

# SLG

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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



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It is registered as company no.04720002 (SLG Trustee Ltd)

## IL Y AURA (THERE WILL BE)

**Written and Directed by**  
Alice Theobald

**Starring**  
Thibault de Montalembert  
Alice Theobald

**Producer**  
Anne-Sophie Dinant

**Cinematographer**  
Ville Pippo

**Sound Recordist**  
Nassim El Mounabbih

**Camera Assistant**  
Rhaissa Monteiro Pinto

**Edited by**  
Alice Theobald

**Original Music**  
Tom Hirst (American Sound) and  
Alice Theobald  
Songs "A Rose" and "Golden" by  
American Sound

**Sound Design and Mix**  
19 Sound

**Colour Grading**  
Black Kite Studios & Richard Fearon

**Location**  
Courtesy of Nathalie Najbor

Special thanks to

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Françoise Theobald  
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Photography is permitted

Let us know your thoughts  
#AliceTheobald #ILYAURA

Alice Theobald, IL Y AURA (There will be), 2022. Film still

## ALICE THEOBALD IL Y AURA (THERE WILL BE)

9 MAR - 5 JUN 2022

MAIN GALLERY  
EXHIBITION GUIDE



# SLG

*There will be family dramas.*

## ALICE THEOBALD: IL Y AURA (THERE WILL BE)

The South London Gallery presents *IL Y AURA (There will be)*, a new film installation by Franco-British artist Alice Theobald (b. 1985). A combination of multiple artistic forms characterises Theobald's work and this new commission brings together performance, film, installation and music.

Starring French actor Thibault de Montalembert (*Call my Agent*, 2015–present; *My Sex Life... or How I Got Into an Argument*, 1996) and the artist herself, *IL Y AURA (There will be)* is inspired by Eugène Ionesco's play *La Leçon*. In a Parisian apartment, a young woman arrives in an older man's home for an ambiguous ritualised lesson. She is invited to read her 'exercises' and begins to nervously recite a series of phrases describing various scenes that 'will be' in the future. As the phrases become more surreal, the professor's behaviour becomes more animated, erratic and sinister.

This work has emerged from the artist's personal experience as a bilingual Franco-British person brought up in the UK. Conflating fiction, personal experience and memory with a refusal to offer clear narrative resolutions, this film confronts intimate elements of Theobald's French heritage and the experience of gradually losing her mother tongue.

Shot on Super 16mm and using a handheld camera, the film has the aesthetic of a home movie, characteristic of Theobald's

previous performance video recorded works. The film opens in an unassuming naturalistic style, before slowly becoming more absurd as the woman's phrases portray an increasingly intense picture of a fractured society. At its most delirious, *IL Y AURA (There will be)* comments on social mores, clichés, learnt modes of behaviour and the cyclical nature of producing fiction whilst simultaneously being produced by it. The work incorporates key elements of Theobald's practice: manipulation and superimposition of images, an exploration of performance and language and use of absurdist and dead-pan humour. Here performance is used as both starting point and subject matter to examine the boundaries between fiction and life and the slippage between the different social roles we inhabit.

Running time 18 min 15 sec loop

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Alice Theobald** was born in Leicester, UK in 1985. She lives and works in Birmingham, UK. Theobald works across a wide range of media including live performance, video, installation, sound, music, text and sculpture. Her work fluctuates between script and improvisation and highlights the unstable relationship between art, communication and representation. She composes the music and soundtracks for her works. In 2013 she co-founded the music group and artist-collective *Ravioli Me Away* with Sian Dorrer and Rosie Ridgway. In 2019 they created the alt-opera *The View from Behind the Futuristic Rose Trellis* which toured nationally to Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge; BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead; The Box Plymouth and The Albany, Deptford.

Recent solo exhibitions include, *IL Y AURA (There will be)*, Gaudel de Stampa, Paris, 2022, *We May Believe Or We May Never Know* The White House, CREATE, Dagenham, 2018; *Weddings And Babies*, Pilar Corrias, 2017; *The Next Step*, Two Queens, Leicester, 2016 ; *It's Not Who You Are, it's How You Are*, collaboration with Atomik Architecture, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, 2015.

Performance presentations include *Ballad of Simple Women*, Abu Dhabi Art Fair, AE, 2020; *What Not To Wear Our My Soul*, Art Night, Walthamstow, 2019; *You've got my back and I'm on your side*, FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims, FR, 2017 and

Focal Point Gallery, Southend-on-Sea, 2016; *I've said yes now that's it*, Chisenhale Gallery (Interim), London, UK, 2014; *AFTER/HOURS/DROP/BOX*, Spike Island, Bristol, UK, 2014.

**Anne-Sophie Dinant** is an independent curator based in France. Most recent exhibitions and film programmes include *Clément Cogitore*, Base sous-marine, Bordeaux and *An Image (screening)*, Lajevardi Foundation, Tehran. She was curator at large at CAPCmusée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux 2014–18 and associate curator at the SLG 2012–17. She has previously organised film and video screenings at Tate Modern, The British Film Institute (BFI) and the ICA, London and has written for artist books and art magazines such as *Artpress* and *Mousse*.