



# FESTIVAL ACCÈS-ASIE

May 5th to 29th 2016

## WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR



©Samira Majidi

Dear friends of the Festival,

For a number of years, the arrival of spring in Montreal has been marked each May with the celebrations of Asian Heritage Month as well as those of Festival Accès Asie. It is from these two special vantage points that I am honored to present to you the program of our 21<sup>st</sup> edition of Festival Accès Asie.

This year, the Festival will enter a new era of its existence; and bring us new horizons, and new challenges. Over the past twenty years, the Montreal ethno-cultural climate has changed dramatically. New communities from Central Asia and the Middle East – from countries such as Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Mongolia – have settled in Montreal due to geopolitical changes in Asia. Many of the newly arrived communities have almost no concrete history in Quebec, and they encounter difficulties with the challenges of their new lives. These challenges, which include questions of culture and identity, can become convoluted in the complex realities of Quebec and Montreal.

This year's program echoes this reality. We hope you will agree that we have put together an entertaining and educational program. We hope to provide a festive and joyful atmosphere in which you can reflect upon and learn about the diverse artistic communities you will encounter.

The 2016 edition of Festival Accès Asie will bring together 17 events for a large Montreal audience, and features international as well as local artists. With over 40 artists from Montreal, outside Quebec, and abroad, we offer up a program that reveals the Festival team's commitment to its special artistic mission, and ushers in an exciting, new phase in the Festival's history.

It is with the greatest of pleasures that I invite you, dear friends of the festival, to join us from May 5<sup>th</sup> to May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016, to fully experience the works presented, and enjoy four weeks of gatherings and performances, exchanges and exploration, and celebrate with us another Asian Heritage Month in Montreal!



**Khosro Berahmandi**  
*General and Artistic Director*