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## AUTOGYNEGAMY

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performance

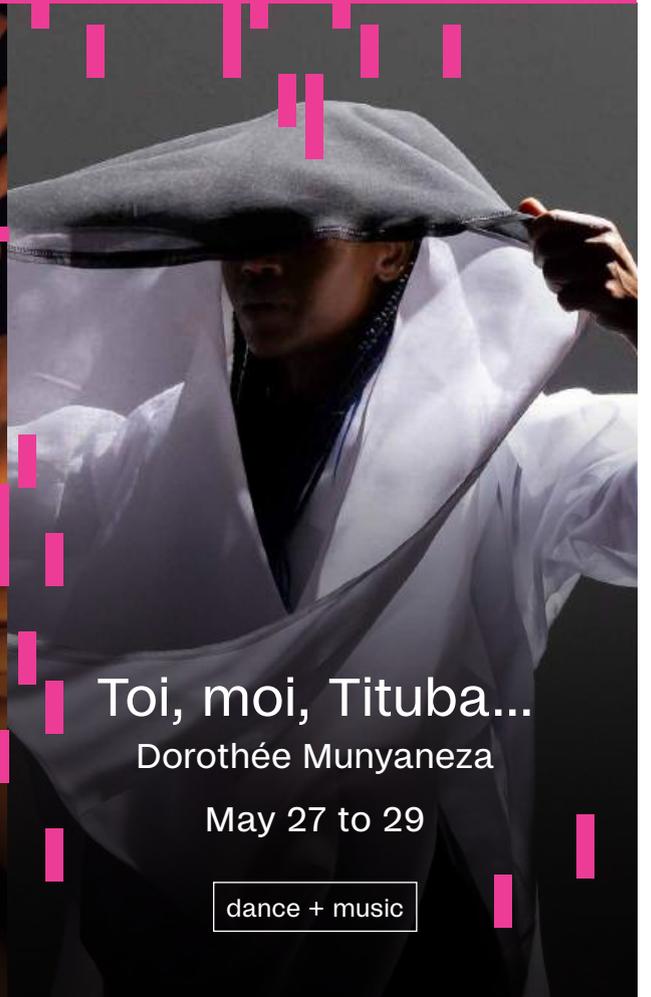


## Taverna Miresia

Mario Banushi

May 29 to 31

theatre



## Toi, moi, Tituba...

Dorothee Munyaneza

May 27 to 29

dance + music



## Gentle Unicorn

Chiara Bersani

May 27 to 30

performance



## HEAVEN FM

Hong Kong Exile

May 30 to June 1

theatre



## Un-nevering

Thea Patterson

May 30 to June 3

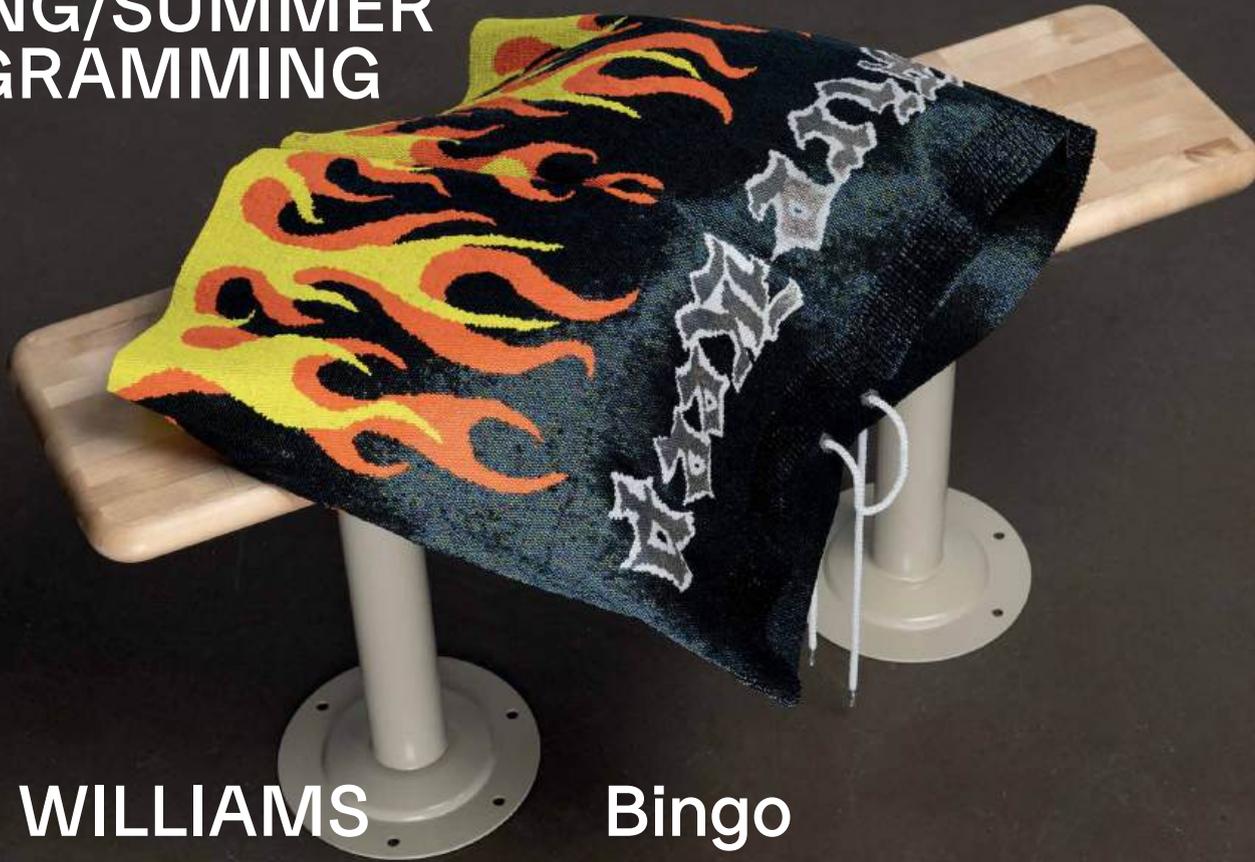
performance + dance

PHI

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SPRING/SUMMER  
PROGRAMMING



NICO WILLIAMS

Bingo

LAP-SEE LAM

Shadow Play

Nico Williams, *Flamer*, 2022. 11/0 seed beads on thermally-fused/braided polyethylene thread, maple, cottonwood and metal. Courtesy of the artist and Blouin Division. Photo: Paul Litherland.  
Lap-See Lam, *Tales of the Altersea*, installation view, Swiss Institute, New York, 2023. Courtesy the artist and Swiss Institute, New York. Photo: Daniel Pérez.

Lap-See Lam: *Shadow Play* is presented with the support of



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et des lettres  
du Québec

# table of contents



Montreal has spoken! We're proud to bring you the results of the 13th annual Best of MTL readers poll.

Cover illustration by Whatisadam

<b>best of mtl</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>people &amp; places</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>media</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>nightlife</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>music</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>film &amp; arts</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>goods &amp; services</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>food &amp; drink</b>	<b>28</b>

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MTL

Cult MTL is a daily arts, film, music, food and city life site. Visit us at

**cultmtl.com**

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# Ale à la framboise



**DISPONIBLE EN MAI**



---

And the city has spoken.

Over the past four months, Montrealers voted for their favourite Montreal things in our annual Best of MTL readers poll.

What a time to be celebrating all things local. Our country and its economy are being threatened by a dictator. We just experienced a simultaneously unifying and polarizing federal election. The Habs are in the playoffs (at least at the time this magazine went to print), but that could soon change. Stressful as hell.

Luckily we live in an incredible city that has so much to offer; it always has your back. No matter what's going on, we can never lose sight of the joie de vivre that makes this place magical.

We like to think that this poll serves as a cheering section, a reminder, a connection to the things that make this city great, and something to celebrate — just as the season shifts from winter to summer.

Here at *Cult MTL*, we're grateful for all our readers and all the voters who took the time to think about everything they love in this city to fill out this poll. As always, it's our mandate to salute the artists, promoters, organizers,

reporters, restaurateurs and retailers who keep Montreal's heart beating.

The Best of MTL poll is open and democratic, with no editorial influence or interference. Ballot-stuffing is automatically weeded out by our survey software, and while we are always glad to see so many people make an event of voting via social media campaigns (and love seeing third-party get-out-the-vote tweets), we remain neutral during the polling period.

*Cult MTL* has been running the Best of MTL readers poll since 2013, but it bears mentioning that the survey follows in the tradition established by the city's defunct but fondly remembered alt-weekly newspaper the *Mirror*. Respect.

Our website [cultmtl.com](http://cultmtl.com) will feature all the individual categories in this poll over the course of the year, showcasing every winner in all the Top 5s.

We thank everyone who voted and promoted the poll. Participation continues to grow every year, making the 2025 results more representative of the city than ever.

To all the winners: congratulations.

We're proud to bring you the Best of MTL.

# People & Places

This year's Best of MTL voting went down while *The White Lotus* season 3 was airing, the Habs were in high drama mode with one of the NHL's youngest teams, Trump started threatening Canada and a federal election got underway. All of these phenomena had a major impact on this section of the poll: Trump's tariffs pop up in both Most Urgent Political/Social Cause and Most Heinous Scandal — a category where the CAQ has not been forgotten as Northvolt and SAAQclic also made the list. That said, with the focus on federal politics, we bent the rules to allow votes for Mark Carney and Pierre Poilievre, who were voted #2 Best Politician and #2 Slimiest Politician, respectively (mirroring the actual election results). In entertainment, new Habs Lane Hutson and Ivan Demidov entered the Best Sports Personality category (at #4 and #5), and *The White Lotus*'s Charlotte Le Bon was voted #2 Hottest Montrealer, ranking right behind Montreal's other famous Charlotte.



