

RIGHTS
LIST



2023



LEMÉAC

Every season, a few books among the tide of publications are destined to become landmarks. It certainly is the case with *Peau-de-Sang*, Audrée Wilhelmy's powerful sixth novel exploring further women's rituals inherited from a primeval inception. Readers will also delight in Yin Chen's allegorical reinterpretation of the *Ahimsa* peace principle.

Two strong YA voices emerge from the autumnal mist: Jean-François Sénéchal with his *Chris* trilogy – gathering in a single volume his award-winning previous works *Le boulevard*, *Au carrefour* and *Les avenues* –, and Marc-André Dufour-Labbé, whose *Carreauté Kid*, his first foray in YA fiction, borrows from the grunge ethos with an affectionate turn.

Drama is also an essential component of this fall season: *Racine carrée du verbe être*, Wajdi Mouawad's seven-hour stage marathon displays the playwright's very own magnificent and tragic literary architecture.

More than thirty new books will be published by Leméac along the next few months. Only a few of them are presented here. You can access the entire catalog by browsing our website or by following us on social media. It is never too late nor too soon to get hold of works originating from our geographical, private and imaginary territories, and to allow writing to remain an art of sharing and a living culture.

Pierre Filion

NEW TITLES



**GABRIEL
ALLAIRE**

FICTION

320 pages

Published March 2023

World rights available

NEW TITLE

LES GIRAFES EN FEU

[BURNING GIRAFFES]

After three unsuccessful business ventures, the renovation of their eight-room home, rockabilly, carpentry and Greek classes, and two break-ups in the same year, Daniel Fortin and Nancy Vallée are still willing to work things out and grow old together.

The opportunity to put their inventive spirit to work and inject some passion into their relationship arise when the owner of the seedy Le Chic motel suggests they revamp the image of his establishment.

With the help of their son, they form a partnership with the local zoo, which attracts renewed interest from the international artistic community since Olaf, a movie star gorilla, has moved there.

Celbrity tourists are invited to take part in exclusive banquets featuring experiences as captivating as they are disturbing – Dancing Desert, Inner Forest, Astral Herbal Tea, Cortical Salon... – offering visitors privileged access to the animals and a semblance of spirituality.

For a time, the Fortin-Vallée ambitions seem to become a reality, yet they remain unsatisfied. Daniel, obsessed with his work, suffers a series of heart attacks - which he inflicts on himself with repeated electric shocks - near-death experiences and resuscitations. Meanwhile, the revolutionary mascot group Burning Giraffes and graffiti artist Zen Lester protest against the noisy tourism that takes their city hostage...

Through irresistible humour, incredible situations and a the depiction of a highly unusual microcosm, Gabriel Allaire takes a sensitive and accurate look at long-lasting love, at work that often complicates relationships between people, and at the pitfalls of the American dream.

Born in Saint-Hyacinthe in 1990, Gabriel Allaire's first novel (Pas de géants) was published by Leméac and won the 2018 Robert-Walser Prize.



**YING
CHEN**

FICTION

96 pages

Published September 2023

World rights available

NEW TITLE

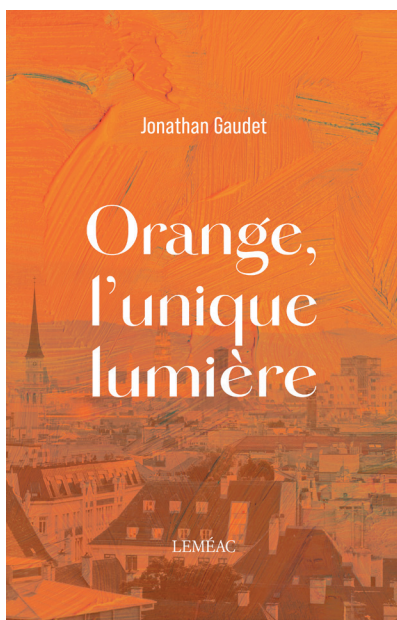
AHIMSA

On the banks of an eternal river, three ghosts from another time meet. Now embodied as a rat, a fly, and a snake, all unloved animals, they feel they are better off than when they lived in human form. But, as they're still haunted by their former life, they set about telling their side of the story, expressing their shame, remorse and bitter feelings. Above all, they recount their memories of a ubiquitous common master, towards whom they now feel complex emotions and whose teaching they question. With their past actions not fully accomplished, they return, hoping to bring their destiny full circle with an ultimate act. Yet, what they've been through in the past was so tragic that, in their opinion, three hundred years would not suffice to rehabilitate them.

The political, moral and environmental issues raised by this novel are vaguely reminiscent of the partition of India and its spiritual leader, Mahatma Gandhi, but the free narrative style makes it seem more like a timeless drama repeated over and over again.

A master in the art of creating a dialogue between the living and the dead, Ying Chen shows once again that the borders between the two realms are rather bridges between two dimensions of the same terrible reality.

Born in 1961, a graduate of Fudan University (Shanghai) and McGill University, Ying Chen has published a dozen novels – including L'ingratitude, which was a finalist for the Prix Femina and won the Prix Québec-Paris and the Grand Prix des lectrices of Elle Québec – as well as two essays, including La lenteur des montagnes (2014). Her previous novel, Rayonnements (2020), evoked the destiny of Pierre and Marie Curie's family.



**JONATHAN
GAUDET**

FICTION

288 pages

Published May 2023

World rights available

NEW TITLE

ORANGE, L'UNIQUE LUMIÈRE

[ORANGE, THE ONLY LIGHT]

Recently settled in Vienna, the narrator discovers Egon Schiele's Portrait of Wally Neuzil, painted in 1912, during a visit to the museum. He is instantly captivated by the model, a young woman with fiery red hair and piercing blue eyes.

Who was this modest Austrian woman, who became Egon Schiele's muse and lover in early twentieth-century Vienna? How did the painting, after being stolen by the Nazis from its owner, art dealer Lea Bondi, find itself almost a hundred years later at the heart of a litigation that dragged on for over a decade in the United States?

Over the course of weeks, then months, the narrator recounts Wally's singular journey along with that of her famous portrait, telling in a very personal way the intersecting stories concealed in the clear gaze of the woman in the painting.

Born in 1977, Jonathan Gaudet is a writer and musician. Leméac published his novel La ballade de Robert Johnson in 2020.



**SARA
LAZZARONI**

FICTION

128 pages

Published March 2023

World rights available

NEW TITLE

FEMME DE VITRUE

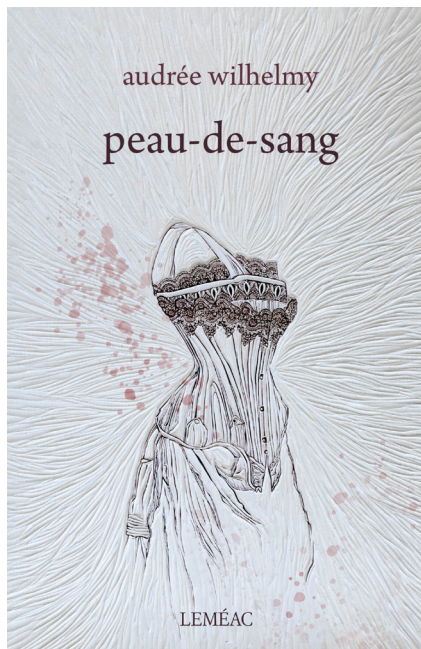
[VITRUVIAN WOMAN]

In the 21st century, screens and magazines are no longer enough to advertisers. Customers demand authenticity. Real life. Flesh and blood.

