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# RIOPELLE

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## CAROLINE MONNET NINGA MÌNÈH

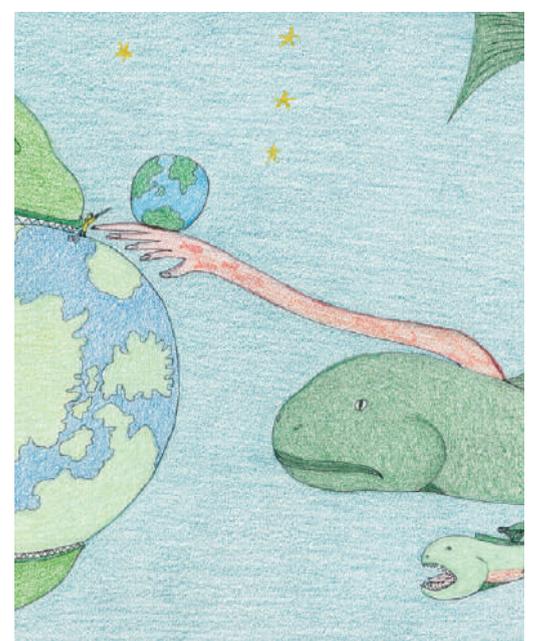
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## YANN POCREAU IMPERMANENCIES

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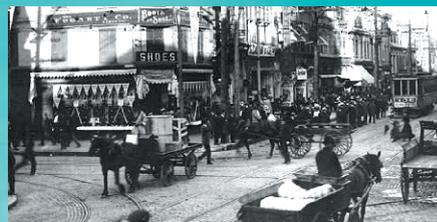
Québec

The exhibition *Riopelle* is developed, organized and circulated by the MMFA. Jean Paul Riopelle (1923-2002), *Point de rencontre – Quintette* (polyptych), 1963, oil on canvas, 428 x 564 cm (5 panels). Paris, Centre national des arts plastiques. © Estate of Jean Paul Riopelle / SOCAN (2021). Photo MMFA, Jean-François Brière | The exhibition *Ninga Minèh* is organized by the MMFA. Caroline Monnet is the winner of the 2020 Prix Pierre-Ayot, which is presented each year by Ville de Montréal in partnership with the Contemporary Art Galleries Association (AGAC). Caroline Monnet, *Mapping the Underground* (detail), 2021. Collection of the artist. Photo Aziza Nash | An exhibition organized by the MMFA, *Impermanencies* is the culmination of an MMFA-sponsored residency Yann Pocreau completed at the Darling Foundry from 2016 to 2018. Yann Pocreau, *Celestial Bodies* (detail), 2018-2020. Collection of the artist | Caroline Monnet and Yann Pocreau received financial support from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec. | The exhibition *Ecologies* is organized by the MMFA. Shuinai Ashoona, *Composition (Monster Eating the World)* (detail), 2018. MMFA, purchase, Mary Eccles Bequest. Photo MMFA, Christine Guest | \* Applicable to the regular \$24 admission fee, from 5 to 9 p.m.

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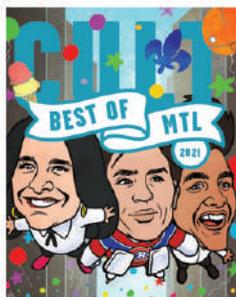
Fiction

PORT MONTREAL

LOGISTEC



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The results of our annual readers poll, the Best of MTL.

Illustration by Dan Buller

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And the city has spoken.

Over the past four months, *Cult MTL* readers and other citizens who are invested in civic pride voted for their favourite Montreal things in the annual Best of MTL poll.

When voting began back in February, we didn't know where the pandemic was going, how bad it would get and when precisely life might return to normal. While some question marks remain, the summer is pretty much upon us and with it the annual blooming of the city has begun. This year, that bloom is extra sweet and colourful, accompanied by the end of the curfew and the gradual reopening of everything that has been closed, and the resumption of gatherings and activities that were rendered dangerous by the pandemic, before the vaccine rollout finally flattened that curve. We're nearly there, but we're more than cautiously optimistic — we're thrilled that the city is on the comeback trail, and that the Best of MTL can be part of heralding a return to normality.

This hasn't been an easy past year, and some have had it worse than others — something that's important to remember as we interact with people again, and see familiar faces for the first time in months.

Here at *Cult MTL*, we're grateful for our extended family, for our readers, and for the voters in this poll who took the time during the dark winter and spring of 2021 to think about everything they love in this city, and can't wait to get back to. As always, and maybe more than ever, we felt it was imperative to salute the artists, promoters, organizers, reporters, restaurateurs and retailers who have kept Montreal's heart beating, even in partial stasis.

As always, the Best of MTL poll is open and democratic, with no editorial influence or interference. We are always glad to see so many people make an event of voting via social media campaigns, and while we can't resist sharing third-party get-out-the-vote tweets, we otherwise remain neutral during the polling period.

Ballot-stuffing is automatically weeded out by our survey software. This year there were loads of votes for musician, comedian and social media personality Eve Parker Finley, columnist and social media personality Murphy Cooper, comedian/radio host Julian Bernatchez and local label On a Roll Records (and friends) in way too many categories. Joke votes were relatively minimal but there was at least one person who took the time to vote for "healthcare workers" in nearly every category and others who chastised us for legacy categories like Best Place to Have Public Sex as irresponsible during a pandemic. Conversely, a handful of conspiracy theorists and anti-lockdown/anti-mask types shared comments like "Montreal is a dump," «this is a socialist gulag," «not allowed to have fun in this prison» and «they outlawed art» across dozens of categories.

*Cult MTL* has been running the Best of MTL readers poll for nine years, but it bears mentioning that the survey follows in the decades-old tradition established by the city's defunct but fondly remembered alt-weekly newspaper the *Mirror*. Respect.

Along with the expanded Top 10 lists in every category (coming to cultmtl.com in the coming days), our website will feature a number of Best of MTL articles through the month of June and beyond.

We thank everyone who voted and promoted the poll. Participation continues to grow every year, making the 2021 results more representative of the city than ever.

(Anglos, if you're wondering why you don't recognize some names in these lists, it's because the other 70 per cent of the population is now voting in a bilingual poll. Francos, désolé, les résultats sont unilingue.)

To all the winners: congratulations.

More than ever, we're proud to bring you the Best of MTL.

# People & Places

Musician and social media maven Eve Parker Finley is new to the Best of MTL — to a whopping five categories across three sections — so welcome to the ranks. In this section, Finley arrives at #2 in Best-Dressed Montrealer, between music superstar Celine Dion and style superstar Cary Tauben. Voters clearly aren't feeling Quebec Premier François Legault this year — between denying the existence of systemic racism and the curfew/lockdown (despite Quebec emerging somewhat unscathed from COVID's third wave), Legault is getting the stink-eye across the political/ideological spectrum, landing at #1 in both Slimiest Politician and Tackiest Personality. Denis Coderre made a comeback in the same two categories by running for mayor again, at #2 and #3, respectively. And the new Coolest Company category is a mixed bag of clothing retailers and designers, record labels, software and video game companies. Sounds about right for Montreal.



Stacy Lee

*"It is a true honour to be voted in the top 5 best dressed during a year when there were precisely no in-person events where people can see how I dress. I kid, I kid, my very dorky and preppy pre-teen self would never believe this was possible and I'm so honoured! This all feels very validating because I've put a lot of energy over the last year into my music and comedy and creating and sharing things with people. It means a lot to have people enjoy what I put out there, so thank you to everyone who voted and here's to sharing more things!"*—Eve Parker Finley (Best-Dressed Montrealer, Best Instagram, Best TikTok, Best Electronic Act, Best Singer-Songwriter)

## Hottest Montrealer

- 1 Justin Trudeau
- 2 Tranna Wintour
- 3 Valérie Plante
- 4 Charlotte Cardin
- 5 Celine Dion

## Best-Dressed Montrealer

- 1 Celine Dion
- 2 Eve Parker Finley
- 3 Cary Tauben
- 4 Murphy Cooper
- 5 Valérie Plante

## Best Sports Personality

- 1 Laurent Duvernay-Tardif
- 2 Carey Price
- 3 Brendan Gallagher
- 4 Félix Auger-Aliassime
- 5 Georges St-Pierre

## Tackiest Personality

- 1 François Legault
- 2 Celine Dion
- 3 Denis Coderre
- 4 Mado Lamotte
- 5 Mose Persico

## Best Weirdo

- 1 Uma Gahd
- 2 Julien Bernatchez
- 3 Murphy Cooper
- 4 Beaver Sheppard
- 5 Jean Leloup

## Best Political / Social Cause

- 1 Black Lives Matter
- 2 Defund the police
- 3 Affordable housing / anti-gentrification
- 4 Climate change
- 5 Mission Bon Accueil

## Best Politician

- 1 Valérie Plante
- 2 Justin Trudeau
- 3 Manon Massé
- 4 Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois
- 5 Denis Coderre

## Slimiest Politician

- 1 François Legault
- 2 Denis Coderre
- 3 Justin Trudeau
- 4 Simon Jolin-Barrette
- 5 Maxime Bernier

## Most Heinous Scandal

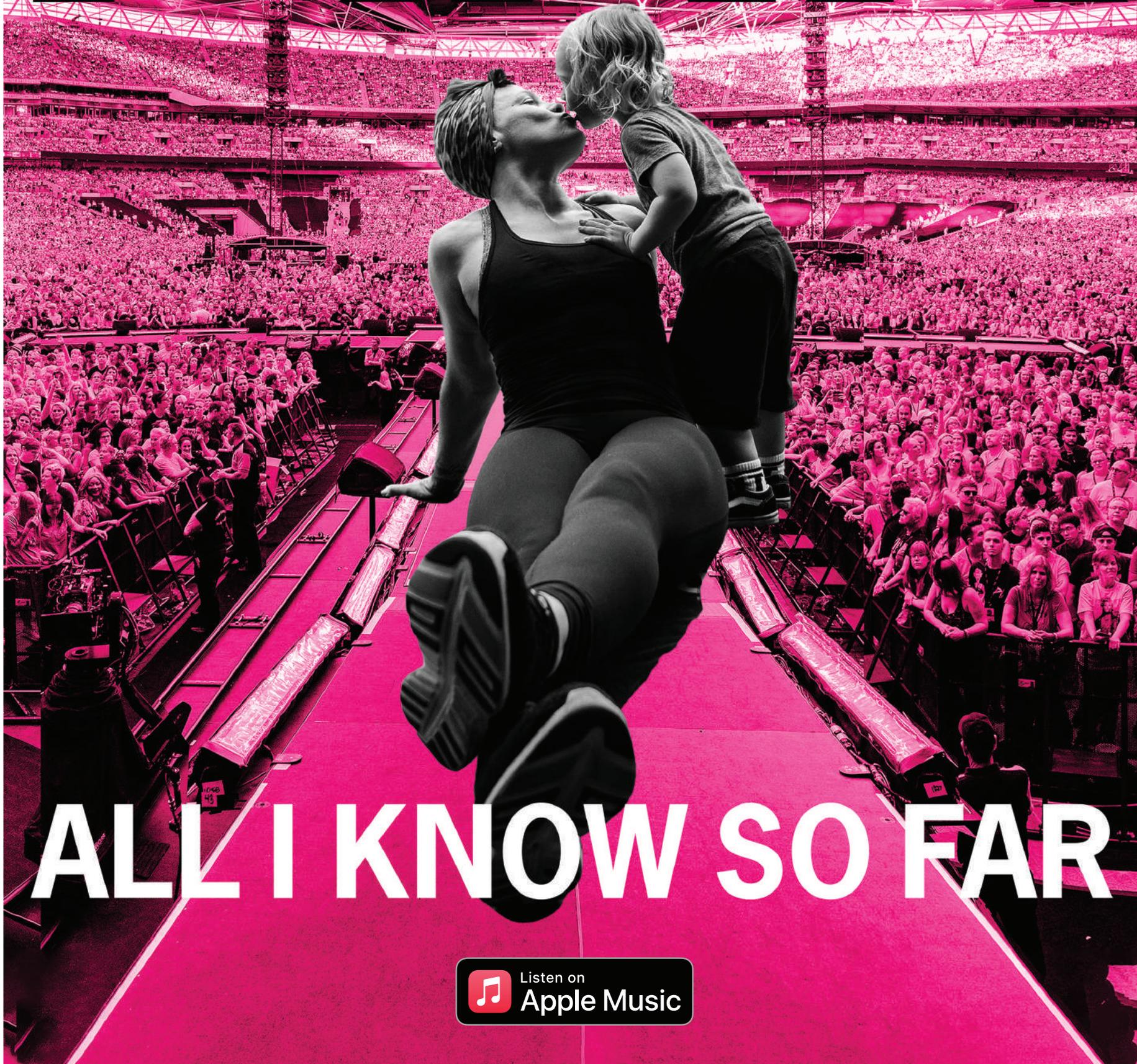
- 1 COVID in CHSLDs / COVID-19 handling
- 2 Curfew
- 3 Shiller Lavy
- 4 Maripier Morin
- 5 Racial profiling / Mamadi III Fara Camara

