



22nd
EDITION

PRESS KIT

QUAIS

DU 3-5
APRIL
2026

POLAR

LITERATURE
GREAT
INVESTIGATION
FILM
CULTURAL
EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL
— LYON

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EDITORIAL

STORY SEEKERS: SCIENCE AND FICTIONS

Crime fiction has always maintained a deep connection with reality. It observes, questions, and investigates. The authors who bring it to life are, in their own way, researchers: seekers of stories, but also seekers of meaning, attentive to social tensions, historical legacies, and human, scientific, and political transformations that shape our societies.

It is this closeness to the scientific process — curiosity, doubt, rigor and the desire to understand — that we have chosen to celebrate for this 22nd edition under the theme “Story Seekers: Science and Fiction.” Crime fiction shares with science a taste for exploration and truth: a truth that is complex, sometimes fragile, but always built from facts, observations, and analysis.

At a time when rumours, simplifications, and distortions of reality all too often dominate, these attentive perspectives are more necessary than ever. Literature, like research, urges us to examine, confront, and understand; not to impose certainties, but to illuminate the world of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Over three days, writers, researchers, scientists, and specialists will exchange ideas: artificial intelligence, technology, social sciences, law, psychology, history, art, and medicine will all feed into the discussions. Across these fields, fiction sparks a dialogue with knowledge, much like the sessions offered this year

More international than ever, this year’s festival welcomes guests from 21 nationalities. This diversity of voices highlights how essential the exchange of perspectives remains in grasping the complexity of the contemporary world. Listening to others, sharing experiences, and exchanging stories remains one of the simplest and most necessary ways to build a shared understanding.

Quais du Polar also operates within a collective dynamic that extends beyond literature. Thanks to an extensive network of cultural, scientific, educational, social, and institutional partners, the festival creates bridges between disciplines and audiences. These collaborations open new fields, foster fresh encounters, and expand access to culture even further

Beyond themes, the festival is first and foremost built around the people who bring it to life. Each year, we are delighted to welcome back authors, festivalgoers, volunteers, booksellers, and professionals, whose enthusiasm contributes to the lively, welcoming atmosphere that defines the festival.

In a global context that can sometimes nurture pessimism, where doubt toward knowledge and dialogue resurfaces, we wish to affirm what Quais du Polar represents: an open, curious, and accessible space. A place where culture brings people together, where words create connections, and where stories allow us to share emotions and reflections.

This edition, like those before it, is an invitation to experience and reflect together: to celebrate discovery, community, the joy of books, and attentiveness to others — with the conviction that understanding the world remains both a necessity and a collective adventure.

Welcome to the 22nd 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}
Métro A and C - Hôtel de Ville L. Pradel

Palais de la Bourse

Place de la Bourse, Lyon 2^e
Métro A – Cordeliers
Métro C – Hôtel de Ville L. Pradel

Amphi - Opéra de Lyon

Place de la Comédie, Lyon 1^{er}
Métro A and C – Hôtel de Ville L. Pradel

Chapelle de la Trinité

29-31 rue de la Bourse, Lyon 2^e
Métro A – Cordeliers
Métro C – Hôtel de Ville L. Pradel

Théâtre Comédie Odéon

6 rue Grolée, Lyon 2^e
Métro A – Cordeliers
Métro D – Bellecour

ENS Lyon (Starting point of the Great Investigation)

Place de l'école, Lyon 7^e
Métro B – Debourg / Stade de Gerland – Le Lou
Tramway T1 – ENS Lyon

OPENING HOURS

Palais de la Bourse

Friday 3 April | 10 a.m > 20 p.m
Saturday 4 April | 10 a.m > 20 p.m
Sunday 5 April | 10 a.m > 18 p.m

Hôtel de Ville

Friday 3 April | 14 p.m > 19 p.m
Saturday 4 April | 10 a.m > 20 p.m
Sunday 5 April | 10 a.m > 18 p.m



The Little Noir Bookshop, Hôtel de Ville © Christine Clarens

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
Marché Noir | Gardanne
Le Rayon populaire | Villefranche-sur-Saône
Atmosphères DVD

Noir paperbacks – Hôtel de Ville

For the third 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 FOR BOOK SIGNINGS:

At Great Noir Bookshop:

Tiphaine Corbet, Yves Feltrin, Amos Frappa, Nicole Gonthier, Miles Hyman, Yann Le Bec, Éric Libiot, Michel Montheillet, Aslak Nore, Stanislas Petrosky, Jacky Schwartzmann, Lionel Tran, Teresa Valero

At the Atmosphères DVD stand:

Dominique Martin

At the Un Petit Noir stand:

Henry Carey, Delphine Chatrian, Gérard Coquet, Pascale Expilly, Nathalie Gauthereau, Jacques Morize, Maryse Vuillermet

At the Père Pénard stand:

Jean Desdemaines-Hugon, Walid Nazim, Gérard Saryan, Julie Subirana



Session translated into FSL © Sandrine Thesillat

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 been improving accessibility for all audiences, ensuring a festival experience tailored to everyone. This includes:

- 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 festival's main locations.
- 7 sessions will be translated into French Sign Language (FSL) and one screening will feature subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing, followed by a discussion with the director interpreted in FSL
- One departure for the Great Investigation reserved for deaf people (accompanied by FSL interpreters)

For the first time, and **thanks to the support of the Lyon Bar Association, EDARA, and THEMIS**, Quais du Polar will offer two mediation workshops for visually impaired audiences: a special 'Crime Fiction Book Workshop,' giving children with visual impairments a first encounter with literature and an introduction to

For more information about the festival's programme, visit our website at quaisdupolar.com/en/accessibility/
CONTACT : polarpourtous@quaisdupolar.com - +33 7 44 05 52 46

FREE ADMISSION

Access to the festival's main venues, conferences, sessions, and youth activities is free, subject to availability. Some partner venues have their own ticketing systems.

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

This year, **thanks to the support of Matmut for the Arts**, the festival can continue its initiatives for audiences with mental and psychological disabilities:

- Readings and a specially curated book selection will be offered at the Youth Area in the Palais de la Bourse.
- A selection of youth books adapted for readers with DYS-related difficulties, as well as large-print books, available from the À Titre d'Aile bookshop in the Youth Area at the Palais de la Bourse.
- The creation of a quiet area, called the 'Calm and Silent Corridor for Relaxation,' for festivalgoers to rest, located in the Palais de la Bourse.
- ETR (Easy-to-Read) documentation will be made available on the festival website and at the information desk in the Palais de la Bourse.
- Welcoming individuals with mental and psychological disabilities for a 'professional integration for people with disabilities' programme within our volunteer team.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Quais du Polar is environmentally conscious and has been working for several years to limit its carbon footprint and waste production. All of the festival's service providers and suppliers are local businesses, paper printing is kept to a minimum, and train travel is prioritised for French and European guests.

Quais du Polar continuously explores new solutions to implement long-term initiatives, particularly regarding paper sourcing and the website's carbon footprint.

A LOOK BACK AT THE PREVIOUS EDITION



Borders, theme of 2025 © Margaux Cormorèche

THE 2025 EDITION IN NUMBERS:

- **127 authors** present in Lyon from 4 to 6 April (17 nationalities represented)
- **100,000+ festivalgoers**
- Including **15,000+ participants** in Quais du Polar's Great Investigation, including 1,642 pupils
- **48%** of festivalgoers live in the Lyon Metropolitan Area (**33%** in Lyon), **20%** live elsewhere in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region (outside Lyon and the metropolitan area), **22%** live in other regions of France, and **3%** come from abroad.
- **40%** of attendees are first-time festivalgoers, while **60%** have attended at least once before.
- **32,700+ followers** on Facebook
- **12,600+ followers** on Instagram (+27% since 2023)
- **127,000+ sessions and 700,000+ pages** viewed on quaisdupolar.com (from 1 March to 15 April 2025)
- **1,500+ active users and 65,000+ views** of festival pages on the Fest app
- **380+ media coverage items:** articles and features in print and digital press, as well as radio and television broadcasts
- Around **250 cultural events** across Lyon and the region
- **63 partner towns**
- **146 venues and institutions involved** (museums, libraries, theatres, cinemas, schools, hospitals, prisons...) in Lyon, its metropolitan area, and the wider region
- **75+ sessions** and roundtables held in the festival's main venues
- **35 movie screenings** across 12 of the city and its metropolis' theatres, totalling **3,000 filmgoers**
- **12 independent bookshops** at the Great Noir Bookshop, **5 second-hand bookshops** at the Little Noir Bookshop, and Lyon-based Decitre group bookshops at the Noir Paperbacks area: **€400,000 excluding tax in sales and 35,000 books sold**
- Around **70 booksellers** from the Lyon Metropolitan Area and the Region present throughout the festival
- **450 volunteers** of all ages and all walks of life
- **804 memberships** in support of the organisation
- **3,328 pupils** involved in various projects, from kindergarten to high school.
- **220 partners** (institutional, cultural, media, and private)
- **392 book and audiovisual professionals** participated in the Polar Connection professional programme
- **35+ journalists** (France, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy) present to cover the event
- **485 teachers, librarians, and school librarians** registered for the annual crime literature training day (142 in-person attendees + 343 YouTube views as of 11 April 2025)
- Impact on the tourism industry: **1,470 meals** served across 8 restaurants and approximately **500 nights booked** in 9 hotels in Lyon festival guests, along with a significant increase in tourism in Lyon due to festivalgoers visiting over the weekend.

