

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL - LYON

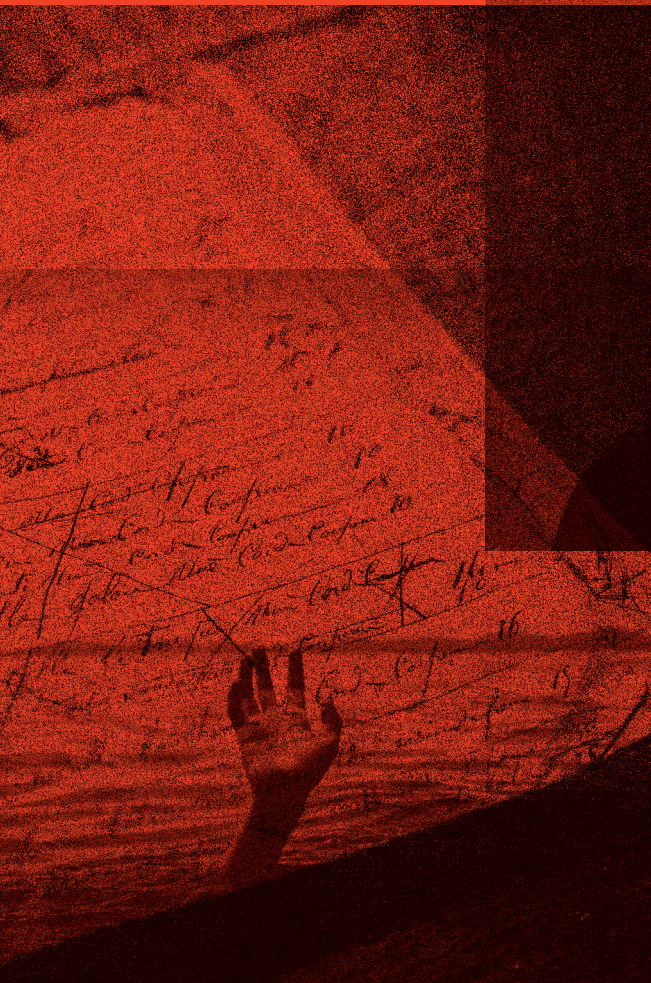
20<sup>th</sup>  
EDITION

# QUAIS DU POLAR

LITERATURE  
CITY INVESTIGATION  
CINEMA  
CULTURAL EVENTS

05  
TO 07  
APRIL

2024



PRESS  
KIT

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# EDITORIAL



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## QUAIS DU POLAR THE 20<sup>TH</sup>!

An anniversary edition is the perfect opportunity to look back, appreciate the journey we've taken, and remember those who have crossed our paths and supported the event throughout these years: volunteers, authors, booksellers, publishers, readers, partners...

Because Quais du Polar is above all a wonderful adventure that we all share together, a collective experience that unites us around our common passion for crime fiction, reading, and the joy of meeting and exchanging ideas. It would be impossible to mention here all the people and events that have marked us over the years, but it would also be impossible not to think of our patron, the enthusiastic and unifying Claude Mesplède, to forget the sparkling gaze of the great Donald Westlake, the generosity and mischief of P.D. James, the moving ovation given to Roberto Saviano at the Théâtre des Célestins, the roars of James Ellroy "I am the jackal!" and above all the emotional looks of these readers, whose paths have crossed for genuine moments of sharing, in this city of Lyon that lends itself so wonderfully to it.

From the dark gallery of the Terreaux in 2005 to the majestic Palais de la Bourse today, to quote Barbara who wore noir so well, in 20 years "we had storms": complex situations, suspense, and twists and turns like in a good crime novel... And it often took defying the clichés around the genre.

By the way, if we may allow ourselves a few remarks, given our great age: no, crime fiction is not just "stories of murders and investigations" or "books to read on holiday"... and yes, crime fiction readers (mostly female readers) are naturally curious and demanding (and while we're at it, there is an "s" in "Quais" du Polar, we really had to tell you that once and for all.)

But what remains unchanged over the years is the immense pleasure of coming together when the festival arrives, much like during a large family reunion where we see familiar faces, celebrate the old-timers, and initiate the newcomers in a special, festive, and warm atmosphere. An atmosphere that the very Girl Power team and the indispensable volunteers of the Festival are committed to maintaining, identical to that of the first editions. Because despite the evolution of the festival, if the objective remains to discuss serious subjects with clarity and to welcome guests and the public with the utmost professionalism, we also want to prove that culture can be an experience filled with pleasure, joy, lightness, and humour, thereby making it accessible and open to everyone.

An anniversary edition is also and above all an opportunity to look to the future with enthusiasm, to chart new horizons, and to dream of new chapters in our history. Let us therefore hope that the adventure continues for a long time, with passion and enthusiasm.

**Hélène Fischbach,**  
director of Quais du Polar

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## MAIN VENUES OF THE FESTIVAL

### Hôtel de Ville

Place de la Comédie

Lyon 1<sup>er</sup> | Métro A and C - Hôtel de Ville L. Pradel

### Palais de la Bourse

Place de la Bourse

Lyon 2<sup>e</sup> | Métro A - Cordeliers

Métro C - Hôtel de Ville L. Pradel

### Chapelle de la Trinité

29-31 rue de la Bourse

Lyon 2<sup>e</sup> | Métro A - Cordeliers

Métro C - Hôtel de Ville L. Pradel

### Théâtre Comédie Odéon

6 rue Grolée

Lyon 2<sup>e</sup> | Métro A - Cordeliers

Métro D - Bellecour

### Les Bateaux Lyonnais

2 quai des Célestins, Lyon 2<sup>e</sup>

Métro D - Bellecour or Vieux-Lyon

### Marché Gare (Starting point of the main investigation)

4-6 place Hubert Mounier, Lyon 2<sup>e</sup>

Tram T1/T2 - Hôtel Région Montrochet

## OPENING HOURS

### Palais de la Bourse

Friday 5 April | 10 a.m. > 8 p.m.

Saturday 6 April | 10 a.m. > 8 p.m.

Sunday 7 April | 10 a.m. > 6 p.m.

### Hôtel de Ville

Friday 5 April | 2 p.m. > 7 p.m.

Saturday 6 April | 10 a.m. > 8 p.m.

Sunday 7 April | 10 a.m. > 6 p.m.

## BOOKSHOPS AND EXHIBITORS

### The Great Noir Bookshop – Palais de la Bourse

À Titre d'Aile | Lyon 1<sup>er</sup>

Le Bal des Ardents | Lyon 1<sup>er</sup>

Adrienne | Lyon 2<sup>e</sup>

Expérience | Lyon 2<sup>e</sup>

Passages | Lyon 2<sup>e</sup>

L'Esprit Livre | Lyon 3<sup>e</sup>

La Virevolte | Lyon 5<sup>e</sup>

La Madeleine | Lyon 7<sup>e</sup>

Librairie de Paris | St-Étienne

Lucioles | Vienne

La Maison jaune | Neuville-sur-Saône

Les Volcans | Clermont-Ferrand

### The Small Noir Bookshop – Hôtel de Ville

Le Livre en Pente | Lyon 1<sup>er</sup>

Un Petit Noir | Lyon 1<sup>er</sup>

Le Père Pénard | Lyon 5<sup>e</sup>

Atmosphère DVD | Lyon 8<sup>e</sup>

Marché Noir | Gardanne

Le Rayon populaire | Villefranche-sur-Saône

John Doe - Guilty, IELLO | Game stands

### Noir paperbacks – Hôtel de Ville

This year, paperback publishers are taking centre stage at Quais du Polar! Explore a selection of crime novels brought to you by the participating publishers and Mangeurs d'étoiles bookshop, featuring games, quizzes, and appearances by several authors.

### Join us for book signings:

At the Père Pénard stand:

Gilles CAILLOT, Walid NAZIM, Romain SLOCOMBE, Julie SUBIRANA

At the Un Petit Noir stand:

Gérard COQUET, Jacques MORIZE, and other authors to be discovered on the festival's website

At the Atmosphère DVD stand:

Dominique MARTIN

## A SOLIDARY FESTIVAL ACCESSIBILITY

True to its commitment to being an event open to everyone, Quais du Polar has made welcoming individuals with disabilities a priority. Since 2022, the festival's teams have worked on improving accessibility and inclusivity for all audiences. The adaptation of festival signage and the establishment of an accessibility hub, consisting of team members and volunteers reachable in advance by phone or email, have ensured an experience tailored to each individual. Quais du Polar's programme has also been made more accessible by offering eight conferences translated into French sign language, as well as sessions dedicated to raising awareness about books published in large print and those adapted for individuals with dyslexia. To disseminate this information to the relevant audiences, Quais du Polar has reached out to more than 40 associations, organisations, and specialised media outlets, both locally and nationally. These fruitful exchanges have and will continue to contribute to improving access to culture for all.

