



Alliance Française-Lansing

Bulletin de juin 2021

June newsletter

<i>Dimanche</i>	<i>Lundi</i>	<i>Mardi</i>	<i>Mercredi</i>	<i>Jeudi</i>	<i>Vendredi</i>	<i>samedi</i>
	31 mai Memorial Day (US)	1 Conversation entre amis* 15:00	2	3 Conversation Café** 15:00	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Conversation Café** 15:00	11	12
13	14	15 Conversation entre amis* 15:00	16	17 Conversation Café** 15:00	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Conversation Café** 15:00	25	26
27	28	29	30			

* Conversation entre amis is offered by Alliance Française-Lansing

** Conversation Café is coordinated by Amie Kovitvongsa

News from the Alliance Française-Lansing Board of Directors

Let's get together on July 10th !

The AF Board has exciting news! In honor of the 4th of July and Quatorze juillet, we will be hosting our first soirée since the start of COVID on **July 10, 2021**. The fête will be at Wonch Park in Okemos. Wonch Park is located on Okemos Rd just southwest of downtown Okemos. We have the park reserved from 4pm until dusk. It is a 15 acre park with plenty of parking, a large grassy area (perfect for a game of Boules), walking trails, 2 sand volleyball courts, restrooms, a pavilion (in case of rain), 2 barbeque grills, and plenty of picnic tables.

The board will be firing up the grill with a supply of some kind of meat (and maybe something vegetarian if there is interest), and supplying condiments, glasses, plates, napkins etc. Alcohol is allowed in the park, so bring a bottle of wine to share, a dish to pass, and any outdoor game you might be interested in playing.

We ask that everyone attending be vaccinated. So, if you haven't yet been vaccinated yet, do it now. Then please join us for a celebration of liberty, summer, and an end to the pandemic!

Meet the board members: Darcy Greene, Member at Large

I grew up in Seattle where I graduated from the University of Washington. In my senior year I applied to the Peace Corps and was accepted to be a volunteer in the Republic of Dahomey in French-speaking West Africa.

For a six-week period during training I and other Dahomey volunteers participated in a U.S. State Department Foreign Service Institute (FSI) language immersion program. We were required to speak French exclusively for the entire time. It was a challenging experience, but it prepared me well for the two years I would spend in Dahomey (now called the Republic of Benin).

In 1986, I began co-directing a summer study abroad program through the MSU Office of Overseas Study. The course gave me and my photography students the opportunity to spend time in a variety of settings. When we traveled to Paris and Arles I was able to enjoy the culture, history and cuisine of France and, of course, converse in French.

My French served me well when I returned to the Republic of Benin in both 2012 and 2016 to complete month-long photographic projects in the town of Abomey.

I joined the Lansing area chapter of Alliance Française in 2015 and became a board member in 2017. In this capacity I have been able to use my web skills to build the AF website.

I retired from the School of Journalism at MSU in 2017. During my thirty-three years on the faculty I taught photography as well as newspaper and web design. Today, I still enjoy making photographs but hopefully I will soon enjoy spending time with my grandchildren even more.

I am grateful to Mark and Ellen Sullivan for encouraging me and my husband Jim to join our local chapter of Alliance Française. We are looking forward to the day when the entire membership can celebrate in person once again.

Fête de la musique 2021

(from [internute.com](https://www.internute.com) Mis à jour le 25/05/21 by *Lucie Valais*)

The Festival of Music (FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE) will take place this year across France on June 21. The first all-day musical celebration on the day of the [summer solstice](#) was originated by [Jack Lang](#), Minister of Culture of France, as well as by Maurice Fleuret; it was celebrated in Paris in 1982. Music Day later became celebrated in 120 countries around the world.

Good news for all who love music in France: the Festival of Music will be held this year however, Covid restrictions will apply. Masks will be obligatory and the curfew at 11:00 PM will be enforced. "We will dance but we will dance masked" said Roselyne Bachelot in an interview in the [Parisien](#).

Also, according to the Minister, the festival will be held but participants will not have to bring proof of their vaccinations. The Minister advised the normal cautions but added that

France is moving toward an interim immunity goal of 50% of the population being vaccinated.

Personal reflections on la Fête de la musique

We started noticing the announcements about the Festival of Music a month before the event. The monthly magazine listed the event in the May and June edition. The marquee of the village at the Post Office listed the event for the 21st of June from noon to ???

We had no idea of how big an event the Festival of Music was. Clearly it was a solstice celebration but as I made my way across the public square to get my morning baguette, I had to walk around all of the workers who were assembling stages. (I think there were four in our public square.) In the evening, we walked back to “centre ville” lured there by the music that we could hear from our apartment balcony.

Two musicians were performing at the corner; one playing a violin, the other playing an accordion. The next music came from speakers that provided the sound for a dance club that performed in the street. In the public square there was a rock band, a traditional provençal band (drums and fifes), a choral group and a children’s choir. On the next street there was a band playing in front of one of the restaurants. A blues group was at the café down the street and a 6 or 7 person orchestra played in front of the Post Office. Neighbors told us that there was a choir singing at the cathedral. The town was filled with people. We encountered individuals and families – families with young children - standing in circles around the musicians or sitting on lawn chairs that they had brought or dancing in the open spaces. The cafés were serving drinks and taking orders from those seated in the public square. La Fête de la musique is a family-friendly celebration of the arrival of summer and of good days to come.