Simone and Nora work for an agency specializing in product launches. They secretly promote their products by spending time in public places where they are likely to be seen by as many people as possible wearing or using them. The purpose is to create envy, so that people seek to purchase these consumer goods. These new-style geishas don't know each other, but they meet at the doors of an elevator, where their fate is at stake.

Sara Lazzaroni's vivid, precise and sober style goes beyond the appearances, beyond what hides behind solitude when cameras are off and lights have gone out.

Sara Lazzaroni is the author of Patchouli (2014), Veiller la braise (2015), Okanagan (2016), and Plus grande que les maisons (2020). Femme de Vitruve is her fifth novel published by Leméac.



**AUDRÉE
WILHELMY**

FICTION

200 pages

Published September 2023

World rights available

NEW TITLE

PEAU-DE-SANG

The village feather shop is the place where desires of all ages and fortunes converge. There, swirling among white geese and blood, lives the featherworker, a wild she-devil, free in body and soul. Her brazen skin ignites beastly urges, thwarting the spells that plague the hunting and mating seasons in the realm of Kangoq. Healing the living with her magic hands, she absorbs the prohibitions they dare not transgress. While the mayor, the doctor, the notary, the tinsmith, the letter carrier and above all Sulfureur pay her in cash or furs for their pleasure, women discover the way to be in tune with their sex.

Rituals are observed, traditions passed on, and pleasure is always exhilarating. Audrée Wilhelmy's new novel celebrates generations of charmeresses disguised in the fine lace of irrepressible, age-old urges. *Peau-de-Sang* knows the world and all its secrets, and pulls at the thread of lives as she unravels the language of bodies.

There are several tales in this novel and as many novels in this tale. Where does intuition end, and where does dream begin?

Peau-de-Sang is an ode to the irrepressible vehemence of femininity.

*Audrée Wilhelmy was born in Cap-Rouge in 1985. Her work, also published in France, won her the Prix Sade 2015 and the Prix Ouest-France Étonnants Voyageurs 2022, and she was a finalist for numerous awards: Prix littéraire des collégiens, Grand Prix du livre de Montréal, Prix des libraires du Québec, Governor General's Literary Awards, Prix France-Québec. Simultaneously with the publication of *Peau-de-Sang*, a paperback reprint of the author's previous title, *Blanc Résine*, will also be released.*



**LINDA
AMYOT**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

104 pages

Published February 2023

World rights available

NEW TITLE

LE VOYAGE À L'ENVERS

[A JOURNEY IN REVERSE]

Sixteen-year-old Laura divides her time between school, her boyfriend Adrien and her part-time job. Underneath this quiet day to day life, stifled anger is brewing: after five years, the teenager is still angry at her father who could have easily avoided an accident, had he not been so careless to play tennis on a suffocatingly hot day and dying of a heart attack on the court.

When her mother suggests that they should go together on the trip her husband and her were about to make, Laura is reluctant. Although she was born in Vietnam, she has no interest in that country and doesn't understand why her family and friends are urging her to go there to "reconnect with her origins". Yet, in order not to disappoint her mother, she agrees to accompany her. While her mother revisits places full of memories, the young woman struggles to overcome the culture shock, and is torn by conflicting emotions. After a visit to the orphanage where she was sent as a baby, the tensions within her rise, and the barrier she had built for herself finally breaks down.

In this touching and very personal novel, Linda Amyot tackles the difficult question of origins. What determines where one comes from? How and why can we build a link with the country we were born in, without ever having lived there, and where everything is foreign to us?

A screenwriter, editor and novelist Linda Amyot won the Prix jeunesse des libraires du Québec and the TD Children's and Youth Literature Award with La fille d'en face. Her second young adult novel, Le jardin d'Amsterdam, won the Governor General's Literary Award and the Prix du livre jeunesse des Bibliothèques de Montréal. She is the director of youth programming for the Blue Metropolis Festival.



**CHRISTINE
BERTRAND**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

136 pages

Published February 2023

World rights available

NEW TITLE

LES RICOCHETS

[Skimming Stones]

Fifteen-year-old Jacob's world shatters when he has to follow his mother who is moving to the country with her new partner. His friends, his girlfriend, his life are in Montreal, and for him, everything falls apart. Even though he is happy for his mother and considers Julien a decent guy, he has no interest living at the back of beyond.

Rebellious, Jacob refuses to settle down for good and spends his time ranting and brooding in the den he's set up near a creek in the village, all the more distraught as, surprisingly, his friends and his girlfriend Tamara only answer his messages once in a while... While the local teens try to get acquainted with him, he devises a plan: to sneak back to Montreal before the two-week deadline imposed by his mother. But his enthusiasm is quickly dampened when, once back in town, he learns why Tamara and her friends have become so distant.

The bitter betrayal felt by Jacob is however progressively soothed by the presence of Henri, a mountain-bike enthusiast, by the high spirits of Emma, an ace at skimming stones, by the generosity of Florette, Emma's grandmother, and by the kindness of amateur mechanics Fred, Étienne and Émile. New bonds are formed, prejudices fall, and Jacob eventually discovers that what seemed like hell to him may not be so bad after all.

Christine Bertrand's Les ricochets is a feelgood novel that eschews all the clichés about country life. The author of La balade de Jo et Alicia (Leméac, 2020) focuses instead on the disarray felt by teenagers uprooted from their world following a move, and she portrays young people living in the country in a rarely seen way in YA fiction.



**MARC-ANDRÉ
DUFOUR-LABBÉ**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

128 pages

Published August 2023

World rights available

NEW TITLE

CARREAUTÉ KID

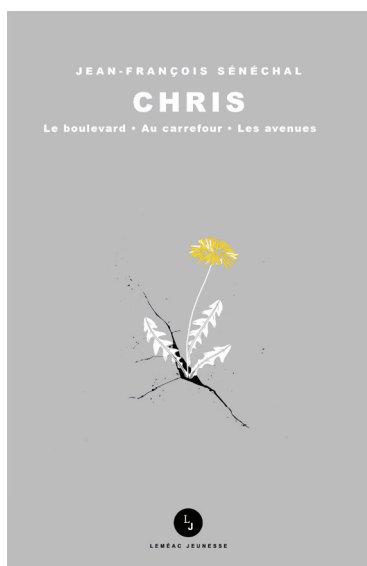
[Five Strings Attached]

I'm sick and tired of all those grunge love songs, I really am. They all end up with the singer wailing about how impossible his love is. That's all right, I guess that's the ethos. At a pinch, to be successful at anything in 1998 was seen as dubious. But we're twenty years into the 21st century now, and everything's possible.

Carreauté Kid, a.k.a. Caro, doesn't fit in with his fellow students at his high school: raised by a single-parent father with a mild drinking problem, he's a fan of grunge music, whose spirit he embodies even in his clothing style. A loner and introvert, he's secretly in love with Adele, a beautiful, radiant and levelheaded redhead - except that Adele, despite the obvious chemistry between them, is in a relationship with Aymeric, the popular captain of the school hockey team. Caro shyly opens through the song covers he dedicates to her on his YouTube channel, until the day he decides to confess his feelings in a letter. The situation becomes more complicated when Aymeric gets hold of the letter and makes fun of it on TikTok with his teammates...

In a novel that plays with both nostalgia and issues of our time, Marc-André Dufour-Labbé portrays a young man caught up in the turmoil of a seemingly impossible love, through which he learns about the complexity of feelings and discovers that the solution may lie outside monogamy...

Marc-André Dufour-Labbé was born in Drummondville in 1983. He works for the Centre de ressources pour hommes Drummond. Carreauté Kid is his first YA novel.



