



QUAIS POLAR DU

04-06
APRIL
2025

INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL –
LYON

21st EDITION

LITERATURE

FILM

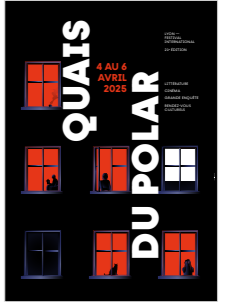
GREAT
INVESTIGATION

CULTURAL
EVENTS

PRESS KIT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL.....	3
PRACTICAL INFORMATION.....	4
A LOOK BACK AT THE PREVIOUS EDITION.....	6
THE BIGGEST NOIR EVENT IN FRANCE AND ABROAD.....	7
INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES.....	8
POLAR CONNECTION.....	9
GUEST AUTHORS.....	10
LITERARY PROGRAMME.....	11
THEMES OF THIS EDITION.....	12
THE COLLABORATIVE CRIME NOVEL.....	15
THE MONTH OF NOIR.....	16
MUSICAL PROGRAMME.....	16
ON-SCREEN PROGRAMME.....	17
YOUTH PROGRAMME.....	18
CULTURAL MEDIATION.....	19
THE GREAT INVESTIGATION.....	20
NOIR ECHOES.....	21
LITERARY AWARDS.....	22
OUR PARTNERS.....	24



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EDITORIAL

BEYOND BOUNDARIES

For over two decades, Quais du Polar has been a one-of-a-kind where literature explores the limits of genres, disciplines, and societies. For this 21st edition, we have chosen to highlight a theme that is both essential and universal: boundaries.

First are the boundaries of literary genres, which are at the heart of the festival's identity. Since its inception, Quais du Polar has defied categorisation, broken down barriers, and affirmed that crime fiction is more than just a genre—it's a gateway to all forms of art and knowledge. This year, we bring together voices from crime fiction, literary fiction, poetry, spy novels, gothic and horror literature, graphic novels, and non-fiction. In doing so, the boundaries between these worlds will fade, uniting authors and readers through a shared love of words and a deeper understanding of the world.

We will explore geographical, social, and political boundaries with more than 125 guests from 17 different countries. In a world where divisions grow ever deeper and barriers ever higher, literature stands as a bridge. It allows us to travel, to understand, to feel. It brings people together where speeches so often fail. Over these three days, writers from all backgrounds will share their experiences of the boundaries they cross or confront—whether real or symbolic. The multiple partnerships we've built over the years are yet another demonstration of our commitment to openness.

Our long-standing partners — bookshops, libraries, cinemas, and museums — are joined by others that have jumped onboard along the way, such as the National Agency for the Fight Against Illiteracy, Interpol, the National Forensic Science Service of Écully, the Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival, the Ça Presse festival, the Écrans Mixtes festival, Fipadoc (the International Documentary Film Festival in Biarritz), and many more! This year, we are delighted to welcome new partners and launch exciting new initiatives in collaboration with the French Blood Establishment (EFS), the National Police, and SOS MEDITERRANEE... With the support of our partners, culture is open to everyone, without prejudice or barriers. These collaborations allow us to reach diverse audiences, blend disciplines, foster connections, and plant seeds of curiosity.

We are infinitely proud of the conversations sparked, the connections made, and the discoveries shared year after year at the festival. In this space, artists, readers, and partners unite to build a shared environment where anything is possible. We firmly believe that by collaborating, reaching out to others, and dismantling barriers, we can achieve even more.

Once again, Quais du Polar invites you to step beyond boundaries and explore the uncharted territories of creativity and community.

Welcome to the 21st edition!

Hélène Fischbach,
director of Quais du Polar

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

MAIN VENUES OF THE FESTIVAL

Hôtel de Ville

Place de la Comédie
Lyon 1^{er} | Metro A and C - Hôtel de Ville L. Pradel

Palais de la Bourse

Place de la Bourse
Lyon 2^e | Métro A - Cordeliers
Metro C - Hôtel de Ville L. Pradel

Chapelle de la Trinité

29-31 rue de la Bourse
Lyon 2^e | Metro A - Cordeliers
Metro C - Hôtel de Ville L. Pradel

Théâtre Comédie Odéon

6 rue Grolée
Lyon 2^e | Metro A - Cordeliers
Metro D - Bellecour

TNG (starting point of the Great Investigation)

23 rue de Bourgogne
Lyon 9^e | Metro D - Valmy

OPENING HOURS

Palais de la Bourse

Friday 4 April | 10 a.m. > 8 p.m.
Saturday 5 April | 10 a.m. > 8 p.m.
Sunday 6 April | 10 a.m. > 6 p.m.

Hôtel de Ville

Friday 4 April | 2 p.m. > 7 p.m.
Saturday 5 April | 10 a.m. > 8 p.m.
Sunday 6 April | 10 a.m. > 6 p.m.



Palais de la Bourse © Marine Azzari

BOOKSHOPS AND EXHIBITORS

The Great Noir Bookshop

- Palais de la Bourse

À Titre d'Aile | Lyon 1^{er}
Le Bal des Ardents | Lyon 1^{er}

Adrienne | Lyon 2^e

Expérience | Lyon 2^e

Passages | Lyon 2^e

L'Esprit Livre | Lyon 3^e

La Virevolte | Lyon 5^e

La Madeleine | Lyon 7^e

Librairie de Paris | Saint-Étienne

Lucioles | Vienne

La Maison jaune | Neuville-sur-Saône

Les Volcans | Clermont-Ferrand

The Little Noir Bookshop - Hôtel de Ville

Le Livre en Pente | Lyon 1^{er}

Un Petit Noir | Lyon 1^{er}

Le Père Pénard | Lyon 5^e

Atmosphère DVD | Lyon 8^e

Marché Noir | Gardanne

Le Rayon populaire | Villefranche-sur-Saône

Master Yéti, game stand | Lyon 6^e

Noir paperbacks - Hôtel de Ville

For the second year running, paperback publishers are in the spotlight at Quais du Polar! Explore a selection of crime novels curated by the publishers present and Decitre, featuring games, quizzes, and appearances by several authors in collaboration with Babelio.

JOIN US OF BOOK SIGNINGS

At the Great Noir Bookshop :

Nicolas Carreau, Victoria Charlton, Ophélie Cohen, Bruno Corty, Amos Frappa, Christophe Gavet, Guillaume Le Cornec, Nicolas Le Flahec, Sonya Lwu, Julie Malaure, Jean-François Pasques, Frédéric Potier, Serge Quadrupani, Pétronille Rostagnat, Tess, Olivier Tournut...

At the Livre en Pente stand :

Dominique Martin

At the Un Petit Noir stand :

Olivier Barde-Cabuçon, Annick Côte, Stéphane Lanos, Jacques Morize, Richard Schittly, Gilles Vincent and Judith Wiart

At the Père Pénard stand :

Gérard Coquet, Walid Nazim and Julie Subirana

A SOLIDARY FESTIVAL ACCESSIBILITY

True to its commitment to being an event for 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.

This year, thanks to the support of the Bouygues Immobilier Foundation, the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region (as part of the 2024 Grand Cause initiative), Matmut for the Arts (hearing impairments), and the Abilitis Endowment Fund, specific initiatives will be implemented before and during the festival:

- A dedicated phone line and email address will be available to assist audiences with disabilities.
- A dedicated welcome service will be provided by trained volunteers at the main festival's main locations.
- 9 meetings will be translated into French Sign Language
- Readings and a selection of adapted books will be offered in the Lumière room at the Palais de la Bourse.
- Two departures for the Great Investigation reserved for deaf people (FSL interpreters) on 05 April at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- Two films (*La Haine* by M. Kassovitz and *Je verrai toujours vos visages* by J. Herry) will be screened with subtitles for deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals.
- ETR (Easy-to-Read) documentation will be available on quaisdupolar.com and at the welcome desk at the Palais de la Bourse.

