



News release
For immediate distribution

20th anniversary of the FrancoFolies
The return of Amadou & Mariam,
Tiken Jah Fakoly...
and an exciting new creation from
Pierre Lapointe!
Tickets go on sale today!

Montreal, Thursday, February 14, 2008 — Tired of winter? Then it's time to start dreaming of the Francos—because this **20th edition** of the massive francophone music celebration has already planned some early surprises to whet every appetite! The inspired organizers of the **FrancoFolies de Montréal** have prevailed upon Quebec singing idol **Pierre Lapointe** to create a special show just for this 20th anniversary! After his stunning performance last year, accompanied by the Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal and Yannick Nézet-Séguin, fans will be eager to experience this major new work from one of the most inventive artists of the moment! Add in other delightful and inspiring shows from beloved Malian couple **Amadou & Mariam** and the ambassador of African reggae, **Tiken Jah Fakoly**, and the Franco fun feels like it's already begun! **Tickets for these indoor shows go on sale today!** Get ready for a very special edition of the francophone music event, presented by **Ford of Canada** in collaboration with **Molson Dry**, from **Wednesday, July 23 to Sunday, August 3, 2008**.

A world premiere of *Mutantès*, by Pierre Lapointe!

Pierre Lapointe presents *Mutantès* — **Thursday, July 31 and Friday, August 1 at 8 p.m., and Saturday, August 2 at 9:30 p.m., Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, PDA (Les événements Ford Fusion series)**

The musical event of the summer!

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the FrancoFolies de Montréal in high style, Pierre Lapointe presents *Mutantès*, an important new show featuring large-scale production by the renowned Claude Poissant. *Mutantès* is an entirely novel concept revealing yet another facet of the multi-talented Pierre Lapointe, surrounding himself once again with pre-eminent talents who have already made their names in their respective disciplines. The singer and his faithful companions welcome a multi-disciplinary choir and musicians as they unveil new songs in the fantabulous Pierre Lapointe style. This outstanding new show brings a fitting grandeur both to our 20th anniversary, and Lapointe's 6th consecutive appearance at the FrancoFolies de Montréal, and will be presented exclusively for three nights in Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, PDA. With the creative process still in full flight, further details will be revealed in April.

The return of two great favourites

Amadou & Mariam — Friday, August 1, at 9 p.m., Métropolis (*Les Nuits Ford Focus series*)

The beloved couple from Mali!

They're back—one of the signature groups marking our first 20 years of Franco frenzy! Ten years after their debut appearance at the Francos, **Amadou & Mariam**, icons of Malian music, return to charm us with their unique blend of world music, innocence and *joie de vivre*! This landmark couple spreads joy and is showered with praise everywhere they go. And who knows—they might even favour us with a few new songs from their next album, due in autumn, four years after the marvelous *Dimanche à Bamako*, produced by Manu Chao.

Tiken Jah Fakoly — Tuesday, July 29, at 9 p.m., Métropolis (*Les Nuits Ford Focus series*)

The star of African reggae

Originally from the Ivory Coast, scion of a griot family, consciousness-raiser and standard-bearer of African reggae and roots, **Tiken Jah Fakoly** returns with his group. Expect an evening of torrid music—just ask anyone who discovered this artist in his blistering Francos debut three years ago! His latest album *L'Africain*, recorded in his studio in Bamako—during his voluntary exile in Mali—, is a veritable ode to cultural diversity, bearing the stamp of major names like Magyd Cherif (singer in Zebda), rapper Soprano and kora virtuoso Toumani Diabaté.

Tickets on sale starting Thursday, February 14

Tickets for these first shows of the 20th anniversary edition of the FrancoFolies de Montréal go **on sale Thursday, February 14**. They are available at the **Métropolis box office** (montrealmetropolis.ca, 59 Ste. Catherine St. E.—514 844-3500) as well as from **Ticketpro**—ticketpro.ca, 514 908-9090 or 1 866 908-9090. For tickets to concerts presented at **Place des Arts**—pda.qc.ca, call 514 842-2112 or toll-free at 1 866 842-2112 or call **Admission**—admission.com, 514 790-1245, and toll-free at 1 800 361-4595.

The **complete program of indoor shows** will be **unveiled at the end of April**, while the **free outdoor program** will be unveiled in **mid-July**. Get the jump on the crowd by subscribing to the **Infolettre Spectra**, and have all the news on this year's FrancoFolies de Montréal shows delivered to your home. For more information, call the **Info-Francos Vidéotron** line at **514 876-8989** or at **1 888 444-9114**, or visit francofolies.com

— 30 —

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