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 literary world**. 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 incursions into general fiction, comics, and youth literature.
- Quais du Polar works to make its programming as accessible and diverse as possible, **offering a wide range of multidisciplinary activities**: literature, cinema, music, exhibitions, theatre... as well as new, unique interactive experiences for festivalgoers, including city-wide investigations, theatre-based true crime games, escape games, 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 access to culture for all**, offering free admission and activities aimed at audiences furthest from cultural and literary life. Education is also an important focus, with **initiatives to combat illiteracy and a range of educational activities tailored to all ages**.

Quais du Polar has become **a reference point in the professional sphere**, offering an annual training programme for teachers and librarians in partnership with ENSSIB (National School of Library and Information Science), and a programme of professional meetings, Polar Connection, bringing together professionals from the book, audiovisual, and cultural sectors.

The festival is committed to **fostering international professional exchanges and promoting Francophone crime fiction abroad**. It has been working for several years with the Institut Français, collaborating with literary events in Italy, Germany, Romania, China, India, South Korea, Spain, Iceland, Canada, and other countries to highlight Francophone authors.

Remaining true to its values and commitments, the Quais du Polar team continues to develop along these axes, reflecting with pride on its achievements and looking forward to a future equally rich in exchanges, encounters, and openness to the world.

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: ICI Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, France Télévisions, ARTE, BFMTV, M6, LCI, France 24, Polar +, France Inter, France Culture, France Info, Europe 1, RTL...

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

INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Every spring since 2005, Lyon has become an international meeting point for crime fiction authors and literary and cultural professionals from around the world. Quais du Polar fosters dialogue, strengthens connections, and encourages the creation of new international projects. This global outlook allows both the festival and the crime fiction genre to shine beyond France's borders.

Supported by an agreement between the Institut Français, the City of Lyon, and the Lyon Metropolitan Area, Quais du Polar maintains connections with Book Cities / Crime Fiction Cities worldwide and with the **UNESCO Creative Cities of Literature Network**. The resulting projects help promote Francophone crime fiction and its authors, in collaboration with the French cultural network abroad and local partners.

Through regular exchanges, the festival welcomes publishers, booksellers, organisers of literary events, and cultural leaders from around the world, paving the way for projects in their countries. In Lyon, professionals from Reykjavík, Seoul, Madrid, Berlin, Bremen, Toronto, and beyond come together each year.

In parallel with the exchanges in Lyon, Quais du Polar also supports initiatives worldwide: for example, a focus on French crime fiction at the upcoming Motive Crime & Mystery Festival in Toronto, which will host five authors in June 2026, and the celebration of 140 years of France–Korea relations.

NOIR IN FESTIVAL, MILAN - ITALY

At the invitation of Noir in Festival, the Quais du Polar team attended the December presentation in Milan of the collaborative crime novel *Il confine della vergogna / Contrebandiers* by Michèle Pedinielli and Valerio Varesi. Milan, a UNESCO Creative City of Literature, provided the perfect setting for this event.

The visit was an opportunity to discover a remarkable festival highlighting noir cinema and literature at the heart of the city, to explore potential future collaborations with Milanese libraries, and to meet the cultural professionals involved with the festival.



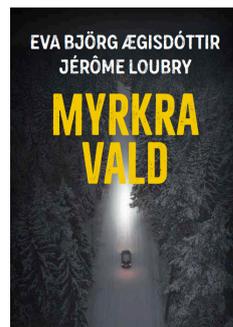
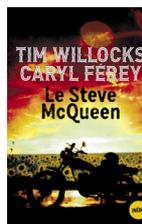
Noir in Festival © Moris Puccio

THE COLLABORATIVE CRIME NOVEL, REYKJAVÍK - ICELAND

Quais du Polar and Points Editions continue their collaboration with a new collaborative crime novel, exploring the connections between two cities and two countries, with two authors joining forces to write a single, shared story.

This year, **Icelandic author Eva Björg Ægisdóttir and French novelist Jérôme Loubry** will alternate their writing to craft a plot set between Lyon and Reykjavík, France and Iceland, under the title *Exil(s) islandais (Icelandic Exile(s))*. The novel will be published in time for Quais du Polar, by Points Editions in France and Veröld Editions in Iceland. This project is supported by the Institut Français in partnership with the City of Lyon and the Lyon Metropolitan Area.

With this sixth instalment, **the collaborative crime novel series continues to grow.**



POLAR CONNECTION

13th ÉDITION

At the heart of the Quais du Polar festival, the Polar Connection professional programme brings together French and international professionals whose work intersects with the crime fiction genre. It serves as a key gathering point for exchange, reflection, and collaboration.

What is Polar Connection?

- A dedicated space for accredited participants, including conference rooms and areas for one-on-one meetings or informal networking, located at the Palais de la Bourse.
- A specific programme of roundtables, workshops, and presentations on professional topics, including the presentation of the Polar en Séries – Scelf award.
- Exclusive access to festival sessions, providing valuable insights and inspiration.

Designed for professionals in publishing, audiovisual media, digital industries, cultural initiatives, and beyond, Polar Connection fosters an environment conducive to inspiring encounters and the development of new projects.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS FOR CRIME FICTION PROFESSIONALS

- The graphic world of crime fiction
- Research as a foundation for fiction: the role of experts
- AI, literary creation and the publishing industry
- Mapping Francophone crime fiction with booksellers from the AILF
- The sonic world of crime fiction: audiobooks and podcasts
- Crime fiction festivals and the international circulation of authors
- A collaborative writing experience with Eva Björg Ægisdóttir and Jérôme Loubry, between Reykjavík and Lyon
- Latest news from eight French publishing houses
- A programme for literary influencers
- A case study in screen adaptation with Jean-Paul Salomé: trends in crime fiction on screen
- Pitches for audiovisual projects in development with the association Le Septième Scénar
- Two Sunday sessions: a highlight organised with Actes Sud Diffusion, and a workshop — Storytelling: telling a story to sell stories — with Artisans de la fiction
- Emerging publishing and audiovisual professionals with a passion for crime fiction will take part in the programme through the “QDP talent pool” initiative, fostering new professional connections.

Polar Connection is open to accredited participants only. Find all the details about the programme at <https://quaisdupolar.com/en/the-professional-program/>

SCELF - POLAR EN SERIES AWARD

A highlight of Friday’s programme, the Polar en Séries award was created, with the support of the Civil Society of French-Language Publishers (SCELF), to take place within the Polar Connection programme. It bridges the literary and audiovisual worlds by recognising a work for both its intrinsic qualities and its potential for adaptation into a series. The award will be presented for its 12th edition, alongside a jury of cinema and audiovisual professionals. Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Cinéma supports the participation of film and audiovisual professionals in connection with this award and the Polar Tour.

Discover the contenders on p. 23

YOUNG CRIME FICTION TRANSLATORS

To complement the professional programme at Polar Connection, Quais du Polar is launching a programme for young literary translators from partner regions, translating from French into their own languages. The goal is to immerse them in Francophone crime fiction, at the heart of the festival and its many opportunities for discovery, so they can become ambassadors for French crime fiction around the world.

