



News From France

Vol. 15.07
July 2015

A free monthly review of French news & trends

Land ho! After its arrival in America, the Hermione is greeted by Minister Ségolène Royal and U.S. officials



The Hermione (left) is welcomed by U.S. Navy warship USS Mitscher upon its arrival to the U.S. coast on June 2. The Hermione passed through Norfolk, Va., before continuing on to Yorktown, where it was greeted by Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy Ségolène Royal as well as Governor of Virginia Terry McAuliffe.

From the Ambassador's Desk: A message from Gérard Araud



Dear Friends,

A dream became reality for France and America this past month, as the Hermione, a beautiful tall ship, arrived on the U.S. coast, docking in Yorktown, Va., on June 5. Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and

Energy Ségolène Royal and Terry McAuliffe, Governor of Virginia, warmly welcomed the replica of the frigate on which Lafayette traveled to America, which is now sailing up the U.S. coast—a trip two decades in the making.

The Hermione is an important symbol of the long-standing alliance between our two countries. 234 years ago, France, under the leadership of General Lafayette, stood by America during the country's fight for independence, significantly contributing to the U.S. victory at Yorktown. The world has changed since Generals Lafayette and Washington took on the British forces together, and many of the challenges that France and the U.S. face today could not have been foreseen over two centuries ago. Nevertheless, our countries remain united as we tackle global terrorism, nuclear security and climate change with the same relentless drive.

Climate change in particular will remain a top priority for France and the U.S. in the years to come; it's a global challenge

that affects all of us. At the end of 2015, the U.S. will join all the countries of the world at the COP21 Global Climate Conference, hosted by France in Paris, with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and lowering the global average temperature. Minister Royal stressed the high stakes involved in this conference during her trip to Washington, when she met with officials from the District Department of the Environment, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency and members of Congress to exchange ideas and see how the U.S. is working to fulfill its commitments. I spoke about the same issue at the Atlantic Council as part of Climate Diplomacy Day in order to garner international support for this important initiative. As Minister Royal stated when speaking at Capitol Hill Ocean Week, the effects of climate change can no longer be ignored: "The world has already lost 20 percent of its coral reefs, and 60 percent of its marine ecosystems have deteriorated. We must act."

Our countries are continuing their joint efforts to address other global issues, from counter-terrorism efforts to defeat Daesh (ISIL)— French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken co-chaired a ministerial meeting on this issue in Paris this month— to negotiations over Iran's nuclear program. As both of our countries prepare to celebrate our independence days in July, we will remember the reasons why we remain close allies, seeking to create a better world through our shared ideals of democracy and liberty.

inside

Current Events 2

World leaders meet at G7 Summit

Interview 3

Luc Jacquet, Film Director

In Depth: Ségolène Royal 4

Minister Royal visits the U.S.

Business & Technology 6

Hydroptère looks to break record

Culture & Society 7

Fête de la Musique

France & America 8

Embassy Adoption Program



News From France

A free monthly review of French news & trends

NFF is also available online at:

www.franceintheus.org

[facebook.com/FranceInTheUS](https://www.facebook.com/FranceInTheUS)

[@franceintheus](https://twitter.com/franceintheus)

Ambassador Araud joins counterparts to discuss Iran's nuclear program

As negotiations over Iran's nuclear program continue, French Ambassador to the U.S. Gérard Araud joined his British and German counterparts Peter Westmacott and Peter Wittig at the Atlantic Council for a discussion about the current talks with Tehran.

The deadline for a final deal—which is being negotiated by the three European countries plus the U.S., China and Russia—is the end of June. If a comprehensive agreement is reached, Europe will have played a large role in the process.

The conversation at the Atlantic Council addressed several questions, including how a potential deal might affect the Middle East. Ambassador Araud stressed that the negotiations must be treated separately from other geopolitical issues in the region. While remaining hopeful about reaching a deal that would satisfy all sides, Ambassador Araud acknowledged the challenges of reaching a final agreement.

