

NIGHT OF IDEAS

POWER TO THE IMAGINATION - 25 JANUARY 2018

PROGRAMME ANNOUNCEMENT

Launched by the Institut français in 2016, the **NIGHT OF IDEAS** is a project staged simultaneously in Paris, London and worldwide on Thursday 25 January 2018.

In partnership with **Imperial College London**, **Kings College London** and the **V&A**, the **Institut français du Royaume-Uni** has put together a **thought-provoking programme of free debates** exploring the **latest ideas behind issues central to our times**.

Crossing French, British and European perspectives, **Timothy Peake**, **Thomas Pesquet**, **Ken Loach**, **Tracy Edwards**, **Posy Simmonds** and **Tristram Hunt** are among the **fifty leading experts, artists, researchers and journalists** taking part in the NIGHT OF IDEAS.

Inspired by the Power to the Imagination slogan of the Paris May 1968 protests, the NIGHT OF IDEAS will **engage audiences in open debates** on the **new futures** unfolding in the cultural, artistic and scientific fields, as well as in our political and philosophical frames of discussion.

We'll look at the major issues and aspirations of our times, from **gender equality**, as we are entering the centenary year of women's suffrage in the UK, to the **meaning of revolutions**, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of May 1968. With a special focus on the **ability of arts and sciences to change the world**, we'll reflect on the new challenges for **space exploration** and **Artificial Intelligence** and explore the blurred lines between **art and science** and between **fiction and reality** in **political TV drama**.

A demonstration of a **Turing's machine**, a showcase of pioneering **Artificial Intelligence technology**, **gigs**, DJ and VJ **performances** will complete the programme. In the run-up to the NIGHT OF IDEAS, a film season, **BEFORE THE NIGHT**, will echo the different themes and the **LITTLE NIGHT** will invite pupils from London schools to reflect on the main topics.

The NIGHT OF IDEAS is organised by the Institut français, the Scientific Department and the Cultural Department of the French Embassy, in partnership with Imperial College London, Kings College London, the Maison française d'Oxford, the V&A, the University of York and the French Tech, and with the support of the European Commission Representation in the UK.

Night of Ideas: 25 Jan - Venues: Institut français, Imperial College London, V&A - Free event

Full programme attached – Info, biographies & bookings: www.nightofideas.co.uk

Press Contact for further info, interviews & accreditations:

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