



**Press Release
For immediate release**

World-class divas and sizzlin' summer rhythms: A spectacular 17th edition of Montreal's DIVERS/CITÉ FESTIVAL!

Montreal, Thursday, July 14 2009 – Divers/Cité, Montreal's unique LGBT Music and Arts Festival heats up the summer with seven days of outstanding talent from July 27 to August 2. Over 17 years, the multidisciplinary festival has won over audiences around the world and earned the enviable reputation of being a top North American dance destination. The festival boasts everything from electronic music concerts, Latin, jazz and funk showcases to film screenings, cabaret shows, circuit-style parties and the biggest drag show on the planet! In these tough economic times, Divers/Cité offers festivalgoers the most pleasurable of bailouts with over 55 hours of free outdoor programming. Featuring some of the world's biggest DJs and musicians performing for thousands of queers and their friends, Divers/Cité guarantees the best way to ignore money woes – at least temporarily – is at these phenomenal outdoor events guaranteed to shake booties and stir emotions!

THE BIGGEST BANG-UP ROSTER OF FREE FUN IN THE SUN!

Divers/Cité, which boasts the longest running, free outdoor programming of any LGBT event in the world, is guaranteed to deliver on its promise of non-stop, sultry sonic bliss. For the past 17 years, visitors and stars from around the world have dropped by Montreal's annual LGBT celebration and 2009 will be no exception. Among the many highlights, Wednesday's raunchy and rockin' **Sex Garage** will feature DJ Mini (July 29), the Canadian lady of electroland. Trance in the park is the motto for Friday's **New Society**, as L.A.'s psy-trance innovators **Infected Mushroom** will transport festivalgoers to a netherworld of euphonic bliss. (July 31)

Saturday's ever popular **Sunset Party** will heat up Montreal's downtown core with acclaimed Israeli DJ **Yinon Yahel** and an electrifying four-hour DJ set by one of the most prolific remixers of all time, internationally acclaimed DJ and producer **David Morales**. (August 1) Sunday's **Grand Bal** is chockfull of latin twirls and soulful whirls with international gay icon **Martha Wash**, and Emmy-nominated Latin sensation **India**. Finally, the biggest free outdoor dance party on the continent, **La Grande Danse** will offer close to 11 hours of multimedia infused beats spun by the globe's most impressive DJs, such as Grammy Award winning DJ and remixer **Peter Rauhofer**, Divers/Cité darling and famed Brazilian spinstress **Ana Paula**, Mexico's tribal house export **Isaac Escalante**, and Spain's riotous **Magic Solutions** with diva **Marisa Machado**. (August 2)

After conducting an ocean of throbbing bodies to an unabashed dance delirium with their outdoor performances, Divers/Cité's headliners will take their pulsating beats indoors to the Theatre Telus into the wee hours of the morning.

THE BRAND NEW CABARET DE MINUIT – NEW YORK SERIES!

A welcome addition to this year's festival, the Cabaret de Minuit / New York Series brings **three outstanding New York performers** to Montreal for three late night (12 a.m.) cabaret shows. Legendary performance artist and drag sensation **Joey Arias** – friend to **Andy Warhol** and **Klaus Nomi**, performer alongside David Bowie and Iggy Pop and actor in films like *To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar* – hits the stage at Opus Hotel's Koko Lounge on Tuesday July 27. Gaudy, ballsy musician and spoken word artist **Novice Theory** (a.k.a. **Geo Wyeth**) performs there Wednesday July 28 and **Justin Bond** – one of the Big Apple's nightlife staples, who you might recall for his sold-out Carnegie Hall performance in *Kiki & Herb* or for his memorable turn in John Cameron Mitchell's *Shortbus* – belts it out with **Our Lady G.** on piano on Thursday July 29.

D/C'S SIGNATURE DRAG SPECTACLE & LESBOMONDE EVENTS!

The pinnacle of Divers/Cité, Saturday August 1 will feature two of the Festival's signature events – the ever outrageous and entertaining **Mascara, la nuit des drags** and Montreal's premiere girls' night out, **Lesbomonde**.

