

FESTIVAL  
**EDGY**  
WOMEN

20th anniversary  
**ART / SPORTS / GENDER**

**March 2nd – 10th, 2013**  
**Montreal**

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## **PRESS KIT**

### **About Edgy Women Festival**

To stimulate critical thinking, generate innovative performance and highlight the artistic efforts of women working across disciplines and venues, Studio 303 is proud to present the Edgy Women Festival for its 20th year. Constantly seeking out new artistic trends, the Edgy Women Festival provides fertile space where experience meets the heart of the new artistic practices. The festival is programmed by Miriam Ginestier, the artistic and general director of Studio 303.

### **About Studio 303**

Studio 303 exists to promote the evolution of live artistic practices. Concentrating on the physical body, Studio 303 is a unique resource centre which offers cutting edge workshops, innovative administrative services and a flexible, intimate studio laboratory where new works may be created and presented. Studio 303's programming aims to stimulate enriching exchanges between a variety of artists, art forms and the public.

### **Why a feminist festival? Why a sports theme?**

- Because the Canadian Women's Hockey League's annual budget is equivalent to the annual salary of one (average) male professional player.
- Because when women's boxing was introduced in last summer's Olympics, the main debate was whether or not the athletes should be made to wear skirts.
- Because sports offer a fascinating angle from which to explore feminist issues around equity and culturally determined gender roles.

The idea for our arts and athletics theme emerged gradually around a few key incidences. Years ago, a women's boxing tournament was held at the Sala Rossa, a popular cabaret venue. It was fascinating to see a sporting event lit by chandeliers and this powerful experience triggered reflections about the nature of spectacle and the role of context. A seed was planted when Phil Dickinson, the organiser, later opened the Bleu Chat Boxing Club and expressed an interest in hosting art events.

At the 2011 edition of Edgy Women, Karen Sherman created a performance intervention on a public ice rink, in response to the extremely gendered representation of female bodies in women's hockey and roller derby. The process spawned a great deal of conversation about sports, gender, community and art. There was a clear desire to further the investigation. Recent conversations with artists Marijs Boulogne and Heather Cassils, revealed their passion for their parallel athletic careers, and a visit to the atmospheric Blue Cat Boxing Club with its vast 4000 square foot area with punching bags and a ring, and intimate adjoining rooms, sealed the deal!

We live in a world that promotes a rhetorical opposition between art (sensitivity / subculture / femininity) and sports (strength / mainstream / masculinity). Both worlds harbor interesting and complex gender dynamics – particularly in terms of visibility and representation, competition and collaboration. Athletic culture offers a rich terrain for exploration in gender studies, about which much has been written, and there seems to be a growing interest to explore these issues through performance among the artists Studio 303 is invested in.

### **A look at 2013 programming :**

For our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Edgy Women offers a lush lineup of events that explore the subject of ART / SPORTS / GENDER, Taking place in — or transforming — traditionally athletic places with an artistic spin, Edgy will include a movie night, hockey match, symposium, Lucha Libre wrestling match and multi-disciplinary collaboration in a boxing ring. For the third year running, Edgy offers a platform for outspoken guest bloggers and vloggers to follow the action and broadcast their personal perspectives on issues relating to the festival's political and artistic content.

Selected artists for Edgy 2013 programming :

from **Montréal** : Maria Kefirova, Meg Hewings, Julienne Doko, Coral Short, Florence S. Larose, Virginie Jourdain, Anna Jane McIntyre, Catherine Lalonde Masseur, Claire Lyke, Antonija Livingstone.

from **Edmonton** : Mia Van Leeuwen

from **Toronto** : Lex Vaughn

from **Los Angeles** : Heather Cassils

from **Bruxelles** : Marijs Boulogne

from **Paris**: Judith Depaule / Mabel Octobre

Venues for Edgy Women, 2013:

The Blue Cat Boxing Club, Mont-Royal Arena and Studio 303

### **Dates and Events :**

March 2 - **ALL NUIT LONG**

March 7 - **OFF-SIDE : EDGY COLLOQUE**

March 7 – **UNRULY HOCKEY**

March 8 & 9 - **GAME ON AT CHAT BLEU**

March 10 - **EDGY LUCHA**

For all interview and photo requests, please contact **Rachel Bureau** at **514-393-3771** or online at [communications@studio303.ca](mailto:communications@studio303.ca) Websites : [www.edgywomen.ca](http://www.edgywomen.ca) / [www.studio303.ca](http://www.studio303.ca)

## DETAILS AND ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES

### Saturday, March 2 - ALL NUIT LONG

9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m. @ Studio 303, in collaboration with Nuit Blanche Montreal.  
FREE!

