

For Immediate Release

**“FRENCH COMICS KISS BETTER”
THE COMICS FRAMED FESTIVAL RETURNS
BRINGING EUROPEAN CREATORS TO NEW YORK COMIC CON (NYCC)
WITH NIGHTLY EVENTS ACROSS THE CITY:
PANELS, SCREENINGS, ART PARTIES, AND MORE!
NEW YORK CITY: OCTOBER 4 –9TH
Nine (9) European *bande dessinée* creators
With bestselling comics in France, in English for the first time
Featured on over eleven (11) innovative and interactive programs**

**A week-long festival, day-to-night around NYCC
Celebrating the Franco-Belgian comics tradition and boundary-breaking storytelling
Featuring: Pénélope Bagieu, Brūno, Mathieu Lauffray, Patricia Lyfoung, Fabien Nury, Alexis Sentenac, El Torres, Valérie Vernay, and Zep**

September 8th, New York City—The [French Comics Association](#) (FCA) announces the second year of the French Comics Framed Festival, October 4-9th, with the proclamation that “French Comics Kiss Better!” The newly elected incoming President of the Association, Jean Paciulli of Glénat, will lead this embassy of European creators. As he says, “the festival is a huge opportunity to present the French culture of *bande dessinée*. As the third worldwide comics industry, we bring many years of literary heritage, from beloved characters like Astérix, Tintin and the Smurfs, to new original graphic novels. I’m honored and excited to present the creators on this 2017 tour, whose *bande dessinée* explore every subject, from adventure stories to social issues, with audacious talent.”

“Francophone comics are having something of a moment,” reports Blastr. At the 2015 San Diego Comic Con, comiXology CEO David Steinberger called for “the ‘French Invasion’ of comics in the English language market.” In Fall 2016, FCA’s inaugural Comics Framed Festival brought “an incredible lineup of talent” (*The Beat*) to New York City, “showcasing the best of French comics today,” recalled Bénédicte de Montlaur, cultural counselor of the French Embassy. “France has a special relationship with New York, epitomized by the Statue Of Liberty, and revitalized by the French Institute,” reported *Bleeding Cool* on the inaugural tour.

This October 2017, French comics return! Visit FCA booth #1669 at New York Comic Con (NYCC) 2017 (10/5-10/8), located at the Javits convention center, for book-signings, free prints and swag. Don’t miss an **exclusive** showing of footage from **the upcoming IFC release of the film *Death of Stalin***, directed by **Armando Iannucci** and based on the French graphic novel by Fabien Nury, with an appearance by the director. IFC Films will install a movie set-piece on the show-floor for con-goers to take photos with “Stalin!” **French creators are featured on over seven (7) official NYCC programs**, from **Heidi MacDonald’s Publishers Weekly presents “European Invasion,”** to an adventurous YA line-up joined by **Scott Westerfeld, Ngozi Ukazu, and Nidhi Chanani**, with educator **Adam Kullberg**.

The FCA is honored to join NYCC’s new professional programming strand **hosted by the American Library Association at the New York Public Library**, to present “Bande Dessinée 101” with international cartoonists in discussion, moderated by **Meg Lemke**. Following, teachers and librarians are invited to join a mixer with comics talent, co-sponsored by **First Second Books** and the **Pop Culture Classroom**, where groups will come up with lesson ideas around graphic novels.

Whether or not you join the cosplay crowd daily on the far west side, comics fans won't want to miss what happens at night. **Every evening, venture out to parties and innovative, interactive events and discover how *French Comics Kiss Better*.** Kick it off on Wednesday night at Columbia University's Butler Library, learning how international creators went from "DIY to a Career in Comics" headlined by France's "King of Comics," Zep, of the internationally bestselling *Titeuf* series, joined by Americans like self-publishing phenomenon **Julia Wertz** and "BD expert" **Terence Irvins**.

Thursday evening, enjoy a glass of wine at the **Albertine Bookstore** as you join in the "Imagined Worlds" sketch party, with live models in fantastical costumes, culminating with a collective **pop-up exhibit, where participants can hang their newly created art on the walls of the French Embassy.** Friday, head to **the Society of Illustrators** for a "Comics Cabaret," theatrical reading of comics by the FCA touring creators, with help from talented friends like **Vampire Cowboy director/actor Robert Ross Parker**, emcee'd by American cartoonists **Katie Skelly** and **Alex de Campi**.

