

LES FRANCOFOLIES DE MONTRÉAL^{inc.}

Press Release
For immediate distribution

Outdoor Programming for the 2005 FrancoFolies de Montréal **17 years young, going on 18,** **and getting better every year!**

Montreal, Wednesday, July 13, 2005 – After 17 years, the **FrancoFolies de Montréal** has evolved into a richly diverse event that with each new edition opens windows on the vastness and variety of French-speaking cultures around the world. Music is the medium, of course, and for this 17th edition — beginning **July 28 and continuing until August 6** — the wide-open, multi-ethnic character of the event will be heightened as artists from just about everywhere descend on Montreal for their annual mid-summer 10 days of celebration. It all happens right in the heart of the city that's also the heart of French-language culture in North America. So visitors can expect the latest in musical trends to announce their arrival on the many outdoor stages, where new sounds from at home and abroad will be served up in abundance. The entire event is once again made possible through the close collaboration of loyal sponsors Ford Canada — official presenter of the event — with **Labatt Breweries, Loto-Québec, Solo Mobile, Le Lait, Mouvement des caisses Desjardins** and **Hydro-Québec**. All details surrounding this year's Francos can be found in the official schedule, available as of today, or by visiting our Internet site at: www.francofolies.com.

Le Grand Spectacle Ford Focus pays tribute to Beau Dommage

Expect the unexpected when their hometown grinds to a halt to pay musical tribute to **Beau Dommage** on **Thursday, July 28 at 9 p.m.** during the annual **Grand Spectacle Ford Focus**. This year, we've decided to open the 2005 event with a free outdoor mega-show, designed to coincide with the recent release of a 30th anniversary homage to the legendary Quebec group. That means some of the biggest names in Quebec song will be on hand at the main Festival stage — **Aire Ford Focus** — filling the air with strains of some of the best-loved Quebec pop anthems of the 60s and 70s. Performers will include **Paul Piché, Mes Aïeux, Kate and Anna McGarrigle, Vincent Vallières, Mara Tremblay, Florent Vollant, Claire Pelletier** and **Susie Arioli**, plus a few surprise guests. Entitled **Beau d'Homage**, the show will be recorded for broadcast next **August 14th at 8:30 p.m.** on the French-speaking network of the CBC, **Radio-Canada**, preceded at 7:30 by a **documentary film** shot during the recording of the CD that includes interviews with founding members of the group.

The Best of many *Worlds*, each and every day **starting at 3 p.m, from July 28 to August 6!**

This year's FrancoFolies de Montreal is once again divided into 7 distinct thematic series: **Aire Ford Focus, Zone Labatt Bleue, Monde Hip-hop Solo Mobile, Monde forain Loto-Québec, Monde FrancoFou Le Lait, Monde Pop Desjardins** and **Monde Multiculturel Hydro-Québec**. If each has its own personality, each also complements the others. Because the world of French-language music out there is as vast and diverse as the ages, tastes and cultural origins of those who come to listen, united solely by the fact that their cultures and creativity are expressed in French. There's no better way to look back on the road already travelled and what's new on the horizon.

Haute cool on the Aire Ford Focus

Perhaps more than in the past, the **Aire Ford Focus** will this year be the focal point of the FrancoFolies de Montréal. Gathering on the giant stage on the corner of Ste.Catherine and Jeanne-Mance Streets, world-famous artists (and a few on their way up) will be topping the bills nightly. **Les Révélations Ford Focus** (at 6 p.m.) will present festivalgoers with an extraordinary melding of soul-zouk-hip-hop and Haitian *compas*, for instance, in the person of **Mika**. New French song will be represented by **Pauline Croze**. Or you can explore the latest confluence of jazz and gypsy music with **Ily Morgane**. We're happy to mention a pleasant new phenomenon at this year's Francos: a number of major artists have expressed the desire to perform on one of the large free outdoor stages, rather than within the confines of an interior venue. Such is the case with the neo-trad project **Mes Aïeux** and singer **Luck Mervil**, appearing in the **Spectacles Ford Focus** series (9 p.m. and 11 p.m) where singer **Ima** (winner of the *Ma Première Place des Arts*) plus a number of others will also perform.

