

# About the Festival

ART CULINAIRE » LITTÉRATURE » MUSIQUE » ARTS VISUELS » DANSE » NOUVEAUX MÉDIAS



UNE PRODUCTION DE



#### SALLES DE SPECTACLE



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Montréal

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## Festival Accès Asie in Images



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- (1) Ziya Tabassian performing at Moyse Hall (McGill University), 2014. Photo © Kiran Ambwani
- (2) Arashi Daiko performing at la Salle du Gesù, 2014. Photo © Kiran Ambwani
- (3) Khadija Baker performing at the OBORO New Media Lab, 2014. Photo © Kiran Ambwani
- (4) Kakim Goh & Verona Sorensen's exhibition at MDC Plateau Mont-Royal, 2014. Photo © Kiran Ambwani
- (5) Oriental dance competition at la Sala Rossa, 2014. Photo © Kiran Ambwani
- (6) Marina Salonga performing at la Place des Festival, 2013. Photo © Kiran Ambwani



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### About Festival Accès Asie

Festival Accès Asie is a Montréal-based arts festival that promotes Asian arts, cultures and histories through a diversity of artistic disciplines including the visual arts, dance, theatre, video, film, music, comedy, poetry, literature, performance, new media and culinary arts.

The festival presents events that feature artists of Asian origins and artists whose work is inspired by Asian arts, cultures and histories. The festival also offers cultural mediation activities, conferences and training workshops as part of its recently launched educational component. Festival Accès Asie is registered in Québec as a non-profit organization (NPO) in the arts at the REQ (Registraire des entreprises du Québec).

Established in 1995, Festival Accès Asie is Canada’s longest continuously running Asian heritage arts festival. To date, it has presented works of over 600 artists of Asian origin from more than 20 different countries including East Asia (Japan, China, Korea); Southeast Asia (Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore); South Asia (Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka); Central & Middle Eastern Asia (Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Armenia).

Under the leadership of General Manager and Artistic Director, Khosro Berahmandi, Festival Accès Asie is a predominantly volunteer-based festival run by a small staff of employees and interns, a Board of Directors composed of artists and members of the Asian community as well as an Honorary Advisory Committee. In addition to federal and provincial funding organizations, the festival benefits from the generous support of partners, collaborators and sponsors. Festival Accès Asie is a bilingual organization offering events and activities in both official languages.

(7 & 8) William Yong performing at Montréal, arts interculturels (MAI), 2013. Photo © Sandra Lynn Bélanger



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## The Origins of Festival Accès Asie

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This year, Festival Accès Asie celebrates its 20th anniversary edition, marking a milestone as Canada's longest continuously running Asian heritage month festival.

Festival Accès Asie was co-founded in 1995 by Bernard Nguyen and Janet Lumb to respond to the growing demand for a stronger Asian presence in the arts and cultural climate of Quebec.

It was initially named the Montréal Asian Heritage Festival to coincide with the nation-wide celebration of Asian Heritage Month in Canada in May. The founding members were comprised of Asian artists, community activists and entrepreneurs who shared the common goals of wanting to counter stereotypes and barriers to mainstream culture by raising awareness of Asian arts, cultures and histories.

In its infancy, the festival was purely volunteer-based, fuelled by passion, friendship, hard work and dedication to the arts and community. The founding members met in living rooms, cafés and all-you-can-eat buffets in Chinatown to organize the festival, often to the chimes of laughter and lively discussion.

In 2002, the festival welcomed its first official office at Gesù - Centre de créativité, where it still holds its present headquarters. The scope of the festival grew with time as it expanded to accommodate the growing team of contracted staff, salaried employees, interns, students and volunteers. Today, the festival still runs on the principles of passion, friendship, hard work and dedication to the arts and community.

(9) Charity Chan performing in *Miroir-Lune* at MDC Plateau Mont-Royal, 2013. Photo © Mehrabian Photography



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## Festival Accès Asie's Mission

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### Mandate and Artistic Vision

- To advance the appreciation and understanding of Asian arts, cultures and histories.
- To create a favourable environment for the promotion of Asian arts, cultures and histories.
- To disseminate the work of artists of Asian origin and artists whose work is inspired by Asian arts, cultures and histories.
- To provide opportunities for emerging and professional artists to present their work.
- To support a diversity of artistic disciplines.
- To promote greater cultural tolerance and intercultural understanding.
- To dismantle stereotypes and cultural barriers.
- To foster dialogue that develops interdisciplinary, intergenerational and intercultural solidarity.
- To provide educational initiatives that facilitate the integration of new immigrants and visible minorities into society.
- To make a positive contribution to Quebec and Canadian society by advancing intercultural exchange.

(10) Jihee Minn performing at MDC Frontenac, 2014. Photo © Kiran Ambwani