Welcome exhibitionists, moviegoers and night owls! This year, the Nuit Blanche will mark our festival's debut.

In our offices next door (where all the preliminary Edgy magic happens), we will have a photo booth, booze and foosball. Resident photographer **Nikol Mikus** (<http://www.nikolmikus.com/>) will be on hand to immortalize the night, with sports-themed props and costumes on hand available to model, and the photos will be available to download off our Facebook page.

In the 303 Studio, screenings of short films that explore both entertaining and critical stereotypes of athletics and sport will be viewed. The films are in part derived from the 2012 Disorders festival programming, which took place in Lille, France ([rencontresfeministes.over-blog.org](http://rencontresfeministes.over-blog.org))



Through video and performance media, Montreal artist **Dayna McLeod** seeks to deconstruct and dissect common stereotypes around feminism, homophobia and gender through a healthy mix of irony, humour and sex toys. *The Pleasure Zone* is a criticism of the pornography industry, but structured as a basketball game. McLeod's work has been shown in Europe, North America, South America and Asia. ([daynarama.com](http://daynarama.com))

Photo: he Pleasure Zone

The second film, *Triple Axxxel : Quintessence du corps cliché* is a work from Montreal-based, French-Canadian video artist and performer **Lamathilde** ([www.lamathilde.com](http://www.lamathilde.com)). After studying cinema and receiving his MA in linguistics, Lamathilde returned to her first loves: image and sound. Here, we are introduced to an unusual world of skating...

## Thursday, March 7 – OFF SIDE: EDGY COLLOQUE

10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. @ Blue Cat Boxing Club  
FREE!

For the first time, Edgy Women invites academics, artists and other free-thinkers to participate in an afternoon of exchange in an unconventional setting.

Coordinated by **Danielle Barkley**, the Edgy Colloque invites featured guests into the ring of the Blue Cat Boxing Club to lead a series of conversational, performative lectures in French and English about sport, art and gender politics.

### Schedule

10 a.m. – coffee, fruit & croissants

#### 10:30 – *SPORTING MARGINALITY*

Janaya Khan / Fighting from the Margins

Kris Grey / Out of Bounds: Sporting Beyond the Binary

#### 11:45 – *PLAYTIME: FROM THE RINK TO THE RING*

Nicole Land / Bodies Do Something: Embodiment and Female Adolescence

Meg E. Wink / The Making of Hockey Dyke In Canada

Anna Sarkissian & Ameesha Joshi / With This Ring: Women Boxers in India

#### 1:15 - *LE CORPS A L'ÉPREUVE*

Isabelle Mathieu / Prise de parole, prise de bec

Caroline St-Laurent / art contemporain + sport

#### 2:15 - *EMBODYING AGGRESSION*

Savoy Howe / The Flower Garden

Maria Kefirova / Gold Meat

Competitive boxer, anti-oppression champion and genderqueer activist **Janaya Kahn** will boxing and gendered expectations of competition. **Kristin Grey/Justin Credible**, a genderqueer artist and storyteller will deliver *Out of Bounds*, a performative lecture about sporting bodies in the media and public eye.



Photo : Thomas Lenden

Bulgarian-born **Maria Kefirova** will offer her performative lecture *Goldmeat*, a three-month experiment on conditioning the mental perceptions and emotional states to physically incorporate her three idols — Mike Tyson, Grace Jones and Mickey Rourke — into her body.

Boxer and “theatre chick” **Savoy Howe** will combine her two vocational loves by performing *The Flower Garden*, a 10 minute performance piece about planting the seeds of female aggression. She is the head coach and owner of the Toronto Newsgirls Boxing Club, Canada’s only all-female and trans-positive boxing association.

Competitive boxer, anti-oppression champion and genderqueer activist **Janaya Kahn** will use boxing as the entry point for talking about performativity and the gendered expectations of competition. This facilitated discussion will challenge heteronormativity and heterosexism through the scope of trans\* identities in sport by using an anti-oppressive and anti-racist lens.

*Bodies Do Something: Materiality, Embodiment and Female Adolescent*, presented by Nicole Land, will argue that if we no longer hold athletic materiality subordinate to biology, we can begin to conceptualize the body as a transient event; a “slice of forces that have specific qualities, relations, speed, and rates of change” (Braidotti, 2003, p. 57). **Nicole Land** is a MA student in the School of Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria. Drawing on her BSc Kinesiology, Nicole is interested in complicating conventional conceptions of the female athletic body, focusing specifically on the entangled, affective, and transient materialities that come to matter in the events of young, athletic bodies.