The weekend brings the tour to Brooklyn for **PEN America's Lit Crawl** on Saturday in Fort Greene, where we'll do a "Pictionary plus Picasso" mash-up live drawing in a tattoo parlor. Finally, don't miss the **Kinokuniya** bookstore "NYCC after-party" on Monday.

On social networks throughout the festival and at the New York Comic Con event, special exhibition tours and book signings can be booked with the artists. Join us on Instagram #ComicsFramed, Twitter @FrenchBooksUSA and @FrenchComix and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/French-Comics-Association-286305961741400/>.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS **Wednesday / October 4th**

DIY to a Career in Comics

International Graphic Novel Stars on How They Made It
6-8pm

Columbia University, Butler Library, 535 W 114th Street, Room 523

FREE / OPEN TO PUBLIC

How did these artists start by self-publishing and grow to international success? **Zep**, a comics phenomenon in Europe, presents his debut graphic novel in English, *A Story of Men*, joined by his French compatriot **Pénélope Bagieu** (*California Dreamin'*), and homegrown comics DIY-heroine **Julia Wertz**, with her new ode to NYC, *Tenements, Towers, and Trash*. Moderated by **Terence Irvins**.

Thursday / October 5th

Meet French Artists at NYCC booth #1669

10am - 7pm

Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, 655 West 34th St.

French Comics Kiss Better: Bande Dessinée 101

1:15-2pm

Admission with NYCC Badge
Trustees, New York Public Library, 76 5th Ave.

Come discover the beauty of bande dessinée, and learn about the rich Franco-Belgian comics tradition. French comics are proven to translate into American bestsellers, from *Tintin* to *Persepolis* to *Valerian*. Meet star creators such as **Zep** (*A Strange Man*), **Fabien Nury** (*The Death of Stalin*), **Pénélope Bagieu** (*Brazen*), **Mathieu Lauffray** (*Valerian and Long John Silver*) and **Alexis Sentenac** (*Siberia 56*). Moderated by **Meg Lemke**, French Comics Association.

Educator Meetup: A Gathering of Educators and Comics Industry Professionals

3:45 - 4:45pm

Co-hosted with **Pop Culture Classroom** and **First Second Books**

Javits Room TBA

French and American artists will join teachers with proven success introducing and analyzing comics in their classes, to engage and educate students from K-12 and secondary school. You can engage in interactive, small-group meetings where you'll get the chance for personal discussion with these amazing artists and local educators. There will also be some amazing giveaways for attendees (while supplies last)!

The Death of Stalin: Exclusive Footage and Interview with Fabien Nury for the IFC Release of the Film Based on Titan Comics Political Thriller

7:45 - 8:45pm

Javits Room 1A06

IFC Films presents a talk-back with exclusive clips of *The Death of Stalin*, directed by Armando Iannucci, starring Steve Buscemi and Jeffrey Tambor. Based on Thierry Robin & **Fabien Nury's** graphic novel from Titan Comics, originally published in France, this darkly comic political thriller follows the struggle for supreme power after Stalin's falling--changing the fate of the nation and the world. And it all really happened. Q&A to follow between **Armando Iannucci and Fabien Nury**. Give-aways to be announced!

French Comics Kiss Better Opening Night Party:

Imaginary Worlds – A Draw Jam

7-8:30pm

Albertine bookshop, 972 5th Ave.

The French Embassy

FREE / OPEN TO PUBLIC

Join New York Comic Con guest illustrators from France for a collective Draw Jam and book signing at Albertine Books! Meet **Zep**, **Valérie Vernay**, **Patricia Lyfoung**, **Fabien Nury**, **Alexis Sentenac**, **Mathieu Lauffray**, and **Brunö**, plus other special guests. Enjoy a glass of wine, join as we sketch to live models in fantastical costume and hang your creations on the walls of the French Embassy for a pop-up exhibition.

Friday / October 6th

Meet French Artists at NYCC booth #1669
10am - 7pm
Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, 655 West 34th St.

Evening Event in New York City:

Comics Cabaret: Live Comics Screening & Signing

6:30 - 9:30pm

The Society of Illustrators, 128 East 63rd St.

