

at the Institut français, London

2024
MAY 9-19

BEYOND WORDS

LITERATURE FESTIVAL

www.beyondwordslifest.co.uk

INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS
Royaume-Uni

Beyond Words Festival

'Beyond Words is always my favourite festival in London - intellectual, fun and great hospitality.'

Deborah Levy

From 9 to 19 May, the Institut français goes Beyond Words to cross borders and genres and takes us on a literary journey through discussions, readings, live performances and screenings.

Audiences can expect the best of contemporary French literature in English translation, the latest and most inspiring publications from both sides of the Channel and a great line-up including acclaimed authors and new voices.

Turn the pages, discover the full programme and join us at Beyond Words Festival.

With special thanks to Florence and Vincent Gombault, and to the Friends of the French Institute Trust for their support to the festival.

Tribute to Maryse Condé

Caribbean Crossings

TALK

Celebrated Guadeloupean author Maryse Condé has left us on 2 April 2024 at the age of 90. A strong contender for the Nobel Prize in Literature, she was best known for her novel *Segu*, which deals with the African diaspora that resulted from slavery and colonialism in the Caribbean. Mirroring a conference on Maryse Condé at Goldsmiths University, this discussion will delve into the intricacies of mixed identities in the Caribbean. Renowned writers **Jean D'Amérique** (Haiti), **Estelle-Sarah Bulle** (Guadeloupe), and **Jason Allen-Paisant** (Jamaica) will talk about the Caribbean's influence on their work with **Prof. Clare Finburgh Delijani** (Goldsmiths University), engaging with questions of migration, heritage, justice, and creativity.

Thu 9 May – 19.00

£10, conc. £8, students £5
in English and French



Maryse Condé © Philippe Matsas



Estelle-Sarah Bulle © Patrice Normand



Jason Allen-Paisant © Leah Pollard



Jean D'Amérique © Edouard Caupeil



Clare Finburgh Delijani © Leah Pollard

Women's Rights Now

Consent

FILM + TALK

UK Premiere, dir. Vanessa Filho, 2023,
107 mins

Paris, 1985. Vanessa is thirteen when she meets Gabriel Matzneff. A very smart and manipulative man, the fifty-year-old renowned writer seduces the young girl. The adolescent becomes the lover and muse of a man celebrated by the cultural and political establishment. Losing herself in the relationship, she gradually starts to realise how destructive and abnormal the situation is, until she finally sees Gabriel Matzneff for the predator he really is. Based on the autobiographical book by writer Vanessa Springora, *Consent* takes the public onto a long journey through trauma and healing as she attempts to free herself from a man's powerful influence.

Fri 10 May – 19.00

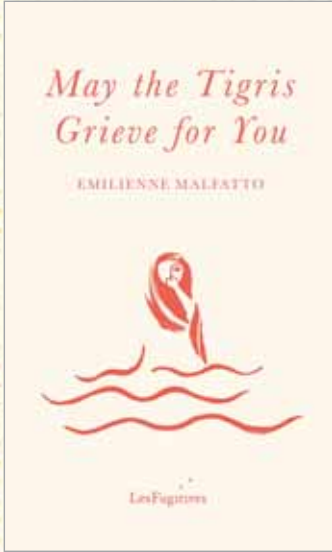
+ Q&A with dir. **Vanessa Filho**

£18, conc. £16.50, 25 & Under £5

in French with EN subs



Vanessa Filho



May The Tigris Grieve for You READING

Emilienne Malfatto's *May the Tigris Grieve for You* is a chronicle of a death foretold – that of a young Iraqi woman who has committed the ultimate taboo of becoming pregnant out of wedlock. This poignant text, shaped like a tragedy, was awarded the Prix Goncourt du Premier Roman in 2021. Discover this short story through the captivating narration of poet **Naima Rashid**, translator **Lorna Scott Fox**, and student **Maia Mutawi** during a reading of the full book.

Wed 15 May – 19.00

**£10, conc. £8, students £5
in English**



Maia Mutawi
© Susannah Baker Smith



Naima Rashid



Lorna Scott Fox

Historical Perspectives

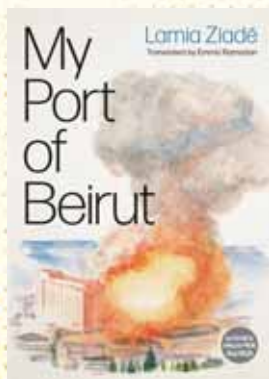
War by Louis-Ferdinand Céline

TALK

Discovered unexpectedly in 2021, this acclaimed yet controversial work offers a vivid portrayal of soldiers' experiences during the First World War, focusing on the journey of Ferdinand Bardamu, the main character from Céline's *Journey to the End of the Night*. Join us to explore the secrets of *War* with translator **Sander Berg**, **Damian Catani**, Senior Lecturer in Languages, Linguistics and Cultures (Birkbeck, University of London), and publisher **Alessandro Gallenzi**.