**Meg. E. Wink** will present *The Making of Hockey Dyke in Canada*, a personal talk charting one hockey dyke's journey from unhappy figure skater to professional hockey General Manager.

**Anna Sarkissian and Ameesha Joshi** will present «*With this ring: Women Boxers in India*». **Anna Sarkissian** is an independent filmmaker and writer with interests ranging from representation and gender, to citizen engagement and identity. Her work has been screened at the Canadian Parliament, festivals, and on national television. She has a BFA from Montreal's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema and an MA in anthropology from the University of Oxford. **Ameesha Joshi** has a B.A. in psychology from the University of Waterloo and worked in the software industry for several years. In 2001 she directed her first short film, *The Red Glove*, about a female boxer, and developed a real appreciation for the sport. She recently completed an MFA at Concordia University.

Anciennement gymnaste, **Caroline St-Laurent** a progressivement transposé dans sa pratique artistique plusieurs notions liées à la pratique de la gymnastique, telles que la mise à l'épreuve du corps, la recherche d'équilibre et de perfection, la compétition, le spectacle et la répétition. Caroline présentera «*Art contemporain+ Sport*» aborde sa pratique artistique comme une réflexion sur l'entrecroisement des disciplines de l'art et du sport, en jumelant leurs notions de performance, leurs espaces de pratique, leurs règles et leurs contraintes. Elle poursuit actuellement ses recherches sur le détournement artistique de la performance sportive et a complété une maîtrise en arts visuels et médiatiques à l'Université du Québec à Montréal en 2012. Son travail a été présenté dans différentes expositions collectives au Québec, ainsi que lors de nombreux festivals de création vidéo au Canada et à l'étranger.

Encouraging animated exchange in an unconventional setting, this Colloque will have whisper translation available.

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## Thursday, March 7 – UNRULY HOCKEY

11:00 p.m. – 12 :30 p.m. @ Mont-Royal Arena  
FREE!



Why play by the rules? On the heels of last year's successful first match, our feminist hockey experiment is back.

Created by **Meg Hewings**, writer, multi-disciplinary artist and the general director of The Montreal Stars, this match is an open invitation to buck the norms of our national sport.

<http://hockeydykeincanada.ca/>

## Schedule

10:30: Sign-In (Players)  
10:45 pm: locker-room meeting (Players)  
11:10 pm: Opening ceremony (players)  
11:15 pm: Warm-up (Players) 11:20- 12: Match (players)  
12:00-12:30: Skating Party (Everyone!)

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## **Friday & Saturday, March 8 and 9 - GAME ON AU CHAT BLEU**

7:00 p.m. – 10 p.m. @ Blue Cat Boxing Club  
20\$ - 15\$

Transforming the gym from a workout space into an in situ art happening, dozens of performers reinvent the Chat Bleu Boxing Club ring with interactive performance and installation work.



### **HEATHER CASSILS BECOMING AN IMAGE**

Multidisciplinary L.A.-based artist and bodybuilder **Heather Cassils** — famous in part for recently locking lips with pop-star Lady Gaga in the music video *Telephone* — will present her latest creation *Becoming an Image*.

In darkness, Heather will participate in a boxing match unlike any other, sparring against a block of clay, illuminated by flashes of a photographer's camera.

In this enduring piece, Cassils investigates the violence in the form of entertainment, exploring the relationships between art, photography, documentation and truth.

**Heather Cassils** is an artist, bodybuilder and former semi-professional boxer, expressing her work through performance, video, drawing and photography. Often using her own body, her work aims to critique the social pressure we suffer to adhere to aesthetic ideals and standards of culture and gender. Heather's work has been exhibited in London, Paris, Vienna, Rome, Mexico, New York City, San Francisco, Miami and Los Angeles.



### **JUDITH DEPAULE / MABEL OCTOBRE CORPS DE FEMME**

Through a portrait of female athletes who commit themselves to sports often considered manly — such as rugby, weightlifting and body building — **Corps de femme** is a European project of dance, sport, video and theatre in four  
Photo : Mabel Octobre

parts, exploring the questions surrounding gender and criteria.