Matthieu Delbreuve

"So honoured to represent! I just love this city with all my heart. It is my childhood home. All of my first feelings, fears, hopes and dreams were born here. For me, Montreal is such a muse." —Charlotte Le Bon, #1 Best Actor/Actress, #2 Hottest Montrealer

## Hottest Montrealer

1. Charlotte Cardin
2. Charlotte Le Bon
3. Kayleigh Choiniere
4. Justin Trudeau
5. Eugenie Bouchard

## Best-Dressed Montrealer

1. Kayleigh Choiniere
2. Patrik Laine
3. Sergio Da Silva
4. Sugar Sammy
5. Paul Cargnello

## Cooliest Montreal Company

1. Moment Factory
2. Ubisoft
3. Lightspeed
4. Spooks & Spanks
5. Dime

## Best Sports Personality

1. Cole Caufield
2. Nick Suzuki
3. Marie-Philip Poulin
4. Lane Hutson
5. Ivan Demidov

## Tackiest Personality

1. François Legault
2. Valérie Plante
3. Celine Dion
4. Mado Lamotte
5. Sergio Da Silva

## Best Weirdo

1. Sergio Da Silva
2. Natasha Nebula
3. Nick Brutusgrass Younès
4. Murphy Cooper
5. Yikes Macaroni

## Most Urgent Political/Social Cause

1. Free Palestine
2. Housing crisis
3. Climate change
4. Homelessness
5. Donald Trump/tariffs

## Best Politician

1. Valérie Plante
2. Mark Carney
3. Craig Sauv 
4. Manon Mass 
5. Justin Trudeau

## Slimiest Politician

1. Fran ois Legault
2. Pierre Poilievre
3. Denis Coderre
4. Val rie Plante
5. Justin Trudeau

## Most Heinous Scandal

1. Donald Trump/tariffs
2. Noise police
3. SAAQclic
4. Northvolt
5. Police budget

## Best Park

1. La Fontaine Park
2. Mount Royal Park
3. Jarry Park
4. Laurier Park
5. Girouard Park

## Best Neighbourhood

1. Plateau
2. NDG
3. Verdun
4. Mile End
5. Rosemont-La-Petite-Patrie
6. Saint-Henri
7. Little Italy
8. Villeray
9. Hochelaga
10. Pointe Saint-Charles

## Best Tourist Attraction

1. Old Montreal
2. Mount Royal
3. Biodôme
4. The Ring
5. Saint Joseph's Oratory

## Best Instagram Spot

1. Mount Royal
2. Old Port
3. Gibeau Orange Julep
4. Le Saint Motel
5. Botanical Gardens

## Best Metro Station

1. Lionel-Groulx
2. Mont-Royal
3. Berri-UQAM
4. Vendôme
5. Place des Arts

# Media

While McGill's CKUT took the Best Radio Station crown from CHOM this year, Concordia's CJLO continues to dominate these categories, taking the runner-up spot in the latter category as well as #1 in Best Radio Host and Best Radio Show via Gigi Brown. Right behind Brown in Best Radio Host is Habs specialist Tony Marinaro, who also topped the Best Podcast category and came in at #3 Best Radio Show for *Le Forum* on BPM Sports. Fuck No MTL continues to dominate the Instagram category with their focus on the city's weird and (literally) trashy side. Meanwhile, Tranna Wintour is #1 Best TV Personality (as well as #2 Best Comedian in another section). Finally, *Cult MTL* has to thank our readers for voting us #1 Best Newspaper, #1 Best Magazine, #1 Best Website (over Pornhub, no less) and #1 Best Twitter — no, we don't call it X because fuck that guy.

## Best Radio Station

1. CKUT 90.3 FM
2. CJLO 1690AM
3. CHOM 97.7 FM
4. The Beat 92.5 FM
5. CISM 89.3 FM

## Best Radio Show

1. *The Gigi Brown Experience* (CJLO 1690AM)
2. *Advice by the Fireplace* (CJLO 1690AM)
3. *Le Forum avec Tony Marinaro* (BPM Sports 91.9 FM)



"Ça fait vraiment chaud au cœur de voir que les gens votent pour nous d'année en année. C'est un honneur de faire partie des Best of MTL!" —The crew behind Côté Sombre, #2 Best Podcast

4. *Mornings Rock With Jay and Sharon* (CHOM 97.7 FM)
5. *Dykes on Mykes* (CKUT 90.3 FM)

## Best Radio Host

1. Gigi Brown
2. Tony Marinaro
3. Bilal Butt
4. Daniel Carin
5. Mitch Melnick

## Best Podcast

1. *The Sick Podcast With Tony Marinaro*
2. *Côté Sombre*
3. *Throuples Therapy*
4. *Crime Glacé*
5. *Mike Ward Sous Écoute*

## Best TV Station

1. CBC Montreal
2. CTV
3. RDS
4. Radio-Canada
5. TVA

## Best Newscaster

1. Mutsumi Takahashi
2. Céline Galipeau
3. Patrice Roy
4. Maya Johnson
5. Laura Casella

## Best TV Personality

1. Tranna Wintour
2. Mutsumi Takahashi
3. Tony Marinaro

4. Mona de Grenoble

5. Christine Long

## Best Magazine

1. *Cult MTL*
2. *Elle Québec*
3. *Nouveau Projet*
4. *Scatterbrain Magazine*
5. *24 images*

## Best Newspaper

1. *Cult MTL*
2. *The Gazette*
3. *Le Devoir*
4. *Journal de Montréal*
5. *The Concordian*

# DRIP OR DROWN

**JAI NITAI LOTUS**

mai

**MAY 30 + 31**

dance, music, performance

3680 Jeanne-Mance  
[m-a-i.qc.ca](http://m-a-i.qc.ca)

### Best Website

1. cultmtl.com
2. pornhub.com
3. lapresse.ca
4. reddit.com/r/montreal
5. mtlblog.com

### Best TikTok

1. @emilie.rossignol.arts
2. @grapejuicenads
3. @ohmygion
4. @mtl\_stories
5. @hashthe1

### Best Twitter

1. @CultMTL
2. @TonyMarinaro
3. @ToulasTake
4. @WalkMontreal
1. @FNOMTL

### Best OnlyFans

1. H el ene Boudreau
2. Rainbowslut
3. Lady Katee
4. Malik Delgaty
5. Enshantay

### Best Instagram

1. @fucknomtl
2. @trannawintour
3. @arnaudsoly
4. @plateuaastro
5. @ponto\_mtl



"It is an amazing feeling knowing that people appreciate me and my work. Thank you so much to everyone who voted for me! Merci beaucoup!" —Tony Marinaro, #1 Best Podcast, #2 Best Radio Host, #3 Best Radio Show, #3 Best TV Personality, #3 Best Twitter

# Club Zed

## Playwrights' Festival May 14-17, 2025



[blacktheatreworkshop.ca](http://blacktheatreworkshop.ca)

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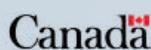
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Women in Theatre  
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**d'bi young anitafrika**  
Saturday May 17, 2025



# Jonathan Personne

Nouveau Monde



# Magi Merlin

A Weird Little  
Dog

# Christian Sean

Hallelujah  
Showers



# Claudia Bouvette

DIARY FOR THE LONELY HEARTS



# Naya Ali



We Did The  
Damn Thing



ARTISTES À  
INTELLIGENCE  
RÉELLE  
*New albums out now*

# Virginie B



Astral 2000

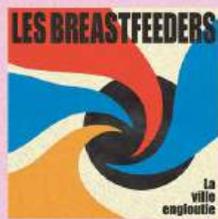
# Lisa LeBlanc



Live avec l'Orchestre  
symphonique de  
Québec



# Les Breastfeeders



La ville engloutie

# Population II

Maintenant  
Jamais



# Bonsound

RODEC Québec

fondsradiostar

Canada

# Nightlife

St-Denis punk hotspot Turbo Haüs dominates both Best Bar and Best Live Music Venue, ending the reign of MTELUS in the latter category, while also scoring two spots for its staff in Best Bartender. One of those bartenders, Sergio Da Silva, is also the venue owner, whose ubiquity on social media and the local news landed him in several categories in the first two sections of this poll as well. Best Club, meanwhile, has a new top dog in the form of downtown supperclub Yoko Luna, but the category is nothing if not diverse, also featuring uptown hipster hangout Système, the bar-side of afterhours mainstay Stereo and, deeper in the Village, old-school alt enclave Cabaret Berlin. In the performance categories, the city's top picks for Best Burlesque remain the same, Sugar Vixen and Tristan Ginger, with the latter also ranking #2 Best Drag Queen or King.



