



On the occasion of World Refugee Day (20 June), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) works to commemorate the strength, of millions of refugees and raise awareness on their issues. Behind this humanitarian crisis, and beyond the statistics, there are individual lives and stories to be told.

It is what the Institut français aims to underline with its series of debates and screenings presented as part of Refugee Week. This programme, organised with leading British and French organisations, NGOs and associations, will also pay tribute to the commitment of the women and men – activists, students, artists or citizens – who help refugees rebuild a decent life in our societies.



**Film: Grigris**

**Sun 16 June 4.10pm**

Dir. Mahamet-Saleh Haroun

Despite a paralysed leg that could have barred most avenues, Grigris, 25 years old, dreams of being a professional dancer. But his dreams are dashed when his step father falls critically ill. **Presented in competition in Cannes in 2013** and never released in the UK, *Grigris* was directed by **Mahamet-Saleh Haroun**, the award winning director of *A Screaming Man* (Jury Prize, Cannes Film Festival 2010).



**Film + Talk: The Rest**

**Tue 18 June 6.30pm**

Dir. Ai Weiwei

**Ai Weiwei's** follow-up to *Human Flow* is a sharp and moving account of today's refugee situation. *The Rest* focuses on Europe, the world's defender of human rights, as it closed its borders to thousands of refugees from Africa, the Middle East and Afghanistan.

Followed by a discussion with **RBKC Refugees Welcome Committee**



## Debate: Migration and Emotions Thu 20 June 3pm

The issue of immigration is too often reduced to a political controversy or a litany of figures, obscuring the reality of individual lives. Philosophers **Fabienne Brugère** and **Miguel de Beistegui**, geographer **Aija Lulle**, activists **Maddy Robinson** (STAR) and **Claire Pilidjian** (MigrENS) reflect on the emotions created by migration among refugees and in host societies, to help fight generalisations and come closer to the everyday experience of displacement.



## Debate: Women Refugees Thu 20 June 6.45pm

Violence, harassment, discrimination, trafficking, marginalisation are the challenges of everyday life for many women refugees seeking asylum in Europe. What solutions exist to protect their rights? Join Gambian refugee **Debby Karem**, active campaigner for **Women for Refugee Women**, writer-director **Sophie Besse**, founder of **PSYCHEdelight**, artist **Kate Daudy**, presenting her immersive art installation about home and identity, and **Laura Padoan**, **spokesperson for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)**.



## Film: Midnight Traveler Thu 20 June 8.15pm

Dir. Hassan Fazili and Emilie Mahdavian

In 2015, a death threat from the Taliban saw Afghan director **Hassan Fazili**, his wife **Fatima Hussaini**, and their two daughters, flee from their homeland to distant Europe in search of safety. En route, during long and uncertain stays in various refugee camps, they draw strength from documenting their difficult situation on mobile phones.

### Also Showing

#### Film + Talk : A Season in France

12-25 June

Dir. Mahamat-Saleh Haroun

Mahamat-Saleh Haroun's soul-searching film focuses on the plight of undocumented asylum seekers desperately trying to find sanctuary in Europe. A refugee from the Central African Republic, **Abbas** (Eriq Ebouaney) lives in France with his two young children. Traumatized by the loss of his wife during their flight, he finds solace with **Carole** (Sandrine Bonnaire).

The preview screening on 12 June will be preceded by a masterclass with director **Mahamat-Saleh Haroun** at 6.20pm.



#### Film: Amin

21-27 June

Dir. Philippe Faucon

Premiered at the Director's Fortnight in Cannes and London Film Festival in 2018, Philippe Faucon's film follows **Amin** (Moustapha Mbengue), a Senegalese immigrant who works as a hired hand for a building company based in a Paris suburb. He sends the little money he earns to his wife and family he had to leave behind. When he encounters **Gabrielle** (Emmanuelle Devos), an intimacy develops between the two.

