



AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CLUB



E-Newsletter



Dear AIC Members, we would like to share a few updates with you on what's going on lately

Evening Event with Vera Michalski-Hoffmann and Marlyse Pietri

Have you ever wanted to be an author or a publisher?

On February 9th, the AIC organizes an evening event on « **The Book: a commitment, a vocation** ». Our speakers will be:

- ⇒ **Vera Michalski-Hoffmann** (*left*), founder of Les Editions Noir sur Blanc and Fondation Jan Michalski pour l'écriture et la littérature
- ⇒ **Marlyse Pietri** (*right*), founder of Les Editions Zoé
- ⇒ Moderator: **Charles Mela**, President of the Centre Européen de la Culture and Former President of the Fondation Martin Bodmer



About Vera Michalski-Hoffmann

Born in Basel, Switzerland, in a family with Swiss, Russian and Austrian roots, Vera spent her childhood in France, studied in Spain and has a degree in Political Science from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva. She married Jan Michalski, from Poland, and with him started a publishing company, **Les Editions Noir sur Blanc** in 1987, active in Switzerland, France and Poland. When Jan passed away in 2002, she established the **Jan Michalski Foundation for Literature and Writing** in Montricher, Vaud. The Foundation is now very active featuring an international library, an auditorium, an exhibition space and supports a vast array of literary activities worldwide.

She is also the publisher of the **Libella group**, with a dozen of companies that have published in 2015, over 350 titles in France, Switzerland and Poland. The topics covered by the imprints of Libella range from Polish (Noir sur Blanc, Wydawnictwo Literackie), French and international literature (Buchet/Chastel, Phébus, Notabilia), literary non-fiction, ecology, history, music (Buchet/Chastel), travel writing (Noir sur Blanc), decoration and handicraft (Le Temps apprivoisé), illustrated books on different subjects, landscapes, gastronomy, best-selling practical guides, biographies of celebrities, essays (Favre), contemporary drawing (les Cahiers dessinés). Libella has a quality paperback imprint called Libretto and has entered recently the domain of top class photography (Delpire and Photosynthèses). The Polish bookstore in Paris established in 1833, also belongs to Libella.

About Marlyse Pietri

Marlyse Pietri a créé les **Editions Zoé** en 1975 et les a dirigées jusqu'en 2011, années pendant lesquelles 800 titres de langue française ou traduits de l'allemand et de l'anglais ont été publiés. Son but, en éditant depuis Genève, était de trouver des écrivains de grande qualité littéraire, de suivre leur œuvre avec une grande fidélité et de les faire connaître aussi bien en France et dans le monde francophone qu'en Suisse.

Avec divers prix en France dont le Prix Femina étranger en 2009 pour Matthias Zschokke, elle a prouvé qu'il n'y avait aucune barrière. Ce fut un chemin lent mais fructueux. Insurmontable pour un éditeur situé ici. Elle publie aujourd'hui pour Zoé des écrivains traduits de l'allemand.

For more information and registration: www.amclub.ch/events/55/

Event kindly sponsored by

PAYOT

L I B R A I R E



Luncheon with Baroness Ariane de Rothschild

On Tuesday March 8th, the AIC will organize a speaker luncheon with **Baroness Ariane de Rothschild** at Hôtel d'Angleterre.

Baroness Ariane de Rothschild is a French citizen, born in San Salvador and grew up in Latin America and Africa. She is fluent in French, English, Spanish, German and Italian.

She graduated in Paris with a Bachelor of Commerce and completed a Master in Business Administration at Pace University in New York.

