



ÉTAT D'URGENCE
THE MANIFESTIVAL
8th ÉDITION
NOVEMBER 21–25, around the clock
PLACE ÉMILIE-GAMELIN
Berri-UQÀM metro station
Free entry

ATSA RAISES THE ISSUES SURROUNDING COHABITATION
Two events on the subject will be presented during *État d'Urgence 2007*

Montreal, October 30, 2007 – As part of its *État d'Urgence 2007* manifestival this November 21 to 25 at Place Émile-Gamelin, ATSA presents two events dealing with the issues surrounding societal cohabitation.

Friday, November 23 at 4 P.M. – Conference on Compagnonnage Citoyen (Citizen Buddies)
Richard Chrétien from Sac à Dos

All of us from time to time acknowledge a homeless person. It can be someone standing by the ATM or in front of the dépanneur, and our acknowledgment can take the form of a simple smile or a brief chat. Such attention lets the person living in precariousness know that he or she is worthy as a human being. We can learn a lot from such experiences and, more often than we would think, we can help someone out to, say, find a toaster, a sleeping bag, a job, an apartment... A brief, chance meeting every day can lead to a weekly chat over a cup of coffee, without your becoming a saviour, ruining yourself financially or putting yourself at risk. ATSA wants to stimulate such initiatives and get the public to dare break through the isolation street people experience every day. Many organizations working with street people already offer such opportunities for this type of interaction. We have collaborated with Sac à dos, an organization working for the social and economic integration of homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless, in order to develop a safe and meaningful Citizen Buddy system.

Saturday, November 24, 1–3 P.M. – Le Théâtre-Forum
Sunday, November 25 at 4 P.M. – Conference by Sonia Hamel

Théâtre-Forum: a public debate held in a spirit of recognition.

Sonia Hamel, doctorand researcher at the Université de Montréal, supported by the Fonds québécois de recherche sur la Société et la Culture (FORSC), wants to create a space for public deliberations whose medium of communication is the théâtre-forum, or social theatre.

Let us put ourselves in the Other's shoes through theatre.

Let us defend our point of view by putting it up on stage.

Let us explore the possibilities for cohabitation and sharing of the public space marked by mutual recognition.

Who knows... perhaps we may be able to collectively redefine the issue of homelessness and the unsettling malaise that accompanies it.

We shall expect you in large numbers for the *État d'Urgence's* public forum.

État d'Urgence is a potent blend of social solidarity and creative expression, bringing together citizens of all backgrounds. It aims to fight social exclusion and break down stereotypes of poverty, using art as a driving force for unity and change. The cultural program schedule is available at www.atsa.qc.ca.

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