The Zone Labatt Bleue: your only alternative

Dedicated to alternative music, the **Zone Labatt Bleue** stage will again be located in the Parc des Festivals at the corner of de Bleury Street and de Maisonneuve Boulevard. Get set for mega-decibels of rock, punk and metal, twice every night for the **Shows Labatt Bleue** series at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. The first series (at 8 p.m.) will feature artists such as **Damien**, direct from Granby and one of the newer sensations on the Quebec hip-hop scene. Also on stage will be **Les Goules**, gathering some of Quebec's more flamboyant performers and **Masse Poésie**, who took home a Prix des FrancoFolies from the *Francouvertes* this year. The second series (at 10 p.m.) will feature artists such as the **Les Secrétaires Volantes** —one of the least predictable on Quebec stages— who one way or another guarantee a fine time to anyone who shows up. Get set, too, for the triumphal return of **Aut'Chose**, now in an *All-Star* formation, including the incorrigible **Lucien Francoeur** and **Arseniq 33**, for what promises to be a strictly over-the-top show.

Two hits daily at the Monde Hip-hop Solo Mobile

Young urbanites who happen by the strip of Jeanne-Mance between Ste.Catherine Street and de Maisonneuve Boulevard will be entitled to a double dose of subversive sonorities every night. Because the **Monde Hip-hop Solo Mobile** will be offering a twice-a-night take on the **Nuits urbaines Solo Mobile** series, at 7 p.m. and then again at 9 p.m. That's where the cynical syncopation of Quebec's finest hip-hop projects will fill the air, including the musings of **CatBurglaz**, veterans of the local scene who've just launched their first CD entitled *L'Album français*. **Accrophone**, two rappers from Quebec, will also appear. And you might want to attend one or both of two informal, improvisational rap contests of the **Ligne d'improvisation Hip-hop du Québec**. Also at the Monde Hip-hop Solo Mobile stage will be **two breakdance demonstrations of about 25 minutes each, every night at 6:15 p.m. and then at 10:15 p.m.**

Terre et Mer Collective at the Monde Forain Loto-Québec

Performers of a pirate persuasion from Mexico, France and Quebec will be dropping anchor this summer at the **Monde Forain Loto-Québec**. After navigating the seven seas and exploring many exotic climes, the **Terre et Mer Collective** will be opening their treasure chest to present **PirateFolies** (at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.). Gems of their performance include dance, acrobatics and a number of moves to stimulate the imaginations of young and old alike, all under the artistic direction of Danièle LeNoble. Bon voyage!

If you need a place to just sit and unwind, don't forget the **Terrasse O jeux Loto-Québec**, where board games will be on loan free of charge for the occasion. Festivalgoers can select from a menu of 60 different games in all. A great place to gather with friends and family.

The Monde FrancoFou Le Lait — for all ages

Once again located at the main entrance of the complexe Desjardins, the **Monde FrancoFou Le Lait** stage will be home to two series, beginning with **Nouvelle Chanson Le Lait** (at 5 p.m). On the schedule is **Philémon Bergeron-Langlois**, the young singer and song-writer from Quebec who won the *Prix Création* as part of a junior-college contest for his show in 2003. Franco-Ontarian **Damien Robitaille**, a big prize-winner at the *Festival international de la chanson de Granby* in 2004, will also be there, as will **Sylvie Laliberté** performing in her inimitably cool style. The **Rythmes Le Lait** series will take place at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., featuring francophile Montrealer **Paul Cargnello** in the company of **Urbain Desbois**, **Jean François Fortier** (with his first album in 6 years) and **Alexandre Belliard** who'll reel you in with his *Piège à con*.

For the second year, the Monde FrancoFou Le Lait will erect the **Le Lait Big Top** in the open space surrounding Place des Arts, directly in front of the Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier. Featuring **Les Petites Tounes** (very popular last year) a second show has been added every day. Kids can once again revel in the antics of the popular duo of **Carlos Vergara and Claude Samson**, two fun-loving musicians who'll be introducing youngsters to the intricacies of the mandolin, the accordion, the kazoo, African drums and the guitar. The two are wonderful storytellers, as well. Every day at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

There's something new at the **Karoké Le Lait** this year. Visitors to this year's Francos will now have the chance to perform with a group of real musicians in an improved formula. It's a cool venue and guaranteed to be a high-traffic one, too, with the group **Station 2 X 4** on hand for accompaniment. There'll be two shows, one at 8 p.m. and another at 10 p.m.

Le Monde Multiculturel Hydro-Québec: more popular than ever!

This 17th annual FrancoFolies will be a fine one for World Music, which continues to increase in popularity year after year. Thanks to the **Monde Multiculturel Hydro-Québec**, favorite performers plus a number of new faces will be on hand, featuring the musical traditions of some ten countries. It's all within the **Spectacles Multiculturel Hydro-Québec** series, to take place at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Stop by for shows by artists such as **JahNesta**, the only Haitian group to play only reggae music, Vancouver's **Alpha Yaya Diallo** and the singer **Soraya Benitez**, originally from Caracas but now living in Quebec. That's not to mention the many ensembles from Montreal's diverse cultural communities, like **Nam**, **King Mensah**, **Les Gitans de Sarajevo**, **Jan Carranza**, **Labess**, **Nico Beki** and **Ya Kengué**.

