

# ARTS MARATHON



**Press release  
For immediate release**

## ARTS MARATHON TEN CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS TAKE TO THE STREETS FOR THE NEW CULTURAL SEASON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH AND SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2011

**Montreal, August 25<sup>th</sup> 2011-** Ten of Montréal's cultural institutions – Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, the Opéra de Montréal, TOHU, DUCAPPE, the Orchestre Métropolitain, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and Place des Arts – will invade the parterre of the Quartier des spectacles and the neighboring areas on Saturday, September 10 (from 11:30 am to 11:00 pm) and Sunday, September 11 (from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm) for a unique outdoor event. Festive and wildly entertaining, the Arts Marathon will combine circus arts, dance, theatre, opera, literature, music, visual arts and performances. In its own way, the event will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Ministère des Affaires culturelles, highlight the new, audacious and multidisciplinary cultural season of the Quartier des spectacles and the surrounding areas, and provide free activities for the public to take part in.

### **Saturday, September 10, 2011, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** **FALL FOR SUMMER BALLET!**

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal  
At Le Parterre in the Quartier des spectacles

A screening of Stéphanie Weber Biron's documentary *Un été de danse* ("A Summer of Dance"), an intimate and up-close look at the world of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal during its visit to Paris in July 2008. An audience-participation activity will follow, led by the company's dancers.

### **Saturday September 10, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** **OPEN DOORS IN MUSIC**

Orchestre symphonique de Montréal  
OSM's new home

### **COME DISCOVER THE OSM'S NEW HOME DURING OPEN DOORS IN MUSIC**

**Kent Nagano** conceived open doors with the aim of having the greatest possible number of people take part in the celebrations surrounding the opening of the OSM's new home. The public will discover the diverse features of the hall as well as learning something of the OSM's history in the course of guided tours during which performances will be given by musicians from the **17 regions of Québec**. Professional and emerging pianists, choirs, throat singers, a string orchestra, a contemporary ensemble, a guitar quartet and various duos and trios will perform at a number of locations in the building. During the open doors, the public will first visit an exhibit setting out the principal stages in the construction as well as the specific design points of the hall, then enjoy a guided tour of the lobbies, the galleries and finally the auditorium, where a presentation of the hall's features will be given.

### **Complete open doors schedule:**

**Thursday, September 8, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. (last entry at 8 p.m.)**  
**Friday, September 9, from 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. (last entry at 5 p.m.)**  
**Saturday, September 10, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. (last entry at 5 p.m.)**



**Saturday September 10, 2011 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**COLLECTIVE KATA**

TOHU

At Le Parterre in the Quartier des spectacles

TOHU wants to provide a preview of its fall season opening show, *Chi of Shaolin, Tale of the Dragon*, a meeting of the Shaolin monks' martial arts and Asian circus. With this in mind, audiences are invited to attend the "Grand Kata," a demonstration of a karate movement series given by specialized schools, and participants are welcome to join in. It will be a chance to learn about this age-old art before seeing the Shaolin masters at work at TOHU! A celebration will ensue, with Chinese lions that will dance with the crowd to the sounds of traditional Chinese music.

**Saturday September 10, 2011 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**BOOKS TAKE TO THE STAGE!**

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec

At Le Parterre in the Quartier des spectacles

Come share in the magic provided by professional stage performers and discover the pleasure of reading books of every imaginable kind with them.

In response to an invitation from the Department of Cultural Programming of Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, the Théâtre Galiléo has created a tribute show to the art of reading.

Intended for children 9 years of age and older, this show proposes an astonishing voyage through a series of excerpts taken from mangas, encyclopedias, novels of all kinds, stories of travel, etc., the key being Daniel Pennac's list of 10 inalienable Rights of the Reader.

To add to the festivities, the actors have developed a particularly inventive way of soliciting the audience's participation in their reading frenzy... both before and after the show!

As an added bonus: the surprising collection of instruments invented by Carol Bergeron, director of TUYO, and – as a way of celebrating the world of manga that will be highlighted all year long at the Grande Bibliothèque – cameos by two of the actors from *Manga\**, an original creation by Belzébrute, scripted by Jocelyn Sioui and Vincent Magnat.

