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# The American Library in Paris

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**e-Libris 7 September 2021**

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**Zadie Smith, in Conversation with Rachel Donadio,  
at the 2021 Gala**



We're delighted to announce that the 2021 Gala guest of honor, Zadie Smith, will be in conversation with acclaimed writer, journalist, and friend of the Library Rachel Donadio.

**Zadie Smith** is the award-winning author of the novels *White Teeth*, *The Autograph Man*, *On Beauty*, *NW*, and *Swing Time*, as well as a novella, *The Embassy of Cambodia*, the essay collections *Changing My Mind*, *Feel Free*, and *Intimations*, and a short story collection, *Grand Union*. She is currently a tenured professor of fiction at New York University and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She is a regular contributor to the *New Yorker* and the *New York Review of Books*.

**Rachel Donadio** is a Paris-based writer and journalist, a contributing writer for the *Atlantic*, and a former Rome Bureau Chief and European Culture correspondent for the *New York Times*. She regularly publishes textured feature stories and profiles at the intersection of culture and politics, as well as literary reportage and criticism. Over the years she's reported from more than two dozen countries and interviewed heads of state as well as major cultural figures, including four Nobel Laureates in literature. Her work appears in publications ranging from the *New York Review of Books* to *Vogue*.

We hope you will join us for this exciting conversation.

**GALA TICKETS**

Please reserve your tickets by Friday 17 September at 18h00. Visit our [Gala 2021 webpage](#) for more information or contact Advancement Manager Morgan Wurzburger to purchase your tickets or to sponsor a table: [gala@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:gala@americanlibraryinparis.org).

## Fine Forgiveness through September

### This month is your last chance for Fine Forgiveness!

Return overdue books by Thursday 30 September, and fines and fees will be waived, no questions asked. Yes, we will wipe your account clean, even if you have hefty fines because a book is long overdue or marked as lost! (Items must be returned in order to qualify for Fine Forgiveness. If a book is truly lost, please contact [info@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:info@americanlibraryinparis.org) for more information.)

Items overdue as of 1 October will begin accruing fines as before. Materials returned after the due

date will be charged a 0,20€ fee per item per Library working day. For details on loan periods and how to renew your books, please [visit our website](#).

## Upcoming Programs

### ***Lettres d'Amérique: Wednesday 8 September***

#### **Laila Lalami in conversation with Elizabeth Martin-Shukrun**



In *Conditional Citizens*, Laila Lalami examines immigration, citizenship, and assimilation. Recounting her unlikely journey from Moroccan immigrant to US citizen, Lalami questions the boundary of what it means to be an American from historical, political, and literary perspectives. Lalami was born in Rabat and educated in Morocco, Great Britain, and the US. She is the author of four novels. Her writing has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Guardian*, and the *New York Times*, among others. She lives in Los Angeles, where she is a professor of creative writing at the University of California at Riverside.

**REGISTER: LAILA LALAMI**

### ***Lettres d'Amérique: Monday 13 September***

#### **Jenny Zhang in conversation with Roberto Rodriguez-Estrada**



Jenny Zhang's latest poetry collection, *My Baby First Birthday*, interrogates what it means to be born into and grow up in a world that fetishizes womanhood, upholds the patriarchy, and extols whiteness. All the while implicating her reader, Zhang offers moments of tenderness, radiant beauty, and compassion. Zhang was born in Shanghai and grew up in New York. As an author, poet, and essayist, Zhang has been published in the *New York Times*, *BuzzFeed*, and *Rookie*, among others. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and Stanford University, she has also written for television and TV. She lives in New York City where she is working on a novel and screenplay.

**REGISTER: JENNY ZHANG**

### ***Lettres d'Amérique: Wednesday 15 September***

#### **Yaa Gyasi in conversation with Eula Biss**



In her second novel, *Transcendent Kingdom*, Yaa Gyasi looks to science, faith, and the past to tell a raw and intimate story of a Ghanaian family in Alabama. Contemplating the repercussions of human trafficking in America and West Africa, Gyasi also explores the opioid crisis, mental health, and the family bonds that at once hold us together and tear us apart. Gyasi was born in Ghana and raised in Alabama. Her first novel, *Homegoing*, received critical acclaim in the US, and the National Book Foundation named Gyasi to its annual list of the five most outstanding young authors. Gyasi holds a BA in English from Stanford University and an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

[REGISTER: YAA GYASI](#)

***Entre Nous*: Monday 20 September**

**What decisions can we make today as individuals and societies to create a better tomorrow?**



Join Columbia Climate School's Andrew Revkin, economist Kate Raworth, and philosopher Roman Krznaric for a conversation on how reinventing economics and incorporating long-term thinking into our current policies can help us meet the challenges of climate breakdown and global inequality, and transform our world for future generations.