For more information about the festival's programme, visit our website at quaisdupolar.com/en/accessibility/

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Meeting translated into FSL © Laura Belli-Riz



Great Noir Bookshop in the Palais de la Bourse © Sandrine Thesillat

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. Some partner venues have their own ticketing systems.

Upon presenting their Quais du Polar membership card, festivalgoers receive priority access to the conferences at the Hôtel de Ville, the Chapelle de la Trinité, and to enter the Palais de la Bourse.

A LOOK BACK AT THE PREVIOUS EDITION

THE 2024 EDITION IN NUMBERS:

- **135 authors** present in Lyon (15 nationalities represented)
- **100,000 festivalgoers**
- **20,000 participants** in Quais du Polar's Great Investigation, including **1,642 pupils**
- **31,200+ followers on Facebook** (2nd largest literary event behind the Angoulême International Comics Festival)
- **10,700+ followers on Instagram** (+27% since 2023)
- **500+ articles** in the written and digital press
- **200 cultural events** across Lyon and the region
- **56 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 **5 second-hand bookshops** present at the Little Noir Bookshop: a turnover of **350,000€ excl. VAT.**
- **Over 80 meetings and roundtables** held in the festival's main venues
- **38 movie screenings** across 19 of the city and its metropolis' theatres, totalling **3,110 filmgoers**
- **370 volunteers** of all ages and all walks of life
- **794 members** to support the organisation
- **2,800 pupils** involved in the various mediation programmes, from kindergarten to high school.
- **200 partners** (institutional, cultural, media, and private)
- **340 literature and audio-visual professionals** accredited for the Polar Connection professional events
- **35+ journalists** (France, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy) present to cover the event
- **104 teachers, librarians, and school librarians** signed up for the training day
- Around **50 bookshops** from the Metropolis of Lyon and the Region present throughout the festival to advise readers
- Impact on the tourism industry: **1,560 meals** served across 5 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.

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 a powerful tool for attracting new audiences to literary and cultural events, Quais du Polar strives to diversify its programming, offering **a wide array of activities** such as literature, cinema, music, exhibitions, series, and theatre. This year, the festival also introduces **new and unique interactive experiences**, including a city-wide investigation, a theatre treasure hunt, an escape game, and more.
- A festival open to the **City and Metropolitan area of Lyon and the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region.**
- 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 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 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 years, it has collaborated with the Institut França, partnering with literary events in Italy, Germany, Romania, China, India, and South Korea to spotlight Francophone authors.

Remaining true to its values and commitments, the Quais du Polar team continues to evolve along these various paths, reflecting with pride on its progress and looking forward to a future equally rich in exchanges and global connections.

PRESS COVERAGE

National daily press: Le Figaro, Le Monde, Le Parisien-Aujourd'hui en France, Libération, La Croix...

Magazines: Le Point, Elle, Madame Figaro, Télérama, L'Express, L'Obs, Télé 7 jours, Version Femina, Paris Match, Point de vue, Avantages, Marie-Claire, Biba, Femme actuelle...

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

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

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, La Lozère Nouvelle, 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, RTS...

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 (sites, blogs...)



Literary award ceremony © Vanessa Ceroni

INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Every spring since 2005, Lyon has been a global hub for crime fiction authors and literary and cultural professionals. Quais du Polar fosters dialogue, strengthens connections, and sparks new international projects. With this worldwide perspective, both the festival and the crime fiction genre continue to expand their reach beyond borders.

Supported by an agreement between the Institut Français, the City of Lyon, and the the Lyon Metropolitan Area, Quais du Polar maintains ties with **UNESCO's Creative Cities Network and international Book Cities/Crime Fiction Cities**. These partnerships help promote French crime fiction and its authors, working closely with the French cultural network abroad and local partners.

By fostering ongoing exchanges, we welcome publishers, booksellers, organisers of literary events, and cultural leaders from across the globe, paving the way for future projects in their respective countries. This year in Lyon, we will host professionals from Milan, Barcelona, Reykjavik, Riga, Santiago, Toronto, Helsinki, and beyond. We also observe and **support initiatives worldwide that echo the exchanges in Lyon**, helping promote and share the works of crime fiction writers.

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

This year, the Quais du Polar team embarked on a literary journey to Reykjavik, a fellow member of the UNESCO Creative Cities of Literature network. **In connection with the Iceland Noir festival**—founded by authors Yrsa Sigurðardóttir, Ragnar Jónasson, and Sverrir Norland—the delegation travelled with French author Morgan Audic, winner of the 2024 Quais du Polar / Le figaro Readers' Award. During their visit, they met with a wide range of publishing professionals and cultural figures connected to the Alliance Française and the French Embassy in Iceland. These exchanges paved the way for new literary collaborations, residency projects, and enriching experiences.



Literary journey to Reykjavik © Quais du Polar

WITH ITALY

The Franco-Italian collaborative crime novel project (Polar à 4 mains) is part of Quais du Polar's ongoing efforts to deepen its ties with Italy. Launched by the festival in partnership with the publishing houses Points and Milan-based Le Assassine, the initiative brings together authors from both countries to co-write a crime novel.

This year, French novelist Michèle Pedinielli, Italian author Valerio Varesi, and their respective translators will craft a cross-border mystery. The project will also foster new collaborations between Lyon and Milan, both UNESCO Cities of Literature.

More information p. 15

POLAR CONNECTION

12th EDITION

At the heart of the Quais du Polar festival, the Polar Connection professional programme is a key event on the crime fiction industry's calendar. Bringing together French and international professionals whose work intersects with the genre, Polar Connection serves as a dynamic platform for exchange, discussion, and collaboration.

What is Polar Connection ?

- A gathering place exclusively for accredited participants, featuring conference rooms and dedicated spaces for one-on-one meetings or informal networking events at the Palais de la Bourse.
- A specific programme of roundtable discussions, workshops, and presentations.
- Tailored "Extras" events for participants, organised in collaboration with dedicated partners
- Exclusive access to festival events, providing valuable sources of inspiration.

Designed for professionals in publishing, audiovisual media, digital industries, cultural initiatives, and beyond, the Polar Connection programme fosters meaningful exchanges and creates a fantastic environment to meet inspiring people and develop new projects.

ON THE PROGRAMME FOR CRIME FICTION PROFESSIONALS

- The connection between crime fiction authors and the territories they write about.
- The challenges of crime fiction in english.
- A collaborative crime fiction mapping project led by AILF.
- How to gauge the interests and preferences of crime fiction readers.
- The role of police experts in the storytelling process.
- The experience of co-writing a novel with Michèle Pedinielli and Valerio Varesi.
- Updates from eight French publishing houses.
- A dedicated programme for literary influencers.
- Case studies on crime series, exploring trends in crime fiction on screen, and pitches for audiovisual projects currently in development.
- Two new Sunday events: a special session with Actes Sud Diffusion and a masterclass on narrative arcs led by Les Artisans de la Fiction.

Polar Connection is accessible with prior accreditation. Find all the details about the programme at quaisdupolar.com/en/the-professional-program/

SCELF - POLAR EN SERIES AWARD

A highlight of Friday's agenda, the Polar en Series award was created with the support of the Civil Society of French-Language Publishers (SCELF) to be part of the Polar Connection programme. It bridges the gap 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 11th edition in the company of a jury of cinema and audiovisual professionals. Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Cinéma supports the reception of cinema and audiovisual professionals for this award and the "Polar Tour".

Discover the contenders, p. 23

THE QDP TALENT POOL

Many young or aspiring professionals in the book and audiovisual industries, with a passion for crime fiction, are drawn to the festival, especially among volunteers and partner training organizations. Polar Connection offers them a unique opportunity by involving them in various events, allowing them to explore careers in these fields and build connections with industry professionals.