Johanny Jutras

"We're happy to hear that Cult MTL readers voted us the Best Wine Bar! It's very flattering and definitely calls for a good bottle to celebrate. Thank you!" —The team at Vinvinvin, #1 Best Wine Bar

## Best Bartender

1. Kat Anderson (Champs)
2. Victoria Jones (Turbo Haüs)
3. Sergio Da Silva (Turbo Haüs)
4. Lenore Claire Herrem (Star Bar)
5. Gwendolyn Gauthier (Barfly)

## Best Bar

1. Turbo Haüs
2. Star Bar
3. Champs
4. Bar de Courcelle
5. Fougounes Electriques

## Best Sleazy Dive

1. Barfly
2. Bar de Courcelle
3. Champs
4. Turbo Haüs
5. Grumpy's

## Best Wine Bar

1. Vinvinvin
2. Le Plongoir
3. Rouge Gorge
4. Stem Bar
5. Verdun Beach

## Best Club

1. Yoko Luna
2. Stereo
3. Système
4. Cabaret Berlin
5. Datcha

## Best Terrasse

1. Turbo Haüs
2. Terrasse St-Ambroise
3. Messorum Bracitorium
4. Terrasse William Gray
5. Taverne Atlantic

## Best Live Music Venue

1. Turbo Haüs
2. MTELUS
3. La Sala Rossa
4. Théâtre Beanfield
5. Fougounes Electriques

## Best Promoter

1. Blue Skies Turn Black
2. Evenko
3. Extensive Enterprises
4. Rickey D
5. Worst Dad Ever

## Best Strip Club

1. Chez Parée
2. Café Cléopâtre
3. Club Wanda's
4. Cabaret Kingdom
5. Bar Downtown

## Best LGBT Bar/Club

1. Champs
2. Notre Dame des Quilles
3. Unity
4. Cabaret Mado
5. Le Stud

## Best Burlesque Performer

1. Sugar Vixen
2. Tristan Ginger
3. Lou Lou la Duchesse de Rière
4. Foxy Lexxi Brown
5. Joy Rider

## Best Drag Queen or King

1. Rita Baga
2. Tristan Ginger
3. Mado Lamotte
4. Mona de Grenoble
5. Uma Gahd

## Best Bowling Alley

1. Quilles G Plus Rose Bowl
2. Darling Bowling
3. Laurentian Lanes
4. Notre Dame des Quilles
5. Quilles G Plus Le Forum

## Best Comedy Club

1. Comedy Nest
2. Le Bordel Comédie Club
3. Montreal Improv
4. Le Terminal
5. Brass Door Pub

## Best Comedy Night

1. The Poly Mic
2. Double's Comedy Club
3. Laval's Got Jokes
4. Comedy on Mackay
5. The World's Smallest Comedy Night

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FAGOF COLOUR · GUTHRIE · HNZ · JUMP SOURCE · MATRIXMAN <sup>(US)</sup>  
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QUAN (LIVE) · RICO RICA · RIG THRALL · SORATORA · XIUMEI  
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### Best Karaoke Bar

1. Pang Pang Karaoke
2. Le Date Karaoke
3. Bocadillo
4. La Normandie
5. Notre Dame des Quilles

### Best Drug

1. Cannabis
2. MDMA
3. Mushrooms
4. Cocaine
5. Ketamine

### Best Cocktail Bar

1. Atwater Cocktail Club
2. Cloakroom
3. Le Mal Nécessaire
4. Milky Way
5. The Coldroom



*"This is so much fun! A big thank you to all my fellow Montrealers. Auntie Mona is truly honoured to be thought of. Cheers!" —Mona de Grenoble, #4 Best Drag King or Queen, #4 Best TV Personality*

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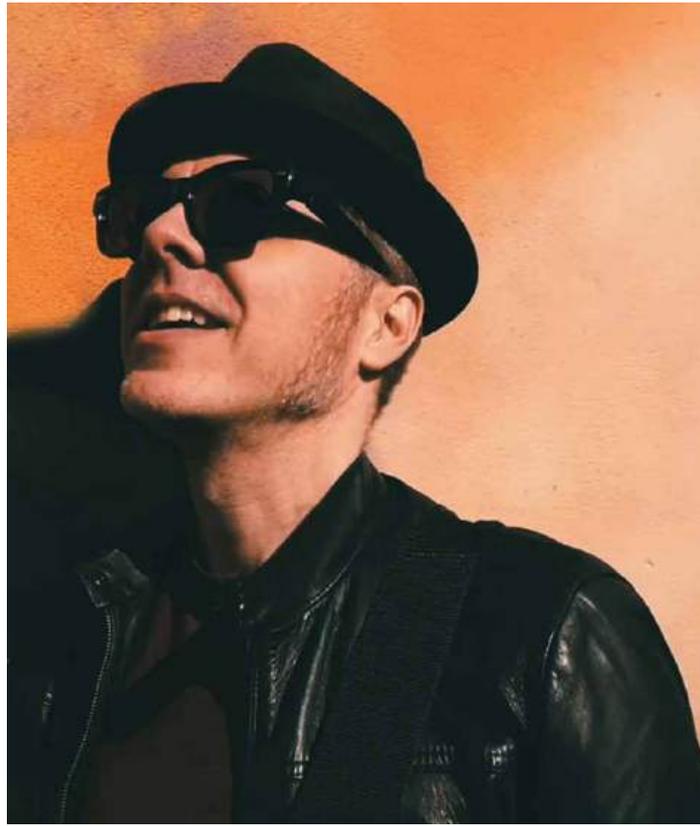
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# Music

Montreal rock band the Damn Truth maintain the rule they've had over the Best Band category since the spot was vacated by Arcade Fire, who are completely absent from the category this year — but remain #1 Most Pretentious Act. Backwash rises to the top of the Best Hip Hop Act and Freakiest Act categories, while Paul Cargnello makes strides in the Best Singer-songwriter category (at #2) and, with his band the Truth, to #5 Best Band. The Ferias crew make a splash at #1 in the Best Club DJ category, which is filled out by Debbie Tebbs (also a producer and singer), Champs regulars Gwine Stefani and Mint Simon and Blaster, the official DJ for the Montreal Alliance. Among newcomers to this section are Population II and la Sécurité (Best Band #3 and #4), Priori (Best Electronic Act #3) and Bobby Gibson and the Winter Wail (Best Country/Folk Act #3).



Nik Brovkin

"It's crazy. The first time I ever made the Top 5 singer-songwriters was during the Mirror days, back in '04. I reached #3. Over 20 years later, I'm still climbing that ladder. I'm really touched that after all these years, Montrealers are still voting for me. Thank you very much, Montréal comrades, I appreciate you!" —Paul Cargnello, #2 Best Singer-songwriter, #5 Best Band

## Heaviest Act

1. Cell Press
2. Mountain Dust
3. Backwash
4. Cryptopsy
5. Dead Velvet

## Best Hip Hop Act

1. Backwash
2. BeRosey
3. Mike Shabb
4. Loud
5. Naya Ali

## Best Club DJ

1. Ferias
2. Gwine Stefani
3. Mint Simon
4. Debbie Tebbs
5. Blaster

## Best Electronic Act

1. Kaytranada
2. Marie Davidson
3. Jacques Greene
4. Priori
5. CRi

## Best Country/ Folk Act

1. Li'l Andy
2. Ben Vallee
3. Bobby Gibson and the Winter Wail
4. Katie Moore
5. Bud Rice

## Best Jazz Act

1. Dominique Fils-Aimé
2. Colin Stetson
3. Dave Gossage Septet
4. Tevet Sela
5. Dawn Tyler Watson

## Best Singer-songwriter

1. Charlotte Cardin
2. Paul Cargnello
3. Patrick Watson
4. Avery Jane
5. Chrbl

## Best Label

1. On A Roll
2. Stomp
3. Bonsound
4. Constellation
5. Secret City

## Best Band

1. The Damn Truth
2. Half Moon Run
3. Population II
4. La Sécurité
5. Paul Cargnello & the Truth

## Freakiest Act

1. Backwash
2. Klô Pelgag
3. Screaming Demons
4. Typeface
5. PYPY

## Most Pretentious Act

1. Arcade Fire
2. Godspeed You! Black Emperor
3. Charlotte Cardin
4. Bud Rice
5. Dresser



"Thank you so much to Montreal for voting for me again. I have great love for this city and I always will. Appreciate everyone else who was voted for on these lists — this city has a vibrant scene and many talented people." —Backwash, #1 Best Hip Hop Act, #1 Freakiest Act, #3 Heaviest Act