Together, the ambassadors recognized the fact that there are still many details to be discussed before the June 30 deadline and emphasized the strong cohesion between the three European countries at every level of the negotiations.

The French Embassy commemorates Appeal of June 18 with an awards ceremony

On June 18, Ambassador Gérard Araud hosted a ceremony to commemorate the Appeal of June 18, a 1940 speech by Charles de Gaulle to rally French resistance to German occupation during World War II, a movement that would later be strengthened by U.S. troops. "We will always be grateful to the U.S.," Araud declared, "for the liberation of our country."

Ambassador Araud decorated three distinguished military personnel with honors. The first, Belgian Army Colonel (GS) Roger Housen, formerly served as Director of the Defense Development Division of the Belgian Defense Staff and National Liaison Representative at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization headquarters. U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Gabriel Chinchilla was honored for a career commanding Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha 742 in Operation Enduring Freedom. The final honoree, U.S. Army Lieutenant General (Ret.) Terry Wolff, has completed over 34 years of service, including command tours in Germany and Iraq and a tenure as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Iraq and Afghanistan.

Presidents Obama and Hollande meet at the G7 Summit



Presidents Hollande and Obama meet on the sidelines of the 41st G7 summit in Elmau, Germany, where they joined participating nations to discuss issues that included climate change, national security and global health.

▲ On June 7, Presidents Obama and Hollande met on the sidelines of the G7 summit to discuss the global issues on which France and the U.S. are currently working closely together, particularly the situation in Ukraine and negotiations on Iran's nuclear program.

Along with the other G7 nations, France and the U.S. agreed that the existing sanctions against Russia must be maintained until the country fully implements the Minsk peace accords calling for a ceasefire in eastern Ukraine. Participating nations renewed their call to all sides "to fully respect and implement the ceasefire and withdraw heavy weapons" in Ukraine. President Obama applauded German Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Hollande

for their "extraordinary patience" in trying to ensure that the conditions of the Minsk agreement are met. Concerning Iran, the G7 countries expressed their full support for the efforts of the negotiating countries to achieve a comprehensive agreement on Iran's nuclear program.

With climate change a major priority for France and the U.S., President Obama spoke about the progress achieved ahead of the COP21 Global Climate Conference to be held in Paris at the end of the year, acknowledging that all G7 countries had announced their goals for reducing carbon emissions by 2020, and would "continue to urge other significant emitters to do so as well."

Meeting of Global Coalition to counter Daesh held in Paris



Minister Fabius hosted members of the Global Coalition to counter Daesh following a meeting in Paris on June 2.

▲ Members of the Global Coalition to counter Daesh (ISIL) held a meeting in Paris on June 2, co-chaired by French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Haider al-Abadi, Prime Minister of Iraq. Twenty-four delegations from around the world convened to discuss progress made by the Coalition in its strategy to defeat Daesh,

as well as the stabilization of liberated areas, the safe and sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons, and the protection of cultural heritage.

Prime Minister al-Abadi affirmed the commitment of Iraqi forces to strengthen the rule of law while respecting human rights, and outlined a five-step plan for the liberation of Iraq's Anbar Province, whose capital city, Ramadi, was recently seized by Daesh. The members of the Coalition expressed their full support for the plan, as well as for the efforts of the Iraqi government as they work to mobilize and equip tribal fighters in the region.

Regarding the situation in Syria, the Coalition called for the implementation of the Geneva Communiqué, notably the establishment of a transitional governing body with full executive powers in order to preserve the country's unity and sovereignty. Minister Fabius noted that this is essential in order to defeat Daesh, as "stabilization in Iraq will not be totally possible without political transition in Syria." Deputy Secretary Blinken confirmed that the Coalition would "redouble its efforts" to achieve this political transition. Minister Fabius recognized that although the fight against Daesh would take a long time, "the determination is there" among Coalition members.

Luc Jacquet, director of *Ice and Sky* and *March of the Penguins*



French film director Luc Jacquet at the French Embassy on June 6, where he discussed his latest project.

