

**For Immediate Release**

## **Festival Accès Asie's 15th edition – Alive and Kicking !**

Montreal, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 — Festival Accès Asie reveals our 15 years in existence in a festive spirit, celebrating the month of May as Asian Heritage Month that was first declared in the Senate in 2000. Vibrating with this alive and kicking program, the Festival joins artists from the Asian cultural communities from across the country.

From May 6<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 unfolds 9 activities of song, music, dance, exhibitions, poetry performances, new media, a multidisciplinary evening, projection of short films, and culinary tastes for you to discover a multitude of artistic talents, from the traditional to the avant garde.

Festival Accès Asie kicks into the opening ceremonies with the vibration of drums with **Odaya**, a women's 1<sup>st</sup> Nation traditional singing ensemble. Following this activity is the visual arts opening at Gallery MEKIC featuring Iranian painter, **Khosro Berahmandi** with his most recent series of works, *Nebulous Rings*. Iran continues to be highlighted with musician, **Babak Towhidi** and poet, **Hossein Sharang** participating in an evening of Spoken Word lead by Pakistani artist, **Atif Siddiqi**. Siddiqi is in the company of poets, **Shin'Uet** from Shanghai, **Nada Sattouf** originating from Lebanon, **Naïm Kattan** originally from Iraq and local Montrealer **Rachna Vohra**. Professor **Norman Cornett**, well known for his unorthodox teaching methods, offers us a special dialogic session where an interactive discussion occurs around the most recent book of the invited guest, Toronto author, Professor **Priscila Uppal**.

The rich diversity of Montreal's cultural communities is brought to light this year with *Infusion*, a colorful multi-disciplinary performance that integrates artists and students from Barclay, a multi-ethnic public school. Traditional music with **Pham Duc Thanh** and rhythms of **DJ Crak Fingaz** intermix with images by **Meena Murugesan**. Projected live by **VJ Pink Rubber Lady**, all of this together is created to accompany the hip-hop choreography of **Spicey** and **Michel Lim** with dancers **Troy Clarke**, **Yan Fradette** and **Saxon Fraser**.

Festival Accès Asie is a bridge that joins the extremities of this vast country. In an installation by Montreal's visual artist, **Mary Sui Yee Wong**, is a creative piece with her father, Vancouver's Chinese opera master and musician, **Toa Wong** in a live cyberspace performance. The program continues with two tours traveling to the various Asian Heritage Month groups across Canada and stopping in to Montreal's Asian Heritage Festival, aka Festival Accès Asie. We are honoured with a special projection of short films from the **Toronto International Reel Asian Film Festival** with an exclusive selection of works of Quebecois filmmakers. The next activity is a Vancouver dance company, Co.ERASGA with choreographer, **Alvin Tolentino** presenting internationally acclaimed, *OrienTik/Portrait* with Japanese drums and classical piano.

Finally is the closing of the Festival in the discovery of the delights of sushi from the restaurant **Mikado**. This tasting will be accompanied by the introduction to Japanese green tea by **Ritsuko Uchiyama** from the house of R.Uchiyama.

**Festival Accès Asie's 15th anniversary** is alive and kicking, and has been made especially for your ecstasy.

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**For more information or promotional material, please do not hesitate to contact me.**