



PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

FESTIVAL FRANCE–LAOS 2026

3 → 21 November 2026 · Luang Prabang · Vientiane

Artists, researchers, writers and musicians: the 21 participants of the France–Laos Festival 2026, as presented on the festival website.



Festival website : www.festivalfrancelaos.com



ANONH PHOTHISAN

Drummer, Lao Jazzanova Band

BIOGRAPHY

A drummer and teacher, Anonh Phothisan trained in drum kit at the National School of Arts (2019–2021). Main drummer of the Lao Jazzanova Band, he plays regularly at The Blues Box Bar and at many gigs in Vientiane, and is the resident drummer of the folk band at Kongview restaurant. He teaches drums in his own studio.

CAREER

2026 France–Laos Festival — “Et si Brel était une femme ?” with Iris Munos, in Vientiane

2021 Graduates from the National School of Arts (drums)

AT THE FESTIVAL

What if Brel were a woman?

13 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane



CHANTHASONE XOUMPHONPHAKDY

Illustrator, comic artist and animator — Smile at me :-)

BIOGRAPHY

Chanthasone Xoumphonphakdy (Joey, Kezeus) is an illustrator, comic artist and animator based in Vientiane, Laos. He graduated from the Lao National Institute of Fine Arts, majoring in Visual Communication Design - Film and Animation. He is also the co-founder of ອູ່ສີລປ໌ - Art Garage, the art supplies store based in Vientiane, and a member of the Smile at me :-)

CAREER

2026 France–Laos Festival — Drawing booth with Smile at me :-), at the Institut français in Vientiane

AT THE FESTIVAL

Drawing booth: your cartoon ID card

10 November → 14 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane



COMPAGNIE ENTITÉ

Hip hop dance — artistic direction by Simon Dimouro

BIOGRAPHY

Simon Dimouro laid the foundations of Compagnie Entité in August 2015: a dance company working to develop choreographic creation in the Tours area and the Centre-Val de Loire region. The company has developed a hybrid language that thrives on cross-disciplinary work. It draws its creative essence from the instinct and brilliance of hip hop dance.

Since 2016, Compagnie Entité has been supported by the Conservatoire Francis Poulenc, the regional conservatoire of Tours, the city of Tours and the Indre-et-Loire department. Its central aim is to promote choreographic art in all its forms.

Amateur creation plays an important role in the company, which runs many diverse projects with nursery and primary schools, the conservatoire and prisons.

Compagnie Entité was supported under agreement by the DRAC Centre-Val de Loire in 2022 and 2023.

CAREER

2022 Supported under agreement by the DRAC Centre-Val de Loire (2022–2023)

2016 Support from the Tours conservatoire, the city of Tours and the Indre-et-Loire department

2015 Company founded in Tours by Simon Dimouro

AT THE FESTIVAL

Entité Show

21 November · Institut français du Laos — Luang Prabang



DAVID BAZIN

Contract research engineer, head of the geospatial laboratory (CHAMPA project, EFEO)

BIOGRAPHY

A contract research engineer, David Bazin heads the geospatial laboratory of the CHAMPA project at the École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO) temporary centre in Champasak, Laos.

Since the CHAMPA project began in January 2020, he has run the EFEO geospatial laboratory in Champasak, under the supervision of Damian Evans and, since 2023, Christophe Pottier.

He leads a team of three Lao engineers analysing LiDAR data in Champasak and Savannakhet provinces, in collaboration with the EFEO's Archaeoscape.ai laboratory in Paris, and supervises the topographic, ground-penetrating radar and photogrammetric surveys that support archaeological excavations and architectural surveys.

He handles the logistics of all EFEO missions in Champasak and Savannakhet within the CHAMPA project (archaeological excavations, studies and assessments of the Savannakhet museum and treasury, Vat Taleo Keo, Vat Meuang Kang and the Vat Phou museum), as well as the accounting and administrative management of the EFEO Champasak office, as its finance officer (régisseur).