**JEAN-FRANÇOIS
SÉNÉCHAL**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

632 pages

Published August 2023

Rights sold:

Italian

Greek (Le boulevard)

NEW TITLE

CHRIS

When he wakes up on the morning of his eighteenth birthday, Chris is alone in the modest apartment where he lives with his mother. When night falls and she doesn't come home, the young man realizes that she has simply abandoned him. Thus begins *Le boulevard*, introducing Chris, an individual with intellectual disability. Overnight, he has to learn to live independently in a difficult environment where, thanks to his endearing candor, he manages to find solidarity and support that help him face the challenges of everyday life, as well as the more extraordinary tribulations.

Gathering in a single volume *Le boulevard*, *Au carrefour*, and *Les avenues*, Sénéchal's three books about what it is to be different and yet living a full life, *Chris* offers readers a philosophical look on life, on the strength and fragility of feelings, on love and parental responsibilities, and on loyalty, friendship, freedom and courage. Rarely has such a perspective been approached so subtly and convincingly in Quebec literature, far removed from caricature and cliché.

Trained in anthropology, Jean-François Sénéchal now dedicates his time to writing. In 2018, his YA novel Le boulevard appeared on the List of Honour of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). His next book, Au carrefour, won the 2019 Prix jeunesse des libraires du Québec in the 12 to 17 year-old category. In 2017, he received the Joseph S. Stauffer Award from the Canada Council for the Arts, a prize aimed at encouraging outstanding promising young Canadians.



**GABRIELLE
CHAPDELAINE**

THEATRE

112 pages

Published January 2022

World rights available

NEW TITLE

LE FAISEUR

(A HONORÉ DE BALZAC PLAY REVISITED)

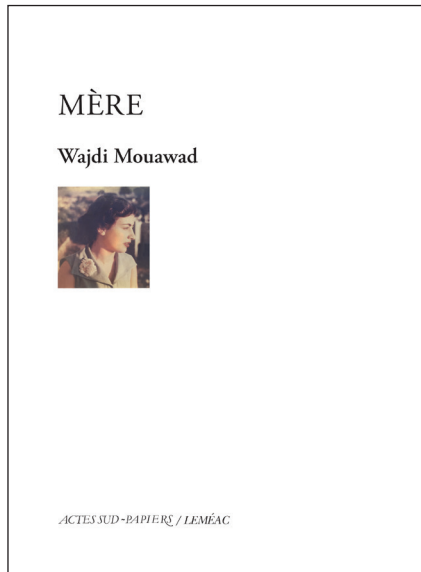
[DEBT IS WHERE THE HEART IS]

Mercadet, ruined, has invented a wealthy partner to placate his creditors, and plans to marry off his daughter to a young man he believes to be wealthy, but who is even deeper in debt than he is. Such is the starting point of Balzac's comedy of manners that unfolds a series of misunderstandings and comical situations, ridiculing usurers and other debtors.

This fast-paced adaptation transports the plot to present-day Quebec, to a world of investors who create needs people never knew they had. Here, Balzac's neglected characters (wives, servants) stand out, and the interweaving of their pushy motivations constitutes a dazzling ballet of fabulations. In the eye of the storm, of course, is capitalism, the kind that makes us speculate on appearances. A precise portrait of a genius crook, a social study in which the dominant and the less fortunate stake their lives, the play is a hilarious and speedy settling of the very bedrock of our civilization.

Balzac's play *Mercadet ou Le faiseur* was written in 1840. Gabrielle Chapdelaine's renewed version premiered at Théâtre Denise-Pelletier in January 2023, directed by Alice Ronfard.

Playwright, screenwriter, translator, a 2017 graduate of the Playwriting program at the National Theatre School of Canada, Gabrielle Chapdelaine has participated in several theatrical projects in Quebec, Martinique, France and Germany. Her play Une journée, published by Leméac, won the Prix Gratien-Gélinas in 2018, and is now being translated into English and German; it premiered in the U.S. in 2020, then in Carleton-sur-Mer and at Théâtre de Quat'Sous in 2022.



**WAJDI
MOUAWAD**

THEATRE

64 pages
Published August 2023
Rights sold:
France (Actes Sud)

NEW TITLE

MÈRE

[MOTHER]

In *Seuls*, the son of a Lebanese family is faced with the news that his father is in a coma, and the symbolic significance of Rembrandt's painting *The Return of the Prodigal Son*.

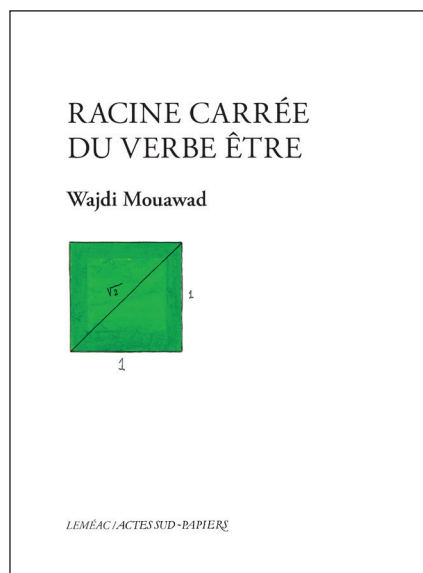
In *Sœurs*, the second part of Wajdi Mouawad's "Domestique" cycle, a woman expresses the suffering caused by her family's exile and the difficulty of making a dual culture coexist within her.

In *Mère*, the third part of the cycle, a Lebanese mother escapes the civil war that tears her country apart, and settles in Paris with her three children. Due to his professional commitments, her husband doesn't know if he'll be able to join them. Thus begins an absurd parenthesis for the family, consumed by the fear of the irreparable damage of war, and the desperate wait a father whose absence prevents them from resuming a normal life.

The reader lives with her through five years of torment, impatience and bitterness, with the double impossibility of settling down and returning to the homeland, but also with furious bursts of voice, imagination, humour and wonderful moments, as the children put down roots, as best they can and against their mother's wishes, who would like to remain in that state of expectation.

This volume reprise the text of the play initially published in an illustrated version in the fall of 2022.

Actor, stage director, and director of the Théâtre national de la Colline in Paris, Wajdi Mouawad is also the author of the epic quartet Le Sang des promesses (Littoral, Incendies, Forêts, Ciels) and the novel Anima. Translated into several languages, his work has received many international awards.



**WAJDI
MOUAWAD**

THEATRE

184 pages
Published August 2023
Rights sold:
France (Actes Sud)

NEW TITLE

RACINE CARRÉE DU VERBE ÊTRE

[FIVE TRAJECTORIES OF DESTINY]

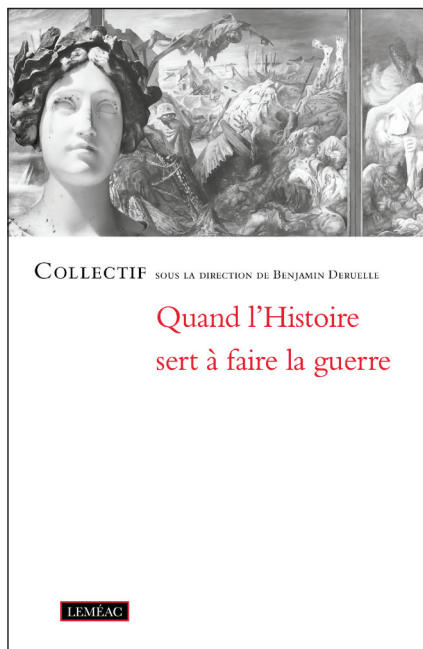
«Why is living not sufficient for us to attain happiness?»

From that starting point, Wajdi Mouawad's sumptuous, tragic, geopoetic and hard-hitting theatrical mathematics takes us on a whirling ride of possible lives for Talyani Waqar Malik: an Italian neurosurgeon, a Parisian cab driver, a Quebec painter, a Texan death row inmate, a Lebanese shopkeeper. Five destinies in as many different places, all closely interwoven in a single hallucinatory space-time. Each of these incarnations sees their fate disrupted and accelerated in the week following the explosion in the port of Beirut on August 4, 2020, forty-two years after four of them fled the civil war in 1978.