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France To Reopen Borders On 9 June To Non-EU Travelers: What You Need To Know

Alex Ledsom

Senior Contributor

[Travel](#) *I write about travel, culture, food & drink.*

President Emmanuel Macron laid out a plan for the reopening of France Thursday, which will allow U.S. and other international travelers to visit the country for the first time in over a year. Here is what you need to know:

France will come out of lockdown in four key stages

Starting 3 May, schools will reopen on a part-time basis for students but shops and eateries/bars will remain shut. On 19 May, bars and restaurants can serve outside (up to 6 people maximum on each table) and shops and cultural places can open but a curfew will remain in place until 9pm. On 9 June, foreign tourists are allowed to visit and the curfew will be extended to 11pm. The final phase, [as reported by Le Parisien](#), is due to happen on 30 June, when the curfew will end and larger groups of people will be allowed to congregate at cultural and sporting events.

Foreign visitors are allowed to travel to France on 9 June with a *Pass Sanitaire*

As reported by *The Local*, all non-EU visitors will be allowed to enter France for any reason—including family visits, tourism and visits from second-home owners. However, this will only be the case if two things happen:

Firstly, France's Covid-19 infection numbers must be under control. France currently has as many people in ICU beds as it had in April 2020 and the daily infection rates are still hovering around the 30,000 mark.

Secondly, travelers must use the *Pass Sanitaire*, which France is currently trialing on all flights to and from Corsica. It is the first EU country to pilot a digital travel certificate, which is currently in the form of the TousAntiCovid application, where people upload vaccination certificates or negative Covid-19 test results before travel. France has yet to release details on how this would apply to people arriving from outside the country.

Pear pecan brie bake

(Recipe from Laurel Ponist)

INGREDIENTS

- (8 ounce) round brie cheese
- small ripe red pears, peeled and thinly sliced
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon pecans, chopped
- ¼ teaspoon butter

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.
2. Place pear slices in an ungreased oven-proof serving dish.
3. Top with cheese.
4. Sprinkle all with brown sugar and pecans.
5. Dot with butter.
6. Bake at 400 degrees for 5-10 minutes or until cheese is softened.

Serve with water crackers.

[Five of] The 25 best French movies to stream in 2021

May 28 2021

For the full list, go to : [Frenchflicks.com](https://frenchflicks.com)



We're talking classics here but also lighter, recent box office hits, as well as the meatier new French cinema that made headlines at the Cannes Film Festival and the César Awards. We're featuring a mix & match of platforms with French movies on Netflix, Hulu, HBO, Amazon Prime the Criterion Channel and the like, so you're sure to find at least a couple of flicks available to you. Oh, and did we mention some are free to stream right here, right now, on FrenchFlicks? Because they are!

We tried to fit every type of taste into this list, including some biopics, some French movies based on books, true stories, a couple of kid friendly picks and a fair share of films that showcase the beautiful landscapes and cities of France throughout different decades.

Here is our list of the best French films to watch in 2021 (ranked by alphabetical order)

[1 - A Prophet](#)

This acclaimed crime drama by Jacques Audiard (The Beat That My Heart Skipped, Dheepan) follows Malik El Djebena (Tahar Rahim), a delinquent man, who is struggling to get by in a French prison. When he is taken under the wing of powerful Corsican mob boss Cesar Luciani (Niels Arestrup), he begins performing regular assignments for him, proving himself invaluable to the imposing criminal. As Malik rises in the mob ranks, he gains more power, but also more enemies, a situation that eventually brings conflict with his mentor. Probably Jacques Audiard's best film, A Prophet (Le Prophète) is a riveting masterpiece.

[Rent A Prophet on Amazon Rent, Google Play, Vudu, YouTube and DirecTV](#)

[2 - And God Created Woman](#)

The movie that made Brigitte Bardot, well, Brigitte Bardot! This scandalous (for the time) film about a seductive young woman with an unbridled appetite for pleasure made the French actress the international sex-symbol of the 50's and 60's. Come for Brigitte Bardot and stay for the beautiful shots of St. Tropez and the French Riviera.

[Rent or stream And God created Woman on Roku, The Criterion Channel and HBO Max](#)



3 - Army of Shadows

France, 1942, during the occupation. Philippe Gerbier, a civil engineer, is one of the French Resistance's chiefs. Given away by a traitor, he is interned in a camp. He manages to escape, and joins his network in Marseilles, where he orders the traitor to be executed... This non-spectacular movie (do not expect any Rambo or Robin Hood) shows us rigorously and austere the every day life of the French Resistants : their solitude, their fears, their relationships, the arrests, the forwarding of orders and their carrying out... Both writer Joseph Kessel, co-writer and director Jean-Pierre Melville take experience from their own lives, belonging to this real life "Army in the Shadows". A French classic.

[Rent or stream Army of Shadows on Amazon Rent, iTunes, Google Play, Vudu and YouTube](#)

4 - Blue is the Warmest Color

Childhood. First love. Sexual discovery. The beauty of Blue is the Warmest Color (La Vie d'Adèle) is that it's about all of the firsts. It also adds a layer that is popularized in interviews, and on the cover of magazines, which is that of homosexuality and self-acceptance. On top of that, there's a theme of differences in class, which acts as a cherry on top. If you're in the mood for a provocative, brilliant, youthful tableau with phenomenal talent, it is in your best interest to sit back and enjoy Blue is the Warmest Color in the comfort of your own home.

[Rent or stream Blue is the Warmest Color on Amazon Rent, iTunes, Vudu and DirecTV](#)



5 - Betty Blue

This French erotic psychological drama (37°2 le matin, in French) about a would-be writer (Jean-Hughes Anglade) falling for an unpredictable woman (Béatrice Dalle) received both a BAFTA and Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Language Film in 1986 and became a cult classic, still highly regarded today for its cinematography.

[Rent or stream Betty Blue on Mubi and The Criterion Channel](#)