CAREER

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| 2026 | France–Laos Festival — Q&A after the screening of “Laos: A Forgotten Treasure of the Khmer Civilization” |
| 2023 | Laboratory under the supervision of Christophe Pottier |
| 2020 | Launch of the CHAMPA project: heads the EFEO geospatial laboratory in Champasak |

AT THE FESTIVAL

“Laos: A Forgotten Treasure of the Khmer Civilization”

12 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane



FRANCIS ENGELMANN

Writer

BIOGRAPHY

A writer, Francis Engelmann is the co-author, with illustrator Magda Korotynska, of the book “Luang Prabang, Trésors du patrimoine architectural du Laos”, devoted to the town’s traditional, colonial and Lao-French houses.

At the France–Laos Festival he accompanies the exhibition “Old Houses of Luang Prabang”, presents the book and its watercolours at an evening with Magda Korotynska, and leads a walking tour through the streets of Luang Prabang.

CAREER

2026 France–Laos Festival — “Old Houses of Luang Prabang” exhibition, book and watercolour evening, walking tour

AT THE FESTIVAL

Opening of the exhibition **Old Houses of Luang Prabang: book and watercolours**

20 November · Institut français du Laos — Luang Prabang

Walking tour: the houses of Luang Prabang

21 November · Institut français du Laos — Luang Prabang



HONGTA KEOMANYSOUK

Musician with the Lao National Art Troupe — khaen, gong circle

BIOGRAPHY

Trained at the National College of Arts (2006–2012) in khaen and gong circle, Hongta KeomanySouk plays every instrument of Lao music. A musician with the Lao National Art Troupe since 2013, he has represented Lao music in many cultural exchanges in Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, China, Korea, Japan, Switzerland and India, as well as on many stages in Laos.

CAREER

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|------|---|
| 2026 | France–Laos Festival — “Et si Brel était une femme ?” with Iris Munos, in Vientiane |
| 2013 | Joins the Lao National Art Troupe; cultural exchanges begin across Asia and Europe |
| 2012 | Graduates from the National College of Arts (khaen, gong circle) |

AT THE FESTIVAL

What if Brel were a woman?

13 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane



IRIS MUNOS

Singer, stage director, artistic director and creator of international cultural projects

BIOGRAPHY

A Franco-German artist, Iris Munos has spent more than fifteen years developing an international artistic practice at the crossroads of creation, education and cultural cooperation.

A singer, stage director and artistic director, in 2021 she founded L'Iris Création, a French-language centre for artistic training and creation, which she now directs. Through it she conceives and coordinates projects that make French a language of creation, encounter and dialogue between cultures, drawing in particular on music, theatre and audiovisual practices.

Alongside her creative work, Iris Munos has pursued an international music career of nearly fifteen years, with more than 300 concerts to her name. Her artistic path, deeply shaped by her years living and creating in Poland, has led her to work across Europe, Africa and Asia.

Since 2011 she has also built up expertise in teaching French through the arts. She has trained nearly 2,000 teachers of French in more than 30 countries, working with French-speaking networks and institutions including the International Organisation of La Francophonie, the Instituts français, the Alliances Françaises and French embassies. Her commitment to teaching and promoting the French language has earned several awards, including the CNED's Trophée Éducation des Français de l'étranger, the Prix Jeunesse Francophonie and the Wallonie-Bruxelles International prize.

Et si Brel était une femme ? (What if Brel were a woman?)

As the initiator, performer and artistic director of "Et si Brel était une femme ?", Iris Munos has since 2016 been developing an international artistic project around the work of Jacques Brel, which she reinterprets in a feminine, contemporary voice.

Created in Poland, the project has gradually become a genuine adventure in international artistic cooperation. Through creations, residencies, encounters and concerts, Iris Munos has worked with nearly 80 musicians from several countries and continents, bringing French-language chanson into dialogue with very different musical and cultural worlds.