This uchronia brings to the stage the now unforgettable characters of the Domestic Cycle - father, mother, brother, sister, and the imagined descendants of Talyani, Wajdi Mouawad's alter ego - as well as the major themes of the playwright's literary universe, namely war and exile, rape and incest, filiation and unexpected identities, crime and the right to forgiveness. Current issues are also tackled here, such as ecology, cancel culture, physician-assisted dying, and the inexhaustible question of love.

Between point A and point B, youth and old age, science and conscience, between those we love and those we might have loved, the revelations of quantum mechanics shatter the causal link: If I'm here, it's because I'm there... What nearly happened influences what happens, the uncertain influences the certain...

Actor, stage director and director of La Colline national theatre in Paris, Wajdi Mouawad is the author of the epic quartet Le Sang des promesses (Littoral, Incendies, Forêts, Ciels) and the novel Anima (2012). Published by Leméac/Actes Sud and translated into several languages, his work has won numerous international awards.



**EDITED BY
BENJAMIN DERUELLE**

**NON-FICTION
HISTORY**

264 pages

Published April 2023

Rights sold:

French (Presses universitaires
du Septentrion)

NEW TITLE

QUAND L'HISTOIRE SERT À FAIRE LA GUERRE

[USING HISTORY TO WAGE WAR]

Starting with the war in Ukraine and going back to Antiquity, this collective work, through a dozen chapters takes readers on a journey from Asia to South America via Europe, and shows how history has been used to wage war. The backdrop is a reflection on the uses of history, and on the construction of historical discourse and the “national story”.

With texts by Éric Aunoble (Université de Genève), Deborah Barton (Université de Montréal), Carl Bouchard (Université de Montréal), Simon Cahanier (Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3), Laurent Colantonio (Université du Québec à Montréal), Benjamin Deruelle (Université du Québec à Montréal), Geneviève Dorais (Université du Québec à Montréal), Patrick Dramé (Université de Sherbrooke), Bernard Gainot (Université Paris 1 Panthéon - Sorbonne), Jean-Philippe Garneau (Université du Québec à Montréal), Christopher Goscha (Université du Québec à Montréal), Sophie Hulot (Université Bordeaux Montaigne) and Hélène Sirantoine (The University of Sydney).

BACKLIST



**JEAN-FRANÇOIS
CARON**

FICTION

104 pages

Published August 2022

World rights available

BACKLIST

BEAU DIABLE

[Handsome Devil]

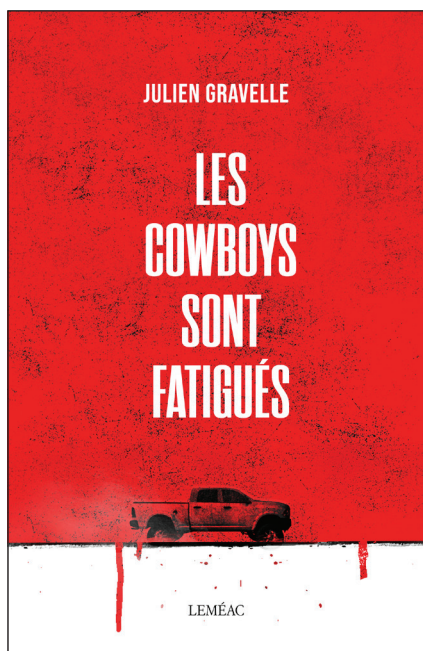
*In my fist, the pebble of sorrow, one, two, three, I blow,
sadness is on the way, to my tale I return.*

Withdrawn in the hinterland, François undertakes to trap his solitude in the tales he invents to patch up his shattered life. A shrewd storyteller, he hopes to put behind him the trials he went through - first and foremost, his daughter leaving - and to get closer to Mado, the landlady whose freckled skin and immense heart could fend off the remaining fears that lurk around him. Beau Diable, a seven-headed beast, will see to it in a terrifying way...

This magnificent story told by a man at the end of his tether, is both a exhilarating work on language and a brilliant piece of writing that fluctuates between truth and delight. François is surrounded by fabulous creatures – ancient coureurs des bois, a singular taxidermist, a long-distance truck driver – who walk with him along the most precious of paths, the one that brings him back to the world.

This novel is a trap that begins with a voice, in the dark...

A poet and a novelist, Jean-François Caron is the author of five books, including De bois debout, finalist in 2018 for the Prix littéraire des collégiens, the Prix des libraires du Québec and the Prix littéraire France-Québec.



**JULIEN
GRAVELLE**

FICTION

192 pages

Published March 2021

Rights sold: French outside
Canada (Éditions du Seuil)

All other rights available

BACKLIST

LES COWBOYS SONT FATIGUÉS

[No More Heroes]

Standing in front of the kitchen window, I peered outside at the old abandoned rusty machinery in the yard. [...] The carcasses stood motionless, hemmed in by dry grass and bleached by autumn, like sun-dried insect moults. Looking at them in the midday light, I thought that maybe I, too, was an endangered species.

At the end of an abandoned logging road, somewhere between the Mistassini and Ouasiemsca rivers – as close to nowhere as you can get – Rozie lives alone with his dogs. The place suits him very well, and so does the solitude. Yet he's far less enthralled by his work that consists in manufacturing amphetamines in his clandestine laboratory for a gang of drug dealers. He would like to move on. But his past catches up with him, and he's about to lose everything.

After his debut short story collection *Debout sur la carlingue*, Julien Gravelle tackles enthusiastically the detective story with the same colourful language, set in the same magnificent and sometimes overwhelming nature, but this time driven by a breathless plot and a wry sense of humour.

Les cowboys sont fatigués is Julien Gravelle's second book to be published by Leméac, after *Debout sur la carlingue*. He is also the author of *Musher* and *Nitassinan*, published in France by Éditions Wildproject.



**GILLES
JOBIDON**

FICTION

144 pages

Published in 2005

Paperback edition in 2020

World rights available

BACKLIST

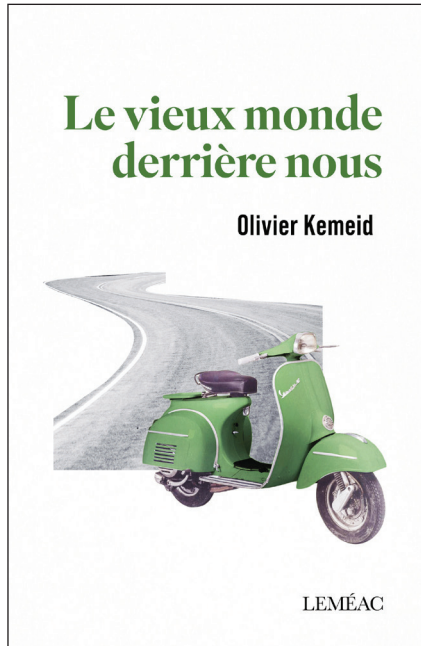
L'ÂME FRÈRE

[Soul Brother]

In the spring of 1691, in New France, lovers Jean Fillio, known as Dubois, and Nicolas d'Aucy, known as Saint-Michel are caught in flagrante delicto of "buggery" - an unnatural crime. Fillio is banished from the colony and deported to the southern islands. Blanche d'Aucy, his lover's daughter, comes to join him after her father's suicide and has a love affair with him, the events of which are both touching and surprising for that time in history. *L'âme frère* tells sensibly of love, with the unusual colourful accents of the French language of the time and delicious neologisms.