GUEST AUTHORS IN 2025

BELGIUM

Philippe BOXHO
Jérémy CLAES
Célestin DE MEEÛS
Iouri JIGOUNOV
Anne-Sophie
KALBFLEISCH
Yves SENTÉ

CANADA

Linwood BARCLAY
Roxanne BOUCHARD
Kim FU

ENGLAND

Julia ARMFIELD
A.K. BLAKEMORE
M.W. CRAVEN
Paula HAWKINS
Alex HAY
Chris WHITAKER

FINLAND

Satu RÄMÖ
Arttu TUOMINEN

FRANCE

Ariane ASTIER
Morgan AUDIC
Olivier BAL - **CANCELLED**
Nicolas BEUGLET
Sandrine BONINI
Sidonie BONNEC
Audrey BRIÈRE
Alice BRIÈRE-HAQUET
BRÛNO
Michel BUSSI
Claire CALAND
Thomas CANTALOUBE
Sabrina CHAMPENOIS
Harold COBERT
Sandrine COHEN
Sandrine COLLETTE
Hervé COMMÈRE

Maylis DE KERANGAL
Sophie DEMANGE
Céline DENJEAN
Olivier DESCOSSE
Pascal DESSAINT
Benjamin DIERSTEIN
Nicolas DRUART
Emmanuelle FAGUER
Caryl FÉREY
Marc FERNANDEZ
Simon FRANÇOIS
Julien FREU
Sébastien GENDRON
Mahi GRAND
Agnès GROSSMANN
Pauline GUÉNA
Johana GUSTAWSSON
Lucas HARARI
Sophie HÉNAFF
Elizabeth HOLLEVILLE
David HURY
Sandrine KERION
Christophe KORELL
Johana KRAWCZYK
Alexis LAIPSKER
Lison LAMBERT
Nicolas LEBEL
Marin LEDUN
Gilles LEGARDINIER
Jérôme LEROY
Hippolyte LEURIDAN-
DUSSER
Marc LEVY
Jean-Marie LEYGONIE
Sophie LOUBIÈRE
Jérôme LOUBRY
Joseph MACÉ-SCARON
Jean-Luc MARCASTEL
Nicolas MARTIN
Gabrielle MASSAT
Marika MATHIEU
Mathieu MENEGAUX
Michaël MENTION
Bernard MINIER
Christophe MOLMY

Olivier NOREK
Fabien NURY
Grégoire OSOHA
Frédéric PAULIN
Michèle PEDINIELLI
Iris POUY
Ali REBEIHI
Antoine RENAND
Jean-Christophe RUFIN
Jacques SAUSSEY
Jacky SCHWARTZMANN
Anouk SHUTTERBERG
Cédric SIRE
Romain SLOCOMBE
Nathalie SOMERS
Niko TACKIAN
Fabrice TASSEL
Franck THILLIEZ
Guillaume TION
Patricia TOURANCHEAU
Olivier TRUC
Marie VINGTRAS
Michaëla WATTEAUX

GERMANY

Vera BUCK

ICELAND

Eva Björg ÆGISDÓTTIR
Arnaldur INDRIDASON

ITALY

Carlo LUCARELLI
Maddalena VAGLIO
TANET
Valerio VARESI

NIGERIA

Leye ADENLE

NORWAY

Aslak NORE

RUSSIA

Yana VAGNER

SCOTLAND

Kate FOSTER

SOUTH AFRICA

Deon MEYER

SPAIN

Marto PARIENTE

SWEDEN

Stefan AHNHEM
Pascal ENGMAN
Åsa ERICSDOTTER
Sara STRÖMBERG

SWITZERLAND

Joseph INCARDONA
Nicolas VERDAN

USA

James ELLROY
Lisa GARDNER
John LANGAN
Attica LOCKE
David MCCLOSKEY
Liz MOORE
Douglas PRESTON
Peter SWANSON
Duane SWIERCZYNSKI

LITERARY PROGRAMME

BOUNDARIES IN EVERY FORM WITH OVER 125 AUTHORS

THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LITERARY GENRE: Crime fiction, far from being a confined genre, has evolved into a space for endless experimentation, where diverse influences intersect and reinvent themselves. From literary thrillers to noir, dystopian tales to horror, nonfiction to poetry, graphic novels, and young adult literature, crime fiction transcends boundaries and enriches these universes in the process.

This year, we are excited to welcome authors who perfectly embody this transcendence of genres, with French authors **Sandrine Collette**, **Maylis de Kerangal**, **Jean-Christophe Rufin**, **Olivier Norek**, **Marie Vingtras**, **Marc Levy**, **Johanna Krawczyk**, **Gilles Legardinier**, **Harold Cobert**, and **Caryl Férey**, along with international authors like **Julia Armfield** (UK), **John Langan** (USA), **A.K. Blakemore** (UK), **Kim Fu** (Canada), **Kate Foster** (Scotland), **Yves Sente** and **Iouri Jigounov** (Belgium), and many others.

Next, the festival will also explore **GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES**, featuring a lineup of international authors who will take readers on a journey across the globe. By bringing together writers from all corners of the world, Quais du Polar offers opportunities for dialogue and exchange, sharing diverse and unique worldviews, with the firm belief that literature can help build a more peaceful world.

Seventeen nationalities will be represented by the invited authors, allowing festivalgoers to meet renowned crime fiction writers from around the world and discover fresh literary voices: **James Ellroy** (USA), **Arnaldur Indriðason** (Iceland), **Valerio Varesi** (Italy), **Paula Hawkins** (UK), **Carlo Lucarelli** (Italy), **Roxanne Bouchard** (Canada), **Leye Adenle** (Nigeria), **Deon Meyer** (South Africa), **Lisa Gardner** (USA), **Attica Locke** (USA), **Arttu Tuominen** (Finland), **Marto Pariente** (Spain), **Aslak Nore** (Norway), **Douglas Preston** (USA), **Linwood Barclay** (Canada), **Joseph Incardona** (Switzerland), **Liz Moore** (USA), **Pascal Engman** (Sweden), **Vera Buck** (Germany), **Yana Vagner** (Russia), and more.

Finally, we will examine the broader **SYMBOLIC BOUNDARIES** that separate us: cultural, social, religious, and political. As a genre deeply rooted in social reality, crime fiction closely engages with current events and the fractures within our societies. Authors will explore these divisions, with pressing global issues sure to enrich their discussions.

Among the leading French crime fiction authors present for discussions will be **Franck Thilliez**, **Michel Bussi**, **Bernard Minier**, **Sophie Hénaff**, **Nicolas Beuglet**, **Olivier Truc**, **Céline Denjean**, **Caryl Férey**, **Niko Tackian**, **Jérôme Leroy**, **Gabrielle Massat**, **Cédric Sire**, **Michèle Pedinielli**, **Thomas Cantaloube**, **Pauline Guéna**, **Frédéric Paulin**, and others.

Since its creation in 2005, the festival has been a springboard for emerging authors, playing a key role in promoting French crime fiction abroad through its professional meetings and international programmes. Staying true to its mission of discovering new talent, Quais du Polar unveils its **"GEMS OF THE QUAIS"** (*Pépites des Quais*) selection:

Julien Freu (France), **Sidonie Bonnecc** (France), **Michaëla Watteaux** (France), **Liz Moore** (USA), **Julia Armfield** (UK), **Marto Pariente** (Spain), **Vera Buck** (Germany), **A.K. Blakemore** (UK), **Kim Fu** (Canada), **Johanna Krawczyk** (France), **Lison Lambert** (France), **John Langan** (USA), **Sophie Demange** (France), **Simon François** (France), **Anne-Sophie Kalbfleisch** (Belgium), **Audrey Brière** (France), **Satu Rämö** (Finland), **David Hury** (France), **Kate Foster** (Scotland), **Chris Whitaker** (UK), and **David McCloskey** (USA).



THEMES OF THIS EDITION

Geographical, literary, cultural, or symbolic, boundaries shape our societies while also questioning them. Thanks to a rich and varied program, **more than 125 authors** from diverse backgrounds will come together to explore these dividing lines and the stories that transcend them.

With **over 75 meetings and conferences** held across different venues and formats, the festival reinforces its commitment to fostering dialogue and exchange. These encounters give authors a platform to share their work, challenge ideas, and offer fresh perspectives on the world.

Quais du Polar is, above all, a space for encounters where literature is as much about listening as it is about reading.