PAUL CARGNELLO ★

COMBAT BLUES

COMBAT BLUES



★ PAUL CARGNELLO

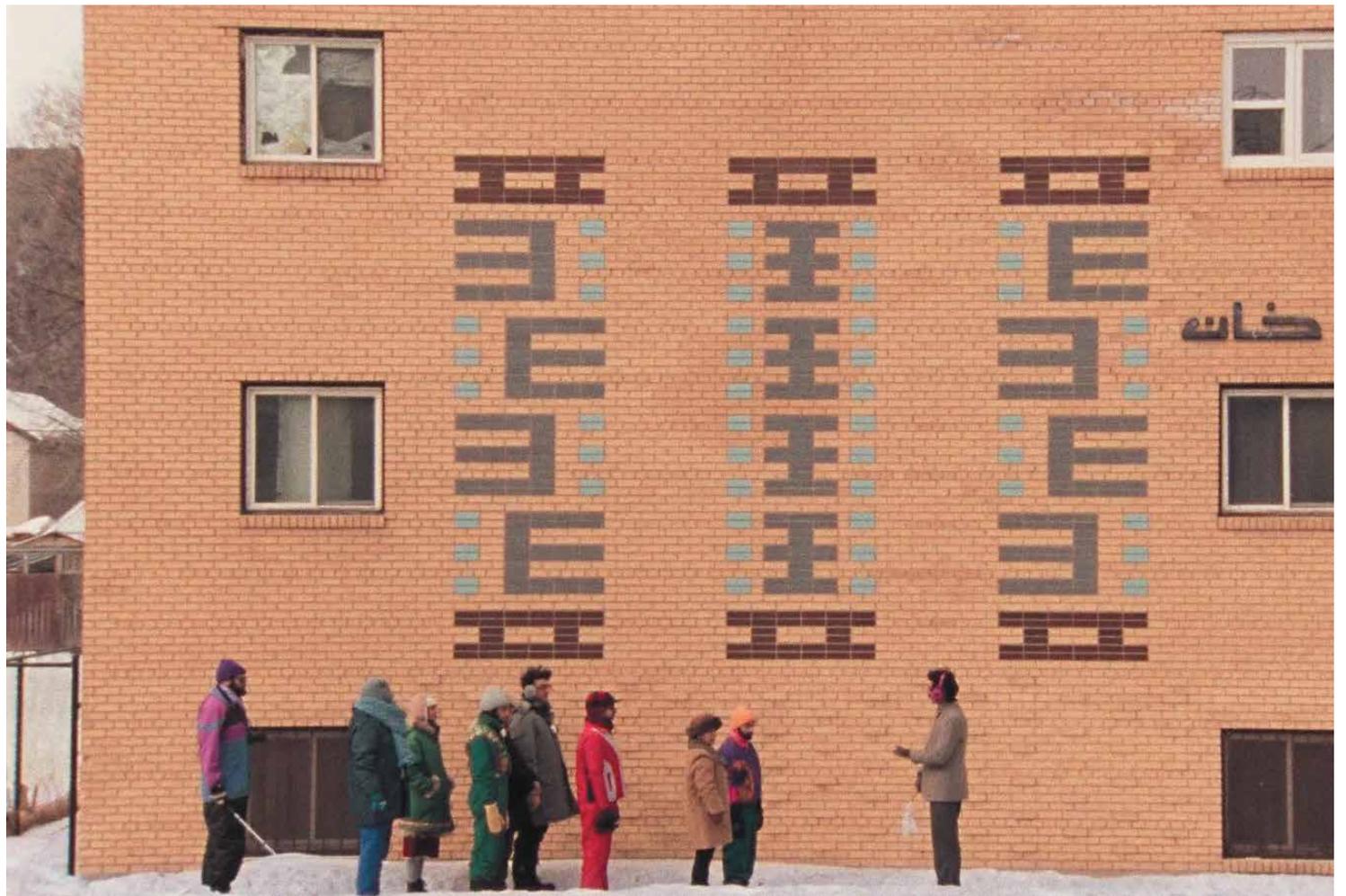
Montreal's most prolific singer-songwriter  
20th ALBUM! Available now

- 03/5/25 SAINT-CASIMIR dj set
- 28/5/25 TROIS-RIVIÈRES w/ Marco Calliari
- 29/5/25 SHERBROOKE w/ Marco Calliari
- 30/5/25 MONTRÉAL w/ Marco Calliari
- 31/5/25 QUÉBEC w/ Marco Calliari
- 05/6/25 LAVALTRIE w/ Marco Calliari
- 13/6/25 GATINEAU w/ Marco Calliari
- 14/6/25 MONTREAL FRINGE Free, outdoor w/ Jonathan Emile



# Film & Arts

On the strength of his critical and arthouse hit *Universal Language* (set in an alternate reality, in both Quebec and Winnipeg), it's no surprise that Montreal-based director Matthew Rankin entered the Best Filmmaker category for the first time at #2, and that the film easily made #1 Best Local Film of 2024–2025. (Additional props to #4 in that category, the coming of age dark comedy *Vampire Humaniste Cherche Suicidaire Consentant*.) Also new to this section are local *White Lotus* actress Charlotte Le Bon (#1 Best Actor/Actress), stand-up comic and event organizer Raquel Maestre (#3 Best Comedian), graphic novelist Elise Gravel (#4 Best Cartoonist/Comic Artist), painter Dan Climan (Best Visual Artist #3), who's also known in the food scene for beautifying restaurants, and inclusive-apparel specialist Becca Love (#5 Best Fashion Designer). And special congrats to #5 Best Gallery S16, whose founder Whatisadam designed the beautiful cover of this issue.



"My feelings of québecitude have shot up exponentially with this sweet, emboldening news. Our movie was made by a great big family of loved ones — most of us having grown up elsewhere and found our home and each other here in Montreal — and we are so thrilled and moved to see our movie connect with our beloved hometown." —Matthew Rankin, #2 Best Filmmaker, #1 Best Local Film of 2024–2025 (*Universal Language*)

## Best Actor/Actress

1. Charlotte Le Bon
2. Jay Baruchel
3. Sophie Nélisse
4. Anne Dorval
5. Juliette Gariépy

## Best Filmmaker

1. Denis Villeneuve
2. Matthew Rankin
3. Xavier Dolan
4. Monia Chokri
5. Adam Reider

## Best Local Film of 2024–2025

1. *Universal Language*
2. *Le Chambres Rouges*
3. *Simple Comme Sylvain*
4. *Vampire Humaniste Cherche Suicidaire Consentants*
5. *Gender Reveal*

## Best Theatre Company

1. Centaur Theatre
2. Segal Centre
3. Geordie
4. Mainline
5. Black Theatre Workshop

## Best Local Play of 2024–2025

1. *Moi, Jeanne*
2. *POTUS*
3. *Pub Royal*
4. *Scorpion Moon*
5. *Titanique*

## Best Dance Company

1. Les Grands Ballets Canadiens
2. Danse Danse
3. Compagnie Marie Chouinard
4. Agora de la Danse
5. Louise Lapierre Danse

## Best Museum

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

## Best Gallery

1. PHI Centre
2. Pangée
3. BBAM! Gallery
4. Arsenal Contemporary Art
5. S16

## Best Multidisciplinary (Visual/Performing) Art Space

1. PHI Centre
2. MAI
3. Société des Arts Technologiques
4. Usine C
5. Arsenal Contemporary Art

## Best Living Author

1. Heather O'Neill
2. Mona Awad
3. Saleema Nawaz
4. Kevin Lambert 7
5. Patrick Sénécal

## Best Visual Artist

1. Kezna Dalz
2. Pony
3. Dan Climan
4. John Drew Munro
5. Junko

## Best Photographer

1. Jean-François Savaria
2. AJ Korkidakis
3. Richmond Lam
4. Susan Moss
5. Marisa Parisella

## Best Cartoonist/Comic Artist

1. Aislin
2. Walter Scott
3. Jonathan Burrello
4. Elise Gravel
5. Gabrielle Drolet

## Best Comedian

1. Sugar Sammy
2. Tranna Wintour
3. Raquel Maestre
4. Mike Ward
5. Arnaud Soly

*Espaces oscillants* explore le glacier du Rhône, situé en Suisse, comme étude de cas pour réfléchir au rôle de l'architecture face à un climat changeant et un paysage instable.

25.4-  
26.10  
2025

Oscillating  
Spaces

Espaces  
oscillants

CCA

Image tirée d'un film d'Aufdi Aufdermauer du col de la Furka et de l'hôtel Furkablick depuis un hélicoptère en hiver (1989), sélectionnée par Anneke Abhelakh © Aufdi Aufdermauer

[cca.qc.ca](http://cca.qc.ca)

**Best Video Game Company**

1. Ubisoft
2. WB Games
3. Behaviour Interactive
4. Compulsion Games
5. Electronic Arts

**Best Graffiti Artist/Crew**

1. Stikki Peaches
2. MissMe
3. MakeNoize
4. Zonek
5. K6A

**Best Fashion Designer**

1. Katrin Leblond
2. Denis Gagnon
3. Eliza Faulkner
4. Lucas Stowe
5. Becca Love

**Best Festival**

1. Jazz Festival
2. Osheaga
3. POP Montreal
4. Fantasia Festival
5. Fringe Festival



Sandra Larochelle

"A heartfelt thank you to the Montreal community! This recognition reinforces our mission to create bold artistic experiences that connect audiences to the world — and to themselves."  
—Myriam Achard, Chief, New Media Partnerships and PR at PHI Centre, #1 Best Gallery, #1 Best Multidisciplinary (Visual/Performing) Art Space