Baroness Ariane de Rothschild has gained a solid experience in finance and banking over the last twenty years. She began her career as a trader in foreign exchange and metals with Société Générale in Australia and in New York. She then joined the US insurance corporation AIG and developed successfully the group's European operations from Paris, France. Baroness Ariane de Rothschild now holds various board positions across the **Edmond de Rothschild Group**, including Edmond de Rothschild (Suisse) S.A., Holding Benjamin & Edmond de Rothschild Pre-gny, Compagnie Benjamin de Rothschild Conseil S.A., Siaci Saint-Honoré Insurance Broker, and Barons & Baronne Associés. In January 2015 she was appointed **Chairwoman of the Group Executive Committee**. She also devotes a considerable amount of time to philanthropy through a historical network of family foundations in Switzerland, France, Spain, Israel, the United States, India and South Africa. The Edmond de Rothschild Foundations play a pivotal role in demonstrating the commitment of her family and her own personal dedication to education and social engagement in the arts, social entrepreneurship, medical research, environment and cross-cultural dialogue.



For more information and registration: www.amclub.ch/events/61/

Luncheon with Stéphane Garelli

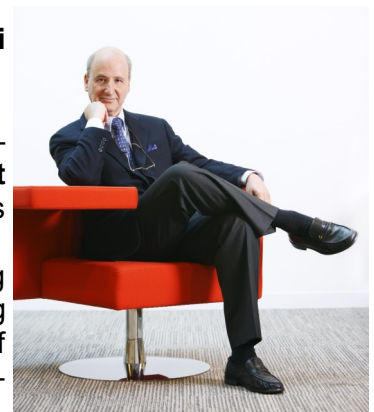
On Thursday April 21st, the AIC will organize a luncheon with **Stéphane Garelli** at Swissôtel Métropole.

Stéphane Garelli - a world authority on competitiveness - has pioneered research in this field for 25 years. **Professor at IMD (Institute of Management Development) Lausanne**, where he has founded the World Competitiveness Centre, he is also professor at the University of Lausanne.

Professor Garelli is closely connected to the world of business. He is, among others, **Chairman of the Board of Directors of "Le Temps"**, the leading French language Swiss newspaper. He was formerly Chairman of the Board of the Sandoz Financial and Banking Holding, and member of the board of the Banque Edouard Constant.

Professor Garelli was the **Managing Director of the World Economic Forum** and of the Davos Symposium for many years. For twelve years he was also permanent senior adviser to the European management of Hewlett-Packard,

He is a member of a number of institutes, such as: China Enterprise Management Association, Board of the 'Fondation Jean Monet pour l'Europe', The Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences, the Mexican Council for Competitiveness, etc. and an advisory committee member of the Thai Management Association. He is also a member of the International Olympic Committee commission on Sustainability and Legacy. He is the author of numerous publications on competitiveness and global business, and he published his best-selling book "Top Class Competitors - How Nations, Firms and Individuals Succeed in the New World of Competitiveness" with Wiley. **His latest book in French is: "Êtes-vous un tigre, un chat ou un dinosaure", chez Slatkine, Genève.** He was a member of the Constitutional Assembly of his local state - Vaud, Switzerland from 1999 to 2002.



For more information and registration: www.amclub.ch/events/62/



Breakfast with Sarah Santacroce

On Friday April 29th, the AIC will organize a breakfast-professional program with **Sarah Santacroce** on “**LinkedIn—the Social Network for Professionals**”

She is a **LinkedIn Expert & Online Presence Mentor** based in Lausanne. She works with professionals and business owners worldwide to create an Online Presence that everyone talks about. She has an in-depth knowledge of the professional platform LinkedIn & helps you convert your presence there into your Personal Branding epicentre – or into paying clients if you run a business. She is a Swiss national with a very international context. It's no coincidence that her business is called **Simplicity**: she is known for her simple, no-nonsense Swiss efficiency, mixed with a good dose of Californian ‘yes we can’ attitude!



For more information and registration: www.amclub.ch/events/56/

Social Media

Do not forget to comment our events on our Facebook page and LinkedIn. Invite your friends to like the page and join the club.

Do not forget to tweet: **#AICGENEVA**



Reporting on AIC Events

Professional Program with Sophie Lavaud

On October 28th at the Swissôtel Metropole, the AIC hosted a Professional Program with **Sophie Lavaud**, a dedicated mountaineer who has successfully climbed four peaks of over 8,000 meters and earned the nickname of “**The 32,000 Lady**”.

