

"Band + Poetry" Happy Hours
Friday to Friday, February 6 to 13, at the Casa del Popolo — Free

The FVA is proud to host no-cover Happy Hours with a come-one, come-all policy. They let us feature new voices and take more chances. Last year's "5 à 7" with their "Band+Poetry" theme were a rip-roaring success, so we're bringing them back with instrumentals that are even more biting—and that's all we're allowed to say right now. Each of the bands has invited a poet/performer to jam with them for our greater listening pleasure. It's a great way to begin the evening, in the sparkle and warmth of the dear old Casa.

Friday, February 6
Monday Morning Erection

Ghislain Roy, Jean-Francois Lauda and David Lafrance are Monday Morning Erection, a collective of Montreal noise artists and musicians. The bulk of their sound is layered on clips from CDs and personal recordings from their own lives and life on the street. Turntables, neon buzz, radio tuning, early electronics, animal calls and silence create FX identities for the everyday and the evanescent. Their name calls up a paint box of tremolo emotion—strength, vulnerability, the pressure to conform and illusions of freedom. Their guest is poet Étienne Lalonde.

Saturday, February 7
Voix d'ici website launch

Voix d'ici is an online media resource centre, sponsored by Laboratoire NT2 and the Centre de recherche Figura at UQÀM, offering Internet access to a wide range of established and emerging poets. To help celebrate the launch, its sponsors have invited Quebec poets Mathieu Arsenault, Pierre Demers, Jean-Marc Desgent and Jean-Philippe Tremblay to perform live with musical accompaniment by Pierre Dumont and Pierre St-Jak. The web designers will also be on hand to talk about their concept (www.voixdici.ca).

Sunday, February 8
Avec pas d'casque

Spare, avant folk and down-home, do-it-yourself visuals from the guys in Avec pas d'casque. The group's 2006 album *Trois chaudières de sang* was nominated for two ADISQ awards including Country Album of the Year. The same year, the duo took the Prix Miroir de l'artiste d'ici at the Festival d'été de Québec. APDC has been seen at the FME, the Francofolies de Montréal, Pop Montréal and the late lamented Festival international de musique incroyable. Their guest is actor Jean-François Nadeau.

Monday, February 9
Leopard & moi

Leopard & moi is Xarah Hillary Dion, Asaël R. Robitaille, Jean-Philippe Girard and Simon D. taking turns on guitar, keyboard, voice and percussion to improvise tortured ballads, bungled dances and fuse-blowing songs. The group is both the offspring and the wellspring of the creative arts space La Brique and part of the Ample Collective, specializing in the art of perpetual motion panic. They will be performing with Framboos (Liz Lima and Luke Dawson) and singer Frédéric Carrier from Zéphyr Artillerie. Young artists equally at home in Montreal and Quebec.

Tuesday, February 10
El Motor

El Motor is a well-oiled machine running on a mix of floating sound, psychedelic guitar and dream-rich texts and keyboards. Pierre A. Bouchard, Fred Filo, Guillaume D.-Duclos, Pascal Gingras and Alexis Dufresne released their first album, the self-titled El Motor, in November 2007, produced by Dufresne (whose mom, by the way, is Louise Forestier). It was nominated for two Gala de l'ADISQ awards: Alternative Album of the Year and Singer-Songwriter of the Year. The band has also toured with Forestier to promote her latest album, Éphémère. Their guest is poet Catherine Lalonde

Wednesday, February 11
Mag launch: Going Down Swimming

The Australian literary magazine Going Down Swinging releases a CD with each new issue and has done since 2000. Contributors from around the world make each publication an international spoken word event. GDS 27 will be released at the FVA, with help from Aussies David Prater, Justin Ashworth, Emilie Zoey Baker, Alicia Sometimes and Sean M Whelan and Montreal poets Fortner Anderson, Ian Ferrier and Victoria Stanton—all of whom have been featured in the mag. Instrumental poetry will be provided by Pharmakon.

Thursday, February 12
Géraldine et les Gym Corcoran

Géraldine has dipped into just about everything. She began in the visual arts world leading workshops (and has a shiny diploma to prove it). When she's not creating her own clothing line, she's screaming into a microphone with the Gym Corcorans, her all-star band featuring psycho-pop singer-songwriter-composer-musician-multi-instrumentalist Navet Confit. It's an unclassifiable project that deconstructs pop clichés to rebuild them into something funny and disturbing—Gainsbourg meets the Georges Lenings. Her concerts are discombobulated happenings as charming as they are twisted. The guest artist is Marc-Antoine K. Phaneuf.

Friday, February 13
L'Orchestre d'Hommes-Orchestre

A band of one-man bands featuring Bruno Bouchard, Jasmin Cloutier, Simon Drouin and Simon Elmaleh. The group began with the idea of making music but the project quickly turned into a multi-socket, build-it-yourself sound collage workshop. They make no claims to expertise and they're ready to try anything once, with performances that short-circuit the Tom Waits song list, showing us why they've amassed such a solid fan base over the past six years. Their guest is poet Laurence Brunelle-Côté.

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