GUEST AUTHORS IN 2026

BELGIUM

Sandrine GOEYVAERTS
Anne-Sophie KALBFLEISCH
Clarence PITZ

CANADA

Victoria CHARLTON
Shari LAPENA
Andrée A. MICHAUD
Robert POBI

CZECH REPUBLIC

Petra KLABOUCHOVÁ

ENGLAND

M.J. ARLIDGE
Matthew BLAKE
L.M. CHILTON
Jonathan COE
R.J. ELLORY
Nick HARKAWAY
Peter JAMES
Diane JEFFREY
D.B. JOHN
Thomas R. WEAVER

DENMARK

Søren SVEISTRUP

FINLAND

Arttu TUOMINEN

FRANCE

Frédéric ANDRÉI
Nathacha APPANAH
ARBON
Ingrid ASTIER
Jacques ATTALI
Olivier BAL
Olivier BARDE-CABUÇON
Sarah BARTHÈRE
Mehdi BAYAD
Mathilde BEAUSSAULT
Nicolas BEUGLET
Guillaume BIANCO
Dahlia BLAKE
Jean-Christophe BOCCOU
Olivier BOCQUET

Pierre BOISSERIE
Hervé BOURHIS
Thomas BRONNEC
Gwenaël BULTEAU
Michel BUSSI
Cécile CABANAC
Nathalie A. CABROL
Cyril CARRÈRE
Alexis CHABERT
Julien CHAVANES
Olivier CIECHELSKI
Agnès COLOMB
Nadia COSTE
Hélène COUTURIER
Damien IGOR DELHOMME
Sonja DELZONGLE
Céline DENJEAN
Ingrid DESJOURS
Benjamin DIERSTEIN
Laurent DORNER
Nicolas DRUART
Marion DUBREUIL
Vincent EJARQUE
Natasha FARRANT
Éric FOUASSIER
Simon FRANÇOIS
Arthur FRAYER-LALEIX
Paul GASNIER
Cyril GAY
Catherine GIRARD
Maxime GIRARDEAU
Victor GUILBERT
Laurent GUILLAUME
Johana GUSTAWSSON
Armelle HÉRISSON
Ivan JABLONKA
Norman JANGOT
David S. KHARA
KOE'
Hugues LABIANO
Meï LEPAGE
Henri LOEVENBRUCK
Jérôme LOUBRY
Sandrine LUCCHINI
Joseph MACÉ-SCARON
Mo MALØ
McSKYZ
Frasse MIKARDSSON
Bernard MINIER
Max MONNEHAY
Guillaume MUSSO

Olivier NOREK
Tarik NOUI
Philippe PELAEZ
Alice POL
Mabrouck RACHEDI
Pétronille ROSTAGNAT
Delphine SAUBABER
Tristan SAULE
Elena SENDER
Anouk SHUTTERBERG
Christel SIRE-COUPET
Jean-Marc SOUVIRA
Niko TACKIAN
COLIN THIBERT
Franck THILLIEZ
Jean-Christophe TIXIER
Bruce TOUSSAINT
Olivier TRUC
Lucas VARELA
François WARZALA
YELLOW
Daniel ZAGURY

ICELAND

Eva Björg ÆGISDÓTTIR

IRELAND

Catherine RYAN HOWARD

ITALY

Leo GIORDA
Gilda PIERSANTI

NIGERIA

Oyinkan BRAITHWAITE

NORWAY

Thomas ENGER

POLAND

Jakub SZAMAŁEK

PORTUGAL

J.R. DOS SANTOS

SERBIA

Oto OLTVANJI

SCOTLAND

Chris BROOKMYRE
Abir MUKHERJEE

SOUTH KOREA

KANG Ji-Young
LEE Heejoo

SPAIN

Víctor DEL ÁRBOL
Rosa MONTERO
Dolores REDONDO

SWEDEN

Maria GRUND
Karin SMIRNOFF

UKRAINE

Andrei KOURKOV

USA

Jake ADELSTEIN
S.A. COSBY
John LANGAN
Sarai WALKER
Henry WISE

LITERARY PROGRAMME

EXPLORING THE LINKS BETWEEN SCIENCE AND CRIME FICTION

Crime fiction authors, often guided by facts, investigations, and rigorous research, share with scientists a taste for exploration, doubt, and the pursuit of truth. This year, researchers will be invited to intersect their perspectives with those of writers who probe reality in their own ways. By bringing together stories and knowledge, literary investigations and scientific research, **Quais du Polar reaffirms the power of stories to shed light on the world of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.**

Under the theme **“STORY SEEKERS: SCIENCE AND FICTION”**, some authors draw on science to inspire their fiction, exploring new narrative paths and questioning our understanding of reality. Their novels extend the dialogue between investigation, imagination, and knowledge. Featured authors include:

Nathalie A. Cabrol (France), **Arbon** (France), **Jacques Attali** (France), **Laurent Dorner** (France), **Elena Sender** (France), **Thomas R. Weaver** (England), **Ingrid Astier** (France), **David S. Khara** (France), **Rosa Montero** (Spain), **Jakub Szamałek** (Poland), **J. R. dos Santos** (Portugal), **Matthew Blake** (England), **Frédéric Andréi** (France), **Robert Pobi** (Canada)...

21 nationalities are represented among the invited authors, offering the opportunity to meet major figures in international crime fiction and discover exciting new literary voices:

Dolores Redondo (Spain), **Søren Sveistrup** (Denmark), **Víctor del Árbol** (Spain), **Shari Lapena** (Canada), **S. A. Cosby** (USA), **Karin Smirnoff** (Sweden), **R. J. Ellory** (England), **Eva Björg Ægisdóttir** (Iceland), **Peter James** (England), **Andrée A. Michaud** (Canada), **Jake Adelstein** (USA), **Abir Mukherjee** (Scotland), **Chris Brookmyre** (Scotland), **Arttu Tuominen** (Finland), **Kang Ji-young** (South Korea), **Nick Harkaway** (England), **Lee Heejoo** (South Korea), **Leo Giorda** (Italy), **Henry Wise** (USA)...

Among the most anticipated voices in French crime fiction, these authors will be on hand to share their plots and engage with the audience:

Franck Thilliez, **Olivier Norek**, **Céline Denjean**, **Bernard Minier**, **Michel Bussi**, **Niko Tackian**, **Max Monnehay**, **Johana Gustawsson**, **Olivier Bal**, **Cécile Cabanac**, **Nicolas Beuglet**, **Mo Malø**, **Thomas Bronnec**, **Ingrid Desjours**, **Alice Pol**, **Victor Guilbert**, **Benjamin Dierstein**, **Sonja Delzongle**, **Éric Fouassier**...

Journalists, writers of general fiction, and specialists in the social sciences... The festival also welcomes prominent voices whose work explores reality from different angles. Their investigations and narratives engage in dialogue with crime fiction, broadening the perspectives offered to the audience: **Andrei Kourkov** (Ukraine), **Nathacha Appanah** (France), **Jonathan Coe** (England), **Catherine Girard** (France), **Ivan Jablonka** (France), **Bruce Toussaint** (France), **Daniel Zagury** (France), **Paul Gasnier** (France)...

The festival will also feature **YouTubers Victoria Charlton and McSkyyz**, prominent figures in the true crime community in France and Quebec, who are teaming up to write a book about criminal cases.

Since 2005, the festival has established itself as a springboard for emerging authors and has played a key role in promoting French crime fiction abroad through its professional meetings and international programmes. Staying true to its mission of showcasing new talent, Quais du Polar presents its annual selection of **‘PÉPITES DES QUAIS’** (Gems of the Quais):

Mehdi Bayad (France), **Mathilde Beaussault** (France), **Matthew Blake** (England), **Nathalie A. Cabrol** (France), **Julien Chavanes** (France), **Olivier Ciechelski** (France), **Agnès Colomb** (France), **Marion Dubreuil** (France), **Arthur Frayer-Laleix** (France), **Maxime Girardeau** (France), **Sandrine Goeyvaerts** (Belgium), **Armelle Hérisson** (France), **Norman Jangot** (France), **Diane Jeffrey** (France), **Kang Ji-young** (South Korea), **Petra Klabouchová** (Czech Republic), **Mei Lepage** (France), **Clarence Pitz** (Belgium), **Mabrouck Rachedi** (France), **Catherine Ryan Howard** (Ireland), **Delphine Saubaber** (France) et **Sarai Walker** (USA).



As always, comic books will be in the spotlight with an eclectic programme combining established authors and emerging talent: **Philippe Pelaez**, **Hervé Bourhis et Lucas Varela**, **Alexis Chabert et Hugues Labiano**, **Pierre Boisserie et François Warzala**, **Koe' et Yello**...

THEMES OF THIS EDITION

For the latest edition, Quais du Polar brings together 132 authors from 21 nationalities across 75 sessions and conferences open to all. Centred on the theme **“Story Seekers: Science and Fiction”**, the programme explores the connections between investigation and knowledge, imagination and our understanding of reality. Writers, researchers, magistrates, journalists, and specialists confront their perspectives to examine the ways we tell stories and interpret the world.

The vast majority of these events are free, allowing the widest possible audience to meet the authors, engage in discussion, and participate in contemporary debates inspired by their books. These encounters are one of the festival’s defining features, providing direct access to writers, a deeper understanding of their work, and invitations to discover new voices — a lively space for dialogue at the heart of Quais du Polar’s identity.

