



# La Gazette



**SPRING 2020 ISSUE**

## RENDEZVOUS DATES-

September 12<sup>th</sup>, October 10<sup>th</sup>, Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

## FRENCH FILM REVIEWS/EXHIBITIONS

Review of film -Roxane

## FRENCH LANGUAGE RESOURCES

- **NEW----** <https://www.sbs.com.au/language/english/podcast/sbs-easy-french>
- French news on SBS daily at 8.40am
- [www.TV5monde.com](http://www.TV5monde.com)
- Culturethèque online-This has books, magazines, papers, music and online study materials in French

## Important message!

Please confirm on the Meetup site (Central Coast French Conversation Meetup Group) when attending the 'Meetups' on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

My dear friends and members, Bonjour!

Unfortunately since the last 3 months not much has changed ... and this damn virus is still far too present. But there is also a thought that I would like to express to the poor victims of the explosion in Lebanon on top of the Covid. Very sad!

I think it's really important to realise how lucky we are to be on this beautiful Central Coast even if we no longer have the pleasure of seeing smiles around...only because of the masks... but at least we are finally able to keep the chin up and resume some activities.

- I will start with the Alliance Française Central Coast meetings for the months of July and August. As the Erina Leagues Club still doesn't accept any groups, I organised them at the Ettalong Beach Diggers. Not only a very strict sanitary control makes us feel safe and comfortable, the place is so spacious with such a beautiful view and lovely staff...all of it is there to just enjoy!

- I also organised a Bastille Day lunch at the always very friendly Cheeky Charlie's. Despite the fact that it was limited to a maximum of twenty persons, at least it was a chance to have our first nice social "get together"

- The latest news about the French Market is still very vague. As you know, the date, if it goes ahead, is Saturday the 14th of November... the Organiser has spoken to Chertsey Primary School and at this point, they are not allowing anyone into school grounds other than students and teachers. So if those restrictions stay in place the rest of the year the market in November cannot go ahead... Wish we had better news. Restrictions may lift by then and we can go ahead with lots of hand sanitizer and masks...we just won't know till time progresses and hopefully we get to the "zero new cases of Covid scenario".

- Now Noumea...of course you can easily imagine the conclusion. We were supposed to embark our flight to this little paradise yesterday and this morning, September 1st, our dear adventurous members would be in school for their first lesson of the week... obviously we weren't allowed to leave and had to give up our little dream. I could have made a special request which probably would have been accepted since Noumea was free from Covid 19 but for one week in Noumea having to stay confined in a hotel for two weeks upon our return was not really the most exciting part of the trip!

I already spoke with the School's Director and pre-programmed the next trip in April 2021...so you all have heaps of time to organise passports and visas to go to France...only a two and half hours flight from home...here again... never problems only solutions!

Our next Alliance Française Central Coast meeting will be held at the beautiful Diggers in Ettalong Beach on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> of September and I hope to see you all there.

Please, my dear friends and members, keep safe, healthy and happy...life is so beautiful and has no price so...à très bientôt, j'espère!

Nathalie Adams  
President

REVIEW OF FILM "ROXANE"

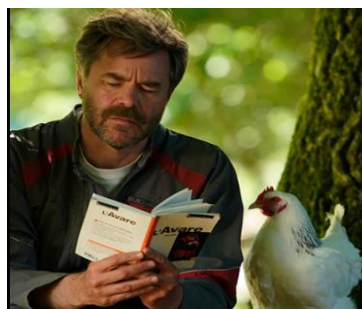


**"Roxane", le premier film de la réalisatrice Mélanie Auffret, aborde la question du désespoir paysan à travers la passion de Raymond, agriculteur incarné par Guillaume de Tonquédec, pour le théâtre.**

C'est le premier film de **Mélanie Auffret** : le sujet a le parfum de son enfance à Vannes et de ses vacances dans l'exploitation agricole de ses grands-parents. "Roxane" c'est l'histoire de Raymond (Guillaume de Tonquédec) un paysan en grande difficulté, comme beaucoup. Ironie du sort, il est marié à une employée de banque, Anne-Marie (**Léa Drucker**). Ces deux-là s'adorent.

Lorsque la coopérative agricole décide de ne plus acheter que chez un gros producteur (Michel Jonasz), les petits paysans du coin se retrouvent étranglés. Raymond décide de se battre en utilisant cette passion qu'il cache à tous depuis toujours : le théâtre. Il commence à se mettre en scène dans des vidéos où il déclame "L'Avare" ou "Cyrano de Bergerac" à ses poules. Pour l'aider, sa voisine britannique avec laquelle il était en conflit, lui donne des cours de comédie.

"Roxane" aborde avec pudeur **le désespoir paysan** (particulièrement à travers le personnage du frère d'Anne-Marie (Lionel Abelanski). C'est un film grand public, sans prétention où Guillaume de Tonquédec s'en donne à cœur joie. Mention spéciale à Kate Duchêne, parfaite dans le rôle de Wendy, l'anglaise.



A nice and elegant surprise from **Mélanie Auffret**, a young director with a great career ahead of her, undoubtedly. It's a poetic and surrealistic tale in the Côtes d'Armor, north of Brittany, with Raymond as a main protagonist. He is an organic farmer who regularly and secretly reads *Cyrano de Bergerac* (**Edmond Rostand**, 1897) to his hens. Faced with an imminent threat of bankruptcy, Raymond has to work twice as hard. With this in mind, he develops his passion for theatre via social media, so that the public gives him overwhelming support and thus gives credibility to its agricultural activity! Although sometimes patchy, this movie is built on a strong and original script, and the actors are talented, especially **Guillaume de Tonquédec**.