This year, thanks to the support of the DRAC Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Region, specific actions will be implemented before and during the festival:

- 8 meetings will be translated into French Sign Language live with the assistance of specialized FSL interpreters.
- Some venues will also be equipped with hearing loops for hearing aid users.
- A departure for the Great Investigation reserved for deaf people (accompanied by FSL interpreters) will take place on Saturday, April 6th, at 1 p.m.
- A designated contact person and a team of trained volunteers will be assigned to provide information in advance and assistance during the event to those who wish upon their arrival from the metro, bus, or other means of transportation, throughout their journey at the festival venues (conferences, Great Bookshop, etc.).

All our venues are accessible to people with reduced mobility and comply with PMR standards.

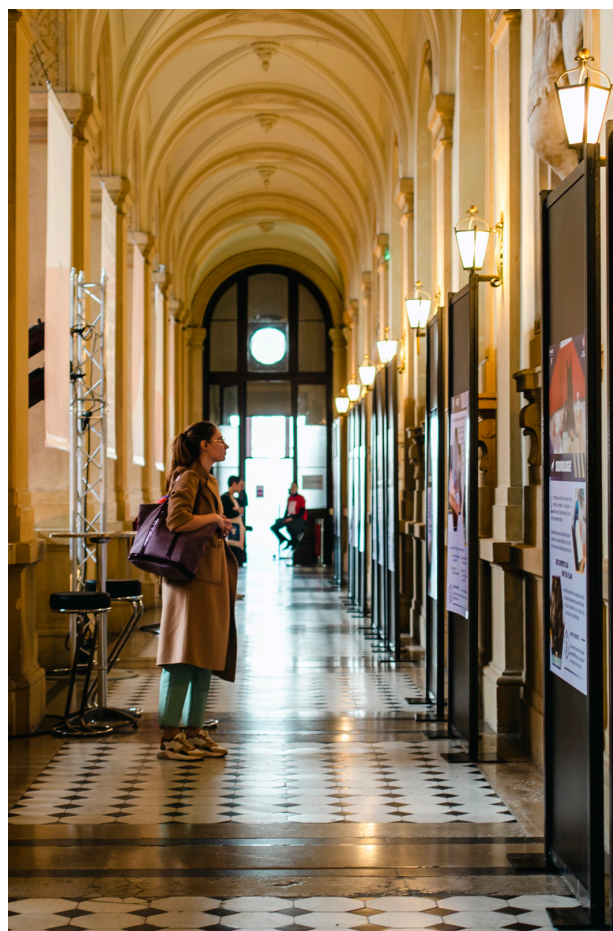
» [polarpourtous@quaisdupolar.com](mailto:polarpourtous@quaisdupolar.com)  
» +33 6 80 92 10 70

## AN ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE EVENT

Quais du Polar is environmentally conscious and has been working towards limiting its carbon footprint and waste production for years. All of our service providers and suppliers are local businesses, the festival limits paper printing, and prioritises train travel for French and European guests. Quais du Polar is continuously exploring new solutions to implement long-term actions, focusing on paper sourcing and the website's carbon footprint, among other things.

## FREE ADMISSION

Access to the main venues of the festival, conferences, meetings, and youth activities is free within the limit of available seats. Upon presentation of the membership card to the Quais du Polar association, festivalgoers benefit from easier access to each conference! (Except for film screenings, literary cruises, and some "echo to the festival" events).



© Daniela Tapia

# A LOOK BACK AT THE PREVIOUS EDITION

## THE 2023 EDITION IN NUMBERS:

- **130 authors present in Lyon (18 nationalities represented)**
- **90,000 festivalgoers**
- **15,000 participants in Quais du Polar's Great Investigation**, including 2,000 pupils
- **29,800+ followers on Facebook** (2nd largest literary event behind the Angoulême International Comics Festival)
- **8,400+ followers on Instagram** (+82% since 2022)
- **500+ articles** in the written and digital press
- **200 cultural events** across Lyon and the region
- **30 partner towns**
- **69 partner locations and institutions** (museums, libraries, theatres, cinema, schools, hospitals, prisons...) in Lyon, its metropolitan area, and the region
- **12 independent bookshops** present at the Great Noir Bookshop in the Palais de la Bourse and 6 bookshops and second-hand bookshops present at the Little Noir Bookshop: **a turnover of 290,000€**.
- **Around 80 meetings and roundtables** held in the festival's main venues
- **22 movie screenings** across 11 of the city and its metropolis' theatres, totalling **2570 filmgoers**
- **313 volunteers** of all ages and all walks of life
- **770 members to support the organisation**
- **3,500 pupils involved in the various mediation programmes**, from kindergarten to high school.
- **200 partners** (private, institutional, cultural, media, and suppliers)
- **350 literature and audio-visual professionals** accredited for the Polar Connection professional events
- **30+ journalists** (France, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy) present to cover the event
- **160 teachers, librarians, and school librarians** signed up to the training day
- **12 bookshops and around 50 booksellers** from the Metropolis of Lyon and the Region present throughout the festival to advise readers
- **Impact on the tourism industry:** 1,500 meals served across 8 restaurants and approximately 1,000 nights booked across 9 Lyon hotels for guests of the festival, and a significant increase in the number of tourists in Lyon throughout the weekend of the festival.



© Daniela Tapia

# THE BIGGEST NOIR EVENT IN FRANCE AND EUROPE

**As the biggest festival dedicated to crime fiction in France and Europe, Quais du Polar has become one of the most important events in the world of books. It is THE unmissable gathering for crime fiction enthusiasts in Europe and owes its vitality to its unique format in the realm of literary events:**

- A festival that showcases the latest in crime fiction publishing, with an open approach to crime fiction in its broadest sense, from noir novels to thrillers, and allows for numerous forays into general fiction, comics, and young adult literature.
- Recognizing that crime fiction is also an asset for attracting new audiences to literary and cultural events, Quais du Polar strives to diversify its programming as much as possible, offering a wide range of activities including literature, cinema, music, exhibitions, series, theatre, and games.
- A festival open to the City and Metropolitan area of Lyon and the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region.
- An event that offers new and unique playful experiences for festivalgoers: city-wide investigation, museum treasure hunt, escape game, and more.
- A literary event where the greatest crime fiction authors from around the world gather each year in a friendly atmosphere.

Beyond its public image, Quais du Polar is first and foremost a civic festival that advocates for access to culture for all by offering free admission and activities aimed at audiences furthest from culture and literature. Education is also a significant aspect of the festival, through initiatives such as combating illiteracy (Dictées Noires in collaboration with the National Agency for the Fight Against Illiteracy) and various educational activities tailored to different age groups.

Furthermore, Quais du Polar has also become a reference in the professional sphere, offering an annual training programme for teachers and librarians in partnership with the ENSSIB (National School of Library and Information Science), and a programme of professional meetings, Polar Connection, bringing together professionals from the book industry, audiovisual sector, and broader cultural sector. The festival has also committed to promoting international professional exchanges and showcasing French-language crime fiction abroad. For several years, it has been collaborating with the French Institute, partnering with literary events in various countries (Italy, Germany, Romania, China, India, South Korea) to highlight Francophone authors.

True to its commitments and convictions, the Quais du Polar team continues to develop along these various axes, looking back with satisfaction at the progress made and eagerly anticipating a future that is equally rich in exchanges, encounters, and global outreach.

## PRESS COVERAGE

**The entire national daily press:** *Le Figaro, Le Monde, Le Parisien-Aujourd'hui en France, Libération, La Croix...*

**Weekly magazines:** *Le Point, ELLE, L'Express, L'Obs, Le Journal du Dimanche, Madame Figaro, Télérama, Télé 7 jours, Version Femina, Paris Match, Point de vue...*

**Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes regional press:** *Le Progrès, Le Petit Bulletin, Lyon Capitale, La Tribune de Lyon, Grains de sel, Radio Scoop, RCF, Chérie FM, Virgin radio...*

**Regional press:** *Ouest-France, Sud-Ouest, Nice Matin, L'Alsace, Les Dernières nouvelles d'Alsace, La Voix du Nord, La Provence, La Dépêche du midi, Corse Matin...*

**Foreign press:** *El País, Flair, Femmes d'Aujourd'hui, La RTBF, La Tribune de Genève, La Vanguardia, Le Soir, Le Matin, Le Vif - L'Express...*

**Professional press:** *Biblioteca, Écran Total, Livres Hedbo, ActuaLitté, PAGE des libraires...*

**Radio and television:** France 3 Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, France 3, France 2, France 5, ARTE, BFMTV, M6, LCI, France 24, Polar +, France Inter, France Culture, France Info, Europe 1, RTL...

