

December 2007

electric SHOCKWAVES

**NEW YORK POET
JOHN GIORNO
WILL BE
THE FVA'S
GUEST OF
HONOUR
IN 2008**



The 7th annual Festival Voix d'Amériques (FVA), which takes place February 1 to 8, 2008, is shifting towards the international scene with New York poet John Giorno as its Guest of Honour. It's the FVA's gift to Montreal audiences – a chance to discover one of the leading figures in performance poetry of the last 50 years. • Born in 1935 in New York City, John Giorno is one of the last remaining sons of the Beat

Generation whose powerful voices, those of Burroughs, Ginsberg and Kerouac among others, caused an upheaval in American culture. In 1965, he created *Giorno Poetry Systems*, a recording company that would release more than forty vinyl records and CDs of poets and musicians in performance, including John Cage, William S. Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg and Laurie Anderson. • Giorno has been relentless in bringing poetry out of the intimist and elitist mode. Drawn into the orbit of Pop Art, Giorno applied its concepts to poetry. He was part of the group that included Andy Warhol, Lou Reed, Patti Smith and Susan Sontag that Burroughs brought together in his windowless, white-walled "Bunker". Giorno was, in fact, the character sleeping and dreaming for eight hours in Warhol's film *Sleep*. • Now aged 72, John Giorno is busier than ever and continues to perform around the world. • You can find out more at www.fva.ca



John Giorno, 2007

Rolline Laporte



William S Burroughs, John Giorno and Laurie Anderson, a demonic trio, 1981

MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN EVEN WE DARED HOPE! THE FIRST "INDISPENSABLES" FUNDRAISER

Les **In**dispensables!



Suzanne Masson
and D. Kimm

On Thursday, September 26, at the Lion d'Or, we held a benefit to celebrate "The Indispensables" – those invaluable "right-hand women" working alongside Quebec's top executives. Chaired by Suzanne Masson of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, the event brought together close to 200 administrative assistants from some of Quebec's largest corporations. It was a huge success, raising \$30,000, a portion of which will go towards meeting our Placements Culture fundraising target, and the rest, into a fund to support creative writing projects for women at risk. A committee of executive assistants is helping the Filles électriques manage the fund and organize next year's "Indispensables" benefit. • "The Indispensables" is sure to become an annual "must-go" event. The 2nd benefit evening will be held on September 24, 2008, again at the Lion d'Or. So, to all you darling bosses out there: Now's the time to reserve a table for you, by calling 514.495.1515. And of course, the boss pays!

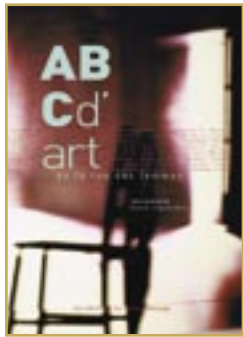
ABCD'ART FROM HERSTREET

Women at risk need a roof over their heads, a meal, caring hands and someone to listen. But they need dreams and beauty in their lives, too, right? Since many other groups are better organized to handle their physical and psychological needs, the Filles électriques wanted to round out that aid with creative projects. We are proud to announce the release of our second book, this one produced in partnership with Herstreet / La rue des Femmes de Montréal.

• L'*ABCD'art de La rue des Femmes* (ABCD Art from Herstreet) is a collection of 440 words and definitions (mainly in French but some in English) gathered over a period of 12 months from 127 people: residents, drop-ins, staff, counsellors, interns, board members and volunteers. Invited to define a word of their own choosing, the women all opened a door into their private worlds. Our word-gatherer, Diane Trépanière, wanted this "dictionary game" to evoke the pleasure

and daring of people speaking up for themselves.

• The book is published by Éditions du remue-ménage, and will be launched December 10, 2007 at SAT (Société des Arts Technologiques) – just in time for intelligent Christmas shopping. So don't drive yourself crazy looking for something silly and useless for that old auntie or the mysterious colleague whose name you picked at work. All of you can be part of a good cause. Give the *ABCD'art de La rue des Femmes*, and we may all discover something we didn't know before.



"THE VOICE ELECTRIC" AWARD GOES TO FORTNER ANDERSON

November 18, 2007 – Les Filles électriques and Wired on Words Productions presented the first "The Voice Electric / La Voix électrique" Award to Montreal spoken-word performer Fortner Anderson. Worth \$2,000, the new award honours a spoken-word artist's body of work. It will be presented annually, alternating between English-language and French-language Canadian spoken-word artists. • Born in the United States, Fortner Anderson has been living in Montreal since 1976. Well known for his powerful on-stage presence, he was a pioneer on the Montreal spoken-word scene. Anderson has released two solo albums – *sometimes I think* (2000), and *six silk purses* (2005). He has been the host for several years of the weekly CKUT radio show "Dromostexte", featuring nothing but recorded poetry and spoken word.

PLACEMENTS CULTURE... VICTORY!

We made it! We raised \$20,000 under the Quebec government's Placements Culture program. With a \$10 here and a \$20 there, the occasional \$100 and even one gift of \$1,000, we collected \$8,000 at the FVA, and another \$12,000 at "The Indispensables" benefit. A sincere Thank You to everyone – artists, friends of the festival, allies of Les Filles électriques, and the companies that took the risk of investing with us. • Placements Culture is a program administered by Quebec's Ministry of Culture and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ) to encourage individuals, businesses and foundations to donate to arts organizations. The CALQ gives matching grants to create endowment and reserve funds. Because the Filles Électriques is a small organization, the CALQ gave us \$60,000, which means that in two years we will be eligible for \$48,000 plus interest. Meanwhile, \$22,000 will be invested in the Fondation du Grand Montréal for 10 years and we will receive annual interest. That is, if we've understood correctly (not always a sure thing!). What we need to do now is consolidate our organization. Thanks to everyone who's been helping us do that!

KEEP CURRENT!

Electric Shockwaves is published twice a year to share news about Les Filles électriques, announce upcoming activities, and report on recent events. To receive your *Shockwaves*, or for more information on Les Filles électriques, e-mail us at lesfilles@electricques.ca, www.electricques.ca or call 514.495.1515.

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