

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Alive and Kicking !

Festival Accès Asie is “Alive and Kicking” with joy celebrating our 15th adolescent year of May as Asian Heritage Month 2010. Over 45 local and national multidisciplinary artists with origins from China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Philippines, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, 1st Nations, Haiti, Quebec and Canada will be featured in 9 activities and 10 locations.

Acknowledging our thanks to the 1st Peoples in Quebec, Odaya, a 1st Nations women’s singing and drum group honours the Festival with opening ceremonies in a Jesuit heritage site, Gesù - Centre de créativité. The intimate Iranian Plateau gallery, Mekic features the Festival’s very own Khosro who shares his wondrous world in a painting exhibition. In reflecting our theme, Professor Cornett, the innovating scholar is “alive and kicking” with a new and fascinating discipline aligning different disciplines through a creative dialogic process with Toronto author, Priscila Uppal. Five poets speak up and speak out in multi-languages of English, French, Chinese, Arabic, Urdu and Farsi.

With the “kicking” performance of 'Infusion', Accès Asie breaks cultural stereotypes presenting Spicey’s award winning hip-hop moves with four dancers and live music. 'Infusion' bridges the extraordinary multi-instrumentalist and traditionally based musician and composer, Pham Duc Thanh to write and play live with DJ Crak Fingaz. In the spirit of hip-hop as a vehicle for social change, children from Barclay public school from Parc Extension are the painters for the set of the show. The children painters are guided by the talented visual artist Maya Kuroki and highlighted in a video portrait by Meena Murugesan with images projected by VJ Pink Rubber Lady.

Master artist and community leader and musician, Mr. Toa Wong at 94 years young is “alive and kicking” in a new media performance in Vancouver while his daughter, Mary Sui Yee Wong confronts her fears with singing in a visual arts installation at Oboro in Montreal.

The Festival is thrilled to present two national tours to mark this celebratory year. Toronto’s Reel Asian Film Festival programs two upbeat eclectic “kicking” hours of Asian Canadian work in English and Asian Quebecois work in French. Vancouver’s Alvin Tolentino’s renowned Erasga Company joins Montreal with a beautiful interplay in OrientTik/Portrait with Taiko drummer Jordan Riley, dancer Andrea Nann and pianist Alison Nishihara.

The final finishing touch is a sushi demonstration at Mikado’s with an introduction to the fine servings of delicious Japanese teas.

Enjoy being alive and kicking with us!

Janet Lumb, Artistic Director