"Close to poetry in its brevity, lyricism, and inventive language, Jobidon's novel sheds light on an aspect of history neglected until today."

– *Éric Paquin, Voir*



**OLIVIER
KEMEID**

FICTION

144 pages

September 2021

Published March 2022

BACKLIST

LE VIEUX MONDE

DERRIÈRE NOUS

[THE OLD WORLD LEFT BEHIND]

As the first stirrings of May 68 begin in Paris, Gil Kemeid arrives from Montreal. A recent scholarship student destined to study architecture, but above all the lover of a young woman whom he unexpectedly leaves, the Egyptian-Quebecer is driven by his dream of travelling through Europe on a symbolic odyssey that would allow him to reconnect with his Levantine origins. Delayed by the whirlwind of demonstrations that shake the city, he finally arrives in Marseille, where he purchases a used Vespa on which he sets on travelling the roads of France, then Spain, Italy, Yugoslavia, Kosovo, Turkey, Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Bavaria. Along the many punctures and encounters, under good skies and bad rain, he pushes his Rosinante to the limit, while living his dream, without quite realizing it, because the return to Montreal looms ahead, though he promises himself to come back.

Throughout his journey, he writes postcards to his distant lover and confidante, who keeps them all. And it's those cards that decades later allow their son Olivier Kemeid, to re-embark unwillingly on the same crazy journey, riding the 1965 green scooter, stuck to the back of his yet-to-be father. This ride, initially so personal, takes the author's pen to new heights and takes him behind the scenes of History, which his father only glimpsed during his unbridled ride.

A reading delight, this book combines two aspects of a same story: the original initiatory journey, and the filial journey, where the family mythologies - from grandfather to father to son - merge, and transcend.

*A renowned playwright and stage director, author of **Moi, dans les ruines rouges du siècle**, **Five Kings** and **L'Énéide**, Olivier Kemeid is the director of the **Théâtre de Quat'Sous** in Montreal.*



**MARIE-HÉLÈNE
LAROCHELLE**

FICTION

168 pages

Published February 2021

Rights sold:
English (House of Anansi)

BACKLIST

JE SUIS LE COURANT LA VASE

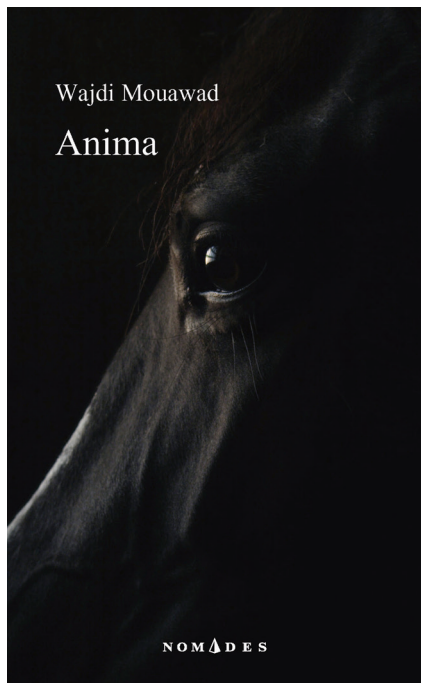
[Kiss the Undertow]

He didn't call me in this week. He has to focus on another swimmer. We don't talk about this aspect of training, but I know what's on his mind. I noticed evidence in the room, endless details. A tampon in the bathroom's wastebasket. A long hair on the carpet.

Athletic Center, Toronto. Under her coach's watchful eye, a swimmer struggles against the liquid element to improve her time and earn a spot in national competitions. The training sometimes continues outside the athletic center, in his apartment, where she must submit to rituals designed to free her from her resistance.

Marie-Hélène Larochelle's novel recounts this relationship of power and desire. It tells of what one must sometimes embrace to reach the highest levels of athletic performance. *Je suis le courant la vase* echoes the recent revelations that shook the sport world, and despite all the chlorine and salt that suffuse the text, the experience leaves a feeling of being dirty and bruised.

Marie-Hélène Larochelle has published several scholarly works on monstrosity, violence and invective in contemporary literature. A former top-level swimmer herself, in this first novel she weaves the sensations and feelings brought on by any sporting feat.



**WAJDI
MOUAWAD**

FICTION

Paperback edition: 504 pages
 Published September 2012
 Paperback edition 2016
 Rights sold: German (DTV),
 English (World – Talon Books),
 French (France – Actes Sud),
 Italian (Fazi), Spanish (Seix Barral),
 Catalan (Periscopi), Greek (Eksodseis),
 Japanese (Kawade Shobo Shinsha).

BACKLIST

ANIMA

Anima opens with a sordid murder: Wahnch Debch returns home and discovers his murdered wife, a knife stuck in the sex and the child she was carrying. A real manhunt begins, a furious inner odyssey that will take him from Montreal across North America to the south, leading him into a real hell: how far can a man go down the well of his pain, and what encounters can he face on his own without losing his mind?

The murderer's name is Nelson Wolf Rooney. He is an American Mohawk hiding in the Kanawake reserve, a dangerous criminal involved in all kinds of schemes. As the Sûreté du Québec's investigation progresses, the fragments of a memory long buried in the depths of his childhood are awakened in Wahnch, as far as the Sabra and Chatila camps, places of darkness and atrocities, even underground, at the heart of human curses.

Wajdi Mouawad has the sure instinct of the writer who dives into his own abysses. Through its sheer literary scope, Anima pushes the boundaries of literature, because this Minotaur of a novel is a beast, both real and fabulous, that wants to devour the Unforgettable.

Born in Lebanon in 1968, Wajdi Mouawad has first lived in Paris, then Montreal, and is now back in Paris where since 2016 he manages the Théâtre national de la Colline. He is notably the author of Le Sang des promesses, an epic theatre quartet whose second part, Incendies, has been brought to the screen by Denis Villeneuve. His second novel after Visage retrouvé (Leméac / Actes Sud, 2002), Anima, has won the prix Phénix de littérature, the Grand Prix Thyde-Monnier of the Société des gens de lettres, the prix de la Méditerranée, the Prize for the second novel of Lecture en tête, the Jury Prize of the Algue d'or and the Catalan Llibreter Prize for foreign novels.



BACKLIST

INVENTEURS DE VIES

[The Inventors of Life]

On the Andalusian coast, a woman shrouded in sadness meets a Bulgarian writer conducting some research. He writes, or maybe invents, biographies of characters who did not go down in history, people whose role in the way of the world has always been secondary.

She gradually reveals herself to this stranger - or does she lie? - and demands that he writes a very special biography, in order to imagine a life interrupted too soon.

But can one really write to order?

In sumptuous prose, Hélène Rioux tells of a terrible tragedy that we believe only happens to others: the disappearance and sordid murder of a child at the hands of a sadistic killer.

**HÉLÈNE
RIOUX**

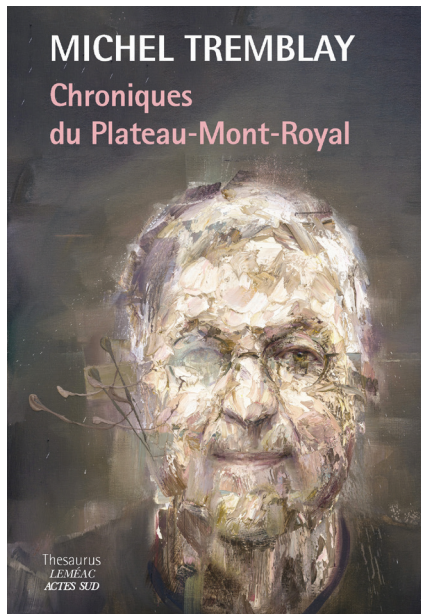
FICTION

120 pages

Published October 2022

World rights available

Born in Montreal, Hélène Rioux has published novels, short stories and poetry. A six-time finalist for the Governor General's Literary Awards, she has received the Grand Prix littéraire du Journal de Montréal, the Prix Ringuet from the Académie des lettres du Québec, the Prix de la Société des écrivains canadiens and the Prix France-Québec.