Text selection and interpretation: **Stéphanie Lépine** and **Vincent Magnat**

Music: **Carol Bergeron**

Production: **Théâtre Galiléo**

\* *Manga : un voyage épique au cœur d'un Japon médiéval déjanté* was created by Éric Desjardins, Clémence Doray, Caroline Fortin, Jocelyn Sioui and Amélie Poirier-Aubry (music).

**Saturday September 10, 2011, 5 : 00 p.m. to 7 : 00 p.m.**

**TOUCHING THE WALL. EN MASSE COLLECTIVE**

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

At Le Parterre in the Quartier des spectacles

In participating to the Arts Marathon, the Montreal Museum of Fine arts comes out and about to the encounter of the people of Montreal, this being the fruit of its collaboration with the *En Masse* creative group. During this *happening*, the young and the not-so young are invited to take over the art scene and to create a collective mural, with charcoal, along with the artists.

The *En Masse* collective includes many different up-and-coming artists, drawn from different artistic fields such as graffiti, alternative comics, design and fine arts. They create improvisational large-scale black-and-white artworks, on different textures such as canvas, plywood, paper as well as walls. En Masse was at the Osheaga Festival where they performed in public, allowing people to participate in the artwork. They also participated to Safewalls, creating a mural in the entrance of the Cirque du Soleil's offices. They are presently featured at the Pangée Gallery in Montreal. Along with 17 other artists, En Masse will take part in the Big Bang exhibition, which will be presented at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts this coming November.



**Saturday September 10, 2011, 7:00 p.m. to 9 :30 p.m.**

**MADAMA BUTTERFLY UNDER THE STARS: A GREAT MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE OPÉRA**

Opéra de Montréal

At Le Parterre in the Quartier des spectacles

June 7, 2008. 33,000 spectators attended the “Madama Butterfly Under the Stars” event, an outdoor simulcast of Puccini’s popular masterpiece, *Madama Butterfly*. Truly a first in the history of urban opera events, the event has gone down in the annals of opera in Montreal. In the performance hall, the opera was sold out, playing to a total of 18,000 people. **Relive the experience on September 10 at 7:00 pm at Le Parterre in the Quartier des spectacles, as part of the Marathon des Arts!**

On the evening of June 7, 2008, the stars aligned for a magical night. First, the work: a timeless story of unrequited love, brilliantly set to music by the master of emotion, Puccini, and featuring captivating melodies that glimmer with the subtle colours of the Orient. In the title role, golden-voiced Japanese soprano **Hiromi Omura** dazzled Montreal and attracted the eyes—and ears—of the whole world with her heartrending incarnation of a young geisha who is abandoned and then betrayed. Her lover, the American Pinkerton, was perfectly portrayed, both vocally and physically, by **Richard Troxell**, who had already performed the role in Frédéric Mitterand’s film version of the opera (1995). A host of international artists filled out the cast. This Opéra de Montréal – Opera Australia co-production featured stunningly beautiful, modern, stylized sets and costumes.

“Madama Butterfly Under the Stars” will be presented free of charge once again, as part of the Marathon des Arts on **September 10 at 7:00 pm**, at Le Parterre in the Quartier des spectacles. An exceptional evening awaits you.

**Saturday, September 10, 9:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.**

**LE BAL / SALSA**

Place des arts

At Le Parterre in the Quartier des spectacles

Place des Arts presents a special edition of its *Bal du dimanche*, with choreographer and dancer Chantal Dauphinais. Learn the basics of salsa dancing, with, on stage, Cuban group Habana Café will provide music to get you moving under the stars!

In February 2011, Place des Arts successfully launched *Le Bal du dimanche*, a free dance lesson with orchestra, open to one and all. Since then, once a month, Montreal dance fans have been able to get together in the Espace culturel Georges-Émile-Lapalme to practice their favourite steps, free of charge.

Complete info at [www.laplacedesarts.com](http://www.laplacedesarts.com)

**Sunday, September 11, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**CIRCUS AND RYTHM PICNIC**

TOHU and Place des Arts

At Le Parterre in the Quartier des spectacles

La TOHU and Place des Arts join forces to bring families a morning combining rhythm and skill with workshops and performances—wrapping up with a big picnic in the heart of downtown. Don’t forget to bring your lunch!