Our members shared the highs and lows of her daily life during the extraordinary journey to the summit of Mount Everest (8'850m) last year. For two months her courage, determination and perseverance were challenged in extreme climate conditions.

Being in the role of a follower and one of very few women in the international expedition, she discovered **7 powerful secrets** of what she referred to as ‘followership’. It's the coming together of leadership and ‘followership’ that can not only create a successful team to climb to the top of the world, but also to achieve excellent results in the working world. Her story on climbing new horizons is a true inspiration for personal and professional development.



Maître Tal Schibler and Sophie Lavaud



Jean-Marc Leroux, Mary Hofstetter, Gareth Jones, Vesna Leroux

Thanksgiving Celebration

AIC Thanksgiving 2015 was by far the best one in years ! A most elegant venue, an exuberant crowd, a delicious meal, and dancing to the always fabulous Albert-Mark Band - it was an evening to remember, as we all acknowledge how much we have to be thankful for.



Arriving at the **Hôtel Beau-Rivage** is always a treat, but with the decorations for the hotel's 150th Anniversary, it was more festive than ever. Our office staff – Maxime, Ruth, Nina – looked quite sophisticated, all in cocktail black. Cocktails were divine, created by Fanan, the magical Baccardi barman, who was flanked on one side by our sponsor **John Lobb**, who presented his most elegant shoes and provided us with the traditional “shoe shine” service on a podium. One of the first comments I heard was, « This is very good wine ! » Thanks to your friends the Bugnion.

With Swiss precision, we were called to the tables right on time. Table decor was a beautiful autumnal arrangement, including pumpkins and courges, created by the florist of the hotel. After a delicious pumpkin and chestnut soup, guests were delighted with the festive turkey and stuffing, sweet and mashed potatoes, served with the “jus des aïrelles” (the Swiss cousin to a cranberry). Everything was delicious !



In the generous spirit of Thanksgiving, the hotel provided extra potatoes and cranberries on each table, and set up a carving table for « seconds » on turkey. For the AIC, these features provided the best solution between a elegant sit-down dinner, and a home-style meal. Thank you to the **Chef of the Beau-Rivage, Dominique Gauthier**, for his very generous and kind empathy to the American Thanksgiving traditional meal.



Patrizia Ferrero, Daisy Bergonzoni, Alain Bisiaux, Alexandra Archer, John Archer

Our President, Ed Flaherty, welcomed everyone and read President Obama's Thanksgiving Proclamation. Then the charity auction began. Everyone got a Sotheby's bidding paddle and **Gareth Jones, Director of Sotheby's**, conducted a spirited auction of six lots which included a very elegant pair of **John Lobb** men's boots; a week's stay at the five-star **Soneva Kiri Resort** in Thailand; a signed racquet by our celebrated Swiss tennis player, **Stanislas Wawrinka**; a beautiful painting by Anthony Smith Chaigneau, donated by our sponsor **GEMS World Academy**; and a voucher for a divine oxygen facial offered by our other sponsor, **L.RAPHAEL**. Our sincere gratitude to all our sponsors, including **AUTO-BRITT**, whose fabulous VOLVO Diplomatic Car parked outside of the

Hôtel Beau-Rivage, enticed many onlookers.

As our Thanksgiving Chair, I conducted the Tombola draw for the top three lots. Drawing the first prize of dinner for two, at the newly renovated Chat-Botté, the best table in town, was our Michelin star chef, Dominique Gauthier, who received a warm and well deserved applause. The winner was age 12! **Caran d'Ache** offered their marvelous Gift Box Limited Edition 20th Anniversary Supra Color, 120 colors! SWISS, our Corporate Partner, offered a genuine replica of their Boeing that flies between Geneva/New York.

The proceeds (CHF 12'000) from the auction and tombola went to the Geneva Red Cross (*Croix-Rouge genevoise*) for their programs to help the homeless. Most people who arrive at the Red Cross, have no money, no place to sleep and very little clothing. With the onset of the cold this winter, we were particularly pleased to help the less fortunate on Thanksgiving! The **Albert-Mark Band** got everyone on the dance floor, and Fanan drew and ever increasing crowd to the fabulous Bacardi bar, for his outstanding mojitos!

