

# CAMUS

## A STRANGER IN THE CITY



*Albert Camus*

*Camus: A Stranger in the City* is presented and organized by The Albert Camus Estate in collaboration with historian and curator Stephen Petrus, an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow at the New-York Historical Society.

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*Camus: A Stranger in the City* is supported by  
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I LOVED NEW YORK, WITH THAT POWERFUL LOVE THAT AT TIMES LEAVES YOU FULL OF UNCERTAINTY AND ABHORRENCE: THERE ARE TIMES WHEN ONE NEEDS AN EXILE.

Albert Camus  
"Rains of New York," 1947

This spring marks the 70th anniversary of French writer Albert Camus' one and only trip to the United States. From March to May 1946, under French Government sponsorship, Camus delivered lectures at universities, spoke of the French resistance to Nazi occupation, and acted as a critical observer of American society. Outside of intellectual and literary circles, the young author was scarcely known when he arrived. But he would be. During the course of his visit, his novel *The Stranger* was published in English for the first time. *The New Yorker* interviewed him, and the *New York Herald Tribune* proclaimed him the "boldest writer in France today."

And yet, no one could have predicted his rapid ascent, his extraordinary output of novels, essays, plays, articles, and short stories. During the Cold War, his ideas transcended East-West geopolitics, striving for a universalism about the human condition. The Swedish Academy awarded him the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1957 for his sensitivity to injustice and expression of solidarity with those fighting totalitarianism. The allegorical plague of indifference that ravished his fictional Oran touched many. But not Camus.

Fifty-six years after his tragic death in a car crash, Albert Camus remains a major intellectual figure in the world. His reflections on absurdism and revolt, his constant battle for life, freedom and justice against nihilism, terror and ideologies, continue to stimulate discussion and provoke debate. His writings not only inspire artists in music, theater, and cinema; they also help their readers to live. For these reasons, *Camus: A Stranger in the City* is neither a commemoration nor a retrospective; it is a celebration of a living body of work.

Albert Camus

APPLICATION FOR NONIMMIGRANT VISA

Name: Albert Camus

Place of birth: France

Nationality: French

Travel document: Passport No. 20578, issued by the Prefecture of France on January 5, 1946, good for one year.

Accompanied by: None


Present legal residence: 17 Rue de l'Université, Paris, France

Address (if any) in the United States: c/o French Consulate General, New York

Purpose of entry: lecture tour in American Universities

Length of stay: two months

I have not previously been refused a visa, deported, or excluded from admission into the United States. I understand that I shall be required to depart from the United States at the end of my temporary sojourn. I hereby agree that if I am permitted to proceed to the United States I shall do so at my own risk and assume responsibility for losses, or damage which may result in the event I should not be permitted to depart from the United States in the event my departure should be delayed.



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of March, 1946

Albert Camus (Signature of applicant)

M. J. OSBORNE  
Vice Consul of the United States of America

Passport No. 20578 issued March 7, 1946

**SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2016, 8:00-9:30pm**

## Ben Sidran in Concert

BARBES, 376 9th STREET, BROOKLYN

Presented by Barbès

**\$10. No reservations, no tickets sold in advance**

Ben Sidran (piano, voice), Leo Sidran (drums), Alexis Cuadrado (bass), John Ellis (saxophone), Gil Goldstein (accordion)  
In an intimate club situated off of the beaten path in Park Slope, Brooklyn, pianist, producer, singer, and composer Ben Sidran will perform new works composed specially for the festival, inspired by Camus' *The Stranger*, *The Myth of Sisyphus*, and personal diaries. The multifaceted Sidran will also play compositions from his last two albums *Blue Camus* (Nardis, 2015) and *Don't Cry for No Hipster* (Nardis, 2013).

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BARBESBROOKLYN.COM  
BENSIDRAN.COM



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PERCEVALPRESS.COM

**SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2016, 3:30-5:00pm**

## Ronald Guttman Reads *The Fall*

THE BOWERY POETRY CLUB, 308 BOWERY

Co-presented with *The Bowery Poetry Club*

**Admission is free**

Reading in English.

The red-light district in Amsterdam ca. 1956. It's cold, damp, and foggy, and the crowded streets are illuminated by neon lights. In a lengthy confession to a stranger in a bar called Mexico City, former Parisian lawyer Jean-Baptiste Clamence revisits his moments of moral uncertainty and hypocrisy. New York-based Belgian actor Ronald Guttman plays the role of Clamence, the anguished character of Camus' *The Fall*, reprising his memorable performances in Brussels in the late 1980s. This reading is a preview of a production Guttman is planning for next season.

BOWERYPOETRY.COM  
HIGHBROW.NET



**MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2016, 7:00-9:00pm (doors open at 6:30pm)**

## Viggo Mortensen Reads Camus' *The Human Crisis*

MILLER THEATRE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,  
2960 BROADWAY @ 116TH STREET

Co-presented with *Columbia Maison Française*

**Admission is free (RSVP required at maisonfrancaise.org)**  
Reading in English. Introduction by Columbia Professor Souleymane Bachir Diagne and Yale Professor Alice Kaplan, and followed by a roundtable discussion with Viggo Mortensen, Professor

Diagne, Professor Madeleine Dobie, and Professor Kaplan.