## Best Neighbourhood

- 1 Plateau
- 2 Mile End
- 3 Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (NDG)

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JULY 8 TO 17 // OUTDOOR SHOW  
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- 4 Verdun
- 5 Rosemont / Petite-Patrie
- 5 St-Henri
- 7 Little Italy
- 8 Hochelaga
- 9 Villeray
- 10 Pointe St-Charles

**Best Park**

- 1 La Fontaine
- 2 Jarry
- 3 Mont-Royal
- 4 Laurier
- 5 Jeanne-Mance

**Best Place to Have Public Sex**

- 1 Mount Royal
- 2 Parc La Fontaine
- 3 Various alleyways
- 4 Jarry Park
- 5 Old Port

**Best Tourist Attraction**

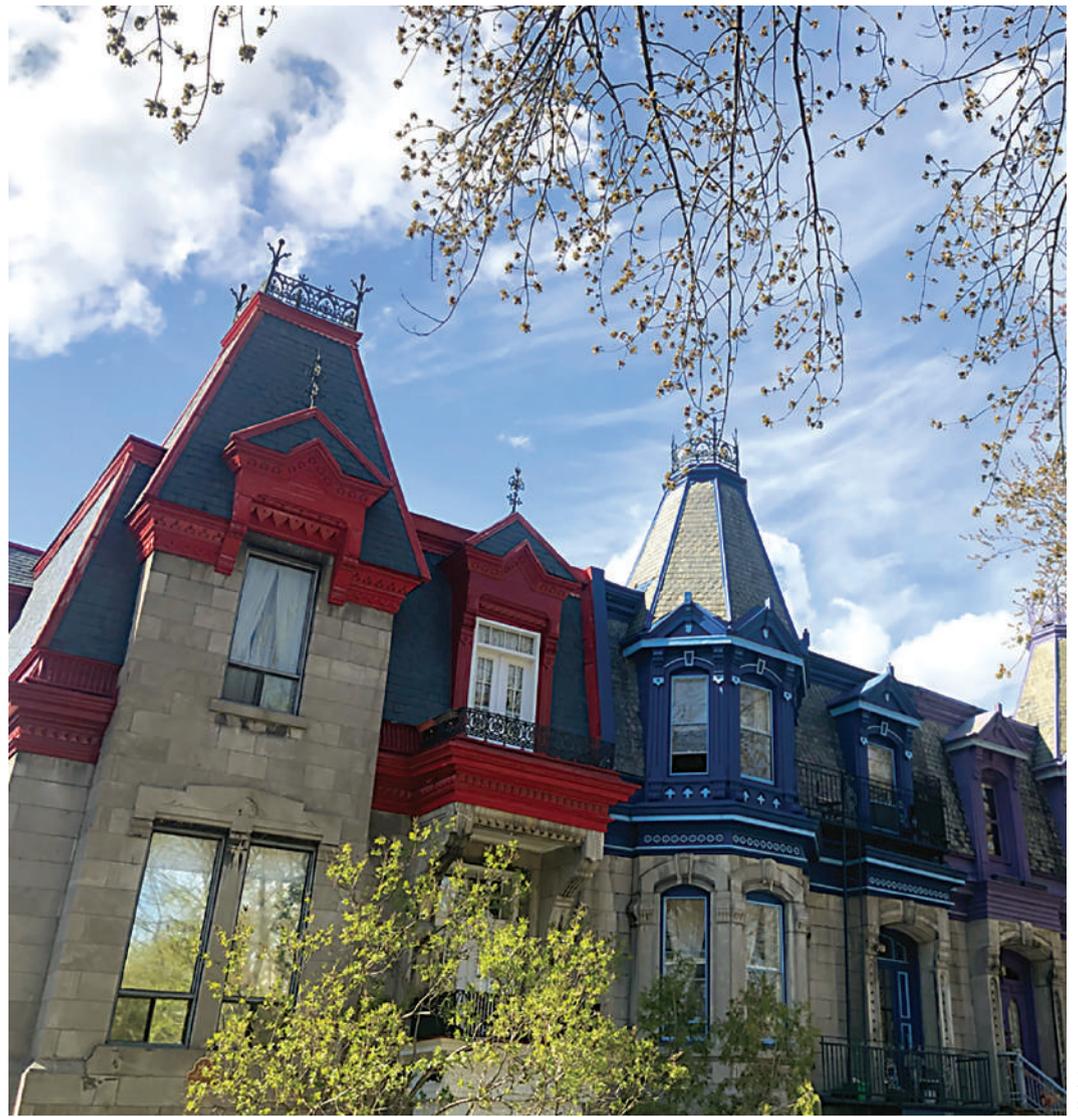
- 1 Old Port
- 2 Mount Royal
- 3 Orange Julep
- 4 Botanical Gardens
- 5 Biodôme

**Best Instagram Spot**

- 1 Belvedere on Mount Royal
- 2 Old Port
- 3 Lachine Canal
- 5 Orange Julep
- 6 Ferris Wheel

**Coollest Company**

- 1 Lopez MTL
- 2 Ubisoft
- 3 Lightspeed
- 4 Pony
- 5 On a Roll Records



Carré St-Louis in the Plateau (Best Neighbourhood #1)

Cindy Lopez



Billy Bob Productions is a Montreal driven music promotion and production outfit that strives to share our love and passion for live music performed by mostly local artists. We were looking forward to staging a couple of major events in May. So we'll just have to wait a little longer. In the meantime we'd like to salute Terry DiMonte for his brilliant radio career that wrapped up in the CHOM studio May 28. Terry delivered over three decades of shows filled with warmth, intelligence, passion and Montreal pride while exhibiting the true indie spirit that gave birth to rock and roll.

**Merci Terry**



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# Media

Terry DiMonte was once again voted #1 Best Radio Host, and this year that result is especially poignant following his retirement at the end of May after a 43-year career on air (and mostly on CHOM). We thank our readers for once again voting us Best Magazine, Best Newspaper and Best Website, but going forward we will disqualify ourselves from the newspaper category to give *The Gazette* a chance. We were surprised last year that we beat Pornhub in the website category (especially during the isolation of lockdown), the bad publicity they've had for dubious content (to put it mildly) has somehow not affected their #2 standing. Newly added to the media section, Best TikTok was dominated by musician/viral icicle analyst Maryze, but the category also features a stylish dog, a girl who wears bikinis in the snow, Verdun influencer Murphy Cooper and, of course, Eve Parker Finley.



"This news makes me smile from ear to ear. It's always special when it comes from people who listen to the radio station. And it's a wonderful tip of the hat as I ride off into the sunset. Thank you very much."—Terry DiMonte (Best Radio Host #1)

## Best Radio Station

- 1 CKUT 90.3FM
- 2 CHOM 97.7FM
- 3 CJLO 1690AM
- 4 CBC 88.5FM/93.5FM
- 5 ICI Radio-Canada 95.1FM

## Best Radio Show

- 1 *NoeTheKulcha* (CJLO 1690AM)
- 2 *Montreal Forum* (TSN 690AM)
- 3 *La soirée est encore jeune* (ICI Radio-Canada 95.1FM)
- 4 *Ashes to Ashes* (CJLO 1690AM)
- 5 *Melnick in the Afternoon* (TSN 690AM)

## Best Radio Host

- 1 Terry DiMonte
- 2 Prince Rara
- 3 Tony Marinaro
- 4 Mitch Melnick
- 5 Paul Arcand

## Best Podcast

- 1 *2 Fxfs le Matin*
- 2 *Des si et des rais*
- 3 *Chosen Family*
- 4 *Mike Ward Sous Écoute*
- 5 *The Sick Podcast*

## Best TV Channel

- 1 CTV
- 2 CBC
- 3 Radio-Canada
- 4 Télé-Québec
- 5 Noovo

## Best Newscaster

- 1 Mutsumi Takahashi
- 2 Céline Galipeau
- 3 Maya Johnson
- 4 Patrice Roy
- 5 Pierre Bruneau

## Best TV Personality

- 1 Rita Baga
- 2 Jay du Temple
- 3 Mutsumi Takahashi
- 4 Frank Apache
- 5 Jean-René Dufort

## Best Magazine

- 1 *Cult MTL*
- 2 *Elle Québec*
- 3 *Maisonneuve*
- 4 *Also Cool Mag*
- 5 *Nouveau Projet*

## Best Newspaper

- 1 *Cult MTL*
- 2 *The Gazette*
- 3 *Le Devoir*
- 4 *La Presse*
- 5 *Le Journal de Montréal*

## Best Website

- 1 cultmtl.com
- 2 pornhub.com
- 3 mtlcityweblog.com
- 4 mtlblog.com
- 5 montreal.eater.com

## Best Twitter

- 1 @fucknomtl
- 2 @Aaron\_Derfel
- 3 @guyalepage
- 4 @TrannaWintour
- 5 @UmaGahd

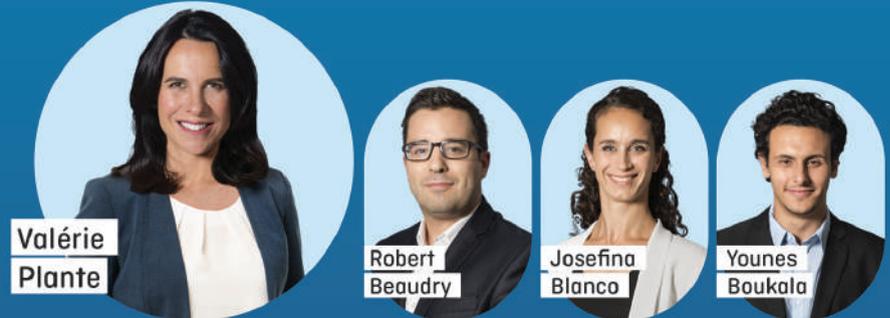
## Best Instagram

- 1 @fucknomtl
- 2 @murphycooper
- 3 @umagahd
- 4 @pontomtl
- 5 @eveparkerfinley

## Best TikTok

- 1 @maryzemusic
- 2 @eveparkerfinley
- 3 @murphycooper
- 4 @tikatheiggy
- 5 @canadiansnowqueen

# CELEBRATING THE BEST IN MONTRÉAL



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# Nightlife

Last year we described compiling the results in this category as “the bitter in the bittersweetness of Best of MTL 2020,” but as the pandemic has dragged, forcing the closure of all of these places save for a couple of half-hearted months last summer (with a winter/spring curfew on top of everything), the flavour of nightlife in this city is practically foul. But with the vaccine rollout and a Quebec reopening plan that appears to be coming together, it’s only a matter of time before we’re partying together again. Drinking at concerts will be possible as early as June 7, bars can open their terrasses on June 11 and outdoor festival shows with crowds of 2,500 will be possible by June 25 — yes there will be certain mask and distancing requirements over the summer, but come fall, even small clubs may operate normally again, mask-free. Here’s hoping.



