

# Festival CTRL+ALT

STUDIO ZX, Media Pitch Document, May 29, 2026, Montreal

Ctrl+Alt Festival: 3rd edition

## Queer Nightlife Takes the Public Stage

From July 24 to 26, 2026, the Ctrl+Alt Festival returns to Place du Village for its third edition, dedicated to local Queer artists from Montréal's nightlife scene.

Organized by STUDIO ZX, Ctrl+Alt highlights artistic practices that remain too rarely recognized within mainstream cultural spaces: drag, burlesque, dance, electronic music, club culture and performance rooted in Nightlife.

For three days, Montréal's Village becomes an open stage where the arts of the night take over public space. More than a festive lineup, Ctrl+Alt affirms the cultural, political and artistic value of the Queer scenes that shape Montréal, while still being too often underrepresented, underfunded or pushed to the margins of institutions.

*Ctrl+Alt does not try to fit into a mold that was never built for us. It redraws it.*



## Media Angle

Ctrl+Alt 2026 offers a strong perspective on a current cultural question: **what place do Queer Nightlife artists truly hold in Montréal's cultural ecosystem?**

In Montréal, Queer nightlife scenes have long contributed to the city's creative identity. They influence its aesthetics, its parties, its fashion, its languages, its bodies in motion and its collective imagination. Yet these same scenes are often treated as peripheral, temporary or purely festive.

Ctrl+Alt shifts that perspective. The festival presents Nightlife as a space of creation, memory, resistance and public expression. By taking over Place du Village, Ctrl+Alt asserts that nightlife culture is not a side note in Montréal's cultural life. It is one of its driving forces.

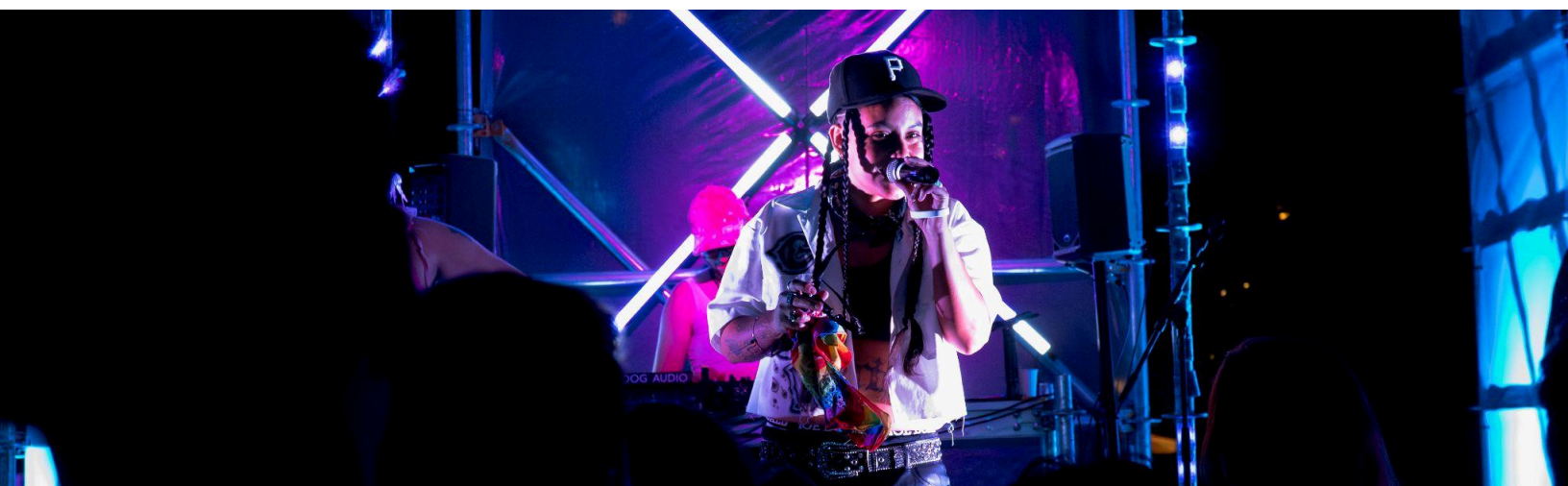
## Why This Story Matters Now

The third edition of Ctrl+Alt arrives at a time when Queer artists, independent creators and underground scenes are under growing pressure to produce more, post more, remain constantly visible and turn their artistic presence into consumable content.

The 2026 edition tackles this tension directly. Ctrl+Alt imagines a near future where the entertainment industry clones, optimizes and replaces artists to feed algorithms' hunger for nonstop performance.

Through this artistic direction, the festival opens up a conversation around several pressing contemporary issues: the attention economy, digital burnout, the dispossession of cultural labour, the commodification of marginalized identities and the pressure placed on artists to remain visible at all times.

