

## SURVIVAL GUIDE

**W**ith the economy tanking and joblessness on the rise, Montreal's homeless are a resource, with a wealth of experience on how to get by.

"If catastrophe hit Montreal, the homeless would be best prepared, because they are used to having so little," says

Annie Roy, who along with her husband Pierre Allard, founded Action Terroriste Socialement Acceptable's État d'urgence 11 years ago. The large-scale artistic "manifestival" offers round-the-clock services and much-needed food, clothing and shelter to Montreal's homeless as winter sets in.

With the help of 350 volunteers and 60 artists, and in collaboration with 21 restaurants, ATSA will transform Berri Square into an urban village, presenting an array of free artistic programming from Nov. 25 to 29 meant to encourage a collective reflection on how homelessness and social exclusion work in Montreal.

"Our economy has led to a lot of job loss and poverty. Many people live in their bubble, until it bursts," says German intervention artist Hans Winkler. He plans to make a survival guide – a collection of texts, drawings and tips he gathers from the insights and input of those he interacts with in the square.

"The homeless, drug addicts, prostitutes, they all have a knowledge base about living and surviving in different ways. We can listen and learn from people who live on the streets," says Winkler, who also gives a talk at the Goethe Institut, Nov. 26 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

"Life is precarious and precious," adds Roy, who says État d'urgence is about encouraging social interaction and engagement. "How do we want to take care of each other and what kind of society do we want to build?"

Berri Square is open to everyone and features round-the-clock free performances by local and international artists. To see the very full list of activities, visit [www.atsa.qc.ca](http://www.atsa.qc.ca). (Meg Hewings)



ROY AND ALLARD