

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Masq'alors! festival reveals its 2023 programming**

*A Cosmix edition!*

**Saint-Camille, May 8rd, 2023** - *Masq'alors! Festival's 8th edition*, the only festival in North America dedicated exclusively to the art of mask, will take place from **May 27th to June 4th, 2023** at the heart of the MRC des Sources. An explosive program will be presented again this year.

### **Science-Fiction at Masq'alloFF!**

Saturday, May 27th and Sunday, May 28th, you will find *Masq'alloFF!* outside the walls of Saint-Camille. During this weekend, La Meunerie of Saint-Adrien and Le Beam will welcome artists, conference speakers and masked heroes for a whole day themed around science-fiction.

For the first time, Masq'alors! will be at La Mitaine of Val-des-Sources for a cultural, artistic and playful Sunday afternoon. Indoor and outdoor activities around the making of a *Bibitte de l'espace* will be offered to the whole family in a childlike spirit!

### **Cultural day for school children and Special senior day!**

This year, we are offering a cultural day under the banner of inclusion in partnership with the Association des Sourds de l'Estrie. Children with hearing impairments are invited to share the day of June 1st with the students of Christ-Roi primary school. They will have the opportunity to exchange with our invited international artists who will present their mask culture and answer their questions.

Next, **Pafoli et Jaclo**, two artists born deaf, will initiate a playful workshop to assist interaction with people who are deaf or who have hearing impairments in order to dispel certain myths and prejudices. Educational, magical... laughter guaranteed! The workshop is followed by their clown show *Sourd comme ça*.

For our seniors, a cultural discovery bundle is offered for Thursday and Friday's different activities at an affordable price.

### **Shows by local artists...**

*Masq'alors!* is first and foremost artists from the four corners of Quebec that delight with their unique artistic performances!

Again this year, **Les Broches à foin** will be among us with their new clown duo *Fous comme des*

*balais!* We will also welcome the Sherbrooke based circus troupe **LaboKracBoom** for an outdoor performance at nightfall as well as **Horta Van Hoye** with her performance *Gesichter Geschichten... A story of faces (Histoires De Visages)* for a moment of magic and poetry around paper. The multidisciplinary artist **Marie-Pascale Bélanger** will present *A for Animal (A comme animal)* and, we will celebrate the Chinese-Canadian cultural community with Aurore Liang's initiation to Beinging Opera show.

### ... and traditions from foreign lands

This year, we have the tremendous opportunity to welcome **Le forum des danses traditionnelles** from Ivory Coast! Composed of 6 dancing artists and musicians, the troupe presents an overview of Ivorian masked culture. Through chants and orchestrated rhythms using traditional instruments (balafon, djembe,...), **Identité Culturelle** takes us at the heart of different Ivorian peoples' ancestral customs. Thus, we will set out to discover masks of the Gla, Zahoui, Boloï, Tchagba and Goly tribes. An enlivening voyage on the horizon!

With **Grouyan Gombo**, you will participate in a festive and rousing workshop with a Bayou and Southern prairies flavor of the North American continent, to learn how to dance the two-step and Cadian waltz, Louisiana's traditional dances.

**Josepha Lauth Thomsen** is an aboriginal artist of Greenland, and specialist in traditional masked dances. She gives us a glimpse of an island that was and remains anchored in past time, reveals to us its arcanas and shares this unique cultural and social heritage. An impressive and intriguing dive into Greenlandic myths and rituals.

Moreover, **Anana Rydvald** originally from Denmark, and **Infinithéâtre** and **Level 4 Theatre Production**, will not leave you indifferent with *The Sighlence of Sky*, a non-verbal mask and mime piece on the theme of neurodivergence.

### Current events is part of the program

Our conferences and roundtable discussions will once again enable discussions on current subjects around artistic creation, masked culture and tradition and even subtle links between political science and science fiction.

### Exhibitions of all colors!

Pertaining to visual arts, the festival will welcome *(Dé)masquer, (Un)masking, (Des)enmascararse* and an exhibition by **Maria Ezcurra**, *Masques intergalactiques (Intergalactical masks)* by **Isabelle Therrien**, *Un monde à réunifier (A world to reunite)* by **Horta Van Hoye**, *Nostalgie des origines (Nostalgia of origins)* by **Noémie de Pas**, and an exhibition dedicated to our *Carnaval Mask Celebration* guests!

For each edition, we highlight the Eastern Township's upcoming generation of youth in visual arts. This year we are presenting the works from students at **École secondaire de La Ruche à Magog** and graphic art students from **Cégep de Sherbrooke**. And not omitting, of course, the traditional *Masq'alors! collective exhibition* featuring 15 artists from the region as well as *Masques dans tous les sens (Masks in all matter of ways)* and *Le village masqué (The masked village)* exhibits, which can be seen outdoors and throughout the the center of the village of Saint-Camille.

For more information on the festival's complete programming and ticket purchase, please consult our website: [masqalors.ca](http://masqalors.ca)

**About *Masq'alors!* festival:** Since 2009, biennial *Masq'alors!* offers varied programming presenting mask in all its forms: multidisciplinary shows, conferences, exhibitions, training workshops, community activities for the whole family, theme nights, cultural day themes for scholars and kino nights that present masked short films shot by festival goers around the globe. Located in Saint-Camille, a village of 500 people in the Eastern Townships, the festival also takes pride in presenting its activities in respect of its eco- and socio- responsible values, by kicking off with a «green» event.

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