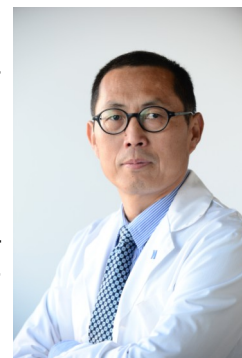
Sincere thanks goes to the Hôtel Beau-Rivage, Mr. Jacques Mayer, and to our Thanksgiving Sponsors, John Lobb, Autobritt, GEMS World Academy and L. Raphael for making it possible that the AIC could put on such a wonderful Thanksgiving for our members, their guests and our Corporate Partners.



Dr. Hong Guang Dong

Dr. Hong Guang Dong, acupuncturist specializing in gynecology at La Tour Hospital Medical Group, addressed the complex topic of the integration of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) in modern health care in his talk to the American International club (AIC) on November 4 at the Swissôtel Metropole.

“Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) is gaining international recognition in the world of science,” said Dr Dong and referred to the pharmaceutical chemist and educator Youyou Tu, the first Chinese woman to be awarded the 2015 Nobel Prize in medicine for her discoveries concerning a novel therapy against Malaria.



He gave an overview of the history and character of traditional Chinese medicine: its holistic concept, individual treatment based on syndrome and variety of treatment methods based on nature, such as roots of plants. He continued with a detailed explanation of the universal life force energy “Qi” and the concept of Yin and Yang, two apparently opposite yet complementary and interconnected forces that ensure harmony in the human body.

“Theories of traditional Chinese medicine assert that the body has natural patterns of Qi that circulate in channels called meridians. Qi is in a state of continuous flux, which is the key to good health. In Japan, they would ask you “How is your Qi?” instead of “How are you? If there is a positive spirit and attitude in the body, disease will not occur”, he said with a smile to over fifty participants.

To complete the TCM concept, Dr Dong illustrated the “Five element theory”, the principles of the clinical guide, key links in the human body and various emotional and climatic factors causing diseases.

The second part of his fascinating presentation was dedicated to acupuncture. “This method is used worldwide and does not require strict quality control in comparison with plants,” emphasized Dr Dong. He quoted W.H.O. reports stating that 80% of 129 researched countries recognized the use of acupuncture. He listed various techniques and methods, such as Manual (Classic), Laser or Ultrasound.

The AIC participants learned about a recent study of the influence of acupuncture on pregnancy rate in patients who undergo assisted reproduction therapy (ART). “This method was performed on half of the 160 patients 25 minutes before and after embryo transfer. Clinical pregnancies were documented 42.5% (34 out of 80 patients) in the acupuncture group, whereas pregnancy rate was only 26.3% (21 out of 80 patients) in the group without acupuncture,” Dr Dong concluded his talk.

His presentation on the potential of complementary and alternative medicine with traditional western medicine was certainly eye opening!

Luncheon with Jean-François Copé

The French politician and former budget minister, **Jean-François Copé** was the speaker at the American International club (AIC) luncheon sponsored by Stéphane Ducret, visual artist, which took place in the Swissôtel Metropole on December 9th. Monsieur Copé, the Mayor of Meaux and MP of Seine-et-Marne, chose the subject of “France reborn: symptoms diagnosis and cure for the French disease” as the topic.



The audience was immediately captivated by his honesty when he openly acknowledged his 18 month silence after a “professional accident” when he resigned following an invoices scandal and poor results for the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) at the 2014 European elections. “I lost for the first time in my life. I took this opportunity to travel for year and a half around France with its 65 million inhabitants and understand who was to blame for the political situation and why French politicians are not reelected like Cameron in the UK or Merkel in Germany.”



He pointed out that the **symptoms** of the French disease are a failure to build a global vision and a lack of concrete results. He sketched an eye-opening picture of Meaux, where he became Mayor in 1995. He witnessed a typical picture of today's French society with a high level of unemployment and challenges of integration among communities. "Nothing was working, which was quite contradictory to the theories I learned during my studies."