**Thousands of internet pages** (websites, blogs...)

# THE MONTH OF NOIR

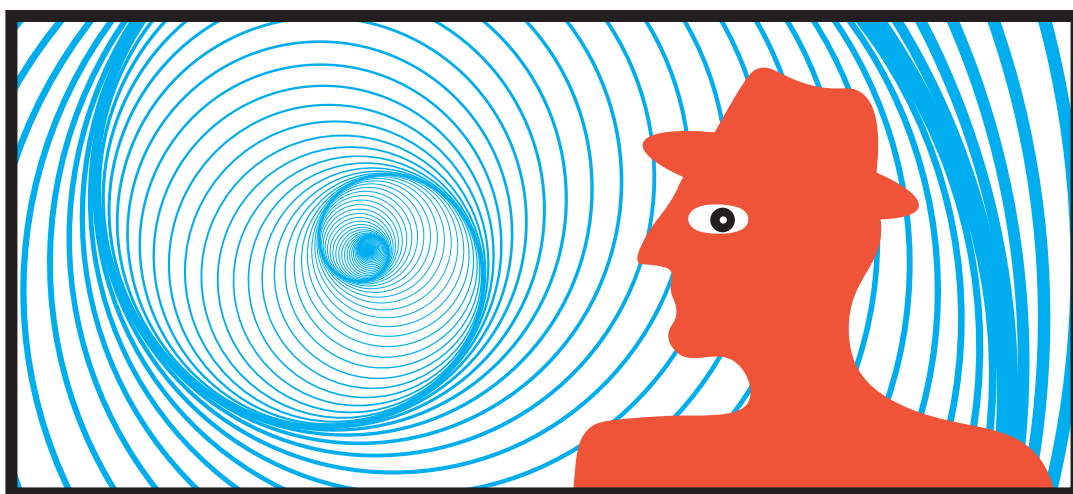
## QUAIS DU POLAR RENEWS ITS "MONTH OF NOIR" OPERATION IN APRIL

Over the years, Quais du Polar has had a growing impact on promoting crime fiction, by creating a "noir season" during which publishers release new titles, foreign authors go on tour, bookstores organize events around the genre, and major French media outlets publish special crime fiction features. This season has helped to highlight the literary genre, which is now a favourite among French readers, with nearly 22 million books sold each year in France.

The objective of the "**MONTH OF NOIR**" initiative is to perpetuate the "noir spirit" beyond the Quais du Polar festival, to promote the genre and celebrate it throughout the month of April on a national scale. This will involve specific communication and a comprehensive programme dedicated to this "Month of Noir" in line with the programming of the 2024 edition. It will also include our selections of recent crime fiction titles, book signings, events taking place in bookshops throughout the month, publisher initiatives, and some key activities related to the genre.

The "**Libraires Ensemble**" group of independent bookshops, with its network of 44 bookshops across France, will be our privileged partner for this initiative. They will host some of the festival's guest authors, especially foreign authors, who can make the most of their visit to France by participating in meetings and book signings at partner bookshops.

**As Robin cook once said "April months are murderous".**



**LE MOIS DU  
POLAR**  
du festival international Quais du Polar



# INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

**For the 20th consecutive year, Lyon transforms into an international hub for literary and cultural professionals for the duration of the festival. This global convergence fosters exchanges and the birth of new projects. Supported by the agreement between the French Institute, the City, and the Metropolitan area of Lyon, Quais du Polar showcases French-language crime fiction and its authors worldwide, exploring Book Cities/Crime Fiction Cities and the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.**

Through regular exchanges, we welcome publishers, literary event organisers, and international cultural leaders, paving the way for project development in their respective countries. Collaborations commence right here in Lyon this spring, with professionals from Prague, Reykjavik, Manchester, Vilnius, Athens, Barcelona, or Milan contributing significantly to the festival's international prominence.

We also observe or support initiatives worldwide, echoing the exchanges that occur in Lyon, in close collaboration with the French cultural network abroad and local partners, to promote and disseminate authors' works.

## IN ENGLAND

For instance, in this context, Quais du Polar has initiated collaborative writing experiments between two authors, one French and the other from a crime fiction city. Their Collaborative Crime Novels collection, with the collaboration of Points publishers, is already underway. *The Steve McQueen* by Tim Willocks and Caryl Férey, set between Manchester and Lyon, will be presented this year in this vein.

## NOIR IN MUMBAI, INDIA

Projects developed with Mumbai or Barcelona continue to yield results in subsequent years, with a second edition of Noir in Mumbai and the invitation of the authors of *L'inconnue du Port*, Olivier Truc and Rosa Montero, to the BCNegra 2024 festival in Barcelona.

## IN GENEVA

From March 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Quais du Polar is present at the Geneva Book Fair with a programme featuring the presence of 15 authors and the organisation of around ten meetings on crime fiction. These various meetings bring together Ian Manook and Nicolas Verdan for dark literary journeys; Patricia Tourancheau and Fabrice Epstein on criminal reality and the secrets of justice; Niko Tackian and Nicolas Lebel on the backstage of their writing process and their secrets to bringing their plots to life; Caryl Férey, Morgan Audic, and their narratives that blend suspense with nature and animal advocacy; Laurent Joffrin and Olivier Truc, two journalists turned crime fiction authors; and Hervé Le Corre, a prominent figure in Francophone crime fiction who combines fine writing with social engagement.



Remise des Prix 2023 - Polar en séries - Chapelle de la Trinité  
© Laurent Bouchard

# POLAR CONNECTION

## 11<sup>TH</sup> EDITION !

Quais du Polar's professional programme unfolds over three intense days, fostering exchanges on current topics, sharing inspiring experiences, and fostering connections around crime fiction projects to develop. It brings together professionals from France and abroad whose activities are influenced by crime fiction. From April 5th to 7th, 2024, Polar Connection offers accredited professionals:

- A dedicated gathering point for accredited professionals: conference rooms and individual meeting spaces or friendly cocktail times at the heart of the festival, at the Palais de la Bourse;
- A specific programme of roundtable discussions, workshops, presentations on professional topics, and the presentation of the SCELf - Polar en Series award;
- Tailored "Extras" events for participants, with involved partners;
- Privileged access to festival events, a source of inspiration.

## ON THE PROGRAMME FOR CRIME FICTION PROFESSIONALS

Meetings with publishers and book professionals from Book Cities/Crime Fiction Cities as well as the UNESCO Creative Cities of Literature network. This is an opportunity to explore identifying new voices in crime fiction internationally or to share experiences on the dynamics created by this network.

The programme will draw from the genre's current topics and the industry's questions: key figures from two studies by CNL and SOFIA; the role of the paperback format in showcasing authors; contributions from Police/Justice experts in the narrative process.

Tim Willocks and Caryl Férey will shed light on their collaborative writing process, alongside translator Benjamin Legrand and publisher Natalie Beunat. Presentations of new releases from 8 French publishing houses on Saturday morning. Also, a special weekend programme dedicated to literary influencers.

Bridges with cinema and the audiovisual realm during case studies of series adapted from novels. Three guest authors will engage in a comparative approach to literary and audiovisual writing. Added to these are all the individual meetings, contacts, and dedicated cocktail meetings for networking.

## SCELf - POLAR EN SERIES AWARD

A highlight of Friday's agenda, the Polar en Series award was designed, with the support of the Civil Society of French-Language Publishers (SCELf), to be part of the Polar Connection programme. It creates bridges between the literary and audiovisual realms by rewarding a work for its intrinsic qualities and its potential for adaptation into a series. The award will be presented for its 10th edition in 2024 in the company of a jury of cinema and audiovisual professionals, who will also speak at a meeting about the challenges of adaptation.

Discover the contenders on p. 23

## THE QDP TALENT POOL

Many young or future professionals in the book and audiovisual industries, passionate about crime fiction, gravitate around the festival, especially among volunteers or partnering training organizations. Some professionals present at Polar Connection will be called upon to meet them and discuss their profession, practices, and motivations. This tailor-made programme aims to transmit experiences and enthusiasm for crime fiction, to present the professions of these sectors, and to create links between young people in training and professionals.

## ACCREDITATIONS

Polar Connection is accessible by prior accreditation to be done online at:

<https://registerquaisdupolar.festibooks.com> > 90 € HT

Detailed programme and information at: [www.quaisdupolar.com/polar-connection](http://www.quaisdupolar.com/polar-connection)

# GUEST AUTHORS IN 2024

## ENGLAND

M.J. ARLIDGE  
Eliza CLARK  
Terry HAYES  
Abir MUKHERJEE  
Dominic NOLAN  
Alice SLATER  
Joe THOMAS  
Tim WILLOCKS

## BELGIUM

Barbara ABEL  
Jérémie CLAES  
Chris DE STOOP  
Kenan GÖRGÜN

## BRAZIL

Patrícia MELO

## CANADA

André MAROIS

## SCOTLAND

Peter MAY  
Val MCDERMID

## SPAIN

Aro SÁINZ DE LA MAZA  
Jordi LAFEBRE

## USA

S.A. COSBY  
John GRISHAM  
Gabino IGLESIAS  
Meagan JENNETT  
Dennis LEHANE  
Donna LEON  
Catriona WARD

