



For immediate release

## EIGHT CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS 8 X GERMANY MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMMING

**Montreal, September 8, 2010** – Eight Montreal cultural institutions are combining forces to mark the twentieth anniversary of the German reunification. The result of this collaboration is a unique multidisciplinary programme that will permit the public to discover several German artists. The Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, the Cinémathèque québécoise, the Arte Musica Foundation, the Goethe-Institut, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Opéra de Montréal and the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde have come together to co-ordinate their programming for the 2010-2011 season, an unprecedented effort in Montreal. This “cultural tour” of eight different art worlds will also be a fascinating journey through the various facets of German culture.

**Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ)** is offering four activities in the Auditorium of the Grande Bibliothèque. On September 16, the new series of discussions, *Place à l'opéra*, will feature François Tousignant, who will speak about milestones in the history of German opera. A second discussion, with Michael Eberle-Sinatra, will take place on March 10, 2011, when the subject will be *Salomé*, the pivotal work by Richard Strauss. On Thursday, September 23, at 7:30 p.m., as a part of the Festival international de la littérature (FIL), actor Gabriel Arcand will present excerpts from *Liseur* by Bernhard Schlink. On Tuesday, September 28, at 7:30 p.m., journalist and heavy metal specialist Christine Fortier will give a lecture to the Grande Bibliothèque's Music Club, and we invite the public to come and discover the stars of German heavy metal.

The **Cinémathèque québécoise** takes on a Germanic air with silent films set to live music, a visit from animated filmmaker Andreas Hykade, and a retrospective dedicated to Germany's most important post-war filmmaker, Werner Schroeter. In October the spotlight is on German Expressionism, with Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau's *The Last Laugh* and *Faust* and Arthur Robison's *Warning Shadows*, all with superb musical accompaniment. Also, Andreas Hykade honours us with a visit on October 28 and 29, during which he will give a master class. Last but not least, the masterpieces of Werner Schroeter, noted for their social allegories and theatrical and operatic inspirations, run in January and February 2011.

The **Arte Musica Foundation** will present seven concerts of works by German and Eastern European composers at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Three concerts will be presented in connection with the exhibition *Rouge Cabaret: The Terrifying and Beautiful World of Otto Dix*. The first concert will be given by the grandchildren of the lawyer Hugo Simons and the second by musicians from the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal as part of the series “Musical Canvases.” The third will present popular Hungarian music in the gypsy tradition. In October, Geneviève Soly will explore the life of Christoph Graupner, a celebrated contemporary of Bach, Handel and Telemann, in a harpsichord recital with commentary. Then, in December, three concerts in the series “A Holiday Interlude” will pay tribute to the great German motet tradition (Bach, Mendelssohn and Brahms) with the Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal.

At the **Goethe-Institut**, German is always in season! On September 22, there will be a lecture, *Changing patterns of behaviour: European ideas for car-free neighbourhoods*, in collaboration with the Montreal Urban Ecology Centre and McGill University. On September 25, from 11:00 to 17:00, you can discover the German side of Montreal at the rally *Montréal allemand*, an event that is part of Les Journées de la culture. From September 30 to December 10, it's time for the movies when we show the film series *Female German filmmaking: the new generation of German directors*. And, from October 4 to 31, the exhibit *Tatort – Crime Scene* at the Marie-Uguay Library lets you discover the most sordid crimes and the best criminal investigators in German crime novels. Children are invited to search for hints about the culprit in the drawings of youth book author Julian Press.

In October and November of this year, Les **Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal** is presenting the North American premiere of *Leonce and Lena*, a work inspired by the comic political satire written in 1836 by Georg Büchner, author of *Woyzeck*. Two Ubuesque kingdoms, a prince and princess on the run caught in a web of hilarious romantic adventures... Such is the storyline of this masterpiece of buffoonery concocted by Christian Spuck, a trailblazer in new European ballet known for his instinctive musicality, architectural intelligence and original vocabulary. An action-packed extravaganza. And masterstroke of invention.

From September 24, 2010, to January 2, 2011, the **Montreal Museum of Fine Arts** will present *ROUGE CABARET: The Terrifying and Beautiful World of Otto Dix*, the first major exhibition in North America dedicated to one of the most important German artists of the twentieth century. An unflinching witness to his era, Otto Dix cast an acerbic gaze on his contemporaries, from life in the battlefields during World War I to the people in the streets, brothels and salons of the Weimar Republic until the rise of the Third Reich. An excerpt shot in Germany from Quebec filmmaker Jennifer Alleyn's new film, *Dix fois Dix*, will also be previewed as part of the exhibition.

**Opéra de Montréal** will offer a provocative work of the German opera repertoire, based on Oscar Wilde's play: *Salomé*, by Richard Strauss. It was theatre and film director Max Reinhardt who suggested that Strauss bring Wilde's play—which itself was inspired by the famous biblical story—to the opera stage. First performed in Dresden on December 9, 1905, *Salome* was controversial: immorality, decadence, an unprecedented burst of sound—Strauss's work is certainly a product of its time, an era of "decadence," which saw the beginnings of expressionism and psychoanalysis. Today, the opera is one of the leading works in the repertoire. This production features the return of Nicola Beller Carbone, OdM's dazzling Tosca in the 2009-2010 season, along with international star Yannick Nézet-Séguin leading the Orchestre Métropolitain. *Salomé*s will be running in March 2011 for 5 performances at the sale Wilfrid-Pelletier.

From September 28 to October 23, the **Théâtre du Nouveau Monde** will resonate to the expressionist German accents of *L'Opéra de quat'sous*, written by Bertolt Brecht with music by Kurt Weill. This caustic and joyously decadent version of the emblematic play, with the French script by René-Daniel Dubois and musical direction and arrangements by Pierre Benoit, portrays the monumental mediocrity of humanity with mordant humour. With 21 actors-singers-musicians directed by Robert Bellefeuille, including Postigo as Mack the Knife and Émilie Bibeau making her début at the TNM, this is musical theatre that is still surprisingly topical, in an era when political scandal, financial fraud and swindlers in suits are constantly in the headlines.

The multidisciplinary package available for this original cultural event offers a 15% discount on the purchase of tickets as well as the chance to win a trip to Berlin, presented in collaboration with Voyage Régence, Lufthansa and *La Presse*.

Information about the programming, activities, tickets and contest can be found at [8XGermany.com](http://8XGermany.com) or the 8XGermany info-line at 514-285-4545 or 1 866-924-5538.

- 30 -

**Information**

Marie-Michelle Paul 514-991-1513 [mariemichelepaul@gmail.com](mailto:mariemichelepaul@gmail.com)