The project has led to artistic collaborations with orchestras and ensembles in Senegal, Burkina Faso, India, Myanmar, Uzbekistan and Europe, as well as creative residencies, productions and international concerts. These stages have been supported by French-speaking institutions and networks, including embassies and ministries, Instituts français and Alliances Françaises, the International Organisation of La Francophonie and Wallonie-Bruxelles International, in particular through support for residencies, collaborations with orchestras and concerts.

In 2024, "Et si Brel était une femme ?" was selected for the "Résonances internationales du festival de francophonie" fund, set up by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Institut français in the context of the 19th Francophonie Summit.

After Europe, West Africa and Asia, Laos marks a new stage of this international artistic adventure in 2026, once again inviting Jacques Brel's songs into dialogue with local artists and musical sensibilities.

Through her creations and cooperation projects, Iris Munos champions a vision of the French-speaking world as a living space of creation, circulation and encounter, where the French language becomes a bridge between artists, generations and cultures.

CAREER

2026	France–Laos Festival — “Et si Brel était une femme ?” in Luang Prabang and Vientiane
2024	Project selected for the “Résonances internationales du festival de francophonie” fund (19th Francophonie Summit)
2021	Founds L’Iris Création, a French-language centre for artistic training and creation
2016	Launch of “Et si Brel était une femme ?” in Poland
2011	First training of French teachers through the arts (nearly 2,000 teachers in more than 30 countries)

AT THE FESTIVAL

What if Brel were a woman?

13 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane

What if Brel were a woman?

14 November · Institut français du Laos — Luang Prabang



JULIE STEPHEN CHHENG

Multidisciplinary artist: illustration, design and scenography

BIOGRAPHY

Based in Paris, Julie Stephen Chheng is a multidisciplinary artist working at the crossroads of illustration, design and scenography, across both physical and digital worlds.

A graduate of the École des Arts Décoratifs de Paris, she develops poetic and playful works that blend storytelling, technology and visual art. From her early creations at Studio Volumique, where she authored interactive books and apps such as *Poèmes en Pièces*, *Les Aventures d'un Village* and *La Pluie à Midi*, to her immersive installations, she continually reinvents the way we experience images and narratives.

Residencies have taken her from the Hong Kong Arts Centre (2014) to the Villa Kujoyama in Kyoto (2016), shaping her dialogue between nature, language and digital media. In 2017 she presented *Uramado* at the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature in Paris, followed by *Pliés Coupés Décalés* at the Montreuil Children's Book Fair.

Since 2018 she has created imaginative window displays for Hermès in Tokyo and Shanghai, while her acclaimed project *Uramado AR* has travelled the world, including a presentation by the Alliance Française d'Ahmedabad, inviting audiences to discover hidden spirits through augmented reality.

Her current works, *Fortune Teller* and *Landscapes in Construction*, continue her exploration of the boundaries between the tangible and the virtual. Through her research, Julie Stephen Chheng questions our relationship with nature and the mechanisms of interpretation built on words and images.

Playful yet profound, her creations invite each viewer to step into layered worlds, where imagination becomes a space of encounter between the visible and the invisible.

At the France–Laos Festival she presents *Fortune Teller* and the *Uramado AR* trail in Luang Prabang and Vientiane, alongside workshops for children and families.

CAREER

2026	France–Laos Festival — “Fortune Teller” at the Institut français in Vientiane
2025	“Fortune Teller” in Berlin (Alice Guy gallery), Belfort (Espace Gantner) and Cergy (Visages du Monde)
2024	Residency at Villa Antipode (Te Ataata) in Auckland; Art Nature Festival in Pohang (Korea) and Les Capucins in Brest
2023	“Fortune Teller” begins in residency at Lablab with AADN Lyon, supported by the CNC (immersive creation)
2018	Window displays for Hermès in Tokyo and Shanghai; <i>Uramado AR</i> begins touring the world
2017	<i>Uramado</i> at the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature (Paris); <i>Pliés Coupés Décalés</i> at the Montreuil Children's Book Fair
2016	Residency at Villa Kujoyama, Kyoto
2014	Residency at the Hong Kong Arts Centre

