

**FESTIVAL ACCÈS ASIE**  
**Opening Cocktail to launch**  
**the 19th edition of Festival**  
**Accès Asie 2014**

**Thursday May 1st**  
**5pm to 7pm**

**Monument-National**  
**(Financière Sun Life Stage)**  
**1182,**  
**Saint-Laurent boulevard**

**Place-d'Armes or**  
**Saint-Laurent subway**  
**stations**

**Free**



**Festival Accès Asie**  
**May 1st to 18th 2014**  
**19<sup>th</sup> edition**  
**www.accesasie.com**

Montreal, March 3rd, 2014 - Under the title *Asia's Earth, Montreal's Dome*, **Festival Accès Asie** invites you to celebrate all the richness and creativity of Asian heritage for its nineteenth edition. A series of events that will be held during the month of May, officially declared Asian Heritage month, that will highlight the talent of the artists of Asian origins living in Montreal through an impressive array of artistic disciplines. And for the first year, the Festival is proud to announce the presence of a prestigious spokesperson, talented author **Kim Thúy**.

It is on the very first day of May that the festivities for this 19th edition will begin with the indispensable **Opening Cocktail**. Starting at 5pm on the Financière Sun Life stage of the Monument-National, dance, music and video will delight you to give you a colourful glimpse of the 2014 edition. Ziya Tabassian, the talented percussionist, and *sarod* virtuoso Aditya Verma will offer a performance fusing Indian and Persian music, and the inventive dancers Jenn Doan and Ted Strauss will present a short excerpt of their *Iredea* show. VJ Pink Rubber Lady will end the evening with her eclectic projections.

You are invited to come enjoy yourself and help us launch this new edition in the company of Khosro Berahmandi and all his joyful team. This is an event that will no doubt spark your curiosity and make you want to discover more of our new program and all the richness that it contains. A unique occasion to witness the magic of Asia while staying in Montreal.

*Monument National: Built between 1891 and 1893, the Monument-National is the oldest theatre still in use today in Quebec. Starting from the end of the nineteenth century, this majestic building stands as a wonderful venue for creation, exchange and dissemination and is one of the most important community and cultural hubs in America. Designated "classified cultural property" in 1976, the Monument-National has preserved its mandate during all these years to be at the heart of the dissemination of performing arts in Montreal.*

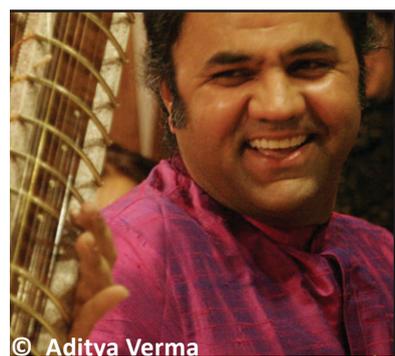




© Michel Pinault

### **Ziya Tabassian – Percussionnist**

Ziya Tabassian ([www.ziyatabassian.com](http://www.ziyatabassian.com)) started playing *tombak* (Persian drums) at the age of 10. He completed a bachelor's degree in classical western percussion at the Université de Montréal. He is active in the fields of ancient music, in contemporary and current music, as well as in the field of world music. He is a founding member of the Constantinople ensemble and he played several concerts in Canada, in the United States, in Mexico, in Europe and in China. He has released several albums, including ten with Constantinople under the Analekta and Atma labels and two duo albums in collaboration with his brother Kiya Tabassian. His first solo album, *TOMBAK*, the result of his exploration and research into the sounds of the rhythmic cycles of ancient Persian music, was released in 2007 under the *Ambiances Magnétiques* label.



© Aditya Verma

### **Aditya Verma**

Aditya Verma ([www.aditya.org](http://www.aditya.org)) is a Montreal based *sarod* player. Throughout the years, he won public recognition among audiences in North America, Europe and India as a passionate and virtuoso performer. A disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar, Ustad Aashish Khan and Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, masters of classical Hindustani music, Verma has collaborated with several artists from different traditions across the world. He also composes music for films and he has recorded several albums. He is very involved in the propagation of Indian music.



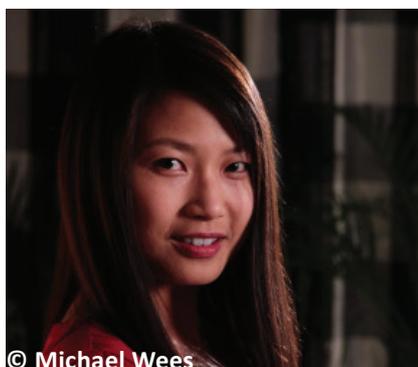
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### Jenn Doan & Ted Strauss – Dancers

Jenn Doan ([www.woomemyth.com](http://www.woomemyth.com)) works as a producer, choreographer, dancer and singer in Montreal. She completed a BFA in contemporary dance at Concordia University, she co-founded *Inertia Productions*, an award-winning company of theatrical dance that toured in Canadian FRINGE festivals in 2007. Jenn co-choreographed *ADDICTED* (2009) with *House of Dangerkat* and toured in New York and in Europe; she produced *Transfigurations* (2009) at Dancersí Studio West with the performance artist Moe Clark as well as the first two parts of the *inlayers: an interactive online reality dance creation* show.

Ted Strauss is a musician, director and social scientist. He composes original music scores for dance, theatre, puppet shows and spoken word. He is the leader of the New York rock group *Grub Animal*, which was acclaimed for its two albums. Strauss also works as an ethnomusicologist with *Kitikmeot Heritage Society*. A longstanding collaborator to Jenn Doan, they have joined their forces to form the *Woo Me Myth* company in 2008.



### Florence So aka VJ Pink Rubber Lady

Florence So ([www.pinkrubberlady.com](http://www.pinkrubberlady.com)) works as a VJ, filmmaker and computer engineer in Montreal. Since 2005, she has been mixing live video for a wide range of events whether they be popular or underground: festivals, nightclubs, galleries, concerts. Her visual signature explores narrative elements, representing behaviours and human psychology. She wishes to push back the limits of visual exploration as well as the narrative side of our life experiences. Florence is involved in several different multidisciplinary projects, including a residence at the *Société des Arts Technologiques [SAT]*. Her videos are presented in several festivals, on T.V. and they are widely broadcasted online.



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