

Beyond Words Festival

16 – 22 May 2022, at the Institut français

The Institut français in London is pleased to announce the 6th edition of Beyond Words, a **week-long festival of literature** featuring acclaimed authors and new voices, and the latest publications from both sides of the Channel.

The festival will celebrate literature in all its diversity thanks to a wide programme ranging from conversations, live readings, and debates to screen adaptations, concerts and theatrical performances.

Women writers will take centre stage once again at Beyond Words. **Deborah Levy**, **Marie Darrieussecq**, author of the controversial *Pig Tales*, and **Lauren Elkin** will share their experiences by addressing the subject of womanhood within creative and political spaces.

Sunday Times best-seller **Sarah Vaughan**, author of *Anatomy of a Scandal* (whose adaptation is currently showing on Netflix) and acclaimed French author **Lola Lafon** will discuss how a feminist approach might expand the limits of storytelling. While French-Mauritian writer **Nathacha Appanah** will talk about her approach to writing narratives of displacement, separation, and healing with her latest novel *The Sky Above the Roof*.

The writing process and the intricacies of the relation between science and fiction will also be explored by 2020 Goncourt Prize winner **Hervé Le Tellier** and popular science writer **Brian Clegg**.

This year's edition will mark the **60th anniversary of Algeria's** independence with several films and debates around postcolonialism. Algerian writer **Kamel Daoud**, author of *The Meursault Investigation*, and Booker Prize winning Nigerian poet and playwright **Ben Okri** will share their respective views on Albert Camus's legacy while Faïza Guene (*Just Like Tomorrow, Discretion*) will address the hardships of motherhood in the context of immigration.

French philosopher and sociologist **Didier Eribon**, known for his ground-breaking biography of Michel Foucault, will present *Returning to Reims*, a loose screen adaptation from his 2009 memoir, a topical reflection on working class life in France.

Other film adaptations are on the menu, including *Lost Illusions* by Xavier Giannoli, a brilliant take on Balzac's masterpiece, winner of 7 César awards, including Best Film, shown on exclusive release at Ciné Lumière from 16 May.

The festival will also pay tribute to **Proust**, marking the 100th anniversary of his death, with a conversation with experts **Antoine Compagnon** (Académie Française) and **Christopher Prendergast** (King's College, Cambridge), a concert and a film. **Molière** will also be celebrated, on the occasion of his 400th anniversary, through a theatrical performance, *Je t'aime moi non plus*, revisiting his greatest scenes, and a talk on his influence.

www.beyondwordslitfest.co.uk

[Programme](#)

[Line-up](#)

Venue: Institut français, 17 Queensberry Place, London SW7 2DT

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