THE BIG INTERVIEWS AND MASTERCLASSES

As is tradition, Quais du Polar will be hosting its “One hour with” interviews with some of this edition’s authors. 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.

- **IT WAS DARK, A BIT COLD... – ONE HOUR WITH GILLES LEGARDINIER** at the Hôtel de Ville
- **TIDE’S DAY – ONE HOUR WITH MAYLIS DE KERANGAL** at the Palais de la Bourse
- **THE ENCHANTER – ONE HOUR WITH JAMES ELLROY** at the Chapelle de la Trinité
- **MOSCOW – SPASO HOUSE – A DRAWN ENCOUNTER WITH YVES SENTE AND IOURI JIGOUNOV** at the Hôtel de Ville
- **AND STILL THE FORESTS – ONE HOUR WITH SANDRINE COLLETTE** at the Hôtel de Ville
- **LIVE TO TELL – ONE HOUR WITH LISA GARDNER** at the Chapelle de la Trinité
- **TOMORROW’S THAT SING – ONE HOUR WITH ARBALDUR INDRIDASON** at the Hôtel de Ville

A meeting with crime storytellers:

- **VICTORIA CHARLTON AND SONYA LWU**, the Crime YouTubers at the Comédie Odéon.

Additionally, three exceptional meetings open to all, in partnership with Lyon 3 and Lyon 1 Universities:

- **JAMES ELLROY: AMERICA LAID BARE** at Université Lyon 3 - Manufacture des Tabacs, hosted by P.-A. Pellerin (lecturer in American literature), J. Delogu (professor of American civilization), and students from the English department.
- **THE CORPSE NEVER STOPS MOVING: MEETING WITH MAYLIS DE KERANGAL** at Université Lyon 3 - Manufacture des Tabacs, hosted by C. Julliot (professor at the University).
- **DEATH UP CLOSE: A DISCUSSION WITH PHILIPPE BOXHO** at Université Lyon 1 - Faculty of Medicine Lyon Est, hosted by doctors from the Lyon Institute of Forensic Medicine (IML).

BOUNDARIES OF THE LITERARY GENRE

Noir and horror novels, psychological thrillers, dystopias, poetry, graphic novels, and non-fiction: this edition will showcase the hybridisation of crime fiction, drawing from diverse influences and intersecting with other literary worlds.

- **FROM LITERARY GENRE TO LITERATURE WITHOUT BOUNDARIES: Writers Under the Influence** with Sandrine Collette, Maylis de Kerangal, Joseph Macé-Scaron, Olivier Norek.
- **IT’S ALREADY TOMORROW: CRIME FICTION, DYSTOPIA, AND SPECULATIVE FICTION** with Marc Levy, Nicolas Martin, and Yana Vagner.
- **ALL THE SHADES OF NOIR (1): WHEN CRIME FICTION FLIRTS WITH HORROR AND THE FANTASTIC** with Julia Armfield, Ariane Astier, John Langan, Michaël Mention, Iris Pouy.
- **FROM YESTERDAY TO TODAY: SPY NOVELS AND INTELLIGENCE ATLAS** with Arnaldur Indridason, David McCloskey, Aslak Nore, Yves Sente, and Iouri Jigounov.
- **GRAPHIC NOVELS ON THE EDGE OF REALITY** with Lucas Harari, Elizabeth Holleville, Iris Pouy, Fabien Nury, and Brüno.
- **ALL THE SHADES OF NOIR (2): Chameleon Writers** with Pascal Dessaint, Carlo Lucarelli, Yves Sente, and Cédric Sire.

- **THE HOUR IS GRAVE, BUT THE TONE REMAINS LIGHT: CRIME FICTION AND (TRAGI) COMEDY** with Pascal Dessaint, Sophie Hénaff, Marto Pariente, and Duane Swierczynski.

- **DIALOGUE BETWEEN CRIME FICTION AND POETRY** with A.K. Blakemore, Célestin De Meeûs, Johanna Krawczyk, and Jérôme Leroy. A meeting organised and moderated in partnership with Espace Pandora.

- **HISTORY IS MORE THAN JUST THE SIMPLE PAST: THE “HISTORICAL” NOVEL** with Audrey Brière, Harold Cobert, Alex Hay, Arttu Tuominen, and Michaëla Watteaux.

- **DARK MINDS: A TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN KING** with Stefan Ahnhem, Åsa Ericsson, Julien Freu, Lisa Gardner, John Langan, and Franck Thilliez. A special session dedicated to Stephen King, whose work merges crime fiction, fantasy, and horror, celebrating the influence his style has had on a generation of writers.

SYMBOLIC BOUNDARIES

Deeply rooted in social reality, crime fiction questions **the fractures in our societies**: political conflicts, cultural tensions, social inequalities, discriminations... In this series of meetings and discussions, authors will explore these invisible yet omnipresent boundaries that shape our daily lives.

- **CRIME FICTION AND SEGREGATION: INVESTIGATING SOCIAL DIVIDES** with Attica Locke and Deon Meyer
- **DE-NORMALIZING THE FAR RIGHT: CRIME FICTION AND THE MONSTROUS** with Jérémie Claes, Harold Cobert, Jérôme Leroy, Nicolas Martin, and Jacky Schwartzmann
- **ISOLATION AND COMMUNITARIANISM: BEHIND CLOSED DOORS** with Vera Buck, Kim Fu, Liz Moore, and Chris Whitaker
- **BUILDING SOCIETY OR DEFYING IT: THE LINKS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE, THEIR POLICE, AND THEIR JUSTICE** with Sandrine Cohen, Pauline Guéna, Mahi Grand, Christophe Korell, Mathieu Menegaux, and a representative from the National Police
- **WHEN THE SCREEN IS NO LONGER A BOUNDARY: DARKNET, METAVERSE, AND INFLUENCERS** with M.W. Craven, Nicolas Druart, Bernard Minier, and Niko Tackian

- **INDOCTRINATED, ENLISTED, RADICALISED: MAJOR DEVIATIONS, MAJOR CONSEQUENCES** with Leye Adenle, Alexis Laipsker, and Valerio Varesi

- **GIRL POWER: REVERSING CODES AND UNPLUGGING MALE CONTROL** with Sandrine Collette, Sophie Demange, Joseph Incardona, Jean-Marie Leygonie, and Marie Vingtras

GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES: A LITERATURE WITHOUT BORDERS

Quais du polar is an invitation to travel across literature from all over the world. By bringing together authors from 17 different nationalities, the festival highlights how crime fiction reflects the **sociopolitical realities of each country**.

- **A NEW CONQUEST OF THE WEST: AMERICAN NOVELS WRITTEN BY FRENCH-SPEAKING AUTHORS** with Nicolas Beuglet, Joseph Incardona, Anne-Sophie Kalbfleisch, Franck Thilliez, and Marie Vingtras
- **WHEREVER WE COME FROM, THE WORLD IS OURS** with Jérémie Claes, Attica Locke, and Olivier Truc
- **SO CLOSE YET SO FAR** with Caryl Férey, Deon Meyer, and Jérôme Loubry
- **YESTERDAY, WORLD WARS; TODAY, GLOBALISATION OF CONFLICTS** with Pascal Engman, Olivier Norek, Frédéric Paulin, Romain Slocombe, and Arttu Tuominen
- **ERASING WALLS AND BORDERS: THE TRAVELING WRITERS OF NOIR** with Michel Bussi, Caryl Férey, Jean-Christophe Rufin, and Nicolas Verdan
- **LEBANON FOREVER: FIFTY YEARS OF CONFLICT(S)** with David Hury and Frédéric Paulin

The festival will also feature two events questioning geographical, human, and social boundaries between literature, social engagement, and cultural exchange:

- **CRIME FICTION AND GASTRONOMY: Transalpine Literary Dialogues Between Lyon And Milan** at the Cité de la Gastronomie with Michèle Pedinielli and Valerio Varesi.
- **LITERATURE AND HUMANITY: SOS MEDITERRANEE THROUGH THE VOICES OF AUTHORS** with Michel Bussi, Caryl Férey, Johana Gustawsson, Jérôme Leroy, Marc Levy, and a volunteer from the organization

WHEN CRIME FICTION TAKES ON REALITY

Since crime fiction is deeply intertwined with reality, this edition will highlight **literature rooted in real-world issues, exploring its connections to the police, justice system, and forensic investigations.** A host of experts will share their experiences during special discussions. Some sessions will also tackle current events and contemporary issues, providing insights into today's challenges through the lens of crime fiction.