▲ As a documentary filmmaker, Luc Jacquet has traveled around the world to explore and educate the public about the environment. His 2005 film, *March of the Penguins*, followed emperor penguins on their yearly breeding journey in Antarctica and won an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. Jacquet's latest film, *Ice and Sky*, looks at the life of Claude Lorius, a scientist who made groundbreaking discoveries in climate change. Jacquet spoke with *News From France* about his latest trip to the U.S. and his newest film.

Why are you in Washington, D.C., this week?

First, I am here to participate in this global discussion on energy and climate during Environment Minister Ségolène Royal's visit. I am also here to discuss my latest film, *Ice and Sky*, which was recently shown for the first time at the Cannes Film Festival. It tells the story of the life of a French glaciologist named Claude Lorius, who was the first to understand, 30 years ago, the connection between ice cores in Antarctic glaciers and greenhouse gases. The film will open in the U.S. this October.

I also just launched a new project with my organization, Wild-Touch. It's a huge educational program designed to make climate issues more interesting. We want to develop educational tools that are well-made and attractive, without making students feel guilty or overly hopeful. We're going to launch this project in New York with Marion Cotillard, who provided the English voice for all of our educational videos. As you can see, this is an important piece of news for me.

Can you explain where the idea for *Ice and Sky* came from and why you chose to focus on Claude Lorius in particular?

While he was not previously widely recognized for his work, this scientist made a huge discovery at an important point in history. Lorius effectively proved the connection between the emission of man-made greenhouse gases and climate change—his findings were published in three articles in a 1987 issue of *Nature* magazine.

Lorius is someone who is relatively unknown but has had an absolutely incredible, if not epic, life. He spent

over 10 years in Antarctica, traveling there for the first time in 1956, and was part of the generation that experienced an enormous shift in how humans think about the planet. When Claude first left for Antarctica, everyone had the impression that the planet was ours for the taking, but it was he who told us that the world is not that simple, and that when we emit CO2 molecules at home, there will be consequences elsewhere in the world. He's a character with a life full of unforeseen twists and turns. He is certainly a great man, whom I very much enjoyed getting to know, and whose story I wanted to tell.

Can you describe how the film came together? Did you film abroad? Did you collaborate closely with Mr. Lorius?

A lot of Claude Lorius's life was filmed because he went on so many extraordinary journeys. He was a part of French and American polar expeditions, so nearly his entire life is archived on film already, and we took advantage of that. It was important for me, however, that Claude experience the places where he predicted climate change would eventually lead to extreme environmental changes, such as rising oceans and hurricanes. So he came with us to the Arctic, French Polynesia, the American South Pole station, as well as the Russian station at Vostok. We traveled a lot and got some really beautiful footage.

What are your expectations for COP21 and from political leaders in the battle against global warming?

Politicians today have an essential role to play in the sense that they are advocates of the common good, that is to say that they have the legitimacy to speak for the people. There will come a time when we will need to all work together on climate change, no matter our differences.

The forests are one example: at what level does one have the right to prohibit people from cutting down trees, when some need them and others don't? All of this requires authority, and I believe that politicians must assume this responsibility, making decisions so that tomorrow we can live better. That's an incredible challenge. As an artist, as a filmmaker, and as a former scientist, I want to convey the following message to our leaders before COP21: "Ladies, gentlemen, you must find a solution. You represent us, it is important for us to move forward on these issues."

What do you hope that people will take away from *Ice and Sky*?

I hope that the audience understands that all of this information did not appear randomly. It rests on the extraordinary human capacity to work together internationally—the Russians, the Americans, the French, who were capable of collaborating together even during the Cold War because they understood that what they were finding was of the utmost importance.