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Solo Piano & Vocals

Tuesdays

**Jazz Nécessaire**

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Jazz

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The Forbidden Fruitcups

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# Goods & Services

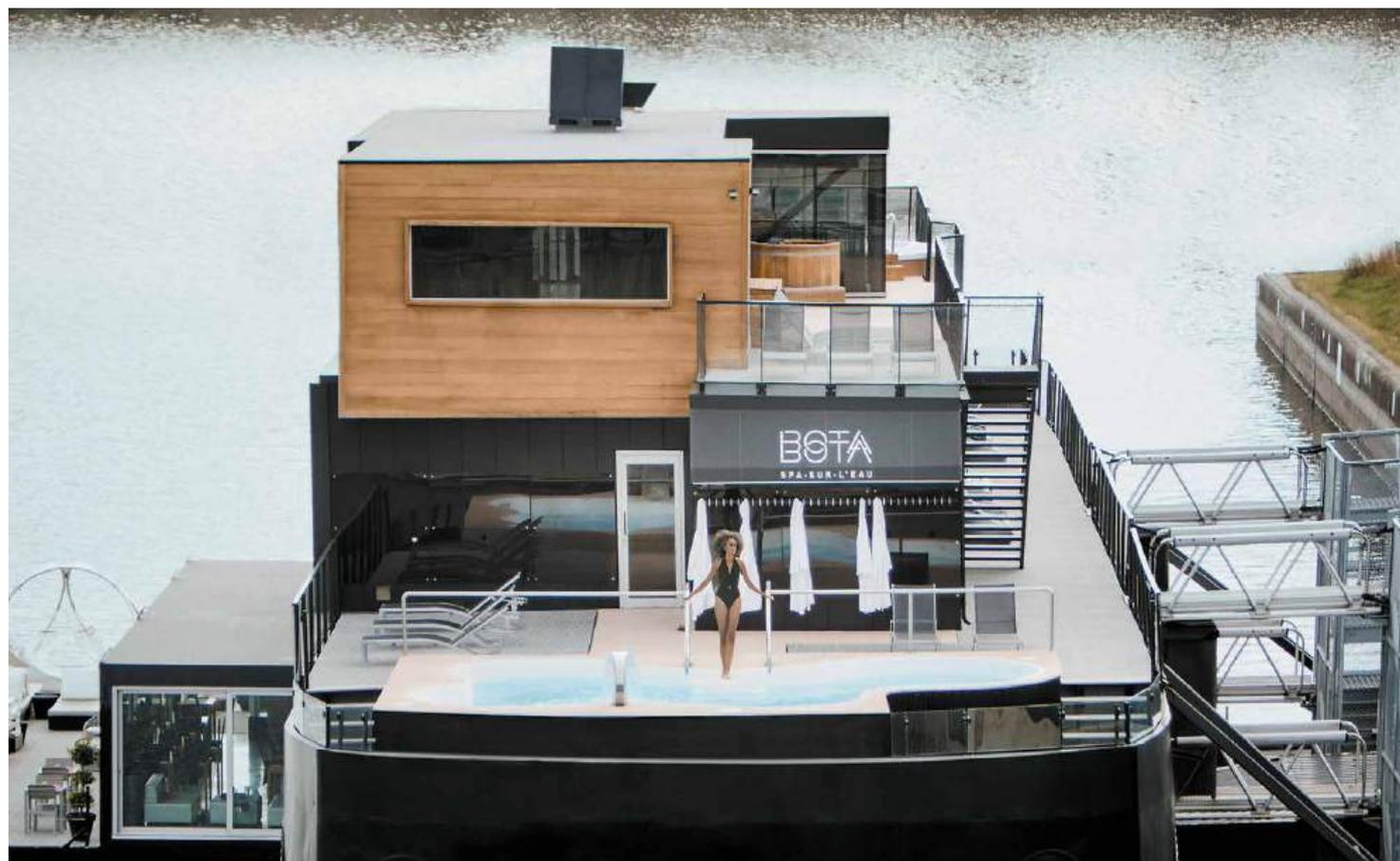
Brick and mortar shopping has hopefully been seeing an uptick in Montreal over the past few months as Quebecers boycott Amazon and most things American. That hasn't necessarily translated to lots of new businesses in this section, but hopefully some of these Best of MTL mainstays have seen an increase in traffic. Aux 33 Tours, Cheap Thrills, Librairie Drawn & Quarterly, Jeans Jeans Jeans, Boutique Eva B, Dragon Flowers and so many more shops you see here have been staples of this list since we started it 13 years ago, and in some cases even further back when the *Mirror* ran this poll. Now more than ever is the time to support local retailers, as well as the other types of businesses in this section. Trump's asinine tariff scheme will affect everyone one way or another, but community spirit can go a long way to boost this city's economy.

## Best Clothing Store (New)

1. Uniqlo
2. Simons
3. Zara
4. SSENSE
5. Jeans Jeans Jeans

## Best Vintage Clothing Store

1. Boutique Eva B
2. Renaissance
3. Kitsch'n Swell
4. Empire Exchange
5. Annex Vintage



"Bota Bota is delighted to have won the Best Spa category in the Best of MTL readers poll this year. For nearly 15 years, we've been striving to offer Montrealers and tourists alike a grounding and calming atmosphere. Harmony, well-being and excellence are at the core of everything we do." —Constance Carpanèse, Artistic Director at Bota Bota, #1 Best Spa #2 Best Facial Treatments, #2 Best Massage Spot

## Best Hair Salon

1. Salon Helmet
2. Two Horses
3. Danny's Coiffure Unisex
4. Salon Freyja
5. Apart Studio

## Best Barbershop

1. La Section
2. Blue Dog Barbershop
3. Salon Helmet
4. Queen of the World
5. Maverick Barbier

## Best Tattoo Parlour

1. DFA Tattoos
2. Saving Grace Tattoo
3. Adrenaline
4. Imago Tattoo Studio
5. Coup d'État

## Best Tattoo Artist

1. Angus Byers (DFA Tattoos)
2. Alex K'eh (Saving Grace Tattoo)
3. Aimee Boucher (Morning Gory Tattoo, DFA Tattoos)
4. Eric Martinello (Adrenaline)
5. Nat Jean (Coup d'État)

## Best New CD/Vinyl Store

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

## Best Used CD/Vinyl Store

1. Cheap Thrills
2. Death of Vinyl
3. Encore Books and Records
4. Le Vacarme
5. Aux 33 Tours

## Best Musical Instrument Store

1. Steve's Music
2. Jimi Music Store
3. Diplomate Musique
4. Long & McQuade
5. Moog Audio

## Best Internet Service Provider

1. Fizz
2. Vidéotron
3. Bell
4. EBox
5. Virgin Plus

## Best Electronics Store

1. Best Buy
2. Addison Électronique
3. The Source
4. Radio St-Hubert
5. Audio Centre Ouest

## Best Movie Theatre

1. Cinéma du Parc
2. Cinéma Cineplex Forum & VIP
3. Cinéma Moderne
4. Cinéma Beaubien
5. Cinéma Banque Scotia Montréal

## Best Bicycle Shop

1. 514 BMX
2. La Bicycletterie JR
3. C&L Cycle
4. BicyclesMcW
5. Lurlu Coop

## Best Skating Rink

1. Esplanade Tranquille
2. Beaver Lake
3. Atrium le 1000
4. Parc La Fontaine
5. Old Port Skating Rink (RIP)

Rodrigo Alvarez-Donllo, Bailey Erg, Sage Faye-Diazola, Myssa Favero, Stephanie Fromentin, Justin Givoni, Meco Jean-Pierre, Maude Laurin-Bouillon, © Do Phan Ha

# AGORA DE LA DANSE

# TOUT S'EFFONDRE

Helen Simard

Créations Interdisciplinaires We All Fall Down

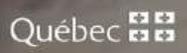
May 7-8-9, 2025 – 7 P.M.

May 10, 2025 – 4 P.M.



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"We're so grateful to be recognized by the community and to be voted one of this city's favourite bookstores. We do what we do because of our love for Montreal and the community here and this accomplishment makes us feel so proud of how Pulp continues to grow and inspire." — Librairie Pulp Books & Café, #2 Best Bookstore (New)

### Best Bookstore (New)

1. Librairie Drawn & Quarterly
2. Librairie Pulp Books & Café
3. Indigo Books & Music
4. Librairie Saint-Henri Books
5. Livres Babar Books

### Best Bookstore (Used)

1. Encore Books and Records
2. The Word
3. Phoenix Books
4. Cheap Thrills
5. Librairie l'Échange

### Best Comics Store

1. Crossover Comics
2. Capitaine Québec
3. Librairie Drawn & Quarterly
4. Librairie Planète BD
5. Comic Hunter

### Best Drug Paraphernalia Store

1. Prohibition
2. Psychonaut
3. Utopia
4. Boutique Bongia
5. Boutique Rock

### Best Fitness Club/ Gym

1. Éconofitness
2. YMCA
3. Anytime Fitness
4. Orange Theory
5. Nautilus Plus

### Best Yoga Studio

1. Idolem Hot Yoga Chaud
2. Fyra Yoga (FKA Modo Yoga)
3. Ashtanga Yoga Montreal
4. ensō yoga
5. Mouvement imparfait

### Best Spa

1. Bota Bota, spa-sur-l'eau
2. Strøm Nordic Spa
3. Spa Le Finlandais
4. Scandinave Spa
5. Spa St. James

### Best Facial Treatments

1. Cara Cara Studio
2. Bota Bota, spa-sur-l'eau
3. Elle & Jane
4. Spa St. James
5. Peau'ésie

### Best Nail Salon

1. Studio Lak
2. Salon Vong

3. Candy Nail Bar
4. Ongles Chery Ongles
5. My lil nailz fantasy

### Best Massage Spot

1. Tan Jai
2. Bota Bota, spa-sur-l'eau
3. Spa St. James
4. Espace Nomad
5. Spa Diva

### Best Hotel

1. The Ritz-Carlton, Montreal
2. Four Seasons Hotel Montreal
3. Hotel William Gray
4. Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth
5. The W Hotel

### Best Kitsch/ Antique Store

1. Marché Underground
2. Notre-Dame-du-Vintage
3. Kitsch n' Swell
4. Marché aux Puces St-Michel
5. The Little Shop

### Best Jewellery

1. Inchoo Bijoux
2. Maison Birks
3. Tiffany & Co.
4. Ruby Mardi
5. Château d'Ivoire

### Best Florist

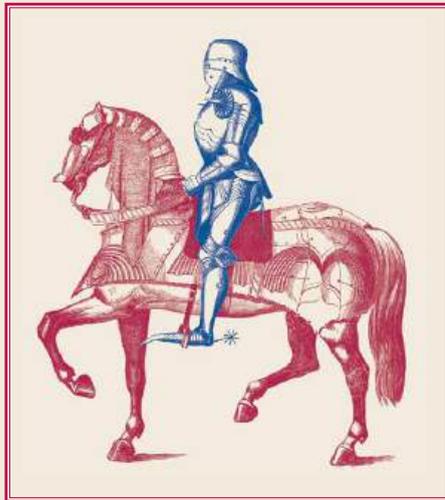
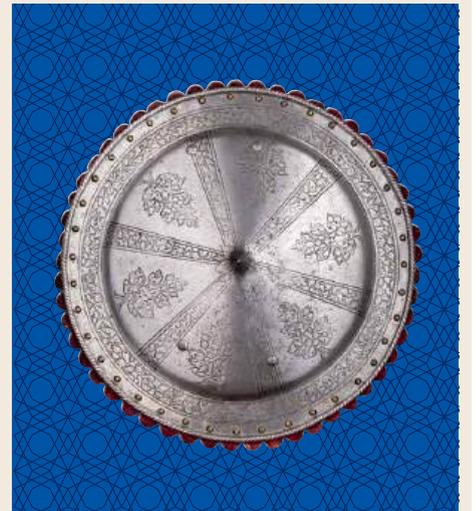
1. Dragon Flowers
2. Westmount Florist
3. Fleuriste Monarque
4. Art et Fleurs
5. Fleuriste Pourquoi Pas Fleurs