FEATURE INTERVIEWS AND MASTERCLASSES

As always, Quais du Polar offers its feature interviews **“One Hour With”**, special opportunities to meet authors from the programme, explore their literary worlds, discover their inspirations, and learn about their writing processes.

This edition is also pleased to welcome several leading voices from world literature, coming from crime fiction, its boundaries, and beyond, whose works engage in dialogue with the genre and expand its horizons. These encounters provide moments of in-depth listening and exchange, allowing audiences to get closer to each author’s unique perspective and the richness of their work.

- **THE EVIDENCE OF MY INNOCENCE: ONE HOUR WITH JONATHAN COE** – Hôtel de Ville
- **THE BATHS OF KIEV: ONE HOUR WITH ANDREI KOURKOV** – Hôtel de Ville
- **HIDE AND SEEK: ONE HOUR WITH SØREN SVEISTRUP** – Hôtel de Ville
- **LA NUIT AU COEUR (Night in the Heart): ONE HOUR WITH NATHACHA APPANAH** – Hôtel de Ville
- **THOSE WHO DO NOT SLEEP: ONE HOUR WITH DOLORES REDONDO** – Hôtel de Ville

SCIENCE & INVESTIGATION

Because crime fiction is also a way of understanding the world, this edition brings knowledge and storytelling into dialogue with one another. From the laboratory to the courtroom, from investigative technologies to the social sciences, these sessions explore different ways of seeking and telling the truth.

TECHNOLOGIES AND CONTEMPORARY IMAGINARIES

Artificial intelligence, cybercrime, and new investigative tools: fiction engages with technological changes to question both their promises and their concerns. Between fascination and doubt, crime fiction becomes a testing ground for the worlds to come.

- **WHEN PROGRESS GOES OFF THE RAILS: SCIENCE AGAINST HUMANITY** – with Arbon, Maxime Girardeau, Elena Sender, Thomas R. Weaver
- **AI, DARKNET, TECH INDUSTRIES: NEW POWERS, NEW STORIES** – with Frédéric Andréi, Ingrid Astier, Bernard Minier, Elena Sender
- **DIGITAL LIFE: A NEW DIMENSION OF FICTION** – with Cécile Cabanac, L.M. Chilton, Laurent Dorner, Jérôme Loubry, Arttu Tuominen
- **BEYOND BODY AND TIME: SCIENCE, FICTION, AND AUGMENTED IDENTITIES** – with J. R. dos Santos, Maxime Girardeau, Rosa Montero, Thomas R. Weaver
- **THE GREAT JOURNEY: UTOPIAS, DISTOPIAS, UCHRONIES, SPECULATIVE FICTION** – with Mehdi Bayad, Nathalie A. Cabrol, Mo Malø, Thomas R. Weaver
- **FICTIONS OF SCIENCE: PLOTS, DOMINOS, AND SHORT CIRCUITS** – with Matthew Blake, Damien Igor Delhomme, Rosa Montero, J. R. dos Santos, Jakub Szamatek
- **MAD SCIENTISTS, DANGEROUS GENIUSES: SCIENTISTS AS CHARACTERS IN NOVELS** – with David S. Khara, Frasse Mikardsson, Robert Pobi, Mabrouck Rachedi

RESEARCHERS AND UNIVERSITIES

In partnership with Lyon's universities, who will be opening their doors to the public, authors and researchers compare methods and narratives. Neuroscience, perception, history, and artistic creation shed new light on the making of stories and the mechanics of investigation.

- **MEETING WITH CHRISTEL SIRE-COUPET, DIRECTOR OF THE PARIS FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY – LYON 1** – with Samuel Biz and Émile Forray (Master's in Science and Technical Mediation)
- **AI AS AN INVESTIGATIVE / CRIME-FIGHTING TOOL – LYON 1** – with Thomas R. Weaver, Vincent Danjean (Head, Cyberspace & New Technologies Lab, Interpol Expert), and Alexandre Meyer (Computer Science Professor, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1)
- **MEETING WITH JAKE ADELSTEIN: ADAPTING TOKYO VICE FOR TV – LYON 2** – in connection with the 1st year Master's "Publishing and Cinema & Audiovisual" programmes, Université Lumière Lyon 2
- **SCIENCE AND CRIME FICTION: MEETING WITH JACQUES ATTALI – LYON 1** – with Dominique Sappey Marinier, PhD in Biophysics, Imaging and Neuroscience, Université Lyon 1
- **JUSTICE MEETS PSYCHIATRY AT THE UNIVERSITY – LYON 2** – with Franck Thilliez, Daniel Zagury, Geoffrey Duran (PhD, cognitive criminalistics & legal psychology), Marie Gréciano (Associate Professor of Law), and Cathie-Sophie Pinat (Associate Professor of Law)
- **HURT MASCULINITIES, FEMINIST RESISTANCE: LAW AND MORALITY IN QUESTION – LYON 3** – with Julien Chavanes, Sandrine Goeysvaerts, and the Legal Clinic, Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3
- **MURDER AT THE UNIVERSITY! CRIME SCENE, FINGERPRINTS, AND SUSPECT INTERROGATION – LYON 2** – with Geoffrey Duran, Solène Roudet, and Atlas T. Guiochon

SPECIALISTS AND INVESTIGATIVE PRACTICES

Alongside writers, experts, scientists, and magistrates share their methods of observation, analysis, and interpretation: clues, narratives, sounds, materials, and testimonies. From forensic science to the life sciences and the work of the judiciary, these approaches show that investigation extends beyond the purely criminal realm. Crime fiction draws on this concrete material, where understanding begins with reading and confronting reality.

- **BEHIND THE NEWS STORY: FROM PERSONAL DRAMA TO COLLECTIVE REFLECTION – TRIBUNAL JUDICIAIRE, LYON 3** – with Paul Gasnier, Catherine Girard, Bruce Toussaint, and Zoé Blin (Deputy Public Prosecutor, Tribunal Judiciaire de Lyon); illustrated live by press cartoonists Lacombe and Jean-Claude Bauer, in partnership with the Ça Presse festival
- **CROSSING PERSPECTIVES ON TRUE CRIMES – TRIBUNAL JUDICIAIRE, LYON 3** – with Marion Dubreuil, Éric Libiot, Delphine Saubaber, Daniel Zagury, and Karen Stella (First Vice-President); illustrated live by press cartoonists Lacombe and Jean-Claude Bauer, in partnership with the Ça Presse festival
- **THE EXPERTS' BUS – FORENSIC SPECIALISTS** – with Christel Sire-Coupet (Director, Paris Forensic Science Laboratory) and Gilles Reix (Honorary Major, Technical and Scientific Police, PJ Paris; lecturer and writer)
- **THE EXPERTS' BUS – NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS** – with Jean-Marc Souvira and a specialist from the Narcotics Brigade
- **THE EXPERTS' BUS – SERIAL KILLERS** – with Norman Jangot and Daniel Zagury (psychiatrist, court-appointed expert, Paris Court of Appeal)
- **THE EXPERTS' BUS – FEMICIDE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN** – with Delphine Saubaber (author) and Marion Dubreuil (judicial journalist)
- **INVESTIGATING A SHADE OF BLUE** at the Museum of Fine Arts – a science-and-art conference-investigation with artist Anne Goyer and physicist Anne Pillonnet
- **STORY OF AN OBJECT: THE WHALE, THE BODY, AND JUSTICE** – IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MUSÉE DES CONFLUENCES – with Olivier Truc (author) and Olivier Adam (bioacoustician, specialist in cetacean communication, author of *Dans la tête d'une baleine*)
- **SPECIAL PREVIEW OF IMPOSSIBLE** – IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ARTE (adapted from the book by Erri de Luca), followed by a fictional, participatory courtroom debate by the Lyon Bar Association, in the presence of director Emmanuel Finkiel
- **SCREENING OF L'AFFAIRE BOJARSKI** – IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES CINÉMA, followed by a discussion between director Jean-Paul Salomé and a forensic document expert

HUMANITIES AND INTERPRETATION

History, sociology, psychology, geopolitics, and the study of living systems shift our perspective: understanding a crime is not only a matter of evidence, but also of interpretation. Crime fiction thus becomes a space where the humanities and literature together examine behaviours, societies, and the stories we tell about them.