Fri 10 May – 18.00

£10, conc. £8, students £5 | in English



Beirut: From Ashes to Hope

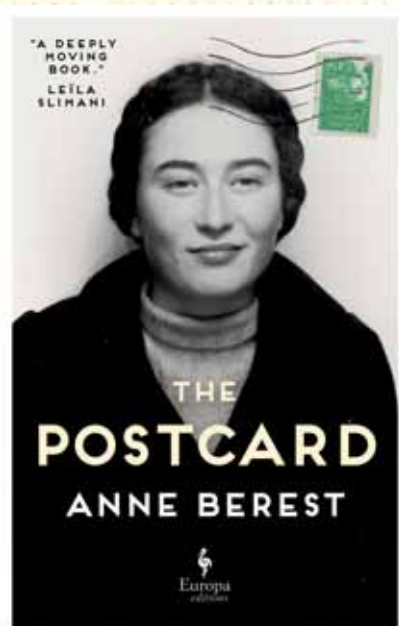
TALK + READINGS

In *My Port of Beirut*, Lebanese author, illustrator and visual artist **Lamia Ziadé** weaves together the play-by-play of the explosion that occurred in the port of Beirut on 4 August 2020. A tragedy that is also the subject of a series of reports by Albert Londres Prize-winning journalist **Caroline Hayek**. Together with **Prof. Lina Khatib** (SOAS University of London) and writer **Malu Halasa**, they will investigate the historical and political background of the event, as well as the personal stories and the crystallisation of the frustration of a people torn between anger and love.

Tue 14 May – 19.00

£10, conc. £8, students £5 | in English and French





The Postcard TALK + READINGS

January, 2003. Together with the usual holiday cards, an anonymous postcard is delivered to the Berest family home. On the front, a photo of the Opéra Garnier in Paris. On the back, the names of Anne Berest's maternal great-grandparents, and their children – all killed at Auschwitz.

Anne Berest's *The Postcard* is among the most acclaimed and beloved French novels of recent years. Luminous and gripping to the very last page, it is an enthralling investigation into family secrets, a poignant tale of mothers and daughters, and a vivid portrait of twentieth-century Parisian intellectual and artistic life. Anne Berest will discuss this multi-award-winning book with **Professor Catriona Seth** (Oxford University). **Vivi Valiamé** will provide British Sign Language interpretation and translation for this discussion.

Fri 17 May – 18.00

**£10, conc. £8, students £5
in English and French**



Anne Berest © Marie Marot

From Marseille with Love

To mark the 50th anniversary of Marcel Pagnol's death, we have concocted a sun-drenched programme as part of Beyond Words festival and beyond! Literary discussions, readings, films, food and drinks are on the menu. The two beloved Pagnol trilogies will be presented before, during and after the festival.

Marseille, Marcel & Co. TALK + READINGS

Beyond Words Festival honours the city of Marseille and its writers. Come along for readings of the most emblematic texts by Marcel Pagnol. Discover the Phocaeen city and its inhabitants with **Rémi Duchêne**, author of *L'Embarcadère des lettres* and *L'Escale des géants, Marseille et les écrivains, 1830-1900* through some of the most illustrious literary tributes to Marseille's rich heritage.

Sat 11 May – 15.30

£10, conc. £8, students £5

in French



Rémi Duchêne

And the Party Goes On FILM

UK Premiere, dir. Robert Guédiguian, 2023, 106 mins

Robert Guédiguian is back to his Marseille roots with this militant and hopeful portrait of a woman (Venice Best Actress winner Ariane Ascaride) amid inspirational changes. In the working-class district of old Marseille, Rosa is the heart and soul of her community, a nurse and the matriarch of a large and close-knit family. But approaching retirement and surrounded by political inertia, she is feeling disillusioned. Until she meets Henri and realises it is never too late to fulfill her own political and personal dreams.

Sat 11 May – 17.55

+ live virtual Q&A with dir. Robert Guédiguian

Thu 16 May – 18.20

various prices | in French with EN subs



Taste of Marseille

TALK + READINGS

Let's put the spotlight on Marseille and its writers today. Local authors **Vérane Frédiani**, known for her writings celebrating the flavours of her hometown, **Marion Brunet** and **François Thomazeau**, renowned for their detective stories set in Marseille, will ignite your curiosity to explore their beloved city. Joined by broadcaster, writer and photographer **Johny Pitts**, who spent time with local communities in the city, and journalist **Mary Fitzgerald**, they will give you an authentic taste of its vibrant energy.