Finally, I want the audience to know that this information is not intended to ruin their life, but it is a reality, these are scientific facts. We should take it as an opportunity to change society and to build a better, freer society. There is no choice. We are not saying that we need to fix the past, but the opposite: we must go into the future with these questions and I believe that ultimately it is a great opportunity. 🌍

Luc Jacquet presents latest film with Minister Royal

On June 6, French director Luc Jacquet presented his latest film, *Ice and Sky*, with Ségolène Royal, French Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, at the French Embassy. Jacquet is best known for his 2005 documentary, *March of the Penguins*, which focuses on the year in the life of a flock of penguins, and the obstacles the animals face in returning for mating season. *Ice and Sky*, which was chosen as the closing film for the 2015 Cannes Film Festival, tells the story of Claude Lorius, a French glaciologist who was awarded the CNRS Gold Medal in 2002 for his work in his polar expeditions, which exposed the link between climate change and the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

The sold-out event featured a discussion between director Luc Jacquet, George Watters, director of the Antarctic Ecosystem Research Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Enric Sala, Explorer-in-Residence for National Geographic. Minister Royal praised Jacquet's work in her opening remarks, saying that the film "helps us understand that climate change and its consequences are not a distant possibility but something that is happening now and that we must stop right now."

Climate Diplomacy Day promotes international environmental action

On June 17, global leaders joined together to celebrate the second annual Climate Diplomacy Day, an effort encouraging countries to take action against climate change in order to limit the rise in global temperatures and promote an international agreement on climate change at the COP21 Global Climate Conference in Paris. On this occasion, the European Union delegation to the United States and member states' embassies and consulates hosted several events throughout the U.S., including a briefing on Capitol Hill and conferences in New York, San Francisco and Washington, D.C., focusing on questions of security related to climate change.

In Washington, the Atlantic Council and the EU hosted a discussion on climate change as a global security threat. Featuring an introduction by David O'Sullivan, ambassador of the European Union to the United States, and a keynote speech by Ambassador Araud, the event also included a panel discussion with security and environment experts.

On trip to the U.S., Minister Ségolène Royal welcomes the Hermione and discusses environmental issues



Clockwise from top left: Minister Ségolène Royal presents the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen to Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe; the Hermione docks in Yorktown, Va., on June 5; the crew of the Hermione rejoice upon their arrival on the U.S. coast; Minister Royal speaks with U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz at the Department of Energy.

On June 5, the *Hermione*, an exact replica of the ship on which the Marquis de Lafayette sailed to America in 1780, arrived in Yorktown, Va., after its two-month journey from France to the United States. The *Hermione*'s arrival was an opportunity to celebrate French-American friendship, and represented a special moment of pride for the Poitou-Charentes region, where the ship was constructed. Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy Ségolène Royal came to the United States to welcome the ship, a project in which she has been heavily invested over the past several years. During her time in the U.S., she not only celebrated the arrival of the *Hermione*, but also met with a number of U.S. organizations and officials to discuss environmental issues ahead of the COP21 Global Climate Conference in Paris.

“A dream becomes reality”

Twenty years ago, a small group of people came together with the dream of re-creating an exact replica of the *Hermione*. A champion of American independence and close friend of George Washington, Lafayette played a large role in the ultimate victory of the United States against the British during the Revolutionary War. After nearly two decades of construction, the *Hermione* set sail from La Rochelle on April 18, taking a route inspired by the one that the Marquis de Lafayette took in 1780.

The construction of this entirely authentic 18th-century vessel—185 feet high and 216 feet long—would not have been possible without the support of a number of generous sponsors and partners. Among the project's primary partners was the region of Poitou-Charentes and the department

of Charente-Maritime, where the *Hermione* was rebuilt in the town of Rochefort. As former president of the Poitou-Charentes region, Minister Royal played a large role in the success of the project and has remained an adamant supporter of the *Hermione* throughout its construction.

Following the *Hermione*'s departure from La Rochelle—where the minister bid the ship farewell alongside French President François Hollande—Royal greeted the ship on the shores of Yorktown, Va., its first official stop in the United States. Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe greeted the public at a welcome ceremony, where he spoke of the dedicated French soldiers who contributed to an American victory over 200 years ago: “For Americans,” he said, “the arrival of the *Hermione* came with the promise of more ships, and more Frenchmen to fight alongside us for liberty.” Ms. Royal spoke



proudly of the success of this French-American project, stating, "Today, a dream becomes reality."