The unparalleled and unabashed glitz and glamour fest that is **Mascara, la nuit des drags** has garnered worldwide attention for being a high-heeled, high-octane, gender-bending tour de force that is unique in absolutely every way. **The biggest drag show on earth** returns with mistress of ceremonies **Mado Lamothe** promising a new sequined spectacle more akin to Vegas than Broadway. Expect campy tributes to beloved divas - Madonna, Kylie, you know the drill – by Montreal's revered drag queens, extraordinary group numbers, fabulous costumes and a pastiche of feathers and glitter beyond compare.

Saturday night heats up at the Just for Laughs Museum for **Montreal's biggest annual lesbian gathering, Lesbomonde**. Electro, house and R&B rooms on two floors will offer carnal and sonic escape. With a reputation that draws in partygoers from Toronto to Miami, this year's **Lesbomonde** rolls out the red carpet for the phenomenal **Alyson Calagna**, straight from South Florida, Vancouver hottie **Betti Forde**, New York's **JD Samson** and homegrown favourites **Lady McCoy** and **DJ Torus**.

To stay abreast of the latest D/C news and for more info about these events and more, please visit www.diverscite.org

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DIVERS/CITÉ FESTIVAL 2009 – 17TH SPECTACULAR EDITION
CINÉMA DANS LE PARC and LES GRANDES MURALES
Visual pleasures abound

Montreal, July 14, 2009 – Proving Divers/Cité is truly the arts and music festival of the summer, two favourites return this year rounding out the artistic offerings and visual pleasures.

Changing locations to the Théâtre de Verdure in Park La Fontaine, Monday, July 27 (9 p.m.), **Cinéma dans le parc** is back with a special screening of **Les Chansons d’amour** (Chrisophe Honoré, France, 2007, 100 min v.o.f), a beguiling and bittersweet modernist musical about sexual fluidity, love, loss and happiness. Honoré’s (*Ma mère, Dans Paris*) latest centers around a young couple, Ismaël (Louis Garrel, *The Dreamers*) and Julie, who – in the hopes of sparking up their stalled relationship – enter a playful yet emotionally laced threesome with Alice. When tragedy strikes, these young Parisians are forced to deal with the fragility of life and love. All seems lost until Ismaël finds himself pursued by a beautiful young schoolboy named Erwann whose total devotion and innocence act as an antidote to his pain. Pacing the streets of Paris, collars upturned, our young heroes sing out loud with humour and surprising emotional depth in this *Umbrellas of Cherbourg*-inspired musical-comedy-drama that is sure to lift both heart and spirits.

Les Grandes murales, Divers/Cité’s annual outdoor photo exhibition features two dynamic Montreal-based artists: **JJ Levine** and **Jason Hendrickson**.

JJ Levine works in intimate portraiture. *Alone Time* is a series of colour photographs of ‘couples’ in their home environments. Through masquerade and drag, JJ Levine’s work addresses issues surrounding sexuality, heteronormativity, and relationship models; to confront viewers with questions regarding their own preconceived notions of sex, gender, and the body.

Working towards his MFA at Concordia University, **Jason Hendrickson**’s work explores the relationships between constructed spaces, sexuality and anonymity. He explores the gay campground as a counter-site of acceptance, understanding, and free expression.

Vernissage July 29 – 5 p.m. Terrasse Sainte-Catherine, Émilie-Gamelin Park. The exhibition runs through until August 2.

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**DIVERS/CITÉ FESTIVAL 2009 – 17TH SPECTACULAR EDITION
1, BOULEVARD DES RÊVES – 10TH ANNIVERSARY**
The night of stars reaches a decade

Montreal, July 14, 2009 - Celebrating its impressive 10th anniversary this year, **1, Boulevard des rêves** remains the address to head to for a dose of euphonic ecstasy on Tuesday, July 22 beginning at 6 p.m. For a decade now, a roster of Quebec's brightest vocal talents unite and belt it out under the stars for one remarkable evening of song. This year Divers/Cité is pleased to welcome the incomparable, smoky-voiced "rockeuse", **Marjo**, who joins over 30 of Quebec's pop, blues and jazz interpreters to commemorate a decade of a signature event, under the artist direction of **Marleen Ménard** and musical direction of **Robin Chemtov**.

