

## FVA 2009: Spoken Word + Performance = New Voices

**Montreal, Monday, January 19, 2009** – Every year, it's as if we forget it's cold in the winter. And every year, it's amazing how this funny little festival returns with such an original, elliptical line-up. Since 2002, the beginning of February in Montreal has meant plugging in to the Festival Voix d'Amérique (FVA) to celebrate spoken word and voices that dare. The 8<sup>th</sup> FVA runs **February 6 to 13**, presented by Les Filles Électriques. This year, it takes a quick turn over the top to focus on performance and interdisciplinarity.

With **Marie-Jo Thério** as our Guest of Honour, we celebrate liberation, brilliance, depth of feeling, and the ability to be in the moment. We adore Marie-Jo. She's a wild wandering creature, indefinable but always captivating, always astonishing. The FVA is a terrific opportunity to see her in the intimacy of the Sala Rossa for a free-fall with guests, friends and the unexpected. There is nobody quite like Marie-Jo.

The FVA classics are back, of course, including **Body and Soul** (read: hot girls who make no apologies for having bodies and putting them on stage). This year, we feature dancers... who talk. And after last year's dazzling DADA Cabaret, we return to the scene of the crime with a **Surrealist DADA Cabaret** hosted by the delicious Nathalie Claude.

The **Combat contre la langue de bois** now has a serious cult following, and we're flattered by the imitators we've inspired since introducing the concept five years ago! This bare-knuckle rant against the mealy-mouthed looks especially peppery this year. And the genuine article still happens where it all began—at the Sala!

Two new projects from Les Filles Électriques are worth coming out for: **Poètes Publics** is a new band featuring poets, performers and musicians—about ten people in all; and **Le Miracle de Brahmine** (named for an early film by Georges Méliès) is a mix inspired by Méliès, Robert-Houdin, curiosity cabinets and seances. There is also an OFF-FVA show opening Thursday, February 5, titled **Sortir de l'écran/ Spoken Screen**, presented in partnership with Agence TOPO.

The FVA features a daily program of new voices, starting at 5 pm with our **"Band + Poetry" Happy Hour**, where you'll hear the edgiest musicians in town. Later, it's the ever popular **Night Shift**, whose **Open Mic** beckons to the soon-to-be-known.

FVA maintains its HQ at the **Sala Rossa** and the **Casa del Popolo**, located opposite each other on Saint-Laurent—a key factor on frigid nights. For the first time, ALL shows at the Casa are free (Take that, economic crisis!). Mainstage shows begin at 8:30 pm at the Sala, still at a very reasonable \$12-\$25. Accessible? We told you so! It's all about pursuing our mission to bring you astounding performances and voices with a difference.

The full 2009 FVA program is posted at [www.fva.ca](http://www.fva.ca)