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ATSA and La Nuit des Sans-abri de Montréal
unveil the programming for their big upcoming event
LE TEMPS D'UNE SOUPE



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www.atsa.qc.ca - <https://www.facebook.com>

Montreal, October 1, 2015 — ATSA (Action Terroriste Socialement Acceptable) and La Nuit des Sans-abri de Montréal (NSA) invite Montrealers to their first-ever co-production, *Le Temps d'une Soupe*, an event where art and activism meet in support of the homeless.

The event's multidisciplinary and interactive arts programming revolves around ATSA's centerpiece installation, *Prendre...le temps d'une soupe*, and this year includes La Nuit des Sans-abri de Montréal. All activities are free of charge over the event's four days, from Thursday, October 15 through Sunday, October 18, 2015 at Place Émilie-Gamelin, in Montreal's Quartier des spectacles.

Visitors will be greeted starting Thursday, October 16 at 4 p.m. in a friendly, festive atmosphere, around lit braziers in the heart of Place Émilie-Gamelin. Anyone wishing to volunteer may sign up now at www.atsa.qc.ca.

By transforming the simple act of eating a bowl of soup with a stranger into an interlude offering quality interaction in an esthetic setting, ATSA's relational installation ***Prendre... le temps d'une soupe*** sets the stage—the table, if you will— for social encounters on a more human and egalitarian basis. Through its effective staging, a straightforward mechanism for fostering interaction, and seasoned sociocultural mediators, Montrealers will be invited, starting October 15 at 4 p.m., to meet a stranger for the time it takes to enjoy a bowl of soup (generously offered by Soupesoup). ATSA hopes the event will generate 1,500 encounters and is counting on you to play your part in building an empathetic society. To be enjoyed without moderation! All artists participating in the event over the weekend as well as numerous well-known personalities will drop by to share a soup! Keep up with them with [Facebook](#).

Several accomplished musicians will drop by to play the **public piano** (painted by the St. James Drop-in Centre) at mealtimes (noon and 6 p.m.), including CATHERINE MAJOR, GUILLAUME MARTINEAU, FANNY BLOOM, EMILE-PROULX-CLOUTIER, PIERRE JASMIN plus surprise guests! The piano will also be accessible to the general public.

The **large outdoor stage** will be the setting for performances by singers PHILIPPE BRACH (Thursday at 8:30 p.m.) and PASCALE PICARD (Sunday at 8:30 p.m.), vocal ensemble LES VOIX FERRÉES (Saturday at 5 p.m.), comedian FRED DUBÉ and guests (Saturday at 8 p.m.), and the dance vibes of DJ DISCO STU (Saturday at 10 p.m.).

EZMERALDA LA PIRATA will present her fire circus show Thursday at 7:30 p.m.; social circus outfit CIRQUE HORS PISTE will provide circus workshops for the entire family on Friday and Saturday; and Ste-Catherine St. will be closed to traffic Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. as STREET SOCCER teams put on an exhibition match.

An exhibit of postcards created by EMILY LALIBERTÉ, as part of an idAction Mobile workshop, examines and questions the notions of public and private spaces and is presented here for the very first time, on outdoor panels.

Under the **ATSA tent** you will find a counter for donations of warm clothing and blankets. Persons in need will have the opportunity to enjoy hot meals served at noon and 6 p.m., as well as soup, coffee and snacks at any time, thanks to our loyal longtime restaurateur partners Grumman '78, the Pied de Cochon food truck, Holder, Le Café du TNM, Jérôme Ferrer, Soupesoup, Les chocolats de Chloé, and Café Rico.

Also under the ATSA tent, photographer VERO ALLAIRE will unveil her latest collection of images, *Dans les yeux de l'itinérance*. The tent will be converted to a movie theatre at 9:30 p.m. for the screening of four films: *De prisons en prisons* by STEVE PATRY; *L'amour au temps de la guerre civile* by RODRIGUE JEAN; *L'abri* by FERNAND MELGAR; and *Sol* by SUSAN AVINGAQ and MARIE-HÉLÈNE COUSINEAU.