## FRANCE

Morgan AUDIC  
Olivier BAL  
Olivier BORDAÇARRE

Franck BOUYASSE  
Marie-Laure BRUNEL-  
DUPIN  
Marion BRUNET  
Michel BUSSI  
Cécile CABANAC  
Marie CAPRON  
Stéphane CARLIER  
Martial CAROFF  
Cyril CARRÈRE  
Hannelore CAYRE  
Jean-Charles CHAPUZET  
Maxime CHATTAM  
Pascale CHOUFFOT  
Benoît COLLOMBAT  
Christophe DABITCH  
Didier DAENINCKX  
Danü DANQUIGNY  
Éric DECOUTY  
Patricia DELAHAIE  
Angéline DELCROIX  
Sonja DELZONGLE  
Céline DENJEAN  
DOA  
Fabrice EPSTEIN  
Jacques EXPERT  
Claire FAVAN  
Caryl FÉREY  
Michelle FINES  
Benjamin FOGEL  
Sylvain FORGE  
Alain GAGNOL  
Manon GAUTHIER-FAURE  
Sébastien GENDRON  
Étienne GERIN  
Karine GIEBEL  
Laurent GUILLAUME  
Laurent JOFFRIN  
Joëlle JOLIVET  
Alexis LAIPSKER  
Nicolas LEBEL  
Guillaume LE CORNEC  
Hervé LE CORRE

Marc LEVY  
Henri LCEVENBRUCK  
Sophie LOUBIÈRE  
Sandrine LUCCHINI  
Joseph MACÉ-SCARON  
MAKO  
Mo MALØ  
Ian MANOOK  
Dominique MANOTTI  
René MANZOR  
Grégory MARDON  
Laurent MARTIN  
Nicolas MATHIEU  
McSKYZ  
François MÉDÉLINE  
Olivier MERLE  
Bernard MINIER  
Karim MISKÉ  
François MOLINS  
Max MONNEHAY  
Guillaume MUSSO  
Colin NIEL  
Olivier NOREK  
Stéphane PAIR  
Fabrice PAPILLON  
Anne PERCIN  
Océane PERONA  
Valérie PÉRONNET  
Bernard PETIT  
Benoît PHILIPPON  
Florian PIGÉ  
Frédéric POTIER  
J.-M. POTTIER  
Bertrand PUARD  
Serge QUADRUPPANI  
Emmanuel RAYNAL  
Patrick RAYNAL  
Antoine RENAND  
Pétronille ROSTAGNAT  
Christian ROUX  
Thomté RYAM  
Jacques SAUSSEY  
Dominique SYLVAIN

Niko TACKIAN  
Danielle THIÉRY  
Franck THILLIEZ  
Patricia TOURANCHEAU  
Olivier TRUC

## GREECE

Christos  
MARKOGIANNAKIS

## ICELAND

Katrín JAKOBSDÓTTIR  
Ragnar JÓNASSON  
Lilja SIGURÐARDÓTTIR

## ITALY

Davide LONGO  
Piero MACOLA  
Piergiorgio PULIXI  
Valerio VARESI

## NORWAY

Jørn Lier HORST  
Jo NESBØ

## POLAND

Maryla SZYMICZKOWA

## SWEDEN

Pascal ENGMAN  
Ulf KVENSLEK  
Malin PERSSON GIOLITO  
Karin SMIRNOFF

## SWITZERLAND

Joseph INCARDONA

# LITERARY PROGRAMME

## 135 AUTHORS EXPECTED

To mark this anniversary, the festival will offer an unprecedented programme held in numerous venues across the city, metropolitan area, and region, hosting a lineup of iconic authors from the genre. Book signings, roundtable discussions, and exclusive interviews will allow readers to share unique moments with the 135 guest authors.

## AUTHORS FROM 15 COUNTRIES

Dennis Lehane (USA), making his first appearance at the festival, John Grisham (USA), Donna Leon (USA), Jo Nesbø (Norway), Peter May (Scotland), Valerio Varesi (Italy), M.J. Arlidge (England), Patrícia Melo (Brazil), Terry Hayes (England), S.A. Cosby (USA), Tim Willocks (England), Abir Mukherjee (England), Karin Smirnoff (Sweden), Ragnar Jónasson and Katrín Jakobsdóttir (Iceland), Jørn Lier Horst (Norway), Piergiorgio Pulixi (Italy), Val McDermid (Scotland)...

## THE BIGGEST NAMES IN FRENCH CRIME FICTION

Maxime Chattam, Franck Thilliez, Bernard Minier, Hannelore Cayre, Michel Bussi, Caryl Férey, Olivier Norek, Barbara Abel, DOA, Jacques Expert, Marion Brunet, Niko Tackian, Sophie Loubière, Laurent Joffrin, Karine Giebel, Sylvain Forge, Claire Favan, Ian Manook, Colin Niel, Franck Bouysse, Alexis Laipsker, Hervé Le Corre, Olivier Truc, Dominique Sylvain, Henri Lœvenbruck...

**And authors who have left their mark on the genre and have been with us since the festival's inception:**

Patrick Raynal, Dominique Manotti, Didier Daeninckx, and Serge Quadrupani.

## EXCEPTIONAL PRESENCE OF AUTHORS ON THE FRINGES OF CRIME FICTION

Nicolas Mathieu, Marc Levy, and Guillaume Musso.

## A LINEUP OF FRENCH NON-FICTION AUTHORS

Michelle Fines, Manon Gautier-Faure, Fabrice Eipstein, François Molins, and J.M. Pottier.

## COMIC BOOK AUTHORS

Mako, Benoît Collombat and Grégory Mardon, Christophe Dabitch and Piero Macola, Jordi Lafebre, Florian Pigé, and Étienne Gerin.

## AND AUTHORS OF YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

Bertrand Puard, Alain Gagnol, Danielle Thiéry, Laurent Martin...

## THE 2024 GEMS

Quais du Polar will once again showcase its discoveries and favourites through its label " **LES PÉPITES DES QUAIS** ". Since its inception in 2005, the festival has seen the emergence of new authors, but has also encouraged the development of French crime fiction through programmes abroad. Because Quais du Polar remains above all a festival of discoveries, the entire team is presenting its selection of "Gems," authors to follow and discover urgently at this year's festival:



Marie-Laure Brunel et Valérie Péronnet (France), Marie Capron (France), Pascale Chouffot (France), Christophe Dabitch and Piero Macola (France and Italy), Danü Danquigny (France), Éric Decouty (France), Pascal Engman (Sweden), Meagan Jennett (USA), Manon Gautier-Faure (France), André Marois (Canada), Kenan Görgün (Belgium), Gabino Iglesias (USA), Ulf Kvensler (Sweden), Davide Longo (Italy), Patrícia Melo (Brazil), Karim Miské (France), Dominic Nolan (England), Anne Percin (France), Océane Perona (France), Frédéric Potier (France), J.-M. Pottier (France), Maryla Szymiczkowa (Poland) and Thomté Ryam (France).

# THEMES OF THIS EDITION

This anniversary edition will focus on themes highlighting the evolution of the genre and the invitation of key authors to the festival. A spotlight will also be placed on new authors, emerging trends in crime fiction, and new partnerships.

For 20 years, crime fiction has been a socially engaged genre, allowing guest authors to advocate for causes close to their hearts: fighting against racism and intolerance, misogyny and violence against women, inequality, environmental damage and its consequences on the planet, to name a few. 20 years later, crime fiction continues to explore the flaws in society and encourages us to reflect on our values.

## THE BIG INTERVIEWS

As is tradition, Quais du Polar will be hosting big interviews with some of the key authors of this edition. This is an opportunity for readers to delve into their literary universes, discover the deep roots of their creativity, the intricacies of their sources of inspiration, and what goes on behind the scenes in their profession as writers.

- **DARKNESS, TAKE MY HAND, AN HOUR WITH DENNIS LEHANE** at the Théâtre des Célestins.
- **REYKJAVIK, AN HOUR WITH Ragnar JÓNASSON and Katrín JAKOBSDÓTTIR** at the Hôtel de Ville.
- **LIFE IS A NOVEL, AN HOUR WITH GUILLAUME MUSSO** at the Chapelle de la Trinité.
- **PLAYING FOR PIZZA, AN HOUR WITH JOHN GRISHAM** at the Chapelle de la Trinité.
- **THE SYMPHONY OF MONSTERS AN HOUR WITH MARC LEVY** at the Chapelle de la Trinité.
- **CITOYENS CLANDESTINE MASTERCLASS BY ARTE** at the Pathé Bellecour cinema. To mark the occasion of the "Citoyens Clandestins" series being broadcast on Arte, adapted from the novel by author DOA, the director Laetitia Masson and the author will talk about how they worked together to adapt the book into a series.
- **MAXIME CHATTAM MEETS HIS READERS** at the Comédie Odéon Theater. Readers will be the actors in the exchanges with their favorite author as they will have the opportunity to question him and take the lead in the interview.

## THE RESURGENCE OF FRENCH CRIME FICTION

Since its inception, as a witness to the evolution of the crime fiction genre for 20 years now, the Quais du Polar festival has shone its spotlight on French crime fiction authors through its Readers' Award, and has supported the emergence of new authors.

Thanks to its vitality, the perpetual renewal of its forms, the breadth and universality of its concerns, its attention to language, its questioning of contemporary realities, and the quality of its mastery of narrative structure, French crime fiction has attracted a very large readership in recent years.

A focus and a tribute to French authors will be offered through 5 meetings, in an attempt to better understand the recipes for this success.

