

The 2010 FVA: Eight Headliners at the Sala Rossa

The 2010 Festival Voix d'Amérique (FVA) is as daring as ever, showcasing artists with something to say and risky shows you won't find in the mainstream. There are eight headline slots this year and FVA fans will be glad to hear all their favourites are back: **Body and Soul**; the French-language soapbox **Combat contre la langue de bois**; and our extremely naughty **DADA Cabaret**. We're also exploring new territory this year with **Sky de Sela**, **Fred Fortin** and the intriguingly titled **Dans la forêt**—another initiative from our tireless Artistic Director.

Friday, February 5 at 8:30 p.m. / 15\$

Ursula Rucker Solo

In English

When **Ursula Rucker** performed at the 2004 FVA, we were floored. She was pregnant at the time, with one of her sons in tow, and she was incredibly, sensuously affecting. Her superb voice with its natural musicality delivered poetry that went straight to the heart. Ursula Rucker has rhythm and sonority but she is also a social activist who understands the true power of words. Check out these lines from one of her best known pieces:

*Until you walk, run, fight a mile in her shoes
Don't you dare stand in front of me and tell me
What a woman must do*

At that first show, Ursula was accompanied by our darling guitar player Bernard Falaise. She liked him so much she wanted to take him on tour! Be prepared for an emotional reunion as Ursula is joined on stage by none other than **Bernard Falaise**, **Fred Boudreault** and **Pierre Tanguay**, gentlemen who know how to listen and have a fine groove of their own.

Saturday, February 6 at 8:30 p.m. / 15\$

Body & Soul 7

Bilingual

OK, we admit it. **Body and Soul**, saluting strong women with a powerful stage presence, has been hugely inspired by **Ursula Rucker's** performance at the first show in 2004. This year she's back, alongside five other Hot Mamas uh huh! **Lisa Gamble**, also known as Gambletron, a musician and improviser like no one you've ever seen, has collaborated on numerous projects (Clues, Evangelista). **Taqralik Partridge**, equally influenced by hip-hop and traditional Inuit storytelling, dominates the stage. Young, self-taught, multi-instrumentalist **Geeta** (Sparkle) is gaining a reputation for dynamic and deeply felt performances. As for **Mankind** duo **Alexis O'Hara** and **D. Kimm**, what can we say? Oddly delicious, disorderly, lovable, changeable... you name it!

Sunday, February 7 at 8:30 p.m. / 12\$

Sky de Sela: Maintenant

In French

"Ladies and gentlemen. I've decided. I don't want to hide anything ever again." With these words **Sky de Sela**, the former trapeze artist who fell from the heavens at the Cirque Pocheros, opens her show. The story she tells is her own, by turns disconcerting and hilarious, shifting

from splendour to absurdity, from words to the silent gestures of the clown. Sky is authentic to the marrow, imbued with twenty-five years of circus art, and the self-portrait she unfurls is personal and direct. Accompanied by France's **Benoit Jayot** on bass and Quebec's **Pierre-Yves Martel** on viola de gamba, she slips deep into the past the better to live in the present. Entirely there, woman and clown. It's a daring, blissful stripping away to the simplicity of being in the "Now".

Here at last is Sky de Sela in her grand opening at the FVA. It was the sweet and wonderful Lhasa who introduced us to her big sister and we would so have loved her to be with us.

A New Series: Dans la forêt

In the Forest is about mystery and camouflage, rustlings and inner animals, traps set deep in the forest and secrets in the underbrush. We are launching the series with two separate shows featuring nothing but indomitable, astounding women. Next year, we'll send men off to the woods to explore.

Monday, February 8 at 8:30 p.m. / 12\$

Dans la forêt I: Jubilation noire

In French

For the first show, we welcome two long-time friends and collaborators, poet **Élise Turcotte** and actor **Louise Bombardier**. Each, ensconced somewhere beyond time, sketches a dream chart based on her earthly excursions and underground mythologies. Their shifting stories engender a strangely intimate bestiary. Between dream and reality, the sufferings of desire are revisited and scanned in a limitless language playing with symbols and black humour. They scratch beneath the words become flesh to reach "Dark Jubilation". A show that is also a waking dream, a reverie smooth as the pelt of a half-wild creature.

Onstage, Élise Turcotte and Louise Bombardier with **Francine Alepin** as the egregore. Dream-stager: **Markita Boies**. Set and costume design: **Linda Brunelle**. Lighting design: **Lucie Bazzo**. Sound design: **Jean-Sébastien Durocher**.

Tuesday, February 9 at 8:30 p.m. / 12\$

Dans la forêt II: Plus on avance, plus le bois est grand

In French

The second show, brought to us by **Ying Yang Ladies**, is a 24-hour tramp through the woods with each performer embodying a specific moment of the day or night.

