

Spring-summer 2013: something for everyone in Quartier des Spectacles

Montreal, May 7, 2013 - The spring-summer events calendar for Quartier des Spectacles was announced today in Place des Festivals. The announcement, which for the first time included all producers and companies involved in the season's program - more than 20 in all - was an opportunity to highlight the cooperation and diversity that go into Quartier des Spectacles' cultural programming, particularly its free outdoor activities and events. From May to the end of September, from Place Émilie-Gamelin in the east to Place des Festivals in the west, not a single day will go by without a cultural activity. There will be plenty of unforgettable experiences for everyone who loves culture, from intimate performances to major festivals.

Every artistic discipline will be represented, including music, dance, circus arts, street performance, film and theatre. The calendar of upcoming events proves that Quartier des Spectacles is an essential destination in the heart of downtown Montreal for anyone looking for culture in a distinctive urban setting.

"The quantity, diversity and, above all, quality of the events in Quartier des Spectacles, together with the regular programming of its 80 cultural venues, reaffirm the Quartier's status as Montreal's cultural heart. For Montrealers, the district offers a constantly refreshed menu of cultural activities, providing countless reasons to go out on the town, and it guarantees visitors a concentrated dose of Montreal's creativity," said Jacques Primeau, chair of the Quartier des Spectacles Partnership's board.

"Quartier des Spectacles is a place where all forms of culture are in the spotlight, and where it is possible, within a small area, to discover the creativity, distinctiveness, delight, magic and wonder of Montreal's culture. Quartier des Spectacles is a magnificent showcase for our artists to reach local and visiting audiences, who are finding out just how creative our cultural metropolis really is. I invite Montrealers to come out and enjoy the program and celebrate culture in Montreal this summer," said Éline Ayotte, the Ville de Montréal's Executive Committee member responsible for culture, heritage and design.

Spring-summer calendar -Quartier des spectacles	
Until June 2	21 Balançoires (21 Swings) and 21 Obstacles
May 17	Fête de Montréal
May 18 to June 2 /August 5 to Sept. 1.	Sainte-Catherine Street activities
August 5 to Sept. 29	Gabor Szilasi photo exhibition
May 21 to Sept. 1	Place Émilie-Gamelin summer program
May 11-12	The Wave presented by Escales improbables
May 17 to 19	Pouzza Fest
May 22 to June 8	Festival TransAmériques
May 26	Montréal Museums Day
May 29 to June 2	MUTEK
May 31 to June 2	Les Emballés – Poesis 1
June 13 to 22	FrancoFolies
June 28 to July 7	Festival International de Jazz de Montréal
July 3 to August 29	Place de la Paix summer program
July 3 to 14	Montréal complètement cirque
July 4 to 28	Zoofest
July 9 to 21	Festival Nuits d'Afrique
July 13 to 20	Terra Karnaval 2013
July 13 to 28	Just for Laughs Festival
July 29 to August 7	Présence Autochtone/Montreal First Peoples Festival
August 12 to 20	Fierté Montréal Pride
August 22 to Sept. 2	Festival des Films du monde/World Film Festival
Sept. 4 to Nov. 4	Mégaphone
Sept. 4 to 7	OUMF
Sept. 11 to 22	Quartiers danses

The Quartier des Spectacles Partnership – mandated by the Ville de Montréal to organize outdoor programming to complement the offerings of its partners and cultural venues – used the launch event to provide more details about the colourful season to come.

21 Balançoires (21 Swings) and 21 Obstacles

Until June 2, *21 Balançoires*, an interactive installation by Daily tous les jours, invites Promenade des Artistes visitors to participate in a cooperative musical adventure in which they create a melody by swinging. In the evening, a video projection called *21 Obstacles*, inspired by classic pinball machines, adds another layer of interactivity. Since returning on April 17, more than 10,000 people have enjoyed *21 Balançoires*.

Fête de Montréal

May 17 is Fête de Montréal in Quartier des Spectacles! This will be the Quartier's third annual celebration of the anniversary of our city's founding. **At lunchtime and starting at 4:30 p.m.**, during Happy Hour, lively performances and food trucks will turn Place des Festivals and Sainte-Catherine Street into one big party. **At 9:30 p.m.**, the Montreal-based multimedia studios Geodezik, ElToro studio, Turbine, Baillat Cardell & fils and Champagne Club Sandwich will team up, respectively, with musicians Ariane Moffatt, Louis-Jean Cormier, Yann Perreau and Jérôme Minière, Poirier with Boogat, and Plaster to present video projections on Théâtre Maisonneuve at Place des Arts accompanied by live Montreal-themed songs. A North American first!

Sainte-Catherine Street activities

Fête de Montréal marks the opening of the **Sainte-Catherine Street pedestrian zone**, until September 1. Like last year, street furniture including tables and umbrellas will turn the street into the perfect place for a picnic, complete with great entertainment. The playful and unusual programming, presented between Bleury St. and Saint-Laurent Blvd., will include street theatre, music, dance and circus arts, presented at all times except during major events: **May 18 to June 2 and August 5 to September 1.**

Place de la Paix activities

Presented in collaboration with the Society for Arts and Technology (SAT), there will be a series of 22 free evening events in Place de la Paix, every Wednesday and Thursday **from July 3 to August 29**, including electronic music, BBQ and open-air movies. For the last seven years, SAT has hosted events designed to enliven the park next to its building. The activities have helped transform the space into a hub of urban cinema.

Gabor Szilasi photography exhibition

August 5 to September 29, Quartier des Spectacles will host an exhibition by Gabor Szilasi, a major figure in Canadian and Quebec photography. His elegant portrait of Sainte-Catherine Street in the 1970s includes more than 30 photos.

Cet été chez Émilie!

In Place Émilie-Gamelin, giant chessboards and street furniture will create a fun, relaxing atmosphere from **May 30 to September 1**. Every Thursday* at lunchtime, original performances and six food trucks will bring even more fun to the square. Detailed programming for the lunchtime program will be announced in mid-May. New this year: flower stalls in the square!

* (except during major events; lunchtime program applies for the following dates: **May 30, June 13, June 20, and August 1, 8, 22 and 29**)

Mégaphone

An interactive installation about public speaking

A National Film Board of Canada (NFB) and Quartier des Spectacles Partnership co-production, resulting from the PPP-Parti Pris Pluriel (April 2012) call for proposals, this interactive installation by Étienne Paquette and Alexandre Lupien of **Moment Factory** will be presented from **September 4 to November 4** on UQAM's Pavillon Président-Kennedy. It is designed to encourage participants to think about the balance between the individual and the community, and will allow people to speak on Promenade des Artistes, where their words will be automatically transcribed and projected on the building's façade.

Full programming details: www.quartierdesspectacles.com

About Quartier des spectacles

Quartier des Spectacles has been Montreal's cultural heart for more than a century. Today, it is also a hub of economic, urban and cultural development, with many assets that are helping establish Montreal as a leading cultural metropolis. A vibrant creative zone, open to artistic diversity and cultural cross-pollination, the Quartier has something for everyone, from digital-arts aficionados to fans of world music. Every month of the year and every hour of the day, Montrealers and visitors converge on its 80 venues, 40 festivals and seven squares and public spaces. Part of a unique urban fabric, the boldly illuminated Quartier des Spectacles is an essential destination for anyone looking for a thrilling cultural experience. For more information, visit quartierdesspectacles.com.

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Photos: <ftp://remote.quartierdesspectacles.com/>

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Launch participants' press releases are attached.

Media enquiries: Marie-Joëlle Corneau | marie-joelle.corneau@quartierdesspectacles.com | 514 348-9676