DOOR CHARGE / OPEN TO PUBLIC

An evening of comics, screened and read aloud by their creators and friends and actors like **Robert Ross Parker** (Vampire Cowboys), with Q&A and signings/sketches to follow. Featuring: **Zep, Fabien Nury, Alexis Sentenac, Mathieu Lauffray, Patricia Lyfoung, Valérie Vernay** and **El Torres**. Emcee'd by **Katie Skelly** with special guest **Alex de Campi**, this cross-cultural gathering will be a can't-miss artsy party.

Saturday, October 7th

Meet French Artists at NYCC booth #1669
10am - 7pm
Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, 655 West 34th St.

Lion Forge Comics: Hear the Lion's Roar

12:15-1pm

Javits Room 1B03

Join Lion Forge along with special guest writers and artist as they give a detailed peek at what Lion Forge has planned for 2017 as well as glimpse of what's to come in 2018. Featuring **Valérie Vernay**.

PW Presents: The European Comics Invasion

4-5pm

Javits Room 1B03

It's *Publishers Weekly's* annual look at the European cartoonists scene - and with more and more European comics finding a US audience the time has never been better. This year we talk to creators from around the world including **Fabien Nury** and **Patricia Lyfoung** (France), **Zep** (Switzerland) Mahmud Asrar (Turkey) and more, moderated by Heidi MacDonald.

Evening Event in Brooklyn:

Worth a Thousand Words
Lit Crawl Brooklyn / PEN America

7-8pm (Phase 2)

Electric Lotus Tattoo, 692 Fulton St., Brooklyn (Fort Greene)

FREE / OPEN TO PUBLIC

New Yorker cartoonist and comedian Emily Flake (*Mama Tried*) interviews bestselling European artists, representing diverse styles from Sci-fi to “Manfra” (French Manga) to coming-of-age rock ‘n’ roll nostalgia! Meet **Zep** (*A Story of Men*), **Mathieu Lauffray** (*Long John Silver*), **Patricia Lyfoung** (*The Scarlet Rose*), **Alexis Sentenac** (Siberia 56), and **Karim Friha**. Artists will answer with LIVE drawings, creating “pictures worth a thousand words” in front of the audience. Think of a Pictionary and Picasso mash-up.

Sunday, October 8th

Meet French Artists at NYCC booth #1669

10am - 5pm

Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, 655 West 34th St.

New & Noteworthy Titles from IDW Books and Top Shelf

2:30 - 3:30pm

Javits Room 1A18

Featuring **Zep!** The most diverse publishing house in comics takes to the stage for an hour-long celebration of the graphic novel.

Ready for Adventure? Action (and Romance) Packed YA / All-Ages Comics

3:45 - 4:45

Javits Room 1A05

Check out swashbuckling, world-traveling, magical and action-packed adventure comics for teens! Romance and adventure await in graphic novels by **Patricia Lyfoung**, Scott Westerfeld, Nidhi Chanani, and **Valérie Vernay** and Ngozi Ukazu. Moderated by Adam Kullbert of Pop Culture Classroom.

Monday, October 9th

Evening Event in New York City:

NYCC "After-Party": Meet International Creators

6-7:30pm

Books Kinokuniya, 1073 Avenue of the Americas

FREE / OPEN TO PUBLIC

Featuring **Zep** and **El Torres!**

ABOUT THE FRENCH COMICS ASSOCIATION

The French Comics Association brings together many of the major publishers of French comics, including Casterman, Dargaud, Delcourt, Dupuis, Futuropolis, Gallimard BD, Glénat, Le Lombard, Rue de Sèvres, and Soleil. As part of its mission to promote Franco-Belgian comics in the United States and worldwide, the association aims to promote comics translated into English, to support the U.S. publishing industry, and to stimulate cultural exchanges on the basis of literature and visual narratives.

The target audience of the Association's programming is Americans interested in reading, art, comics and French culture. The association aims to reach a wide audience beyond comics fans and in this framework, partnerships will be developed with various venues to spread the word throughout the USA.

The French Comics Association works in partnership with the Centre National du Livre, the Bureau International de l'Édition, the Syndicat National de l'Édition and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the U.S. www.frenchcomicsassociation.com

ABOUT THE CULTURAL SERVICES OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY

The Cultural Services of the French Embassy provides a platform for exchange and innovation between French and American artists, intellectuals, educators, students, the tech community, and the general public. Based in New York City, Washington D.C., and eight other US cities including Chicago, the Cultural Services develops the cultural economy by focusing on six principal fields of action: visual and performing arts, literature, cinema, the digital sphere, French language and higher education. www.frenchculture.org

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