- **URBAN GEOGRAPHIES OF CRIME FICTION** – with Norman Jangot, Tarik Noui, Gilda Piersanti, Tristan Saule
- **SOCIAL SCIENCES AND CRIME FICTION: THE REVENGE OF “DISREPUTABLE GENRES”** – with Mathilde Beaussault, Simon François, Ivan Jablonka, Jean-Christophe Tixier
- **FROM YESTERDAY TO TODAY: WAR, AGAIN AND AGAIN** – with Gwenaël Bulteau, Vincent Ejarque, Nick Harkaway
- **GIRL POWER: WRITING, RESISTING, TAKING BACK POWER** – with Oyinkan Braithwaite, Olivier Ciechelski, Sandrine Goeyvaerts, Sarai Walker
- **POLITICAL FICTION: POWER AS STORY** – with Jacques Attali, Thomas Bronnec, Benjamin Dierstein, Elena Sender
- **AFTER THE WAR: WRITING ITS SCARS AND WOUNDS** – with Jean-Christophe Boccou, Armelle Hérissou, Oto Oltvanji
- **MALE SUPREMACISTS, INCELS, RADICALISATION: HATE AS A SYSTEM** – with Cécile Cabanac, Julien Chavanes, Sandrine Lucchini
- **EUROPE UNDER PRESSURE: STORIES FROM THEN AND NOW** – with Andreï Kourkov, Oto Oltvanji, Arttu Tuominen
- **WRITING AGAINST RACISM** – with S. A. Cosby, Abir Mukherjee, Henry Wise

WRITING CRIME FICTION

Crime fiction is a constantly evolving genre. Its conventions, techniques, and publishing journeys continually reinvent it. From the spark of an idea to its place in a collection, these sessions explore how crime fiction is imagined, shaped, and passed on.

THE MANY FACES OF CRIME FICTION

Crime fiction, whether noir, thriller, horror, or comedy, is constantly changing its face. Historical, domestic, espionage, or inspired by real events—and sometimes

crossing genre boundaries—it reinvents itself through its forms and conventions. Authors explore their variations, recurring figures, and obsessions.

- **IS NOIR YOUR THING? (1) – WHEN AUTHORS TRY THEIR HAND AT CRIME FICTION** – with Mehdi Bayad, Nathalie A. Cabrol, Tarik Noui, Henry Wise
- **IS NOIR YOUR THING? (2) – EXPLORING THE GENRE** – with Arthur Frayer-Laleix, Sandrine Goeyvaerts, Armelle Hérissou, Meï Lepage
- **FROM KOREA WITH LOVE – A LOOK AT KOREAN CRIME FICTION** – with Kang Ji-young, Lee Heejoo
- **PLAYING WITH LITERARY CODES: HYBRID AUTHORS** – with Olivier Bal, Dahlia Blake, Chris Brookmyre, Éric Fouassier
- **THE SERIAL KILLER: A CENTRAL FIGURE IN CRIME FICTION** – with Jake Adelstein, R.J. Ellory, Maxime Girardeau
- **INSPIRED BY REAL EVENTS: WHEN FACTS BECOME FICTION** – with Dahlia Blake, Petra Klabouchová, Bernard Minier, Delphine Saubaber
- **SPOTLIGHT ON HORROR** – with Nicolas Druart, John Langan, Andrée A. Michaud
- **FEAR AT HOME: WRITING DOMESTIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLERS** – with Agnès Colomb, Ingrid Desjours, Diane Jeffrey, Shari Lapena
- **THE SPY NOVEL: A CONVENIENT COVER?** – with R. J. Ellory, Nick Harkaway, D. B. John, Robert Pobi
- **TRUE CRIME YOUTUBERS: CRIMINAL STORIES WITHOUT BORDERS** – with Victoria Charlton, McSkyyz
- **QUIRKY HUMOUR, IRONY, DARK COMEDY, SURPRISE: EXPLORING THE MANY SHADES OF A SMILE** – with Olivier Bocquet, Chris Brookmyre, Alice Pol, Mabrouck Rachedi
- **HISTORY THROUGH THE MIRROR OF CRIME FICTION** – with Gwenaël Bulteau, Laurent Guillaume, Henri Lœvenbruck, Abir Mukherjee
- **THROUGH THE AGES: HISTORICAL CRIME FICTION IN COMICS** – with Philippe Pelaez & Alexis Chabert, Pierre Boisserie & François Warzala, Hugues Labiano

THE CRAFT OF STORYTELLING

Research, perspective, character development, and tension management: writers step into the crime fiction workshop. How does a plot take shape? How is suspense maintained, violence written, or the reader’s memory engaged? These narrative choices reveal the genre’s inner workings.

- **IMMERSIVE WRITING: GETTING CLOSE TO THE STORY** – with Arthur Frayer-Laleix, Maxime Girardeau, Sandrine Lucchini, Franck Thilliez
- **WRITING BARE-FACED** – with Victoria Charlton, J. R. dos Santos, McSkysz, Bruce Toussaint
- **MONITORING TENSION AND MAKING HEARTS RACE: THE ART OF SUSPENSE** – with D. B. John, Catherine Ryan Howard, Peter James, Shari Lapena, Anouk Shutterberg
- **THEY ALWAYS COME BACK: THE POWER OF RECURRING CHARACTERS** – with M. J. Arlidge, Olivier Barde-Cabuçon, Joseph Macé-Scaron, Karin Smirnoff
- **HITTING THE MARK: WRITING VIOLENCE** – with Mathilde Beaussault, Michel Bussi, Maria Grund, Søren Sveistrup
- **THE SUSPENSE OF MEMORY** – with Eva Björg Áegisdóttir, Matthew Blake, Pétronille Rostagnat, Niko Tackian
- **COLLABORATIVE CRIME NOVEL: LYON, REYKJAVÍK** – with Eva Björg Áegisdóttir, Jérôme Loubry
- **ARCHETYPES AND NEW FACES: REINVENTING CRIME FICTION** – with Víctor del Árbol, Leo Giorda, Norman Jangot, Kang Ji-young
- **PIECING IT TOGETHER, WRITING IN HARMONY: POLYPHONIC NOVELS** – with Mathilde Beaussault, Hélène Couturier, Simon François, Jakub Szamatek
- **CRIME UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: TELLING, UNDERSTANDING, EXPOSING** – with Jake Adelstein, Frédéric Andréi, Victoria Charlton, Cyril Gay, McSkysz

PUBLISHERS AND SERIES

Behind every book, publishers and editorial series bring new voices to light, support authors, and shape the genre. Anniversaries and special events tell the story of this collective adventure, balancing loyalty to a spirit with the discovery of new writing.

- **ACTES NOIRS: 20 YEARS OF CRIME FICTION WITHOUT BORDERS** – with Hege Roel-Rousson (editor and director of the Actes Noirs collection), Olivier Barde-Cabuçon, Víctor del Árbol, Tarik Noui, Mabrouck Rachedi, Karin Smirnoff
- **RIVAGES NOIR: 40 YEARS OF CRIME FICTION LEGEND** – with Jeanne Guyon (literary director), Valentin Baillehache (editor), Hélène Couturier, Arthur Frayer-Laleix, Andrée A. Michaud, Tristan Saule
- **AGULLO ÉDITIONS: 10 YEARS OF EUROPEAN VOICES** – with Nadège Agullo (founder and editor of Agullo Editions), Damien Igor Delhomme, Petra Klabouchová, Oto Oltvanji

COMMITMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS

The programme is an extension of the questions raised by the books. Meetings, screenings, and activities create spaces for dialogue around language, education, freedom of expression, and contemporary realities. These initiatives are developed in collaboration with numerous partners, cultural institutions, associations, and professionals, who share our conviction that exchanging perspectives enriches our understanding of the world. True to the spirit of Quais du Polar, it brings literature and society into dialogue.

- **GRAND NOIR DICTATION WITH ALICE POL**, in partnership with the National Agency for the Fight Against Illiteracy.
- **TRANSLATION DUEL: “OBJEKT”**, in partnership with the French Association of Literary Translators (ATLF); translators Agnieszka Gaca and Monika Prochniewicz examine a text by the Polish author Jakub Szamatek, moderated by Renata Zajac-Krupa.
- **SCREENING OF THE DOCUMENTARY #387** (in partnership with Fipadoc and SOS MEDITERRANEE), followed by a discussion with Michel Bussi, Olivier Norek, a representative of SOS MEDITERRANEE, and Dr. Marie Epain, forensic pathologist.
- **SCREENING OF THE DOCUMENTARY THE LIBRARIANS** (in partnership with Fipadoc), followed by a discussion on book censorship with S. A. Cosby and Michel Wong Man Wan, Director of Collection Development, Lyon Municipal Library.
- **VISIT TO THE EFS BLOOD PRODUCTS LABORATORY** (in partnership with the French Blood Establishment); crime fiction and blood go hand in hand—behind-the-scenes tour to discover what happens to your donation.
- **READING COMPETITION** (in partnership with Audiolib); theatre and reading enthusiasts are invited to showcase their skills in a public reading of a text by Sandrine Lucchini.