11 am – Circus Workshops. It may look easy, but don’t let that fool you... La TOHU is offering young and old alike an opportunity to learn about and even try their hand at a few circus disciplines—all in good fun! On the program: wire-walking, hula hoop, and diabolo will help set the mood before the show.

11:30 am – Le Théâtre à Tempo presents *La Grande Étude*, a musical farce in which two outlandish scientist-musicians use three clown-like characters as their guinea-pigs, putting them through a battery of tests to study the effects of sound and rhythm on the human race. Including minuscule musical instruments and great physical feats, *La Grande Étude* is sure to astound and captivate one and all. Presented as part of the PDA Junior series.

12:15 pm – Instrument making. Make music while you go green! Come along with your children, and bring the morning to a close by learning how to reuse various recyclable materials by fashioning them into musical instruments.



**Sunday September 11, 2011, 1:30 p.m. to 3 :30 p.m.**

**CLASSICAL MUSIC – MEET THE MÉTROPOLITAIN**

Orchestre Métropolitain

At Le Parterre in the Quartier des spectacles

Celebrate the end of another great summer season with the musicians of the Orchestre Métropolitain! In the heart of downtown, the Orchestra invites the public, young and old, to a colorful musical activity that combines quality classical music and entertainment. Come share the musicians' passion for music as they play their favorite pieces and discuss the upcoming season of the Orchestre Métropolitain. Twelve musicians (a brass quintet, a string quartet and a wood trio), well-known masterpieces from here and abroad, all presented in a jovial atmosphere. A unique opportunity to meet the musicians and enjoy classical music outdoor in the beautiful setting of the Quartier des spectacles. We hope to see you there!

**Sunday, September 11, 2011, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

**LE MARATHON DES MOTS**

DUCEPPE and Théâtre du Nouveau Monde

At Le Parterre in the Quartier des spectacles

**A FESTIVE EVENT IN THE HEART OF THE ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT**

The Théâtre du Nouveau Monde will be celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 9, 2011.

To highlight this historic milestone, the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde (TNM) will be joining nine other institutions, including DUCEPPE, on the stage of the outdoor plaza at Quartier des spectacles on Sunday, September 11 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., presenting the powerful poetry of writers and playwrights whose work has made a strong impression on TNM and DUCEPPE audiences.

The festivities will be hosted by Michel Dumont, artistic director of DUCEPPE, and the artistic director of TNM Lorraine Pintal. Excerpts from plays, musical scores and songs from the theatrical presentations of both theatres will be featured. The hosts will be joined by a dozen artists who have also left their mark on the history of these two institutions.

DUCEPPE will honour some of Québec's authors—Michel Tremblay, Marie Laberge, Serge Boucher, Michel Marc Bouchard, Jean-Rock Gaudreault and Stéphane Brulotte—along with classic works by of Arthur Miller and John Steinbeck. Denis Bernard, Normand D'Amour, Maude Guérin, Sylvie Léonard and Benoît McGinnis will join Michel Dumont in giving a resounding voice to the hard-hitting speech of these great authors.

The TNM will be emphasizing the subversive texts of writers ranging from Claude Gauvreau to Réjean Ducharme by way of Michel Tremblay and Claude Corbo, concluding with *La renarde et le mal peigné*, which consists of excerpts from the correspondence between Pauline Julien and Gérald Godin. All these exceptional texts will be brought to life by Marie Tifo, Pierre Curzi, Alexis Martin and Lorraine Pintal.

This marathon of words will draw to a close with a screening of six videos made in honour of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TNM and featuring Violette Chauveau, François Papineau, Marc Béland, Pascale Montpetit, Gilles Renaud and Sophie Desmarais.

This collective demonstration has been made possible by the financial participation of the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine du Québec, the Partenariat du Quartier des spectacles and the Borough of Ville-Marie (Ville de Montréal). All of the information will be available as of August 25 at [marathondesarts.com](http://marathondesarts.com) and at [lavitrine.com](http://lavitrine.com), a major cultural partner of the event and official information site for the Arts Marathon.

[www.marathondesarts.com](http://www.marathondesarts.com)

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