Ambassador Araud and Minister Royal visited the Yorktown Victory Monument following a viewing of the ship, where they laid a wreath to commemorate French and American soldiers killed in the Battle of Yorktown in 1780. The ship will continue on its journey up the East Coast throughout July, making a stop in Nova Scotia before continuing to France.

Exploring environmental issues in Washington, D.C.

After welcoming the Hermione, Minister Royal took part in many activities focusing on environmental issues in Washington, D.C. With the upcoming COP21 Global Climate Conference in Paris quickly approaching, working on the initiative's goals was a top priority for Ms. Royal.

On June 6, Minister Royal visited the capital's Rock Creek Park with Tommy Wells, director of the District of Columbia Department of the Environment. While walking around the 1,754-ft park, they discussed strategies put in place by the city to preserve its biodiversity.

Later that day, the minister visited National Geographic's headquarters and archives with Enric Sala, a Spanish marine biologist and environmental preservation lobbyist at National Geographic. Mr. Sala has played a key role in founding a number of marine sanctuaries along the coasts of the U.S., Chile, and Costa Rica.

On the evening of June 6, Minister Royal promoted initiatives relating to climate change at a presentation of Luc Jacquet's new film *Ice and Sky* at the French Embassy. The documentary focuses on scientist Claude Lorius, who discovered a correlation between CO₂ emissions and climate change. *Ice and Sky* was recently selected as the closing film at the Cannes Film Festival in May.

Throughout the week, Ms. Royal stressed not only the urgency of protecting the environment, but also the attitude necessary to motivate citizens to do so. At the presentation of *Ice and Sky*, she spoke to an audience of over 300 people about the importance of instilling a sense of hope and motivation in citizens: "What's at stake, in the fight against climate change, isn't the protection of nature but that of human life on earth," she said. "Let's not indulge in catastrophic tales that demoralize people instead of inspiring them to act; because a clear-minded fight to protect our climate must be based on hope."

When Minister Royal gave the keynote speech at the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation for Capitol Hill Ocean Week the following Tuesday, she emphasized the stakes of protecting the planet. Noting that greenhouse gas emissions have already affected many of the earth's natural ecosystems—with 20 percent of coral reefs destroyed and 60 percent of the marine ecosystem deteriorated—she insisted that we must act to reverse these effects.

On Capitol Hill, Ms. Royal met with several U.S. officials to discuss environmental measures being

implemented at the governmental level. She attended the Senate Climate Change Clearinghouse, a forum for discussing the latest climate change science, recent innovations in clean energy technology and actions that can be taken to reduce carbon pollution.

She also met with Todd Stern, U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change, at the Ambassador's Residence. Mr. Stern is the State Department's chief climate negotiator and plays a central role in developing the U.S. international policy on climate. The minister's busy few days in Washington also included meetings with Mark Tercek, president of The Nature Conservancy, EPA administrator Ms. Gina McCarthy, and U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz.

A successful visit

As the COP21 Global Climate Conference approaches, many nations have announced their plans to lower greenhouse gas emissions and to create a more sustainable planet. Minister Royal's trip to the U.S. offered a crucial opportunity to speak with American officials involved in these efforts. On the occasion of the arrival of the Hermione, the minister joined Americans and French citizens alike in celebrating the long-standing cooperation that exists between our two countries, noting that France and the U.S. stood together over 200 years ago and will continue to collaborate on one of the most challenging issues facing modern society—the protection of a planet in danger. 

NETVA holds seminar on the American market

Entrepreneurs and development experts from Canada and the United States came together on June 16 to offer advice and support to French startups seeking to expand their business in North America. At the NETVA Seminar, held at Microsoft France headquarters in Issy-les-Moulineaux, these specialists spoke about their experiences overseas and the skills that foster success in high-tech North American markets.

NETVA, or New Technology Venture Accelerator, is a joint initiative of the Embassy of France in Washington and the Consulates General of France in Boston, San Francisco and Toronto aimed at helping French innovators navigate North American market mechanisms, regulations, and opportunities.

