Philippe Forest

**Biography**


**Bibliography**

- *Histoire de Tel Quel*, Seuil, 1995
- *Toute la nuit*, Collection blanche, Gallimard, 1999
- *Raymond Hains uns romans*, Collection Art et Artistes, Gallimard, 2004
- *La beauté du contresens et autres essais sur la littérature japonaise*, Allaphbed I, Cécile Defaut, 2005
- *Le Roman, le réel et autres essais*, Cécile Defaut, 2007
- *Araki enfin, L'homme qui ne vécut que pour aimer*, Collection Art et Artistes, Gallimard, 2008

**About the novel Sarinagara** (Release Date: July 2009, Mercury House)

“In Japanese, ‘Sarinagara’ means ‘and yet.’ This word is the last word of one of the most famous poems of Japanese literature. When he writes it, Kobayashi Issa has just lost his only child: yes, all is emptiness. But Issa mysteriously adds this last word to his poem, leaving its meaning in suspense. This enigma is the theme of a narrative that brings together the stories of three Japanese artists across the centuries: Issa, the last great Haiku master of the 18th century, Natsume Soseki, inventor of the Japanese modern novel at the end of the 19th century, and Yamahata Yosuke, who was the first photographer to take pictures of the victims and ruins of Nagasaki in August 1945. These three ‘dreamed lives’ make the substance of a narrative that takes the reader from Paris to Kyoto and from Tokyo to Kobe, and asks the question of how anyone can hope to survive the most tragic experience.”
‘Surviving is both the test and the enigma.’ Following the death of his young daughter, the narrator moves to Japan with the project of writing an essay on Japanese literature. There, on the other side of the earth, he experiences a series of incidents that connect him to a recurrent childhood dream and allow him to explore the depth of his own grief through the stories of others. Sarinagara is a poignant meditation on the nature of grief, art, and memory.”

Yann Nicol in The Brooklyn Rail

CONFERENCE OFFERED

Forest can read excerpts from his writings and present his work, especially his new novel translated into English: Sarinagara.
He’s also available for other types of events such as lectures, talks, discussions...
He can lecture on topics related to his novels or to his recent essays (the series published by the editions Cécile Defaut under the title taken from Joyce "Allaphbed" and including two books on Japanese literature, one volume on the art of the novel and another on French literary avant-garde).
He can also give more formal or academic lectures, presenting in English the content of some of the articles compiled in the volumes of his "Allaphbed". Titles could include: "A Romance of the Real" (after "Le Roman, le Réel"), "How to write a Japanese novel in French" (after "La Beauté du contresens" and "Haikus, etc."), "Why I am not a writer of 'autofiction" (after "Dix propositions pour en finir avec l'autofiction"), "What's left of the French literary avant-garde?" (after "De Tel Quel à L'Infini").