Quais du Polar has initiated a partnership with the National Police and will offer an immersive experience through visits to the Forensic Police in Écully and the Police Academy in Saint-Cyr-au-Mont-d'Or, which will exceptionally open their doors, as well as through various events:

- **POLICE OFFICER OR INVESTIGATOR IN A NOVEL: THE OTHER WAY TO BUILD A CAREER** with Céline Denjean, Sophie Hénaff, Jean-Marie Leygonie, and Joseph Macé-Scaron
- **THE EXPERT BUS — EXPERTS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** with Sophie Loubière (author) and Charlotte Huntz (judicial advisor in the office of the Director General of the National Police)
- **THE EXPERT BUS — FORENSIC POLICE EXPERTS** with Amos Frappa (specialist in the history of forensic science and trainer at the National School of Forensic Science) and Pierre Pascaud (spokesperson for the National Forensic Police Service)
- **MAKING SOCIETY OR CHALLENGING IT: THE LINKS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE, POLICE, AND JUSTICE AND CRIME ON STAGE,** with The Forensic Police, an immersive crime scene with the National Forensic Police Service.

And a renewed partnership with the Lyon Judicial Court, with which we will present the Polar and Justice Award, and with Interpol:

- **DRAWN MEETING: DRAWING JUSTICE AT THE LYON JUDICIAL COURT** with Pauline Guéna (author) and Mahi Grand (illustrator), Sorj Chalandon (author), Jean-Claude Bauer (court illustrator), Sergio Aquino (illustrator for Le Monde). In partnership with the festival Ça Presse, the International Press and Media Drawing Meetings of Lyon.

- **ORPHANS, UNACCOMPANIED MINORS, CHILDREN IN CARE: LITERARY PROTECTION OF YOUTH!** with Sabrina Champenois, Gabrielle Massat, Marika Mathieu, and Mathieu Menegaux, in the presence of a judge specialized in children's cases.

- **INTERPOL CONFERENCE: IDENTIFY ME, FACES LOOKING FOR AN IDENTITY** with Dr. Susan Hitchin and Dr. François-Xavier Laurent, Interpol experts.

Current events:

- **TRUMP, ACT II: THE UPCOMING AMERICA** with Marc Levy, Attica Locke, Douglas Preston, and Duane Swierczynski.

- **THE DAMAGE WE'VE DONE TO OUR WORLD: Mixing Green And Noir** with Morgan Audic, Roxanne Bouchard, Grégoire Osoha, and Sara Strömberg.

- **DIRTY HANDS, WHITE COLLARS, AND EMBEZZLEMENT: THE DARK CRIME OF CORRUPTION** with Leye Adenle, Stefan Ahnhem, Deon Meyer, and Olivier Truc.

- **FEMALE VICTIMS: WHEN SILENCE ADDS TO THE VIOLENCE** with Sabrina Champenois, Pauline Guéna, and Patricia Tourancheau.

- **FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS: WHEN WRITERS OPEN CRIMINAL CASE FILES** with Sabrina Champenois, Agnès Grossmann, Marika Mathieu, Guillaume Tion, and Patricia Tourancheau.

- **THE EXPERT BUS — THE TRUE CRIME EXPERTS** with Guillaume Tion (author of *La Disparue du cinéma*, 10|18 editions, and journalist at *Libération*) and Sabrina Champenois (author of *Les Suppliciées d'Appoigny*).

LITERARY EXPLORATIONS AROUND THE GENRE

The festival will host literary discussions on the evolution of crime fiction, celebrating the anniversaries of publishing houses, the diversity of writing styles, and the many facets of the noir genre. It will be a chance to explore the genre, discover new voices, and analyse current dynamics.

- **SÉRIE NOIRE: 80 YEARS OF A LITERARY ICON** with Stéfanie Delestré (publisher), Caryl Férey, Sébastien Gendron, and Marin Ledun.

- **20 YEARS OF LITERARY PASSION: A MEETING WITH GALLMEISTER AND ITS AUTHORS** with Oliver Gallmeister (publisher), Vera Buck, and Peter Swanson.

- **DRAWN CONFERENCE / THE ORIGINS OF CRIME FICTION IN COMICS** with Claire Caland (author) and Sandrine Kerion (illustrator).

- **WRITING LIMITED SERIES: AUTHORS WHO SEE LIFE IN CYCLES** with Thomas Cantaloube, Benjamin Dierstein, and Lisa Gardner.

- **CONTINUED SERIES: RECURRING CHARACTERS AND SAGAS** with Eva Björg Ægisdóttir, Roxanne Bouchard, Bernard Minier, Douglas Preston, and Jean-Christophe Rufin.

- **THE CRIME NOVEL: A RESOLUTELY SOCIAL BRIGADE** with Hervé Commère, Simon François, Julien Freu, and Sébastien Gendron.

- **WHEN ART AND BOOKS ARE IN THE CROSSHEIRS** with Linwood Barclay, Paula Hawkins, Nicolas Beuglet, and Marc Levy.

Staying true to its mission of **discovering and promoting new talent**, Quais du Polar will spotlight a selection of "Gems of the Quais", gathering emerging authors to watch closely.

- **GEMS MEETINGS** with Simon François, Lison Lambert, David McCloskey, Satu Rämö, and Michaëla Watteaux.

BETWEEN THE LINES: PARTNERSHIPS & COMMITMENTS

Translation, reading, writing, or listening: these events celebrate words, the accessibility of culture, and interaction with the public. Alongside its partners – Audiolib, Lizzie, ANLCI, ATLF, Ça Presse, Espace Pandora, SOS MEDITERRANEE... – the festival reaffirms its commitment to sharing knowledge, solidarity, and exploring crime fiction in all its forms.

- **GREAT NOIR DICTATIONS** with the National Agency for the Fight Against Illiteracy (ANLCI). Fun and offbeat, the Great Noir Dictations raise awareness of illiteracy while celebrating the joy of words and the richness of the French language.

- **TRANSLATION DUEL / NORDIC NOIR** with the Association of Literary Translators of France (ATLF), featuring translators Anna Postel and Catherine Renaud, and author Sara Strömberg.

- **READING ALOUD CONTEST** with Cédric Sire and Caroline Klaus, in partnership with Audiolib.

- **LISTENING SESSION: READ WITH YOUR EARS!** Lizzie and Quais du Polar invite festivalgoers to enjoy readings of excerpts from crime fiction by actors

THE COLLABORATIVE CRIME NOVEL

Quais du Polar and Editions Points continue to work hand in hand, launching a new collaborative crime novel that explores the connections between two cities, and two countries. Two authors embark on the collaborative writing of a single crime novel!

This year, French novelist **Michèle Pedinielli** and Italian author **Valerio Varesi** will alternate their writing to create **a storyline between Lyon and Milan**, France and Italy, under the title *Contrebandiers*. Their novel will be released during Quais du Polar, as a first edition by Points in France and Milan publisher Le Assassine in Italy. For this project, Quais du Polar International Festival is supported by the Institut Français / City of Lyon and Lyon Metropolis.

This fifth novel marks the beginning of a **collection** gradually taking shape.



THE MONTH OF NOIR

QUAIS DU POLAR RENEWS THIS OPERATION IN APRIL 2025

Over the years, Quais du Polar has had a growing impact on promoting crime fiction, giving rise to a "season of noir" during which publishers release new titles, foreign authors go on tour, bookshops organise events around the genre, and major French media outlets publish special crime fiction features.

