

Artistes

Kahmaria M. Pingue

Kahmaria M. Pingue is a dancer who is passionate about African dance. Born in Jamaica, but a resident of Canada since the age of five; she has chosen to embrace her African ancestry in the rhythmic, and creative form of traditional African dance.

Her career in dance began with Afro-Caribbean dance in B.C. with The Thelma Gibson Dance Ensemble in 1994 , then expanded into traditional African dance with The Eyen Isong Cultural Troupe in 1998 and toured with them for two years. Currently, Kahmaria is the licensed business owner of ONYXSTASIA African Diaspora Productions Inc.; an Afrocentric Fashion design, and African Dance endeavour which she started in January 2006.

Kahmaria has been instructing African dance for adults and children since 1998. In addition to an "African Dance For Fitness" class at the YWCA in Saskatoon ('04), and a Caribbean Dance class for youth at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge('03), Kahmaria has also choreographed for 'Malaika Saba' African Dance Ensemble in Saskatoon('05). In March of this year, the student dance troupe which she instructs at St. Mark School, performed live on TeleMiracle33.

Kahmaria has a table in the lobby area, where you can meet her and buy some of her creations.

She is accompanied today by her dance troupe. Please welcome Kahmaria...

Alexis Normand

« Ce sont les espaces que je découvre qui m'inspirent. Ce sont les espaces que je parcours qui me font grandir. C'est pourquoi mon inspiration s'ouvre sur l'immensité de mon paysage : là où vives mes racines- la source de ma force tranquille. Je chante mon esprit qui puise dans mes réflexions et ma nostalgie. Cet air fredonne le jazz et fait appel à son ancrage dans les prairies fransaskoises. Entre les intervalles, je dépeins la couleur de mon être sensible et curieux. Mes textes deviennent la porte d'entrée de mon espace intérieur : dans mon âme se retrouve ma passion et dans mon cœur, mes secrets et mon intimité. C'est alors que j'explore les espaces qui calment, qui font rêver et qui respirent. Une idée, un horizon, un secret, un soupire... »

“I am fascinated by the relationship that exists between me and the spaces in which I find myself; some allow me to breathe, some calm the mind, others awaken dreams while more invite to play. It is by exploring the broadness of my surroundings that I find my roots- the source of my inner strength and my identity. It resonates across the prairies and in my soul. Such vast spaces inspire melodies that are created in an atmosphere reminiscent of my francsaskois culture. Amid a folk ambiance, warm intervals whisper jazz and suggest the colour of my sensitive and curious nature. My lyrics become the doorway to an inner-space where, in my soul there is passion, in my spirit there is melancholy and reflection, and in my heart there are secrets and intimacy. I am inspired by the spaces I discover and grow from the spaces I explore...a horizon, an idea, a secret, a wish...”

She has performed regularly in Saskatoon, and has represented the francsaskois community at the official ceremony of Canada day 2009.

She came today with her band. Please welcome Alexis Normand

Coulée

In 2000, l'École communautaire Aurèle-Lemoine created a project to celebrate the French Métis culture. The origins of Coulée stem from this project.

A few years later, the Festival Manipogo organizers asked Serge Carrière if he could get a band together that was up to the challenge. He quickly brought together two of his colleagues, Jacques Bertrand and Joanne Carrière. He filled the two other spots with a couple of his music students, Josh Gareau and Réal Vouriot.

The name Coulée was chosen by the school young métis students because it represents the natural beauty of St. Laurent very appropriately.

In 2004, Coulée recruited the talents of Brad Moguee a young fiddler. Brad's fiddle riffs and fills add a very distinctive flavour to the Coulée sound. Also in 2004, Coulée released their first album, Lac des rêves (Lake of dreams), during Festival Manipogo. It is a collection of 8 original songs which celebrate the culture of the French Métis fishers of lake Manitoba. Their first single, Fret aux pieds, reached number 2 on the charts of local Radio-Canada CKSB radio.

Since 2004 Coulée has been featured at the provincial level in such concerts as Proud To Be Métis, Shaken Not Stirred on CBC Radio, the 10th anniversary gala of the Franco-Manitoban School Division, the Festival du Voyageur, Télé-relais, Festival Manipogo, and the opening ceremonies of the Canadian Francophone games, to name a few.

A métis group from Saint-Laurent, Manitoba, Coulée puts on a show that is full of energy. Their original music mixes traditional sounds with the new vigour of Riel's people.

They are in Saskatoon for us today, please welcome Coulée...

