

5th Edition of the Mixed Arts Festival: RECONCILIATION THROUGH THE ARTS In the heart of Old Montreal, June 16 to 18

Montreal, June 5, 2017 – Sacred Fire Productions is proud to present the 5th Edition of the Mixed Arts Festival, which will be held at Place Jacques-Cartier and Place Royale, Old Montreal, from June 16th to 18th, as part of the official program for the city of Montreal's 375th anniversary. This multidisciplinary event will offer a free temporary art gallery, photo exhibit, workshops and breathtaking musical performances featuring artists from several Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Nations that are part of the rich cultural diversity of the city. **Florent Vollant**, nominated this year Companion of the Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec, will be presenting a major music show with his guests **Zachary Richard** and **Vincent Vallières**, with **Maten** as the opening act for this show, not to be missed. June 17th at 7pm.

Montrealers will have the honor of welcoming some very special guests from the United States: **Casper Lomayesva**, a singer from Hopi / Dine in Arizona who, with **The 602 Band**, will make Old Montreal *groove* on June 16th, at 7pm with a show combining melodies from his Native roots and reggae music. Also from Arizona, **Montee Siquah** accompanied by **The Siquah Family Dance Troupe** will bring energy to the stage, beginning of every major show for 3 evenings, with their hoop dance and grass dance. All these artists will also participate in workshops throughout the weekend.

Another highlight is the electrifying performance of **Akawui**, a Chilean singer-songwriter who combines salsa-cumbia and hip hop with Andean, Afro-Cuban and Brazilian music. The artist will perform on stage with **Casper Lomayesva** and **Mariame**, a Montréal-based composer and performer of Cree and Arab origin, who won "Best Pop Artist" at the 2017 Indigenous Music Award this year.

In order to create bridges between different cultures, multiple cultural mediation activities will allow the whole family to learn more about the Great Peace Treaty, the meaning of hoop dances and learn how to make talking sticks. On the other hand, *Angry Inuk* by **Alethea Arnaquq-Barild**, a documentary film who addresses the impact on Inuits around the seal hunt controversy, will be screened on June 17th at 2 pm as part of the NFB's *Aabiziingwashi* (Wide Awake) Indigenous film tour. The film has won numerous awards including the *Audience Award* at the Hot Docs Festival and the TIFF Canada's Top Ten Film Festival.

At the **Ashukan Cultural Space**, visitors will also have the opportunity to discover the photo exhibition *Concrete Indians* by **Nadia Kwandibens**, founder of **Red Works Photography** and renowned Anishinaabe / Ojibwe photographer from the Animakee community. This exhibition reflects on the presence of Aboriginal peoples in Canada: women and men in a modern and urban context. Finally, at Place de la Dauversière (East of Place Jacques-Cartier), the public will be able to explore the temporary art gallery, which brings together more than 40 visual artists, sculptors, artisans, traditional dancers and musicians, Aboriginals and from all cultural diverse background, coming together.

"The 375th anniversary is a privileged opportunity to build bridges with all the community groups of Montreal and to celebrate the vitality of the city. The 5th Edition of the Mixed Arts Festival is perfectly in line with this vision. The event offers a rich program of activities that will allow the public to experience the wealth of Aboriginal cultures and to understand their connection to the past, present and future of Montreal." said Alain Gignac, General Manager of the Society of Celebrations of the 375th anniversary of Montreal.

This event is made possible thanks to the generous support of our partners: The Society of the Celebrations of Montreal's 375th Anniversary, City of Montreal, the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, US Department of State, US Consulate General in Montreal, Pointe-à-Callière – Montreal Archaeology and History Complex, the SDC of Old Montreal, the Conseil des arts et des Lettres du Québec, Artistic Diversity Montreal (DAM) and the National Film Board.

ABOUT SACRED FIRE PRODUCTIONS: Our mission is to build bridges between Aboriginal artists in Quebec and audiences of all ages and backgrounds. By creating opportunities for these artists to express themselves, Sacred Fire Productions believes in the revitalization of Indigenous art and cultural practices, traditionally rooted in the communities. We indigenize and we focus on bringing a positive and better understanding of First Nations, Metis and Inuit culture.

(<http://sacredfireproductions.ca>)



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