THE MONTH OF NOIR

QUAIS DU POLAR RENEWS ITS “MONTH OF NOIR” INITIATIVE IN APRIL 2026

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, international authors go on tour, bookshops host genre-focused events, 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 includes targeted communication and a full programme building on the 2026 edition’s lineup: curated selections of recent crime fiction, author signings, in-store activities throughout April, publisher initiatives, and ready-to-use events celebrating the genre.



A PROMISING 4th EDITION

The Libraires Ensemble network, joined last year by Fnac and Decitre / Furet du Nord as partners in the initiative, will host the festival’s invited authors in bookshops across France throughout April.

MUSICAL PROGRAMME

Three special events explore how music inspires authors, shapes their writing, and finds its way onto the page. The events will take place on Friday, April 3, and Saturday, April 4, at Fnac Lyon Bellecour.

- **Classical music with Bernard Minier**

Author of the Martin Servaz series, a police commander with a passion for Gustav Mahler, Bernard Minier will discuss the influence of classical music on his work. He will be joined on stage by students from the Lyon Conservatory.

- **Blues with R. J. Ellory**

Author and music lover R. J. Ellory is also a musician with his band, The Whiskey Poets. He will explore how blues music resonates in his writing, which is deeply rooted in the United States. He will be accompanied by Yoann Gallant, whose folk music carries blues inflections and rock energy.

- **Jazz with Andrée A. Michaud and Jean-Marc Souvira**

As a profound influence or a mood-setting presence, jazz plays a central role in Lazy Bird for Andrée A. Michaud and serves as a daily source of inspiration for Jean-Marc Souvira. Both authors will discuss the contribution of music to their writing and will be accompanied on stage by the vibrant jazz of Masa Duo.

ON-SCREEN PROGRAMME

BEFORE THE FESTIVAL AT THE INSTITUT LUMIÈRE

In tribute to the tenth anniversary of the passing of American writer and poet Jim Harrison, join François Busnel, director of the documentary **Seule la terre est éternelle**, dedicated to the author, for a discussion about his life and work. The event takes place on March 26 at 6:30 PM, beginning with a conversation followed by the screening of the documentary.

NOIR WEEKEND AT THE INSTITUT LUMIÈRE

The Noir Weekend at the Institut Lumière, a long-standing partner of Quais du Polar, is back for another edition! Leading contemporary crime fiction authors will share their favourite films and celebrate the seventh art in the place where it all began.

Dossier 137 (2025), followed by a conversation with director Dominik Moll ; **Maigret and the Saint-Fiacre Case** (1959) by Jean Delannoy, presented by Andreï Kourkov ; **The Game** (1997) by David Fincher, presented by Alice Pol ; **The Hunt** (2012) by Thomas Vinterberg, presented by Paul Gasnier ; **12 Angry Men** (1957) by Sidney Lumet, presented by R. J. Ellory ; **Lady Vengeance** (2005) by Park Chan-wook, presented by Kang Ji-young.

HISTORY AND INVESTIGATION

Impossible (2025), a special preview in collaboration with ARTE, will be screened in the presence of director Emmanuel Finkiel, followed by a fictional trial in partnership with the Lyon Bar Association and EDARA (École des Avocats Rhône-Alpes) ; **L’Affaire Bojarski** (2025), presented in partnership with Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Cinéma, will feature director Jean-Paul Salomé and be followed by a discussion between the director and the forensic police.

STORIES TO DEFEND - TRUTH SEEKERS

For the third consecutive year, the Quais du Polar festival is delighted to partner with Fipadoc (International Documentary Film Festival). Powerful documentaries from the festival’s official competition will be screened at the Amphi Opéra.

The Librarians (2025) by Kim A. Snyder, followed by a discussion with S. A. Cosby and the Lyon Municipal Library ; **#387** (2019) by Madeleine Royer, followed by a discussion with Michel Bussi, Olivier Norek, and SOS MEDITERRANEE.

HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

City of God (2002) by Fernando Meirelles and Kátia Lund, presented by Jean-Christophe Tixier at Lumière Fourmi ; **In a Lonely Place** (1950) by Nicholas Ray, presented by Víctor del Árbol at Comœdia.

QUEER CRIME

For the third consecutive year, the Quais du Polar festival is proud to partner with Écrans Mixtes, Lyon’s queer film festival. This collaboration offers a carefully curated selection of queer crime films, ranging from heritage classics to special previews, including an exclusive screening from the official competition of Écrans Mixtes 2026.

Dead Man’s Wire (2025) by Gus Van Sant, special preview presented by Mehdi Bayad at Comœdia ; **Between Dreams and Hope** (2025) by Farnoosh Samadi, presented by Sandrine Lucchini at Lumière Bellecour ; **8 Women** (2002) by François Ozon, presented by Ingrid Desjours at Lumière Terreaux.

HITCHCOCK DAY

A special series dedicated to Alfred Hitchcock, taking place at Pathé Bellecour, featuring: **Rear Window** (1954), presented by Matthew Blake ; **Dial M for Murder** (1954) and **Psycho** (1960), presented by Henry Wise.

SOUTH KOREAN HORROR NIGHT

An evening at Pathé Bellecour, presented by Lee Heejoo, featuring: **Memories of Murder** (2003) by Bong Joon-ho ; **The Strangers** (2016) by Na Hong-jin.

SCIENCE FICTION AND HORROR

A Midnight Movie evening at Lumière Terreaux, presented by Jakub Szamatek, featuring: **Aliens** (1979) by Ridley Scott ; **Aliens** (1986) by James Cameron.

DYSTOPIAN SCIENCE FICTION NIGHT

For the first time, Quais du Polar is hosting an all-night film event exploring the dystopian world of science fiction. The evening takes place at Pathé Bellecour and will be presented by Nicolas Beuglet, Niko Tackian, Johana Gustawsson, and Céline Denjean, featuring: **Soylent Green** (1973) by Richard Fleischer ; **12 Monkeys** (1995) by Terry Gilliam ; **Blade Runner** (1982) by Ridley Scott ; **Gattaca** (1997) by Andrew Niccol.

SHORT FILMS

The Quais du Polar festival is once again partnering with the prestigious Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, the world's leading festival dedicated to short films, to present a carefully curated selection of six noir and thriller shorts at Cinéma Saint-Denis, Théâtre Comédie Odéon, and Théâtre de l'Uchronie. The screenings will be introduced by members of the festival team. In partnership with Le Livre de Poche, many books will be up for grabs!

A special screening will also be organised with Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University and Écran Droit, the association of the Master's programme in Film, Audiovisual and Multimedia Law, featuring ***Avec l'humanité qui convient (With All Due Humanity)*** (2023) in the presence of director Kacper Checinski.

NOIR WEEKEND ACROSS THE REGION

Noir Weekend at the Espace Renoir cinema in Roanne: ***La Vérité*** (1960) by Henri-Georges Clouzot, presented by Ingrid Astier ; ***The Killer*** (1989) by John Woo.

ACROSS THE REGION WITH GRAC

Japanese Thriller: a thematic programme scheduled in March and April by the GRAC network (Groupement Régional d'Actions Cinématographiques).

High and Low (1963) by Akira Kurosawa, with special screenings presented by Olivier Truc and Cyril Carrère.

YOUNG AUDIENCES

Mary and the Witch's Flower (2017) by Hiromasa Yonebayashi, presented by Guillaume Bianco at Lumière Fourmi, with books from Little Urban up for grabs.

YOUTH PROGRAMME

AUTHORS

The children's bookshop À Titre d'Aile will be present from Friday 3 April at the entrance to the Youth Area on the first floor of the Palais de la Bourse, offering its "crime fiction" selection for all ages: picture books, novels, graphic novels, non-fiction, and activity books.

The children's and young adult authors invited to the festival will also be signing books at the Great Noir Bookshop in the Salle de la Corbeille at the Palais de la Bourse: Sarah Barthère, Guillaume Bianco, Tiphaine Corbet, Nadia Coste, Natasha Farrant, Victor Guilbert, Maxime Girardeau, Mabrouck Rachedi, Colin Thibert, and Jean-Christophe Tixier.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

A number of games specialists will be on hand in the **Youth Area of the Palais de la Bourse** throughout the festival weekend to entertain children of all ages! Archi Chouette will be running activities throughout the weekend based on the board game Les Animaux de Baker Street. The PRO MEEPLES shop will introduce children to the best in crime-themed board games. On Friday 3 April from 2 pm to 6 pm, and Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 April from 10 am to 6 pm, the association Lire et faire lire will offer free readings of short children's crime stories all day long, with no reservation required. They will also present a selection of books adapted for children with disabilities.