AT THE FESTIVAL

Fortune Teller

6 November → 28 November · Institut français du Laos — Luang Prabang

URAMADO AR, the Awakening of the Tanukis

6 November → 28 November · Institut français du Laos — Luang Prabang

Uramado special: treasure hunt, drawings, masks and paper toys

7 November · Institut français du Laos — Luang Prabang

URAMADO AR, the Awakening of the Tanukis

10 November → 28 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane

Fortune Teller

10 November → 28 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane

Uramado AR special: treasure hunt, drawings and masks in augmented reality

10 November → 13 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane

Uramado open-access workshops: treasure hunt, drawings and masks in augmented reality

14 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane

Uramado special: treasure hunt, drawings, masks and paper toys

14 November · Institut français du Laos — Luang Prabang



KHUANCHAI PANYVONG (JACKSMIN)

Art director, animator, illustrator and filmmaker — Smile at me :-)

BIOGRAPHY

JACKSMIN is an art director, animator, illustrator and filmmaker based in Laos. He graduated from the Lao National Institute of Fine Arts, majoring in Visual Communication Design - Film and Animation.

JACKSMIN is also the co-founder of ອູ້ສິລປ໌ - Art Garage, and a member of the Smile at me :-) art team, which makes drawing booths, illustration and motion graphics.

CAREER

2026 France–Laos Festival — Drawing booth with Smile at me :-), at the Institut français in Vientiane

AT THE FESTIVAL

Drawing booth: your cartoon ID card

10 November → 14 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane



LAO JAZZANOVA BAND

Jazz band from Vientiane

BIOGRAPHY

Founded by guitarist Vangthanousone Bouaphanh, the Lao Jazzanova Band brings together musicians from the Vientiane scene, including drummer Anonh Phothisan. The band plays regularly at The Blues Box Bar and at many concerts and events in the capital.

At the France–Laos Festival, its musicians accompany Iris Munos in “Et si Brel était une femme ?” in Vientiane.

CAREER

2026 France–Laos Festival — “Et si Brel était une femme ?” with Iris Munos, in Vientiane

AT THE FESTIVAL

What if Brel were a woman?

13 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane



LYDIA EBDON-BORDE

Printmaking and plant prints

BIOGRAPHY

Lydia is a Vientiane-based artist specialising in printmaking. She is drawn to every form of indirect image-making that brings in colours, patterns and supports from natural materials and handmade processes. She has worked with the i:cat contemporary art gallery since 2023 and held her first solo exhibition in May 2026 at the Institut français du Laos in Vientiane.

Trained by international and local artists in Vientiane, Lydia has organised several group exhibitions bringing together artists of all media and backgrounds. She regularly leads workshops.

Her work can be found at i:cat gallery and at the Le Comptoir shop.

CAREER

2026	France–Laos Festival — Tataki Zome workshop at the Institut français in Vientiane
2026	Le Chant du Monde — first solo exhibition, Institut français du Laos, Vientiane (May)
2025	With ສ່ວນ — artist residency and installation with Christy Stavinowsky, i:cat gallery (September–October)
2025	Shades of Black — with the NIFA printmaking department, i:cat gallery (May)
2025	Path of the Shadows — Over&Over collective, co-directed with Christy Stavinowsky, i:cat gallery (February)
2024	Influent and Photographie & Poésie (with Boot Chinavong) — France–Laos Festival, Institut français du Laos (November)
2024	You, us, me — prints with Virginie Faivre d’Arcier, Sone Kounphasert and Souphalack Phongsavath, i:cat gallery; printmaking workshop with the University of Liège, NIFA (May)
2024	Embrace (Lao collective, Elevations project) and Localé, i:cat gallery (February–March)
2023	Over&Over — collective, co-directed with Catherine O’Brien, i:cat gallery (December); NIFA students exhibition (March)