“Winning Best Bar in a year when people aren’t allowed in bars seems pretty on-brand for us. There are so many amazing places in this city, we’re just touched that the people who like us are enthusiastic enough about it to let everyone know. Gonna do our best not to fuck it up.”—Sergio Da Silva from Turbo Haüs (Best Bar #1, Best Live Music Venue #2, Best Terrasse #4, Best Sleazy Dive #5)

## Best Bartender

- 1 Christ Dejardins (Bootlegger, L’Authentique)
- 2 Turbo (Hurley’s)
- 3 Rashta Kruger (Blue Dog)
- 4 Gwendolyn (Barfly)
- 5 Judy Kennedy (McLean’s)

## Best Bar

- 1 Turbo Haüs
- 2 Hurley’s
- 3 Grumpy’s
- 4 Bar de Courcelle
- 5 Bootlegger, L’Authentique

## Best Sleazy Dive

- 1 Barfly
- 2 Grumpy’s
- 3 Bifteck

## 4 Bar de Courcelle

- 5 Turbo Haüs

## Best Wine Bar

- 1 Vinvinvin
- 2 Loïc
- 3 Pullman
- 4 Buvette Chez Simone
- 5 Larry’s

## Best Club

- 1 Datcha
- 2 Stereo Bar
- 3 Sky
- 4 Rouge
- 5 La Voûte

## Best Terrasse

- 1 Terrasse St-Ambroise
- 2 Terrasse Bonsecours
- 3 Le Sainte-Élisabeth
- 4 Turbo Haüs
- 5 Vices et Versa

## Best Underground Venue

- 1 La Plante
- 2 The Bog
- 3 Fattal
- 4 Traxide
- 5 Durocher (RIP)

## Best Live Music Venue

- 1 MTelus
- 2 Turbo Haüs

## 3 La Sala Rossa

- 4 Bar Le Ritz PDB
- 5 Diving Bell Social Club

## Best Promoter

- 1 Blue Skies Turn Black
- 2 Evenko
- 3 Greenland
- 4 Extensive Enterprises
- 5 POP Montreal

## Best Strip Club

- 1 Chez Parée
- 2 Café Cléopâtre
- 3 Kingdom
- 4 Cabaret les Amazones
- 5 Club Wanda’s

## Best Burlesque Artist

- 1 Loulou la duchesse de Rière
- 2 Tristan Ginger
- 3 Sugar Vixen
- 4 Miami Minx
- 5 Lady Josephine

## Best Drag Queen / King

- 1 Rita Baga
- 2 Uma Gahd
- 3 Mado Lamotte
- 4 Charli Deville
- 5 Sisi Sinatra



## Best Bowling Alley

- 1 Quilles G Plus / Rose Bowl
- 2 Notre Dame des Quilles
- 3 Laurentian Lanes
- 4 Darling
- 5 Forum Sports Bar

## Best Comedy Club

- 1 Le Bordel
- 2 Comedy Nest
- 3 Le Terminal Bar
- 4 Diving Bell Social Club
- 5 Comedyworks (RIP)

## Best Karaoke Bar

- 1 Pang Pang
- 2 Astral 2000
- 3 Club Date
- 4 3 Minots
- 5 Normandie

## Best Drug

- 1 Cannabis
- 2 Cocaine
- 3 Shrooms
- 4 MDMA
- 5 LSD/Acid

## Best Drink

- 1 Beer
- 2 Wine
- 3 Gin & tonic
- 4 Old-fashioned
- 5 Negroni

## Best Cocktail Bar

- 1 Atwater Cocktail Club
- 2 La Distillerie
- 3 Bootlegger L'Authentique
- 4 The Wiggle Room
- 5 Le Mal Nécessaire



Old-fashioned (left), Best Drink #4

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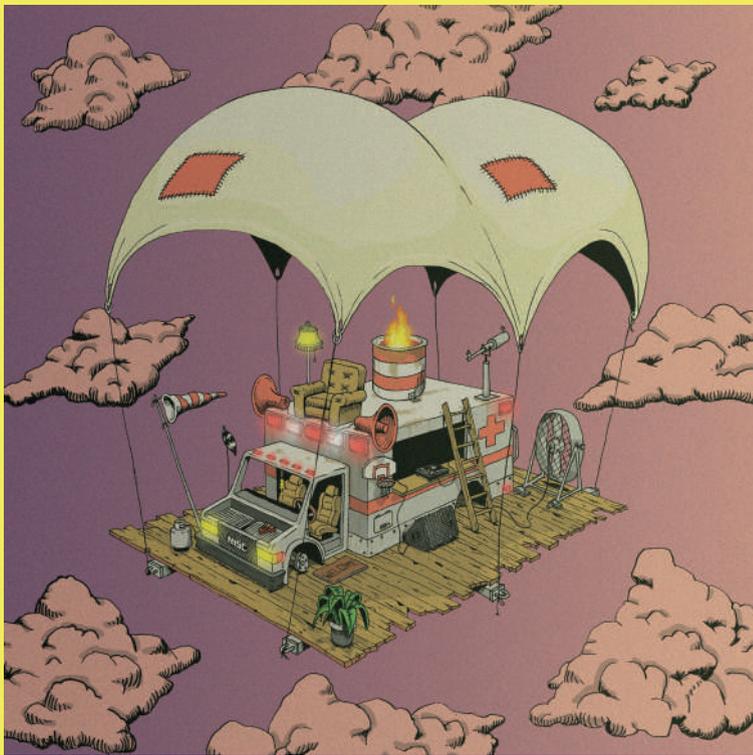


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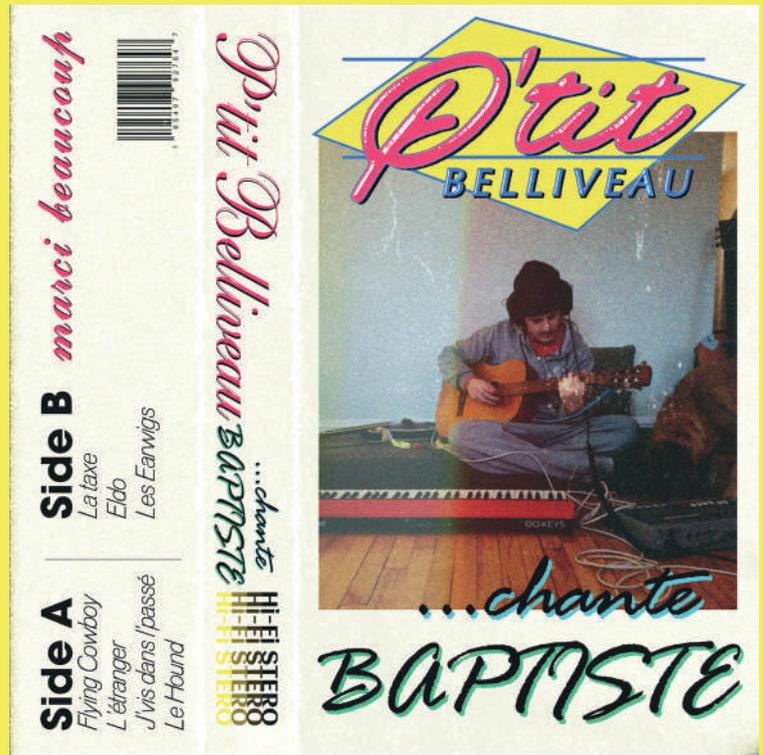
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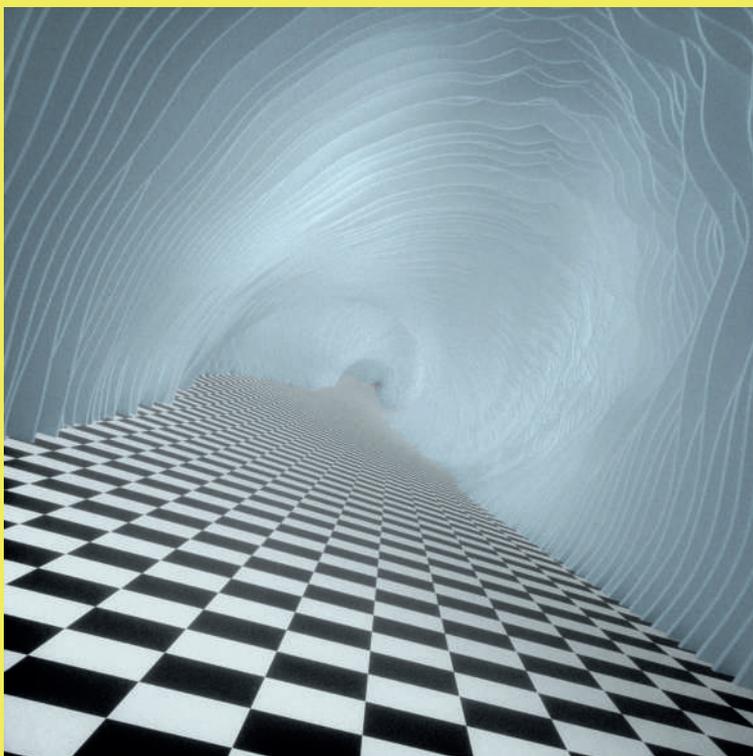




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# Music

The reign of Polaris Prize-winner Backxwash continues with #1 ranking in Freakiest Act, Heaviest Act and Best Hip Hop Act. New to the Music section is Lea Keeley, voted #1 Country/Folk Act and #5 Jazz Act — she describes her music as soul/R&B, so go figure. Godspeed You! Black Emperor recently released their first album in four years and make appearances in the Best Band (#4), Most Pretentious Act (#2) and Heaviest Act (#2) categories, while Grammy winner Kaytranada hangs on to the # Best Electronic spot and comes in at #2 in Best Hip Hop Act. And it's interesting to note that voters are showing allegiance to the bands on Bravo Musique, the record label formerly known as Dare to Care/Grosse Boîte. Bravo is being run by Béatrice Martin because the former DTC label head reportedly tried to cover up the sexual misconduct of singer Bernard Adamus.