Organized by the Offices for Science and Technology of the Embassies of France in the United States and Canada, NETVA's seminar in Issy-les-Moulineaux focused on the acceleration of business creation projects. Experts taught French entrepreneurs how to incorporate North America into their strategic development plans, designating the continent as fertile ground for innovation.

Paris French Tech Ticket seeking candidates for 2016 program

French Tech is now accepting applications for the Paris French Tech Ticket, an initiative to attract international entrepreneurs to develop startups in Paris. Open to innovators of all ages, the Tech Ticket pairs selected innovators with one of nine Parisian business incubators, ranging from aerospace startup accelerators to incubators for the arts and creative industries. These incubators provide expert mentoring, advice, fundraising strategies and pitch practice for startups over a six-month period. Entrepreneurs are given free lodging and a working stipend during this time.

The program is designed to encourage foreign participation in Paris's new culture of entrepreneurship. Paris has grown immensely as an international center of innovation, with over 1,500 new startups every year. With the Paris French Tech Ticket, France hopes to incorporate global talent into its growing pool of young business creators.

Applications for the Paris French Tech Ticket will close in September 2015, and winners will be announced in December 2015.

Hydroptère seeks to break record from L.A. to Hawaii



The Hydroptère's design allows the ship to glide swiftly on water, traveling so fast that it flies.

▲ This month, the French-designed *Hydroptère*, a high-speed sailboat, left the West Coast in an attempt to break the record for the fastest journey from Los Angeles to Hawaii by a wind-powered vessel. The ship became the fastest sailboat in the world when it hit 51 knots (59 mph) in 2009, and hopes to break new



After achieving the highest speed in the world for a sailboat, the Hydroptère has set its sights on Hawaii.

records by reaching Honolulu in less than four days without stopping.

The *Hydroptère's* hydrofoil design, with its wing-like structure that lifts it out of the water once it reaches a certain velocity thereby reducing drag, allows it to reach incredibly high top speeds. Patented by French inventor Emmanuel Denis Farcot in 1869, the first successful hydrofoil boat was constructed by the Wright Brothers in 1907.

From a very young age, Alain Thébault, the head of the *Hydroptère* project and the boat's skipper, dreamed of building a sail boat that could fly. He built the first scale model of the *Hydroptère* in the early 1980s and launched the full size boat in October 1994. Thébault—a man who seeks challenges and does not shy away from danger or the potential of failure—has been just as tireless in his efforts to perfect the *Hydroptère's* design.

After Thébault and his crew waited with anticipation for several months in L.A., the *Hydroptère* left for its groundbreaking journey to Hawaii on June 23.

Facebook to establish international research center in Paris



The Facebook Artificial Intelligence Research program recently announced that it will expand its operations to Paris.

▲ On June 2, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced his plan to expand Facebook's Artificial Intelligence Research program (FAIR) to Paris. The social media website, which has 1.44 billion registered users as of 2015, has been investing in AI research for over a year through its existing teams in New York and Menlo Park, California.

With FAIR's expansion to Paris, Zuckerberg and the Facebook team plan to work on long-term research

projects focusing on elements such as image recognition, natural language processing and speech recognition. Facebook hopes that through the advancement of AI research, the company can create a more interactive, user-friendly and intuitive experience, improving existing technology in order to more easily connect users with the things they care about.

Western Europe has approximately 150 million Facebook users. Why did the social media giant choose France in particular for this expansion? Simply put, "France already has one of the strongest AI research communities in the world, so we think this is the ideal

home for our new team," stated Zuckerberg. Facebook has already established an agreement with INRIA, a research institution in Paris, which will allow for joint study opportunities among students and professionals in AI research. Minister of the Economy, Industry and the Digital Sector Emmanuel Macron commended Facebook's decision to invest in France, saying that "things are happening" for the country's digital economy.

The French Embassy brings Fête de la Musique to D.C.



