

DIANE'S CHRONIC

DECEMBER 2020

**H**ello, here we are, already in December, with mixed start to the month, see in an artistic « non » blur, so it's up to us to try to do with !!!!  
So, first of all: HAVE FUN! It's possible!

« His house », pure terror. Why not take a step back and give yourself a few chills with a containment film? Fans of fantastic cinema should flock to the excellent « His House », by Remi Weekes, on Netflix. « His House » revisits the imagery of the haunted house to relate the difficult integration of young Africans who fled the war and now persecuted by the ghosts of their past. Not only is the political statement intelligent and relevant, but the story, which shines with its humility, guarantees moments of pure terror, which permanently permeate the retina!!!

Back to our reality which could appear to us like a horror film ....  
HAVE FUN again! With « the Arab of the future »: finally, the continuation... Before the departure of Kevin for Saudi Arabia, after his passage in Riesenbeck for the CSI3\*....  
Riad Sattouf had left his readers KO, two years ago, at the end of volume 4 of his autobiographical series recounting his tom youth... We can't wait to read the last episode!!!!  
As I announced to you a few lines above, let's go back to our increasingly perilous and risky period, at the turn of various choices of the government and the health service in the grip of too many dilemmas, unfortunately!!!!  
And, here is the confinement is over!!!! The curfew begins. It has been confirmed that the French should respect a curfew from December 15, it was set at 8 p.m. And will be in place on New Year Eve but not on December 24, total nonsense? Still specifics very weird, I consider!!!

The Prime Minister also indicated that the cultural venues would not reopen on December 15, as was originally planned, « discrimination ». The health situation is worse than expected ....  
Restrictions are therefore announced. From Tuesday December 15, the curfew regime will replace confinement. It will be forbidden to move between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., except for serious exceptions. Same on December 31 (an exception made for Christmas, the evening of 24!). Cultural establishments also remain closed for three additional weeks, at least until January 7.  
Friday December 11, COVID-19, already a rebound in contaminations.... The weekend is coming, but the deconfinement of the cultural sector is moving away. Contrary to what was previously envisaged, museums, cinemas and other performances halls will remain closed for at least three more weeks...  
From here on, we redouble our caution, we arm ourselves with patience and we stroll in the streets of Paris, in search of its inspected corners and the vestiges of its tumultuous history... This Sunday, we tell you the sinister past of « Buttes-Chaumont », the story of a forgotten embassy or the beginnings of the telegraph....While waiting for the restaurants to reopen, we will guide you to gourmet addresses, on sale to take away!!!!  
So, let's try to escape ....



Parc des Buttes Chaumont – © Thierry Guillaume – [www.paris.fr](http://www.paris.fr)

Did you know that the Eiffel Tower had a fireplace? Before switching to electricity, the elevators of the Iron Lady were powered for ten years by steam engines, the fumes were evacuated by a duct leading to this 12,50 m high chimney. Its bricks between the trees near the west pillar.

With its friezes and its moucharabieh-style railings, 18, rue des Mathurins features a Moorish style. Built in 1876 in full orientalist vogue, the hammam welcomed Leon Gambetta, Baron Haussmann and the Duke of Aumale. Women, admitted only on some days, had to take another entrance, at 47, boulevard Haussmann....

#### WHERE NOTHING HAPPENED:

Among the countless commemorative plaques in Paris, that of 50, rue de Charenton is the most surrealist. Facetious, even, she indicates: « On April 17, 1967, nothing happened here ». It is the work of two anonymous artists at the beginning of 2000s.

A celebration of the ordinary in the face of calamities....

In 1840, Honoré de Balzac was riddled with debts. He settled in the village of Passy under the pseudonym of Mr Breugnot. The pavilion has two entrances, the main one at 47, rue Raynouard and the second at 24, rue Berton. Convenient to avoid creditors! To visit the writer, you had to know the password, like « plum season has arrived ».

THE BURIED PAST OF BUTTES-CHAUMONT: The Buttes-Chaumont were not always so bucolic. Since the Middle Ages, they have hosted a gallows, a landfill, a souring center and then gypsum quarries, operated until 1860. Napoleon III decided to transform this desolate area into a garden. More than 200.000 cubic meters of earth had to be brought there.