**Judith Depaule**, is an eclectic artist, who recently wrote her thesis on theatre in the gulags. In the past, she's worked with French collectives GANGPLANK and Sentimental Bourreau (Strip et Boniments, Les Carabiniers, Accrochez-moi). She is the founder of the theatre company Mabel Octobre and later became its artistic director. She also runs workshops with French prisoners in Maison d'arrêt de la Santé. In 2006, she won the Villa Medicis Hors les Murs scholarship for her works.



### **JULIENNE DOKO** **CORPS ACCORDS**

Julienne Doko is an artistic nomad. After training in classic jazz and hip hop in France, she worked in the contemporary African dance milieu in Montreal, joining the Zab Maboungou dance company for their 2011-2012 season.

Since 2002, Julienne has participated in numerous performances with companies, festivals musicals and television programs, and has been a dance teacher since 2006 in Canada, Brazil, France and Denmark. In 2007, she made her debut as a choreographer in Brazil. She's currently working on a new piece *Corps Accords*, which was partially presented in May. Characterized by an eclectic vocabulary and nurtured by many cultural influences, Julienne makes tribute to dance in all its forms. Questions concerning identity and relativity to otherness has been a guiding principal in her creations.



### **CORAL SHORT** **STOP BEATING YOURSELF UP**

« Us women, we know we should not tap out, but we do anyway. »

In another non traditional take on the sport of boxing, Montreal- and Brooklyn-based performer **Coral Short** will perform *Stop Beating Yourself Up*, a bloody match to the finish against her greatest adversary — her own self.

A practicing her craft over the last 15 years, Coral Short is a multidisciplinary artist who has lived all over the world. She currently divides her time between Montreal and Brooklyn.

Photo: Tif Flowers



**FLORENCE S. LAROSE and VIRGINIE JOURDAIN**  
**TOUR DE PISTE**

A performance installation where muscular male and female bodybuilders take us for a ride. Referring to the « fair phenomena » of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Bleu Chat Boxing Club will be transformed with rides and carousels.

**Virginie Jourdain** is a member of the Dyke Rivers collective, who directed queer and feminist performance projects across Europe

until 2009. Establishing herself in Montreal over the last few years, her recent work favours collective creation.

**Florence S. Larose** is an artist keen on exploring the reappropriation of cultural codes and media texts, reconstructing them with feminist, queer and activist imperatives. Her work has been presented in Montreal, Vancouver and Europe.



**ANNA JANE MCINTYRE**  
**THE TACA TACA FEMINISTS**

A foosball game unlike the others, this sculpture is made to be played. Created by feminist artist Anna Jane McIntyre, this game pays homage to female athletes from different eras, cultures and parts of the world.

**Anna Jane McIntyre** has always been, simultaneously, an athlete and an artist. In recent years, her focus has been fixed on aesthetics, sensuality and physical engagement in sport.  
[www.annajmcintyre.com](http://www.annajmcintyre.com)



**CATHERINE LALONDE MASSECAR**  
**BODY FRACTURE / SOUNDS AND ARTIFACTS INSTALLATION**

**BODY FRACTURE** explores questions concerning the subjectivity of bodily perception and martial art. Participants from a previous workshop will have been asked to expose personal observations of duality, the symbolism surrounding the female body, and iconography of superheroines in our imagination and in society on planks of wood. Then, lessons in basic striking techniques, the search for individual sound (a short yell called the “kiai”), and the application of board breaking — derived from the karate Kyokoshin — will be the basis of **BODY FRACTURE**'s second part...

Photo: Olivier Pasquali

The sound of each participant will be recorded and used to create an installation at the Bleu

Chat Boxing Club, entitled *Sounds and Artifacts* — an installation that will involve the participation of sound artist Magali Babin.

With a background in the world of theatre creation, **Catherine L. Massecar** has turned to exploring performance and interdisciplinary intervention art practices. Completing her master's degree at the Université du Québec à Montréal, her program focused on the artistic infiltration of art in urban areas. In 2006, Catherine founded Péristyle Nomade, a company dedicated to new artistic avenues, mainly dedicating itself to direction, as well as the undertaking of personal and creative research in nano-performance. Over the last 15 years, Catherine has been interested in and inspired by Choy Lee Fut kung fu, medieval weapons training, kickboxing and karate Kyokoshin, which has undoubtedly influenced her artistic approach.

## **ANTONIJA LIVINGSTONE** **ÉTUDES HÉRÉTIQUES**

in collaboration with An Thorne and guests.

