

Press Release – 10 January 2019



PROGRAMME ANNOUNCEMENT

Launched by the **Institut français** in 2016, the **NIGHT OF IDEAS** is an initiative staged simultaneously in Paris, London and worldwide. **For this year's edition**, the Institut français du Royaume-Uni has put together a thought-provoking programme of debates, performances and screenings exploring the latest ideas behind issues central to our times, taking place on Thursday 31 January 2019, from 5pm to 11pm.

Crossing French, British and European perspectives, the NIGHT OF IDEAS will **engage audiences** in **free debates** with the theme **FACING OUR TIME** as the common thread to **question today's challenges**.

Former French Minister for Environment **Nicolas Hulot**, and philosopher **Anthony Grayling** will kick off the NIGHT OF IDEAS by addressing two of our most pressing issues: the **environment** and **Europe**. They will be joined by forty leading experts, artists, scholars and journalists, including historian and philosopher **Theodore Zeldin**, Member of Parliament **Tom Tugendhat**, film directors **Cédric Klapisch** and **Cyril Dion**, and artist **Caroline Bergvall**.

Too often, the environment and Europe are perceived as abstract and remote without human solution. The NIGHT OF IDEAS will breathe life into these subjects by inviting audiences to take part in an **open debate** on the possibilities for a brighter future where **citizen voices** and perspectives matter. We will shine a light on **grass-roots initiatives** while the **new generation** will take centre stage to showcase their vision for the future.

EUROPE BEYOND WALLS

2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dismantling of the Iron Curtain - a historical moment of Europeans acting for a shared future. Do we really wish to withdraw back into territorial and political divisions? The NIGHT OF IDEAS will be a forum for those who seek dialogue on European values and ideas, and on how people can practice a living European citizenship.

THE EARTH HERE AND NOW

Climate change is everyone's burden and everyone's responsibility. Can art and education help us to shape a viable future for our planet? The NIGHT OF IDEAS brings together scientists, artists, explorers and activists to inspire and challenge us to become true environmental citizens.

In the run-up to the NIGHT OF IDEAS, a film season, **BEFORE THE NIGHT**, will echo the different themes and the **LITTLE NIGHT** will invite pupils from British and French schools to reflect on the main topics.

The NIGHT OF IDEAS is organised by the Institut français, the Scientific and the Cultural Departments of the French Embassy, in partnership with Imperial College London, King's College London, the Maison française d'Oxford, and the Alliance Françaises network in the UK, among others.

Night of Ideas : 31 January 2019 at the Institut français in London – Free entrance – registration:
www.nightofideas.co.uk - Programme & biographies : attached or on www.nightofideas.co.uk

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