AT THE FESTIVAL

Tataki Zome: flowers and leaves printed on fabric

10 November → 14 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane



MAGDA KOROTYNSKA

Artist and illustrator

BIOGRAPHY

Magda Korotynska is an artist and illustrator with a Master's degree from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Poland. After moving to Sweden in 1982, she worked on numerous projects, including children's books, educational materials, magazines and advertising. She has taken part in exhibitions in Sweden, Poland, Germany and Laos. For many years, she created botanical illustrations for the National Key, documenting Sweden's flora and fauna.

Since 2015, Magda has spent several months each year in Laos, illustrating two children's books written by Melody Kemp, "Big T's Song" and "Surfing the Hills", and painting heritage buildings in Luang Prabang and Vientiane. In 2017 she worked in Luang Prabang on botanical pictures from Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden, where she held an exhibition in December 2017.

Her work in Luang Prabang has now resulted in the book "Luang Prabang, Trésors du patrimoine architectural du Laos", created together with writer Francis Engelmann.

CAREER

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| 2017 | Botanical pictures and exhibition at Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden, Luang Prabang |
| 2015 | First annual stays in Laos |
| 1982 | Moves to Sweden |

AT THE FESTIVAL

Opening of the exhibition **Old Houses of Luang Prabang: book and watercolours**

20 November · Institut français du Laos — Luang Prabang

Watercolour workshop with Magda Korotynska

21 November · Institut français du Laos — Luang Prabang



MICHEL LORRILLARD

Historian, director of the EFEO centre in Vientiane

BIOGRAPHY

Michel Lorrillard is a historian and researcher specialising in Laos from the 6th to the 19th century. After studying history in Strasbourg, then Lao and Khmer at the Langues O' (INALCO) in Paris, he first came to Laos in 1989, when the French Embassy asked him to inventory thirty years of archives.

After completing his doctorate in 1995, he returned to Vientiane as a contract researcher, then in 2000 as director of the École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO) centre in Vientiane, where he remained until 2011. Since 2018, he has once again headed the EFEO centre in Vientiane.

CAREER

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| 2026 | France–Laos Festival — lecture “An archaeological journey through Laos” |
| 2018 | Heads the EFEO centre in Vientiane once again |
| 2000 | Director of the EFEO centre in Vientiane (until 2011) |
| 1995 | Doctorate; returns to Vientiane as a contract researcher |
| 1989 | First stay in Laos: inventory of thirty years of archives for the French Embassy |

AT THE FESTIVAL

An archaeological journey through Laos

10 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane

“Laos: A Forgotten Treasure of the Khmer Civilization”

12 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane



PITIVANH PHAMUANG

Animator, illustrator and graphic designer — Smile at me :-)

BIOGRAPHY

Pitivanh Phamuang is an animator, illustrator and graphic designer based in Laos. She graduated from the Lao National Institute of Fine Arts, majoring in Visual Communication Design - Film and Animation.

Driven by a desire to connect artists, Pitivanh is also the co-founder of ອູ່ສິລປ໌ - Art Garage, a creative space and boutique art supplies store that offers art workshops, classes and space for artists. She is also a member of the Smile at me :-) art team, a group of friends who share a passion for art.

CAREER

2026 France–Laos Festival — Drawing booth with Smile at me :-), at the Institut français in Vientiane

AT THE FESTIVAL

Drawing booth: your cartoon ID card

10 November → 14 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane



SENGCHANH SOUKHASEUM

Writer, former ambassador and painter

BIOGRAPHY

Sengchanh Soukhaseum, née Upravarn, was born on 23 December 1946 in Ban Paphay, Luang Prabang. She grew up on the banks of the Nam Khan, attending the town's primary school from 1953 and the Luang Prabang secondary school, which she completed in 1961. It is this childhood she now recounts in "Les Filles de la Nam Khan".