In the Salons Rouges of the Hôtel de Ville, several workshops for all ages will take place:

- **Clues and Suspense** – a writing workshop by Institut Désir d'Écrire
- **Building a Thriller: The Science of Fear** – a writing workshop by Les Artisans de la Fiction
- **Fingerprints** – an introduction to forensics with the forensic police
- **Who Killed Oscar? and There's Something Fishy!** – two workshops with the City of Lyon Archaeology Department
- **Bookmark Making and Board Game Discovery** – two creative workshops by Cultura
- **Special Crime Workshop** – an introduction to crime fiction for children with visual impairments

The Great Investigation will be open to families on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 April, starting from the École Normale Supérieure, Lyon 7e (more information on p. 20).

Puzzles, board games, investigations, and escape games will be available in libraries and media libraries across Lyon and its Metropolitan Area. Full programme details will be available on the festival website from early March.

CULTURAL MEDIATION

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

On 2 and 3 April, students from primary through high school (ages 8–18) can take part in **The Great Investigation** and meet invited authors, including Mabrouck Rachedi, Matthew Blake, Sarah Barthère, and Natasha Farrant.

With the support of the City of Lyon, Quais du Polar is renewing the **Quais du Polar/City of Lyon Youth Prize**. As part of this project, organised by the Ambassadors of the Book from Afév, more than 200 students will vote for their favourite book from a selection of five, before presenting the award to the winning author.

Middle school students will be able to participate in the festival's **Youth Short Story Competition**, in partnership with Rageot Editions, CNRS, and the Municipal Archives, or join the Classes Reporters project to learn how to moderate a literary meeting during the festival.

For some high school classes, the school sessions will mark the culmination of year-long projects. Students will meet, among others, director Slimane-Baptiste Berhoun and Carole Le Berre, fiction programming advisor at France Télévisions, as part of the **“One Book, One Series”** project on audiovisual adaptations, or will conclude their **translation workshops** by meeting Sarai Walker.

Quais du Polar is also relaunching its **Noir Dictations**, in partnership with the National Agency for the Fight Against Illiteracy. This year, the school-focused Noir Dictation for students will be hosted by Colin Thibert.



"One book, one movie" 2025 © Laura Belli-Riz

QUAIS DU POLAR IN HOSPITAL

Once again this year, Quais du Polar is bringing its initiatives to hospitals. Young patients at the Massues Rehabilitation Center (Lyon 5th arrondissement) will have the opportunity to meet children's author-illustrator Guillaume Bianco.

POLAR DERRIÈRE LES MURS

Quais du Polar continues its “Noir Behind Bars” initiative with the support of DRAC Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and the Lyon Interregional Prison Services (DISP). Before the visits, library and school teams at each facility work with inmates, running reading circles and workshops in coordination with the Probation and Reintegration Services (SPIP) and Quais du Polar, preparing participants for the author meetings. This year, **10 authors** will take part in the sessions: Nicolas Beuglet, Ingrid Astier, Thomas Bronnec, Arbon, Norman Jangot, Max Monnehay, Mabrouck Rachedi, Cécile Cabanac, Maxime Girardeau, and Diane Jeffrey. Each author will visit one of the following facilities:

- Grenoble Varcès Prison
- Roanne Prison
- Moulins-Yzeure Prison
- Bonneville Detention Center
- Chambéry Detention Center
- Privas Detention Center
- Corbas Detention Center
- La Talaudière Prison
- Valence Prison

Volunteer inmates will also take part in the Quais du Polar / Babelio short story competition, and four penitentiary facilities will participate in the Quais du Polar / Le Figaro Readers' Prize jury, awarding a special mention for “Noir Behind Bars.”

TRAINING DAY

In partnership with the Lyon Academy, Lyon's municipal library network, and the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes DRAC, Quais du Polar will host a **training session on Thursday, 2 April at ENSSIB** (Villeurbanne). Designed for teachers, school librarians, and library staff, the session will introduce participants to crime fiction and offer guidance on developing projects around the genre for both adults and children.

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. *Creation by Christelle Ravey.*



Geat Investigation 2025 © Laura Belli-Riz

WHO KILLED ROGER NOME?

The scientific community is thrown into turmoil when a world-renowned researcher is found dead in the heart of Gerland's Biodistrict. Between deadly formulas and mathematical equations, the investigation is at a standstill. Researcher rivalry? Misunderstanding? Chance? The area's longtime residents also have their say as ultra-secret laboratories struggle to solve the case...

The stakes are high, and time is running out — join the hunt for the culprit and unravel the genome's secrets! Explore the heart of Gerland and discover the soul of a district destined to become a global hub for scientific research. Continue your quest along the Presqu'île, where Lyon first forged its links with the history of medicine.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

To take part in this year's Great Investigation, head to the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon (Lyon 7^e) to pick up your investigation booklet, or download it from the Quais du Polar website starting 31 March 2026. The booklet contains the pieces of evidence to guide you through your journey.

Once you have solved all parts of the mystery, place your answer sheet in the ballot box at the Hôtel de Ville.

PRIZES

- **1^{er} prize** – Two return long-haul flights with Air France
- **2^e prize** – Two return train tickets in Executive Class, valid on all Trenitalia France routes
- **3^e prize** – A €200 gift card for Accor Hotels
- **4^e prize** – Tea Time for two at the bar of Sofitel Lyon Bellecour
- **Du 5^e au 7^e prizes** – Three game sessions for 2 to 6 players at the John Doe Escape Room.
- **Du 8^e au 12^e prizes** – A set of two customisable Moleskine notebooks from Moleskine Lyon
- **Du 13^e au 50^e prizes** – A set of 5 books from the festival's partner publishers

LOCATIONS & SCHEDULE

START

ENS - École Nationale Supérieure de Lyon
1 place de l'École, Lyon 7^e

FINISH

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

THURSDAY 2 APRIL & FRIDAY 3 APRIL

Investigation reserved for school groups, by registration only

SATURDAY 4 APRIL & SUNDAY 5 APRIL

Open to the public, no reservation required

BOOKLET COLLECTION

Saturday 4 April: 9 am–4 pm

Sunday 5 April: 9 am–12 pm

Investigation Duration: 3H30

*Special Departure for Deaf Participants:
Saturday 4 April at 1 pm, accompanied by French Sign Language interpreters. Reservations: polarpour-tous@quaisdupolar.com or SMS +33 7 44 05 52 46.
Subject to availability; contact reserved for participants with disabilities.*

NOIR ECHOES

Since its inception, Quais du Polar has partnered with a host of cultural institutions in Lyon and the surrounding region on various projects related to crime and noir literature. This programme highlights the festival's popular and festive side while connecting more closely with audiences. This year, nearly 100 institutions have joined forces with the festival, hosting a range of events before and during the festival

IN MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES

Many events will take place in partnership with Lyon's museums during the festival. At the **Musée des Beaux-Arts**, four authors - Gwenaël Bulteau, Michel Bussi, Frasse Mikardsson, and Sarai Walker - will share their perspectives on artworks during discussions in the museum's galleries. At the **Musée d'Art Contemporain**, Petra Klabouchová and Andreï Kourkov will discuss the works featured in Giulia Andreani's exhibition *Peinture froide*. A conversation on femicide will also be held at **Lugdunum – Musée et Théâtres Romains**, with Ivan Jablonka and epigrapher Élise Pampanay.

Lyon's libraries and media libraries will host a wide range of activities in connection with the 22nd edition of the festival. The programme includes film screenings, board game evenings, large-scale detective investigations, as well as meetings, book signings, and lectures with Céline Denjean, Cécile Cabanac, S. A. Cosby, Niko Tackian, Jérôme Loubry, Sandrine Goevaerts, and Sarai Walker. In total, **21 authors will take part in 19 events across 18 municipalities around Lyon.**

TOURS AND WALKS

Discover the professions of the **École Nationale Supérieure de la Police (National Police Academy)** and the **Service national de police scientifique (National Forensic Police Service)** throughout the festival! The programme includes open days, puzzles, interactive workshops, escape rooms, discussions with laboratory experts and academy students, and crime scene reconstructions.

Once again, **Only Lyon** will offer three guided tours throughout the festival, while La Justice Racontée will organise three themed walks. **Lyon City Tour** will also bring back its Experts' Bus tours through the city's streets, accompanied by criminal justice experts. **The French Blood Establishment (EFS)** will open its laboratory to give visitors a behind-the-scenes look at blood donation.

