



15th Montreal Intercultural Storytelling Festival

Montreal, September 11, 2019 – The 15th **Montreal Intercultural Storytelling Festival**, being held October 18 to 27, 2019, will offer a rich and diverse program to capture the imagination of audiences of all ages and backgrounds: 60 artists from Canada and elsewhere, 66 shows, including 14 in English, 44 venues around the city, 10 series, including Enchanted Evenings, Mythologies, Women of the World, Local Accents and Stories at the Museum, and the very first Battle of the Stories. “Storytelling, a living art with its origins lost in the mists of time, continues to reinvent itself,” said Stéphanie Bénéteau, the Festival’s artistic director and spokesperson. “A link between the past and the present, storytelling connects our multiple identities and affiliations to emphasize our common humanity.”

This year, the **International Stories** series features artists from Algeria, Switzerland, France, Belgium and the Pyrenees. And the **Enchanted Evenings**—shows on special themes that bring together the big names in Quebec storytelling— are back: **Women from Here and There**, three women in three shows sharing tales that explore the lives of women; **Stories at the Museum**, at Pointe-à-Callière and Maison Saint-Gabriel; as well as **Family Shows** for kids at several libraries and cultural centres. There are a number of new features this year: **Local Accents** brings together artists who present their home regions—the Magdalen Islands, Abitibi, Quebec City—with love and humour. **Mythologies** includes the ancient Greek stories revised and updated, and explores Kabyle, Inca, Amazonian and Innu myths.

The Festival has entered into its first collaboration with the borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro: **West Side Stories** are six shows for adults and families, in French and in English. In the **Encounters** series, there will be talks and discussions, encounters with artists in residence and cultural mediation, as well as the very first **Battle of the Stories** to provoke thought about the art of storytelling and stimulate public interest in it. Five celebrities will step into the ring to defend five shortlisted stories. The winner will be the story that every Quebecer should hear in 2019. The Battle of the Stories will be emceed by writer Jean Barbe, who will serve as

referee in a fierce and entertaining face-off! To listen to the five stories and vote, go to Festival-Conte.qc.ca. The event will take place at 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 19, in the auditorium at the Grande Bibliothèque. Free admission. Reservations (not required): banq.qc.ca

Last but not least, the Festival's 10th series features **English-language** storytelling. There will be 14 shows, with storytellers from the Métis Nation, Saskatchewan and Argentina, by way of Ottawa, Greece and Mile End. Some highlights are the grand opening of the English-language series, which will feature five storytellers, starting at 8 p.m., Saturday, October 19, at Victoria Hall Community Centre (\$15); the great Marta Singh, who has based her latest show on her high-school years in Argentina under the dictatorship, will be presenting *The Geography Teacher's Orders* for two nights only at Salle Claude-Léveillée, Place des Arts. *The Geography Teacher's Orders* won the Best of Fest Award and the Jury's Award of Excellence at Ottawa's 2018 Fringe Festival. Tickets \$28. Reservations www.laplacedesarts.com. And spotlight on the dinner theatre show *Stories and Songs from My Mediterranean Childhood*, with the multitalented artist Tamar Ilana, accompanied by a musician. Restaurant La Khaïma. \$35, including a full-course Mauritanian meal. Reservations: info@festival-conte.qc.ca

The Festival will kick off, on Friday, October 18, with *Empreintes / Traces* in the Outremont Theatre's main hall. Hosted by Michel Faubert, this evening will bring together artists carried along by their fertile imaginations, where cultures and influences, past and present, intersect and overlay with myth, poetry and urban realities. The guest artists are Rachid Bouali (Algeria and France), Catherine Gaillard (Switzerland), Aïni Iften (Algeria), Cédric Landry (Magdalen Islands), Catherine Pierloz (Belgium), Olivier de Robert (Pyrenees) and Joueur Turenne (Haiti and Quebec). Tickets \$30/\$25 students. www.theatreoutremont.ca. The Festival is partnering with the Outremont Theatre to present two other shows, this time at the Petit Outremont: *La Piste à Avila* with Magdalen Islander Cédric Landry, at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 22, and *Tshakapesh et autres mythes innus* with Charles-Api Bellefleur, in Innu with live interpretation into French by Joséphine Bacon, at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 23. And to wrap up the Festival, the popular storytelling marathon will welcome some 30 artists to the Maison de la culture Janine-Sutto, from 2 to 9:30 p.m. on October 27.

Full program at www.festival-conte.qc.ca

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