

Friday, May 9, 2014
A New Theatre Opens in the Heart of the Annex
24 Spadina Road

With its five campuses in the GTA (North York, Markham, Mississauga, Oakville and Spadina) and more than 6,500 students, **Alliance Française de Toronto (AFT)** has now expanded its role as a dynamic cultural centre by becoming the largest French-language school in Canada.

Alliance française has been in Toronto for 112 years and has been solidly anchored at 24 Spadina Road for more than three decades. Today, AFT has the pleasure of announcing the opening of its new facilities.

In 2011, a competition to build a **modern extension adjacent to the historic Victorian house** was awarded to renowned local architects, **Hariri Pontarini Architects**. Led by Founding Partner, Siamak Hariri, their design, which uses **wood, copper and glass**, provides AFT students and audiences with a new **147-seat theatre** and **eight new classrooms** fitted out with professional technical equipment including sound and video systems, lighting, acoustic panels, and smart boards, as well as contemporary furniture.

Starting next season, the theatre will offer a rich array of programming including more than a hundred events of all types (classical music and opera, the Nouvelle Scene Française, theatre, film, children's shows, talks, etc.) and feature 200 performers from all areas of the French-speaking world. **The Alliance française would like to acknowledge BMO for his generous support toward its Cultural season.**

The theatre and classrooms will also be available on a rental basis for individuals or companies wishing to organize lectures and/or workshops.

This \$7.8 million undertaking ushers in a new era for the AFT. Thanks to this project, **the AFT will become even more involved and integrated in the cultural life of Toronto, making a substantial francophone contribution and enriching Toronto's reputation as a diverse metropolis as well as a model for metropolises of tomorrow.** The next chapter for the AFT will focus on renovation of the Victorian house, which will feature a francophone library and an arts café.

Alliance française de Toronto is **a non-profit and charitable association governed by Canadian law** that is entirely self-financed through the income it generates and the donations it receives.

Alliance française de Toronto would like to **thank** its partners, the **Trillium Foundation** and **Canadian Heritage**, as well as **the donors and corporate patrons** who have supported its vision.

To launch its new facilities, the AFT is having an Open House. Georges A. Soaré, President of the Board and Thierry Lasserre, Executive Director are pleased to invite all to attend this great **community celebration at 24 Spadina Road on Friday, May 9, starting at 4:00p.m.** The festivities will include a French *goûter* for the children, a christening ceremony for the expanded house with musicians and singers from the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, as well as musicians and singers, speak-dating, wine and cheese, a party and movies.

This celebration is part of a series of cultural activities running from May 3 to May 15, 2014. A detailed program is provided below.

Come and join us for this special event – and bring your friends!



CULTURAL CALENDAR – May 3-15, 2014

Saturday, May 3 – 8:00 p.m \$15/\$12 AFT members and students

An evening happening orchestrated by the **Opera 5** Company, who will introduce you to Reynaldo Hahn's masterpiece, *L'île du rêve*.

Wednesday, May 7 – 6:30 p.m Free admission

Opening of an exhibition by Ryerson student **Jordan Campbell** as part of the **CONTACT Festival**.

Thursday, May 8 – 7:00 p.m Free admission

Toronto Comic Arts Festival: An encounter with *Quai d'Orsay* cartoonist **Christophe Blain**.

Friday, May 9 – 4:00 p.m-9:00 p.m Free admission

OPEN HOUSE/PARTY (goûter/music/apéritif and cheese /surprise partie...)

Saturday, May 10 – 4:30 p.m Free admission

Pinocchio dans ma valise, a show for children performed by the **Vox Théâtre** company.

Saturday, May 10 – 6:00 p.m Free admission

A literary evening with French novelist **Antoine Volodine**.

Monday, May 12 – 8:00 p.m \$25/\$20 AFT members and students

A concert by French singer **Olivia Ruiz** (one performance only).

Thursday, May 15 – 8:00 p.m Free admission

The AFT will inaugurate its movie evening series with a **National Film Board** documentary, *Surviving Progress*, directed by **Mathieu Roy** and produced by **Martin Scorsese**.

Information:

www.alliance-francaise.ca

www.facebook.com/ontario.aftoronto

@AFdeToronto

Booking:

For ticketed events: www.alliance-francaise.ca

For free events, registration is required. You may email us at culturel@alliance-francaise.ca or call us at 416-922-2014, ext. 37.

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