The **NSA tent**, meanwhile, will host numerous Montreal grassroots organizations involved in the fight against homelessness and social precarity, among them L'Anonyme, Le Tournant, ATD Quart Monde, Cactus, the Comité de logement Centre-Sud, and Spectre de rue. Various informative workshops will be offered on issues of social justice, such as the right to vote of homeless individuals. The St. James Drop-in Centre and Exeko will have exhibits, and Wapikoni Mobile will screen documentaries from its collection.

A march of solidarity with those in need, organized by **La Nuit des Sans-abri de Montréal**, will set out from Place Émilie-Gamelin on Friday, October 16 at 6 p.m. There will be speeches by Pierre Gaudreau, coordinator at the Réseau d'aide aux personnes seules et itinérantes de Montréal (RAPSIM), and Annie Roy, ATSA co-founder.

With federal elections to be held just three days later, this 26th edition of La Nuit des Sans-abri will issue a timely message to the future government, urging it to step up the fight against homelessness through whatever means necessary, including increased investment in social housing.

The march will be followed at 8 p.m. by speeches by Mayor of Montreal Denis Coderre and Québec solidaire MNA for the Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques riding Manon Massé, and then by a cabaret show prepared by the La Nuit des Sans-abri team. Hosted by master of ceremonies Domlebo, the show will feature the talents of various community groups, including a women's street choir, poetry slams and gumboot dancers, as well as special performances by MICHEL FAUBERT, DAVID MARIN and the band CAPITAINE RÉVOLTE.

The cabaret will be followed by a nighttime vigil, which will end at 6 a.m. on Sunday, October 17 with breakfast served by Le Chic Resto Pop.



LA NUIT DES SANS-ABRI IN THE LEAD-UP TO FEDERAL ELECTIONS

During the federal election campaign, the Réseau d'aide aux personnes seules et itinérantes de Montréal (RAPSIM) sought certain commitments from the different parties, namely a comprehensive strategy in the fight against homelessness and greater investment in social housing. RAPSIM and NSA's partners will remind those in attendance of these commitments, which need to be kept and enforced quickly, as homelessness is a matter of great urgency in Montreal.

For RAPSIM coordinator and NSA spokesman Pierre Gaudreau, *“the three opposition parties have committed to increase the budget for the federal program against homelessness and to implement a comprehensive approach that would enable funding of all measures needed to meet the various needs of individuals in social reinsertion, food, accommodations, housing, and so on. These commitments must be kept and enforced with the very first (2016-2017) budget.”*

In Montreal, the Homelessness Partnering Strategy has allowed all shelters, and also organizations like L'itinéraire and Cactus Montréal, to improve their facilities, and has contributed to the creation of over 900 social housing units. Such an influx of funds from the federal government is crucial, yet today several organizations stand to lose it because of the government's switch to a *Housing First* approach. Specifically, 22 organizations will see their financing completely cut, while some 30 others in Montreal have already seen their funding slashed by 30 to 75%.

This is a major issue in the federal elections and will be brought front and centre during this Nuit des Sans-abri, at the beginning of the march and at numerous other times during the event as well.



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ATSA's FEATURE WORK on the large outdoor terrace



Prendre...

ATSA's new, continuous art installation

Thursday, October 15 from 4 to 10 p.m. | Friday, October 16 from noon to midnight |

Saturday, October 17 from noon to 10 p.m. | Sunday, October 18 from noon to 10 p.m.

It is to a space made to resemble a large outdoor terrace, where chairs are paired off facing one another, that Montrealers are invited to come meet a perfect stranger for the time it takes to enjoy a bowl of soup, graciously provided by restaurateur Soupesoup.

Each pair of chairs is comprised of two identical ones, a reminder of the points their occupants have in common and of the unifying intent of the meeting. Yet one pair differs from the next, exemplifying the spectrum of individual personalities that is at the core of social diversity, of the gamut of points of view in the world, and of the infinite possibilities of meetings.

Members of the public are greeted and looked after by ersatz maître d's, who will assign each participant a table and a person to discover while enjoying a bowl of soup. A menu of conversation starters is handed out to break the ice, get people talking about homelessness and become aware of the need for mutual listening. As each pair winds down their conversation, a photographer will offer to take a snapshot of them and juxtapose it alongside a brief caption, written in verse (for example, a haiku) or prose, the pair will compose (if they wish) for the purpose of describing and archiving their encounter. These snapshots and captions will later be projected onto a screen located at one end of the terrace, and could further serve, if the participants allow it, as source material for some Twitterature at #LeTempsduneSoupe.