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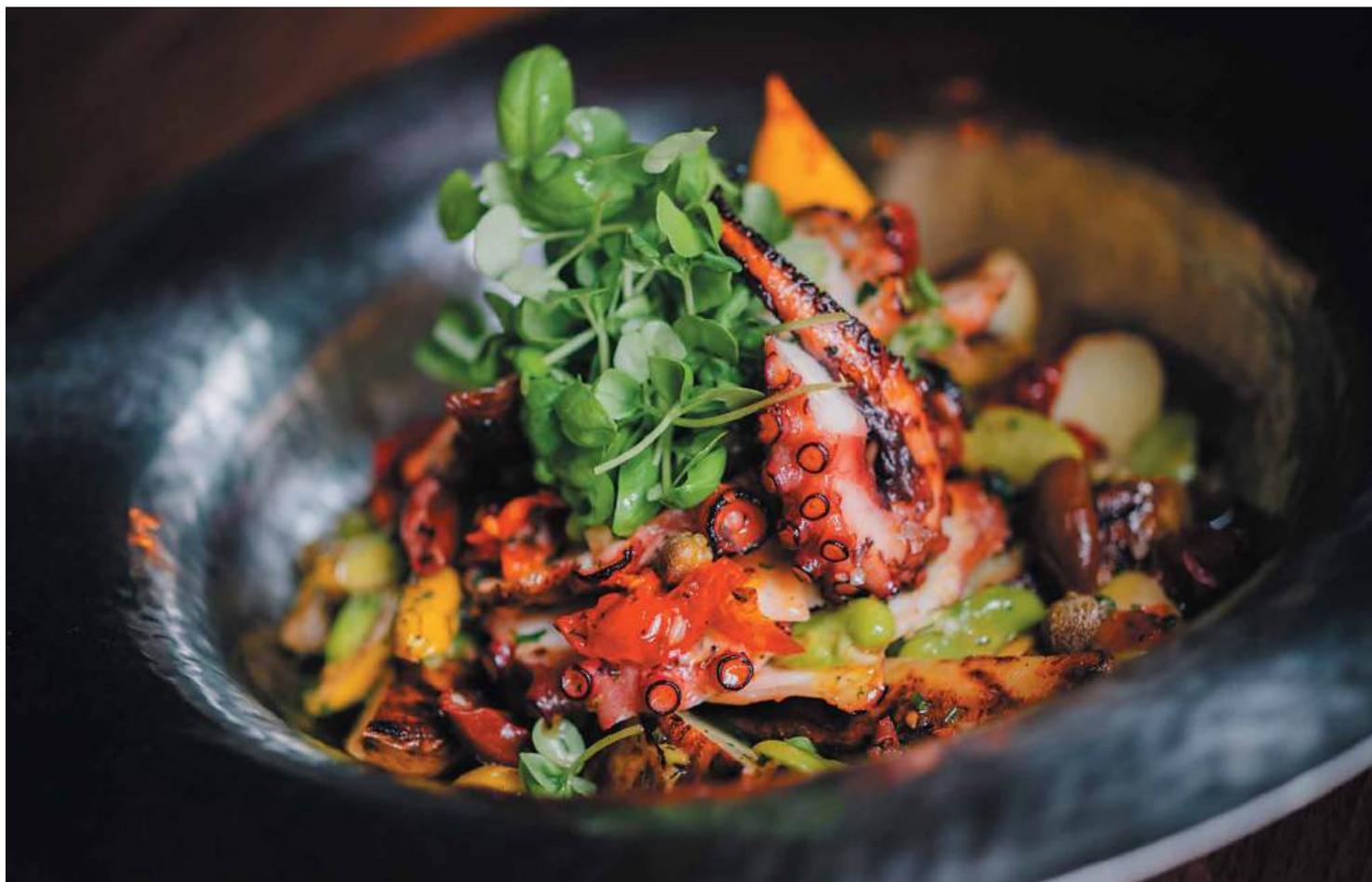
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# Food & Drink

As you'll see in his annual poll critique Resto Wrongs at cultmtl.com, our Food Editor Clay Sandhu was pleasantly surprised by a lot of what he saw in this year's Food & Drink results. Montreal's restaurant scene is more vibrant than ever, and with Michelin Stars coming this month, there's a lot of excitement in the air — at least among the upper scale eateries and their fans. But this city is renowned for fabulous mom & pop places, too, like the upbeat NDG Filipino restaurant Buboy (#5 Restaurant With the Best Vibe), Saint-Henri's famous Greenspot (#2 Best Breakfast/Brunch), Mile End's new Ukrainian pierogi joint Perogie Lili (#4 Best Eastern European Restaurant), Laval's Greek go-to Christina's (#4 Best Greek Restaurant), El Salvadoran staple la Carreta (#5 Best Latin American Restaurant), Plateau Portuguese mainstay Chez Doval (#5 Best Portuguese Restaurant) and so many more. Bon appetit, Montreal!



"To be recognized by Cult MTL readers in not just one, but three categories is truly wonderful. It reflects the passion and dedication of our entire team, from the kitchen to the front of house. We are deeply grateful for the incredible support from our Montreal community!" —Michael Vesia, Marketing Manager, Content Creator at Damas, #1 Best Middle Eastern Restaurant, #2 Best Fine Dining, #4 Most Beautiful Restaurant

## Best Chef

1. Danny Smiles
2. Massimo Piedimonte
3. Harrison Shewchuk
4. Chuck Hughes
5. Emma Cardarelli

## Best New Restaurant

1. Le Violon
2. Limbo
3. Pasta Pooks
4. Rôtisserie La Lune
5. La Spada

## Best New Food Trend

1. Smash burgers
2. Gnocchi
3. Dubai chocolate
4. Ramen
1. Onigiri

## Best Pub Grub

1. Burgundy Lion
2. Double's
3. McKibbin's Irish Pub
4. Ye Olde Orchard
5. Bishop & Bagg

## Best Fine Dining

1. Mon Lapin
2. Damas
3. Estiatorio Milos
4. Monarque
5. Cabaret l'Enfer

## Best Afternoon Tea

1. The Ritz-Carlton, Montreal
2. Cardinal Tea Room
3. Paparmane
4. Gryphon d'Or
5. Burgundy Lion

## Most Beautiful Restaurant

1. Le Violon
2. Maison Boulud
3. Monarque
4. Damas
5. Île-de-France

## Best Hotel Bar or Restaurant

1. Bar George
2. Marcus
3. Maison Boulud
4. Tbsp.
5. Terrasse William Gray

## Best Late-Night Eats

1. La Banquise
2. L'Express
3. Boustan
4. Patati Patata
5. Double's

## Best Meal Kit Company

1. Goodfood
2. HelloFresh
3. Factor
4. Lufa Farms
5. Cook It

## Restaurant With the Best Vibe

1. Taverne on the Square
2. Satay Brothers
3. Resto-Bar le Pick-Up
4. Bocado
5. Buboy

## Best Cheap Eats

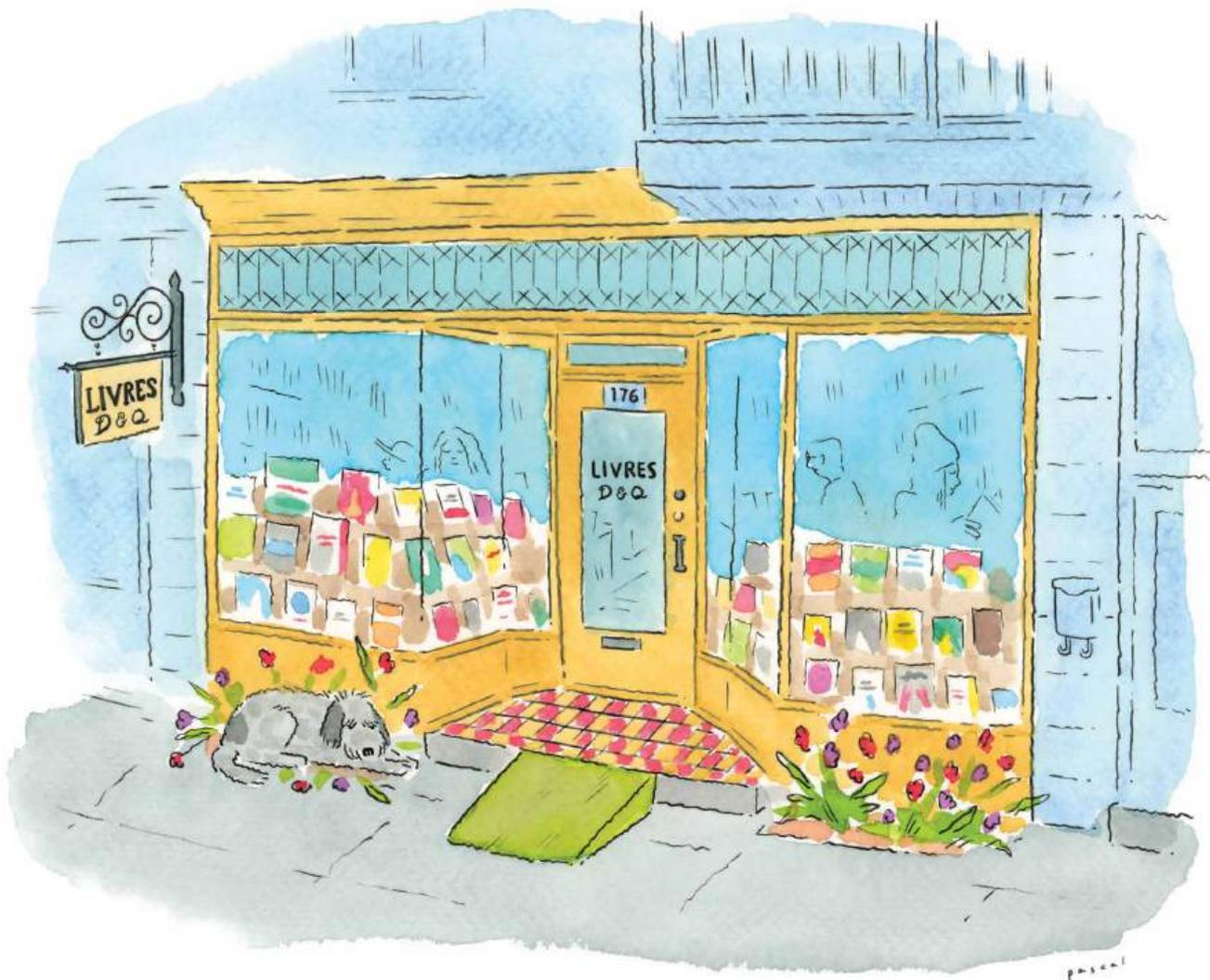
1. Patati Patata
2. Bocado
3. Boustan
4. Dépanneur le Pick-Up
5. La Belle Province

