



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

THE MASQ'ALORS! FESTIVAL UNVEILS ITS 2021 PROGRAM IN A REINVENTED EDITION

Saint-Camille, April 21, 2021 - The 7th edition of the *Masq'alors!* Festival will be held from May 29 to June 6, 2021. It is the only festival in North America entirely dedicated to the art of the mask. This year, we are presenting an exceptional hybrid program with some virtual activities and some live performances, sanitary conditions permitting of course.

Queer *Masq'a/OFF!*

This year, our off-festival *Masq'a/OFF!*, first introduced in 2019, will be held outside the walls of Saint-Camille on Saturday May 29. In the afternoon, Mont-Ham will welcome « Les vieillards et la mer », an outdoor performance by the Montreal group *Les Pas Sortables*). In the evening, a colourful Queer performance, co-sponsored by our partner *Fière la fête-Fierté Sherbrooke Pride*, will be presented at La Meunerie and at BEAM in St-Adrien. Also on the menu are conferences by les *Sœurs de la Perpétuelle indulgence* and the author and poet Alexandre Rainville, a performance by the multidisciplinary artist Kama La Mackerel and an authentic Drag Queen show hosted by none other than Gina Gates and guests.

Something new: *Masq'àParis!*

This year will see the inauguration of a new segment of the festival called *Masq'àParis!* There will be joint activities on-line between Saint-Camille and two venues in Paris, the *Mandapa Center* and *Le Mouffetard théâtre des arts de la marionnette*. There, you will see films, an animation of the reknown Italien sculptor Robin Summa's masks by actors on stage in Paris and in Quebec, a performance by Delphine Bereski, and the end-of-year show by the participants in our Clown workshop animated by Louis Fortier (who will be on-stage in Paris).

Danse and Saint-Camille's youth are front-stage

This year, we are hosting two dance performances. The baroque and contemporary dancer Stéphanie Brochard will present an exclusive co-production exploring the theme of confusion between the past and the present. The *Thai Dance Troupe of Ottawa (TDO)* will stage a colourful short version of the traditional epic poem Ramakien.

Children from Saint-Camille's community will present a play by the theatre troupe *Les Broches à foin*. Also, the Portuguese interdisciplinary artist Roberto Gomes-Barbosa will present an intriguing performance with the video-mask.

Spotlight on current events

Our cycle of conferences will once again tackle very contemporary concerns. The sociologist Rachel Décoste will talk about the controversial history of *Blackface* and the Tlingit artist Nahaan will discuss the facial tattoos of the First Nations traditions.

Exhibits in all shapes and colours

Concerning visual arts, the festival will host the exhibit « Masques flyés » by the internationally-known artist Danaé Brissonnet, with colourful pieces reinterpreting the symbols of communities visited by the artist, from Taiwan to Belgium, through Florida and the Magdalen Islands. Discover the diverse creativity of maskmaker artists from across the Atlantic through their intriguing and thought-provoking exhibits: « Les masques avant les masques: carnaval » (The masks before the masks: carnival) by Robin Summa (Milan, Italy) and « Masques et Créatures de l'imaginaire », (Masks and Creatures from the Imagination), textile masks of Romanian inspiration by Alban Lebrun (France). Finally, Marie Cornellier will present « Masks 2021 », an exhibit of artistic medical masks. Last but not least, the traditional collective exhibit « Masq'alors! » featuring fifteen regional artists.

Don't miss this seventh edition of the *Masq'alors!* Festival in the Municipal Region of des Sources and online from May 29 to June 6, 2021.

Information and tickets: masqalors.ca

About *Masq'alors!*:

Every other year since 2009, *Masq'alors!* has offered a variety of programs presenting the diversity of masks: multidisciplinary shows, conferences, exhibits, workshops, community activities for the whole family, theme nights, culture days for schools, kino nights presenting masked short-films produced by festival-goers everywhere. Located in St-Camille in the Eastern Townships, population 500, this festival presents eco- and socio-responsible activities by organizing a "green" event since its inception.

-30-

Contact :
Mylène Bélanger
Administrative Director
administration@masqalors.ca
514-834-5866