At sixteen she left for Moscow: boarding school from 1962 to 1964, a Russian baccalaureate, then preparatory classes for the School of Architecture. That same year she enrolled at the University of Toulouse-Le Mirail, but had to give up her studies for lack of means. From 1970 to 1977 she lived and worked in France.

Returning to Laos in 1977, she joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR, where she spent nearly thirty years: First Secretary at the embassy in Moscow, twice Director of the Department of International Organisations, Minister-Counsellor at the Lao embassy in Paris, then Ambassador of Laos to the Philippines from 1997 to 2001. She ended her career as head of the Institute of Foreign Affairs, training young diplomats, before retiring in 2005.

A mother of five and a self-taught painter, she draws on a life between Laos, France, Russia and the Philippines for colourful work full of faces and memories. At the festival in Luang Prabang, she presents her book "Les Filles de la Nam Khan — A childhood in Luang Prabang", published by Voix du Mékong.

CAREER

2026	France–Laos Festival — presentation of the book "Les Filles de la Nam Khan" in Luang Prabang, as part of Carte blanche
2005	Retires from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; devotes herself to painting
2001	Director of the Institute of Foreign Affairs: diplomatic training and strategic studies (2001–2005)
1997	Ambassador of Laos to the Philippines (1997–2001)
1994	Director of the Department of International Organisations, second term (1994–1997)
1991	Minister-Counsellor at the Lao embassy in Paris (1991–1994)
1986	Director of the Department of International Organisations: multilateral diplomacy (1986–1991)
1983	First Secretary at the Lao PDR embassy in Moscow (1983–1986)
1977	Returns to Laos and joins the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Department 1)
1970	Lives and works in France (1970–1977)
1964	Preparatory classes for the Moscow School of Architecture, then enrolls at the University of Toulouse-Le Mirail
1962	Leaves for Moscow: boarding school and Russian baccalaureate (1962–1964)
1961	Completes secondary school in Luang Prabang
1958	Primary school certificate in Luang Prabang

1946 Born on 23 December in Ban Paphay, Luang Prabang

AT THE FESTIVAL

Carte blanche: “Les Filles de la Nam Khan”

11 November · Institut français du Laos — Luang Prabang



SIMON DIMOURO

Hip hop dancer and choreographer, founder of Compagnie Entité

BIOGRAPHY

Simon Dimouro was born in Tours in 1990 and started hip hop dance at the age of 10. Eager to strengthen his technique and develop new artistic skills, at 21 he joined the professional training programme of Compagnie Rêvolution in Bordeaux, the first training centre for hip hop performers in France. In his very first year he was spotted by Anthony Egea, the company's artistic director, who cast him as a performer for an international tour of "Urban Ballet".

Driven by a growing curiosity, from 2013 he took part in productions as unusual as they were eclectic, joining Compagnie X-press, the Ridzcie, Compagnie Faizal Zeghoudi, Compagnie Karine Saporta, Next Zone (Copenhagen), Mourad Merzouki's "Répertoire" project and several other companies.

Compelled by a need to create, at 22 he signed the first part of a solo, "Rencontre". He asserts his singularity through a hybrid, sensitive, musical and instinctive choreographic world.

Alongside his work as a performer, he founded Compagnie Entité in 2015 and became associate artist at the Conservatoire Francis Poulenc, the regional conservatoire of Tours, from 2015 to 2017. He joined its teaching staff in 2024.

Since 2019 he has worked with the Centre Chorégraphique National de Tours (directed by Thomas Lebrun) and the Centre Chorégraphique National d'Orléans (directed by Maud Le Pladec and collectif ES) on various projects and in schools. He is the first dancer to bring hip hop into the Conservatoire Francis Poulenc in Tours and the departmental conservatoire of Orléans.

Roots of his artistic commitment — Hip hop shaped his view of the world: a philosophy of movement as a form of freedom, a way of existing. Born in working-class neighbourhoods, it was created for everyone, regardless of age, gender, social or cultural background. In this space of freedom, everyone is free to be themselves and to express their emotions and experiences through movement. There are no rules, no codes to follow, only the impulse of the body and creativity.