Featuring: **Angel Forrest, Cassiopée, Chantale Moore, DJ Mr. Smith, Dawn Tyler Watson, Elizabeth Blouin Brathwaite, Flavie Chenail, Frank Julien, Frédérick de Granpré, Gabrielle Destroismaisons, Gail Hyssenman, Gardy Fury, Geneviève Charest, Johanne Blouin, Jano Bergeron, Julie Massicotte, Kim Richardson, Mado, Mannix, Marie-Claude Petit, Marjo, Nancy Martinez, Patsy Gallant, Paul Mathieu, Sharon Brooks, Stacey Tabb, Sylvie Desgroseilliers, Virginie Cummings** and surprise guests!
Artistic Director and Mistress of Ceremonies: Marleen Ménard.
Musical Director: Robin Chemtov.

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DIVERS/CITÉ FESTIVAL 2009 – 17TH SPECTACULAR EDITION MASCARA

Montreal, July 14, 2009 – La Reina returns, coming in for a smooth landing on August 2 with one of Divers/Cité's signature event, Mascara, la nuit des drags.

The unparalleled and unabashed glitz and glamour fest that is **Mascara, la nuit des drags** returns to the Berri/Ontario stage Saturday, August 1 at 8 p.m. with mistress of ceremonies, **Mado Lamotte** hosting a new and invigorated show. More Vegas than Broadway, this edition boasts campy tributes to beloved divas - Madonna, Kylie...you know the drill... - by Montreal's revered drag queens, extraordinary group numbers and the icing on the cake, Mado performing songs from her new CD! An opportunity to experience drag Montreal-style – Mascara is as unique as the city itself.

With: **Mado, Barbada, Cantelli, Céline, Dream, Franky Dee, Kiki, Manny, Marla, Michel Dorion, Miss Butterfly, Miss Vicky, Nana, Rita, Soleil, Tracy Trash and V.Nus**

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**PRESS RELEASE
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**DIVERS/CITÉ FESTIVAL 2009 – 17TH SPECTACULAR EDITION
FREE OUTDOOR EVENTS
*Dance Delirium***

Montreal, July 14, 2009 – Divers/Cité, Montreal's LGBT Music and Arts Festival heats up the summer with seven days of remarkable talent from **July 27 to August 2**. Over 17 years, the Festival has earned a reputation as a North American dance destination and in these tough economic times, Divers/Cité offers Festival-goers the most pleasurable of bail-outs with over 55 hours of free outdoor programming! Featuring some of the world's biggest DJs and musicians spinning and performing for thousands of queers and their friends, Divers/Cité guarantees the best way to eliminate money woes – at least temporarily- is at these phenomenal outdoor events guaranteed to get hips moving and arms pumping.

RAUNCHY AND ROCKIN'

The weekend gets started early on Wednesday, July 29 at 8 p.m. with the raunchy, rambunctious and resurrected **Sexgarage** at the Loto-Québec stage in Émilie-Gamelin Park. Joining in on the fun are four kick-ass acts: **Pom Pom War** with their synth-garage melodies; the twisted pop of **Femme**; the darkly playful NY electro boys, **Velvet Code** and Montreal's lady of electroland, **DJ Mini**.

Traffic, DiversCité's rock and roll collision revs its engines Thursday, July 30 at the Loto-Québec stage beginning at 8 p.m. with three beloved Quebec rockers: **Angel Forrest**, whose blues and folk inspired performances have a breathtaking intensity; **Jonas**, who always delivers an explosive performance and finally, joining him for a number or two is the original Honky Tonk Woman, **Nanette Workman**.