Paperhaus, which performed at the French Embassy's Fête de la Musique on June 19.

wants to listen. Walking down the streets of the City of Light, listeners will hear everything from jazz and hip-hop to rock and techno. This year, the French Embassy celebrated the 34th annual Fête de la Musique in Washington, D.C. commemorating the spirit of the festival by hosting concerts featuring the music of two very different artists.

Jean Rondeau, a French harpsichordist, performed at the French Embassy's Maison Française on June 16. An extremely talented classical artist, he was awarded the Best Solo Artist Revelation award in 2015 at the *Victoires de la Musique Classique* music competition. Just 24 years old, the young musician has performed all over the world. While his tastes vary—he favors not only classical, but also baroque and jazz—his June 16 concert included traditional pieces by Scarlatti and Bach.

Paperhaus, a popular D.C.-based band, also performed at the Embassy's Fête de la Musique on June 19. Drawing inspiration from both psychedelic and classic pop bands, the group has released two EPs and performed all around the U.S. For Paperhaus, music is about "people in a room experiencing a common feeling," and this attitude was clear at their performance at the Maison Française.

As at the annual street festival in Paris, the French Embassy's Fête de la Musique—whose 2015 theme was "Vivre ensemble la musique - Living Music Together"—celebrated the conviviality of playing music spontaneously together. With both events completely sold out, D.C. locals were able to take part in a purely French experience that unites musical traditions from all over the world.

▲ Every year on June 21, the Fête de la Musique takes place in Paris. For an entire night, the city is filled with hundreds of musicians who gather around restaurants, cafés and parks to play for anyone who

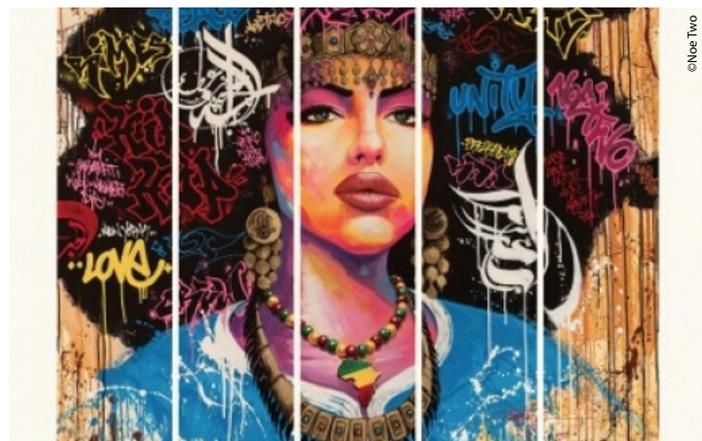
comes. In Paris, the city is filled with hundreds of musicians who gather around restaurants, cafés and parks to play for anyone who

Paris exhibition showcases evolution of hip-hop

▲ The Institute of the Arab World in Paris is currently hosting a summer exhibition entitled Hip-Hop: from the Bronx to the Arab Streets, providing a window into the evolution of a music genre that has touched people all over the world.

Featuring over 100 pieces of street art, dance, fashion, photography and film clips from around the world, the display retraces the evolution of hip-hop in the U.S., France and the Arab world. Starting with its birth in the Bronx in the 1970s, the exhibition shows how the musical style evolved, taking hold in France during the 1980s and finally in Arab countries, where it has been used as a tool for free expression.

The French rapper Akhenaton, best known as a member of the band IAM, is the primary curator of the show. By exploring the nature of hip-hop, Akhenaton hopes to communicate the genre's potential to promote social change. Citing examples of



"Aisha," designed in Marseille by artist aKa and featured in the Institute of the Arab World's exhibition.

countries such as Tunisia, where the growing presence of street art and hip-hop music has been used to resolve disputes and diminish violence, Hip-Hop: from the Bronx to the Arab Streets, showcases the transformative power of music in places of unrest.

The exhibition runs through July 26.