# THE GALLIC ROOSTER

Régine Godfrey sings the praises of the cockerel, much revered by the French

Even if Marianne is the embodiment of the French Republic, the Gallic rooster remains quintessential to the French. It is everywhere: on the mayor's badge, church roofs, weathervanes, war memorials and on the coat of arms of Versailles.

At the back of the Élysée Palace on Avenue Gabriel, a magnificent gilded cockerel adorns the monumental gate which opens onto its gardens.

It would seem that a linguistic quirk - the Latin word '*gallus*' means rooster and inhabitant of Gaul - was instrumental to the precious beastie becoming a symbol of France.

The French onomatopoeia '*cocorico*', representing the crowing of the cock, is still synonymous with national pride, but its dawn crowing is not appreciated by all. Second home owners often go to court to have the creature removed from their surroundings and lose the case.

French judges are supportive of the dear fowl fulfilling its daily routine in the countryside; rural noise is part of the landscape.

The Gallic rooster's pride was put to the test several times. Legend goes that in 52 BC Vercingetorix, leader of the Gallic tribes, sent a message of fighting spirit to Julius Caesar in the form of a live rooster. Curiously, Caesar turned the provocation into an invitation for dinner. Can you guess what was on the menu? Oh dear... Vercingetorix's cockerel, served in a sauce made with the local Auvergne wine, a delicious *coq au vin*!

The famed cockerel Chantecler, introduced in the *Roman de Renart* by Pierre de Saint-Cloud around 1174, had more luck: he duped the fox into speaking and freed himself from its jaws.

More than seven centuries later, Edmond Rostand, author of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, also paid tribute to the bird in his play *Chantecler*. Subsequently a pastry chef from Toulon created a Chanteclair gâteau, with lots of cream and topped with the silhouette of a rooster.

We owe the enduring success of Le Coq Sportif label to Emile Camuset. He designed the first tracksuit bottoms, a resounding triumph at the 1939 New York World Fair.

And from then on, the French rooster logo featured on all sports shirts across the world. *Cocorico*!

Même si Marianne est l'incarnation de la République française, le coq gaulois reste emblématique pour les Français. Il est partout: sur l'insigne du maire, les toits d'église, girouettes, monuments aux morts et sur le blason de Versailles.

À l'arrière du Palais de l'Élysée, Avenue Gabriel, un magnifique coq doré orne la grille monumentale qui s'ouvre sur ses jardins.

Il semblerait qu'une bizarrerie linguistique - le mot latin '*gallus*' signifie coq et gaulois - a contribué à ce que la précieuse bestiole devienne un symbole de la France.

L'onomatopée française '*cocorico*' pour le cri du coq est toujours synonyme de fierté nationale, mais son chant à l'aube n'est pas apprécié de tous. Des propriétaires de résidences secondaires vont souvent en justice pour que la créature soit retirée de leur environnement et perdent le procès. Les juges français

tiennent à ce que la chère volaille accomplisse sa routine quotidienne à la campagne; le bruit rural fait partie du paysage.



La fierté du coq gaulois a été mise à rude épreuve plusieurs fois. La légende raconte qu'en 52 av. JC. Vercingétorix, chef des tribus gauloises, envoie un message de combativité à Julius César sous forme de coq vivant. Curieusement César transforme la provocation en invitation à dîner. Vous devinez ce qui était au menu? Ô mon dieu... le coq de Vercingétorix, servi en sauce faite du vin de pays auvergnat, un délicieux coq au vin!

Le célèbre coq Chantecler introduit dans le *Roman de Renart* par Pierre de Saint-Cloud vers 1174, est plus chanceux: il berne le renard en le faisant parler et se libère de ses mâchoires.

Plus de sept siècles après, Edmond Rostand, auteur de *Cyrano de Bergerac*, rend également hommage à l'oiseau dans sa pièce *Chantecler*. Par la suite un pâtissier de Toulon crée un gâteau Chanteclair, beaucoup de crème et par-dessus la silhouette d'un coq.

On doit le succès durable de la marque Le Coq Sportif à Émile Camuset. Il conçoit le premier survêtement, triomphe éclatant à la Foire Mondiale de New York en 1939.

Et dès lors, le logo du coq gaulois va figurer sur tous les maillots de sport à travers le monde. *Cocorico*!

## OUT AND ABOUT ON THE CENTRAL COAST

After the long period of self-isolation people were finally able to attend the first Alliance Française meeting held at the **Ettalong Diggers club** on July 11<sup>th</sup> 2020.

There was a good attendance and members and new members were able to practise their French in various groups. The large room was very suitable for a gathering and was catered for with the COVID distancing rules and staff serving were all wearing masks. In this scenario, all members felt “safe” and comfortable and enjoyed the facilities provided.

With the improvement of the weather the **Friday conversation** group decided to have a picnic in Terrigal maintaining the COVID distancing in place. Participants brought a dish and it was wonderful to gather together for the first time after the isolation.

As the photograph indicates people were in high spirits celebrating a form of freedom!



UNE GRANDE HUMORISTE FRANÇAISE



**Muriel Robin** s'est imposée sur scène avec son humour décapant. Depuis 20 ans, elle séduit les français avec sa joie de vivre à toute épreuve.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDroprQ73uE>

(to slow down: click on settings, and adjust the Playback speed to 0.75; click on subtitles)

In this clip, **Muriel Robin** uses the following idioms to show the comic side of these sayings.

**Poser un lapin** means “to stand someone up”



**A ramasser à la petite cuillère** means to be overwhelmed, to run on empty



**Prendre le taureau par les cornes** means to “take the bull by the horns.”



**Dormir sur ses deux oreilles** means to sleep very soundly.



**Dormir à poings fermés** means to sleep like a baby with closed fists=sleep soundly.

