

Hélène Cixous Bio

Hélène Cixous was born on June 5, 1937 in Oran, Algeria. Influenced by English literature, mythology and the German romantics, Cixous's first novel, *Dedans* (1969; Eng. *Inside*, 1986), won the Prix Médicis. *Dedans* was followed by *Le Troisième Corps* (1970; Eng. *The Third Body*, 1999), *Les Commencements* (1970), and *Ne* (1972). In addition to writing novels, Cixous has also written plays and developed literary theories, the most famous of which is *écriture féminine*, a theory concerning subjective differences in writing and social theories and the limits of Western logocentrism. Cixous has worked at the Université de Bordeaux, Université Paris-Sorbonne IV, and Université Paris X-Nanterre. In 1968 she founded the Université de Paris VIII at Vincennes. In 1969 Cixous and fellow faculty members Gérard Genette and Tzvetan Todorov started *Poétique*, a publication for experimental reading and texts. Among her most influential essays are "Sortie" (Eng., 1980; translated excerpt from *La Jeune Née*, 1975), "Le Rire de la Méduse" (1975; Eng. "The Laugh of the Medusa," 1976), and "La Venue à l'écriture" (1977; Eng. "Coming to Writing," 1987)