Several influential personalities from different fields will drop by to show people how it's done and set a good example. Follow our Facebook page to discover their arrival times!

The crux of this installation—which ATSA would like to bring to as many cities as possible throughout the world—is the way it encourages participants to keep alive their curiosity and their openness to others.

“In light of the mass migration of refugees the planet is currently seeing, the installation could not be more timely as it calls into question our ability to reach out to others and our capacity to continuously confront our prejudices and fears. By transforming the simple act of eating a bowl of soup into an interlude offering quality interaction in an esthetic setting, this installation sets the stage—the table, if you will—for social encounters on a more human and egalitarian basis. It serves as an opportunity for connecting with people, in a world where such connections are often virtual. It allows us to discuss important topics outside our usual circle of acquaintances and create ties within our community. These one-on-one encounters contribute to a broader canvas of social cohesion and solidarity.” – Annie Roy and Pierre Allard, ATSA's founders

An [online fundraising drive](#) is underway, and commemorative soup bowls and dishcloths will be sold on-site to raise money as well!



MUSIC

on the large outdoor stage

PHILIPPE BRACH

Thursday, October 15 at 8:30 p.m.



A special performance by folk singer-songwriter Philippe Brach and his musicians. A taste of his upcoming November 19 show at Le National theatre.

There's been some sense of order, much chaos, and certainly no let-up for Philippe Brach. Following his first release, *La foire et l'ordre*, top honours at the 2014 Francouvertes competition, a Québec-wide tour and recent acclaim from Radio-Canada which heralded him as a talent to watch out for, Philippe found the time, energy and inspiration to create *Portraits de famine*, a much-anticipated sophomore effort—produced by Louis-Jean Cormier—which he is now taking to the stage. With his customary verve, Brach hones the ordered chaos that is his calling card with material that encompasses restraint, release, and all points in between. <http://philippebrach.com/>

LES VOIX FERRÉES

Saturday, October 17 at 5 p.m.



This dynamic and eclectic choir, led by musical director François Ouimet, is warmly embraced by Montrealers. Next year will mark its 25th anniversary, and though membership has changed over the years, the choir's core mission has always been to engage in song for the sheer pleasure of singing! <http://voixferrees.qc.ca/>

PASCALE PICARD – ALL THINGS PASS

Sunday, October 18 at 8:30 p.m.



After bursting onto the Québec and French music scenes with her first release, *Me, Myself & Us* (300,000 units sold), and a second one that established her unique sound (*A Letter to No One*), Pascale Picard is back with a third offering, *All Things Pass*, an ever more textured and subtle affair where folk, punk, rock and pop collide. <http://www.pascalepicard.com>



LIVE MUSIC... WHILE DINING

PUBLIC PIANO courtesy of the **ST. JAMES DROP-IN CENTRE**

Every day at mealtimes (noon and 6 p.m.)



Thanks to Julien Leblond, tuner extraordinaire and shepherd of Montreal's flock of public pianos, ATSA was able to source such a piano for *Le Temps d'une Soupe*. Wanting to give the instrument a customized look for the event, ATSA asked the team at the St. James Drop-in Centre to paint it, in a manner that reflected the theme of encounter. The piano will be available to the public every day at mealtimes, and established classical and popular pianists will drop by to tickle the ivories!

GUEST PIANISTS

CATHERINE MAJOR | Thursday, October 15 at 6 pm

GUILLAUME MARTINEAU | Friday, October 16, at noon

PIERRE JASMIN | Saturday, October 17 at noon

EMILE-PROULX-CLOUTIER | Sunday, October 18, at noon

FANNY BLOOM | Date and time TBC

Since 1996, the St. James Drop-in Centre offers its clientele the benefits of an arts-based approach. Participants create an impressive array of works. The initiative's success relies wholly on the artist-members who come to the Centre every day, to work and find fulfillment and, for many of them, to temporarily leave behind the street and their loneliness.

RESTAURATEURS WITH A BIG HEART!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, at 6 p.m. | HOLDER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, at noon | TBD

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, at 7:30 p.m. | Food trucks by PIED DE COCHON, GRUMMAN '78, GURU

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, at noon | CAFÉ DU NOUVEAU MONDE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, at 7 p.m. | MALAYSIAN FEAST offered by MONTREAL'S MUSLIM COMMUNITY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, | JÉRÔME FERRER AND GUESTS



CINEMA

Three films screened in the ATSA tent

Programming was made possible thanks to the collaboration of [Funambules Médias](#).