Malika Sellami

Émotive, créative, excessive, spontanée et curieuse, Malika a l'âme errante et le cœur plein d'amour! Après avoir voyagé pendant 2 ans et demi à travers le monde avec son sac à dos, elle s'installe à Saskatoon, en Saskatchewan. Elle a déjà explorée divers médiums artistiques comme le théâtre, les arts visuels et autres mais c'est finalement dans la chanson qu'elle s'est trouvée. Quand elle écrit, elle s'inspire du quotidien, de la nature, des gens, de son "trop plein" d'émotions mais surtout des changements qui s'installent autour d'elle et bien sûr, en elle. Malika Sellami, malgré son jeune âge, possède ce timbre de voix ronde, chaude et enveloppante qui rassure. A découvrir...

Emotional, Creative, Excessive, Spontaneous, Curious... Malika Sellami is a free spirit, a new soul, a traveler who has settled down in Saskatoon, a place she can now call home, where she feels happy and creative more than ever, where she likes who she is and finally found out what she wants to do with her life, with her talent.

Malika grew up and studied arts and drama teaching in Quebec City. After teaching for a few years, she realized that was not where she belong so she decided to sell everything, give up her dog and material belongings and hit the road to roam and wander around the world for 2 and a half years. Just recently, Malika decided to stop and get outside of her traveling comfort zone and try to handle a routine, a project that keeps her passionate: performing her own music! Now performing in the local scene in Saskatoon, she is looking forward to start her eastern canadian tour this summer.

Drisk

Drisk a été fondé en 2005 par Danika Potié, Michel Gignac, Benjamin Leis, et Johnathan Blanchet afin de participer au concours « Secondaire en spectacle » à l'école Canadienne-Francaise. La même année, Drisk a participé à « La chicane électrique ». Ensuite, en 2006, Curtis Theoret s'est joint au groupe afin de remplacer Benjamin Leis à la batterie, et Johnathan Blanchet a quitté le groupe. Danika, Michel, et Curtis ont participé au Ram-dam à deux occasions, et ont gagné le premier prix en 2007. Drisk a aussi donné de bonnes prestations au Francofièvre ainsi qu'au Francothon, et Nicholas Cochet s'est joint au groupe juste à temps pour jouer au Francofièvre

2008. Après Francofièvre, Michel Gignac a dû quitter le groupe, et c'est au tour de Dominique Perrault de le remplacer.

Drisk was founded in 2005 by Danika Potié, Michel Gignac, Benjamin Leis, et Jonathan Blanchet to participate in the contest « Secondaire en Spectacles » at l'École Canadienne-Française. That same year, Drisk participated in « La Chicane électrique ». After that, in 2006, Curtis Theoret joined the group to replace Benjamin Leis on the drums, and Jonathan Blanchet left the group. Danika, Michel, and Curtis participated twice in Ram-dam, and won first place in 2007. Drisk has also given excellent performances at Francofièvre and Francothon. Nicholas Cochet also joined the group just in time to participate in Francofièvre 2008. After which Michel Gignac had to leave the group, bringing in Dominique Perrault to replace him.

Michelle et Maurice

Originaire de Timmons en Ontario, Maurice Drouin commence à jouer le piano à 8 ans. À 19 ans il est déjà musicien professionnel avec son groupe, le Maurice Drouin Trio, qui inclut le bassiste Herbert Cook et le batteur Ron Zack. Pendant 20 ans, le trio joue inlassablement, jusqu'à six soirs par semaine. C'est au courant de ces années que Maurice développe son style particulier et son habileté à captiver le public. Son amour du jazz s'approfondit aussi. Pour lancer sa carrière davantage, il déménage à Détroit où il jouera pendant 2 ans. En 1980, il plie bagages et vient s'installer, soit disant brièvement, à Saskatoon...mais il y restera pour de bon. Maurice se retrouve rapidement au beau milieu de la communauté jazz de Saskatoon qui est alors en plein essor. Il forme le Maurice Drouin Jazz Show, un ensemble qui comptera plusieurs musiciens exceptionnels. En guise de reconnaissance pour sa carrière de 50 ans, pour les opportunités et conseils prêtés à grand nombre de jeunes musiciens, pour son énergie inépuisable, son jeu habile et son humour contagieux, Maurice reçoit en 2006 un prix spécial du Saskatchewan Jazz Festival.