Sat 11 May – 17.30

£10, conc. £8, students £5

in English and French



Pictured from left to right: François Thomazeau; Mary Fitzgerald © Yohanne Lamoulère; Johny Pitts; Vérane Frédiani © Franck Ribiere; Marion Brunet © Samuel Kriszenbaum

I Will Never Heal

FILM

UK Premiere, dir. David Yon, 2023, 66 mins, doc

In a mineral black and white that breaks with the usual blue sky of Marseille, *I Will Never Heal* summons three anonymous figures, two men and a woman, whose lives are exposed and intertwined through fragments of existences and stories. The film tells us about the way these three people ward off and overcome an unfavourable fate (blindness, imprisonment), or simply the throes of life (mourning). In partnership with FID (Marseille International Film Festival).

Sun 12 May – 18.00

Sun 19 May – 16.15

various prices | in French with EN subs



Pagnol - The Marseille Trilogy

The Marseille Trilogy is a cinematic masterpiece that captures the soul and spirit of the French port city through the lens of one of its most eloquent children, Marcel Pagnol. Comprising three iconic films, *Marius* (1931), *Fanny* (1932), and *César* (1936), this trilogy is an exploration of love, family, and the rugged beauty of Marseille's landscape.

Marius

FILM

dir. Alexander Korda, 1931, 127 mins, 4K Restoration

Marius is a young man who loves his gruff and good-natured father César, and also Fanny, who sells shells in front of César's bar. Since his childhood, the desire to run the world inflames him. He doesn't want to abandon his father, who might die of grief, nor Fanny, who thinks only of him. And yet the sea is there. . .

Sat 11 May – 15.20

Also showing on Mon 27 May – 13.30

various prices | in French with EN subs



Fanny

FILM

dir. Marc Allégret, 1932, 140 mins, 4K Restoration

Marius embarked on "La Malaisie", yielding to the irrepresible call of the sea. He left behind his old father César and his fiancée Fanny, who was carrying his child. *Fanny* is a masterful continuation of the Marseille trilogy, filled with moments of tenderness, heartache, and hope.

Sat 18 May – 15.50

Also showing on Sat 2 June – 11.10

various prices | in French with EN subs

César

FILM

dir. Marcel Pagnol, 1936, 160 mins, 4K Restoration

César marks the culmination of the Marseille trilogy. It ties up the stories of the characters introduced in *Marius* and *Fanny*, showcasing their growth and evolution through time. It is the only movie within the trilogy specifically crafted for the cinema and directed by Marcel Pagnol himself.

Fri 17 May – 17.30

Also showing on Sun 9 June – 13.30

various prices | in French with EN subs



● Pagnol - The Hills of Provence Trilogy

The taste of summer is seen through the eyes of young Marcel Pagnol. His love for nature, the smell of thyme, the sound of the cicadas, the singing accents, the intensity of short-term summer friendships are explored through these three nostalgic films, *My Father's Glory* (1990), *My Mother's Castle* (1990), and *The Times of Secrets* (2022). A real feast for the eyes and the ears for younger and older generations.

My Father's Glory

FILM

dir. Yves Robert, 1990, 105 mins

Young Marcel, the son of a seamstress and a school teacher, quickly learns how to read and write. The whole Pagnol family takes off to their vacation spot in the hills, where they have rented a house. Marcel meets Lili, a local boy who knows all the secrets of the hills, and the two quickly become best friends. But, as the holiday comes to an end, Marcel must leave both his newfound friend and the wildlife he became so fond of.

Sat 4 May – 13.30 & Sat 25 May – 13.45

£5 | in French with EN subs



My Mother's Castle

FILM

dir. Yves Robert, 1990, 98 mins

Every weekend the Pagnol family faces a very long walk under the hot sun to be able to spend two days in their lovely La Treille. Shortcuts across private estates make the task more bearable. Until one day, a stubborn caretaker catches them trespassing. Years later, Marcel buys a land with a castle and realises it is the very one his mother was so afraid of cutting across.

Sat 11 May – 13.15

Also showing on Sat 1 June – 13.45

£5 | in French with EN subs



The Times of Secrets

FILM

dir. Christophe Barratier, 2022, 104 mins

Marcel Pagnol embarks on his last summer vacation before high school and returns to his beloved hills in Provence where nature is at its best: the smells, the views, the animals... His summer of boyhood adventures becomes one of first loves and secrets.

Sat 18 May – 13.45

£5 | in French with EN subs



From Page to Screen

The Goldman Case

FILM

dir. Cédric Kahn, 2023, 116 mins

Winning Arieh Worthalter the 2024 César for Best Actor, *The Goldman Case* is a semi-biographical courtroom drama powerfully recreating the trial of Pierre Goldman in 1976 France, which was widely acknowledged as the most divisive case since the Dreyfus Affair of 1894. Prosecuted for a double murder during the armed robbery of a Parisian pharmacy, Goldman, the rebellious son of Polish-Jewish immigrants, refused to call any witnesses to his character. Goldman accused the police of institutional antisemitism and racism in a book that was used to cancel his first trial.

