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### The 18<sup>th</sup> Le French May Arts Festival 2010

Since it was established in Hong Kong in 1993, Le French May Arts Festival has grown to become a model for French festivals in Asia. It is a multi-disciplinary festival, opened to the public. This year, the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macao, the Alliance Française of Hong Kong and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department are pleased to present the 18th edition of the Festival, giving the Hong Kong and Macau audience the opportunity to discover, or rediscover, the many flavours of French culture.

Thanks largely to private donations from both French and Hong Kong companies, with some financial assistance from both governments, Le French May Arts Festival is a truly local festival that is not only a celebration of French art but also promotes the creativity of top artists from Hong Kong and France.

In the era of instant gratification, the public's taste and opinion can be quite fickle. To continue capturing the attention of the public of Hong Kong, we have identified four potential areas for development:

- To meet the public expectations: Le French May Arts Festival will always be a work in process. We strive towards providing the community with events that are of the highest international caliber, covering a broad array of artistic disciplines, as well as strengthening the educational and community outreach programmes; our festival has something for everyone.

- To develop the festival gradually over the next three years up to the triple jubilee in 2012 when we will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French May, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French Cinépanorama, and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau.
- To strengthen our partnership with mainland China: through more shared events with the Festival Croisements (our sister French festival in China), and with cooperation in 23 mainland Chinese cities as well as in Macau.
- To strengthen France's commitment to the European Union: We will invite more major European artists in the next few years to represent European cultural diversity. This year, we will welcome a German cabaret with singer Eva Meier; British harpsichordist, Trevor Pinnock; Italian pianist, Aldo Ciccolini.

We also have many other future projects that will ensure Le French May remains attractive and appealing, and that it will remain a popular festival to be shared by all in Hong Kong and Macau.

In 3 words, this French May festival is contemporary, diverse and wide appeal.

For Le French May Arts Festival 2010, we have maintained a good balance between the visual arts and performing arts. We will present a diverse range of arts, from photographic and painting exhibitions to opera, classical music and cutting-edge electro-pop sensations, as well as some of today's most in-demand choreographers who will transcend the experience of the audience through the exciting journey of dance.

In addition, we have set up a cinema programme titled "Femmes, Femmes, Femmes" ("Women, Women, Women") which celebrates women in the film industry. We are also honoured to have one of France's most gifted actresses, the iconic Ms. Jeanne Moreau, to attend as our special guest.

Besides, this year we are launching "Le French Fashion May", which showcases the creations of young, emerging French designers and introduces their unique trends to the Hong Kong fashion scene.

Again this year, French gastronomy is represented by "French GourMay", with a special one-time menu created by some of the finest French chefs in Hong Kong.

We do hope that this year's festival will once again arouse your curiosity and enthusiasm for French culture, as it has done so for 18 years. This year's festival is all encompassing and will satisfy the audience's five senses. Your participation as well as your valued support remains the key to the continued success of Le French May Arts Festival.

Thanks to our partners, sponsors and, most of all, your participation (which we never take for granted), Le French May has become an important cultural bridge between East and West.

## **SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF LE FRENCH MAY ARTS FESTIVAL 2010**

**“Manon”** (opera): is one of Massenet’s most popular and enduring operas, a five-act tragic romance. (P.18 on the brochure)

**“Chopin and the French composers”** (classical music): is a celebration of Chopin’s bicentenary by three generations of world-renowned piano artists, including legendary pianist Aldo Ciccolini. (P.26)

**“Garden of the Sage”** (music): brings Hong Kong audience a unique poetic experience through a blend of western music, guqin and multi-media video. (P.30)

**“Le French May Music Showdown 2010”** (music): promises some serious eye-candy with top-notch artists who will rock, groove and spin for our pleasure. (P.38)

**“-M-”** (music): One of the biggest French music icons, -M- (a.k.a. Matthieu Chedid) will perform in Hong Kong for the very first time, closing this year’s Festival with a bang. (P.42)

**“Snow White”** (dance): World famous choreographer Angelin Preljocaj and fashion designer Jean-Paul Gaultier revisit Grimm Brothers’ tale with this enchanting adaptation. (P.48)

**“Lang-Toi (My Village)”** (new circus): is a dream-like show that introduces Vietnamese rural culture through acrobatics, balancing and juggling acts. (P.54)

**“Of Snow, Gold and Sky Blue”** (visual arts): features 56 scintillating ceramics produced by Chinese painter Chu Teh-Chun for our full appreciation. (P.66)

**“The Instinctive Moment”** (visual arts): pays tribute to Marc Riboud, one of today’s masters of photography in France, by exhibiting his works in China and at some international historic moments. (P.68)

**“Femmes, Femmes, Femmes”** (cinema): brings you the best of French films on women and femininity. Jeanne Moreau will be in Hong Kong! (P.74)

**“Le French GourMay”** (food): is the best occasion for gourmets where there will be conferences on healthy diet and exceptional menus dedicated to the theme *Saveurs* (flavours). (P.88)

**“Le French Fashion May”** (fashion): introduces some of France’s emerging designers to Hong Kong. (P.94)

## **ABOUT LE FRENCH MAY**

Organized by the Consulate General of France, in collaboration with the Alliance Française of Hong Kong and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Le French May has grown to become one of the largest French arts festivals in Asia over the last 18 years.

During its history, Le Festival has staged over 500 events of the highest international calibre, covering a broad array of artistic disciplines that include the visual arts, opera, classical and contemporary music, dance, new circus, cinema, as well as the culinary arts which we have developed into a standalone programme entitled GourMay.

The growing attendance at our festival over the years is a testimony to the fact that Le French May has earned a premium spot on Hong Kong's cultural calendar. This phenomenon is attributable to a carefully crafted schedule of programmes as well as our policy of affordable pricing. Updated daily, Le French May Art Festival's website ([www.frenchmay.com](http://www.frenchmay.com)) offers our audience quick and easy access to all of our events.

Rendez-vous avec les artistes!

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For a full programme and details of Le French May Arts Festival, please visit [www.frenchmay.com](http://www.frenchmay.com).

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