

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**  
**Montréal, Québec**



**MONTREAL BURLESQUE PRODUCTIONS & ROSSETTI**  
**PRESENTS THE 1ST MONTREAL BURLESQUE FESTIVAL**  
**In Collaboration with Air Canada Vacations, SuperClub Resorts, VIP Travel & Opus Montreal**  
**STUDIO JUST FOR LAUGHS**  
**SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> to SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> 2009**

*Rediscover the Art of the Tease! International burlesque superstars descend on Montreal, taking the stage alongside locals stars, variety and musical artists*

**MONTREAL, LE 27 AOÛT 2009** - The First Montreal Burlesque Festival will take place Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at The Studio Just For Laughs located at 2111 Saint Laurent Boulevard. The festival's first edition will feature top international burlesque entertainers and outstanding artists, both exotic and mainstream. Amongst the performers scheduled to appear are: Miss Exotic World '09 **Kalani Kokonuts**; **Michelle L'amour** (Miss Exotic World '05, *America's Got Talent*); **Dirty Martini** (Miss Exotic World '04) **Scarlett James** (Montreal Burlesque star and Festival founder) and more than 20 of the world's top neo-burlesque acts.

Burlesque has become a truly worldwide phenomenon. From the 1920's until after Prohibition (early 50's) here in Montreal, there were numerous Cabarets, Theatres and Lounges, all offering live shows and live music. Montreal was known to be THE glamorous city of North America and Europe. It was a pre-television Era when people would come out for live entertainment and Burlesque was the highlight of the red light district. Montreal's flourishing nightlife made the city all the more attractive! Burlesque was a big part of entertainment with headliners like Josephine Baker, Lili St Cyr, Rosita Royce, Tempest Storm and many more.

**Thursday September 17<sup>th</sup>**

*The Great Meet and Tease event and movie*

This is the public and free showcase of the festival. Presented for Concordia University students, the event will feature some of the local talents in an outdoor venue. Later that night, a screening of the burlesque documentary 'A Wink And A Smile' will be presented at Cinema Du Parc. This film follows the lives of ten ordinary women who do something extraordinary – learn the art of burlesque dance and striptease.

**Friday September 18<sup>th</sup>**

*All Star night*

This evening will feature international stars, introducing for the first time in Montreal, 3 'Miss Exotic World' Burlesque Hall of Fame title holders: Miss Kalani Kokonuts (2009) Michelle L'Amour (2005) and Dirty Martini (2004). We will also feature the best of our Canadian and Montreal talent: Roxi Dlite, Diamond Minx, Skin Tight Outta Sight, Miss Sugarpuss, L-Diablo, Seska Lee and the star of Montreal and founder of the Festival Miss Scarlett James.

During the night, we will also feature Ethal Bruneau (tap dancing Montreal Living Legend), Chris Mysterion the Mind Reader (magician), Debra Brown's Line One (dance & contortion), Catherine Viens (Chinese pole) and a live band performance by 'A Hard Days Night'.

## **Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup>**

### *The 'Tassle and Dazzle' Competition*

This gala competition will feature 15 performers from across Canada, United States, the UK and Japan. They are sure to dazzle us with their beautiful performances attempting to claim Montreal's first 'Josephine Valli Award' (Best performance of the evening), 'The Lili St Cyr Award' (Most Imaginative Performance), 'The Rosita Royce Award' (Most Comical Performance) and others chosen by the public! Also performing will be numerous variety acts, lead by Ms. Mona Moore, the exquisite singer, Cat's Corner (swing dancers), Justin Jackson and his Sugar Girls (tap dancing), Debra Brown's Line One (dance & contortion) and a live band performance by 'Lyse and the Hot Kitchen'.

## **Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup>**

### *Brunch at LES BEAUX JEUDI Restaurant*

Come meet our burlesque stars and take the opportunity to take some pictures with them.

### *VIP Closing Party.*

The final event of the weekend at **Club Opera**, with a few more surprises.

The Montreal Burlesque Festival also includes **Burlesque Classes**, during which budding burlesque students and curious newcomers can learn the tricks of the trade from the stars of the scene. The classes are open to everyone who wants to learn more about this fabulous art form. Amongst the fringe events is also the famous '**Dr. Sketchy's**' live drawing event, hosted by **Amber Ray**.

## **Ticket Information**

You can buy tickets online directly through the festival website securely and safely via Paypal.

Tickets start from 40\$ (taxes included)

<http://www.montrealburlesquefestival.ca/tickets.html>

On Friday and Saturday nights main events, The Studio Just For Laughs' doors open at 7:30 pm and the show begins at 8:30. **NO RESERVED SEATING. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED! ARRIVE EARLY!**

## **About the Montreal Burlesque Festival**

The Montreal Burlesque Festival is an event organised and created by Scarlett James. Our mission is to establish a permanent, first-rate tourist attraction that will help showcase this unique art form and entertainment, also primarily to help remind people our appreciation for the unique history and heritage of the local and international burlesque scene.

For a complete schedule of events and more information about the 1<sup>st</sup> Montreal Burlesque Festival, please visit our website at [www.montrealburlesquefestival.ca](http://www.montrealburlesquefestival.ca)

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