- **HOT BLOOD AND COLD SWEATS – FOCUS ON FRENCH CRIME FICTION (1)** with Michel Bussi – Karine Giebel – Bernard Minier – Franck Thilliez
- **FRENCH NOIR NOVEL AND THE SOUNDS OF THE WORLD – FOCUS ON FRENCH CRIME FICTION (2)** with Marion Brunet – Marc Levy – Serge Quadruppani
- **FRENCH NOIR IN THE COLORS OF THE HEXAGON – FOCUS ON FRENCH CRIME FICTION 2005-2024 (3)** with Hannelore Cayre – Didier Daeninckx – Nicolas Mathieu – Patrick Raynal
- **FRENCH CRIME FICTION, EVOLUTION OF A GENRE, FOCUS ON FRENCH CRIME FICTION (4)** with Marion Brunet – Didier Daeninckx – Colin Niel – Olivier Norek – Patrick Raynal
- **VOYAGERS OF THE NOIR: NEW WORLD LITERATURE ? FOCUS ON FRENCH CRIME FICTION (5)** with Morgan Audic – Mo Malø – Ian Manook – Olivier Truc

## THE BIG INTERNATIONAL THEMES

Quais du Polar will explore various international themes with guest authors from 15 different nationalities.

Since its inception, the festival has asserted itself as a deeply international event, where global issues resonate at the heart of the concerns of both writers and readers, as an invitation to transcend literary borders.

- **POLITICAL PAGES: DIALOGUE AROUND THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION** with S. A. Cosby – John Grisham – Gabino Iglesias – Dennis Lehane
- **EURONAIR: NOIR AUTHORS AND THE 2024 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS** with Eliza Clarke – Danü Danquigny – Katrín Jakobsdóttir – Aro Sáinz de la Maza – Valerio Varesi
- **CIVIL RIGHTS ACT, 60 YEARS OF FIGHTING AGAINST RACISM IN THE UNITED STATES** with S.A. Cosby – Dennis Lehane
- **THE AMERICA OF THE DISINHERITED AND THE SHUT OUT** with S.A. Cosby – Gabino Iglesias – Joseph Incardona – Meagan Jennett
- **ENTENTE CORDIALE: 120 YEARS OF CROSS-CHANNEL ALLIANCES** with Caryl Férey – Peter May – Val McDermid – Tim Willocks
- **WHAT HAPPENED TO THE NORDIC WAVE ?** with Pascal Engman – Ragnar Jónasson – Jo Nesbø – Lilja Sigurðardóttir

## THE GREAT BATTLES

Decades go by and noir novelists remain as socially conscious and rebellious as ever, continuing to support numerous causes through their books. The defence of women's rights, the fight against violence and intolerance in the broad sense, and environmentalism have emerged as central themes in many novels, illustrating the evolution and persistence of these major struggles over time.

- **FEMICIDES, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: CRIME FICTION TAKES A STAND (1)** with Pascal Engman – Patrícia Melo – Dominic Nolan – Lilja Sigurðardóttir
- **GIRL POWER: NOIR FICTION AND FEMINISM** with Meagan Jennett – Sophie Loubière – Océane Perona – Benoît Philippon
- **QUEER EYE FOR THE TOUGH GUY: THE EVOLUTION OF LGBTQ+ STRUGGLES** with Val McDermid – Sandrine Lucchini – Lilja Sigurðardóttir – Joe Thomas
- **ENVIRONMENTAL RED ALERT: THE RAW NOIR WRITERS** with Morgan Audic – Sonja Delzongle – Peter May – Karin Smirnoff
- **THE RICH GET RICHER, THE POOR GET POORER: OUR OBSERVATORY OF INEQUALITIES** with Bernard Minier – Malin Persson Giolito – Thomté Ryam – Aro Sáinz de la Maza
- **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: CRIME FICTION TAKES A STAND (2)** with Pascale Chouffot – Olivier Merle – Océane Perona

- **RACISM, HOMOPHOBIA, EXTREMISM: CRIME FICTION FACING THE VILE BEASTS** with Jérémie Claes – Abir Mukherjee – Maryla Szymiczakowa – Joe Thomas

## OTHER THEMES

The noir genre allows authors to address numerous current topics, but also sometimes lighter literary themes:

### The real-life noir

- **CRIME STORY: LOCAL NEWS AND CRIMINAL CASE NUTS** with Jean-Charles Chapuzet – Eliza Clark – Jacques Expert – Patricia Tourancheau
- **COLD CASES AND OLD LEGAL AFFAIRS, PANDORA'S BOX ?** with Chris De Stoop – Fabrice Epstein – Michelle Fines – J.-M. Pottier
- **INVESTIGATION PROS TAKE UP THE PEN: NEW LIFE, OR NEW DISGUISE ?** with Marie-Laure Brunel-Dupin – Angéline Delcroix – François Molins – Bernard Petit
- **FIELD REALITY TO MAKE FICTION** with Olivier Bordaçarre – Michel Bussi – Karine Giebel
- **WANTED: THE DOGGED COLD CASE CHASERS** with Cécile Cabanac – Pascale Chouffot – Ragnar Jónasson and Katrín Jakobsdóttir – Davide Longo
- **POLITICAL FICTION AND FICTION OF POLITICS, CRIME LITERATURE AS A COMPLEMENT TO INVESTIGATIONS** with Éric Decouty – Dominique Manotti – François Médéline – Karim Miské
- **IMMORTAL LETTERS: WRITING ABOUT MAJOR FIGURES** with Benoît Collombat and Grégory Mardon – Didier Daeninckx and Mako – Patrick and Emmanuel-Alain Raynal
- **TWOFOLD: THE CRIME NOVELS BORN FROM REAL STORIES OR CHARACTERS** with Marie Capron – Patricia Delahaie – Dominic Nolan – Fabrice Papillon

### The future, new technologies and speculative fiction

- **TODAY IS TOMORROW: NOIR SPECULATIVE FICTION (1)** with Hervé Le Corre – Sophie Loubière – Peter May
- **THE FUTURES OF DIGITAL: THE CHALLENGES OF CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE** with Cyril Carrère – Benjamin Fogel – Sylvain Forge – Niko Tackian
- **FUTURE HORIZONS AND THE NEW TECHNOLOGICAL ERA: NOIR SPECULATIVE FICTION (2)** with Christophe Dabitch and Piero Macola – Benjamin Fogel – Sylvain Forge – Karim Miské

## Literary explorations around the genre

- **FROM NOIR TO RED: THE CREDO OF VIOLENCE, WRITING VIOLENCE** with Sonja Delzongle – Davide Longo – Antoine Renand – Franck Thilliez
- **FOLLOWING ON AND FOLLOWING THROUGH, RECURRING HEROES** with Laurent Joffrin – Alexis Laipsker – Davide Longo – Max Monnehay
- **CREATING AND RECREATING SUSPENSE: THE METHODS OF FEAR, THE THRILLER** with Barbara Abel – M.J. Arlidge – Martial Caroff – René Manzor
- **ÉWRITING HISTORY WITHOUT LECTURING: HISTORICAL CRIME FICTION IN QUESTION** with Laurent Joffrin – Henri Lœvenbruck – Abir Mukherjee – Maryla Szymiczkowa
- **SUB-LITERARY CRIME FICTION: WHEN LITERATURE IS AT THE HEART OF THE PLOT** with Eliza Clark – Christos Markogiannakis – Alice Slater – Catriona Ward
- **EXPANDING INTO THE DARK SIDE: THE ANXIETY AND HORROR NOVEL** with Alexis Laipsker – Jacques Saussey – Catriona Ward

## MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

### Various formats

More than 80 meetings and conferences are held throughout these three days of the festival, in prestigious and historic locations, in unusual and unexpected places, but also on water or through the city streets.

- **The Palais de la Bourse, the Hôtel de ville, the Chapelle de la Trinité, and the Comédie Odéon cinema** will host meetings and conferences with guest authors throughout the weekend.
- **Literary cruises** on the Bateaux Lyonnais will allow readers to spend an hour with an author along the Saône. Featuring: Caryl Férey, Jordi Lafebre, Hervé Le Corre, Nicolas Mathieu, Peter May, Jo Nesbø.
- **Literary bus tours** through the city streets to meet those who experience first-hand what makes us shiver in noir novels on a daily basis: authors and experts in profiling, investigation, and INTERPOL with Lyon City tour.
- **The Lyon Judicial Court will host two meetings on the theme of justice and investigation:** Cold cases and old legal affairs (with Chris De Stoop, Fabrice Epstein, Michelle Fines, J.-M. Pottier) and about investigators who take up the pen (with

Marie-Laure Brunel-Dupin, Angéline Delcroix, François Molins, Bernard Petit).