Now let's think about the pleasure of the table, because if the restaurants are still closed, we can get tasty dishes at home: DUCASSE AT HOME!

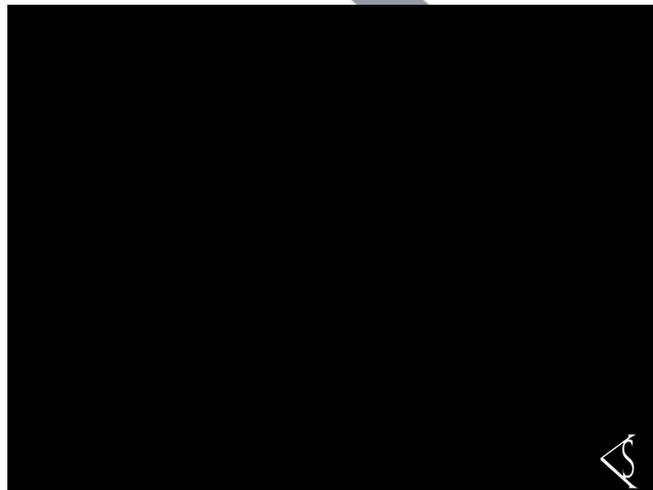
THREE CHEFS IN ONE: Ducasse at home? It is possible, and in three versions. During this period of confinement, the chef decided to unite three of his restaurants in a single kitchen, that of Champeaux, in the belly of Paris. Cucina for the dolce vita, Spoon for the traveling souls and Champeaux for the feast. This gives a super gourmet mixture like this tasty Bangalore tuna, tender beef cheek with carrots or even Mangolian spaghetti without serenade but with taste. For dessert, it's also good: kiwi Ankara

with pepper and labneh, rum savarin and whipped cream and tiramisu. It is from Champeaux that all orders leave. Good to know : new card from December 15th!!!!<sup>1</sup>

WE ARE HAPPY: Two hundred love letters dating from the Second World War found in a recycling center. It's a beautiful story that should have ended in an incinerator. On December 2, an employee from the environmental design office was assigned to the Saint-Jean d'Angely waste disposal facility (Charentes-Maritimes). There, she is attracted to the contents of a dumpster, especially a small package hidden under a pile of old newspapers. Two hundred letters date from the Second World War. Cecile then decides to launch a call for witnesses on social networks. Descendants appear, reconstructing the puzzle: Aimee did indeed exist, she married at the age of 17 with a soldier, Pierre, who had gone to the front. The young couple will have two daughters, one of whom is still alive and who hastened to go to the recycling center to pick up the ends of her story... What could be more moving for this gloomy end of the year!!!!<sup>2</sup>

WE ARE ALSO HAPPY: A fridge in the street to fight against food waste and precariousness.... In Clermont-l'Herault, a town of 10.000 inhabitants in Herault, a white refrigerator placed on a pallet has been installed in the city center, with a notice on his door: « Solidarity, Sharing, Donation ». The principle of this self-service fridge is simple: everyone puts in what they don't need and takes what they need. The purpose, to fight against food waste and precariousness. Every day, David Bour (32 years) inspects and cleans the device. He also approached a supermarket and small local business to collect their unsold food!!!! Hats off, Sir...<sup>3</sup>

And, during this time you will tell me, Kevin, Ludovic, Tolède and Visconti remained in Riyadh, for the second week of the 4\* competition... This competition took place in a magnificent place with a formidable equestrian stadium dug in the rock... All the organizing committee with Ramzy al Duhamy (bronze medal by team at the London Olympics Games) makes every effort to ensure that the competition takes place in a very good atmosphere and a very pleasant social life for all riders, who are there for their sport... Thank you to all...



*Tolède de Mescam Harcour - ©KS*

On the other hand, before the holidays, we must all be responsible!!!!

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<sup>1</sup> Article « Ruelle médiévale, temple antique et adresses gourmandes... 13 curiosités de Paris à (re)découvrir » par Aude Le Gentil, le 12 décembre 2020 dans Le Journal du Dimanche

<sup>2</sup> Article « 200 lettres d'amour de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale ont été sauvées de la déchetterie » par L'Obs, le 4 décembre 2020

<sup>3</sup> Article « Occitanie, il installe un frigo solidaire dans la rue pour aider les gens dans le besoin » par le Ouest France, le 11 décembre 2020

We are Tuesday December 15 and it is a new stage of the progressive deconfinement which start today!!!!

