



## Let the wild ruckus start!

Urban arts lets you dance, pound percussive instruments or simply wander streets full of puppets and performers

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The Gazette

Masked performers wander the streets. Puppeteers entertain the youngsters. Comedians crack up passersby with their latest jokes. And great parades demand attention.

The outdoor, Urban Arts portion of the Just for Laughs festival is about free fun for all ages. It takes place on the festival site, which covers the area framed by Ste. Catherine St. to the South, Sherbrooke St. to the North, Sanguinet St. to the West and Berri St. to the East. And the fun begins this Thursday.

### **The biggest Urban Arts event is Le Grand Charivarir, which closes the Urban Arts festivities on July 20.**

Le Grand Charivarir is Just For Laughs mascot Victor's big moment. He has invited the love of his life - French mascot Rose de Nantes - to attend and is relying on 800 members of the public to make the event a success.

Here's how the whole family can participate:

A series of workshops are being offered from July 11 to July 19 at the Monde de Victor site on St. Denis St. just north of Ste. Catherine St. You must register in advance at [www.hahaha.com/carnaval](http://www.hahaha.com/carnaval).

Participants will learn how to make a fancy mask or how to carry props such as lighting modules or inflatable objects. You can learn how to do a simple gumboot-dance routine or learn how to manipulate a percussion instrument with the help of a member of the percussion group Samajam.

Participants choose whether they want to learn how to "play" the hockey stick, a plastic tube or a Djembé (small drum).

If pounding a hockey stick is your thing, bring your hockey stick with you. If you want to learn how to gumboot dance, bring along your rubber boots.

The goal is to learn a skill or make a mask which will be integrated into the overall choreography and theme of the July 20 parade.

No experience is necessary. One workshop is enough to learn your role in the parade, but participants must be available the day of the parade, as of 12:30 p.m.

**The parade's theme is the four seasons. The creative team - headed by Danielle Roy with staging by Luc Petit - have designed four tableaux. Each tableau has its original music and original percussive beat.**

"We've done this sort of (massive) percussion event hundreds of times and each time it's magic," Samajam director Louis Bellemare said. "We all have percussive impulses. If you can walk, you have the right impulses. After five minutes (of instruction) you've got it."

The parade's props, masks and costumes are white. Lighting and video projections will transform the white to create different moods as the parade moves forward.

"It's an intergenerational and multi-cultural event. It brings us together," Bellemare said.

Here is a selection of other Urban Arts Just for Laughs events:

An opening-day parade, featuring the beats of Samajam, moves along St. Denis St., Thursday at 7 p.m., and the Salsafolie Night dance kicks off Friday at 7:30 p.m. The popular Twins Parade takes place Saturday at 4:45 p.m. and Stefie Shock hosts the Red Ball, same day, beginning at 9 p.m. Wear red.

The outdoor site is even more family-friendly this year with a new Just for Kids play area installed next to the UQAM bell tower on St. Denis St. There will be puppet shows and clown workshops, treasure hunts and snacks.

For young and old fascinated by the latest in electronic games, visit the Electronic Games Tent, drop by a giant game board and try large-scale chess, sudoku or crossword puzzles. Visit the board-game café, try a trivia game or watch the best Just for Laughs gags play out on the Tim Hortons Gags Screen.

The French troupe Oposito is back to present the third installment of a triptych of visually-captivating roving events. The latest installment Toro - a bull-fight-themed extravaganza - takes place in the evening, July 16-17.

Roving street performers and expert buskers entertain throughout the site, Oscar Rodriguez sculpts Noah's Arc with sand, Montreal's most famous drag queen Mado hosts a garden party with friends, July 14 at 8 p.m. and Les Porn Flakes host a sing-a-long July 19 at 9 p.m.

The STM is making a bold pitch for people to use public transport to get to festival events. You can't miss the message. It comes in the shape of a blue and white metro car plunked in the middle of Ontario St. between St. Denis St. and Sanguinet St.

*For info, call 514-845-2322 or [www.hahaha.com](http://www.hahaha.com).*

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