday 20 November will bring together **Pauline Martin and Chris Naylor-Ballesteros**, and later **Axel Scheffler and Marc Boutavant**.

Drawing, writing, cutting, VR, crockery, stop motion movie production, and environmental awareness activities are to be expected within our festival's **15 workshops**, engaging children's creativity in a variety of ways. A **film programme** and **book signings** with the illustrators and writers will complete these festivities.

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