Copé raised the need for politicians to explain clearly the situation and move promptly to actions. This is quite a challenge in the digital economy of today's world, where there is a lack of controls. In his opinion a frank dialogue leads to a **diagnosis** of the French disease. "Let's be proud to belong to the right wing like Pompidou or De Gaulle, who brought many reforms to the country," he said and referred to the values of his political party: economic freedom, public order and action.

"We should take our inspiration from Anglo-Saxon teachers to change our mind set and take failures as opportunities for new beginnings and have the confidence to move forward." He believes that the key for the transformation France's governance is efficiency and tangible results to take control of the country's destiny. He suggested three key pillars to **cure** his country's ills:

- Economic freedom with a change in legislation
- Public order with a new program of security
- Progress in investment in digital economy especially in rural areas

Copé summarized his talk by encouraging changes that bring great opportunities to create new ideas, make bold decisions and implement them promptly to achieve clear results. His insights are captured in his latest

Opera Midsummer Night's Dream



The opera playing at the **Grand Théâtre de Genève** is Benjamin Britten's delightful *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Following the Sunday matinée, AIC members and guests were able to meet with many Americans of the cast as well as the conductor. Everyone was delighted to meet the charming and talented artists.

The opera itself was a wonderful musical interpretation by Katharina Thalbach of the classic Shakespeare play. An extraordinary mischievous Puck was performed by the gifted Anna Thalbach, a reknown German actress. The set on which the couples in love chased each other about or the rustics rehearsed their play-within-a-play, was a giant women's torso! Alternatively Pachamama "Mother Earth" or the setting of erotic escapades, the opening music was that of breathing – an organic set. The voices – all young and attractive, many Americans – were wonderful to listen to. Some had to be made to look older, unlike many opera roles filled with singers just too old and too big for the part.



As the fantastic conductor, Steven Sloane, explained to us, the score is for chamber orchestra where each instrument plays solo, which gave the work a very intimate feeling. He praised the excellent quality of the Orchestre Suisse Romande (OSR) musicians.

Our thanks go to the **Grand Théâtre** and their staff for making the event possible – lining up the English-speaking singers, opening up the elegant foyer. The atmosphere was warm and the "bubbly" was poured generously, served with copious canapés. Like most AIC Cultural Events, this "Meet & Greet" was not something that you can do on your own – the benefit of membership in the AIC! A most delightful matinée at the Opera!



OSR Concert de l'An

The **Orchestre Suisse Romande (OSR)** performs a New Year Concert each year, hosted by the *Amis de OSR*. AIC members were able to attend at a special 30% discount, thanks to an invitation to the AIC by the President of the OSR, Florence Notter. Thanks to the OSR for offering this very popular concert at such an attractive price.

The OSR performed a selection of light classics by three Russian composer – Borodine, Tchaikovsky, and Khatchaturian – to a full house. These words appealed to the entire family; several of the young music lovers in the audience particularly enjoyed the huge drum and the heavy brass fanfare. The American cello soloist, Alisa Weilerstein, got a wonderful reception, and played a solo piece by Bach as an encore.

There was also a surprise addition to the program - two violin and orchestra pieces played by a 14 year old boy – with full command of his instrument and considerable stage presence.

Hanging from the ceiling above the stage were several large colored cut-outs of Russian “onion” church steeples – a very appropriate backdrop for this concert.

The OSR is making an effort to build its audience among the international community in Geneva. Stay tuned for other special invitations from the OSR, including attendance at rehearsals and having dinner with orchestra members.

This proved to be a very pleasant evening and a nice way to begin the AIC 2016 Cultural Events.



The AIC would like to thank our **Corporate Partners** who are the vital backbone of the AIC. If you are interested in becoming a Corporate Partner please contact Mary Hofstetter, Director of Development. admin@amclub.ch or call: 022 704 13 23



New Members

We would like to inform you of our new AIC Members who have joined since June 2015. We would like to encourage you to invite your friends and colleagues to be members as they will enjoy not only **top global Speakers** with **special member prices** to attend, but also the many professional programs, sporting and cultural events that the AIC organizes for its members. Go to **AIC Facebook** to view all the exceptional events that were organised by the AIC. Give us your opinion on Facebook and on the **AIC Linked In** page. We value your input.