Actor, poet, and musician Viggo Mortensen reads Camus' speech "The Human Crisis" seventy years to the date at the exact same place. For Camus, a leader of the French Resistance against Nazi occupation, the indifference of his generation towards death and torture constituted a human crisis. The lecture was Camus' finest moment in the United States. His reflection about personal responsibility in the face of murder, terror, violence, and counter-violence remains as timely in 2016 as it was in 1946.



**MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2016, 4:00-6:00pm**

## Far From Men Screening and Conversation with Viggo Mortensen

COLUMBIA MAISON FRANÇAISE, 515 W. 116th, BUELL HALL, 2nd FLOOR

Co-presented with *Columbia Maison Française*

**Admission is free (RSVP required at maisonfrancaise.org)**

Film in French with English subtitles. Followed by a conversation with Viggo Mortensen, moderated by Professor Madeleine Dobie, Department of French, Columbia University.

During the early days of the Algerian War of Independence, a solitary schoolteacher (Viggo Mortensen) and a prisoner (Reda Kateb), on opposite sides of the conflict, must join forces to survive. They face difficult moral choices on their journey as they confront dilemmas of accountability and condemnation. Inspired by Camus' short story "The Guest," French director David Oelhoffen creates a penetrating set among the magnificent landscapes of the Atlas Mountains of Morocco.

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**MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016, 6:30pm & 9:15pm**

### **Screening: *Lo Straniero and Far From Men***

ANTHOLOGY FILM ARCHIVES, 32 2nd AVENUE

*Co-presented with Anthology Film Archives*

**Admission is \$11 per screening / \$9 students and seniors / \$7 for AFA members**

*Each screening will be introduced and followed by a conversation.*

Almost fifty years separate Luchino Visconti's adaptation of *The Stranger* (1967) from David Oelhoffen's *Far from Men* (2014), inspired by Camus' "The Guest." But one country reunites the narratives: Algeria, the place of Camus' birth and formative years. In the former, Meursault (Marcello Mastroianni) will be condemned to death for his social behavior more than his murder of an Arab, while, in the latter, Daru (Viggo Mortensen) must join forces with an Arab prisoner, Mohamed (Reda Kateb), to survive the early days of the Algerian War of Independence.



ANTHOLOGYFILMARCHIVES.ORG

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016, 7:30pm**

### **Screening: *Sartre-Camus, A Fractured Friendship and Living With Camus***

ANTHOLOGY FILM ARCHIVES, 32 2nd AVENUE

*Co-presented with Anthology Film Archives*

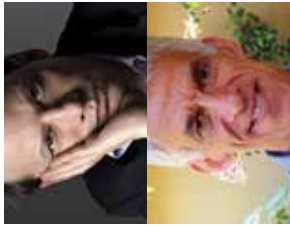
**Admission is \$11 per screening / \$9 students and seniors / \$7 for AFA members**

*Followed by conversation with director Joël Calmettes.*

A special evening with two documentaries by French director Joël Calmettes: the first about the infamous relationship between Jean-Paul Sartre and Camus, whose ideological dispute pressured generations of intellectuals to choose sides, and the second about the "community" of Camus readers from all around the world commenting on the power of his ideas on their worldviews.



ANTHOLOGYFILMARCHIVES.ORG



@MIDMANHATTANLIB

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2016, 6:30-8:00pm

### Adam Gopnik and Robert Zaretsky In Conversation

NY PUBLIC LIBRARY (MID-MANHATTAN BRANCH), 455 FIFTH AVENUE  
*Co-presented with New York Public Library*

**Admission is free**

Robert Zaretsky (Modern European Intellectual and Cultural Historian at University of Houston, author of *Camus: A Life Worth Living*, Harvard University Press, 2013) and Adam Gopnik (author, essayist, staff writer for *The New Yorker*) discuss the relevance of Camus' work in the contemporary world.



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NATIONALSAWDUST.ORG  
ERICANDERSEN.COM

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2016, 9:30-11:00pm

### Eric Andersen Sings Albert Camus

NATIONAL SAWDUST, 80 N. 6th STREET, BROOKLYN

*Co-presented with National Sawdust*

**Admission is \$25 online and \$35 day-of**

*Eric Andersen (voice, guitar), Michele Gazich (violin), Robert Aaron (multi-instrumentalist), Jagoda (percussion)*

"From the vineyards of Camus, I tried to create four bottles of vintage wine that tasted deep and true," comments singer-songwriter Eric Andersen on his album *Shadow and Light of Albert Camus* (Meyer Records, 2014), a work inspired by ideas in *The Stranger*, *The Plague*, *The Rebel*, and *The Fall*, to be performed at the effervescent artistic space in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.



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TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016, 6:30-8:00pm

### Reading and Conversation: Patti Smith On Camus

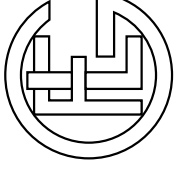
CUNY GRADUATE CENTER PROSHANSKY AUDITORIUM,  
365 FIFTH AVENUE

*Co-presented with the CUNY Graduate Center*

**Admission is free**

*Followed by a conversation with novelist and journalist Kevin Baker.* "A photograph of Albert Camus hung next to the kitchen's light switch... My son, seeing him every day, got the idea that Camus was an uncle who lived far away. I would glance up at him from time to time as I was writing," recounts Patti Smith in her memoir *M Train* (Knopf, 2015.) To culminate the series, the New York singer-songwriter, poet, and visual artist will read excerpts from her favorite Camus' works and discuss his influence on her with novelist and journalist Kevin Baker.

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