***DE PRISONS EN PRISONS*, by STEVE PATRY**

Thursday, October 15 at 9:30 p.m., with the director in attendance

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/109024841>

Each month in Québec, hundreds of inmates are released after having served their sentence. What becomes of them once they find their freedom again? And what exactly is the nature of this freedom they find on the outside? Steve Patry's film follows the paths of a number of ex-inmates as they try to reintegrate into society. A repeat-offender petty thief, a con artist, a drug dealer, a murderer: this documentary gives them each an opportunity to describe their daily precarity, their uncertain future and their troubled past. The film is unsentimental and pulls no punches as it explores that fragile moment where hope for a new beginning teeters and can veer toward good or bad.

***L'AMOUR AU TEMPS DE LA GUERRE CIVILE*, by RODRIGUE JEAN**

Saturday, October 17 at 2 a.m.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/108268465>

Alex is a young drug addict and prostitute in Montreal's Centre-Sud neighbourhood. Bruno, Simon, Jeanne, Éric and Velma form his inner circle of friends also caught in their own downward spiral of compulsive behaviour. Victimized by a society that ostracizes them and at the mercy of implacable market logic, they are the fallen angels of dark, violent times. With no past and no future, they dive headlong into a lonely present that is punctuated by their reckless consumption. Amidst this desolation remains their unfettered beauty.

***L'ABRI*, by FERNAND MELGAR**

Saturday, October 17 at 9:30 p.m.

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6JE_8P4sWs

Winter in an emergency shelter for the homeless in Switzerland. At the entrance each evening the same admission ritual unfolds, sometimes leading to shoving and even violent tussles. Staff perform the difficult task of triage among the poor: women and children first, then the men, from all strata of society, and increasingly from beyond the country's borders. Though the shelter can take in a maximum of 100 people, only 50 "chosen ones" will be allowed in and will receive a hot meal and a warm bed. For the others, the night will be long. With thanks to Les Productions Catndocs.

***SOL*, by SUSAN AVINGAQ ET MARIE-HÉLÈNE COUSINEAU**

Sunday, October 18 at 9:30 p.m.

Sol is short for Solomon Tapatsiaq Uyarasuk, a charismatic Inuit youth, an amateur musician, acrobat and poet. Marie-Hélène Cousineau (*Le jour avant le lendemain*, Uvanga) and Susan Avingaq offer a poignant tribute to this beautiful soul tortured by the fate of his people and gone too young. It is a celebration of Sol's all-too-short life and an investigation into his sudden death in an RCMP holding cell that remains suspicious to this day. The film explores the tragedy's roots and ramifications within Sol's small Arctic community. The misery and social problems, but also the remarkable resilience of the Inuit are on display in their ongoing struggle to not be denied and forgotten. So that Sol's death will not have been in vain.



HUMOUR

on the large outdoor stage

FRED DUBÉ

Saturday, October 17 at 7:30 p.m.



Fred Dubé's comedy is rooted in politics, power, media and basically anything else that stirs the engaged citizen in him. Fred will host a mini-gala featuring some of Québec's best up-and-coming comedians.

A graduate of the École nationale de l'humour, he came onto the scene with a one-man show titled *Un long poème qui pue des pieds*. At the 2013 Zoofest, he presented *Terroriste blanc d'Amérique*, a piece which won the jury prize; in 2014, he performed *L'ignorance fait plus de victimes que le cancer*; and in 2015, he won the "media darling" award for his latest show, *Radical Pouding*. <https://www.facebook.com/dubefred>



STREET SOCCER

Sainte-Catherine St. will be closed to traffic

SOCCER DE RUE MONTRÉAL

Sunday, October 18 from 1 to 5 p.m., between Berri and St-Hubert



SOCCER DE RUE DE MONTRÉAL is a not-for-profit that provides organizations working with homeless or troubled young adults (men and women aged 18 to 35) a turnkey program for street soccer, a sport played in teams of four.