Fransaskoise de Saskatoon, Michelle chante depuis toujours. Ses débuts sur scène, elle les fait en chorales à l'élémentaire pour ensuite se joindre à des ensembles de musique populaire, de jazz et de rock au secondaire et à l'université. Un séjour en Espagne dans sa vingtaine l'initie à la langue espagnole et aux rythmes latinos. Elle y découvre une véritable passion qui la mène à explorer les musiques hispanophones de tous les coins du monde. De retour à Saskatoon depuis 3 ans, elle s'est produite à quelques reprises avec Maurice Drouin et également en accompagnement vocal pour la troupe locale de danse flamenco. Elle vient partager aujourd'hui son amour de la musique en nous offrant du 'latin jazz' dans sa langue maternelle ainsi qu'en espagnol, en italien et en anglais.

Born in Timmons, Ontario, Maurice began playing the piano at the tender age of 8. By the time he was 19 he was playing professionally with his first band, the Maurice Drouin Trio, which included **Herbert Cook** on bass and **Ron Zack** on drums. Over the next 20 years, the trio maintained a reckless pace, playing six nights a week. It was during these years that Maurice developed his distinctive style and unique ability to captivate an audience. His love of jazz also matured. To further his career, he moved to Detroit and played there for two years. In 1980, he packed up and moved to Saskatoon for a brief stay – and somehow never left. Maurice discovered a thriving jazz scene in Saskatoon and was soon in the thick of it. He formed the Maurice Drouin Jazz Show, a band that has included many tremendously talented musicians. For a career that spans 50 years, for providing opportunities and guidance to a growing legion of young musicians, for his boundless energy, skilful playing and infectious humour, Maurice received the Saskatchewan Jazz Festival's Special Recognition Award in 2006.

Saskatoon-raised Michelle Cousin took to singing early on and her love for it has only grown over time. She began performing with youth choirs as a child and later joined pop, jazz and rock ensembles in high school and university. An extended stay in Spain in her twenties exposed her to the Spanish language and to latin rhythms. She discovered a real passion for both and has since been exploring Hispanic music from all parts of the world. Back in Saskatoon since 2006, she has performed alongside Maurice Drouin as well as made her flamenco singing debut with the local dance company Alma Flamenca. Michelle is keen to share her passion for music and offers us today a mix of latin jazz numbers in her native French with hints of Spanish, English and Italian.

Véronique et Deborah

Véronique has been singing and conducting choirs for the past twenty years. She has been studying and performing in France, Switzerland, Germany, and United States. She lives in Saskatoon since 5 years, where she has performed many times with several of the greatest Saskatoon artists. With Organist and pianist Renée de Moissac, she has explored much of the big classical repertoire, from Purcell to Messiaen. She has been the director of the Fédération des Francophones de Saskatoon for the last 2 years, which forced her to significantly reduce the frequency of her appearances. She is therefore particularly happy to be with you tonight.

She is accompanied tonight by her dear friend Deborah Buck, who is known as a versatile pianist, singer and actor. She frequently directs music for Persephone Theatre and other area theatres, and recently completed a 5 month tenure as Artist in Residence at Rosebud Theatre and Rosebud School of the Arts in Alberta.

Please welcome Deborah and Véronique...

Éscrime

L'escrime a une histoire vieille des milliers d'années avec le premier rapport trouvé en Egypte en 1000 avant Jésus Christ. L'escrime a atteint son sommet en Europe dans les Moyens Âges où elle a été employée comme moyen de résoudre des conflits légaux. Elle s'est transformé en méthode préférée par les messieurs pour résoudre leurs problèmes d'honneur personnel, jusqu'à ce que les épées devenues trop efficaces aient fait grimper le nombre de morts jusqu'à un niveau inacceptable. Le combat en duel par l'escrime a été interdit en Europe depuis les années 1780. Aujourd'hui l'escrime est un sport qui est pratiqué dans 108 pays et inclus dans les Jeux Olympiques.

Les clubs de Saskatoon, l'université de Saskatchewan et Swift Current sont heureux de vous faire une démonstration d'escrime. Veuillez leur faire bon accueil.

Fencing has a history extending back thousands of years with the first record found in Egypt in 1000 BC. Fencing reached its peak in Europe in the middle ages when it was used as a means to resolve legal conflicts. From there it evolved into a gentleman's method of resolving issues around personal honour until swords improved in design and the death toll increased to an unacceptable level. Duelling by fencing was banned in all of Europe by the 1780s. Today fencing is a sport that is practised in 108 countries and included in the Olympics.

The Saskatoon, University of Saskatchewan and Swift Current Fencing Clubs are pleased to demonstrate the sport of fencing here this evening. Please welcome them.