Get with it at the Monde Pop Desjardins !

The **Monde Pop Desjardins** series has evolved over time, and is this year presenting two distinct series of which one is brand-new. Be there for the stunning artistry of Parisian singer-songwriter **Camille**, and also **Didier Boutin**, who'll remind us how lousy it feels to be happy when there's nothing to be sad about, as per the title of the song *Sans le malheur, le bonheur c'est triste*. Also on stage will be the original and stimulating **Louis et le voyageur** who's among some of the new faces discovered at **Les Espoirs Desjardins** at 7 p.m. No longer reserved exclusively for traditional music, the stage that was on the north side of Ste.Catherine Street at the corner of Clark last year will be home to performers of all musical stripes during the **Chanson festive Desjardins** series, taking place at 9 p.m. Among others, **Nouzôte** will appear, the winning group from the first edition of the Challenge Live, who recently launched their first CD, *Couleurs*. Also scheduled are **Mr. Matt et la caravane du bonheur**, hosted by Matt Lipscombe, former bassist of Me, Mom & Morgentaler. And don't dare miss the astounding Yves Lambert — Quebec's venerable high priest of traditional music — at the helm of **Monsieur Lambert et le Bébert Orchestra**. Be there, as well, for the magnificent excesses of the **Karlof Orchestra**.

A late-night rendez-vous at the Bleue Dry Shag Partys

As in previous years, the Francos include the moveable underground club called "Shag." If you didn't already know, it's popped up at midnight in different locations for the last 6 editions, and will this year be located in the Café Hydro-Québec at the Monument-National. The Shag will be home to **Les Partys du Shag Bleue Dry**, an event where artists of all musical backgrounds function as DJs for an evening. This year look for singer-songwriter of *Nucléaire* **Yann Perreau**, hip-hop fan **Ghislain Poirier** and **DJ SmokeHood**, another incorrigible party animal.

The winners of the Prix Félix-Leclerc de la chanson 2004 on stage at the Francos

Les FrancoFolies de Montréal traditionally features the French and Quebecois winners of the *Prix Félix-Leclerc de la chanson* from the previous year. For 2005, visitors are invited into the gentle universe of **Amélie-les-Crayons**, on July 30 at 5 p.m. in the *Nouvelle chanson Le Lait* series and the following day, July 31, at 7 p.m. for the *Les Espoirs Desjardins* series. The Quebec winner, **Pierre Lapointe**, can be enjoyed indoors for a unique performance of his creation entitled *Pépiphonique*, at 8 p.m., in the *Événements Ford Fusion* series in the Théâtre Maisonneuve at Place des Arts. The August 5th show at 8 p.m. is already sold out, so an extra show has been added to the schedule on August 6, also at 8 p.m.

The tenth year of the Prix Félix-Leclerc de la chanson to be celebrated with a show and CD launching

This being the 10th anniversary of the *Prix Félix-Leclerc de la chanson*, Les FrancoFolies de Montréal will be presenting a **unique show that gathers all Quebec winners of the prize**. They include: Pierre Lapointe, Yann Perreau, Stefie Shock, Loco Locass, Daniel Boucher, Mara Tremblay, Lili Fatale, Sylvie Paquette — and maybe even the 2005 winner. Each will perform a portion of their repertoires (Thursday August 4th at 8:00 p.m., at Theatre Maisonneuve of Place des Arts, as part of the *Evénements Ford Fusion* series).

Also for this anniversary year, the Francos have produced a **CD that includes the hits of each of the Quebec winners of the Prix Félix-Leclerc de la chanson**, plus a few surprise cuts. The launch will take place the evening before the opening of this 17th edition of the Francos on July 17th, 2005. All profits generated by sales of the CD will be turned over to the Fondation Félix-Leclerc, a major supporter of future Quebec stars.

The Francos are extremely proud to have been able to contribute in such a concrete way to the careers of a generation of artists, many of whom have become major stars. In tandem with the Fondation Félix-Leclerc, we pledge to continue to play such a role in their development, as much for those on the other side of the Atlantic as on this.

La Trousse Francos... a terrific package!