The "Month of Noir" initiative aims to extend the "noir spirit" beyond the Quais du Polar festival, promoting the genre nationwide throughout April. This will include targeted communication and a complete programme dedicated to the "Month of Noir," building on the 2025 edition's lineup, with our curated selections of recent crime fiction, author signings, bookstore events throughout the month, publisher initiatives, and a series of key activities focused on the genre.



3RD EDITION THE INITIATIVE CONTINUES TO GROW

The **Libraires Ensemble group**, with its network of 44 bookshops across France, remains a key partner for this initiative. For its third edition, the operation gains additional support from new partners, including several **Fnac locations, Decitre and Furet du Nord bookstores**, and multiple media libraries, all of which will host the invited authors after the festival. This collaboration allows international authors to make the most of their visit to France, extending their participation in Quais du Polar with book signings and meet-and-greets at these partner bookshops.

MUSICAL PROGRAMME

- **Musical Encounter on Metal with Cédric Sire**

Join Cédric Sire, the most metal of French-speaking authors, to discuss the deep connection between music and his writing. He will be joined on stage by the dark, powerful post-metal trio **Mind Imperium** from Lyon, well-known for setting the stage on fire during the 2023 musical encounters. The event will be followed by a thirty-minute book signing session.

- **Musical Encounter on Punk with M. W. Craven and Marin Ledun**

A Franco-English dialogue exploring the connection between noir fiction and punk, the ultimate rebellious musical genre. The two music-loving authors will be accompanied on stage by **Vnus**, a Lyon-based band whose music transcends genres, blending post-punk, synths, and shoegaze. The event will be followed by a thirty-minute book signing session.

ON-SCREEN PROGRAMME

NOIR WEEKEND AT THE INSTITUT LUMIÈRE

The Noir Weekend at the Institut Lumière, a long-time partner of Quais du Polar, is back for another edition! The greatest contemporary noir authors will be on hand to share their favourite films and celebrate the art of cinema in the very place where it was born.

One Night (2012) by Lucas Belvaux, presented by Maylis de Kerangal ; **The Sweet Hereafter** (1997) by Atom Egoyan, presented by Marie Vingtras ; **Disclosure** (1994) by Barry Levinson, presented by Yves Sente and Iouri Jigounov ; **Usual Suspects** (1995) by Bryan Singer, presented by Marc Levy ; **Blow-Up** (1966) by Michelangelo Antonioni, presented by James Ellroy ; **La Piel que habito** (2011) by Pedro Almodóvar, presented by Johana Gustawsson.

HORROR THRILLERS

The Silence of the Lambs (1991) by Jonathan Demme, presented by Niko Tackian at Pathé Bellecour ; **Lord of Illusions** (1995) by Clive Barker, presented by Cédric Sire at Le Comœdia, a special selection by the Hallucinations Collectives festival ; **Get Out** (2017) by Jordan Peele, presented by Attica Locke at Pathé Bellecour ; **Melody's Smile** (2007) by Alfred Lot, presented by Franck Thilliez at Le Comœdia, in partnership with the L'œil Cacodylate bookshop for its Adaptations series.

BORDERS AND DIVIDES

La Haine (1995) by Mathieu Kassovitz, presented by Julien Freu at Cinéma Opéra ; **La Tête froide** (2023) by Stéphane Marchetti, presented by Michèle Pedinielli and Valerio Varesi at Le Comœdia ; **JSA: Joint Security Area** (2000) by Park Chan-wook, presented by Jacky Schwartzmann at Pathé Bellecour ; **Wind River** (2017) by Taylor Sheridan, presented by Olivier Truc at Pathé Bellecour.

AT THE EDGE OF REALITY

Angel Heart (1987) by Alan Parker, followed by a discussion with Jean-Luc Marcastel at Lumière Fourmi ; A Midnight Movie evening presented by Deon Meyer, featuring two films by Neill Blomkamp at Lumière Terreaux: **District 9** (2009) and **Chappie** (2015)

NOIR CALLED TO THE STAND

This year, a thematic cycle will focus justice in cinema.

All your Faces (2023) by Jeanne Herry, presented by Mathieu Menegaux at Cinéma Opéra ; **Saint Omer** (2022) by Alice Diop, presented by Agnès Grossmann at Pathé Bellecour ; **Guilty** (2011) by Vincent Garenq, presented by Patricia Tourancheau at Cinéma Opéra.

NOIR DOCUMENTARIES: NON-FICTIONS UNDER TENSION

For the second year running, Quais du Polar is pleased to partner with Fipadoc.

Hard-hitting documentaries will be screened at the Théâtre Comédie Odéon, taken from the official competition of the festival.

The Last Island (2024) by Davide Lomma, followed by a discussion with Michel Bussi and SOS MEDITERRANEE ; **Homegrown** (2024) by Michael Premo, presented by Attica Locke and Douglas Preston.

BLACK COMEDIES

Les Règles de l'art (2025) by Dominique Baumard, a preview screening followed by a discussion with the film's team at Pathé Bellecour ; **Burn After Reading** (2008) by Joel and Ethan Coen, presented by Sébastien Gendron at Lumière Terreaux.

QUEER CRIME CINEMA

For the second year in a row, Quais du Polar is proud to partner with Écrans Mixtes, Lyon's queer film festival, which takes place from March 6 to 14, 2024. This collaboration brings a compelling selection of queer crime films, ranging from classics to exclusive previews, in resonance with the official competition of Écrans Mixtes 2025.

Pooja, Sir (2024) by Deepak Rauniyar, a preview screening presented by the Écrans Mixtes festival team at Pathé Bellecour ; **Burning Days** (2022) by Emin Alper, presented by Leye Adenle at Cinéma Opéra ; **Strangers on a Train** (1951) by Alfred Hitchcock, presented by Paula Hawkins at Le Comœdia.

INTIMATE BOUNDARIES

Stranger Eyes (2024) by Siew Hua Yeo, an exclusive preview at Lumière Bellecour ; **Emilia Pérez** (2024) by Jacques Audiard, presented by Caryl Férey at Le Comœdia

BEYOND LYON

Noir Weekend at the Espace Renoir Cinema in Roanne:

Personne n'y comprend rien (2025) by Yannick Kergoat, presented by Thomas Cantaloube.

As part of the Ciné Hors Pistes Noir festival (April 2-15) in Bourgoin-Jallieu: **Zulu** (2013) by Jérôme Salle, screening at Kinopolis cinema followed by a discussion with Caryl Férey.

BEYOND LYON WITH THE GRAC

French Crime Cinema: A themed cycle of four films, scheduled in March and April by the GRAC network (Regional Group for Cinematic Actions)

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 present a special selection of six noir and thriller short films. Screenings will take place at Cinéma Saint-Denis, Théâtre Comédie Odéon, and Théâtre de l'Uchronie, with introductions by the festival team. In partnership with publishing house Livre de Poche, plenty of books will be up for grabs!

YOUNG AUDIENCE

Dilli in Paris (2018) by Michel Ocelot, at Lumière Fourmi. The film will also be shown to 6 elementary school classes in the city of Lyon, during two dedicated screenings at Lumière Terreaux. In partnership with publishing house Casterman, plenty of books will be up for grabs!

YOUTH PROGRAMME

AUTHORS

The children's bookshop "À Titre d'Aile" will be on site from Friday, April 4th, at the entrance of the Youth Area on the first floor of the Palais de la Bourse, with 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 Great Noir Bookshop in the Corbeille room of the Palais de la Bourse. Sandrine Bonini, Alice Brière-Haquet, Jean-Luc Marcastel, Nathalie Somers, Guillaume Le Cornec, Caryl Férey, Jacky Schwartzmann, Sébastien Gendron, Éric Meurice, and Marc Levy. Sandrine Bonini will be hosting a writing and card creation workshop on Sunday, April 6th at 10:00 a.m.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Several game specialists will be present in the Palais de la Bourse's youth area throughout the weekend to entertain children of all ages! Archi Chouette and Blackrock Games will offer game sessions centered around investigations and crime stories. Children will also be invited to solve a mystery in an escape game inspired by the Crime City game from MicroMacro. Additionally, on Saturday, April 5th, and Sunday, April 6th, from 10 am to 6 pm, the Lire et Faire Lire association will provide free readings of short mystery stories for children aged 7 to 12, with no booking required.

