

GENERAL PRESS RELEASE

« Reflections and Stories From Afar »



Montreal, March the 1st, 2012 – For its 17th edition that runs from May 3rd to May 19th 2012, **Festival Accès Asie** is offering more than eight different activities presenting the works of local and national artists with Asian origins. The program includes multidisciplinary works in areas as diverse as dance, music, theater, new media, film, new technologies and even culinary arts. Taking place each year in Montreal, the Festival is presenting for this new edition no less than thirty artists performing in seven different locations.

During the month of May, officially declared Asian Heritage Month since 2000, Festival Accès Asie is delighted to invite you to discover a festive program full of surprises and discoveries around the theme of this new 2012 edition « *Reflections and Stories From Afar* ».

Among the activities, we are pleased to present for the opening, a live painting performance by the visual artist **Kakim Goh** punctuated by the sounds of one of the most talented percussionist of Montreal, **Shawn Mativetsky**. The Festival that begins with painting and music will continue on with a dance performance by Sino-Cuban choreographer, **Julio Hong**, who mixes in *Yemayo* several types of dance, genres and cultures to create a completely new and original style of gestural movement. Dance will be well represented throughout the festival : from the first day of events until the closing ceremony, we have the chance to attend a wide variety of dance styles. With the performance of a dance troupe coming straight from Toronto with *Cypress* and for the closing ceremony, the public will vibrate to the rhythms of Indian dance with a Bollywood dance workshop led by the talented **Amrita**. An animated light show will be presented for the first time in May, in outdoor performances of the Festival in the new Quartier des Spectacles that will surely attract a large audience.

Building on the success of its first edition last year, the Festival is delighted to host a new edition of the **video-conference** that will bring together three major Canadian cities with performances as varied as surprising. The purpose of this video-conference is aligned with the festival's objective, which is to bring artists, audiences and communities together, despite the distances. As far as the **movie** proposed this year, a moving documentary film will bring the audience into the heart of the everyday lives of Tibetan nomads and the story of a Tibetan-Canadian family's voyage back to the homeland of their ancestors.

Before the closing ceremony, animated by the rhythms of Japanese drums, the **taikos**, and an interactive **Bollywood dance workshop**, the public will have another opportunity to engage more actively with the Festival by participating in a culinary **guided tour** of the **Montreal Chinatown**. This visit will end with a dinner and tasting of ten Chinese dishes made of ingredients presented during this tour.

The audience will be overwhelmed, yet again, by the richness of variety and diversity of the activities offered during this 2012's edition of the Festival. Come, discover and see the best that Asian community can offer in the field of arts. Many talents are waiting for you to share and celebrate together, Asian Heritage Month!