## Best Breakfast / Brunch

1. Arthur's Nosh Bar
2. Greenspot
3. Le Vieux Vélo
4. L'Avenue
5. Cosmos

## Best African Restaurant

1. Le Nil Bleu
2. Queen Sheba
3. East Africa
4. Le Virunga
5. La Khaima



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### Best Caribbean Restaurant

1. Lloydie's
2. Boom J's Cuisine
3. Caribbean Food Factory
4. Tropical Paradise
5. Pikliz

### Best French Restaurant

1. L'Express
2. Leméac
3. Maison Boulud
4. Monarque
5. Casavant

### Best Italian Restaurant

1. Mano Cornuto
2. Moccione
3. Bottega
4. Pasta Casareccia
5. Nora Gray

### Best Latin American Restaurant

1. Bocadillo
2. El Chalateco
3. Arepera du Plateau
4. Sabor Latino
5. La Carreta

### Best Portuguese Restaurant

1. Ma Poule Mouillée
2. Casa Minhota
3. Viana
4. Romados
5. Chez Doval

### Best Chinese Restaurant

1. Dobe & Andy
2. Mon Nan
3. Beijing
4. Aunt Dai
5. Hong Mere

### Best Greek Restaurant

1. Estiatorio Milos
2. Marathon Souvlaki
3. Marvens
4. Christina's
5. Greektown Grill

### Best Japanese Restaurant

1. Kazu
2. Fleurs et Cadeaux
3. Kitano Shokudo
4. Jun I
5. Bar Otto

### Best Mexican Restaurant

1. Tacos Frida
2. El Rey del Taco
3. 3 Amigos
4. La Toxica
5. Escondite

### Best Spanish Restaurant

1. Ibéricos
2. Tapeo
3. Mesón
4. Club Espagnol de Québec
5. Bar Vivar

### Best Eastern European Restaurant

1. Stash Café
2. Euro Deli Batory
3. Nevski
4. Perogie Lili
5. Ermitage

### Best Indian Restaurant

1. Bombay Mahal
2. India Rosa
3. Palais d'Ajit
4. Le Super Qualité
5. Classic India

### Best Korean Restaurant

1. Chez Bong
2. Daldongnae
3. Luna
4. Mon Ami
5. Sam Cha

### Best Middle Eastern Restaurant

1. Damas
2. Sumac
3. Boustan
4. KazaMaza
5. Le Petit Alep

### Best Thai Restaurant

1. Pumpui
2. Pichai
3. Pick Thai
4. Pamika
5. Thaïlande

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"I feel so blessed to be from this city and to be able to open in such an amazing space and area. I've given a lot to Montreal over the years, and it's really meaningful to be getting so much back." —Harrison Shewchuk, #3 Best Chef, #2 Best New Restaurant (Limbo)

### **Best Vietnamese Restaurant**

1. Pho Tay Ho
2. Pho Bang New York
3. Pho Lien
4. Pho Nguyen
5. Ho Guom

### **Best Bagel**

1. St. Viateur
2. Fairmount
3. Bagel St-Lo
4. MTL Bagel
5. R.E.A.L. Bagel

### **Best Burger**

1. Uniburger
2. Mange Dans Mon Hood
3. Notre-Boeuf-de-Grâce
4. Double's
5. Patty Slaps

### **Best Chicken Wings**

1. Buffalo Bill's
2. La Cage
3. Cunninghams Pub
4. Hooters
5. Ye Olde Orchard

### **Best Dim Sum**

1. Kam Fung
2. Imperial
3. Kim Fung
4. Ruby Rouge
5. Tong Por

### **Best Donut**

1. Bernie Beigne
2. Homer's Donuts
3. Beigne Habitude
4. Léché Desserts
5. La Beignerie

### **Best Dumplings**

1. Sammi & Soupe Dumpling
2. La Maison de Mademoiselle Dumpling
3. Qing Hua Dumpling
4. Harbin Dumpling
5. Petit Poisson

### **Best Falafel**

1. Falafel Yoni
2. Falafel St. Jacques
3. Boustan
4. Nilufar
5. Dunya

### **Best Fast Food**

1. A&W
2. McDonald's
3. Boustan
4. Poulet Rouge
5. La Belle Province

### **Best Fish & Chips**

1. Brit & Chips
2. Burgundy Lion
3. Ye Olde Orchard
4. O Fish
5. McKibbin's Irish Pub

### **Best Fried Chicken**

1. Jack le Coq
2. Roch le Coq
3. Dawa
4. Olivia's Authentic Chicken
5. Comon

### **Best Fries**

1. Frites Alors
2. McDonald's
3. Restaurants Lafleur
4. La Belle Province
5. Resto-Bar Le Pick-Up

### **Best Hot Dog**

1. Montreal Pool Room
2. Restaurants Lafleur
3. La Belle Province
4. Décarie Hot Dog
5. Chez Ma Tante

### **Best Mac and Cheese**

1. Nouveau Palais
2. Burgundy Lion
3. Taverne on the Square
4. Jukebox Burgers
5. Seasoned Dreams

### **Best Montreal Beer**

1. Messorum Bracitorium
2. St-Ambroise
3. Dieu du Clef
4. 4 Origines
5. WILLS

### **Best Pad Thai**

1. Pumpui
2. Pick Thai
3. Pamika
4. Co Ut
5. Thai Express

### **Best Pho**

1. Pho Tay Ho
2. Pho Bang New York
3. Pho Lien
4. Pho Bac 97
5. Pho Nguyen



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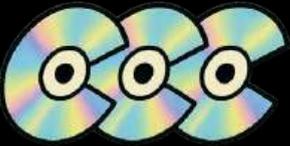


<input type="checkbox"/>	SPAM I HOPE THIS eMail FINDS YOU 🤖	16:19
<input type="checkbox"/>	RANSOMWARE FILES CRYING 🗑️🔒 must pay 📎	09:30
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCAM NEW CRYPTO GO UP 💎🚀	06:01
<input type="checkbox"/>	COAL-POWERED AI SLOP this is fine 🗑️🔥🗑️	Every day since 2022



<input type="checkbox"/>	An email chain you care about RE: a genuine connection	16:20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your favorite newsletter 94% of cybercrime comes from email	09:30
<input type="checkbox"/>	A legitimate business Receipt attached 📎	08:45
<input type="checkbox"/>	An old friend I'm so glad we use CCC email filters ❤️	Yesterday

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**The LYRIC THEATRE Singers** 35 ANS years

A 35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

# TIMELESS BROADWAY!

**JUNE 5 to 7, 2025**

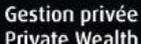
[thelyrictheatre.ca](https://thelyrictheatre.ca) • 514 743-3382

The Lyric Theatre Singers invite you to an unforgettable anniversary event honouring 35 incredible years of music, memories, and community!