Pierre	ABRAMOWSKI		APROTEC SA
Thaddeus	BURNS		GENERAL ELECTRIC
Regina	CIRMON	Journalist	
Aneeqah	DINAULLY		FIFA
Christopher	GREENWOOD		ICRC
*Jean-François	COPE	Mayor	CITY OF MEAUX
Mark	GIOROG	Taxology	
Odia	ISWALA		SOFTWEB
Bruno	KEMPF	CEO	BK ORGANISATION TRAVEL
Sonja	KIRSANOVA		QUANTHUM ALTHEA
Vincent	KUNZ		
Rosalba	MELE	Marketing Freelancer	
Vanessa	NEIL		DEVERE
Terri	OLIN		
James	PETERSON		JLP CONSULTING LLC
Dragana	PROKIC		ETAT DE GENEVE
Norbert	RACSKO		SWISS TOMATO
Joseph	RIERAS		US MISSION WTO
Alexandra	ROBINSON		GAGOSIAN GALLERY
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News about our Corporate Partners



JTI's new corporate headquarters



In 2015, we were recognized **Top Employer Global**, with JTI offices awarded in 33 countries across Europe, Asia Pacific and the Middle East.



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Développent du réseau SWISS

SWISS relie désormais Lamezia Terme à Genève

Du 2 juillet au 20 août 2016, les voyageurs au départ de Genève-Aéroport pourront mettre le cap avec SWISS sur la Calabre.

SWISS étoffe son offre estivale au départ de Genève avec l'ouverture de la ligne directe Genève-Lamezia Terme, qui sera proposée en juillet et en août à raison d'une fréquence hebdomadaire, le samedi.

Cette destination de l'Italie du sud, située à l'extrême sud-ouest de la péninsule, saura ravir les voyageurs à la recherche de calme et de farniente, à une heure et demie de Genève. Lamezia Terme, à la pointe de la botte italienne, offre de très belles plages et des baies idylliques au charme caché.

« Lamezia Terme représente un très bon complément à notre offre italienne, car nous avons constaté un intérêt avéré de la population de la région pour le sud de l'Italie » déclare Lorenzo Stoll, Directeur Général de SWISS en Suisse Romande.

Horaire (heure locale) du 2 juillet au 20 août 2016 (durée du vol: 1h35)

Samedi

LX 2384 GVA-SUF 11:30—13:40

LX 2332 SUF-GVA 14:40—17:00

Cette nouvelle destination est disponible désormais sur swiss.com/geneve

SWISS has a platform that displays SWISS' best offers from Geneva. Please visit www.swiss.com/geneva/

You can share your pictures on Instagram and win tickets with your partner SWISS. All details about the contest, visit <http://swissgva.com/en/swiss-gva/>



21st International Humanitarian 2-Day Conference

Thursday, February 18 – Friday, February 19

International Conference Center Geneva (CICG), 17 Rue de Varembe, 1202 Geneva

Webster University Geneva's Department of International Relations, together with the Webster Humanitarian Association, will hold the twenty-first International Humanitarian Conference (IHC) on February 18-19, 2016.

In view of the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016, the conference is entitled "**Toward the World Humanitarian Summit.**" The aim of the IHC will be to discuss and to assess many of the key issues on the agenda of the WHS, and to propose next steps and solutions.

The 21st IHC will be translated simultaneously in English/French.

For more information: http://events.webster.edu/event/21st_international_humanitarian_conference





The role of parents at GEMS World Academy Switzerland?

Parents play an essential role in the education of their children and at GEMS we believe that parents who take an active and consistent interest in their child's education at home will contribute to the child's success in school. A study by Professor John Hattie from Melbourne University shows that "consistent engagement can add 2-3 years of formal education, result in higher grades, improve attitude, attendance, life choices, social skills, behavior and effort."

