



Alliance Française

Chicago's French cultural and learning center

dedicated to the study of French language and cultural exchange between Americans and French speaking peoples

The Cultural Center

Joséphine and Napoléon and the Arts of the Empire

Three-lecture series

March 19, April 24, May 15 / 1:00-2:00pm

Coffee with the speaker following each lecture

Series: \$100; Single tickets: \$45

Advanced registration is required

Please reserve at (312) 337 1070

Following the success of our inaugural French Decorative Arts Symposium, "The Legacy of Louis XIV" last spring, we are pleased to present our second annual symposium series, "Joséphine and Napoléon and the Arts of the Empire." After the glittering court of Louis XIV, the next great period for *les arts de vivre* was initiated by Napoléon and the "incomparable" Joséphine. The "Empire Style" they helped create owed as much to Napoléon's "borrowing" of architectural and ornamental forms from the Greek, Roman, and Egyptian countries he conquered, as it did to Joséphine's revolutionary ideas about fashion and decorum, and her enlightened patronage of the arts. This symposium will celebrate the influence of Napoléon and Joséphine, whose *Château de Malmaison* is but one example of their legacy to the architecture, interior decoration, decorative arts, and painting in the late 18th and first decades of the 19th centuries.



Empress Joséphine: The Person, the Patron, and the Collector

March 19 / 1:00pm

Eleanor DeLorme will present Joséphine's unique biography and focus upon her pervasive influence on the arts of the period as an outstanding patron and collector. A book signing of Professor DeLorme's latest book, Joséphine: Napoléon's Incomparable Empress, will follow the lecture.

Eleanor P. DeLorme is a member of the faculty of Art History, Wellesley College and Adjunct Curator of the Davis Museum at Wellesley College.

La Mode of the Empire through the Paintings of Ingres

April 24 / 1:00pm

Fashion Historian Aileen Ribeiro will present images of women painted with meticulous attention to detail by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres between 1800 and 1820, showing the startling changes in dress style, fabrics, and accessories and exploring the ways in which costume defines the women of the period. A book signing of Ingres in Fashion: Representation of Dress and Appearance in Ingres' Images of Women by Aileen Ribeiro will follow the lecture.

Dr. Aileen Ribeiro is Head of the History of Dress Department at the Courtauld Institute of Art and Professor of History of Art at the University of London.

The Arts of the Empire: Their Influence on European Interior Decoration

May 15 / 1:00pm

The unique position held by Paris in the 17th and 18th centuries as the prime arbiter of taste and style in the decorative arts continued during the first half of the 19th century. Following the practice of Louis XIV, Napoléon used publicists such as La Messangère to distribute colored engravings of the furniture, draperies, *objets d'art*, textiles, and colors of the French court, which in turn influenced the fashion of decoration throughout Europe and the United States.

Dr. Alain Gruber, a Professor of Art History, has served as an independent curator and consultant for the Rothschild Collection at Waddesdon Manor and consultant to the Silver Department, Christie's, London.

The Alliance Française de Chicago wishes to acknowledge the generous support of Mike Bell, lead corporate sponsor; American Airlines and Sofitel Chicago Water Tower for transportation and accommodations; special support from Branca; and additional support from Van Cleef & Arpels, Ma Maison Française, and Chacok.

During the month of March, in celebration of the symposium, the Newberry Library (60 W. Walton Street) will present a special display of its rare letters, engravings, books and documents relating to Joséphine and Napoléon.



The Cultural Center

**Peter Conroy: Jean-Jacques Rousseau:
Notre premier philosophe écologique**

Thursday, April 3 / 6:00pm

Gratuit pour les membres de l'Alliance Française;

Autres: \$15 / En français

Pour réserver, téléphonez au (312) 337 1070

Jean-Jacques Rousseau est un des auteurs français les plus importants et les plus controversés du dix-huitième siècle. D'un côté, il participe dans le courant rationaliste connu sous le terme "les Lumières." De l'autre, c'est le premier grand écrivain romantique, un poète en prose qui a célébré les émotions et la nature. Je le qualifie en plus d'"écologiste" parce que, seul au dix-huitième siècle, il articule une interprétation du monde physique qui va bien au-delà de la simple sentimentalité romantique et qui anticipe bien nos idées contemporaines sur les rapports qui lient l'homme au monde environnant.

Peter Conroy est professeur de français à l'Université d'Illinois à Chicago (UIC) où il enseigne depuis trente-trois ans. Dix-huitième, il a publié une quarantaine d'articles aussi bien que quatre livres sur la littérature française; en plus, il a traduit un livre d'histoire sur les Annales en anglais. Son dernier livre, publié dans la collection Twayne World Authors Series, est une étude de Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

Myriam Bransfield Cooking Demonstrations

Christopher Ala of Hemmingway's Bistro

Wednesday, April 9 / 6:00pm

Members: \$45; Non-Members: \$55

Call to reserve (312) 337 1070 – Space is limited!