**Antonija Livingstone** is an independent artist working with dance and performance in collaboration internationally. Her work has been presented in Kaai Studios Brussels, Theatre de la Bastille Paris, Tanz Im August Berlin, Impulstanz Vienna Tseh Projects Moscow amongst many other interdisciplinary venues throughout Europe over the last decade. Recently, she is collaborating again with Meg Stuart Damaged Goods Berlin, Jennifer Lacey Paris, An Kaler Vienna. Her performance practice is as an enthusiast for experimenting with the body and presence as material. As a choreographer she attempts to curate situations for dancing with \*irony and empty hands\*.



Photo: Cecilia Berkovic

## **LEX VAUGHN** **JOCKS'LUNCH**

Want a sporty snack while taking in the Chat Bleu action? Toronto artist **Lex Vaughn** will be on hand to host the bottom bar.

**Lex Vaughn** is a multi-disciplinarian artist and ex-pat based in Toronto. For three years, she toured over 300 shows with The

Second City, and has toiled her low brow humor in countless venues throughout Toronto, for some money and no money.

In addition, Lex is a character-based installation artist, mounting *Peanut Brittle* and *WEZY*, at Katharine Mulherin Contemporary Art Projects, and AKA Gallery in Saskatoon. She was part of the calendar project JD's *Lesbian Utopia*, in 2005, that culminated in a show at Deitch Gallery in NYC. As a drummer, Lex has performed, recorded, and toured extensively with musical groups such as Sir Clement, Hank, The Hidden Cameras, Lesbians on Ecstasy, Final Fantasy, Two Pack Fer Sure and Dating Service. Lex also won *Best Short* at the 2002 Inside Out Gay and Lesbian Film Festival Film, choreographed a dance piece for the prestigious Toronto Dance Theatre in May 2007, and played Pee-wee Herman in the *Pee-wee Herman Picture Show* in 2008. Lex is a two time recipient of the Buddies in Bad Times Playwrights Unit and played a version of herself in John Cameron Mitchell's *Shortbus*. She is currently obsessing over her ventriloquist act, *Graham and Diane*, about a shut-in and the homemade puppet that controls

her life.

[www.lexvaughn.net](http://www.lexvaughn.net)

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## Sunday, March 10 - EDGY LUCHA

7:00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m. @ Blue Cat Boxing Club  
\$20 \$15



Femmes Fatales in a battle of Good vs Evil!

Ferocious local female fighters take the ring for Edgy Lucha, a series of wrestling matches in a feminist spirit of Lucha Libre organized by Belgian experimental theatre artist **Marijs Boulogne**. Pound-for-pound, half a dozen tough-as-nails wrestling warriors — including Quebec Wrestling Hall of Fame inductee **Super Hardcore Anime LuFisto** — finesse the fine art of free fighting, holds and aerial maneuvers for your viewing pleasure.

**Marijs Boulogne** began studying drama at the RITS (Brussels) in 1996. While still a student, she began writing, producing and performing her own works. Her first production, a “mystical fable” called *Love Zero Control*, dealt with God, femininity and ecstasy. She later went on to create the Buelens Paulina Cie theatre company, co-founded with Bart Capelle and Manah Depauw. As an-of-studies project, Marijs creates *Endless Medication*, which was presented at the KunstenFESTIVALdesarts in Brussels in 2003, and selected the same year at the Theaterfestival in Antwerp. In her more recent works, Marijs continues her investigation of the intimate nature of feminine end sexuality (secretions, fluids, mucous membranes), on the border between friendship and betrayal, innocence and obscenity, ecstasy, desire, and lust.

## THE HARD CANDY HALF-TIME SHOW



### MIA S. VAN LEEUWEN HARD CANDY

Between the series of smackdowns, Edmonton-based **Mia Van Leeuwen** keeps the crowd hungry with *Hard Candy*, a neo-Burlesque boxing halftime show that explores the tension between good-girl behaviour and the fierce, feral antics of a woman wanting to fight.

Mia is a performance artist, director, writer, producer and the co-Artistic Director of [Out of Line Theatre](http://www.outoflinetheatre.com) (alongside Ian Mozdzen); a wacky performance company based in Winnipeg, MB. This is Mia’s second Photo: appearance at the Edgy Women Fest, performing [Le Petit Mort](http://www.lepetitmort.com) in 2011.

Ryszard Hunka

Currently, Mia is pursuing her MFA in Performance Studies at the University of Alberta.

## **FESTIVAL PARTNERS**

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Nuit Blanche à Montréal, Ministère du Consulat de France à Québec, le Cirque du Soleil, Conseil des Arts du Canada, Patrimoine Canadien and Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.

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