To entice travelers to choose Montreal and the FrancoFolies as their vacation destination, and also to give them direct access to the wonderful lifestyle we enjoy, Francos organizers have teamed up with three major hotels to offer tourists and excursionists alike the best possible prices during their visits. The package includes a FrancoFolies T-shirt; a ticket to the *Hip Rap Rock Labatt Bleue* series; a double CD - *15 ans de FrancoFolies*; a ticket for the guided pedestrian tour: *Les Fantômes du Vieux-Montréal* (from Wednesday to Sunday); a 25% discount on an adult's ticket to the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal; and a gift certificate redeemable at the Casino de Montréal, valued at \$20. Visitors are invited to reserve their packages directly through the following hotels: Auberge de jeunesse internationale de Montréal, the Lord Berri Hotel and the Hyatt Regency Montréal hotel, the official hotel of Les FrancoFolies de Montréal. Information is also available on-line at: www.francofolies.com/francos2005/forfaits_en.asp#forfaits.

The Grand Concours des Francos 2005 : over \$30,000 in prizes to be won!

The Grand Concours des Francos is back again this year. Enter and you could win one of the magnificent prizes offered by our sponsors. In all, there's over \$30,000 in prizes to be won, including:

- 1st Prize: **24-month rental of a Ford Fusion or Ford Focus (ZX5, ZX4 or ZXW) 2006**
- 2nd Prize: **A weekend for two to James Bay**, including air transport **from Montreal to James Bay**, meals, lodging and a guided tour of the Robert-Bourassa power plant, from **Hydro-Québec**;
- 3rd Prize: **2 deluxe watches**: a Quest Tonneau ESG chronometre for men and a Cassandra ESQ for women, from **ESQ SWISS**;
- 4th prize: **A 'douce folie' package to the Casino de Charlevoix** for two persons, including one night's lodging and a gourmet dinner, from **Loto-Québec**;
- 5th Prize: **Three Solo packages for you and two friends**, each including a Sanyo 2300 phone, 3 months of unlimited air time and three months of unlimited 10-4 service, from **Solo Mobile**.

It's easy to enter! You can pick up entry forms at the Francos site, at official FrancoFolies kiosks and in the concert halls where shows will be taking place. Just fill out the form and deposit it in one of the 6 duly marked boxes you'll see around the site, near the Ford podiums and in concert halls between July 28 and August 6, before 5 p.m. You can also enter the contest via Internet by visiting www.francofolies.com, where you'll also find contest rules.

Excellent tickets still available for indoor shows

Les FrancoFolies de Montréal is offering excellent programming again this year, including several "concept-shows," both indoors and on free exterior stages, which include performances by artists such as Diane Dufresne, Bashung, Daniel Boucher, the McGarrigles, Yvon Deschamps, Paul Piché and many others.

Don't forget that tickets for all shows being presented at this year's 17th FrancoFolies de Montréal, are presently on sale at the **ticket office of the Spectrum** (in-person purchases only; information on all shows by telephone), via the **Ticketpro** and **Admission networks**, as well as through the ticket office of **Place des Arts**:

- **Spectrum de Montréal** at 318 Ste.Catherine Street West; (514) 908-9090 or at 1-866-908-9090 – www.ticketpro.ca

- **Ticketpro** at (514) 908-9090 or at 1-866-908-9090 – www.ticketpro.ca
- **Place des Arts** at (514) 842-2112 or 1-866-842-2112 – www.pda.qc.ca
- **Admission**, at (514) 790-1245 or 1-800-361-4595 – www.admission.com

You can also receive information by telephone at the following locations, although purchases are in-person only:

- **Club Soda**, 1225 Saint-Lawrence Boulevard at (514) 908-9090 or at 1-866-908-9090; www.ticketpro.ca;
- **Studio Hydro-Québec du Monument-National**, 1182 Saint-Lawrence Boulevard at (514) 871-2224.

Please take note that when you pay for your Francos tickets by Visa card, you'll receive a \$2 discount on each and also have access to reserved tickets (quantities are limited and certain restrictions apply). You'll also be able to use your BONIDOLLARS at the *à la carte* VISA Desjardins ticket office at 1-877-BILLETTS. Find details at www.francofolies.com.

Stay on top of the Francos!

To find out everything you need to know about this year's FrancoFolies, starting today you can pick the **official program**. It's free and contains all information about indoor and outdoor shows. It also has an easy-to-understand and complete grid of all programming, a detailed map of the site and artists' profiles. **We've printed 100,000** and it's the best way for Francos fans to stay on top of things. The **free pamphlet** (of which **we've printed 280,000**) will also help you tell at a glance everything that's going on, both indoors and outdoors.

For any general information concerning this year's FrancoFolies de Montréal, call the **Info-Francos Line** at **(514) 876-8989** or **toll-free** at **1-888-444-9114**. You can also consult the Internet des Francos site at www.francofolies.com.

Be there for the 17th annual celebration of French-language musical expression, July 28 to August 6, 2005!

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Source:

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