### Original proposals

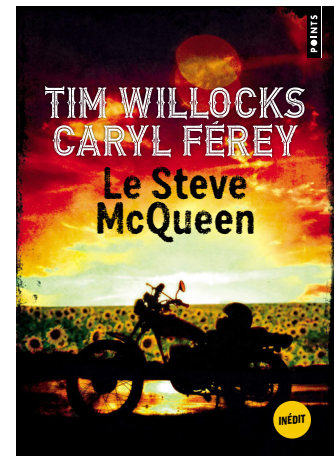
- **Noir Dictations** in partnership with the National Agency for the Fight against Illiteracy: Marion Brunet will address students, and on Friday at the Comédie Odéon cinema, actress Virginie Ledoyen will be invited to dictate a noir text to the general public.
- **A reading aloud competition** in partnership with Audiolib : theatre and reading aloud enthusiasts will be able to perform on the Quais du Polar stage and will be judged by Clémentine Domptail and McSkylz.
- **Translation duel:** two translators from the Association of Literary Translators of France (ATLF), Maïa Rosenberger and Samuel Sfez, will delve into the unpublished translation of a short story by Italian author Valerio Varesi.
- **Reading sessions:** Lizzie and Quais du Polar offer a reading time of excerpts from noir novels by actors to dive into the world of suspense.
- **Immersion in true crime with McSkylz:** well-known on social media platforms where he publishes highly documented videos on news stories, McSkylz will premiere his new video. The screening will be followed by a Q&A session.
- **Quais du Polar will inaugurate this year a partnership with the "Ça Presse" festival, the International Press Drawing Meetings,** by proposing a meeting on the theme of humour with 5 authors illustrated live by press cartoonists Lara and Lacombe.

# THE COLLABORATIVE CRIME NOVEL

Quais du Polar and Éditions Points share a collaborative writing project connecting two authors, two cities, two countries... A new project emerges between Lyon and Manchester.

It fits into a collection initiated by a first novel, *Le Coffre*, written by Romanian author Lucian-Dragos Bogdan and French author Jacky Schwartzmann in 2019. Then came *Terminus Leipzig*, written by German author Max Annas and French author Jérôme Leroy in 2022, and last year *L'inconnue du port* by Spanish author Rosa Montero and French author Olivier Truc.

In 2024, *Le Steve McQueen* is the result of collaboration between British author Tim Willocks and French author Caryl Férey. They have joined their voices and talent to write this rock & roll and tender epic, between Manchester and Lyon, infused with devastating humour. They will present it at Quais du Polar, alongside translator Benjamin Legrand and editor Natalie Beunat.



The writing project for this novel was initiated by the international festival Quais du Polar, in collaboration with Éditions Points. It is supported by the Institut français / Ville et Métropole de Lyon Convention.

The Cité de la Gastronomie will host both authors for a brunch, prepared by a Franco-British chef duo, for an original exchange between Lyon and Manchester, between gastronomy and literature. In partnership with the Métropole de Lyon.

## MUSICAL PROGRAMME

- **Musical encounter around rock'n'roll, with Nicolas Lebel, Henri Løevenbruck, and Niko Tackian**

Initiated in 2017 with the Regional Conservatory of Lyon, the musical encounters connect literature and music. This meeting at Fnac Bellecour will bring together three rock'n'roll authors, accompanied on stage by the energetic and transcendent rock duo from Lyon, Salut l'orage.

- **Musical Encounter around *Black Music Justice*, with Fabrice Epstein**

As a lawyer and music journalist, Fabrice Epstein bridges these two roles through his books on the legal history of music. In *Black Music Justice*, he addresses the legal cases that have marked the history of black music from the 1930s to the present day. This meeting at Fnac Bellecour will be accompanied by DJ Mimi Géniale.

- **An evening of music with Donna Leon**

In the magnificent setting of the Chapelle de la Trinité, Donna Leon will invite us to explore her work through the prism of her passion for baroque music. To complement this journey, students from the Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Lyon will interpret the works of mythical composers from the *Serenissima*: Monteverdi, Legrenzi, Vivaldi, and of course, Haendel.

- **Live scoring of *Breaking Bad* at Marché Gare**

Episode 10 of season 3 of the cult series, entitled "Fly", particularly inspired Benoît Gaucher and Yohan Landry, who decided to illustrate it in music. The duo's post-rock serves the creation of this new artistic object in the form of a UFO. An original way to (re)discover the series! Co-production by Astrolabe and partnership with Le Jardin Moderne.



# ON-SCREEN PROGRAMME

## NOIR WEEKEND AT THE INSTITUT LUMIÈRE

Quais du Polar is back to celebrate a noir weekend at the Institut Lumière! Festival guests will present their favourite films, making it an essential rendezvous with today's greatest crime fiction authors, at the birthplace of cinema itself.

***Hell or High Water*** (2016) by David Mackenzie, presented by S.A. Cosby ; ***Farewell, Friend*** (1975) by Pierre Granier-Deferre, presented by Michel Bussi ; ***Down and Dirty*** (1976) by Ettore Scola, presented by Patrícia Melo ; ***The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*** (2011) by David Fincher, presented by Karin Smirnoff ; ***The Firm*** (1993) by Sydney Pollak, presented by John Grisham and ***Shutter Island*** (2010) by Martin Scorsese, presented by Dennis Lehane.

## FROM BOOK TO SCREEN

***Zulu*** (2013) by Jérôme Salle, presented by Caryl Férey at Comœdia ; ***Only the Animals*** (2019) by Dominik Moll, presented by Colin Niel at Comœdia ; ***The Soul Eater*** (2024) by Alexandre Bustillo and Julien Maury, premiered by Alexis Laipsker and the film crew at Pathé Bellecour.

## QUEER CRIME

Quais du Polar is proud to collaborate with Écrans Mixtes, Lyon's queer film festival, which takes place from March 6 to 14, 2024. Through this partnership, discover a beautiful selection of queer crime films, ranging from classics to recent releases, including films from the official competition of Écrans Mixtes 2024.

***Stranger by the Lake*** (2013) by Alain Guiraudie, presented by Ivan Mitifiot, director of Écrans Mixtes Festival, at Comœdia ; ***Suddenly, Last Summer*** (1959) by Joseph L. Mankiewicz, followed by a discussion with Anne Delabre, a specialist in cinema censorship, at Lumière Fourmi ; ***Green Night*** (2023) by Shuai Han, presented by Ivan Mitifiot, director of Écrans Mixtes Festival, at Lumière Bellecour.

## CULT CLASSICS

***Scream 1 - Scream 4*** (1996 and 2011) by Wes Craven, presented by Alice Slater at Lumière Terreaux ; ***Mad Max 2 - Le Défi*** (1981) de George Miller, by George Miller, presented by Terry Hayes, the film's screenwriter, at Pathé Bellecour ; ***Ghost Dog : la voie du samouraï*** (1999) by Jim Jarmusch, presented by Michel Krattinger, at Espace Renoir.

## GIRL POWER

***Borgo*** (2024) by Stéphane Demoustier, premiered at Pathé Bellecour ; ***Woman at war*** (2018) by Benedikt Erlingsson, presented by Lilja Sigurðardóttir at Pathé Bellecour ; ***Thelma et Louise*** (1991) by Ridley Scott, presented by Marion Brunet at Pathé Bellecour.

## TRUE CRIME

For its 20<sup>th</sup> edition, Quais du Polar is delighted to partner with FIPADOC (International Documentary Festival), whose last edition took place from January 19 to 27 in Biarritz, to screen gripping documentaries from the festival's official competition on true crime and investigations.

***Sophie Rollet contre GoodYear*** (2023) by Sylvie Gilman and Thierry de Lestrade, presented by Dominique Manotti and the film crew at Comédie Odéon ; ***They shot the piano player*** (2023) by Fernando Trueba, presented by Fabrice Epstein at Comédie Odéon ; ***20 Days in Mariupol*** (2023) by Mstyslav Tchernov, presented by Olivier Truc at Espace Renoir.

## YOUNG AUDIENCE

***Nina and the Hedgehog's Secret*** (2023) by Alain Gagnol and Jean-Loup Felicioli, at Lumière Fourmi.

## 2024 VIDOCQ PRIZE

The series that won the Vidocq Prize for Best Crime Series 2024 at the Séries Mania festival will be presented by the series' crew and the Séries Mania team at Pathé Bellecour. This session is organised in partnership with the Séries Mania Festival in Lille.

## SHORT FILMS

Quais du Polar is once again partnering with the prestigious Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, the world's largest event dedicated to short films, to offer a sharp selection of five noir and thriller short films. These will be presented at the Comédie Odéon Theater and the Uchronie Theater by Laura Thomasset, a member of the International Short Film Festival team. In partnership with Éditions J'ai Lu, with many books to be won.

## LEAD THE INVESTIGATION AT THE CINEMA

A hidden scene from the film *hidden*, characters straight out of a murder mystery party, puzzles hidden under the seats, or even the murder of a projectionist... Linked to the programming of a noir film, the audience's experience extends before or after the screening. Sessions will be held in several neighbourhood cinemas, organised in partnership with the Regional Grouping of Cinematic Actions (GRAC) and the Cinema Mediation Network.

# YOUTH PROGRAMME

Once again this year, youth is at the heart of the festival. In the Salle Lumière of the Palais de la Bourse, Quais du Polar invites children and their parents to discover the joys of reading and the many facets of the mystery genre.