AT PARTNER VENUES

Once again this year, a host of cultural partners are joining the festival to bring a rich programme to the city and beyond. From performances at the **Théâtre des Marronniers** and **L'Atrium in Tassin-la-Demi-Lune**, to games and puzzles organized by the **Maison de l'Environnement** and **Puces du Canal**, to talks hosted by the **Departmental and Metropolitan Archives and Municipal Archives of Lyon**, these partners help spread the spirit of crime fiction across Lyon.

Lyon's universities, along with international partners like the **Instituto Cervantes**, will also host highly anticipated meetings with authors on their premises.

Finally, lots of playful activities will take place in partner venues in connection with the festival programme, including games, quiz nights, escape rooms, and investigations, both before and during the festival.



Musée des Beaux-Arts, 2025 © Sandrine Thesillat



Instituto Cervantes, 2025 © Laura Belli-Riz

LITERARY AWARDS

QUAIS DU POLAR / LE FIGARO READERS' AWARD

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

- **Petite-Ville** by Mélikah Abdelmoumen (Mémoire d'Encrier)
- **On ne mange pas les cannibales** by Stéphanie Artarit (Belfond)
- **Le Livre des prodiges** by Olivier Ciechelski (Le Rouergue)
- **Les Braises de l'incendie** by Éric Decouty (Liana Levi)
- **Bleus, blancs, rouges** by Benjamin Dierstein (Flammarion)
- **34 m²** by Louise Mey (JC Lattès)

QUAIS DU POLAR / CITY OF LYON YOUTH AWARD

More than 200 pupils from 8 CM1/CM2 classes, guided by the Book Ambassadors of Afev, will vote for their favourite French-language youth crime novel of the year from the following shortlist.

- **Les Découvertes vertes d'Anna Zavatian** by Vincent Cuvellier and Charline Collette (illustr.), Hélium
- **Le Secret de Golden Island** by Natasha Farrant, Marie Leymarie (trans.), David Dean (illustr.), Gallimard Jeunesse
- **Le Jour où le monde est devenu bizarre** by Marie Pavlenko and Barbara Brun (illustr.), Flammarion Jeunesse
- **Zeno et le crime du dragon** by Éric Senabre and Sylvain Guinebaud (illustr.), Didier Jeunesse
- **Thelma Templeton mène l'enquête - Le disparu de Blackwood** by Colin Thibert and Cristina Sardà (illustr.), La Joie de lire

QUAIS DU POLAR / LIBRAIRIE EXPERIENCE / ICI AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES COMIC AWARD

Fans of graphic novels can vote online for their favourite from the following selection:

- **Marcie - Le Point de bascule** by Cati Baur (Dargaud)
- **IRL** by Mark Eacersall and Jérôme Savoyen (Glénat)
- **Caballero Bueno** by Thomas Lavachery and Thomas Gilbert (Rue de Sèvres)
- **Les Singes** by Yann Le Bec (Dupuis)
- **Thrillerville** by Lerenard and Alex Puvilland (Daniel Maghen)
- **Saudade** by Vincent Turhan (Sarbacane)
- **Contrapaso** by Teresa Valero (Dupuis)

LIBÉRATION / NOIR AND JUSTICE AWARD

Created in collaboration with the Lyon Judicial Court and in partnership with Libération, the Quais du Polar / Justice Prize is awarded to a non-fiction work (investigative report, true crime, testimony) connected to the justice system or real-life criminal cases.

- **Mazan, la traversée du Styx** by Marion Dubreuil (Globe)
- **La Collision** by Paul Gasnier (Gallimard)
- **In violentia veritas** by Catherine Girard (Grasset)
- **Samuel Paty, un procès pour l'avenir** by Valérie Igounet and Gaëlle Paty (Flammarion)
- **La Culture du féminicide** by Ivan Jablonka (Le Seuil)
- **Écran noir : les histoires vraies derrière les films d'horreur** by Éric Libiot (Hachette / Dark Side)
- **Le Veuf noir du Grand Canyon** by Vincent Manileve (10|18)
- **Justice présumée coupable** by Marc Trévidic (Albin Michel)

QUAIS DU POLAR LYON LIBRARIANS' AWARD

Quais du Polar is once again partnering with the Municipal Libraries of Lyon and its metropolitan area to award the title most loved by librarians, published between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025.

- **Dernier cri** by Hervé Commère (Fleuve)
- **Près du mur nord** by Petra Klabouchová, translated by Barbora Faure (Agullo)
- **Dead Drop** by La Gale (La Veilleuse)
- **Nulle part où revenir** by Henry Wise, translated by Julie Sibony (Sonatine)

SCELF / POLAR EN SERIES AWARD

For the twelfth consecutive year, this prize honours a French-language crime, thriller, or noir novel for its literary qualities and its potential for adaptation into an audiovisual series. Created with the support of SCELF (Société Civile des Éditeurs de Langue Française) as part of the professional programme Polar Connection, it aims to strengthen the ties between literature and audiovisual production.

- **Et coule le sang du désert** by Nathalie Gauthereau, Le Rouergue (2026)
- **Ceux que la nuit choisit** by Joris Giovannetti, Denoël (2025)
- **La Forêt qui dévore** by Florence Hinckel, Nathan (2025)
- **Les Exilés de Mosseheim T1 et T2** by Sylvain Runberg, Olivier Truc and Julien Carette, Dupuis (2023 et 2025)
- **Les Sept robes** by Tristan Saule, Le Quartanier (2025)
- **Les Noyés du Clain** by Thibaut Solano, Robert Laffont (2021)

LE POINT EUROPEAN CRIME FICTION AWARD

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

- **On ne mange pas les cannibales** by Stéphanie Artarit (Belfond)
- **Le Bâtiment** by Mehdi Bayad (JC Lattès)
- **La Colline** by Mathilde Beaussault (Seuil)
- **Le Livre des prodiges** by Olivier Ciechelski (Le Rouergue)
- **Ici, tout le monde ment...** by Johana Gustawsson and Thomas Enger (Calmann Lévy)
- **Erreur de jugement** by Ariana Harwicz, translated by Alexandra Carrasco (Dalva)
- **Les Voies souterraines** by Sylvain Kermici (Plon)
- **Groenland, le pays qui n'était pas à vendre** by Mo Malø (La Martinière)
- **Chiens fous** by Max Monnehay (HarperCollins)
- **L'Alliance** by Aslak Nore, translated by Céline Romand-Monnier (Le Bruit du Monde)
- **Le Champ des méduses** by Oto Oltvanji, translated by Slavica Pantic Lew (Agullo)
- **Munichs** by David Peace, translated by Isabelle Maillet (Payot Rivages)
- **Le Sang des collines** by Scott Preston, translated by Paul Matthieu (Albin Michel)
- **Celles qui ne dorment pas** by Dolores Redondo, translated by Isabelle Gugnion (Gallimard)
- **Millénium 8 – La Fille dans les griffes du lynx** by Karin Smirnoff, translated by Hege Roel-Rousson (Actes Sud)
- **La Station** by Jakub Szamałek, translated by Kamil Barbarski (Métailié)

THE CLAUDE MESPLÈDE AWARD

Claude Mesplède was an editor, critic, historian, and passionate connoisseur of crime fiction. He was also a friend and close collaborator of Quais du Polar, taking part in its founding and ongoing development. To honour his memory and continue his work, the festival created the Claude Mesplède / Quais du Polar Prize for non-fiction on crime fiction.

Each year, this prize recognises a work that contributes to a deeper understanding of the crime fiction genre, whether in the form of an essay, historical study, correspondence, document, investigation, translation, complete or previously unpublished works, new translations, or academic research.

SHORT CRIME FICTION AWARD

For the second consecutive year, the festival is partnering with the French National Police to run its short story contest for high school students. Three stories will be awarded prizes in the categories of "Collective Writing", "Individual Writing", and "Jury's Favourite".

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

In partnership with Babelio and with the support of Désire d'écrire, the 2026 adult short story competition will be sponsored by David S. Khara. Aspiring writers and crime fiction enthusiasts are invited to explore the theme "**In the Shadow of Discoveries.**"

For this year's youth short story competition, Quais du Polar is partnering with the Municipal Archives of Lyon and the CNRS, with Jean-Christophe Tixier as sponsor. Participants will be asked to write a story set in the city, with a past troubled by disasters or contamination, under the theme "**Poisoned Memory.**"

MAIN PARTNERS



OFFICIAL PARTNERS

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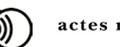
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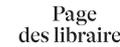
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