



CTRL+ALT Festival

Press release

For immediate release

A Big Second Edition for Ctrl+Alt Festival

May 13, 2025 – Montreal, Quebec – STUDIO ZX

At the crossroads of Queer art and nightlife, Ctrl+Alt Festival will return for another year to light up Place du Village from July 25 to 27, 2025. For three days, drag, burlesque, dance and electronic music will take over the public space, in an initiative thought by and for 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, celebrating the plurality of Queer identities and the strength of marginalized scenes.

Free live art festival 100% dedicated to Montreal nightlife's Queer artists, Ctrl+Alt will feature cabarets, dance parties and cultural mediation, offering a true and nuanced portrait of what nightlife has best to offer, in broad daylight. A real way to shed light on the night!

With programming powered by STUDIO ZX, ten artistic collectives – and over 70 artists – will share the stage in seven performances, each more distinct than the last, promising once again to bring some heat to the Village for a weekend.

This year, collaboration is at the forefront! For each of its three dance nights, Ctrl+Alt has invited collectives to collaborate in pairs to offer three four-hour performances exclusive to the festival.

Friday: the Black Gxnl Sesh and Pikete collectives will open the festivities on Friday, with a dance party that, from 6pm, promises to warm up the dance floor to the colors and sounds of the Latinx and Ballroom communities.

Saturday: followed by two cabarets on Saturday afternoon at 3pm and 4:30pm, where UNIKORN and Lust Cove respectively will spark up the stage with drag and burlesque performances. From 6pm that evening, it's Sticky Rice and AFT3RWE4R that will take the reins at Place du Village for a dance party with flavors quite unique to Montreal.

Sunday: on Sunday, starting at 12pm, MESSY will take us inside the reality of homegrown Queer artists in a cultural mediation workshop mixing conversations and performances. Then at 3pm, Sweet Like Honey will present their own cabaret, before finally giving the stage to DISCOÑO and Hauterageous who will close the festivities from 4:30pm to 8:30pm in a final, well-seasoned dance party.

The 2025 edition also marks an important moment for Ctrl+Alt, as budget increases, site planning is optimized and festival organization professionalized.

More than ever at the image of a growing cultural sector, Ctrl+Alt brings together artists who just want to be seen, heard and, above all, enjoyed — much to the delight of Montrealers.

Quotes

"Ctrl+Alt it's not just a festival, it's really an open-air nightclub, in broad daylight, for an entire weekend — right in the heart of the Village. It's a gathering of Queer communities and their allies, celebrating and celebrating each other. A gathering where we don't consume culture: we live it, we share it — we transform it!"

– Vicky B. Ouellette, General Manager, STUDIO ZX

"Diversity is one of Canada's strengths. It enriches our communities. More than ever, we must work to strengthen the bonds that unite Canadians, and make inclusion a priority across the country. I invite you to take part in large numbers in the Ctrl+Alt Festival, a free event for the general public, where excitement will be at its peak through nightly performances that celebrate the cultural richness of communities that are often more marginalized."

– Steven Guilbeault – Minister of Canadian Culture and Identity, Parks Canada and Quebec Lieutenant

"Once again this year, the Ctrl+Alt Festival will be celebrating the diversity and richness of the queer communities. Montreal is not only a city of festivals, it is also – and above all – an inclusive and open city that values its diversity. Queer culture is an integral part of our Montreal identity, and this festival is an essential platform for marginalised voices, allowing everyone to celebrate with pride. Enjoy the festival!"

– Ericka Alneus – Member of the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal, responsible for culture, heritage, gastronomy and nightlife.

– 30 –

About STUDIO ZX

Since 2020, STUDIO ZX has supported, valorized and propelled Queer artists and professionals emerging from Montreal's nightlife. Through cultural emancipation, professionalization and the creation of community spaces, the organization designs time-spaces where marginalized voices take their place, bonds are forged and talent shines uncompromisingly. For ZX, Queer art is more than just an echo: it's a vibrant sound that transcends the night — a collective song that claims its place at the heart of Montreal's cultural scene.

Media contact

Simon Laberge – Public relations, STUDIO ZX
418-550-5857 / simon@zx.studio

Vicky B. Ouellette – General manager, STUDIO ZX
514-825-1871 / vicky@zx.studio

