

ROUND TABLE
« Duke in Lights »

Daniel Maximin

Friday, April 28 – 11:45 am - Médiathèque Musicale de Paris

Abstract

Daniel Maximin is working on a novel for 2023: *Soifs De Braises*, which deals with the birth of the Resistance among young people under the German occupation in Paris around 1941-1942. It is thus the opportunity to portray the Parisian cultural, artistic and educational milieu in resistance to Nazism and Petainism (artists, writers, teachers, musicians, in particular jazzmen, who played clandestinely a forbidden "Judeo-Negro" music). The talk will focus on the role of jazz, in particular Jazz Hot on rue Chaptal in Pigalle, and on the importance of Duke Ellington's music, which is a central character in the novel.

Danie Maximin



Daniel Maximin, born in Guadeloupe, is a poet, novelist and essayist. He was first a professor of literature and anthropology. From 1982 to 1989, he was producer of French-language programmes at France-Culture. At the Ministry of Culture from 1989 to 2012, he was the general commissioner of three national events: the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the abolition of slavery in 1998, the Year of the Francophonie in 2006, and the Year of Overseas France in 2011. He is the author of, among other works, three novels: *L'isolé Soleil* (1981), *Soufrières* (1987), and *L'île Et Une Nuit* (1996), published by Éditions du Seuil. He has also written an autobiographical account: *Tu, C'est L'enfance*, (Éd. Gallimard, 2004), an essay: *Les Fruits Du Cyclone, Une Géopoétique De La Caraïbe* (Seuil. 2007), as well as a collection of poems: *L'invention Des Désirades*, (Points-Seuil. 2009). His latest published works are: *Écrits de dissidence de Suzanne Césaire* (Seuil) of which he composed a theatrical adaptation performed in 2018: *Suzanne Césaire, fontaine solaire*. Not to mention : *Aimé Césaire, Frère-Volcan* (Seuil. 2013). This is the account of his 40 years of dialogue with the poet. In December 2017, he was awarded the Grand Prix Hervé Deluen by the Académie Française for the whole of his work.