

When France won its first World Cup in 1998, the media celebrated the victory of a diverse and plural France «Black, White, Beur». The opening ceremony of the XXXI Olympiad was inspired by this spirit – Zinedine Zidane, a French-Algerian binational footballer born in Marseille, the most talented and popular player of his generation, captain of the victorious French team, who played in the most prestigious European clubs – Girondins de Bordeaux (France), Juventus (Milan, Italy) or Real de Madrid (Spain) opened the ball of the opening ceremony. The flame was given to him at the Stade de France by Jamel Debbouze, a popular comedian, actor and producer born in Paris, a binational Franco-Moroccan. The Franco-Malian artist, Aya Nakamura, born in Mali, currently the most popular francophone singer on the international scene, made a notable appearance, leaving the Institut de France, head quarter of the French Academy, surrounded by the Republican Guard to symbolize the France of 2024- rich in its traditions and origins, always enriched by fellow citizens from all continents.

Céline Dion, a Canadian-born francophone artist with global success, has returned after four years of absence. She holds the record for sales of francophone albums, a result of her collaboration with the French musician Jean-Jacques Goldman, the French's favorite artist, despite he hasn't shown up on stage in the past 20 years. This time, the Canadian artist sang one of the best-known works by Edith Piaf, a French singer with an international career, who symbolizes Paris. The hymn to love celebrates both a pain and a victory in the face of adversity. For the Canadian artist, it recalls her four years of absence due to a very disabling disease that she did not hide from her fans to support all affected people like her in their flesh.

For France, the message is very current-our country has gone through a very troubled political, social and economic period. On the occasion of the European elections (June 2024) and the legislative elections (July 2024), a hate speech, racist, anti-Semitic, sexist and homophobic has been unleashed in recent months in France, carried by extremist parties that have openly attacked the French identity by threatening to deprive the binational French of strategic positions, an implicit threat to our republican principles of universalism, solidarity and equal opportunities. Other extremist parties in Europe are also threatening to attack the foundations of European construction, supported by authoritarian regimes whose interferences have been well documented (Russia, China...).

«United in diversity», the European motto, was displayed with the banner with 12 golden stars on a blue background, on a barge of the Seine. The message of these Paris 2024 Games is not only French, but the fight is also European and even international. These are the Games of the existential struggle of western democracies against all authoritarianism and obscurantism so refractory to diversity, DNA of democracy.

The spirit of the Olympic Games in Paris 2024 is given- it will be the flag bearer of all cultural, religious, artistic, gender, sexual orientation, styles also with music and dances current or more traditional where Hip Hop meets the French Cancan, where Alsatian dances rub together to the Break Dance. The Olympic basin lit by a cohort of French athletes, champions and champions, embodying this diversity will be the watchtower of respect for the flame of diversity that will animate these Olympics. Long live the Paris 2024 Games !

- (1) Documentary by ickaël Gamrasni « Olympiques ! La France des Jeux », France, diffusé le 16 juillet 2024 sur France 2
- (2) Official website Olympics Paris -<https://olympics.com/fr/paris-2024/les-jeux/ceremonies/ceremonie-d-ouverture>
- (3) Jules et Gédéon Naudet « Au cœur des jeux », France , 2024- **Cérémonie d'ouverture : premiers secrets - Partie 1** - <https://www.france.tv/sport/les-jeux-olympiques/6324884-ceremonie-d-ouverture-premiers-secrets-partie-1.html>
- (4) Opening ceremony broadcasted by France 2- 26 July 2024- <https://www.france.tv/sport/les-jeux-olympiques/6326006-ceremonie-d-ouverture-paris-2024.html>
- (5) Practical Guide edited by iriv - Think Diverse (Erasmus +, 2021-2023) <https://www.iriv-publications.net/documents/guide-pratique-think-diverse-la-pensee-creative-au-service-de-la-diversite/252?lang=en>

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