CONCERT, SCREENING & CONVERSATION WITH

Alexis Normand



PRESENTED BY
LES RENDEZ-VOUS DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

Alexis Normand's bilingual jazz-folk music has received critical acclaim across the country. Named Francophone Artist of the Year by the Western Canadian Music Awards in 2018, she has been nominated for a number of other awards as well, including a Canadian Folk Music Award and Saskatchewan's Lieutenant Governor's Arts Awards

In 2016, she put her solo career on hold to make her side project with Rosie & the Riveters a full-time endeavour. Their most recent album, Ms. Behave, reached #3 on the CVC Radio 2 Top 20, was supported by international tours and featured in numerous publications including Billboard Magazine and Rolling Stone. Before the trio disbanded in 2020, their music was used on television shows like Full Frontal with Samantha Bee in the United States, and CBC's Workin' Moms.

Alexis is making her long-awaited return as a solo artist in 2023 with new bilingual repertoire brimming with warmth and vulnerability. Her live music delivers elegant songwriting, finely crafted lyrics, and nuanced interpretations that delve into her doubts about identity and her insecurities around language.

The Fransaskoise will tour a concert-screening event across the country during which her first documentary will be screened after a 40-minute musical performance. Alexis wrote and directed French Enough, her first short film, produced by the National Film Board of Canada. After intermission, she will mediate a conversation and Q & A with audience members about language, identity and place.

By her open generosity, Alexis hopes to shine a light on the points of tension faced by many francophones in minority-language situations. The rich exchanges that ensue allow for greater understanding of the diversity and plurality of francophone identities.

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After over a decade of working in the arts as a songwriter, Alexis recently shifted her practice to include documentary filmmaking, a medium that fosters more authenticity and vulnerability in her practice. She is drawn to identity stories that discuss language, belonging and roots.

The Fransaskois will bring a concert-screening event to Francophone and French Immersion schools across the country: she will perform a 20-minute concert followed by the screening of her short film, French Enough – a documentary produced by the National Film Board of Canada. By her open generosity, Alexis recounts her own identity-building journey, touching on her insecurities around language.

This short presentation lays the ground work for a discussion about language, identity and place that she will lead with a panel of 3-4 accessible models from the school community: students, teachers and parents who will also share their experiences.

This concert-screening-panel format is designed to allow identity-building conversations to continue long after Alexis' visit to the school. The rich exchanges that ensue allow for greater understanding of the diversity and plurality of francophone identities.

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