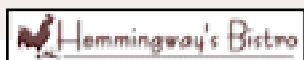
Our cooking demonstrations show guests how to prepare a three-course meal in an intimate setting (maximum capacity is 24) while enjoying interesting conversation and French wine. Chefs demonstrate how to prepare a course, then each guest receives a portion. The Alliance Française would like to extend its appreciation to Mrs. John Bransfield, Jr. for her generous support of this unique and popular series.

M e III

Crispy chicken wild mushroom ravioli with tarragon-marinated tomatoes

Wild mushroom encrusted Alaskan halibut on horseradish-mashed potatoes with lemon butter sauce

French apple tart with vanilla ice cream and caramel sauce



Hemmingway's Bistro in Oak Park is a classic bistro that creates a warm and intimate dining experience while bringing back the grand charm of Paris in the early 1930's. The bistro is owned and operated by Chef Christopher Ala, who has over 18 years of professional cooking experience. His menu combines classic French dishes with the freshest Midwest ingredients. The restaurant also offers a Parisian seafood bar with towers of *Plateau de fruits de mer* that includes fresh oysters and clams.

Please join us in welcoming our new library intern, Camille Desante, a student at l'Institut d'études politiques de Lille, France. While you're here, try an Alliance discussion group. No prior experience is required for any of our groups and members are welcome to join at any time. Contact Renée at 312-337-5473 or rsaito@afchicago.com for questions and comments.

Café Conversation

Francophiles with all levels of French-speaking ability meet in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Members say this informal setting is great for developing your "ear" for French or for conversing to keep up your skills.

Level: Beginner to Advanced French

Day: Tuesday, weekly; Time: 4-5:00pm

Café Littérature

Join us as we continue the theme of historical fiction in March and April. Most books are prize winning or are highly acclaimed by French literary publications. The setting is very informal and welcoming.

Level: Advanced French

Day: Tuesday, once per month; Time: 5-6:00pm

March 4: *Assam* by Gérard de Cortanze

April 2: *La Chambre* by Françoise Chandernagor

Café Philosophique

Discuss selected topics each month in this group, led by Professor Souleymane Diagne, philosophy professor at Northwestern University. Diagne's work covers the tradition of philosophy in the Islamic world, identity formation, African philosophies, and the history of logic and mathematics. This group follows a long French tradition of spirited public debate, approaching interesting issues in an open-ended style.

Level: Advanced French

Day: Thursday, twice per month; Time: 6-7:00pm

Dates: April 10 & 24

Café Théâtre

Read and discuss 20th century French plays while practicing your French. Participants talk briefly about the author, summarize the action of the play, and act out selected scenes. In March, the group has chosen to explore *Antigone* by Anouilh. The April play has yet to be decided.

Level: Advanced French

Day: Monday, twice per month; Time: 6-7:30pm

Dates: March 3 and 24, April 7 and 21

Café La France Aux Amériques

Immerse yourself in the history of the French in the Americas. Dr. Charles Balesi, noted historian, leads sessions as we read and discuss points of interest. Author of the book, *The Time of the French in the Heart of North America* (Alliance Française, 1992), Dr. Balesi highlights historic details and touches on contemporary realities. This group is an excellent way to learn about the French presence in the Americas while practicing your French. All materials are provided.

Level: Advanced French

Day: Thursday, once per month; Time: 6-7:30pm

March 6: Les Caraïbes

April 17: La Guyane, du bagne au centre spatial



The Film Club

Code inconnu:

Récit incomplet de divers voyages



Michael Haneke crafts a compelling portrait of life in a fractured, lonely world. A farm lad wants to escape his silent father and runs to Paris to his older brother who's away covering the war in Kosovo. Upset, he throws a bag of half-eaten pastry into a beggar's lap. A young Arab man berates him, provoking the police to arrive, to arrest the Arab and then deport the beggar. The youth's sister-in-law is upset, which colors her relationship with her husband when he returns from

the war. Completely separate lives intersect for one moment around the pastry bag, and all are altered. We follow the characters as the repercussions of the incident play out.

Directed by Michael Haneke (2000) with performances by Juliette Binoche, Thierry Neuvic, Ona Lu Yenke, and Luminita Georghiu.

In French and other languages with English subtitles -
118 minutes

Wednesday, March 12 / 7:15pm

Doors open at 7:00pm at 54 W. Chicago

Discussion following – Admission free.

Roberto Succo

"Kurt" claims to be a sales rep. He also claims to be English in spite of his heavy Italian accent. He is actually an habitual liar. In the south of France he meets Léa, age 16. Between his increasingly strange dates with Léa, Kurt engages in a number of armed robberies, some successful, some not. The police are perplexed by a series of crimes, including disappearances and a murder, and conclude that they are dealing with a madman. After Kurt proposes, Léa breaks up with him. The attempt to find a new girlfriend leads to a shooting by Kurt, now calling himself André. Léa's information identifies Kurt/André as Roberto Succo, psychiatric patient and parental murderer. The police hunt for Roberto covers three countries.



Directed by Cedric Kahn (2000) with performances by Stefano Cassetti, Isild Le Besco, and Patrick Dell'Isola.