A democratic vision of art — For Simon, dance is not a gallery art but a universal language. He wants to break down the barriers between art and audiences, because for him dance must be a means of expression open to all, regardless of culture or social background. Art, he believes, should serve those who need it and meet people where they live, in their streets and neighbourhoods. It is an art for and by the people, alive, rooted in everyday life and able to build bridges between communities. Simon insists that art should not be reserved for an intellectual or social elite, but should bring people together and offer everyone fulfilment and freedom of expression. This inclusive approach resonates with deep values of sharing, solidarity and representation.

CAREER

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| 2024 | Joins the teaching staff of the Conservatoire Francis Poulenc in Tours |
| 2019 | Projects with the national choreographic centres of Tours and Orléans |
| 2015 | Founds Compagnie Entité; associate artist at the Tours conservatoire (2015–2017) |

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| 2013 | Performer for X-press, the Ridzcie, Faizal Zeghoudi, Karine Saporta, Next Zone and Mourad Merzouki's "Répertoire" |
| 2012 | First part of the solo "Rencontre" |
| 2011 | Professional training with Compagnie Révolution and international tour of "Urban Ballet" |

AT THE FESTIVAL

Entité Show

21 November · Institut français du Laos — Luang Prabang



SONE KOUNPHASERT

Woodcut and textile printing with Lao patterns

BIOGRAPHY

Sone works in woodcut and textile printing based on traditional Lao patterns (Lai Lao). Her hand-carved blocks, flowers, butterflies, elephants and figures, are used to print fabric, paper and clothing.

In her workshops she teaches basic carving and printing techniques, and invites the public to keep Lao cultural heritage alive through contemporary art, creative expression and textile design.

CAREER

2026 France–Laos Festival — woodcut printing workshop at the Institut français in Vientiane

2024 You, us, me — prints with Lydia Ebdon-Borde, Virginie Faivre d’Arcier and Souphalack Phongsavath, i:cat gallery, Vientiane

AT THE FESTIVAL

Printmaking: woodcut printing with Lao patterns

10 November → 14 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane



SUZANNE GUILLEMIN

Playwright and writing and theatre workshop leader

BIOGRAPHY

Suzanne Guillemin is a playwright who leads writing and theatre workshops. Trained at the École nationale supérieure des arts et techniques du théâtre (ENSATT), she worked for several years with arts organisations in Lyon, including the Waaldé company, on intercultural and intergenerational projects. Her plays have been staged in France and Burkina Faso.

Since 2017 she has lived abroad, leading creative and teaching projects in Canada, Ukraine and Vietnam. Her plays for young audiences were recently staged by the ATH company in Hanoi, where she also taught creative writing.

Now based in Vientiane, she continues to write and works with French-speaking organisations and NGOs. This year she also leads an amateur theatre group for adults there, l'Atelier.

CAREER

2026 France–Laos Festival — “Play with the Little Prince!”, family theatre workshop in Vientiane

2017 Moves abroad: creative and teaching projects in Canada, Ukraine and Vietnam

AT THE FESTIVAL

Play with the Little Prince! Family theatre workshop

14 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane



VANGTHANOUSONE BOUAPHANH

Guitarist, founder of the Lao Jazzanova Band

BIOGRAPHY

A guitarist, studio musician, arranger and educator, Vangthanousone “Fruity” Bouaphanh founded the Lao Jazzanova Band. He has taught music for more than 13 years in his own studio, in one-to-one and online lessons, and has trained many musicians in Laos.

Trained at the George Benson Guitar Institute, he has played the Hua Hin Asia Jazz Festival (Thailand), the ASEAN One Music Festival in Chiang Mai, the Giant Steps Jazz Festival in Mongolia and TPAM in Yokohama (Japan). He leads guitar workshops at Thai universities and music schools (Songkla Rajabhat, Mahidol, Symphony Music Academy).