Tue 14 May – 20.35

Sun 19 May – 16.50

various prices

in French with EN subs



La Symphonie pastorale

FILM

dir. Jean Delannoy, 1948, 110 mins

In this screen adaptation of André Gide's novella, a Swiss pastor has sheltered and raised a little blind girl who speaks and walks with difficulty. Now a woman, Gertrude is courted by the pastor's son, Jacques. The pastor, jealous, refuses to allow their marriage. But then Gertrude has an operation and recovers her sight...

Sat 19 May – 14.00

+ intro by Prof. Colin Roust (University of Kansas)

£11, conc. £9, 25 & Under £5

in French with EN subs

For Kids

Sirocco & The Kingdom of Air Streams

FILM + INTRO

dir. Benoit Chieux, 2023, 74 mins, animation, 6+

Audience Award at the Annecy Animation Festival, *Sirocco and the Kingdom of Air Streams* follows two sisters, 4-year-old Juliette and 8-year-old Carmen. Together they discover a passage to enter a book's world, *The Kingdom of Air Streams*. To come back they need to find Sirocco, a terrifying character who can control the wind.

Sun 11 May – 11.00

+ pre-recorded intro by dir. Benoît Chieux
£5 | in French with EN subs



Beyond Our Walls

Edinburgh

Conversation with Anne Berest

TALK

After her visit in London, author **Anne Berest** will be presenting her novel *The Postcard* at the Institut français d'Écosse. Her book tells the story of a family devastated by the Holocaust and yet somehow restored by love and the power of storytelling.

Tue 21 May – 17.00

Institut français d'Écosse
www.ifecosse.org.uk

London

Giuliano da Empoli: The Wizard of the Kremlin

TALK

Translated into thirty languages across the world, **Giuliano da Empoli's** *The Wizard of the Kremlin* is a stunning work of political fiction that reads like a thriller. Charting the rise to power of Putin's notorious spin doctor, Surkov, in brilliant, nightmarish fashion, it truly propels the reader into the dark and complex world of Russian politics. Meet Giuliano da Empoli at Daunt Books Marylebone.

Thu 23 May – 19.00

Daunt Books Marylebone
www.dauntbooks.co.uk

EUROPEAN WRITERS' FESTIVAL 2

TRANSFORMATION

For more celebration of literature beyond borders, rendezvous at the European Writers Festival with prize-winning Ukrainian novelist **Andrey Kurkov**, and writers from all around Europe to talk about history and changes in storytelling around the theme: "Transformation".

Writing about history is central to European literature but how we write about it, and who writes it, has changed. When your personal history is embedded in historic change, how does that shape your narrative? Who are the writers taking over from the Great Men of History to tell its stories in daring new ways?

Find out with French author **Anne Berest** alongside **Christos Chomendis** (Greece), **Tomas Vaiseta** (Lithuania) and **Zyta Rudzka** (Poland) in the panel *Transforming Historical Narratives*.

18 – 19 May at the British Library

Beyond Words Calendar

At the Institut français

Thursday 9 May

19.00 - Caribbean Crossings

Friday 10 May

18.00 - War by Louis-Ferdinand Céline

19.00 - Consent

Saturday 11 May

13.15 - My Mother's Castle

15.20 - Marius

15.30 - Marseille, Marcel & Co.

17.30 - Taste of Marseille

17.55 - And the Party Goes On

Sunday 12 May

18.00 - I Will Never Heal

Tuesday 14 May

19.00 - Beirut: From Ashes to Hope

20.35 - The Goldman Case

Wednesday 15 May

19.00 - May the Tigris Grieve for You

Thursday 16 May

18.20 - And the Party Goes On

Friday 17 May

17.30 - César

18.00 - The Postcard with Anne Berest

Saturday 18 May

13.45 - The Times of Secrets

15.50 - Fanny

Sunday 19 May

11.00 - Sirocco & the Kingdom of Air Streams

14.00 - La Symphonie pastorale

16.15 - I Will Never Heal

16.50 - The Goldman Case

Films of the Pagnol trilogies will be presented before, during and after the festival.

Beyond Our Walls

Sunday 19 May

12.00 - Anne Berest at the British Library, London

Tuesday 21 May

17.00 - Anne Berest at the Institut français d'Ecosse, Edinburgh

Thursday 23 May

19.00 - Giuliano da Empoli at Daunt Books Marylebone, London

This leaflet is printed on 100% recycled paper.



Book signings

Come and browse through books from our on-site bookseller. All the authors will be happy to sign after their events.

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.

www.institut-francais.org.uk/library

www.culturetheque.com

Venue

Institut français

17 Queensberry Place, South Kensington
London SW7 2DT

Info & booking

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.



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