



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 4 to 23, 2018**

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## **FrancoFEST Hamilton announces complete programming of 2018 edition, featuring internationally acclaimed acrobat, juggler and clown Jamie Adkins!**

**Hamilton, ON – FrancoFEST Hamilton**, the largest festival of arts and culture on the Niagara Peninsula, announces the complete programming of its 2018 edition, kicking off the summer festival season by celebrating the free spirit of the francophone culture! From June 22 to 23, this year's big event will feature the performances of more than a dozen renowned artists and a host of family-friendly shows and activities in the historic Gage Park.

**FrancoFEST Hamilton** is very proud to welcome acrobat, juggler and magnificent world-famous clown **Jamie Adkins (Cirque Éloïze, Circus Incognitus)**, who will present a gem of a show for the whole family under the big top. Established for more than 15 years in Quebec (Gatineau), **Jamie Adkins** is now well identified as one of Canada's most talented contemporary circus performers. Tickets can be reserved and purchased on site (\$5 admission).

In addition, two other outstanding music groups have been added to the exceptional Francophone lineup: Burkina Faso's acclaimed traditional music group **Bonsa (QC)**, and Montreal's **Le Winston Band**, with their fusion of rock, zydeco, Cajun and French-Canadian influences.

Other artists include popular singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist **Claude Bégin (QC)**, **Le Couleur (QC)**, a Montreal-based electropop group, the delightful singer-songwriter **Céleste Lévis (ON)**, Nova Scotian rapper **Jacobus (ON)**, the award-winning alternative rock band **Les Hôtesses d'Hilaire (NB)**, French-Canadian electrifying folk band **Ariko (ON)**, and francophone rock quintet **Billy Love Band (ON)**. We will also hear the winners of **Monde le son**, a contest organised by Viamonde School Council.

Once again, **FrancoFEST** will facilitate unique encounters between artists and musicians of the **Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra**. There will be a unique symphonic presentation combining **Moonfruits'** haunting harmonies with award-winning singer-songwriter **Le R Premier** and the **Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra** quartet.

This year, **FrancoFEST** will offer an ever more magical and enchanting setting, created by the talented Franco-Ontarian artist and graffitist **Mique Michelle** and the delightfully irreverent **Espace Forain troupe (Outaouais, QC)** will be back with **Pique-Nique**, a new show without words and very physical about a man trying to impress his fiancée with his vintage ride.

New this year, **FrancoFEST** will be fenced in to allow alcohol consumption on the entire site. Festival-goers will be able to stroll among the many kiosks of craft sellers and enjoy a pavilion of French world flavours, while consuming a variety of alcoholic beverages.

For the youngest, the FrancoFEST has designed a family zone where children can enjoy a variety of fun activities, including games, crafts and face painting, all in a warm and relaxed atmosphere.

**Éric Robitaille** of Grands Lacs café (ICI Radio-Canada-Première) will be broadcasting his show live from the CBC Hamilton studios the morning of June 23<sup>rd</sup>. He will then make his way to FrancoFEST to host the festival's Saturday musical programming.

Last year, **FrancoFEST** entertained over 8,000 visitors in the beautiful setting of Gage Park with a line-up of French performances and activities. Don't miss this summer festival celebrating francophone arts and culture!

Visit [francofesthamilton.ca](http://francofesthamilton.ca) for the full line-up and schedule of this essential summer celebration of Francophone arts and culture, an initiative of **Centre francophone Hamilton**.

### **La FrancoFEST de Hamilton 2018**

**June 22 & 23, 2018**

Gage Park (Gage Ave. S. & Main St. E., Hamilton)

**FREE Admission**

**Information: 905-547-5702 | [www.francofesthamilton.ca](http://www.francofesthamilton.ca)**

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#FrancoFEST #HamOnt #FFHamilton2018

**SCHEDULE (Schedule is subject to change without notice)**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2018**

17 h : Site opens  
18 h : Espace Forain (*Pique Nique*)  
18 h 30 : Aiko  
19 h 30 : Jamie Adkins (*Circus Incognitus*) – **Admission** : \$5  
20 h : Jacobus  
21 h 30 : Céleste Lévis  
23 h : Le Couleur

**SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018**

12 h : Site opens  
12 h 30 : Espace Forain (*Pique Nique*)  
13 h : Jamie Adkins (*Circus Incognitus*) – **Admission** : \$5  
13 h 30 : Billy Love Band  
14 h 30 : Espace Forain  
15 h : Bonsa (with Pavillon-de-la-Jeunesse dancers)  
16 h : Djembe workshop with Bonsa + Jamie Adkins (*Circus Incognitus*) – **Admission** : \$5  
16 h 30 : Espace Forain (*Pique Nique*)  
17 h 30 : HPO, Le R Premier & Moonfruits with video by Vaughan Bénéteau  
18 h 30 : Jamie Adkins (*Circus Incognitus*) – **Admission** : \$5  
19 h : Le Winston Band  
20 h : Collège Français de Toronto  
21 h : Les Hôtesses d'Hilaire  
22 h 30 : Claude Bégin

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**To request an interview or obtain photos, please contact Josée Duranleau at 416.652.7672 or [josee@duranleau.com](mailto:josee@duranleau.com)**

**For photos, please click [here](#).  
For artist bios, music and videos, please click [here](#).**

**About: FrancoFEST** is a unique festival presented by **Centre francophone Hamilton**, celebrating the richness and diversity of francophone culture for over 35 years. Over the span of two days, the francophone community and bilingual artists gather to share their love for the francophone culture of Canada.