



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Crazy about Asia is about the passion of Tibet, Festival Accès Asie's feature country this year. *Crazy about Asia* is a wild and quiet moment of Tibetan tea and savouring foods eaten only in Tibetan homes. *Crazy about Asia* is the weird and quirky Japanese pop punk performance. In our 14th edition celebrating the month of May Asian Heritage Month, *Crazy about Asia* is a year of regard and Festival reflection where the public can attend a lecture and discussion on Tibetan religious symbols, voice their thoughts after a touching film about Tibetan soccer players caught between borders and contribute in an electronic round table between two cities, two artists, two teachers and two publics. *Crazy about Asia* is being culturally confused in a playful multidisciplinary performance, *Viva Confusion* with world-renowned Indian actor psychiatrist, Dr. Mohan Agashe.

Tibet is not just politics. Tibet is a vibrant culture of peoples with a long history rich with sacred traditions, richness in the arts, religion, and culture. Festival Accès Asie is celebrating Montreal's best-kept secret of our Tibetan community of 130 and growing. The Festival opens our Festivities with a breathtaking photography exhibition of Tibet, a country in exile in India by Kiran Ambwani and special music pieces and songs by Montreal's own Tibetan artist, Kalsang Dolma, known for her work with the controversial film *What Remains of us (Ce qu'il reste de nous)*. In the evening, a lecture, *Mandala, the Sacred Circle* with professor Lara Braitstein will spark our imaginations about the exhaustive traditions of Tibet's religious symbols in art. On Saturday at the OM restaurant, you will have the fortunate experience of an authentic menu that is served only in Tibetan homes with Chef Lhamo, hear the beautiful Tibetan mandolin with Gyamtso. To wrap up the afternoon, Deepali Lindblom, an Indian Kathak dancer charms you with her engaging story telling and talent and warmth.

One week later, a poignant film, *The Forbidden Team (Équipe interdite)*, subtitled in French, is about Tibetans who are CRAZY about soccer, their chance to play a match with Norway, the challenges of their refugee status and the paper trails that follow their story. A discussion will follow with the presence of Montreal's well-known Tibetan leader, Thurbten Samdup and a social activist Dawn Bramadat.

Haunted Womb Tour is a Japanese offbeat and bizarre theatrics with electric guitar, percussion and dance. Influenced by an absurdity movement in Japan, *Haunted Womb Tour* will leave you stunned and giggling by their twisted and weirdly serious skits.

Wait... a minute! / Attends...une minute ! is a simultaneous live video-conference between two cities with Toronto's pioneering artist, writer, activist, teacher and curator, Richard Fung and emerging artist Alison S. M. Kobayashi and Montreal's teacher and curator Alice Jim and new and upcoming artist Ayesha Hameed. For a chance to step back, the public is invited to join in virtually and live, in an electronic round table discussion of the role, power and challenges of technology and where Asian Canadian artists fit today.

Last but not least, will be our closing spectacle, *Viva Confusion*, live film on stage with world renowned psychiatrist, doctor and actor, Dr. Mohan Agashe who will doctor the stories with artist expressions of "cultural confusion" in the form of multi-media, story telling, dance, theatre and music.

Are you crazy enough to join us? I hope so. Enjoy!!!

Janet Lumb, Artistic director

www.accesasie.com