MOVE THAT BODY

With sights and sounds that will transport Festival-goers to a netherworld of euphonic bliss, trance takes over on Friday, July 31 in Émilie-Gamelin Park with the third edition of **New Society**. The remarkable roster of DJs kicks off at 5 p.m. with two of Montreal's hottest DJs, **Insomnia** followed by **DJ WiZz**. The Israeli-bred, L.A. based psy-trance innovators, **Infected Mushroom** take control at 9:30 p.m. for an explosive 90 minute live show featuring guitars, drums, passionate vocals and multimedia backdrops that are sure to add a frenetic rock energy to the transcendental evening.

Saturday, August 1 heats up with the ever popular, **Sunset Party**. Starting the slow burn at the Loto-Québec stage as of 1 p.m. is Toronto DJ, **Jeremy Khamkeo** followed by **Yinon Yahel** from Israel and the sleazed out intensity and warm inviting house grooves of Montreal's own, **Nicola Torriero**. Festival-goers

are in for a treat when internationally acclaimed DJ, producer and one of the most prolific remixers of all time, **David Morales** (a.k.a. "The Face") takes to the stage at 8 p.m. Morales' four-hour set is sure to abound with all the intensity and high energy we have come to expect from the über DJ.

NO REST FOR THE WICKED: SUNDAY'S OFFERINGS

Divers/Cité's closing day, Sunday, August 2 is jam-packed and sure to propel Festival-goers to the brink of sensory overload with two spectacular free outdoor events: **Le Grand Bal** at the Loto-Québec stage in Émilie-Gamelin Park and **La Grande Danse** at the Berri/Ontario stage.

Le Grand Bal is just that – grand. This year's event has something for everyone with Latin grooves, salsa, R&B and a soupçon of drag thrown in. The inspiration begins at 3 p.m. with salsa and Latin dance courses with **Virdiana et Thomasz**. Montreal's own singer, dancer and salsa star, **Sandra Camanelli** and her orchestra, **The Latin Groove** perform from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. with the smooth hi-fidelity sounds and uplifting melodies of **OKA** following.

Montrealers **Sébastien Roy**, **Miss Butterfly** and a multitude of singers, dancers and circus performers (**Just 4 Fun**) pay homage to the city's gay nightlife from 5:30 – 6 p.m. From 6 – 7 p.m., samba group **Maninho Costa – Batucada Carioca** and **Carlos Reyes' Ballet Raíces de Colombia** will add an exotic breeze to the evening.

Charismatic Queen of Clubland with the trademark power pipes, **Martha Wash** hits the Divers/Cité stage from 7 – 7:30 pm. Responsible for some of the top-selling hits of the '80s and '90s (Black Box's **Everybody Everybody**, C+C Music Factory's **Gonna Make You Sweat**), the classically trained vocalist needs no introduction here as she wielded her diva powers in 2005, bringing a few drops down on the crowd during her performance of the camp classic, **It's Raining Men**.

Rounding out Le Grand Bal and ushering in a full evening's worth of entertainment, **V.Nus** performs **Madonna: Sticky and Sweet Tour** with 13 dancer and 23 songs on the menu (7:30 -9 p.m.) and **Anjulie** takes the city by storm with her R&B inspired melodies until 10:15 p.m. At 10:30 p.m. Latin and American Billboard charts topper, **India** will wrap it all up with her phenomenal brew of emotionally charged Latin, tropical and salsa styles bringing just the right amount of spicy to another spectacular Festival.

With its 10 hours of non-stop sonic pleasure, **La Grande Danse** is the biggest free outdoor dance party on the continent! Slated for Sunday, August 2 at the Berri/Ontario stage, this year's exceptional line-up includes: internationally renowned DJ, producer and Grammy Award winning remixer, **Peter Rauhofer**; Divers/Cité favourite and famed Brazilian spinstress, **Ana Paula**; Mexico's tribal house export, **Isaac Escalante**; the remarkable local talents of **Alain Vinet**, **Dr. Draw**, **Scott Fordham** and **Cameron Brothers** and finally, with their unstoppable, unbridled energy, **Magic Solutions** with diva **Marisa Machado**, straight from Spain. A special treat, the **Jeune Ballet du Québec** will perform an excerpt of **Hélène Blackburn's Experience Blackburn** with **Isaac Escalante's** remix of **Steve Reich's** original score as the inspirational background. An international gathering of music makers and music lovers, La Grande Danse is not only about incredible sights and sounds but an opportunity for Festival-goers to experience the pleasures of unabashed dance delirium.



