



Press Release  
For immediate release

## 10 Years of Wonderful Television!

Montreal, July 10, 2004 –Amérimage-Spectra takes great pride in celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Over the past decade the company has carved out an enviable place for itself in international markets, and today is regarded as one of the most important Canadian television and film producers in the area of the performing arts. A member of L'Équipe Spectra since 1998, Amérimage-Spectra is recognized internationally for its expertise in realizing large-scale television productions.

### **Producers of programs from the Montreal International Jazz Festival**

For six years now, Amérimage-Spectra has been placing its considerable resources at the service of the Montreal International Jazz Festival. About 100 performances have been taped for television, including 20 hours in High Definition (HD). Artists as celebrated as Bruce Cockburn, Brad Mehldau, Chick Corea, John Pizzarelli, Bill Frisell, Bobby McFerrin, Ricky Lee Jones, Diana Krall, Omar Sosa and Charles Lloyd, to name just these few, have had their live performances brought to the small screen courtesy of Amérimage-Spectra. In addition to airing on television stations all over the world, some of these programs are now available to the public on DVD.

Once again in 2004, with 20 more hours of recorded performances, Amérimage-Spectra contributes to the impact of the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal and its artists around the world.

### **The lively arts take to the screen**

Amérimage-Spectra's catalogue consists of more than 400 hours of all types of programming (music, dance, circus arts and documentaries), these comprising the bulk of the offerings of Spectra International Distribution, which distributes in more than 40 countries. Amérimage-Spectra maintains a large network of contacts, which has made co-production with a number of international partners possible. Those co-producers have included ARTE (France), NHK (Japan), PBS (USA) and ZDF (Germany). In Canada, Amérimage-Spectra works with the CBC, SRC, ARTV, Global, TVA, COOL TV and Musimax.

The company has been honored with several prestigious awards. Édouard Lock's *Amelia*, for example, featuring La La La Human Steps, earned special recognition this year (Festival Rose d'Or 2004 - Banff Television Festival - Golden Prague 2004), and the list of distinctions includes the following programs: *Cirque Orchestra* with *Cirque Éloïze* (Gemini Awards – 2003 / Pierre Séguin, director); *Contre Vents Contre Marée* presented by Zachary Richard (Prix Historia – 2003 / Jean Bourbonnais, director); *Montreal Dance* featuring performances by O Vertigo, La La La Human Steps, Margie Gillis Dance Foundation, the Compagnie Flak, the Compagnie Sarah Williams, Sinha Danse, and the Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal (Prix Gémeaux – 2002 / Jocelyn Bamabé and Élisabeth Paradis, directors); *RBO – The Documentaire* (Félix ADISQ – 2002 / Louis-Roland Leduc, director); and *Un air de Louisiane* (Prix Gémeaux 1999 / Clodine Galipeau, director).

Furthermore, several productions have earned nominations: *Montréal en voix / A Montreal Story in Song* (Prix Gémeaux and Gemini Awards – 2003 nominations / Jocelyn Bamabé, director); *OSQ – 100 years!* (Festival Rose d'Or – 2003 nomination / Jocelyn Bamabé, director); *Ravel: L'enfant et les sortilèges* (Gemini Awards – 2001 nomination / Évelyne Robidas and Simon Christian Vaillancourt, directors); and *The Red Violin: the music from the film* by François Girard performed by the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal under the direction of Charles Dutoit (Emmy Awards – 2001 nomination / Jocelyn Bamabé, director).

The most recent productions (2003) include: *The Other Side of the Mirror* with the Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal (Clodine Galipeau, director); *The Planets* by the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, based on the work by Gustav Holst (Jocelyn Barnabé, director); and *Cool Classique*, hosted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin (Sylvain Lavigne, director). Amérimage-Spectra has also produced *Villages et Visages* (a series of historical documentaries for TFO / Michel Cloutier, director); *Paroles et musique* (a series of portraits of singer-songwriters for ARTV / Simon Dallaire, director); and *Before the Gold Rush* (a documentary about the builders of the Canadians pop-music industry / Gary McGroarty, director).

In addition to its tapings at the Montreal International Jazz Festival, Amérimage-Spectra has also been present at the MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival since 2000. This year the majestic performance of *The Lord of the Rings* Symphony, conducted by composer Howard Shore himself, was recorded for television. The broadcast of the exceptional documentary about Jean-Pierre Perreault *Giant Steps* (Paule Baillargeon, director), will soon be completed, and many other television projects are in the works for 2004.

To celebrate this decade's worth of productions, Amérimage-Spectra has offered itself the gift of a commemorative DVD that highlights its many achievements. The DVD, which is composed of four hours of excerpts and memorable artistic performances, is available by request to industry professionals only and will not be sold on the market.

Alain Simard is Chairman of the Board of Amérimage-Spectra and Producer; Pierre L. Touchette is President and Producer; Luc Châtelain is Executive Producer. Amérimage-Spectra would like to take this opportunity to thank all the artists, employees, financial partners and broadcasters who have contributed to these 10 wonderful years of television production.

For further information about the company's activities, please visit: [www.equipespectra.ca/amerimage](http://www.equipespectra.ca/amerimage)

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Source:

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