[REGISTER: A BETTER TOMORROW](#)

***Lettres d'Amérique*: Monday 27 September**

**Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah in conversation with Kierstan Kaushal-Carter**



Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah's inventive debut collection of short stories, *Friday Black*, reflects a grim portrait of American individualism run wild. Adjei-Brenyah casts his suffering male protagonists into dystopian futures, where they confront consumerism, racial injustice, and financial hardship in twelve unflinching tales. Adjei-Brenyah was born and grew up in New York. He graduated from SUNY Albany and received his MFA from Syracuse University. His work has appeared or will soon appear in numerous publications, including the *New York Times Book Review*, *Esquire*, *Literary Hub*, and the *Paris Review*.

**REGISTER: NANA KWAME ADJEI-BRENYAH**

**All events are virtual and will begin at 19h30 CET / 13h30 EST / 10h30 PST**

*LETTRES D'AMERIQUE*: This September 2021, the American Library in Paris invites you to discover major new voices in American literature. A virtual series, *Lettres d'Amérique* (6–27 September) will explore issues at the heart of contemporary America: race, immigration, citizenship, historical trauma, addiction, and gun violence. The range of this year's speakers is as rich as it is diverse. The audience will have the option of watching in either French or English; all events will be simultaneously translated from English into French.

*ENTRE NOUS*: The American Library in Paris, Columbia Global Centers | Paris, and the Institute for Ideas and Imagination are pleased to present the event series *Entre Nous*. At the intersection of art and academia, France and the United States, this conversation series features academics, authors, journalists, filmmakers, and visual artists.



**GROW@  
ANNENBERG**




Evenings with an Author and other weeknight programs at the Library are free and open to the public (with a 10€ suggested donation) thanks to support from GRoW @ Annenberg, our members, and those who attend programs.



**TRANSFUCE**

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Ideas &  
Imagination

-  Past programs are on YouTube, including events with Tales of Resistance with Judy Batalion and Arthur Magida, Tom Hodgkinson, Carissa Véliz, and Paula Deitz.
-  Listen to our podcast, Evenings with an Author, available wherever you get your podcasts.
-  Visit our Facebook page for information about upcoming virtual events and Evenings with an Author sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg.

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## The Champs-Élysées Film Festival: Program Manager Alice McCrum's Top Picks

Each year we partner with the [Champs-Élysées Film Festival](#), which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this fall. This edition will take place **14–21 September** and will screen, as always, the very best of French and American independent cinema.

We've asked the Library's Programs Manager, Alice McCrum, to select the films that she's particularly excited to watch. Here's what she recommends:



### *Le monde après nous*

The first feature film from director Louda Ben Salah-Cazanas follows Labidi, a young, broke writer. To survive, Labidi works as a bike messenger and lives in a tiny shared apartment. Between his shady deals and side jobs, Labidi tries to reconcile his dreams of writing, his love life, and a lifestyle beyond his means. A wonderful debut from a rising talent.

Runtime : 1h28 | French with English subtitles

### *Trop d'amour*

Frankie Wallach, a 25-year-old director and actor, directs her first feature film. Starring Wallach's 94-year-old grandmother, Julia, the film captures not only Julia's joyful personality, but also the love and tenderness between female family members. What emerges is a beautiful story of love—of too much love—of *trop d'amour*.

Runtime : 1h18 | French with English subtitles

### *Bobby brûle*

The trees are dead; the earth is on fire; it's the end of the summer. And yet, despite it all, Bobby and Melo strive to exist through the stories they tell each other. This short film by two young, up-and-coming directors, Amélie Bigard and Jane Boudet, is for anyone who wants to glimpse into the future of the French film scene.

Runtime : 21 mins | French with English subtitles

To see the rest of the lineup, visit the [Festival's website](#). We recommend the [Festival Pass](#), for unlimited access to screenings, as well as the Festival's lounge. You can also purchase tickets for individual screenings at the participating cinemas, up to 5 days before the start of the Festival.

## Win a Pair of Festival Passes to the Champs-Elysées Film Festival

The Champs-Elysées Film Festival is kindly giving away two pairs of Festival Passes to Library community members.

To win, you'll need to follow the Library and the Champs-Elysées Film Festival on Instagram, and comment on the Library's 7 September Instagram post about why you'd like to attend the Festival. Our two winners will be selected randomly and contacted by DM, where we'll ask for your name and email address, then give you instructions on how to pick up your Passes. The passes are non-transferable and nominative, just like a Library card!

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## Mastershot Film Club for Teens

Are you a teen interested in the art of filmmaking? Applications are open for the Master Shot Film Club, where aspiring filmmakers between the ages of 12–18 can work on their craft and meet other young movie enthusiasts. Led by Clarence Tokley, the club meets once a month on Saturdays from 17h00–18h30, with ongoing projects throughout the year. The deadline to apply is 30 September, so [apply now](#).



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## Renew your Membership and Consider a Gift

As an independent, non-profit institution, we rely on the support and generosity of our community. How can you help the American Library in Paris throughout the year? Renew your Library membership, make a donation online, and tell your friends about the Library.

RENEW

DONATE

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The American Library in Paris is an independent, non-profit institution that receives no regular government funding. Your generosity is essential in keeping the Library vibrant and creative.

All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

## BECOME A LIBRARY MEMBER

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

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