## AUTHORS

**The children's bookstore "À Titre d'Aile"** will be on site Friday, April 5th, at the entrance of the Youth Area on the first floor of the Palais de la Bourse and will offer its "crime" selection for all ages: picture books, novels, comics, documentaries, and activity books. Young adult authors invited to the festival will also be available for book signings in the Grand Mystery Bookstore in the Corbeille room of the Palais de la Bourse. Authors such as Marion Brunet, Sébastien Gendron, Jørn Lier Horst, Joëlle Jolivet, Guillaume Le Cornec, Laurent Martin, Bertrand Puard, and Danielle Thiéry will be present.

## GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

**In the youth area of the Palais de la Bourse**, several associations will be present throughout the festival weekend to entertain children of all ages! The Yakapiocher association will also offer gaming sessions focused on investigation and mystery for players aged 6 to 16. Children will also be invited to solve puzzles in an Escape Game based on the title "*Les Arsène, La clef aux trois joyaux*" by Bertrand Puard, published by Poulpe Fictions. Additionally, on Saturday, April 6th, and Sunday, April 7th, from 10 am to 6 pm, the "Lire et Faire Lire" association will provide free and no-booking readings of short mystery stories for children aged 7 to 12.

**In the Salons Rouges of the Hôtel de Ville**, narrative writing workshops dedicated to teenagers and adults will be offered by "Les Artisans de la fiction" (Building a crime, building an investigation), as well as screenplay writing workshops for mystery series, in partnership with the Séries Mania festival. Lastly, the Museum of Printing and Graphic Communication will offer a printing workshop centred around books.

**The Great Investigation** is accessible to families on Saturday, April 6th, and Sunday, April 7th, starting from the Marché Gare Lyon, in the 2nd arrondissement.

**In the libraries and media libraries of Lyon and its metropolitan area**, puzzles, board games, investigations, escape games, and murder mystery parties will be offered. All information will be available in our programme and on our website starting early March.

# THE GREAT INVESTIGATION

## A MICHELIN-STARRED CRIME

On the eve of the prestigious International Gastronomy Competition in Lyon, the dinner bringing together chefs from all over the world turns sour when one of them is mistakenly murdered. Tabata Blier de Sapeur, a three-time winner of the coveted title, finds herself at the centre of envy and suspicion. Desperate to evade the assassin, she enlists the help of two vibrant musicians to act as her camouflage. When the worlds of contemporary music collide with haute cuisine, unexpected twists await. And as secrets from the past resurface, a thrilling investigation ensues. **It's your chance to unravel the mystery and shed light on this dark affair!**

Embark on a journey through Lyon's hidden streets and charming locales, from the banks of the Rhône to the bustling City Hall.

Each year, Quais du Polar offers a unique opportunity to explore Lyon through a captivating Great Investigation. Participants navigate a trail of clues scattered across unconventional locations and delivered by skilled actors, all in pursuit of solving the ultimate mystery.



© Fleur Louis

### How to participate

To participate in this latest Great Investigation, head to the Marché Gare to pick up the investigation booklet (also available for download on the Quais du Polar website on April 2nd, 2024). It contains the pieces of evidence that will guide investigators through their journey.

Once the various pieces of the puzzle are solved, the ballot box to submit the answer sheet is located at the Hôtel de Ville, Place de la Comédie (Lyon 1st arrondissement).

**Participation in this thrilling journey is free of charge!**

**Created by Christelle Ravey**

### START

Marché Gare

4-6 place Hubert Mounier, Lyon 2e

*A departure reserved for deaf individuals (accompanied by sign language interpreters) will take place on Saturday, April 6th, at 1:00 PM. Reservation required.*

### FINISH

Hôtel de Ville

Place de la Comédie, Lyon 1<sup>er</sup>

### Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>:

Booklets handed out between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

### Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>:

Booklets handed out between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Duration: 3 hours

### PRIZES TO BE WON

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize: 2 return flights to Costa Rica with Air France
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: A getaway sponsored by Honda France
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> prizes: A Le Club Accorhotel card credited with €200 in points.
- 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> prizes: Admission for 2 to 6 players at John Doe Escape Room
- Many books up for grabs !

# NOIR ECHOES

Since its inception, Quais du Polar has partnered with numerous cultural institutions in Lyon and the region on various projects related to noir and crime literature. This programme reflects the shared desire to extend the popular and festive dimension of the event and to be close to the audiences. Each year, meetings, conferences, and book signings are organised in the city, metropolitan area, and region. This year, more than 70 organisations are joining forces with the festival, offering just as many events leading up to and during the festival.

## IN MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES

This year, Quais du Polar and **the Museum of Fine Arts of Lyon** are joining forces to celebrate the 20th edition of the festival together during an evening rich in events: investigations, conferences, conversations with authors. **The Museum of Printing and Graphic Communication** will host a guided tour on the transformations of reading, and an investigation tour for the whole family. **The Museum of Moulages** will offer two activities in the form of puzzles throughout the museum, starting from 8 years old. The exhibition "Friends in Love and War - In Praise of the Best Enemies," currently on display at the **macLYON**, is honoured through the visit of Val McDermid, who will present one of the works during a conversation with a museum mediator.

Libraries and media libraries in **Lyon and its metropolitan area** will host numerous activities echoing the 20th edition of the festival. On the agenda: film screenings, board game evenings, giant police investigations, and murder parties organised by Mortelle Soirée, and also meetings, book signings, conferences with Franck Bouysse, Céline Denjean, Piergiorgio Pulixi, Caryl Férey, Pétronille Rostagnat, Henri Lœvenbruck, Michel Bussi, Abir Mukherjee, Karine Giebel, Olivier Bordaçarre, Bernard Minier, Manon Gauthier-Faure, Jørn Lier Horst, Cécile Cabanac, Benoît Philippon...

## AT ASSOCIATED VENUES

Events around the noir genre will be held in various institutions associated with the festival: at the **Théâtre du Point du Jour**, the public can attend the general rehearsal of the play "Notre Procès" and become jurors in this participatory setup that raises questions about rape and the judicial system. At the **Théâtre de l'Elysée**, an exhibition will explore the ways in which video games appropriate the various codes of the noir genre, punctuated by playformances where people from diverse backgrounds will interpret a video game in front of an audience.

At the **Marché Gare**, you can discover the universe of the legendary series *The Wire* during the opening of the eponymous exhibition, which plunges us into the heart of a striking portrait of Baltimore, an autopsy of a society where crime, politics, trafficking, and corruption coexist.

Finally, puzzles will be proposed by various partners such as escape games, giant investigations, and board game evenings before and during the festival, echoing the programme.

All information will be available in our programme and on our website in early March.

## VISITS AND WALKS

Discover the professions of the **National School of Police** and the **National Forensic Police Service** throughout the festival! On the programme: open days, puzzles, participatory workshops, escape games, exchanges with laboratory experts and school students, and crime scene reenactments! Once again this year, **Only Lyon** will offer the guided tour "Crimes and True Crime in Lyon" over the three days of the festival, and **La Justice Racontée** will organise the walk "Chicago on Rhône, justice put to the test by thugs."

**Lyon City Tour** will also renew its bus tours through the city streets with justice experts.

## GASTRONOMIE

120 years of Entente Cordiale between France and the United Kingdom will be celebrated during a "so British" brunch at the **Cité Internationale de la Gastronomie in Lyon**. On the menu, a culinary collaboration between Xavier Radojewski of the Ravigote restaurant in Lyon, and a chef from Manchester. In literature, Tim Willocks and Caryl Férey, co-authors of *The Steve McQueen*, will talk about their book written collaboratively on both sides of the English Channel.

# CULTURAL MEDIATION

Since its inception, Quais du Polar has aimed to reach all audiences, especially those who are farthest from cultural practices.

## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year, Quais du Polar offers teachers the opportunity to integrate their classes into various projects related to crime fiction.

On **April 4th and 5th**, students from primary to high school will be able to participate in the Great Investigation and meet with guest authors at the festival. This year, authors such as Patrícia Melo, Bertrand Puard, Caryl Férey, Laurent Martin, Danielle Thiéry, and Alain Gagnol will engage with students about their career paths and works.

With the support of the City of Lyon, Quais du Polar will once again be awarding the **Quais du Polar Youth Award**. For this project, coordinated by the Ambassadors of the Book from Afev in classrooms, over 200 students will vote for their favourite book from a selection of 5 titles before presenting the award to the winner.

Middle school students can participate in the **Young Readers' Short Story Contest** organised this year in partnership with the Lyon Judicial Court, advocate for their favourite crime fiction novel in the **Noir Battle**, and create podcasts and articles about the festival by interviewing authors, booksellers, festival organizers, and members of the public. Additionally, for certain high school classes, these school events will be the culmination of year-long projects. Students will meet author Barbara Abel and producer Jacques-Henri Bronckart (subject to change) as part of the **"One Book, One Film"** project on audiovisual adaptation, while others will conclude their **translation workshops** by meeting writer S. A. Cosby.