*"Wow, I'm honoured to say the least. To me, Montreal is Canada's hub for electronic music and I am so happy to be living here. The artists that surround me inspire and motivate me. I owe my joy and passion for electronic music to this city and to them. I'm also so proud of my label for making the #1 spot for top record label in Montreal. The people voted so it's nice to see that it's not just me that thinks Hot Tramp Records RULES!"*—Janette King (Best Electronic Act)

## Best Band

- 1 Arcade Fire
- 2 The Damn Truth
- 3 Half Moon Run
- 4 Godspeed You! Black Emperor
- 5 The Flamingos Pink

## Freakiest Act

- 1 Backxwash
- 2 Hubert Lenoir
- 3 Big Sissy
- 4 Sean Nicholas Savage
- 5 Klô Pelgag

## Most Pretentious Act

- 1 Arcade Fire
- 2 Godspeed You! Black Emperor
- 3 Pierre Lapointe
- 4 The Dears
- 5 Bud Rice

## Heaviest Act

- 1 Backxwash
- 2 Godspeed You! Black Emperor
- 3 Yoo Doo Right
- 4 The Great Sabbatini
- 5 Dopethrone

## Best Hip Hop Act

- 1 Backxwash
- 2 Kaytranada
- 3 Loud
- 4 Nate Husser
- 5 Fouki

## Best Club DJ

- 1 Lady Blackice
- 2 Awwful
- 3 DJ Dio
- 4 Kaytranada
- 5 Nicky Raisinz

## Best Electronic Act

- 1 Kaytranada
- 2 Janette King
- 3 Eve Parker Finley
- 4 Marie Davidson
- 5 Maryze

## Best Country / Folk Act

- 1 Lea Keeley
- 2 Li'l Andy
- 3 Katie Moore
- 4 The Barr Brothers
- 5 Bud Rice

## Best Jazz Act

- 1 Dave Gossage Septet
- 2 Urban Science Brass Band
- 3 Dominique Fils-Aimé
- 4 Kalmunity
- 5 Lea Keeley

## Best Singer-Songwriter

- 1 Patrick Watson
- 2 Charlotte Cardin
- 3 Eve Parker Finley
- 4 Safia Nolin
- 5 Lea Kealey

## Best Busker

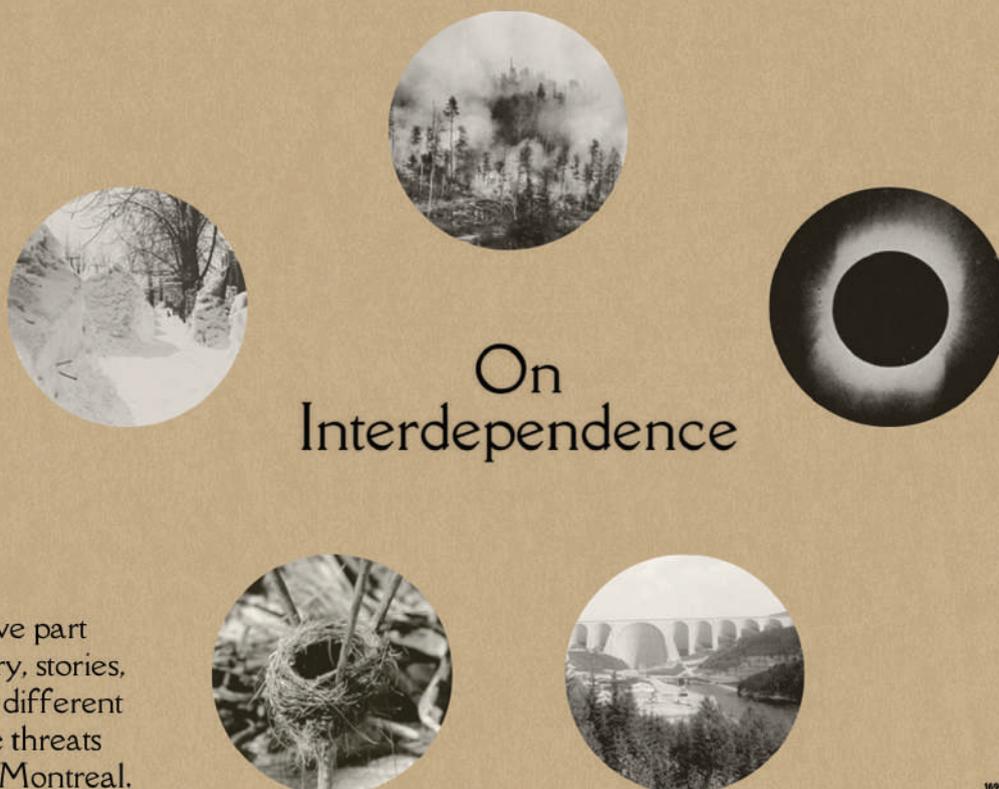
- 1 Big Daddy Queen Power
- 2 Graham Downey the bagpiper
- 3 Dog mask violinist
- 4 Allison Von der Lande
- 5 Violinist Marc Landry

## Best Label

- 1 Hot Tramp
- 2 Constellation
- 3 On a Roll
- 4 Bravo Musique (fka Dare to Care)
- 5 Arbutus



"I'm so excited and honoured to hear I made it into the top 5 country/folk acts! I'm grateful to have been nominated for best jazz act also! Thank you so much to everyone who voted and thank you to Cult MTL! Stay tuned for more music, it's coming soon!" —Lee Kealey (Country/Folk)



## On Interdependence

"On Interdependence" is a five part audio artwork that uses history, stories, sounds, and music to explore different perspectives and examine the threats posed by the climate crisis in Montreal.  
[oninterdependence.com](http://oninterdependence.com)

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# Film & Arts

The top local film of the year is *La Déesse des mouches à feu*, a '90s Saguenay-set coming of age story that avoids the afterschool-special pitfalls of the genre — it's the story of a teenage freefall into hedonism, based on a novel by Geneviève Pettersen. Its popularity with our readers pushed its director Anaïs Barbeau-Lavalette to #4 Best Filmmaker, a category topped once again by Denis Villeneuve, whose *Dune* adaptation has been a victim of COVID delays but will finally come out in theatres on Oct. 1. Not surprisingly, Old Montreal's pimped out gallery/Virtual Reality hub came out on top in the new Best Multidisciplinary Art Space category, while Best Visual Artist (also new) features multifaceted visual/sound artist Marc Gagnon, graphic designer Pony, street artist Stikki Peaches as well as two artists whose work is currently on display at the MMFA, Caroline Monnet and Manuel Mathieu.



"I'm very proud and touched that our strong *Déesse* having weathered the storm, has finally set her roots in the hearts of cinephiles. Having survived many releases in the heart of a pandemic, *La Déesse* has become in spite of itself the poster child of our visceral need for cinema experienced together, in the theatre. This acknowledgement is revealing of our link, a necessary and life-saving one, to the 7th art."—Anaïs Barbeau-Lavalette, director *La déesse des mouches à feu* (Best Filmmaker #4, Best Local Film of 2020-2021 #1)

Extract Films

## Best Local Film of 2020-2021

- 1 *La déesse des mouches à feu*
- 2 *Beans*
- 3 *Antigone*
- 4 *Jusqu'au déclin*
- 5 *Mafia Inc.*

## Best Film Screening Series

- 1 Fantasia
- 2 Cinema Politica
- 3 Cabane à sang
- 4 Minuit au Parc
- 5 *Cinéma urbain à la belle étoile*

## Best Theatre Company

- 1 Black Theatre Workshop
- 2 Centaur Theatre
- 3 Tableau d'hôte
- 4 Segal Centre
- 5 Geordie Theatre

## Best Play

- 1 *En Pointe*
- 2 *Please Thrill Me*
- 3 *Mob*
- 4 *J'aime hydro*
- 5 *Virginia Wolf*

## Best Dance Company

- 1 Grands Ballets Canadiens
- 2 Cas Public
- 3 Compagnie Marie Chouinard
- 4 Les Ballets Jazz Montréal
- 5 Helen Simard

## Best Museum

- 1 Museum of Fine Arts
- 2 Musée d'art contemporain
- 3 McCord Museum
- 4 Pointe à Callière
- 5 Canadian Centre for Architecture

## Best Art Gallery

- 1 Station 16
- 2 PHI Centre
- 3 Never Apart
- 4 Arsenal Contemporary Art
- 5 BBAM! Gallery

## Best Multi-Disciplinary Art Space

- 1 PHI Centre
- 2 SAT
- 3 Never Apart
- 4 Diving Bell Social Club
- 5 MAI

## Best Living Author

- 1 Heather O'Neill
- 2 Sean Michaels
- 3 Kaie Kellough
- 4 Louise Penny
- 5 Saleema Nawaz

## Best Visual Artist

- 1 Marc Gagnon
- 2 Pony
- 3 Stikki Peaches
- 4 Caroline Monnet
- 5 Manuel Mathieu

## Best Cartoonist / Comic Artist

- 1 Aislin
- 2 Ponto
- 3 Walter K. Scott
- 4 Jeik Dion
- 5 Sophie Labelle

## Best Comedian

- 1 Sugar Sammy
- 2 Tranna Wintour
- 3 Claude Crest
- 4 Mike Ward
- 5 Akeem Hoyte-Charles

## Best Videogame Company

- 1 Ubisoft
- 2 Eidos
- 3 KO\_Op Mode
- 4 Kitfox Games
- 5 Electronic Arts

## Best Fashion Designer

- 1 Jennifer Glasgow
- 2 Pony
- 3 Eliza Faulkner
- 4 Eve Gravel
- 5 Yasmine Wasfy

## Best Graffiti Artist / Crew

- 1 Randy Nixon
- 2 Waxhead
- 3 K6A
- 4 A Shop
- 5 Miss Me

## Best Festival

- 1 Jazz Fest
- 2 POP Montreal
- 3 Osheaga
- 4 Just for Laughs
- 5 Fantasia Festival

## Best Actor

- 1 Jay Baruchel
- 2 Karine Vanasse
- 3 Martin Richard
- 4 Marc-André Grondin
- 5 Tristan D. Lalla

## Best Filmmaker

- 1 Denis Villeneuve
- 2 Xavier Dolan
- 3 Jean-Marc Vallée
- 4 Anaïs Barbeau-Lavalette
- 5 Adam Reider

LES FILMS DU 3 MARS,  
LES FILMS DU DALIBARI  
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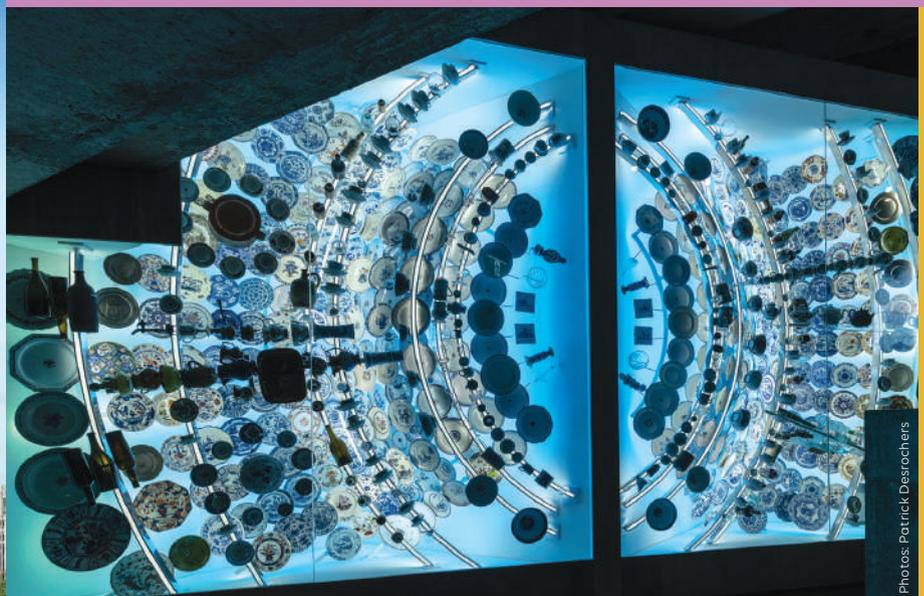
IN THEATRES JUNE 11  
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Photos: Patrick Desrochers

## Crossroads Montréal

— UPDATED EXHIBITION —

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Montréal Archaeology  
and History Complex

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# Goods & Services

Despite an obvious dip in in-person shopping, working out and professional TLC, it's nice to see Montrealers throwing their support behind retailers, entertainment centres, gyms and spas — places we'll all be returning to before long. Though the list mostly consists of staples, go-tos and old favourites, there are some new spots like Japanese clothing chain Uniqlo, which soared to #1 Best Clothing Store on a wave of fairly well-deserved hype. Mile End shop Bilak is new to the Best Jewellery Store category (straight to #1) despite having been around for a few years. It's no surprise to see SW Welch topping the Best Used Book Store list once again (with significantly higher numbers than ever) following the Shiller Lavy debacle — which was voted Most Heinous Scandal #3 in the People & Places section, incidentally. As we noted in 2020 (and it's a line that's always worth repeating), support local businesses!