In French, Italian, and German with English subtitles -
124 minutes

Wednesday, March 26/ 7:15pm

Doors open at 7:00pm at 54 W. Chicago

Discussion following – Admission free.

Beau travail

Director Claire Denis loosely adapted Herman Melville's *Billy Budd* and transferred the tale from the sea to the sparse landscape of East Africa's Djibouti. This film focuses on ex-Foreign Legion officer, Galoup, as he recalls his once glorious life leading troops in the Gulf of Djibouti. His existence there was happy, strict and regimented, but the arrival of a promising young recruit, Sentain, plants the seeds of jealousy in Galoup's mind. He feels compelled to stop him from coming to the attention of the commandant whom he admires, but who ignores him. Ultimately, his jealousy leads to the destruction of both Sentain and himself as Galoup recklessly acts out on his irrational emotion.

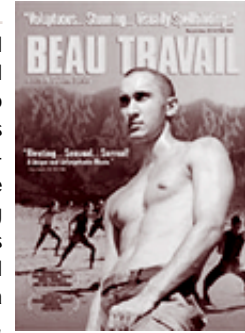
Directed by Claire Denis (1999) with performances by Denis Lavant, Michel Subor, and Grégoire Colin.

In French with English subtitles – 90 minutes

Wednesday, April 9 / 7:15pm

Doors open at 7:00pm at 54 W. Chicago

Discussion following – Admission free.



Une vraie jeune fille

Catherine Breillat's controversial first film centers around the sexual awakening of a young girl on summer vacation. The story takes place during a summer in the turbulent sixties and centers on Alice Bonnard, a young girl attending Saint-Sulvien Girl's College. Alice comes home to spend her holidays with her parents in the Landes region. They run a sawmill where they employ a young man, Jim. Business isn't going well, although Mr. and Mrs. Bonnard are too proud to admit it, and Jim's nonchalant attitude about his job doesn't help things. Alice is attracted to Jim, but she's too scared to let him know, believing that as far as he's concerned she doesn't exist. Her tumescent sexuality begins to obsess her. The film gives few clues to distinguish the girl's fantasies from the events of her life, which is fitting, as the entire film revolves around the girl and her own perceptions. The heightened realism of the direction and cinematography produces a text that refuses either to accuse or to exploit.



Directed by Catherine Breillat (2000) with performances by Charlotte Alexandra, Hiram Keller, Rita Maiden, and Bruno Balp.

In French with English subtitles – 93 minutes

Wednesday, April 23 / 7:15pm

Doors open at 7:00pm at 54 W. Chicago

Discussion following – Admission free.

The Calendar

- Unless indicated otherwise, all programs take place at 54 West Chicago Avenue
- Programs are subject to change - for information call 312 337 1070

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

The Alliance Française would like to thank the following individuals for their support of its 2002/2003 cultural season: Frances Blair, Myriam Bransfield, Jean Goldman, Eleanor L. Lieberman, Francine Saltoun, Daniel W. Vittum, and the Woman's Board of the Alliance Française.

We would also like to thank our corporate sponsors, whose continuous support allows us to consistently offer quality programming:

Mar 3 Café Théâtre	Mar 4 Café Conversation Café Littérature	Mar 5	Mar 6 Café La France aux Amériques	Mar 7	Mar 8
Mar 10 Swiss Lecture: Emmanuelle Antille Swiss Concert: Michel Bühler	Mar 11 Café Conversation Francophonie Round Table: Linguistic Diversity	Mar 12 <i>Code Inconnu</i>	Mar 13 Egyptian film: <i>The Mummy</i>	Mar 14 Haitian Piano Recital: Jean-Paul Coffy	Mar 15 Francophone Book Fair Belgian Concert: Thibault
Mar 17 Romanian Film: <i>Dolce Far Niente</i>	Mar 18 Café Conversation Francophonie Round Table: Sustainable Development	Mar 19 Lecture: Decorative Arts Quebec Concert: Luc de Larochellière	Mar 20 Francophonie Round Table: Cultural Diversity	Mar 21 Canadian Film: <i>Je me souviens</i>	Mar 22 Francophonie Round Table: Franco-African film Film: <i>Circus Baobab</i>
Mar 24 Café Théâtre	Mar 25 Café Conversation	Mar 26 <i>Roberto Succo</i>	Mar 27	Mar 28	Mar 29
Mar 31	Apr 1 Café Conversation Café Littérature	Apr 2	Apr 3 Lecture: Peter Conroy	Apr 4	Apr 5
Apr 7 Café Théâtre	Apr 8 Café Conversation	Apr 9 <i>Beau travail</i>	Apr 10 Café Philosophique	Apr 11	Apr 12
Apr 14	Apr 15 Café Conversation	Apr 16	Apr 17 Café La France aux Amériques	Apr 18	Apr 19
Apr 21 Café Théâtre	Apr 22 Café Conversation	Apr 23 <i>Une vraie jeune fille</i>	Apr 24 Lecture: Decorative Arts Café Philosophique	Apr 25	Apr 26
Apr 28	Apr 29 Café Conversation	Apr 30			Sunday March 16 French Music and Poetry



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