

For Immediate Release: May 26, 2008 • Please include in your listings/announcements

THE 7TH BIENNIAL ASHKENAZ FESTIVAL
Harbourfront Centre • August 26 – September 1, 2008
MOST EVENTS FREE!

The 7th **ASHKENAZ FESTIVAL** takes place August 26 to September 1, 2008, at Harbourfront Centre and various satellite locations throughout Toronto, Canada.

Programming highlights include Jewish funk supergroup **Abraham Inc.** (featuring **Fred Wesley**, **David Krakauer**, and **Socalled**); Argentinian Yiddish Tango diva **Zully Goldfarb**; legendary mandolinist/clarinetist **Andy Statman**; Ukrainian brass band **Konsonans Retro**; Kosher Gospel with **Joshua Nelson**; Russian Klezmer garage band **Nayekhovich**; Sephardic Jewish music with **Pharaoh's Daughter** and **Flory Jagoda**; and from Canada, jazz pianist **Marilyn Lerner**, **Ken Whiteley & David Wall**, **Theresa Tova**, **Shtreiml**, **Beyond the Pale**, **Michael Wex**, **Allen Merovitz**, **Sisters of Sheynville**, and many more.

The **ASHKENAZ FESTIVAL** is one of the world's largest public celebrations of Yiddish and Jewish culture. Each edition of this multidisciplinary event presents approximately 50-75 artists/groups from Canada and around the world, working in music, film, theatre, dance, literature, craft, and visual arts. This year's festival promises as diverse a program as ever, with artists from over a dozen countries. Once again the famous **Ashkenaz Parade** will enliven Harbourfront Centre on Labour Day with a community celebration featuring music, dance, massive puppets, stilt-walkers, and overall group revelry, featuring **Shadowland Theatre**.

The **ASHKENAZ FESTIVAL** was founded in 1995 by David Buchbinder, Bruce Rosensweet, and Dianne Wienrib. The 2008 Festival celebrates the organization's "Bar Mitzvah," and will be the first **Ashkenaz Festival** presented by the new (as of fall 2006) management team of Executive Director **Karen Tisch** and Artistic Director **Eric Stein**.

The **Ashkenaz Foundation** is a community-based non-profit organization which fosters an increased awareness of Yiddish and Jewish culture through the arts. Showcasing the work of leading contemporary artists from Canada and around the world, **Ashkenaz** places an equal emphasis on preservation and innovation within its cultural milieu. **ASHKENAZ FESTIVAL** programming incorporates many other manifestations of Jewish music and art beyond Klezmer/Yiddish, and actively pursues fusion and cross-cultural exchange with artists from outside Jewish cultural traditions through commissioned work and special projects. The **Ashkenaz Foundation** places a strong emphasis on local and emerging talent, as well as on education and community outreach.

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August 26 – September 1, 2008

HARBOURFRONT CENTRE

MOST EVENTS FREE!

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