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DIVERS/CITÉ FESTIVAL 2009 – 17TH SPECTACULAR EDITION
CABARET DE MINUIT/ NEW YORK SERIES
A sassy saucy addition to the Festival

Montreal, July 14, 2009 - Something new this year, the **Cabaret de Minuit/ New York Series** brings three outstanding NYC-based performers to Montreal for three midnight cabaret shows. The legendary drag sensation **Joey Arias** hits the stage at the Koko Lounge at the Opus Hotel Tuesday, July 27. With a long and diverse career, Arias may be best known for his chilling vocal impersonation - or as he says, his “channeling” - of Billie Holiday, his turns in such films as: *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything*, *Julie Newmar* and *Wigstock: The Movie* as well as his now infamous character, the Mistress of Seduction in Cirque de Soleil’s risqué Las Vegas show, *Zumanity*.

Musician and spoken-word artist **Novice Theory (a.k.a. Geo Wyeth)** takes to the Koko stage late night Wednesday, July 28. Playing accordion, piano, guitar and percussion and performing what he calls “story songs”, Novice Theory is a gaudy, ballsy and emotional performer with a vengeance and a slight wink. And finally, rounding out the Cabaret de Minuit/ New York Series is **Justin Bond**. Best known for his drag incarnation, Kiki - an aging, bitter chanteuse in the infamous Tony nominated act, *Kiki and Herb*, Justin Bond also performs as himself with his backup band, the Freudian Slippers. On Thursday, July 29 he belts it out with **Our Lady G.** on piano.

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DIVERS/CITÉ'S FESTIVAL 2009 – 17TH SPECTACULAR EDITION
INDOOR OFFERINGS
Keep dancing late into the night

Montreal, July 14, 2009 – From the city's biggest ladies night to a full-on trance experience, Divers/Cité's incredible indoor events offer up some of the best DJs and live acts from around the globe.

Three phenomenal DJs come together Friday, July 31 at Théâtre Telus for the inaugural edition of **Nuit Trance**, a full-on trance experience. After wowing Festival-goers with their outdoor performance earlier in the day, catch the virus with one of the most progressive trance acts in the world, **Infected Mushroom** in a 90 min DJ set beginning at 2 a.m. Starting and finishing things up, Montrealers **Nick Pilon** (11 p.m.) and **DJ Clown** (3:30 a.m.) will each spin sets oozing with techno, electro and psy-trance mixes.

Two of the global dance music scene's most established and prolific DJs join forces for close to 12 hours of adrenaline-fueled beats on Saturday, August 1 at Théâtre Telus for the **D/C Party**. Beginning at midnight, **David Morales** treats us to a four-hour set guaranteed to get you pumped up. At 4 a.m., **Peter Rauhofer** takes command of the decks offering up a spectacular six hours of bombastic beats.

Saturday night heats up at the Just for Laughs Museum starting at 10 p.m. for one of North America's largest lesbian events of the year, **Lesbomonde**. Electro, House and R & B rooms on two floors offer carnal and sonic pleasures. With a reputation that draws party-goers from as close as Toronto and as far away as Miami, this year's Lesbomonde welcomes the phenomenal **Alyson Calagna**, straight from South Florida, Vancouver hottie **Betti Forde**, New York's **JD Samson** of **Le Tigre** and **MEN** and local favourites, **Lady McCoy** and **DJ Torus**.

After taking Europe by storm with their innovative visuals and seductive sounds, **Magic Solutions** descend upon Montreal at the **D/C Ball** on Sunday, August 2 at 11 p.m. at Théâtre Telus. Adding to the sonic pleasures, famed Brazilian spinstress **Ana Paula**, Mexico's **Isaac Escalante** and Montreal's own **Alain Jackinsky** will help bid adieu to another fabulous edition of Divers/Cité.

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