Quais du Polar is also bringing back its **Noir Dictations**, in partnership with the National Agency for the Fight against Illiteracy. Marion Brunet will be invited to read and dictate an excerpt from her book *L'Ogre à poil(s)* to participating classes. Virginie Ledoyen, meanwhile, will host the Public Dictation.

## QUAIS DU POLAR IN PRISON

For several years, with the support of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs and the Interregional Directorate of Prison Services (DISP) in Lyon, Quais du Polar has implemented the **"Noir Behind Bars"** programme to promote reading and the crime fiction genre in correctional facilities. Authors will visit penitentiary institutions in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region to (re)introduce incarcerated individuals to crime and mystery literature. Meetings with detainees will be prepared in advance by teams from municipal and departmental libraries and the educational service of the institutions.

This year, volunteer inmates will once again participate in the Quais du Polar / Babelio Short Story Contest. For this purpose, writing workshops will be held with author Sébastien Gendron. Two correctional facilities will also participate in the Quais du Polar / Le Figaro Readers' Award jury. A special mention will be awarded to the novel from the selection that receives the most votes from them. With the support of Albin Michel, Le Rouergue, La Manufacture de livres, Gallimard, L'Aube, and HarperCollins.

This year, **nine authors** will participate in the operation: Olivier Bordaçarre, Sonja Delzongle, Sébastien Gendron, Nicolas Lebel, André Marois, Karim Miské, Fabrice Papillon, Jacky Schwartzmann, and Olivier Truc.

Each of them will visit one of the following institutions:

- Chambéry Detention Center
- Riom Penitentiary Center
- Saint-Etienne-La Talaudière Detention Center
- Saint-Quentin-Fallavier Penitentiary Center
- Lyon-Corbas Detention Center
- Grenoble-Varces Detention Center
- Moulins-Yzeure Detention Center
- Bonneville Detention Center
- Roanne Detention Center

## QUAIS DU POLAR IN HOSPITAL

Once again this year, Quais du Polar is organising activities in hospital settings, hosting a meeting with Dominique Sylvain at the Henry Gabrielle Hospital in Saint-Genis-Laval, with Cécile Cabanac at the Croix-Rousse Hospital, and with Alain Gagnol at the Specialised School for Sick Children in Bron, in addition to a screening of the animated film "Nina and the Hedgehog's Secret". With the support of Fleuve Editions, Robert Laffont, Syros, and Little KMBO films.

## TRAINING DAY

In collaboration with the Lyon Education Authority, the municipal library network of Lyon, and the DRAC Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Quais du Polar is organising a training day for teachers, librarians, and documentalists to raise awareness about crime fiction and provide them with ideas for working on the genre with both adults and children. It will take place on **Thursday, April 4th, at ENSSIB** (Villeurbanne). This year, the training day will highlight various current themes in the fields of publishing and literature, such as the visibility of translators in the age of artificial intelligence, the revitalisation of classic noir novels, the collaboration between an author and a translator, and the research involved in writing a book based on real events, as well as an overview of new adult and young adult crime

# LITERARY AWARDS

Established in collaboration with loyal partners as well as newer partners, the numerous Quais du Polar literary awards will be presented on **Friday, April 5th, 2024, at the Palais de la Bourse**.

## QUAIS DU POLAR / LE FIGARO READERS' AWARD

A jury composed of 10 readers will reward the French-language crime novel of the year from a selection of six titles chosen by the festival's partner bookshops:

- ***Personne ne meurt à Longyearbyen***, by Morgan Audic (Albin Michel)
- ***Feux dans la plaine***, by Olivier Ciechelski (Le Rouergue)
- ***Gouine City confidential***, by Laurène Duclaud (La Manufacture de livres)
- ***Free Queens***, by Marin Ledun (Gallimard)
- ***Sans collier***, by Michèle Pedinielli (L'Aube)
- ***Femme portant un fusil***, by Sophie Pointurier (HarperCollins)

## QUAIS DU POLAR / CITY OF LYON YOUTH AWARD

Over 200 students from 8 Lyon-based CM1/CM2 classes, accompanied by the Book Ambassadors of Afev, will vote for their favourite French-language youth crime novel of the year from the following selection of five titles.

- ***Comme dans un film***, by Rémi Courgeon (Seuil Jeunesse)
- ***Les Folles lectures d'Archibald Bloomer – Le Manoir du monstre***, by Rod Marty (Auzou)
- ***Les Arsène, La Clef aux 3 joyaux***, by Bertrand Puard (Poulpe fictions)
- ***Mortel Tandem***, by Marie-Agnès Vermande-Lherm (Sarbacane/ Pépix)
- ***Jasper et la brigade du flair – La Première Mission***, by Elisa Villebrun (Rageot)

## QUAIS DU POLAR LIBRARIANS OF THE CITY AND METROPOLITAN AREA OF LYON AWARD

Quais du Polar is once again partnering with the Municipal Libraries of the City and Metropolitan Area of Lyon. Invested in the festival through meetings, activities, and highlighting collections, librarians have picked a selection of crime novels from their favourites of the year, and will reward their favourite title published between September 1, 2022, and August 31, 2023.

- ***Blacktop Wasteland***, by S. A. Cosby (Sonatine)
- ***The Body Snatcher***, by Patrícia Melo (Buchen Chastel)
- ***The Art of Murder***, by José Carlos Somoza (Actes Sud)
- ***The Sloppy Dead***, by Chelsea G. Summers (Mazarine)

## SCELF / POLAR EN SERIES AWARD

For the tenth consecutive year, the SCELFF - Polar en Series Award rewards a French-language crime novel, thriller, or detective story for its intrinsic qualities and potential for adaptation into an audiovisual series. It was created with the support of SCELFF - Civil Society of French Language Publishers, as part of the professional programme Polar Connection, to foster links between literature and audiovisual media.

- ***Le Quatorzième Stratagème***, by Louis Berger, (Nouveau Monde éditions), 2023
- ***La Théorie des ondes***, by Pascale Chouffot, (Le Rouergue), 2024
- ***SkilledFast*** (tomes 1, 2, 3), by Hachin, (Nouvelle Hyde), 2023
- ***Crépuscule à Casablanca***, by Melvina Mestre, (Points) (inédit), 2023
- ***La Situation***, by Karim Miské, (Les Avrils), groupe Delcourt, 2023
- ***L’Affaire Sylla***, by Solange Siyandje, (Gallimard), 2024

## QUAIS DU POLAR / EXPERIENCE / FRANCE 3 AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES COMIC AWARD

The bookstore Expérience, France 3 Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, and Quais du Polar have joined forces to award the Crime Comic Award at the festival.

- ***La Brute et le divin***, by Léonard Chemineau (Rue de Sèvres)
- ***Le Passeur de lagunes***, by Christophe Dabitch and Piero Macola (Futuropolis)
- ***Au nom du fils***, by Jean-Blaise Djian, Pauline Djian et Sébastien Corbet (Rue de Sèvres)
- ***Une nuit avec toi***, by Maran Hrachyan (Glénat)
- ***Contrition***, by Keko et Carlos Portela, french traduction Alexandra Carrasco (Denoël)
- ***Je suis leur Silence***, by ordi Lafebre, french traduction Geneviève Maubille (Dargaud)
- ***Speedball***, by Florian Pigé and Étienne Gerin (Sarbacane)

## LIBÉRATION / NOIR AND JUSTICE AWARD

Established in collaboration with the Lyon Judicial Court and in partnership with Libération, the Noir and Justice Award will be bestowed upon a non-fiction literary work - investigation, true crime, testimony - with a connection to justice and crime stories. The jury will consist of magistrates from the Lyon Judicial Court and legal professionals, alongside Alexandra Schwartzbrod, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Libération, a representative from Quais du Polar, and Alice Géraud, the guest of honour. The nominated titles are:

- ***L’Encyclopédie du crime au cinéma***, by Alain Bauer (Gründ)
- ***Dulcie***, by Benoît Colombat and Grégory Mardon (Futuropolis)
- ***Black Music Justice***, by Fabrice Epstein (La Manufacture de livres)
- ***Dans le cerveau du tueur : L’affaire Michel Fourniret et Monique Olivier***, by Michelle Fines (Fayard)
- ***Mémoires***, by François Molins and Chloé Triomphe (Flammarion)
- ***L’Affaire Emmett Till***, by J.-M. Pottier (10-18)
- ***The Book of Daniel***, by Chris De Stoop (Globe)

## THE CLAUDE MESPLÈDE AWARD

Claude Mesplède was a publisher, critic, historian, and a knowledgeable and passionate crime fiction aficionado. He was also a loyal friend of Quais du Polar, having been involved in its inception and all its developments. He conducted invaluable work in spreading and transmitting a culture of crime fiction. To honour him and immortalise his work, we created the Claude Mesplède Award for non-fiction books on crime fiction. This award recognises a work that contributes to a better understanding of the genre, in the form of essays, historical works, correspondences, documents, investigations, translations, original editions of complete or unpublished works, or new translations.

The awards for the **Youth Short Story Contest** and the **Quais du Polar / Babelio Short Story Contest** will be presented with all the other awards.

The **European Crime Fiction Award** awarded by Le Point magazine will also be presented on this occasion.

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