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Festival Accès Asie Cocktail Opening

featuring **ODAYA**,
Women's 1st Nation's Singing & Drum Group

Thursday May 6, 2010
5 to 7 pm

Gesù-Centre de créativité
1200 Bleury (Metro Place-des-Arts)

Free Entrance

This year, the **Festival Accès Asie** celebrates its 15th anniversary to highlight the month of May, officially declared as Asian Heritage Month. Fifteen years of acknowledging the various ethnic cultural communities in Montreal, Québec and in Canada. Fifteen years for the public from here to discover the artistic talents from across Canada and elsewhere.

Proudly kicking off the year, artistic director, Janet Lumb and the **Festival Accès Asie** team warmly invites you to a festive 5 to 7 in the surrounding environment of Gesù-Centre de créativité. On this special occasion, you will hear **Odaya**, the 1st Nation's women's vocal group who come from the four corners of Canada, and who will pay homage to the memory of their ancestors with traditional songs.

«The sound of drums recalls the beating of our hearts and that mother and Earth are one. »
— Odaya

ODAYA

Odaya was formed from a gathering and organization of *Indigenous Women of Quebec* in 2006. It has now been 3 years since their first performance, which was during International Women's Day. Socially and culturally active with the different communities, **Odaya** has participated in many festivals and events with the goal of promoting the rights of women and indigenous peoples.

In 2008, these singers were appreciated and heard during *Domagaya*, an eventful gathering between indigenous peoples and the S.A.T. (Société des arts technologiques) during Quebec's 400th anniversary celebrations, as well as in the First Nations Garden of the Montreal Botanical Garden. They participated during the course of last summer in several Pow-Wows throughout the Quebec.

Odaya unites Anik Sioui from Anishinabeg (Algonquin) and Wendat (Huron) Nations, Émilie Monnet from Anishinabeg Nations, Kary Ann Deer from Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) Nations, Kim Picard from the Innu Nations, and Lisa Gagné from Ojibway (Saulteaux) Nations.



Proud of their cultural identity and driven by their sense of the sacred towards their respective communities, the members of **Odaya** are drawn in uniting their voices to share their heritage. Reviving traditional songs in their unique mother tongue, they pay homage to their ancestors, celebrate the union of the past, present and future and nourish hope for the generations to come.

***Odaya** is derived from the Algonquin word for "strawberry". For many indigenous peoples, the strawberry has a strong spiritual meaning signifying the heart.*

Gesù-Centre de créativité

In the heart of the district of Spectacles in the center of the city of Montreal, **Gesù** is an artistic organization that distinguishes itself from other venues and activities. Dedicated to welcoming artists and to the dissemination of art, **Gesù's** mission is to offer to the public and artists the experience to question, encounter, and invite dialogue. Following in the Jesuit tradition, it is with this privilege of goodwill in the reconciliation between the creators and the public, that this historic and cultural heritage is a living space of encounters and creation.

Gesù-Centre de créativité welcomes more than 300 cultural and artistic activities ranging from music to theatre, dance, humor and storytelling every year. An important actor in the cultural life of Montrealers with more than 50 000 visitors each year, **Gesù** collaborates with major events that makes Montreal's reputation: Montreal International Jazz Festival, Just for Laughs Festival, Francolies, and of course, **Festival Accès Asie**, a faithful partner over the last 8 years.

www.gesu.net