In the Salons Rouges of the Hôtel de Ville, Les Artisans de la fiction will host narrative writing workshops for teenagers and adults (Building a Detective Character, Writing a Noir Novel), along with the "Footprints" workshop by the Forensic Police.

The Great Investigation is accessible to families on Saturday, April 5th, and Sunday, April 6th, starting from the Théâtre Nouvelle Génération in the 9th arrondissement.

Libraries and media centres across Lyon and its metropolitan area will host puzzles, board games, mystery investigations, and escape games. Full details will be available on our website in early March.

CULTURAL MEDIATION

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year, Quais du Polar lets teachers involve their classes in various projects revolving around crime fiction.

On April 3rd and 4th, primary and high school students can take part in the Great Investigation and meet invited authors. This year, Sandrine Bonini, Alice Brière-Haquet, Jean-Luc Marcastel, Douglas Preston, and Niko Tackian will engage with students.

With support from the City of Lyon, Quais du Polar is once again awarding the **Quais du Polar / City of Lyon Youth Award**. As part of this initiative, led by Afev's Book Ambassadors in classrooms, more than 200 students will choose their favourite book from a shortlist of five and present the award to the winner.

Middle school students can participate in the festival's **Youth Short Story Competition**, in partnership with Les Artisans de la Fiction, or join the **Classes Reporters** project to produce podcasts and articles about the festival. For some high school classes, this will mark the culmination of year-long projects. Students will meet Arnaldur Indridason as part of the **One Book, One Film** programme, which explores audiovisual adaptations, or conclude their **translation workshops** with a meeting with author Attica Locke.

Quais du Polar is also bringing back its **Noir Dictations** in partnership with the National Agency for the Fight Against Illiteracy. This year, for the first time, two Noir dictations will be held specifically for students, featuring Caryl Férey and Jacky Schwartzmann.

QUAIS DU POLAR IN HOSPITAL

Once again this year, Quais du Polar is bringing its initiatives to hospitals. Children's author Nathalie Somers will visit the Massues Medical-Surgical Rehabilitation Center in Lyon's 5th arrondissement, while Sandrine Collette will meet with patients and healthcare staff at Hôpital de la Croix-Rousse. With the support of Didier Jeunesse and JC Lattès publishing houses.

NOIR BEHIND BARS

Depuis 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 been running its "Noir Behind Bars" programme, promoting reading and the crime fiction genre in correctional facilities. This year, **nine authors** will take part in the initiative: Michèle Pedinielli, Marc Fernandez, Johana Gustawsson, Simon François, Pauline Guéna, Gilles Legardinier, Thomas Cantaloube, Marin Ledun, and Benjamin Dierstein.

Each of them will visit one of the following facilities:

- Grenoble Varcès Penitentiary Center
- Saint-Quentin-Fallavier Penitentiary Center
- Moulins-Yzeure Penitentiary Center
- Bonneville Remand Prison
- Chambéry Remand Prison
- Lyon Corbas Remand Prison
- Roanne Penitentiary Center
- Saint-Étienne La Talaudière Penitentiary Center
- Privas Remand Prison

Three correctional facilities are also participating in the Quais du Polar / Le Figaro Readers' Award to present an honorable mention, while two others are taking part in the adult short story competition organised in partnership with Babelio.

With the support of the publishing houses La Manufacture de Livres, Liana Levi, Gallimard, Denoël, Finitude, Le Rouergue, L'Aube, HarperCollins, Calmann-Lévy, JC Lattès, Flammarion, and Pocket

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 3rd at ENSSIB** (Villeurbanne).

THE GREAT INVESTIGATION

Every year, Quais du Polar invites participants to explore Lyon differently through a city-wide investigation. Participants follow a trail where clues, hidden in unusual locations or revealed by actors, must be uncovered to solve the mystery.

Created by Christelle Ravey

PREHISTORICALLY YOURS!

An ancient murder follows a prehistoric crime. Despite the time that separates them, unsettling similarities link the two cases. When the same crime is committed again during the Renaissance, as François I enters Lyon, and later amid the labour struggles of the 20th century, Sissi Lex realises she will have her hands full in solving what appears to be a serial crime closely tied to the world of entertainment... And she's counting on you to dig through the layers and uncover the evidence deeply buried in the twists and turns of time.

From Vaise to City Hall, through Old Lyon, an archaeological adventure awaits!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

To join this latest Great Investigation, head to the Théâtre Nouvelle Génération (Lyon 9^e) to pick up your investigation booklet (also available for download on the Quais du Polar website on April 1st 2025). It contains the pieces of evidence to guide you through your journey.

Once the various pieces of the puzzle are solved, place your answer sheet in the ballot box located at the Hôtel de Ville.

Participation in this thrilling journey is free of charge!

LOCATIONS, OPENING HOURS

START

TNG - Théâtre Nouvelle Génération
23 rue de Bourgogne, Lyon 9^e

FINISH

Hôtel de Ville, Place de la Comédie, Lyon 1^{er}

Duration of the investigation: 4 hours

Two departures reserved for deaf participants (accompanied by French Sign Language interpreters) will take place on April 5 at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Touch-sensitive clue kits will be available at the start of the Great Investigation for individuals with visual impairments or blindness.

For more information and reservations:

By email at polarpourtous@quaisdupolar.com or by phone at +33 7 43 22 69 59.

THURSDAY 3 APRIL AND FRIDAY 4 APRIL

Investigation reserved for schools, registration required.

SATURDAY 5 APRIL AND SUNDAY 6 APRIL

Open to the public.

BOOKLET DISTRIBUTION

Saturday 5 April: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 6 April: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

PRIZES TO BE WON:

- **1st prize** – Two return flights to America with Air France (destination to be revealed).
- **2nd prize** – Two return train tickets in Executive Class with Trenitalia
- **3rd and 4th prize** – A Le Club Accorhotel card credited with €200 in points.
- **5^e to 7^e prize** – Three admissions for 2 to 6 participants at the John Doe Escape Room.
- **8^e to 50^e prize** – One set of 5 books from J'ai Lu and Rageot publishing houses



Great Investigation 2024 © Slowicki

NOIR ECHOES

Since its inception, Quais du Polar has partnered with numerous cultural institutions in Lyon and the surrounding region on various projects related to crime and noir literature. This programme aims to amplify the event's popular and festive appeal while fostering closer connections with its audiences. This year, nearly 100 institutions have joined forces with the festival, hosting a range of events leading up to and during the festival.

IN MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES

Several events will be organised in partnership with **Lyon's museums** for the festival. At the Museum of Fine Arts, four authors will share their perspectives on various works during discussions in the museum's galleries. **The City of Lyon's Archaeological Service** will also present a 'very cold case' there. At the **Museum of Printing and Graphic Communication**, visitors can explore the history of books or take part in a family-friendly investigative tour. Educators will also lead a typography workshop open to all in the Atrium of City Hall.. The **Museum of Medical History and Pharmacy** will offer an immersive look at the history of forensic medicine through an exhibition and guided tours. The **Center for the History of the Resistance and Deportation** will challenge visitors to solve puzzles linked to a mysterious resistance fighter's diary and coded messages. Finally, the **Museum of Casts** will host investigation games for all ages.

The libraries and media libraries of Lyon and its metropolitan area will offer a wide range of activities in connection with the 21st edition of the festival. The programme includes film screenings, board game nights, giant detective investigations, as well as meetings, book signings, and conferences with authors like Michel Bussi, Thomas Cantaloube, Hervé Commère, Céline Denjean, Sébastien Gendron, Alexis Laipsker, Marin Ledun, Christophe Molmy, and Cédric Sire, to name just a few.