"It's always fun to be recognized in the city where I was born in and grew up in, and it's flattering that my theatres made the list again — they did many, many years ago, then I disappeared from the list so I'm happy to be back. I hope to build a few more theatres and make the moviegoing experience even better."—Vincenzo Guzzo (Best Movie Theatre #4)

## Best Clothing Store (New)

- 1 Uniqlo
- 2 Taz Basement/  
Taz Premium
- 3 Simons
- 4 Lopez MTL
- 5 General 54

## Best Vintage Clothing Store

- 1 Eva B
- 2 Fripe-prix Renaissance
- 3 Empire Exchange
- 4 Citizen Vintage
- 5 Village des Valeurs

## Best Hair Salon

- 1 Two Horses
- 2 Salon Freyja
- 3 Queen of the World
- 4 Salon Helmet
- 5 Funky Toque

## Best Barbershop

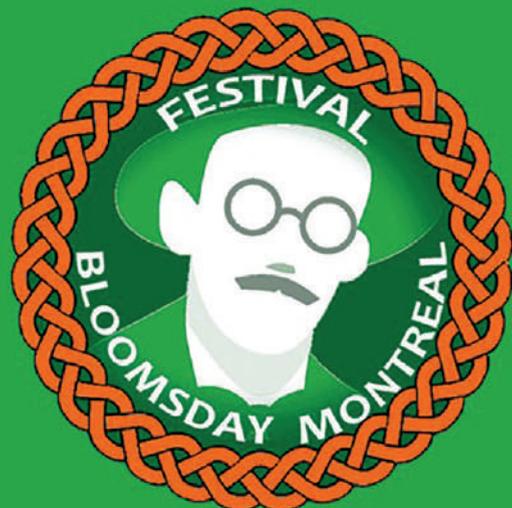
- 1 La Section Barbershop
- 2 Queen of the World
- 3 Blue Dog Barbershop
- 4 Salon Freyja
- 5 La Chapelle

## Best Tattoo Parlour

- 1 DFA Tattoos
- 2 Tattoo Lounge
- 3 Queen of the World
- 4 Studio Artease
- 5 Bait and Schlang

## Best Tattoo Artist

- 1 Aimee Boucher /  
Morning Gory
- 2 Angus Byers  
(DFA Tattoos)
- 3 Pamela Anne Derson  
(Queen of the World/  
Bodkin Tattoo)
- 4 Safwan (Imago Tattoo)
- 5 Rian Desourdie  
(Studio Artease)



# Bloomsday Montreal Celebrates Its Tenth Anniversary June 12-16

Featuring live and Zoom events celebrating James Joyce and Irish culture, including:

Register and view the full schedule at [BloomsdayMontreal.com](http://BloomsdayMontreal.com)



June 12: Exclusive viewing and conversation with famed choreographer Margie Gillis, presenting on her Ulysses-inspired dance work-in-progress, *The Whole Bloomin' Thing*



June 13: Bloomsday concert, hosted by Dennis Trudeau



June 13: Postcolonial Old Montreal, a walking tour with historian Donovan King



June 15: Cooking Irish soda bread with Jonathan Cheung of Appetite for Books

....and much, much more!!

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PRODUCTIONS

### Best New CD/ Vinyl Store

- 1 Aux 33 Tours
- 2 Phonopolis
- 3 Le Vacarme
- 4 La Rama
- 5 Cheap Thrills

### Best Used CD/ Vinyl Store

- 1 Phonopolis
- 2 Aux 33 Tours
- 3 Le Vacarme
- 4 Cheap Thrills
- 5 La Rama

### Best Musical Instrument Store

- 1 Steve's
- 2 Jimi's
- 3 Moog Audio
- 4 Long & McQuade
- 5 Archambault

### Best Electronics Store

- 1 Best Buy
- 2 Addison
- 3 Moog Audio
- 4 Apple Store
- 5 Layton Audio

### Best Movie Theatre

- 1 Cinéma du Parc
- 2 Cinéma Beaubien
- 3 Cinéma Moderne
- 4 Cinémas Guzzo
- 5 Cinéma Banque Scotia

### Best Bike Shop

- 1 514 BMX
- 2 Steve's Bike Shop
- 3 C&L Cycles
- 4 Bikurious
- 5 Recycle Cycle



"It's such an honour! There's so much incredible jewelry design in this eccentric city. It touches us so much that your readers chose us to represent this category. We are officially opening a Fabulous Goth Artisan Shop in the coming weeks, so come celebrate with us! Stay Wicked and Weird Montreal! We love you!"—Astrid and the team at Inchoo Bijoux (Best Jewellery Store)

### Best Bookstore (New)

- 1 Drawn & Quarterly
- 2 Indigo
- 3 Librairie St-Henri Books
- 4 L'Euguélonne
- 5 Racines

### Best Bookstore (Used)

- 1 SW Welch
- 2 Encore Books and Records
- 3 The Word
- 4 Cheap Thrills
- 5 L'Échange

### Best Comics Store

- 1 Drawn & Quarterly
- 2 Crossover Comics
- 3 Capitaine Québec
- 4 Planète BD
- 5 Librairie Z

### Best Drug Paraphernalia Store

- 1 Prohibition
- 2 Psychonaut
- 3 SQDC
- 4 Utopia
- 5 Bongia

### Best Gym / Fitness Club

- 1 Econofitness
- 2 YMCA
- 3 Gym St-Henri
- 4 Energie Cardio
- 5 Pro Gym Montréal

### Best Yoga Studio

- 1 Modo Yoga
- 2 Naada Yoga
- 3 Luna Yoga
- 4 Yoga Club
- 5 Ashtanga Yoga

### Best Spa

- 1 Bota Bota
- 2 Strom
- 3 Scandinave Spa
- 4 Spa Vert
- 5 Spa & Hôtel le Finlandais

### Best Massage Spot

- 1 Bota Bota
- 2 Espace NOMAD
- 3 Spa Vert
- 4 Ovarium
- 5 Eric Digras

### Best Hotel

- 1 Ritz-Carlton, Montreal
- 2 William Grey
- 3 Fairmont Queen Elizabeth
- 4 Hotel 10
- 5 Hotel Nelligan

### Best Kitsch / Vintage Store

- 1 Kitsch à l'os... ou pas
- 2 Marché Underground
- 3 Marché aux puces St-Michel
- 4 Kitsch 'n Swell
- 5 Monastiraki

### Best Jewellery

- 1 Bilak
- 2 Birks
- 3 Tiffany
- 4 Inchoo Bijoux
- 5 Joel Muller

### Best Florist

- 1 Dragon Flowers
- 2 Westmount Florist
- 3 Bell Jar Botanicals
- 4 Le Jardin de Mathilde
- 5 Fleuriste Monarque

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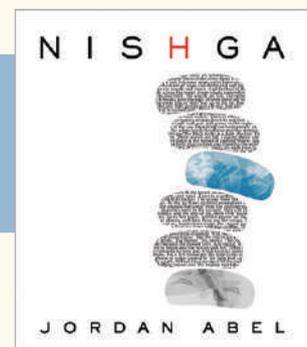
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- JUNE 6, SUNDAY | 6 PM **COOKBOOK** | *In Bibi's Kitchen* by Hawa Hassan
- JUNE 8, TUESDAY | 8 PM **NEW READS** | *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro
- JUNE 11, FRIDAY | 6 PM **TEEN** | *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo
- JUNE 15, TUESDAY | 8 PM **GRAPHIC NOVEL** | *Fangs* by Sarah Andersen

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# Food & Drink

There are those who spent the pandemic baking bread, and those who spent all of their newly opened up entertainment budget on takeout — the local restaurant industry thanks the latter group, and welcomes the bread-makers to leave their sterilized compounds to enjoy a meal on a terrasse — and as of June 7, indoors. It's a big moment for the restaurant industry, and we couldn't be happier to herald the return of the restaurants who survived 2020–2021 with this celebration of all the restaurants that Montrealers love. As food editor Clay Sandhu says in his annual Resto Wrongs editorial at the end of this issue, this year isn't about winning, losing or rank — look at these lists as a show of appreciation to all of the owners, cooks, delivery people and other staff who have kept us fed with delicious food, and prepare to serve us our next great meals.



"We are super happy to hear that people love our food and have voted for us as their favorite Poke Bowl." —OKOK fka OK Poké (Best Poké #1)

## Best Chef

- 1 Danny Smiles
- 2 Chuck Hughes
- 3 Aicia Colacci
- 4 Antonio Park
- 5 Sean Murray Smith

## Best New Restaurant

- 1 Bucky Rooster's
- 2 Café Mimosa
- 3 Pizza Toni
- 4 Mano Cornuto
- 5 Le Mariachi

## Best New Food Trend

- 1 Fried chicken
- 2 Arepas
- 3 Veganism
- 4 Pizza by the slice
- 5 Haitian food

## Best Pub Grub

- 1 Burgundy Lion
- 2 Ye Olde Orchard
- 3 Bishop & Bagg
- 4 McLean's
- 5 Bowhead

## Best Hotel Bar or Restaurant

- 1 Maison Boulud
- 2 Marcus
- 3 Nacarat
- 4 Bar George
- 5 Terrasse William Grey

## Best Cheap Eats

- 1 Bocado
- 2 Nilufar
- 3 Boustan
- 4 Green Spot
- 5 Patati Patata

## Best Fine Dining

- 1 Damas
- 2 Toqué!
- 3 L'Express
- 4 Gibby's
- 5 Joe Beef

## Best Late Night Eats

- 1 La Banquise
- 2 Boustan
- 3 Chez Claudette
- 4 Bocado
- 5 Nouveau Palais

## Best Breakfast

- 1 Arthur's Nosh Bar
- 2 Bagel Etc.
- 3 L'Avenue
- 4 Vieux Vélo
- 5 L'Oeufrier

## Best Afternoon Tea

- 1 Cardinal Team Room
- 2 The Ritz-Carlton, Montreal
- 3 Salon Rosie Lanoi
- 4 Camelia Sinensis
- 5 Gryphon d'Or

