

In the know

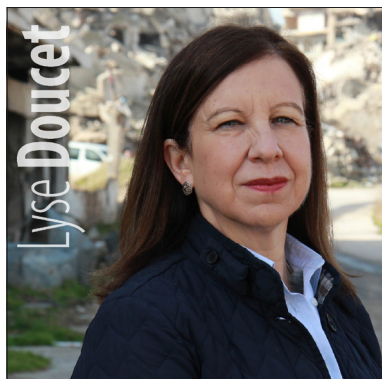
All things Knowlton Literary Festival

www.knowltonliteraryfestival.ca



Festival Dates: October 15–17, 2026

Lyse Doucet will be in conversation with Louise Penny, at the Brome Lake Community Centre (270 Victoria, Knowlton) on Saturday October 17, 2026, discussing her life as an international correspondent, journalist, and her book: *The Finest Hotel in Kabul*.



Lyse Doucet

Lyse Doucet, C.M., O.B.E. was born in eastern Canada, and is the BBC's Chief International Correspondent and a senior presenter who anchors news programs for *BBC World TV* and *World Service Radio*. She is regularly deployed to present special news coverage from the field, interview world leaders and report across the BBC's domestic and global outlets.

Before joining the BBC's team of presenters in 1999, Lyse spent 15 years as a BBC foreign correspondent with postings in Jerusalem, Amman, Islamabad, Tehran, Kabul and Abidjan. She is a regular visitor to the Middle East and has covered major stories in the region since 1994, when she established the BBC's office in Amman, Jordan.

Lyse was awarded an O.B.E. in the Queen's Honours list in 2014 for her services to broadcasting and the Columbia Journalism Award for lifetime achievement in 2016.

Her most recent awards include, in 2018, the *Trailblazer Award* from the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, and the *Change the Culture Award* from the Theirworld education charity. In 2017, she was honoured with the *Charles Wheeler Award* for Broadcasting by the British Journalism Review, Italy's *Luchetta Award* for a report on Syrian children, and the *Next Century Foundation Award* for Outstanding Contribution to Broadcasting. In 2016, she received the *Sandford St Martin Trustees' Award* for reporting on religious issues, and the *One World Media Radio Award* for a documentary on Afghan women. Earlier honours include an *Emmy* and a *Peabody* in the United States in 2014 for her team's reporting from Syria.

Lyse Doucet continued ...

She is a trustee of Inter Mediate, an honorary patron of Canadian Crossroads International and a member of Friends of Aschiana UK, which supports street working children in Afghanistan. She is also a founding member of the Marie Colvin Journalists' Network and a Senior Fellow of Massey College at the University of Toronto. She is a trustee of the Frontline Club for Journalists and a member of the Canadian Journalism Forum on Violence and Trauma. Lyse has eleven honorary doctorates from leading British and Canadian Universities. She has a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Toronto, and a BA Hons from Queen's University in Kingston.

THE FINEST HOTEL IN KABUL

*A people's history of Afghanistan — The story of a hotel.
The story of a nation.*

When the Inter-Continental Kabul opened in 1969, Afghanistan's first luxury hotel symbolized a dream of a modernizing country connected to the world.

More than fifty years on, the Inter-Continental is still standing. It has endured Soviet occupation, multiple coups, a grievous civil war, a US invasion and the rise, fall and rise of the Taliban. History lives within its scarred windows and walls.

Lyse Doucet, the BBC's Chief International Correspondent, has been checking into the Inter-Continental since 1988. And here, she uses its story to craft a richly immersive history of modern Afghanistan.