**MICHEL
TREMBLAY**

FICTION

1104 pages

New edition of the thesaurus in 2019
(first publication: 2000)

Rights sold: France (Actes Sud)
English Canada (Talonbooks)

BACKLIST

CHRONIQUES DU PLATEAU-MONT-ROYAL

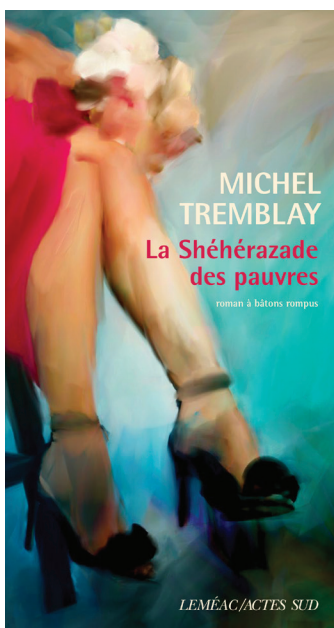
Following the adjustments made by the author to *La diaspora des Desrosiers* cycle when its nine volumes were collected in a single tome, a thorough review of the *Chroniques du Plateau-Mont-Royal* cycle was necessary. Published between 1978 and 1997, the six volumes of the *Chroniques* tell the stories of a family between 1942 and 1963.

Going back in time, *La diaspora*, written between 2007 and 2015, tells the story of a family in the making, between 1913 and 1941.

With the childhood, the past, the adventures and secrets revealed, the attributes of some characters had to be rectified, the chronology of some events needed to be adjusted, lifelines to be straightened. Thanks to these changes, the author now offers a completely new and coherent edition of his seminal work, bridging fiction and reality.

Includes: *La Grosse Femme d'à côté est enceinte*, *Thérèse et Pierrette à l'école des Saints-Anges*, *La duchesse et le roturier*, *Des nouvelles d'Édouard*, *Le premier quartier de la lune* and *Un objet de beauté*.

A prolific author and playwright whose plays are performed all over the world, Michel Tremblay is one of the most important writers of his generation. The Belles-Sœurs cycle, the Chroniques du Plateau-Mont-Royal and La diaspora des Desrosiers belong to the corpus of major works in current French-language literature.



**MICHEL
TREMBLAY**

FICTION

160 pages

Published October 2022

Rights sold:

French except Canada (Actes Sud)

Other rights available

BACKLIST

LA SHÉHÉRAZADE DES PAUVRES

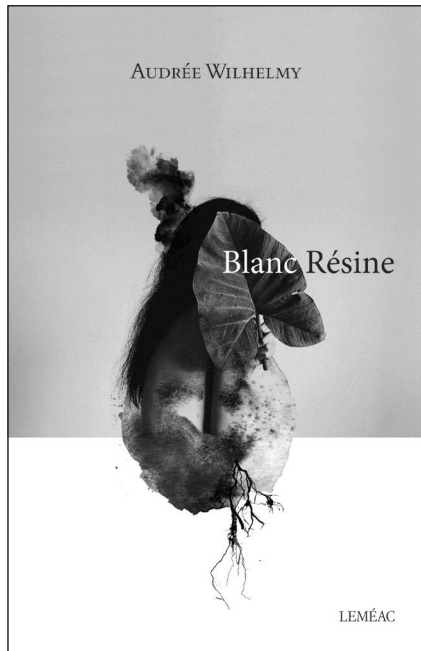
[The Poorman's Scheherazade]

After his moment of glory in the play of the same name, Hosanna, a favourite character of Michel Tremblay, remained in the shadow of a distressing humiliation. Ridiculed at school, puny, nicknamed “Banana Split”, he earned his living as a ladies’ hairdresser on the Plaza St-Hubert, where he still plies his trade, fifty years later, in times of pandemic. Since the Duchess was killed forty-five years ago, Hosanna has been holed up in his squalid apartment, reminiscing over his queen rags and indulging in liberal daily gin intake.

This open-ended novel brings the seventy-nine year old former transvestite back to the stage, as he is visited by a young journalist from *Fugues* magazine.

Yannick, about to conduct his first ever interview, is in fact interested in the 70s set, and encounters Hosanna to get to know “the era” better. But the one-hour interview he thought he was having with Claude Lemieux turns into a week-long exchange, during which his interest in Hosanna develops much more than his curiosity about the period the latter represents. A colourful, loud-mouthed chronic alcoholic, Hosanna introduces him to the milieu, to what was happening behind the scenes, to the internal wars, to the homophobic violence of the time, and reveals to the young man secrets known only to him: the life of misery of the “queens”, the “trannies”, and the lovers – his very own in particular, Cuirette, nearing the end of his life. Through a clever subterfuge, some of the stories told by Hosanna to the journalist, and also some of the confidences made by the journalist to Hosanna, are put into prose besides the disheveled dialogue both have.

As 2023 will mark the 50th anniversary of the play, the novelist brings out Hosanna in all her raw splendour – the “Scheherazade of the poor”, overwhelmed by loneliness and pathetic self-mockery.



**AUDRÉE
WILHELMY**

FICTION

352 pages

Published September 2019

Rights sold:

Grasset (French except Canada)

House of Anansi (World English)

Verlagshaus Römerweg (German)

BACKLIST

BLANC RÉSINE

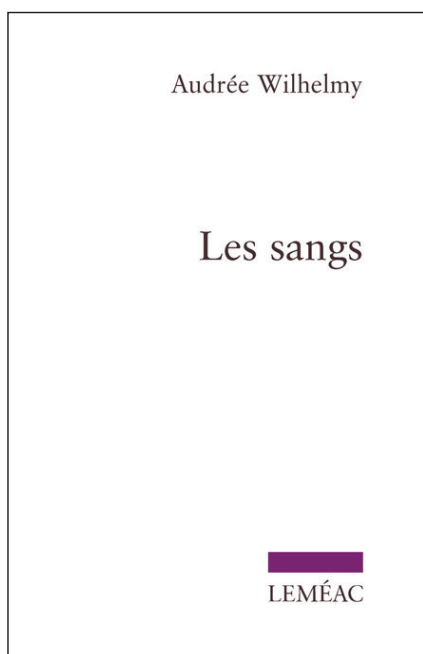
[White Resin]

I'm fourteen years old. I like girls who eat the skin like good fruits and curl up in the clay when seized by rapture, printing their serpentine shape into the soft soil. I like boys undulating with flowing pleasure, hesitating on which curves to hold on to from the breasts or buttocks or thighs or cheeks, as their hands are so small and their hunger so great.

In a convent built by women's hands on the edge of the boreal forest, twenty-four sisters give birth to a little girl who will grow up learning the language and laws of Ina Maka, Mother Earth. A little further away, a worker at the Kohle Co. mine dies in childbirth, leaving an albino baby to her father, who'll work himself to death so the young one can one day become a doctor.

The novel recounts the encounter, mating and destiny of these two dissimilar beings, Daã and Laure, and that of their offspring. It carries the smells of the taiga and the sounds of the city; stories of women fleeing, debacle and children left behind. It goes back to the origins of a lineage from which Noé of Oss and *The Body of the Beasts* will come out.

Audrée Wilhelmy was born in Cap-Rouge in 1985. She devotes her time to writing and teaches creative writing. Blanc Résine is her fourth novel. Her most recent story, Plie la rivière (September 2021), takes us back to the raw world of Oss, her first book (2012) – where the uniqueness of her literary universe was revealed.