## Best Meal Kit Company

- 1 Goodfood
- 2 Cook It
- 3 Hello Fresh
- 4 WeCook
- 5 Fresh MTL

## Best Delivery App

- 1 UberEats
- 2 CHK PLZ
- 3 Skip the Dishes
- 4 Door Dash
- 5 Eva

## Best African Restaurant

- 1 Le nil bleu
- 2 East Africa
- 3 Queen Sheba
- 4 Maquis Yasolo

## Best Caribbean Restaurant

- 1 Lloydie's
- 2 Seasoned Dreams
- 3 Jardin du Cari
- 4 Boom J's
- 5 Caribbean Curry House



[www.myriaderoasting.co](http://www.myriaderoasting.co)



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### Best Chinese Restaurant

- 1 Mon Nan
- 2 Beijing
- 3 Aunt Dai
- 4 Maison VIP
- 5 Dobe & Andy

### Best Eastern European / Russian Restaurant

- 1 Euro-Déli Batory
- 2 Stash Café
- 3 La Caverne Russe (RIP)
- 4 Baba Yaga
- 5 Bistro Sofia

### Best French Restaurant

- 1 L'Express

- 2 Leméac
- 3 Quartier général
- 4 Henri Brasserie Française
- 5 Monarque

### Best Greek Restaurant

- 1 Milos
- 2 Nostos
- 3 Marven's
- 4 Marathon Souvlaki
- 5 Panama

### Best Indian Restaurant

- 1 Bombay Mahal
- 2 Le super qualité
- 3 Pushap
- 4 Chand Palace
- 5 Atma

### Best Italian Restaurant

- 1 Impasto
- 2 Da Emma
- 3 Bottega
- 4 Nora Gray
- 5 Pasta Casareccia

### Best Japanese Restaurant

- 1 Kazu
- 2 Otto
- 3 Kokoro
- 4 Ryu
- 5 Sushi Momo

### Best Korean Restaurant

- 1 Ganadara
- 2 Mon Ami

- 3 Chez Bong
- 4 Ssam
- 5 Hwang Kum

### Best Latin American Restaurant

- 1 Bocado
- 2 Arepera
- 3 La Chilenita
- 4 La Carreta
- 5 Che Churro

### Best Mexican Restaurant

- 1 Maria Bonita
- 2 El Rey Del Taco
- 3 Tacos Frida
- 4 Escondite
- 5 La Capital Tacos

### Best Middle Eastern

- 1 Damas
- 2 Boustan
- 3 Kaza Maza
- 4 Sumac
- 5 Falafel St-Jacques

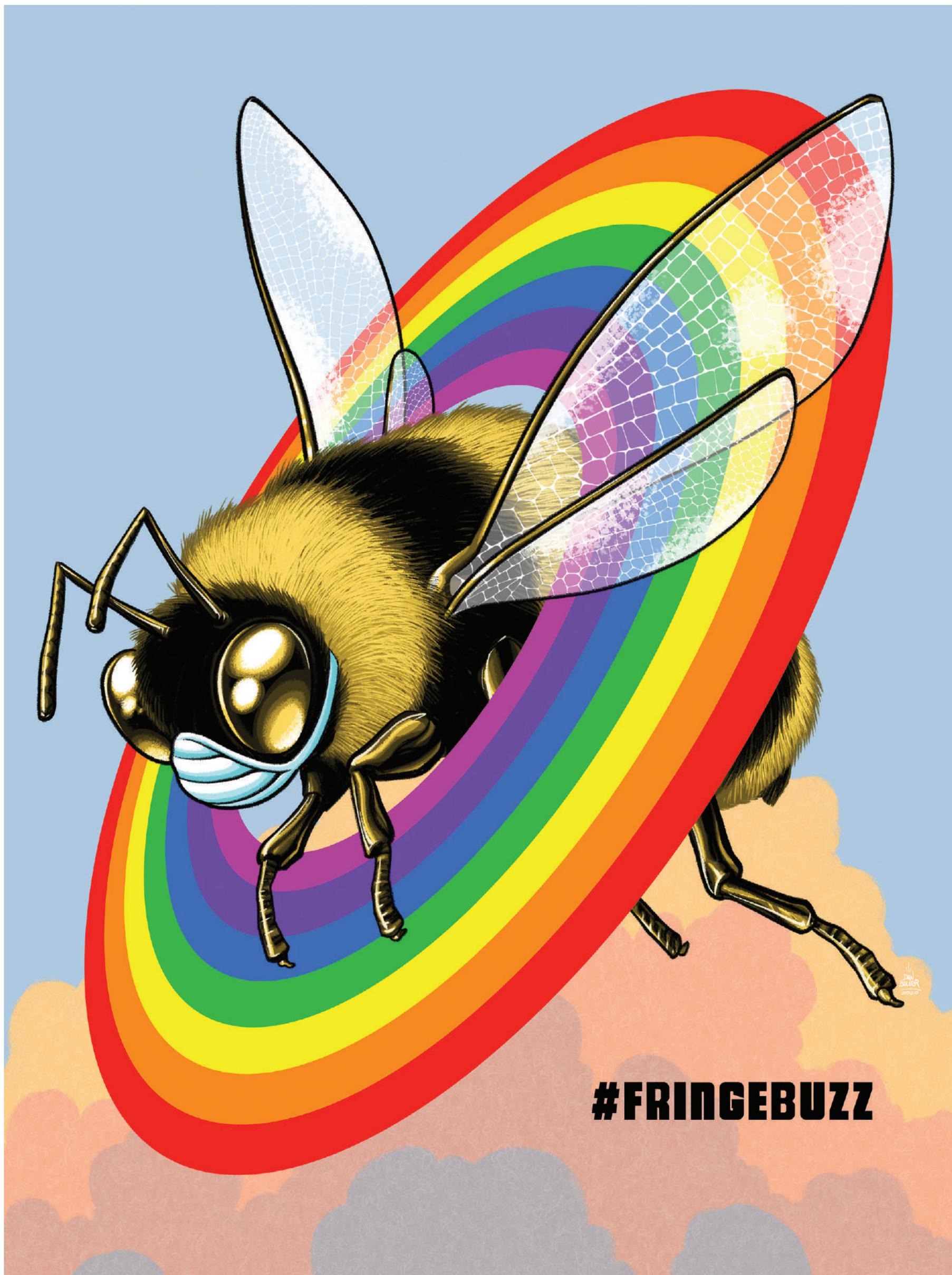
### Best Portuguese Restaurant

- 1 Ma Poule Mouillée
- 2 Romados
- 3 Jano
- 4 Chez Doval
- 5 Coco Rico

### Best Spanish Restaurant

- 1 Tapeo
- 2 La Croqueteria de Montreal





**#FRINGEBUZZ**

- 3 Alma
- 4 Montreal Paella
- 5 La Sala Rosa

**Best Thai Restaurant**

- 1 Épicerie Pumpui
- 2 Bangkok Express
- 3 Pamika
- 4 Thammada
- 5 Thai Express

**Best Vietnamese Restaurant**

- 1 Pho Tay Ho
- 2 Pho Lien
- 3 Pho Bang New York 4 Sapa
- 5 Tran Cantine

**Best Bagel**

- 1 St-Viateur Bagel
- 2 Fairmount Bagel
- 3 Ville-Émard Bagels
- 4 Bagel St-Lo
- 5 Beaubien Bagel

**Best Burger**

- 1 Uniburger
- 2 Bocado
- 3 Burger de Ville
- 4 Notre-Boeuf-de-Grâce
- 5 Chez Tousignant

**Best Chicken Wings**

- 1 Cunninghams Pub
- 2 Next Door
- 3 McLean's Pub
- 4 Ye Olde Orchard
- 5 Chalet BBQ

**Best Donuts**

- 1 Léché Desserts
- 2 Krispy Kreme
- 3 Crémy
- 4 Trou de Beigne
- 5 Tim Hortons

**Best Dumplings**

- 1 Harbin
- 2 Qing Hua
- 3 La Maison de Mademoiselle Dumpling
- 4 Sammi & Soupe Dumpling
- 5 Meiwei

**Best Falafel**

- 1 Falafel Yoni
- 2 Falafel St-Jacques
- 3 Nilufar
- 4 Boustan
- 5 La Panthère Verte

**Best Fish and Chips**

- 1 Brit & Chips
- 2 Comptoir 21
- 3 Burgundy Lion
- 4 O Fish

**Best Fried Chicken**

- 1 Bucky Rooster's
- 2 Roch le Coq
- 3 Olivia's Authentic Fried Chicken
- 4 Dinette Triple Crown
- 5 Jack le Coq

**Best Fries**

- 1 Frites Alors
- 2 Patati Patata
- 3 McDonald's
- 4 Lafleur
- 5 Five Guys

**Best Hot Dog**

- 1 Lafleur
- 2 Montreal Pool Room
- 3 Belle Province
- 4 Dirty Dogs
- 5 Décarie Hot Dog

**Best Mac and Cheese**

- 1 Dinette Triple Crown
- 2 Seasoned Dreams
- 3 Nouveau Palais
- 4 Le Cheese
- 5 Macbar et Fromage

**Best Montreal Beer**

- 1 4 Origines
- 2 Dieu du Ciel
- 3 St-Ambroise
- 4 Cheval Blanc
- 5 Harricana

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"I am truly humbled and flattered to be voted and considered in this category along with each and every one of these chefs! Montreal has always been very special to me because of the amount of culture and passion it expresses and displays and making people happy through food is my greatest joy! Thank you!"—Alicia Colacci (Best Chef #3)

### **Best Pad Thai**

- 1 Épicerie Pumpui
- 2 Bangkok Express
- 3 Thai Express
- 4 Thammada
- 5 Baba Thai

### **Best Pho**

- 1 Pho Tay Ho
- 2 Pho Lien
- 3 Pho Bang New York
- 4 Pho Rachel
- 5 Lyla

### **Best Pizza**

- 1 Pizza Bouquet
- 2 Pizza Toni
- 3 No. 900
- 4 Adamo
- 5 Fugazzi

### **Best Poké**

- 1 OKOK (formerly OK Poké)
- 2 Ahi Poké
- 3 Poké Station
- 4 Ono Pokii
- 5 Kamehameha

### **Best Poutine**

- 1 La Banquise
- 2 Ma Poule Mouillée
- 3 Patati Patata
- 4 Chez Claudette
- 5 Poutineville

### **Best Ramen**

- 1 Yokato Yokabai
- 2 Umami
- 3 Kinton
- 4 Tsukuyomi
- 5 Misoya

### **Best Ribs**

- 1 Bâton Rouge
- 2 Blackstrap BBQ
- 3 Bar B Barn
- 4 Le Boucan
- 5 St-Hubert

### **Best Rotisserie Chicken**

- 1 Chalet BBQ
- 2 Romados
- 3 Ma Poule Mouillée
- 4 Serrano
- 5 Coco Rico

### **Best Sandwich**

- 1 Bocado
- 2 Clarke Café
- 3 Dépanneur Pick-Up
- 4 Santropol
- 5 Aux Vivres

### **Best Shish Taouk**

- 1 Boustan
- 2 Amir
- 3 Omnivore
- 4 Sham
- 5 Sumac

### **Best Smoked Meat**

- 1 Schwartz's
- 2 The Main
- 3 Smoke Meat Pete
- 4 Le Roi du Smoked Meat
- 5 Snowdon Deli