CAREER

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| 2026 | France–Laos Festival — “Et si Brel était une femme ?” with Iris Munos, in Vientiane |
| 2019 | TPAM, Yokohama (Japan) |
| 2018 | Giant Steps Jazz Festival (Mongolia) |
| 2015 | ASEAN One Music Festival, Chiang Mai (Thailand) |
| 2014 | Hua Hin Asia Jazz Festival (Thailand) |

AT THE FESTIVAL

What if Brel were a woman?

13 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane



VÉRONIQUE DE LAVENÈRE

Ethnomusicologist, flautist and khaen player

BIOGRAPHY

Véronique de Lavenère is a senior lecturer in ethnomusicology at Sorbonne Université and a researcher at IReMus (Institut de recherche en musicologie) and CASE (Centre Asie du Sud-Est). She has served on the board of the Société française d'ethnomusicologie.

Her research in Laos and Southeast Asia focuses on multi-ethnicity and the diversity of musical heritage, including the many forms of the khaen (mouth organ). She also explores musical practice at the heart of traditional and contemporary performing arts. Carried out across Laos for nearly thirty years, her research has led to many musical encounters.

This dual approach, both scholarly and artistic — she is a flautist and khaen player — enriches her publications and her recordings, which have received awards from the Académie Charles Cros, and has contributed to the recognition of the khaen as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

CAREER

2026 France–Laos Festival — opening night at the Institut français in Luang Prabang

AT THE FESTIVAL

The khaens: diversity and richness of Laos's musical heritage

3 November · Institut français du Laos — Luang Prabang



VILASAK PHONGSAWAT

Engineer, Vat Phou Champasak World Heritage Unit

BIOGRAPHY

An engineer with the Vat Phou Champasak World Heritage Unit (Department of Culture and Tourism of Champasak Province), Vilasak Phongsawat has devoted his career since 2009 to the restoration, survey and documentation of the Vat Phou site. Over more than a decade, working alongside international cooperation projects and archaeologists, his work has ranged from technical drafting to applying LiDAR and GIS technology to discover and safeguard the nation's heritage.

Since 2021 he has worked with the EFEO on the LiDAR component of the Lao–French CHAMPA project within the Vat Phou World Heritage area: LiDAR data analysis, field verification, archaeological mapping, and surveys using GNSS, total station, GPR and drones, with photogrammetry supporting archaeological excavations.

He serves as liaison between the Vat Phou World Heritage Office and partners including UNESCO, ICOMOS and ICCROM: preparing State of Conservation and Periodic Reports, producing a new topographic map of Vat Phou and the heritage management zoning map, and supplying GIS data to the World Heritage Centre.

As a trainer, he also prepares technical documents (heritage area management plans and regulations) and teaches GNSS and total station surveying, drone flying for orthophoto and photogrammetry, GIS and ground-penetrating radar (GPR) scanning.

CAREER

2026	France–Laos Festival — introduces the screening of “Laos: A Forgotten Treasure of the Khmer Civilization”
2021	Lao–French CHAMPA project, with the EFEO: LiDAR component in the Vat Phou World Heritage area (data analysis, field verification, archaeological mapping, GNSS, total station, GPR and drone surveys)
2017	Survey and management work at the Vat Phou archaeological site (2017–2020)
2013	Lao–French AFD PADULL project: urban plan for the town of Champasak within the World Heritage protection area, inventory of its architectural heritage (2013–2016)
2010	Lao–French FSP project: restoration of the Southern Palace of Vat Phou and rehabilitation of Champasak's architectural heritage; archaeological surveys with the EFEO (2010–2012)
2009	Joins the Vat Phou World Heritage Office (Lao–Italian cooperation): technical drafting for the restoration of the Nandin Hall

AT THE FESTIVAL

“Laos: A Forgotten Treasure of the Khmer Civilization”

12 November · Institut français du Laos — Vientiane