The central question is simple, but brutal: **what remains of artists when their bodies, images, work and identities are turned into content machines?**



## What Ctrl+Alt Brings Forward

Ctrl+Alt gives a stage to voices that have been ignored for too long.

The festival brings together Queer artists from Montréal's nightlife scene through practices rooted in drag, burlesque, dance, live music, club culture, DJ sets, cabaret and interdisciplinary performance.

Its programming follows a clear artistic vision: **100% Queer, 100% Nightlife, 100% Montréal.**

By bringing these practices into public space, Ctrl+Alt creates a meeting point between celebration, live arts, political expression and the cultural redefinition of the Village. The festival recognizes the power of plural identities and the impact of the messages carried by artists whose access to cultural institutions remains too often limited, conditional or structurally hindered.

## Artistic Direction 2026

For its 2026 edition, Ctrl+Alt presents a techno-political narrative inspired by science fiction.

The festival imagines a near future where the entertainment industry clones, optimizes and replaces artists to feed algorithms' insatiable hunger. Stripped of their agency, artists become witnesses to a success that should have been theirs.

Through this proposal, Ctrl+Alt explores the boundary between visibility and exploitation. The festival raises questions that move across digital culture, live performance and Nightlife:

*What makes us human, real, tangible?*

*Is it our bodies? Our mistakes? Our Queerness? Our nights?*

*Is Nightlife more than a show, more than a fleeting fantasy, more than a content dump torn from our bodies and offered up to the scroll economy?*

***When the trends and the hype fade, when the lights go out and the bass dies down: what is left? What do we have left?***



## 2026 Programming

The 2026 Ctrl+Alt Festival lineup features cabarets, performances, a dance battle, dance parties, a Queer artists and artisans market, and DJ sets.

### Cabaret

Friday, July 24, 8:00–9:00 p.m., Sami Party with [Sami Landry](#)

Saturday, July 25, 8:15–9:00 p.m., [Lust Cove](#) (Burlesque)

Sunday, July 26, 6:15–7:00 p.m., [Aizysse Baga](#) (Drag)

### Shows and performances

Saturday, July 25, 5:30–6:15 p.m., [Syana](#) (Live music)

Sunday, July 26, 5:30–6:15 p.m., [Strange Froots](#) (Live music)

### Dance and Battle

Saturday, July 25, 2:00–4:30 p.m., [C'est ma Toune](#) (Waacking)

### Dance parties and DJ sets

Friday, July 24, 6:00–8:00 p.m., [Supernature](#)

Friday, July 24, 9:00 PM–11:00 PM, [Discoño](#)

Saturday, July 25, 6:15–8:15 p.m., [Pikete](#)

Saturday, July 25, 9:00 PM–11:00 PM, [AFT3RWE4R](#)

Sunday, July 26, 7:00–9:00 p.m., [Sticky Rice Magazine](#)

Sunday, July 26, 9:00 PM–11:00 PM, [Black Gxrl Sesh](#)

### Queer Artists and Artisans Market

Sunday, July 26, 12:00 PM–4:30 PM, [Sweet Like Honey](#) — Market and DJ sets

## Key moments

**Monday, June 1, 2026:** Launch of the [Ctrl+Alt Festival pilot podcast](#), **THE CXNT ROLLOUT**. Available on YouTube and Spotify.

**Thursday, June 11, 2026:** Official unveiling of the 2026 Ctrl+Alt Festival programming. The event will take place at [Ausgang Plaza, 6:00 PM–9:00 PM](#) and includes a screening of the 2026 edition's thematic short film.

**Starting Monday, June 15, 2026:** Full lineup reveal on social media. // Instagram: @ctrlalrfest

**July 24–26, 2026:** Ctrl+Alt Festival 2026 at Place du Village.

## Suggested Coverage Angles

### > Culture and Performing Arts

A free festival that presents drag, burlesque, dance, electronic music and Nightlife-rooted performance as art forms in their own right.

### > Society and Public Space

A cultural reclamation of the Village by Queer artists, in a context where public space remains shaped by norms of respectability, visibility and belonging.

### > Digital Technology and the Attention Economy

An edition that explores the pressure to constantly perform, social media burnout and the transformation of artists into content.

### > Montreal and the Underground Scene

A look at Queer nightlife scenes as driving forces behind Montréal's cultural DNA.

## About STUDIO ZX

STUDIO ZX is a Montréal-based sociocultural organization dedicated to event production, the promotion of Queer and nightlife scenes, and the creation of platforms for marginalized artists and communities.

Through its projects, STUDIO ZX acts as a bridge between artists, audiences, institutions, cultural partners and urban spaces. Its work aims to recognize the artistic, social and political value of practices rooted in Nightlife, underground culture and Queer communities.