### **Best Steak**

- 1 Gibbys
- 2 Moishes (RIP)
- 3 The Keg
- 4 Bâton Rouge
- 5 Joe Beef

### **Best Sushi**

- 1 Sushi Momo
- 2 Jun-I
- 3 Park
- 4 Ryu
- 5 Kokoro

### **Best Taco**

- 1 Tacos Frida
- 2 Maria Bonita
- 3 El rey del taco
- 4 Taco Trunp
- 5 La Capital Tacos

### **Best Vegetarian**

- 1 Aux Vivres
- 2 Sushi Momo
- 3 La Panthère Verte
- 4 Lola Rosa
- 5 LOV

### **Best Bakery**

- 1 Boulangerie Guillaume
- 2 Automne Boulangerie
- 3 Boulangerie Louise
- 4 Hof Kelsten
- 5 Mamie Clafoutis

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Uber Eats

### Best Café (for ambiance)

- 1 Olimpico
- 2 Shaika (RIP)
- 3 Tommy Café
- 4 Myriade
- 5 Résonance

### Best Café (for coffee)

- 1 Olimpico
- 2 Dispatch
- 3 Myriade
- 4 Café Saint-Henri
- 5 Lili & Oli

### Best Tea House

- 1 Cardinal Tea Room
- 2 Camellia Sinensis

3 Salon Rosie-Lanoi

- 4 Cha Noir
- 5 Gryphon d'Or

### Best Fromagerie

- 1 Fromagerie Hamel
- 2 Fromagerie Atwater
- 3 Fromagerie Copette & Cie
- 4 Yannick Fromagerie
- 5 Fromagerie Qui lait cru 4

### Best Ice Cream

- 1 Kem CoBa
- 2 Iconoglace
- 3 Ca Lem
- 4 Dalla Rose
- 5 Bilboquet

### Best Chocolate / Sweets

- 1 Juliette et Chocolat
- 2 Les Chocolats de Chloé
- 3 Geneviève Grandbois
- 4 Lecavalier Petrone
- 5 Sweet Lee's Rustic Bakery

### Best Butcher

- 1 Boucherie Lawrence
- 2 Chez Vito
- 3 Pascal le Boucher
- 4 Zinman
- 5 La Maître Boucher

### Best Produce Store

- 1 PA
- 2 Jean-Talon Market
- 3 Fruiterie Mile End
- 4 Adonis
- 5 Chez Louis

### Best Organic Food Store

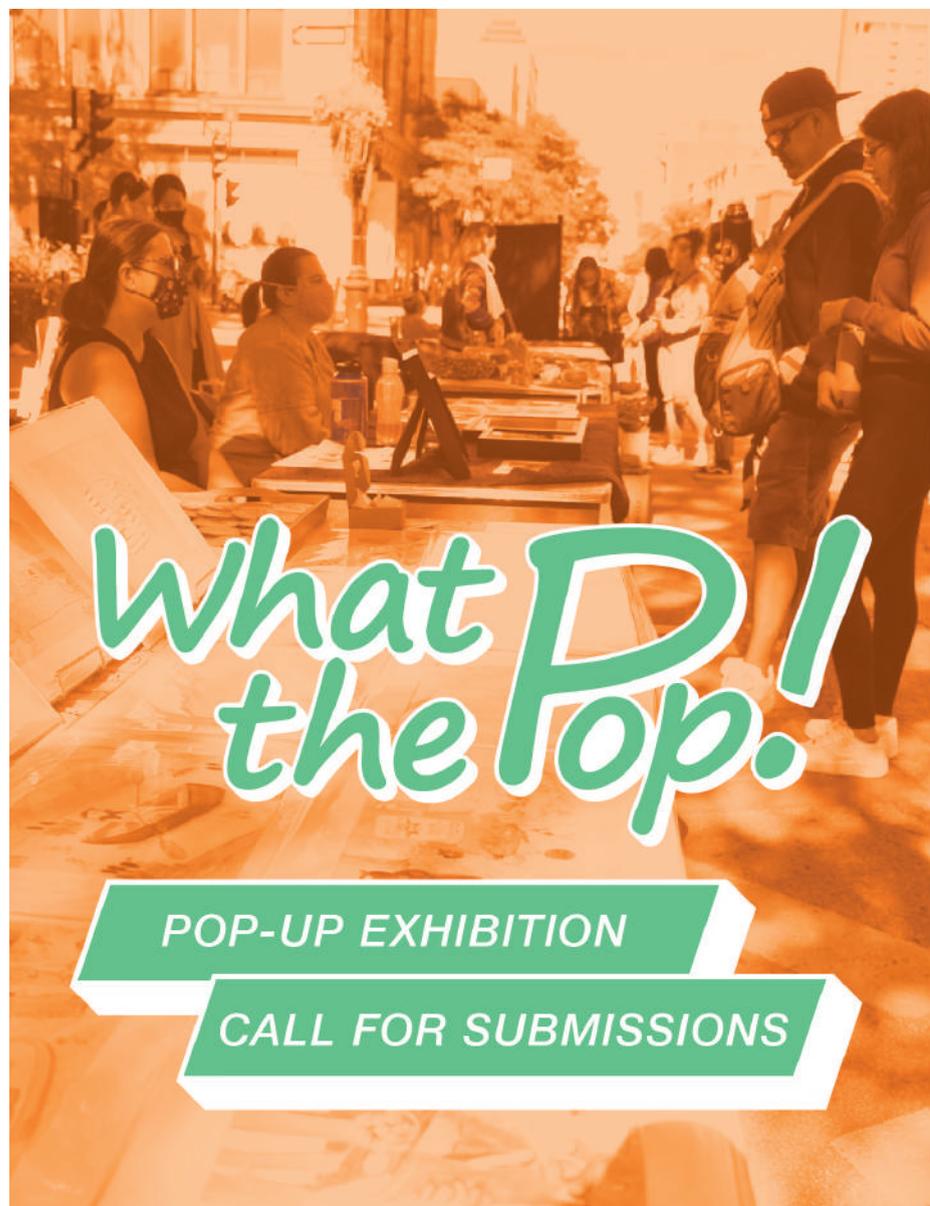
- 1 PA Nature
- 2 Tau
- 3 Rachele-Béry
- 4 Branche d'Olivier
- 5 Bio-Terre

### Best Health Food Store

- 1 Branche d'Olivier
- 2 Bio-Terre
- 3 Rachele-Béry
- 4 Tau
- 5 PA Nature

### Best Fishmonger

- 1 Shamrock
- 2 La mer
- 3 Falero
- 4 Waldman's
- 5 Fou des îles



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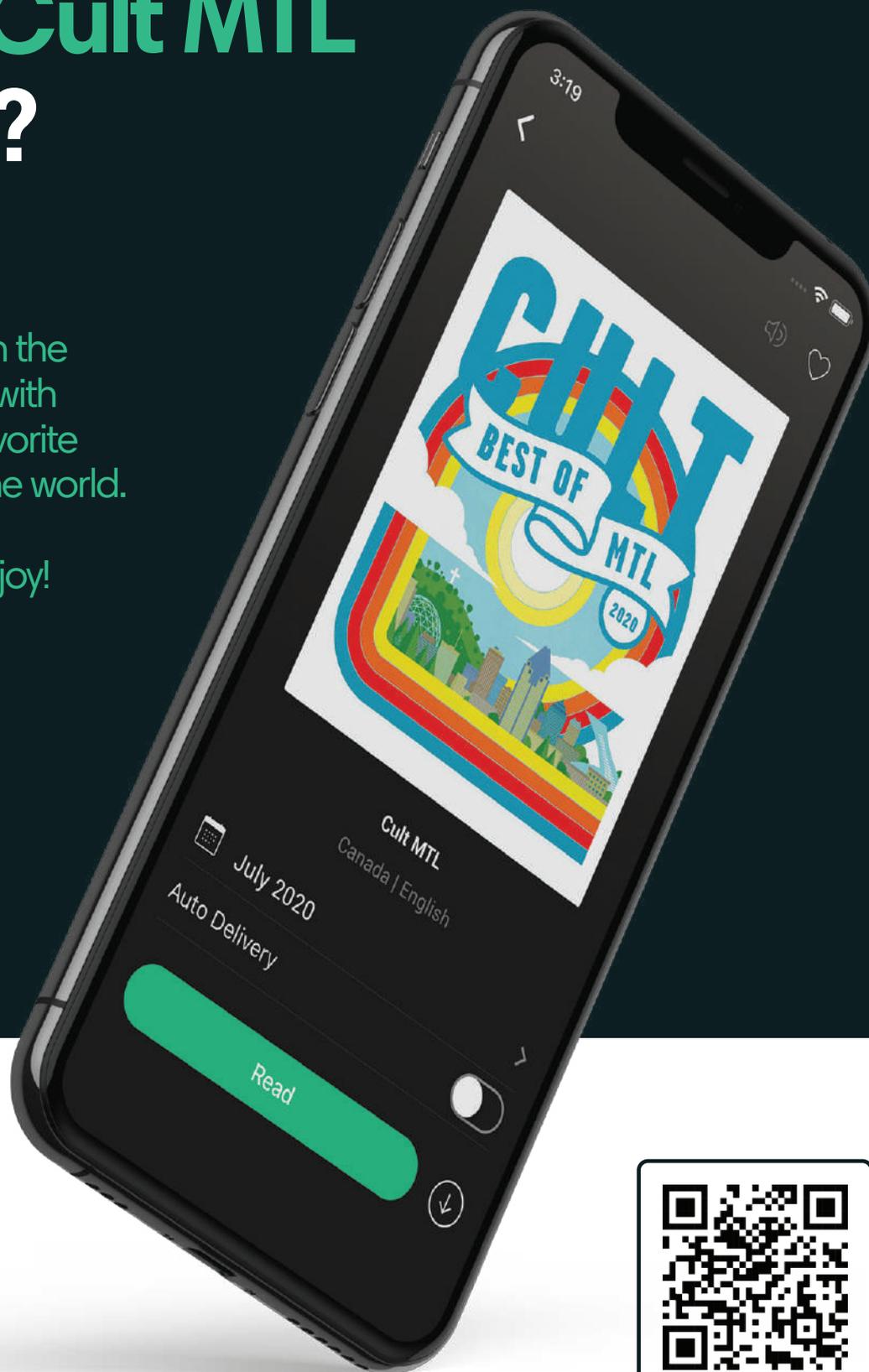
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# Resto Rights



Scenes from Nora Grey



Clayton Sandhu

BY CLAYTON SANDHU

I want to begin this year's response to our Best of MTL list with a statement: If you're a restaurant owner and your business survived this far, you should be immensely proud.

Every measure of excellence in hospitality has been thrown for a loop this year. Guides like Canada's 100 best, Les Prix Lauriers and, most notably, the Michelin Guide all adapted their models in an attempt to consider the circumstances that COVID-19 presented to the industry. For many who follow the goings-on of the food world, the very nature of a system that compares and ranks restaurants was called into question. Who do these lists serve? Who is on them, who is not, and why? Prior to the pandemic, the restaurant biz was reaching its loftiest heights in the contemporary era. We had long surpassed the groupie-esque admiration of "rockstar" chefs, graduating to a near-sycophantic worship of "genius-level" restaurateurs.

