

# The French Review

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255 *From the Editor's Desk*

## ARTICLES

## PEDAGOGY

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**Jean Marie  
Schultz**

**"Towards a  
Pedagogy of the  
Francophone  
Text in  
Intermediate  
Language  
Courses"**

Given the current importance of Francophone literature, language teachers are under pressure to incorporate more material from the French-speaking world. However, Francophone texts, which spring from cultural traditions different from those of the majority of American students, can prove pedagogically challenging. One way of making Francophone literature more accessible is to begin with texts having cultural underpinnings that our students share. Acadian and Cajun literature is appealing from this point of view. This article covers some of the issues involved in the development of effective pedagogies of Francophone literature and proposes specific approaches to such material using texts by Antonine Maillet and David Chermie.

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IN YOUR CORNER: FOCUS ON THE CLASSROOM

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**Virginia M.  
Scott**

**“Cloze  
Windows and  
Aesthetic  
Discoveries:  
Opening  
Visions for  
Teaching  
Literature”**

What kinds of teaching strategies will engage students of the future in the study of literature? This paper begins with a brief overview of the division that often exists between language and literature in traditional foreign language programs. In addressing the language/literature challenge, the author presents a concrete strategy for bringing literature into the language classroom. Using an advanced French grammar class as an informal test case, this paper outlines how *cloze* exercises can be used to engage students in an active exploration of the linguistic and aesthetic dimensions of a challenging literary text—Colette’s *La Vagabonde*.

FILM

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**Pascale-Anne  
Brault**

**“Claire Denis et  
le corps à corps  
masculin dans  
*Beau Travail*”**

Cet article propose une étude de la dialectique du corps masculin et de la parole dans *Beau Travail*. Pour Denis, et la vision qu’elle nous offre de la Légion étrangère, le caractère indéchiffrable et profondément étranger de la Légion à quiconque y est extérieur passe par une certaine résistance des corps—filmés avec une précision chorégraphique, ils ne révèlent pas pour autant un certain non-dit, essentiel à la survie de la Légion. Je démontre ici que c’est l’emprise de la parole sur le corps, la présence d’un récit extirpant le corps de son anonymat, qui conduit à la tragédie.

SOCIETY AND CULTURE

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**Anne E. Duggan**

**“Women and Absolutism in French Opera and Fairy Tale”**

This essay considers the influence of Philippe Quinault and Jean-Baptiste Lully’s operas on the fairy tales of Marie-Catherine d’Aulnoy, particularly with respect to how d’Aulnoy recombines elements borrowed from their operas to defend mondain culture and to contest some of opera’s ideological underpinnings. While opera is emblematic of what Lewis Seifert has referred to as mondain culture, associated in particular with aristocratic women, opera is also marked by the ideology of absolutism and negative stereotypes of women. On the one hand, I show how d’Aulnoy inscribes elements of opera to defend mondain culture, and consequently how opera shaped the specific form the marvelous would take in her tales. On the other, I demonstrate that the ways in which d’Aulnoy redeploys operatic elements served to contest opera’s representations of women and absolutism, and to glorify mondain women.

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**Scott Manning**

**“Revelation and Dissimulation in André Gide’s Autobiographical Space”**

Phillipe Lejeune described Gide’s writing as an autobiographical space through which the author could create an ambiguous image of himself. This article studies the role that disclosure and secrecy about sexual difference play in creating that space. Serving as an essential thematic and structuring element, the relationship between revelation and dissimulation, specifically with regard to homosexuality, effectively creates a strong sense of narrative tension in his work. It also allows us to get a sense of Gide, the “dialogical being,” and his thoughts on such disclosure, long before he comes out himself in *Si le grain ne meurt...*

**Damon Di  
Mauro**

**“Blowing  
Smoke and  
Shining Light  
in Oyono’s *Une  
Vie de boy*”**

Much has been written about Ferdinand Oyono’s 1956 masterpiece, *Une Vie de boy*, and in particular about how the colonizers use eye communication to exert visual dominance over the colonized. The present study investigates two satellite themes—the use of smoke and light—functioning much the same way. At first, the Europeans attempt to intimidate the Africans by blowing smoke in their faces or by blinding them with bright light. However, at mid-course through the novel there is a reversal: the very notions of smoke and light are revisited, reinvested with meaning, and turned against the white masters themselves.

#### INTERVIEW

**Jeanne-Sarah de  
Larquier**

**“Entretien avec  
Marie Nimier”**

Marie Nimier, romancière française contemporaine reconnue depuis son premier roman *Sirène* (Prix de l’Académie française, 1985), nous offre, outre ses huit romans, une œuvre très variée. En effet, elle est également dramaturge pour la radio, parolière (notamment de Johnny Hallyday et de Juliette Gréco) et auteur de livres pour enfants. Sa fascination du mot nous conduit à un univers du langage propre à Nimier, qui écrit la réalité sociale française des vingt dernières années. Son style a priori classique présente néanmoins des personnages marginaux, un nouveau traitement du corps féminin, un humour et des thèmes pour le moins risqués (*La Nouvelle Pornographie*).

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