**AUDRÉE
WILHELMY**

FICTION

160 pages

Published August 2013

Rights sold: French (Grasset)

Spanish, Italian, Galician

Film rights in Spanish

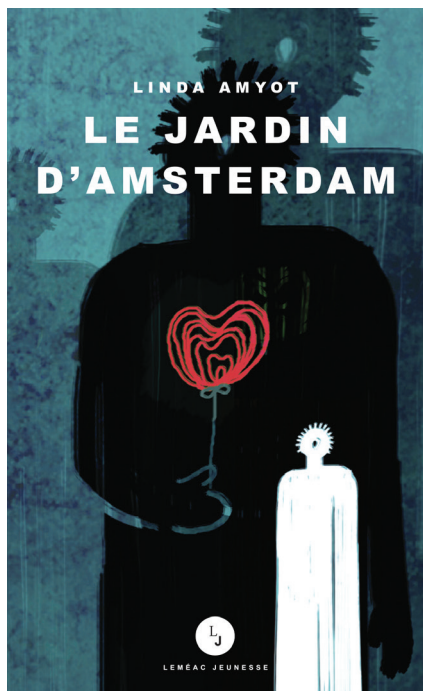
BACKLIST

LES SANGS

[Bloods]

Féléor Barthélémy Rü hasn't only inherited a large fortune from his Master Huntsman uncle; he was also bequeathed with the urge to kill and a taste for raw flesh, indulging in those pleasures with women he encounters, some of whom become his wives and his victims.

Mercredi, Constance, Abigaëlle, Frida, Phélie, Lottä, and Marie: seven women, seven experiences in desire, violence, and death; seven voices that reveal unspeakable fantasies and tell of femininity, self-hatred, narcissism, and submission. Although the premise of *Les sangs* (*Bloods*) may be reminiscent of a famous folk tale, there's no secret room here, whose entry the beloved wives of a new kind of Blue Beard would be denied on pain of death. In this polyphonic novel where power is the law, the torturers are not what they seem, and the victims are not as angelic and innocent as they appear.



**LINDA
AMYOT**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

88 pages

Published September 2013

World rights available

BACKLIST

LE JARDIN D'AMSTERDAM

[A Garden in Amsterdam]

Le jardin d'Amsterdam deftly follows two parallel stories: that of an old woman, Adèle, who would have liked so much to live out her passion with the young soldier she fell in love with during the Second World War, and that of Élaïne, who, like all teenagers of her time, complicates her own love affairs. Poignantly written, this novel is also the story of an improbable and saving complicity, of a bridge stretched between generations...

A screenwriter, editor and novelist Linda Amyot won the Prix jeunesse des libraires du Québec and the TD Children's and Youth Literature Award with La fille d'en face. Her second young adult novel, Le jardin d'Amsterdam, won the Governor General's Literary Award and the Prix du livre jeunesse des Bibliothèques de Montréal. She is the director of youth programming for the Blue Metropolis Festival.



**JONATHAN
BÉCOTTE**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

160 pages

Published August 2022

World rights available

BACKLIST

LA CHAMBRE ÉTEINTE

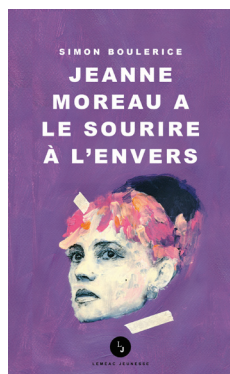
[Echoes of a Distant Room]

*I dust folders that are sorted by colour, size, and significance.
My father says, "You can't possibly keep all of it."
That truth hits me like a ton of bricks.*

On an autumn morning, the narrator gets a call from his father, who wants to turn his old childhood bedroom into a workshop. So the young man makes the drive to his hometown, where the daunting task awaits of choosing what, among the memories accumulated in the boxes, is worth saving. As he retrieves time-worn familiar objects, vivid memories of moments shared with a boy long since gone resurface.

Composed like an evocative long poem, this short book sensibly explores the feelings that remain attached to childhood, and the inner light they can still hold, despite the passage of time.

Jonathan Bécotte was born in 1987. La chambre éteinte is his third novel published by Leméac, after Maman veut partir, for which he won the 2019 Alvine-Bélisle Award, and Souffler dans la cassette, for which he received the 2017 Cécile-Gagnon Award.



**SIMON
BOULERICE**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

184 pages

Published September 2016

Rights sold:

Film rights in French

All other rights available

BACKLIST

L'ENFANT MASCARA

[Becoming Leticia]

L'enfant mascara is a story of unrequited love, a pretty common thing in any secondary school, except this one ends in a particularly tragic way. Inspired by real events that took place in the town of Oxnard, California, Simon Boulrice fictionalizes one of the most violent murders motivated by homophobia and transphobia to ever take place in the USA. In doing so, the author pays tribute to Larry/Leticia, a yearning, proud and flamboyant individual who lived the short life of a shooting star.

A singular novel, penned with the utmost empathy.

Actor, writer, dancer, and stage director, Simon Boulrice is also among the most prolific authors of his generation. His book Jeanne Moreau a le sourire à l'envers was awarded a White Ravens label by the International Youth Library in Munich, Germany, and was also short-listed for the 2014 Quebec Booksellers Association prize for juvenile fiction.



BACKLIST

OLAS

After years of preparation, the day has come when Talía can lavishly celebrate her fifteenth birthday in the quinceañera Latin American tradition. But as she dances with her lover, the young Cuban can't help wondering about her future. What life awaits her once the party is over? Her career path seems already set for her: like her parents, she'll become a doctor, get married, raise children, and take care of her grandparents...

Talía gradually becomes aware of the limits imposed by the precarious living conditions in her country. While on vacation with her family, the young woman reunites with her childhood friend, Ulises, who informs her of his plan to move to Florida to become a marine contractor. She then decides to leave with him. Three years will be necessary for them to prepare their flight, with Ulises building their boat, and Talía saving every penny from the sale of her paintings to tourists. Will they make it across the Florida Straits? Will the waves - *olas*, in Spanish - carry them to the place of their dreams?

*María Carla was born in Cuba, and has been living in Quebec since 2013. In **Olas**, she takes a completely different look at the paradise island so beloved by tourists. In this debut novel written directly in French, the twenty-year old Montreal student depicts Cuba from the inside, in a strong and lyrical voice reminiscent of her original culture. Yet, it is above all a look at the hopes that thousands of young people, in Cuba or elsewhere, dare not entertain, and that some will go to great lengths to achieve.*

**MARÍA
CARLA**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

184 pages

Published August 2022

World rights available



**MARYSE
PAGÉ**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

152 pages

Published February 2020

Rights sold: Film Rights

All other rights available

BACKLIST

RAP POUR VIOLONCELLE SEUL

[Rap for cello]

Sentenced to community service, Malik finds himself in a seniors' residence, caring for an obnoxious old man he'd rather not know. Underneath the petty crime past of one and the bitterness of the other, hides some sensitivity that will gradually transform this forced relationship into a sincere friendship.

From Malik's difficult journey, marred by foster homes, poverty and the abandonment by an alcoholic mother struggling to raise her son, Maryse Pagé manages to extract the material likely to question our own lives. With tenderness and humour, she shows us that a simple encounter can change the course of a life.

Maryse Pagé is a screenwriter, researcher and novelist. Rap pour violoncelle seul was a finalist for the Prix jeunesse des libraires du Québec, the Prix Espiègle and the Governor General's Literary Awards. It is currently being adapted for television.



