



ÉTAT D'URGENCE  
THE MANIFESTIVAL  
8<sup>th</sup> ÉDITION  
NOVEMBER 21–25, around the clock  
PLACE ÉMILIE-GAMELIN  
Berri-UQAM metro station  
Free entry

The first *État d'Urgence* press conference is a success!  
The cultural program schedule is now online!

Montreal, October 30, 2007 – This morning was held the first press conference by the Action Terroriste Socialement Acceptable (ATSA) to present *État d'Urgence 2007*, the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual manifestival, and its cultural program schedule. The event will take place at Montreal's Place Émilie-Gamelin from **November 21 to 25**. With the look and feel of a refugee camp smack dab in the downtown core, *État d'Urgence* is a potent blend of social solidarity and creative expression, bringing together citizens of all backgrounds. It aims to fight social exclusion and break down stereotypes of poverty, using art as a driving force for unity and change. *État d'Urgence* is an environmentally responsible event made possible by the support of numerous partners and sponsors as well as by the generosity of hundreds of volunteers.

ATSA presented an **impressive program schedule**, free for the most part, encompassing circus arts, theatre, dance, music, visual arts, video, storytelling, and more. Several artists and partners participating in the event were present, including sculptor **Armand Vaillancourt**, the duo **Tricot Machine** and singer **Paul Cargnello**.

Actor **Christian Bégin**, guest of honour at the **Banquet Cochon** of chefs Martin Picard and Normand Laprise, took the microphone and spoke of the importance of the event, inviting the public at large to sign up as volunteers and/or make a donation to ATSA, a non-profit organization that relies on such contributions. More than 415 volunteer shifts need to be filled. To volunteer or make a donation, visit [www.atsa.qc.ca](http://www.atsa.qc.ca).

**Isabelle St-Pierre** provided a memorable "slam" to get us in the *État* mood! Over **115 artists**, whose generosity and innovative approach are sure to provoke thought on the human condition and social cohesion, will deliver magical moments full of emotion and stimulating encounters!

**Annie Roy**, ATSA's artistic co-director and co-founder, seized the opportunity to remind those present that there is an ever-urgent need to act against exclusion and poverty—citing Miloon Kothari, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, who estimates that 150,000 to 300,000 people are homeless in Canada, and not for want of record budget surpluses in Ottawa, either—and that, once warm shelter and a full meal have been secured, we need art.

She also emphasized that ATSA will provide guided tours of the facilities in order to facilitate the public's understanding and involvement in the event. The "Compagnonnage Citoyen" (Citizen Buddies) project, whose aim is to acknowledge the value of ongoing interaction with street people, will extend the spirit of *État d'Urgence* throughout the year.

The complete cultural program schedule is now online at [www.atsa.qc.ca](http://www.atsa.qc.ca). **ATSA nevertheless intends to throw in a few surprises! So be sure to visit the ATSA Web site in the days immediately preceding *État d'Urgence*!**

Founded in 1997 by artists Pierre Allard and Annie Roy, **ATSA** creates urban interventions aimed at increasing citizen awareness and involvement in social, environmental and heritage issues.

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Members of the media may access photos of the press conference and of the 2006 edition by clicking on the Press Service link of the ATSA home page.

Information: Isabelle Monette, ATSA Communications Officer, at 514-844-9830