Hermione brings to shore French animated films

On June 10 and 11, France's Poitou-Charentes region hosted a festival of animated films to celebrate the arrival of the Hermione in the United States. Poitou-Charentes, an area known for its rich history, diverse gastronomy and thriving digital industry, was also the site of the Hermione's 17-year reconstruction. The Hermione, the ship on which the Marquis de Lafayette traveled during the American Revolution, was recently reconstructed for a return voyage to the United States marking 235 years of French-American friendship.

In partnership with the French Embassy's Cultural Services, the Poitou-Charentes region presented several brief videos illustrating its culture and attractions, as well as two award-winning animated films. The first, *Ernest & Célestine*, tells the story of an unlikely friendship between a bear and a mouse. Directed by Benjamin Renner, Vincent Patar and Stéphanie Aubier, this film took home the 2013 César award for best animation. The second film, *Miniscule, Valley of Lost Ants*, pits rival ant gangs against one another in a fierce battle for the remains of a picnic. Directed by Thomas Szabo and Hélène Giraud, *Miniscule* won César's top prize in 2015.

Todd Haynes' Carol a huge success at Cannes

U.S. director Todd Haynes' newest movie, *Carol*, was a huge hit at the Cannes Film Festival, winning the Best Actress award and the independently sponsored 2015 Queer Palm Award for its exploration of LGBTQ issues. An adaptation of Patricia Highsmith's 1953 book *The Price of Salt*, it tells the story of the forbidden love between Therese Belivet (Rooney Mara), a seemingly average department store salesperson, and Carol Aird (Cate Blanchett), an elegant socialite, who live in Manhattan in the 1950s.

The film has received praise for its meticulous attention to detail and its focus on a period during which homosexuality was considered taboo and forbidden desires kept secret. While Cate Blanchett was recognized for an outstanding performance at Cannes, Rooney Mara stole the show, tying for the 2015 Best Actress award along with Emmanuelle Bercot, who won for her role in Maiweinn's *Mon Roi*.

Embassy Adoption Program hosts Shepherd Elementary



A student from Sheperd Elementary School reads a poem entitled "France, our Adopted Country," as part of the school's end-of-the-year ceremony for the Embassy Adoption Program at the French Embassy.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Arnaud Guillois

EDITOR
Benoît Cormier

MANAGING EDITOR
Courtney Vinopal

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Courtney Vinopal

STAFF WRITERS
Rosalie Daniels, Elliot Frank,
Cristina Martin

To change your address, subscribe
(for free) or unsubscribe, please contact:

NEWS FROM FRANCE
FRENCH EMBASSY
PRESS & COMMUNICATION OFFICE
4101 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20007-2182

Tel: (202) 944-6060
Fax: (202) 944-6040

www.franceintheus.org
info@ambafrance-us.org
 facebook.com/FranceInTheUS
 @franceintheus

▲ Classes from Shepherd Elementary School that were partnered with France through the Embassy Adoption Project in Washington, D.C., performed at the French Embassy on June 8.

The Embassy Adoption Program (EAP) is a partnership between D.C. public schools and over 100 embassies in the D.C. area to educate fifth- and sixth-grade students about foreign countries. Working with an embassy representative for a year, students learn about their partner nation's history, culture, government, art, food and geography.

Since the EAP's founding in 1974, over 45,000 youth have participated in the program. The EAP has also received a variety of awards, such as the DCPS Outstanding Social Studies Program and the U.S. Department of Edu-

cation Award for Outstanding International Education Program.

At the end-of-the-year ceremony, Shepherd Elementary students showcased what they had learned from the French Embassy, singing a song called "Positif" as well as reciting a poem, "France, our Adopted Country." Several students also performed a skit demonstrating the significance of the French saying "qui vole un oeuf vole un boeuf" (who steals an egg steals a cow), which means that any form of stealing no matter how large or small is unacceptable.

Deputy Chief of Mission Frédéric Doré personally thanked the class for their hard work in preparing for the show as well as for their dedication to learning about France and its culture over the school year. 

Permit No. 4620
Washington, DC
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
MAIL
FIRST CLASS
PRESORTED

A free monthly review of French news & trends

News From France