AT PARTNER VENUES

Once again this year, a host of cultural partners are joining the festival to bring a diverse programme to the region. From performances at the **Théâtre des Marronniers** and the **Atrium in Tassin** to games and escape rooms organised by institutions such as the **Departmental Archives** and the **Maison de l'Environnement**,

partners will spread the spirit of crime fiction throughout Lyon and beyond. **Lyon's universities** and international partners including the **Goethe Institut** and the **Instituto Cervantes**, will also play a key role, hosting highly anticipated literary discussions.

Finally, many partner venues will host interactive activities — including games, escape rooms, and investigations — both before and during the festival.

TOURS AND WALKS

Discover the professions of the **National Police Academy** and the **National Forensic Police Service** throughout the festival! The program includes open days, puzzles, interactive workshops, escape rooms, discussions with laboratory experts and academy students, and crime scene reenactments.

Once again, **Only Lyon** will offer three guided tours throughout the festival, while **La Justice Racontée** will host three themed walks.

Lyon City Tour will also continue its Expert Bus tours through the city's streets, accompanied by criminal justice experts.

GASTRONOMY

In their collaborative crime novel *Contrebandiers*, Michèle Pardinielli and Valerio Varesi connect Lyon and Milan through an investigation into smuggling and human trafficking, exploring the theme of borders. The two authors will discuss this unique collaboration and their joint writing process at the **Cité de la Gastronomie** during the Quais du Polar festival. The event will continue with an Italian buffet hosted by the Italian Cultural Institute of Lyon.

LITERARY AWARDS

Established with the support of both long-standing and new partners, the 11 Quais du Polar literary awards will be **presented on Friday, April 4th, 2025, at the Palais de la Bourse.**

QUAIS DU POLAR / LE FIGARO READERS' AWARD

The 10 members of the jury will select the best French-language thriller of the year from a shortlist curated by the festival's partner booksellers:

- **Malheur aux vaincus** by Gwenaël Bulteau (La Manufacture de livres)
- **L'Agent** by Pascale Dietrich (Liana Levi)
- **Chevreuil** by Sébastien Gendron (Gallimard)
- **Reine** by Pauline Guéna (Denoël)
- **Stella et l'Amérique** by Joseph Incardona (Finitude)
- **Eureka dans la nuit** by Anne-Sophie Kalbfleisch (Le Rouergue)

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 shortlist.

- **La Folle évasion** by Sandrine Bonini (Seuil Jeunesse)
- **Soie - Les Orphelins d'Argentan** by Alice Brière-Haquet (Le Rouergue)
- **Inspecteur Gambas et l'agente spéciale La Crevette** by Caryl Férey et Irène Bonacina (Robert Laffont Jeunesse)
- **Détectives Grégor de père en fille** by Yves Grevet et Carole Trébor (Little Urban)
- **Éloïse, mousquetaire du roi** by Jean-Luc Marcastel (Gulf Stream éditeur)

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

The bookshop Expérience, France 3 Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, and Quais du Polar join forces to present the Crime Comic Award at the festival.

- **American Parano - Tome 2** by Hervé Bourhis and Luca Varela (Dupuis)
- **L'Expert** by Jennifer Daniel (Casterman)
- **Le Cas David Zimmerman** by Lucas and Arthur Harari (Sarbacane)
- **Les Contes de la mansarde** by Elizabeth Holleville and Iris Pouy (L'employé du moi)
- **Les Navigateurs** by Serge Lehman and Stéphane De Caneva (Delcourt)
- **Copenhague** by Anne Caroline Pandolfo and Terkel Risbjerg (Dargaud)
- **Habemus Bastard, un cœur sous une soutane** by Jacky Schwartzmann and Sylvain Vallée (Dargaud)

LIBÉRATION / NOIR AND JUSTICE AWARD

Created in collaboration with the Lyon Judicial Court and in partnership with Libération, the Noir and Justice Award will be presented to a work non-fiction - investigation, true crime, or testimony – relating to justice and criminal stories. The jury will include magistrates from the Lyon Judicial Court, legal professionals, a journalist from Libération, a representative from Quais du Polar, and a guest of honour.

- **Le Procès Mein Kampf** by Harold Cobert (Les Escales)
- **Les Babylones** by Pauline Guéna et Mahi Grand (Denoël)
- **Le Crime organisé en France** by Christophe Korell (Denoël)
- **Une minute de silence** by Sophie Loubière (Darkside)
- **On n'est plus des gens normaux** by Justin Morin (La Manufacture de livres)
- **Cramés : Les enfants du Monstre** by Philippe Pujol (Julliard)
- **La Disparue de la réserve Blackfeet** by Anaïs Renevier (10|18)
- **Action Directe Lyon - De l'ultra-gauche au terrorisme** by Richard Schittly (La Manufacture de livres)

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. Involved in the festival through events, activities, and the promotion of collections, librarians have curated a selection of their favourite crime novels of the year, published between September 1st, 2023, and August 31st, 2024, and will present the award to their top pick.

- **Malheur aux vaincus** by Gwenaël Bulteau (La Manufacture de livres)
- **Reine** by Pauline Guéna (Denoël)
- **La Sagesse de l'Idiot** by Marto Pariente, translated by Sébastien Rutés (Gallimard/Série noire)
- **Les Âmes féroces** by Marie Vingtras (Éditions de l'Olivier)

SCELF / POLAR EN SERIES AWARD

This award celebrates the literary production of French-language crime fiction by highlighting works with strong potential for adaptation into audiovisual series. Created in collaboration with the SCELFF – the Civil Society of French Language Publishers – it is part of the professional Polar Connection program, fostering connections between the worlds of literature and audiovisual media

- **Poker (Tomes 1 et 2)** by Derrien & Simon Van Liemt (Le Lombard, 2009)
- **Bleus, blancs, rouges** by Benjamin Dierstein (Flammarion, 2025)
- **Un pays sans chemin** by Eric Goffin (Le Rouergue, 2025)
- **Les Âmes fragmentées** by Charlotte Monsarrat (Anne Carrière, 2023)
- **Les Bons sentiments** by Karine Sulpice (Liana Levi, 2024)
- **Huitième section** by Marc Trévidic (Gallimard, 2024)

EUROPEAN CRIME FICTION AWARD – LE POINT

Each year, Le Point's European Crime Fiction Award honours a crime novel by a French or European author.

- **Les Saules** by Mathilde Beaussault (Seuil)
- **La Fille au pair** by Sidonie Bonnet (Albin Michel)
- **Les Enfants loups** by Vera Buck (Gallmeister)
- **Dernier cri** by Hervé Commère (Fleuve éditions)
- **Versant Noir** by Lison Lambert (Hugo Publishing)
- **Mourir en juin** by Alan Parks (Rivages)
- **Huitième section** by Marc Trévidic (Gallimard)
- **Tous les silences** by Arttu Tuominen (La Martinière)

THE CLAUDE MESPLÈDE AWARD

Claude Mesplède was a publisher, critic, and historian, an enlightened and passionate crime fiction lover. He was also a loyal friend of Quais du Polar, having been involved from its inception and throughout its growth. The Claude Mesplède Award for Non-Fiction Crime Fiction was created in 2020 to honour and continue his work. This award recognises a work that contributes to a better understanding of the genre, in the form of essays, historical works, correspondence, documents, investigations, original publications of complete or unpublished works, new translations, or academic research.

SHORT CRIME STORY AWARD

This year, the festival partners with the National Police to create a new short story contest for high school students. The award will recognise three stories with the following distinctions: the "Plot" Award, the "Thrills" Award, and the "Writing" Award.

SHORT STORY CONTEST

In partnership with Babelio and SOS MEDITERRANEE, the 2025 **Adult Short Story Contest** will be sponsored by Michel Bussi. Aspiring writers and crime fiction enthusiasts will explore the theme of "crossings." For the **Youth Short Story Contest**, Quais du Polar once again teams up with Les Artisans de la Fiction and has chosen Jean-Luc Marcastel as its sponsor. This year, participants will be asked to write a crime or noir short story "on the edge of reality," incorporating a fantastical element into their narrative.

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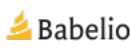
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