The program is gaining in popularity and showing results around the world. For the first time in the program's brief history, one of the members of SOCCER DE RUE DE MONTRÉAL represented Canada at the Homeless World Cup, which was held in Amsterdam just this past September 12–19 and brought together teams from 49 countries. <http://soccerderue.org/>



CIRCUS on Place Émilie-Gamelin

EZMERALDA LA PIRATA

Fun fire circus show! Thursday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m.



Flames! Fun! And... the storm of the century! Ezmeralda La Pirata, Corsair of the Solitary Seas, sets anchors down on Place Émilie-Gamelin and takes it over! This fierce—and funny—female pirate will single-handedly confront a furious, mutinous crew... and transform it into a flaming sea creature. She will also brave the storm of the century, armed with her trusty fiery oar...and her umbrella!

Always on a quest for the love of her life, will Ezmeralda finally find a valiant pirate—or better yet, two valiant pirates—to love? Who are the brave men who will fight a duel for her love... with hula hoops at sunset?

CIRQUE HORS PISTE

Social-circus workshop:

Friday, October 16 from 9 to 11 p.m. + Saturday, October 17 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.



Cirque Hors Piste is a socially engaged circus organization that provides marginalized individuals an inclusive, creative space, fostering individual, social and community learning through the practice of circus arts. The organization pools the talents of circus performers and teachers to support the spiritual, physical and social development of underprivileged youth. It gives participants an opportunity to use their otherliness to create a new relationship with society.

In addition to its show, Cirque Hors Piste will offer an introductory workshop on various circus disciplines: juggling with balls and pins, rola bola (balance board), diabolo and Chinese plates. The workshop is open to all, children and adults alike! www.facebook.com/cirquedumondemt/



EXHIBITS

under the ATSA and NSA tents

ÉMILY LALIBERTÉ | *Espace public / Espace privé*

Outdoor exhibit, next to the NSA tent



Espace Public / Espace Privé is a collaborative creation by Emily Laliberté and the participants of Exeko's idAction Mobile, an intellectual and cultural mediation caravan working with homeless citizens. Emily engaged each participant in a dialogue whose starting point are the questions: What is public space? What is private space?

Each participant was then invited to share with her a “public” space that they saw as being more like a “private” space. Emily created a photograph of each space, capturing its essence for the participant, and gave it to the participant in the form of a postcard. Each creation followed a similar approach, but the diversity of the input made each postcard a unique object; seen collectively, the postcards reflect the philosophical and creative diversity and richness of the participants.

VÉRONIQUE ALLAIRE | *Dans les yeux de l'itinérance*

Exhibit under the ATSA tent



Since 1987, French photographer Véronique Allaire has been travelling the world meeting homeless people and offering to take their portrait. Some portraits she took in Montreal are on display under ATSA's tent.

Empathy, respect, authenticity—these are the qualities revealed by Vero Allaire's photography. Her sometimes unusual framing intensifies the emotions felt at a precise moment in time. She looks for and brings to the fore the beauty in all of her homeless subjects and thus reveals their dignity. A photo of a hand covered in grime symbolizes the privileged relationship they agree to create with the photographer.



ATSA

Since its very first intervention, 1997's La Banque à Bas (The Sock Bank), **ATSA**, founded by artists Pierre Allard and Annie Roy, has always produced an annual event at Montreal's Place Émilie-Gamelin that blends art and activism to raise public awareness of homelessness: originally billed as État d'Urgence (State of Emergency, an urban refugee camp that garnered the Citoyen de la Culture 2008 award and the Artistes pour la Paix 2008 award) from 1998 to 2010, then as Fin Novembre from 2011 to 2013 (honourable mention at the Prix du maire de Montréal en démocratie 2013). ATSA carries on producing urban art interventions in the public space—events that encourage citizens to speak up and that empower them to take action, thereby giving these encounters a powerful dynamic.

<https://www.facebook.com/atsa97>

NSA

For 26 years, the Nuit des Sans-abri (NSA) has been inviting citizens in dozens of cities and towns across Québec to gather simultaneously in a gesture of solidarity with homeless people. This great coming together fosters better awareness of the daily precarity faced by the homeless, and calls out to politicians and institutions to meet their responsibility to do something. For homelessness remains a societal issue of the utmost urgency. In Montreal, homelessness now impacts a wide swath of the population, across very diverse groups.

<https://www.facebook.com/lanuitdessansabrimontreal?fref=ts>

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