Photographer **Caroline Hayeur** and musician **Myléna Bergeron** have amassed a significant body of dream-and-mystery-laden music videos. For the first time, at the urging of the FVA, they are adding performed text to their show in collaboration with five young women, each with her own particular approach. We don't like to call them wild exactly. Let's just say they're remarkably undomesticated. There's **Dominique Pétrin**, who threw us for a loop as part of the now defunct Georges Leningrad; **Isabelle Mandalian** with her right-on writing; **Larissa Corriveau**, actor, musician and friend of unicorns; **Cynthia Girard**, the artist who sometimes thinks she's a cobra, or is it a twig insect; and the intensely young **Marie Davidson** who has already notched up several experimental bands.

Wednesday, February 10 at 8:30 p.m. / 22\$

Fred Fortin: Plastrer la lune

In French

In the last fifteen years, **Fred Fortin** has become a landmark figure on the Quebec songwriting scene. His debut album, *Joseph Antoine Frédéric Perron Fortin*, a basement CD made with no government funding, drew praise from the critics and warm applause from audiences and peers. Fred Fortin is also an FVA stalwart who for six years has provided musical back-up at our popular *Combat contre la langue de bois*. We think he is integrity personified and this show is our gift to FVA audiences, something we've had in the works for a long time. Fred Fortin, close-up and personal, in the delightfully intimate Sala Rossa. Funny, sad, touching, real, the poetry he brings back from his cabin up in Lac Saint-Jean will hit you harder than any urban beat.

Fred Fortin will be joined onstage by musical friends **Olivier Langevin** and **Justin Allard**.

Thankfully, it's a stand-up show, which means more people, and we can move!

Thursday, February 11 at 8:30 pm / 20\$

Combat contre la langue de bois, Round 6

With host **Jacques Bertrand**

In French

Six minutes. No right of reply. They're going to get it all off their chests. But let's be clear about the concept. The idea is not to be the wittiest or the smoothest. It's to be straight talking and sincere. We have to push back the walls a bit more every year to accommodate the crowds at the **Combat contre la langue de bois**. It's become a cult sensation. Its biggest fans are people just plain sick and tired of the meaningless pap our public figures keep serving up. This year, along with well known arts personalities, we've lined up some compelling voices from citizen movements around the city.

Chewing it up and spitting it out (with no apology for two weeks) will be: **Louis-René Beaudin** (indie radio host at CIBL), **Sophie Cadieux** (character actor), **Sœur Esther Champagne** (nun and social activist determined to make corporations responsible), **Clank** (non-sighted with a laser focus on life), **Francine Grimaldi** (pioneer, curious, out-and-about), **Charlotte Laurier** (eternal rebel), **Martin Léon** (authentic, Zen groover), **Claude Poissant** (intelligent, implacable, classy), **Will Prosper** (a stand-up-for-your-rights kind of guy in Montreal North) and **Odile Tremblay** (colours incisively outside the lines).

To ensure it's not the audience going down for the count, musical referees **Fred Fortin** (a six-year vet), **François Lafontaine** and **Justin Allard** will muffle anyone who goes on beyond the allotted time!

Friday, February 12 at 8:30 pm / 15\$

Queer DADA Cabaret

French, English, lipsynch

The DADA Cabaret is always a rip-roaring success. It lets us pay tribute to our Dada forebears who, like us, rebelled against convention, restriction, limitations and logic. It's a show where we celebrate extravagance and artistic freedom, and this year our gift to the FVA audience is nothing less than a QUEER DADA Cabaret. We've assembled an exuberant lineup of insolent,

improbable and very sexy acts. The idea is to explore the other side of the personality, go into the "weird" self and come back with a new gender/genre. The head table will be reserved for the transvestites. It's up to you to guess who's 100% QUEER and who would just like to be.

Your host for the evening will be that master of disguise **Stéphane Crête**. Guests include the sweet-faced and the sassy: **2boys.tv**, **Coral Short**, **Mado Lamotte**, **Suzanne Lemoine**, **Alexandre St-Onge**, **Jean-Frédéric Messier**, **Lex Vaughn** (Toronto), **Susana Cook** (New York), **Paul-Patrick Charbonneau**, **Les Moitsutoitsous**, **Plastik Patrik** & **Sunny Duval**, **Les Walkyries** (Sergio & Vanessa).

At 11 pm, it's over to the **Casa del Popolo** to bring the madness to a fitting close. Everyone is invited to party with the too too sexy **DJ Plastik Patrik**. And it's free! Your last chance to buy a drink for your dear D. Kimm, who will be murmuring, "Mission accomplished".

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