These guides, in conjunction with food media, are responsible for reframing the good, noble craft of cooking and turning it into a narcissistic, self-congratulating

feedback loop where those with the deepest pockets and most rarefied ingredients compete for a level of supremacy that most people will never be exposed to. When the walls came tumbling down, much of the restaurant world was exposed for what it truly is: a means to an end. Suddenly, without all the pomp and grandeur of lavish dining rooms, custom French ranges and hand-thrown ceramic plates, the playing field changed. The dry-aged duck magret sauced with 1999 Puffeney Vin Jaune and your favourite Indian joint's Palak Paneer become a lot easier to compare when placed side by side on your coffee table.

For me, this circumstance has exposed a fundamental truth about food and restaurants: most of it is theatre, and there's nothing wrong with that. To eat a meal in a magnificent dining room, to taste a foraged ramp served moments after being plucked from the earth, to savour a wine coddled and incubated for years before being poured exactly at the very height of its potential is truly wonderful. The theatre of it all makes for a great, even heightened dining experience, but it has very little to do with what makes food good.

At Cult MTL, our list presents far less influence from the world of food. It is judged by people with everyday experience who express only what is true for them — their

favourite spots, the places that serve the dishes they love to eat. This year, there is only one resto wrong: pitting restaurants against each other for a spot on a list. And while this remains a best-of list, I think of it that way in format only. If I can offer a suggestion to those reading this list, it would be to see it as a reflection of the places and dishes that connected with people, offered them comfort, satiated cravings and helped mark milestones and celebrations in a year where expressions of joy were fleeting and so hard to separate from everyday life.

As we emerge from the pandemic, with restaurant terraces newly open again and bars not far behind, I hope we reflect on all that the restaurant industry has suffered and all that it has given to us. I hope that we remember that greatness in food is not limited to the restaurants that top prestigious lists. Great restaurants — the best restaurants — achieve that status because they connect with people in a meaningful way.

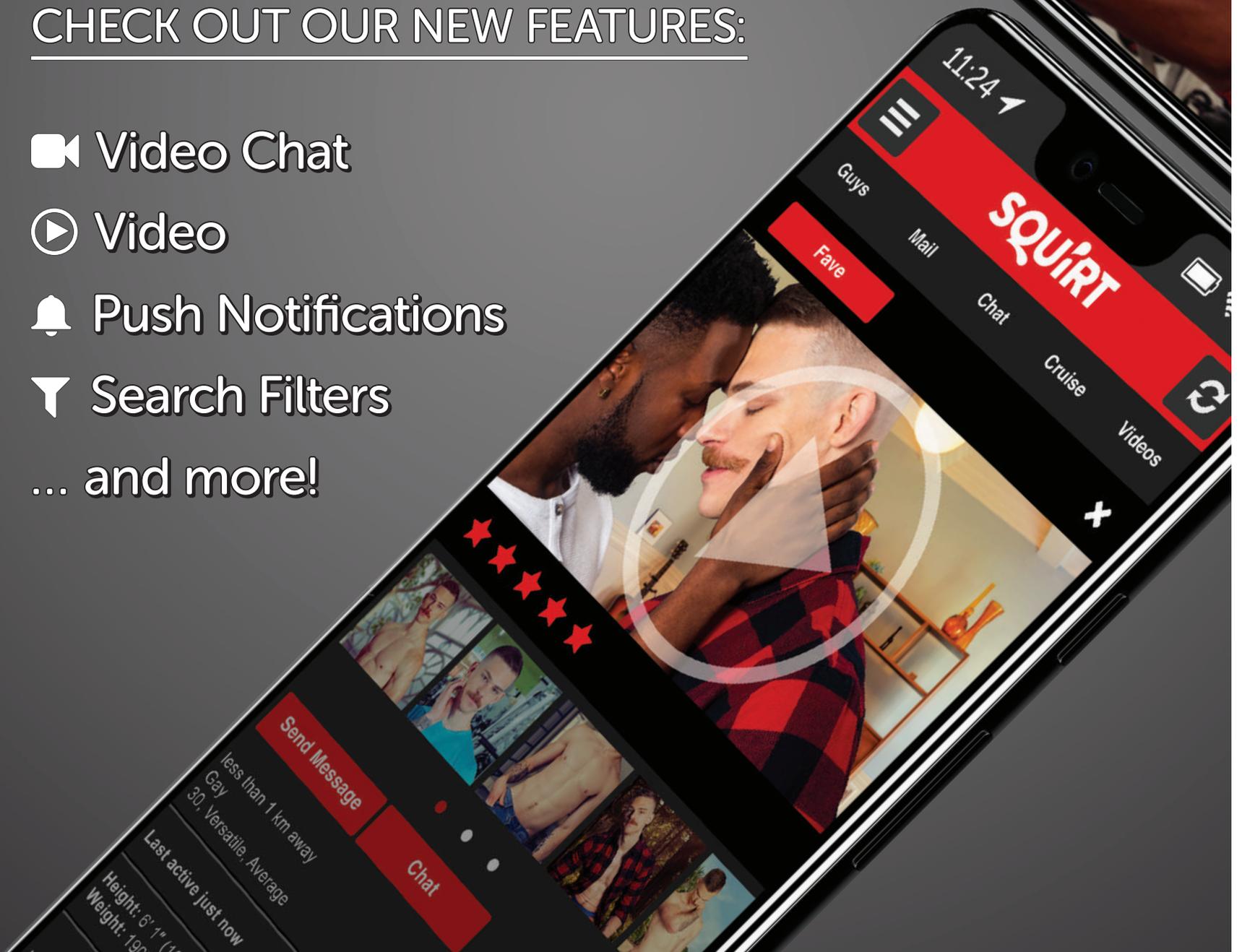
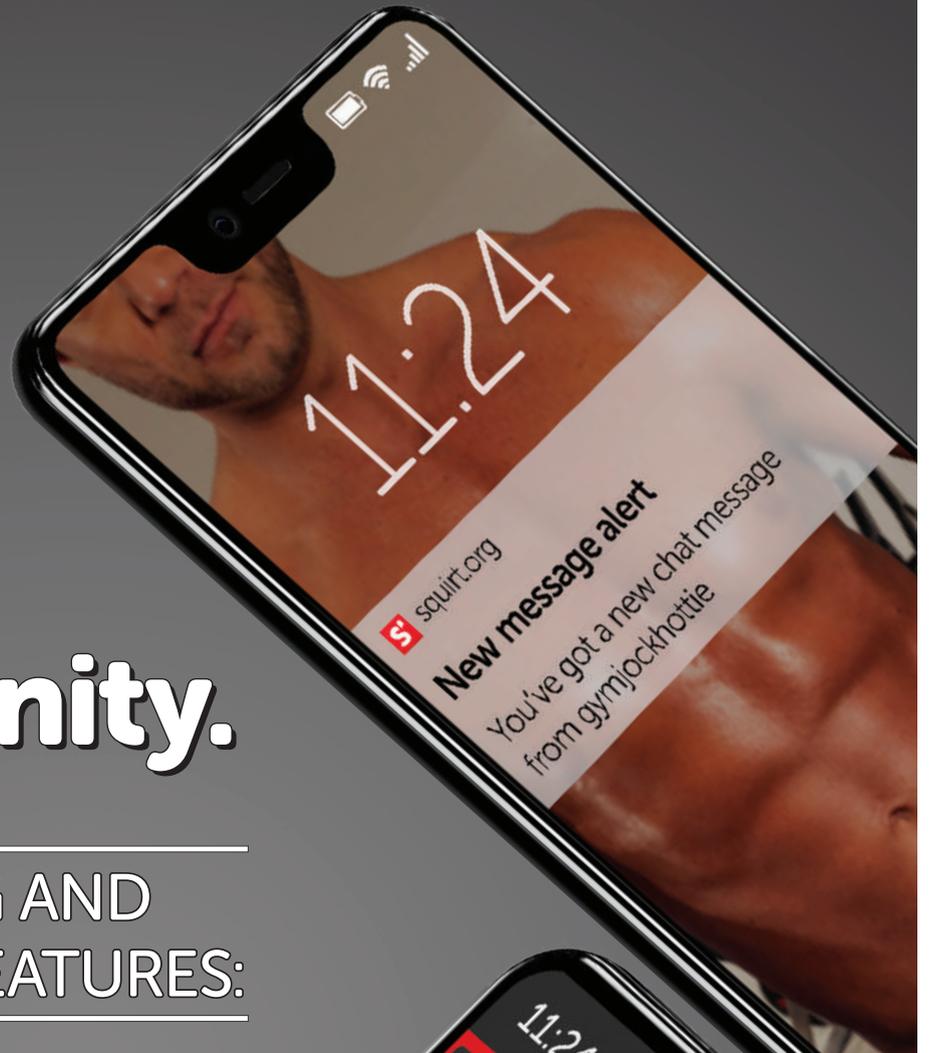
One last thought. It's been a while since we've all been out to eat at a restaurant — go easy on the staff, please. Be patient, compassionate and forgiving — I can tell you from experience (on both sides) that these qualities are rewarded tenfold.

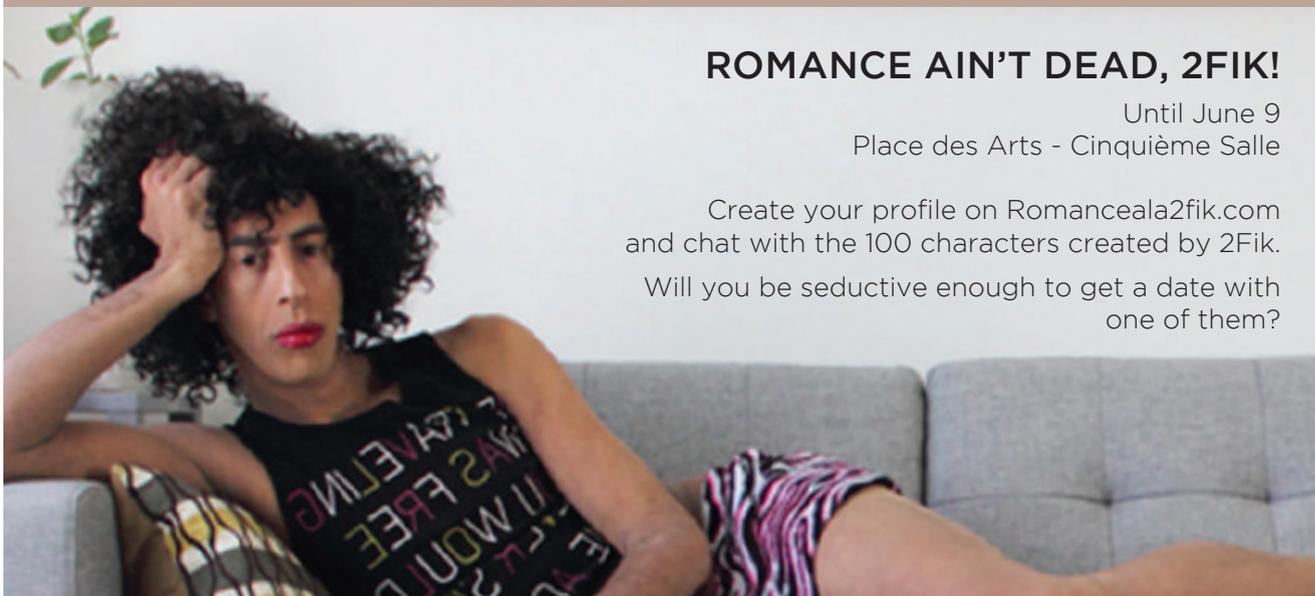
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