At GEMS, we pride ourselves in proposing an active programme for parents including coffee mornings, a variety of workshops, conference opportunities with teachers, sports, whole school events as well as having a point of contact for parents to give any feedback and comments. Our workshops cover topics related to the learning that is happening in the classrooms as well as subjects particular to an international community.

What makes us even more proud is the active programme that volunteer parents have established for the school community. The GEMS Parent Group organise 2 events per Term for the whole school and these have included a Winter Market, a fund-raising Gala, a family BBQ, bake-sales and a Halloween party. In addition, they have created parent sports clubs, French and German conversation clubs, parent social ski days and winetasting evenings, and they have designed a dedicated website for all parents.



Winter Market with Santa visiting



Bake Sale



Gala evening in honour of the UNICEF Schools for Asia project





PwC Digital Trust Conference 2016: "Cyber security incidents: preparation, detection and response"

Tuesday, 15 March 2016

Cyber-attack simulation workshop - Game of Threats™ : 10.00 am to 12.00pm

Conference : 1.30 to 5.30pm, followed by an apéro

Starling Geneva Hotel & Conference Center

For more information: please contact Olga Alfaro (olga.alfaro@ch.pwc.com)

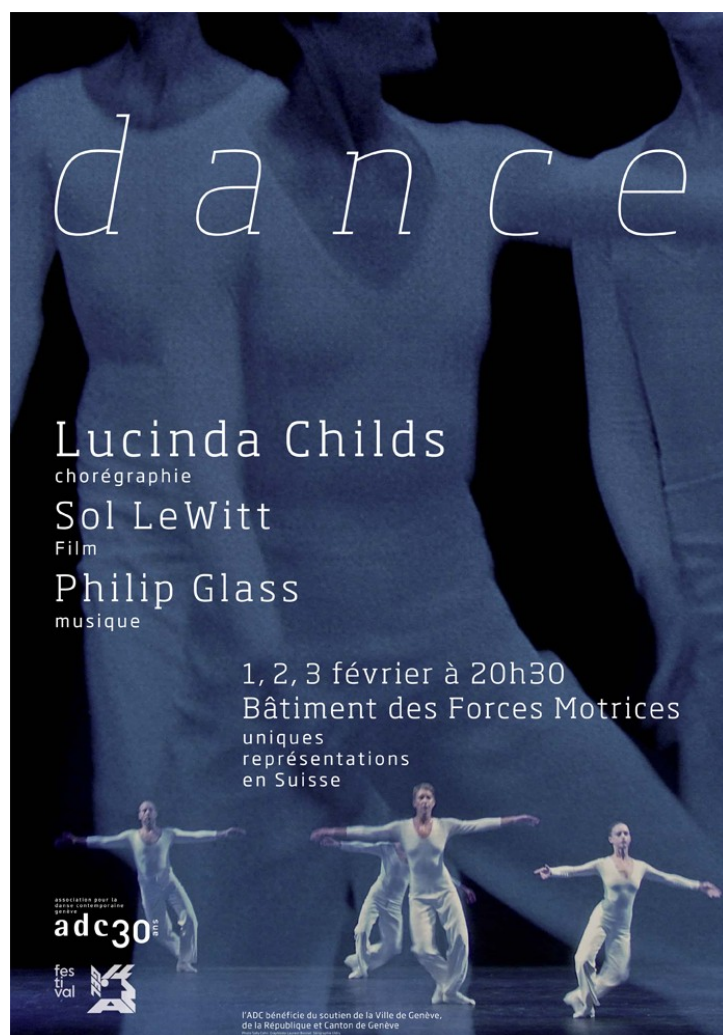


16th Sommet Musical de Gstaad

29 January to 6 February 2016

The Sommet Musical de Gstaad present the musical programme of their sixteenth edition. From 29 January to 6 February 2015, music-lovers will gather in the churches of Gstaad, Saanen and Rougemont. In the spirit of the Festival's objectives, unchanged since its inception in 2001, audiences at the Sommet Musical de Gstaad will be able to hear outstanding young talent as well as major international virtuosos over the course of nine days.

For more information: www.sommets-musicaux.ch



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