#### OUR NEWS TOPO:

Curfew, certificate, travel: what changes with the deconfinement... Two weeks after the reopening of non-essential business, France today is entering the second phase of its deconfinement and here is what changes!!!!

- A curfew instead of confinement: from this evening, as planned, a curfew will be established throughout the metropolitan area from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. It will only be lifted for the night of December 24 to 25 to allow families and loved ones to meet for Christmas Eve, within the limit of six adults maximum (easy to verify!!!!). Only the overseas departments and territories, except 13 municipalities of Guyana are not concerned.<sup>4</sup>

- The exit certificate disappears during the day but will remain compulsory during curfew hours.

- The practice of indoor sport authorized for minors. For adults, only top athletes, physical education students or people who are prescribed sports by prescription can resume their physical activities... For « neural » activities: « Les Enfiévrés », Ling Ma renews the post-apocalyptic genre ... With, « Les Enfiévrés », the American novelist Ling Ma points out the drifts of the modern world in a cynical and intelligent account<sup>5</sup>. Read, also: « Ohio », the star banner of Stephen Markley....

- Macron positive for Covid, the political class in isolation: A single being is positive and all political life is depopulated... Since the announcement by Elysee, of a positive screening of Emmanuel Macron for Covid-19 and his isolation, a number of personalities who have encountered him in recent days have also placed themselves in solitary confinement.<sup>6</sup>

- Eighteenth solo album for Mc Cartney: 78 years old, he displays an intact, almost insolent inspiration. Two years later, « Egypt Station » (class N°1 in the USA when it was released), Paul Mc Cartney signs his return with the 18th album of his solo career. And it's rather a nice surprise. Created in autarky during his confinement in his farm in East Sussex, *Mc Cartney III* was indeed recorded by the ex-Beatle without producer or musicians. It is in line with his solitary opuses published at crucial stages in his career... Composed of eleven tracks including an epic instrumental blues, this album alternates graceful ballads, furious rocks and classic pop. Sir Paul multiplies himself to play all the instruments (bass, guitar, keyboard, drums...), and his melodic sense as his voice have not aged a bit!!!!<sup>7</sup>

On the other hand, for the beginning of the Christmas holidays an epidemic situation which worsens: A few days before Christmas and while the school holidays begin, the evolution of the epidemic is considered «worrying » by Public Health France. «We are really on an increase in the circulation of the virus, a resumption of the epidemic », indicated the epidemiologist Sophie Vaux....<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Article « Couvre-feu, attestation, déplacements : ce qui change avec le déconfinement » par Thomas Liobot, le 14 décembre 2020 dans Le Journal du Dimanche

<sup>5</sup> Article « Les Enfiévrés, Ling Ma renouvelle le genre post-apocalyptique » par Élise Lépine, le 16 décembre 2020 dans Le Journal du Dimanche

<sup>6</sup> Article « Macron positif au Covid-19 : et maintenant que va-t-il se passer pour le chef de l'Etat ? » par Michaël Bloch, le 17 décembre 2020 dans Le Journal du Dimanche.

<sup>7</sup> Article « Paul McCartney en grande forme pour son 18<sup>ème</sup> album solo » par Eric Mandel, le 17 décembre 2020 dans Le Journal du Dimanche.

<sup>8</sup> Article « Santé publique France alerte sur une « reprise » épidémique « préoccupante » à la veille des fêtes » par Ouest France, le 18 décembre 2020.

I prefer to leave you today, just before Christmas, the situation is not the most pleasant and I don't want to end this month, nor this year, on even more catastrophic days... In Normandy, the days are rainy and gray but at least we are enjoying a life that is not part of itself, a life at « high risk »...



*Normandie - ©KS*

HAPPY END OF THE YEAR TO ALL...

Take advantage of these holidays by keeping all barrier gestures in mind for your well-being and that of your loved ones...

THANK YOU AND SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!!!

Diane