**CONCORDIA THEATRE** (Formerly D.B. Clarke Theatre)  
 Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve W. Blvd | 📍 Guy-Concordia






### Best Pizza

1. Pizza Bouquet
2. Pizza Toni
3. Pizzéria No. 900
4. San Gennaro
5. Fugazzi

### Best Ramen

1. Yokato Yokabai
2. Kinton Ramen
3. Tsukuyomi Ramen
4. Umami Ramen & Izakaya
5. Sansotei Ramen

### Best Salad

1. Mandy's
2. Aux Vivres
3. Spirulina
4. Olive + Gourmando
5. Falafel St. Jacques

### Best Shish Taouk/ Shawarma

1. Boustan
2. Amir
3. Shawarmaz
4. Basha
5. Sumac

### Best Sushi

1. Momo
2. Jun I
3. Park
4. Boîte Geisha
5. K2 Bistro

### Best Poké

1. Poke Monster
2. Olu Olu
3. Le Poké Station
4. Ahi Poké
5. Boîte Geisha

### Best Ribs

1. Bâton Rouge
2. Le Boucan
3. Diablos BBQ
4. The Keg
5. St-Hubert

### Best Sandwich

1. Bossa
2. Capitaine Sandwich
3. Bocado
4. Clarke Café
5. Kahwa Café

### Best Smoked Meat

1. Schwartz's Deli
2. Smoke Meat Pete
3. Lester's Deli
4. Dunn's Famous
5. Snowdon Deli

### Best Taco

1. Tacos Frida
2. La Capital Tacos
3. Tacos Victor
4. El Rey del Taco
5. La Toxica

### Best Poutine

1. La Banquise
2. Ma Poule Mouillée
3. Patati Patata
4. La Belle Province
5. Poutineville

### Best Rotisserie Chicken

1. Chalet Bar-B-Q
2. Rôtisserie La Lune
3. Ma Poule Mouillée
4. Romados
5. Côte-St-Luc BBQ

### Best Seafood

1. La Sirène de la Mer
2. Estiatorio Milos
3. Lucille's Oyster Dive
4. Seau de crabe
5. Rayan

### Best Steak

1. Moishes
2. Gibbys
3. The Keg
4. 40 West
5. Etc.

### Best Vegetarian/ Vegan

1. Aux Vivres
2. Momo
3. Chu Chai
4. Lola Rosa
5. Falafel St. Jacques

Visual by Rachel Samson

LES SOMMETS DU CINÉMA D'ANIMATION DE MONTRÉAL

[sommetsanimation.com](http://sommetsanimation.com)

# MYRIADE



café myriade - mille carré doré  
1432 rue mackay

café myriade - le plateau  
4627 rue saint-denis

café myriade - westmount  
347 av. victoria

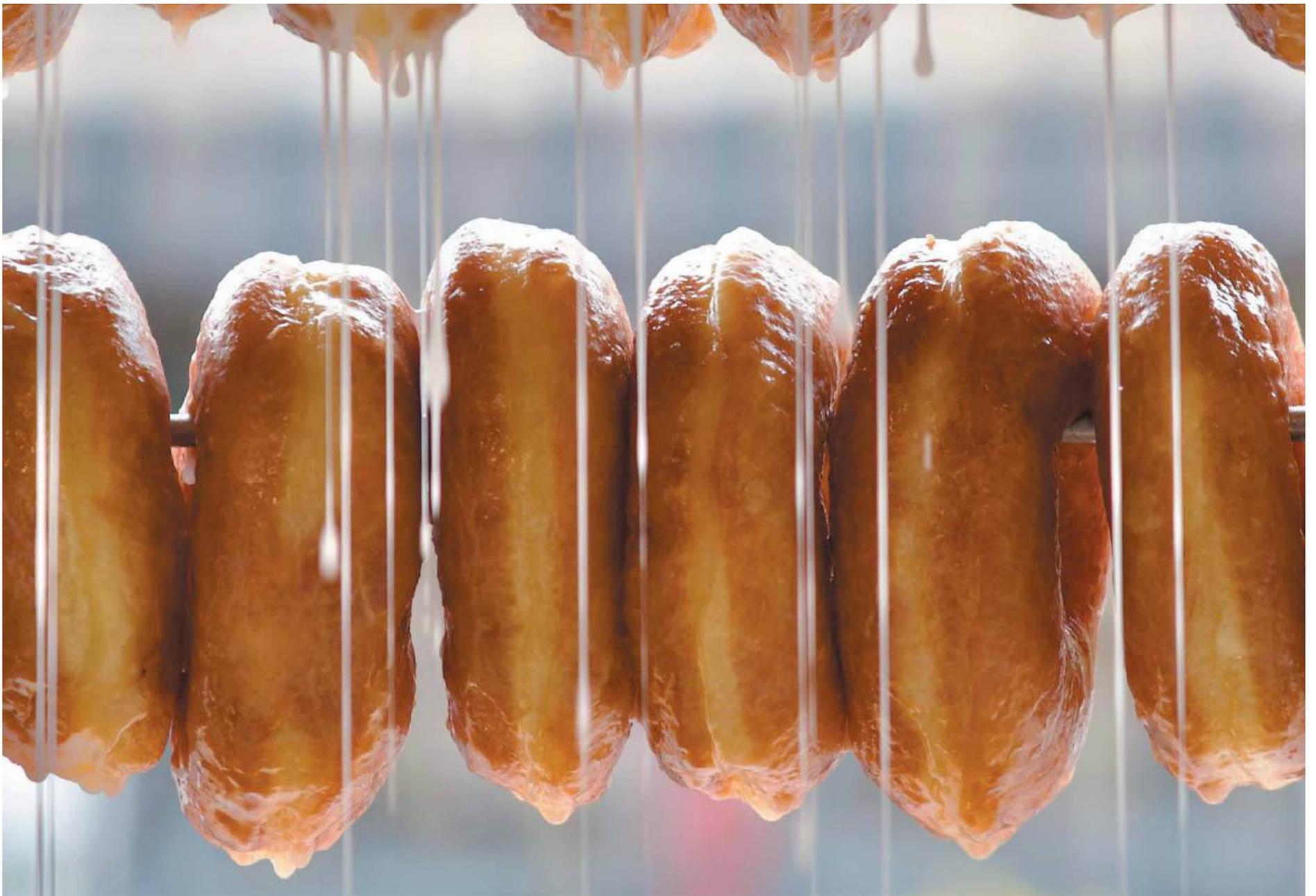
café myriade - mont-royal  
28 av. mont-royal o.

café myriade - shaughnessy village  
2021 av. atwater, #100

[www.cafemyriade.com](http://www.cafemyriade.com)



3780 Saint-Patrick St., Montreal, Quebec H4E 1A2



"What an incredible four years it's been. We could have never imagined the love and support we've received. Thank you to all our amazing customers, both new and old, for being part of this journey." —Dean Giannarakis Bernie Beigne #1 Best Donut

### **Best Bakery**

1. Automne
2. Guillaume
3. Le Toledo
4. Hof Kelsten
5. Louise Boulangerie

### **Best Café (for ambiance)**

1. Café Olimpico
2. San Gennaro
3. Crew Collective & Café
4. Biblio Café
5. Pastel Rita

### **Best Café (for coffee)**

1. Café Olimpico
2. Myriade

### **Best Bakery**

3. San Gennaro
4. Melk Café
5. Café In Gamba

### **Best Teahouse**

1. Cardinal Tearoom
2. Camellia Sinensis
3. Paparmane
4. Gryphon d'Or
5. Cha Do Raku

### **Best Fromagerie**

1. Fromagerie Hamel
2. Fromagerie Atwater
3. Brebis
4. Yannick Fromagerie
5. La Baia dei Formaggi

### **Best Ice Cream**

1. Iconoglace
2. Kem Coba
3. Ca Lem
4. Dalla Rose
5. Les Givrés

### **Best Chocolate / Sweets**

1. Lecavalier Petrone
2. Chocolats de Chloé
3. Chocolats Favoris
4. État de Choc
5. Lindt

### **Best Butcher**

1. Chez Vito
2. Pascal le Boucher

### **Best Butcher**

3. Boucherie Lawrence
4. Le Maître Boucher
5. Mc Cormack Meats

### **Best Grocery Store**

1. Supermarché PA
2. Segal's Market
3. Fruiterie Milano
4. Marché Adonis
5. T & T Supermarket

### **Best Produce Store**

1. Supermarché PA
2. Jean-Talon Market
3. Atwater Market
4. Segal's Market
5. Fruiterie Mile-End

### **Best Organic Food Store**

1. PA Nature
2. Les Marchés TAU
3. Avril
4. Rachele Béry
5. Branche d'Olivier

### **Best Fishmonger**

1. Poissonnerie La Mer
2. Poissonnerie Atwater
3. Poissonnerie Falero
4. Poissonnerie Shamrock Fish
5. Odessa Poissonier

spring is in the air and...

...we are on the air and

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TERRACE TIME

**AUX VIVRES**  
*Resto Végane*

Thanks to your votes, Aux Vivres is Montreal's Best Veggie Resto and 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Salad Spot!  
Our terraces are open at both locations ~ come outside and enjoy great food and good  
vibes this summer.

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Cult MTL - Best of MTL 2025



LA FESTIVAL



Since 1968, we've had the joy of welcoming you at all hours — whether it's for a classic poutine, a new favourite, or just a comforting late-night bite.

These recognitions mean the world to us because they come from you. From our entire team, thank you for your trust, your loyalty, and your love for poutine. We can't wait to serve you again, any time — day or night.

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# TEK

# 26

AUGUST  
19 — 24  
2025

Abul Mogard & Grand River <sup>IT</sup>  
Al Wootton <sup>UK</sup> Aurora Halal <sup>US</sup>  
Bergsonist <sup>MA/US</sup> Bitter Babe <sup>CO</sup> Cassy <sup>UK/AT</sup>  
e-Dancer <sup>US</sup> Gayance <sup>QC/PT</sup> Holy Tongue <sup>IT/UK+UK</sup>  
James Holden & Waclaw Zimpel <sup>UK+PL</sup>  
Kyle Hall <sup>US</sup> Loidis <sup>US</sup> Ma Sha <sup>US</sup>  
machina <sup>KR/JP</sup> Martyn Bootyspoon <sup>CA/QC</sup>  
Nicola Cruz <sup>EC</sup> Slikback <sup>KE/PL</sup> The Fear Ratio <sup>UK</sup>  
upsammy & Valentina Magaletti <sup>NL+IT/UK</sup>  
Yu Su <sup>CA+CN/UK</sup> ...and more!

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[montreal.mutek.org](http://montreal.mutek.org)

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