

Beat: Arts

## FRANCE IS PROUDLY CELEBRATING THE 400th ANNIVERSARY OF MOLIÈRE GREATEST OF 17th

### NUMEROUS EVENTS ACCROSS FRANCE & OVERSEAS

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**USPA NEWS** - Molière, is one of the greatest authors of French theater of the 17th century and a central figure in the drama and culture of France. Molière, was born Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, and was baptized in Paris on January 15, 1622. France and even beyond the borders celebrates this year the 400th anniversary of his birth: it is an extraordinary opportunity to celebrate and transmit his heritage, through a rich and lively programme, which underlines all its topicality. The Ministry of Culture is proud to support the abundance of initiatives that will make up this cultural year. It will allow everyone to discover or rediscover its universal and timeless masterpieces. A fine analyst of the human condition and an innovative comic, Molière left his mark throughout the French-speaking world, to the point that our French language is often referred to as "the language of Molière". Source: French Ministry of Culture

### FRANCE IS PROUDLY CELEBRATING THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOLIÈRE GREATEST DRAMA AUTHOR OF 17TH CENTURY-----

The Molière year, which coincides with the European Year of Youth, will be the subject of programming dedicated to young audiences, in and outside school. Thus, the Culture pass joins the celebration of this 400th anniversary by offering four reading lists dedicated to the work of Molière: a national list of books, a list of geolocated Molière shows, a list of national digital offers, to discover Molière's plays on video, as well as a list dedicated to the specific programming of the Comédie-Française (<https://pass.culture.fr/le-dispositif/>). Opened by the Minister of Culture, this Thursday, January 13, at the Monnaie de Paris, on the occasion of the minting of a commemorative coin (<https://www.moinedeparis.fr/fr/boutique/l-art-de-la-plume-moliere>), this season has nearly 200 shows scheduled around the work of Molière, in the first semester alone, which represents nearly 500 performances.-----

"Maison de Molière", the Comédie-Française will be at the forefront, with no less than 13 shows given in its three rooms (<https://www.comedie-francaise.fr/fr/evenements/moliere-2022>). On January 15, the troupe will perform the original and unpublished version of Tartuffe (<https://www.comedie-francaise.fr/fr/evenements/le-tartuffe-ou-lhypocrite>). The troupe will also resume to celebrate Molière the video format inaugurated during confinement: "Théâtre à la table", which had been very successful (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yV8g6sxt3SU>).

### NUMEROUS EVENTS ACCROSS FRANCE AND OVERSEAS TO PAY A TRIBUTE TO MOLIÈRE-----

Thanks to the support of the teams of the Ministry of Culture, and in particular, all the Departments of Cultural Affairs, the National Drama Centres, the National Stages, the Stages under agreement of national interest and the city theaters will enable the whole of our fellow citizens, whatever their age, in all territories, to experience this symbolic year for our theater, as close as possible to the works of Molière. A few examples: Tartuffe, in a staging by Macha Makeïeff, will thus be performed during a major national tour, from the National Theater of Nice to the Comédie de Caen-CDN de Normandie, via Angers, Villeurbanne, which is the French Capital of Culture 2022, Toulon, Rennes, or even Bayonne and Créteil (<https://www.theatre-lacriee.com/programmation/saison/tartuffe.html>). In Pézenas, a town in Occitania where Molière has stayed on several occasions, an entire weekend of festivities will celebrate the 400th anniversary of his birth (<https://www.ville-pezenas.fr/pezenas-2022/>).

Brittany, for its part, is mobilizing with many shows supported by the Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs, including, in particular, Mission Molière, an original creation by Johann Sauvage which will be performed in May and June (<https://www.casusdelires.com/mission-moliere/>). A symposium with international influence, under the name of "Molière and the comic actors: art and technique of creation" will be organized by the theater department of the University of Rennes II, from November 17 to 19 ([https://www.fabula.org/actualites/moliere-et-les-acteurs-comiques-art-et-techniques-de-la-creation-scenique\\_102095.php](https://www.fabula.org/actualites/moliere-et-les-acteurs-comiques-art-et-techniques-de-la-creation-scenique_102095.php)). In homage to the universal dimension of Molière's texts, the city of Bastia is organizing the translation in Corsica of four of his plays. L'Avare will notably be revisited under the name of "Rancicone" by the company "Unita teatrale" and its director Jean-Pierre Lanfranchi (<https://www.francetvpro.fr/contenu-de-presse/22736559>).

THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES ARE FULLY ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROGRAM OF COMMEMORATING

MOLIERE-----The overseas territories are fully associated with this program. Thus, from May, Dom Juan, directed by Jean-Luc Moreau, will be represented at the Caudan Arts Center in Port Louis (Mauritius), before a regional tour, in Reunion in particular.

Exhibitions and conferences will also be organized around the figure of Molière, by the Palace of Versailles, the National Library of France and the Sorbonne. These events will make it possible to better understand the personality of the famous playwright and the innovative nature of his work in its context. After the international colloquium "Retours sur Molière" and the screening of the restored version of Ariane Mnouchkine's Molière, the various exhibitions prepared by the National Library of France will shed new light on Molière's creative process, as well as his legacy in through the ages. They will mark the highlights of this cultural and scientific event ([https://www.bnf.fr/sites/default/files/2022-01/CP\\_Moliere\\_BnF\\_2022.pdf](https://www.bnf.fr/sites/default/files/2022-01/CP_Moliere_BnF_2022.pdf)).-----

From September 27, 2022 to January 15, 2023, the Richelieu site will host the exhibition "Molière, the game of true and false", with many works and archival pieces from national collections. The Library-Museum of the Opera will explore the influence of the playwright on the music and composers of his time, with "Molière in music".-----

In Moulins, the National Stage Costume Center (CNCS) will present more than 150 costumes and sets of models, photographs and audiovisual recordings (<https://www.cnsc.fr/prochaines-expositions-mai-2022-%C3%A0-April-2023>).

On the very site of his exploits in front of the Sun King, the Royal Opera of Versailles celebrates Molière with pomp, through the staging of three of his masterpieces, two CD releases and concerts of the most beautiful pieces musicals written for him, where the interpretations of Guillaume Gallienne and the Comédie-Française, respond to the acting of William Christie ([https://www.chateauversailles-spectacles.fr/tag/moliere\\_t218/1](https://www.chateauversailles-spectacles.fr/tag/moliere_t218/1)).-----

Finally, to celebrate the French language, "language of Molière", as part of the next French language and Francophonie week (March 14 - 20), a "Francophone" dictation inspired by "L'Avare" will be broadcast on all French-speaking radio stations in the world. The comedian Michel Boujenah will be the sponsor of this edition.-----

This tribute is intended to be open to all ages and all audiences. The audiovisual public service will play a leading role by offering numerous programs and podcasts (<https://www.francetelevisions.fr/et-vous/notre-tele/a-ne-pas-manquer/moliere-9511>), while that the Pathé live will make it possible to attend the screening of performances of plays by Molière, in France and abroad. The original and unpublished version of Tartuffe, played on the stage of the Comédie-Française, will thus be broadcast live on January 15. Multiple, generous and creative, this program will allow all of our fellow citizens to celebrate this Molière year as it should be. » Source: French Monastery of Culture

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