



11<sup>th</sup> Edition

## Festival Accès Asie

May 4 to 13, 2006

### Director's Message

#### ***Plunging to Emergence***

Festival Accès Asie celebrates the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of May as Asian Heritage Month 2006 with bold and raw talent. The theme, ***Plunging to Emergence***, is taken from the latin derivative of emergence, which is, to plunge and that certainly symbolizes the audaciousness of many of this year's artists. The best example of such a daring force is engineer **Cheuk Kwan**, turned first-time director and completing over a five year period, fifteen episodes about " *Chinese Restaurants*" in thirteen countries around the world. As a Montreal premiere, you will be witnessing the first of the trilogies in this series that has already been splashing the press pages in Japan, India, Malaysia and the US. World players are also featured in the Festival's line up such as Toronto's wild pianist **Lee Pui Ming** renowned here from her performances with the Montreal International Jazz Festival and the musique actuelle scene. Lee Pui Ming will be playing in cyberspace with Montreal's greatest DJ King, **DJMana** who will be scratching and DJ'ing on line in a gallery setting, an activity that ends with a book launch of *Moments*, a publication of the last eight years of the Festival's program of improvising in cyberspace.

The Festival opens with youthful and fresh new perspectives and works by **Chanti Wadge**, a choreographer who defies and refuses to take life for granted and who will share Tangente's stage with **Geneviève La**. Both dancers are worth remembering now as they are already splashing the headlines. *ASI 2006* is a second edition at the SAT of our PanCanadian digital contest, with a projection screening of runner ups, an awards ceremony of the winners and a night of dancing into dawn with DJ's and VJ's from the local Asian communities. A second film screening at the NFB will include two short and intense documentaries about the sex trade, trafficking and prostitution in India and in Iran. "*The Day My God Died*" by **Andrew Levine** and "*Epitaph*" by **Moslem Mansouri** are two very different approaches that will shock and inspire. Moslem Mansouri is an award winning Iranian film maker who risks his life with his work but refuses to be silent.

There will be a vernissage for the exhibition at Plateau Mt. Royal's Maison de la culture with three breathtaking photographers' works by **Babak Salari, May Truong and Will Lew** all of whom who will turn your heads and make you re-think how, why and what you see. Another great year of highlighting LA's **On Taiko Ensemble**, Japanese big drums who will be merging with local world percussionist **Patrick Graham** in a feast for the ears, a sight for the eyes and food for the soul.

What better way is there than to close the Festival with a " 5 à 7 " at the SAT with a party bash of food, drinks and dancing to an up and coming singing star, **Kashif and the Bilz** with **DJ Vicious and Master D**.

***Come and enjoy!***