**MICHEL MARC
BOUCHARD**

OPERA LIBRETTO

112 pages

Published October 2022

World rights available

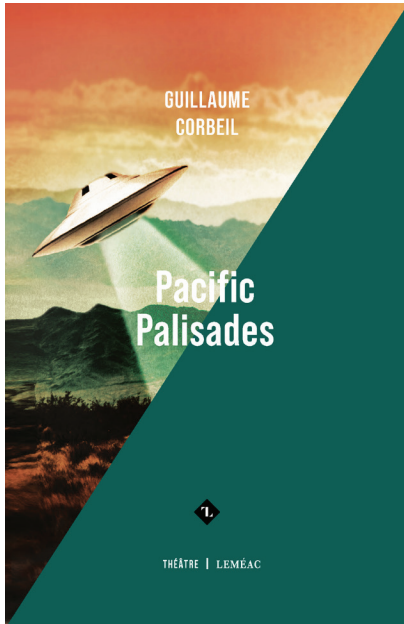
BACKLIST

LA BEAUTÉ DU MONDE FOLLOWED BY LES FELUETTES

An original libretto commissioned by the Opéra de Montréal, *La beauté du monde* tells how many works of art from the Louvre and Jeu de Paume museums were put to safety during the Second World War.

Objects of envy and suspicious bargaining, hundreds of paintings by Matisse, Picasso, Vermeer, Rembrandt, and Da Vinci were only just saved before the nazis arrived in Paris, while others were sent to the Führer and his henchmen. Among them was the famous Hermann Göring, Marshal of the German Empire, who selected thousands of works for his personal collection while the art nouveau material, seen as degenerate art, was burned right before the eyes of devastated curators. At the end of the war, thanks to Jacques Jaujard, director of the Louvre and the National Museums, these stolen pieces found their way back to their original museums, and more than sixty thousand art treasures, mainly looted from Jewish collectors, were returned to their rightful owners.

An internationally renowned playwright, Michel Marc Bouchard is the author of Les Feluettes, Les Muses orphelines and Tom à la ferme, all of which have been translated into English and various other languages, and also made into films. His more recent play EMBRASSE, was critically acclaimed. In November 2021, he was awarded the Athanase-David Prize for his life's work.



**GUILLAUME
CORBEIL**

THEATRE

72 pages

Published October 2022

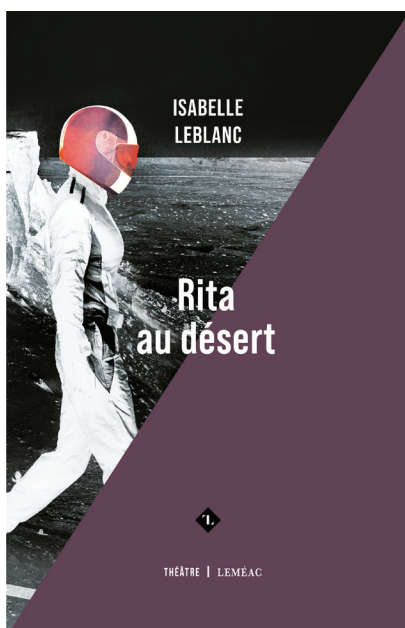
World rights available

BACKLIST

PACIFIC PALISADES

This play is based on a true story: in Los Angeles, in 2015, the dead body of an individual who claimed to be half-human, half-extraterrestrial was found in his car. His garage was packed with weapons, ammunition, futuristic vehicles and cash. Guillaume Corbeil, author and narrator, decided to go there, pretending to be a reporter. He met with people who knew the man in question – who also claimed to work for the secret service – and collected divergent accounts. It didn't take long before he was drawn into a crazy spiral of tall tales and make-believe.

Guillaume Corbeil has written short stories (L'art de la fugue, which received the Adrienne-Choquette Prize), a novel (Pleurer comme dans les films, published by Leméac), a biography (Brassard), tales (Trois princesses), a film (À tous ceux qui ne me lisent pas, which recieved an Iris award for best screenplay), an adaptation (Le meilleur des mondes, after Aldous Huxley's Brave New World) and, of course, plays. Nous voir nous (Cinq visages pour Camille Brunelle), his very first play, received the Michel Tremblay Award, the Best Text Award from the Association québécoise des critiques de théâtre, and the Audience Award at the Primeurs Festival in Saarbrücken, Germany. Other works include Tu iras la chercher and Unité modèle.



**ISABELLE
LEBLANC**

THEATRE

120 pages

Published October 2022

World rights available

BACKLIST

RITA AU DÉSERT

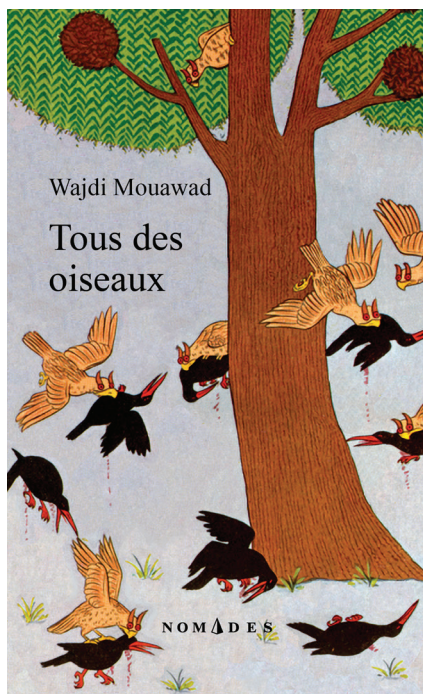
[Rita in the desert]

The desert invites to a journey into one's inner self, its crossing forces the act of thinking. Hypochondriacs and claustrophobics beware, the travel guides are pretty clear about it. Careless travelers be warned.

Lucien Champion, a sports reporter in a provincial town, decides to become the biographer of Rita Houle, a fifty-year-old woman chosen to participate in a car rally in the remote Gobi Desert: he will turn her into a myth, she will turn him into a writer. Yet, the real adventures of his muse are slow to arrive, so he quickly starts to invent them for her.

To tell the story of what did not happen, to give a presence to the intangible; such is the project of this text which fluctuates between joy and mourning, with the firm belief that fiction has the power not only to enchant reality, but to render it concrete.

Author, director, actor, teacher, and artistic director of Théâtre Ô Parleur, Isabelle Leblanc has written the plays Aube (Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui, 2001) and L'histoire de Raoul (Théâtre de Quat'Sous, 2002). She has collaborated with Wajdi Mouawad (notably on his plays Littoral, Rêves, and Incendies) for some twenty years.



**WAJDI
MOUAWAD**

DRAMA

184 pages

First publication 2018

Paperback edition 2020

Rights sold:

France, Germany,
North America (English),
Spain, Italy

BACKLIST

TOUS DES OISEAUX

[Birds of a Kind]

Deeply in love, Eitan and Wahida try to resist the historical reality they face.

But on the Allenby Bridge between Israel and Jordan, things go wrong: victim of a terrorist attack, Eitan falls into a coma. In this suspended space-time, he receives the forced visit of his parents and grandparents, while the grief of identity and the demon of hatred lurk, the twisted ideologies flare, and the birds of ill omen swoop down on the hearts and minds of everyone.

What do we know about the secrets of our family, what setbacks in history and what violence have we all inherited? Being born to the enemy, how can one prevent the blood running in their veins from turning into a landmine?

Since its publication and until spring 2020, *Tous des oiseaux* has been the subject of more than twenty different productions around the world.

Actor, stage director, and director of the Théâtre national de la Colline in Paris, Wajdi Mouawad is also the author of the epic quartet Le Sang des promesses (Littoral, Incendies, Forêts, Ciel) and the novel Anima. Translated into several languages, his work has received many international awards.

LEMÉAC

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Conseil des arts
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