

MAY 2nd TO 28th, 2017

Festival Accès Asie

VISUAL ARTS • CULINARY ART • DANCE • CONFERENCES • MUSIC • NEW MEDIAS



Press Release
For immediate release

FESTIVAL ACCÈS ASIE

22nd EDITION

May 2nd to 28th, 2017



Montreal, March 1st 2017

Already in high gear behind the scenes, Festival Accès Asie is set to present its 22nd edition from May 2nd to May 28th. An annual tradition now, the Festival takes place in May to coincide with Asian Heritage Month in Canada. This year's Festival team has assembled an incredible array of performances to celebrate Asian culture and artistic diversity. Join us in a special welcome as we proudly introduce our spokesperson for this year's festivities, actress **Mylène Dinh-Robic**.

On May 5th, we invite Festival regulars along with first-timers to a toast with the team at our *Opening Cocktail*. This year, we will feature an excerpt from the photo exhibition, *The Smile of Afghanistan*, of Iranian photographer **Hamed Tabain**. During the weekend, festivalgoers can attend the eagerly anticipated recital, *Sous la pluie*, with Japanese pianist **Kimihito Yasaka**. To conclude the first week, we are pleased to host, in collaboration with the Afghan-Canadienne Maison, a conference on Afghanistan, *L'Afghanistan et le choc des cultures*.

The second week begins with the much anticipated performance, *Kimia*, where flamenco and Persian music meet to provide an evening full of magic. Later that week, a dance workshop and debate will take place with **Shradda D. Blaney**, the artist in charge of the *Kimia* project.

The Festival will also welcome **Kim-SânH Chau**, **Guillaume Vallée**, and **Chittakone Baccam** in an exciting performance of dance, sound, and image. The festivities continue with two same-day events: first, in collaboration with Vidéographe and the MAI, we present *Serendipity*, an encounter between tradition and modernity, a music and video installation project; and, in collaboration with Centre Kabir, Indian musicians **Vishwamohan Bhatt** and **Subhen Chatterjee** will take to the stage for an exceptional concert at Bourgie Hall.

The Golestan concert opens the Festival's third week with a unique encounter between the music of Turkey and Syria. Interdisciplinary artist **Yen-Chao Lin** will present her new media performance, in collaboration with Oboro and implemented by **Alice Jim**, Commissioner of Visual Arts. The week will close with the traditional *Middle Eastern Dance Competition* where dancers will give their all before a live audience and this year's jury – **Caroline Labrie, Khadija Jabiry, and Pierre Khoury**. The competition will be hosted by professional dancer **Diane Labelle**. To wrap up this week, the charming **Veena Gokhale** invites festivalgoers to discover the world of Indian food and culture in her workshop, *Sizzling Spices – A Discovery of Indian Culinary Arts*.

For the Festival's final week, we are honoured to present our international component, *Perles d'ailleurs*. An amazing show is planned to celebrate Indian dance with the talented **Colleena Shakti** and prodigy **Tanveer Alam**. Festivalgoers will have the opportunity to attend a special meeting with the artists as well as a dance workshop. The week will also present the popular dance and traditional music outdoor component, *Wind of Asia*, presented in collaboration with the Quartier des spectacles. Come and join us at Les Jardins Gamelin for two nights : to discover Indonesia with the balinese music band **Giri Kedaton** and for a big bollywood wedding ceremony with the dance troupe **Bollywood Blast**. Also, this year, Festival Accès Asie is pleased to present *Insomniac*, a dance performance in situ, as part of its Nocturne, art at night event, by **Léa Tremblay Fong**.

Finally, to close a spectacular four weeks of encounters, exchange, and discovery of Asian culture, the Festival will collaborate with Centre Kabir to present, in concert, the Indian Dhrupad singers, **The Gunde-cha Brothers**.

Mylène Dinh-Robic - Actress

A francophone of Vietnamese and Quebecois heritage, Mylène Dinh-Robic was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec. An actress now for over fifteen years, she has worked on stage, on camera and in video games. She first played opposite actor Nicholas Campbell as Rita Mah, one of the main characters in the Vancouver produced television series *Da Vinci's Inquest* (CBC). Later, she worked in Toronto for three seasons of *The Listener* (CTV) in the role of Dr. Olivia Fawcett. Mylène more recently performed in French in Radio-Canada's Montreal-shot *Nouvelle Adresse* and *Série Noire*. She now portrays Beatrice 'Bear' Hamelin, one of the main characters in Bravo Canada's critically acclaimed English adaptation television show *19-2*. Mylène resides in Montreal and holds a BA in Communications from Concordia University.



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