



## Community Calendar of Events

Note: If there is a community event you would like to have publicized, please let us know by email at least two weeks in advance ([editor@qctonline.com](mailto:editor@qctonline.com)).

**Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. – In the Ballroom: Traditional Music and Dance of a Community** continues at the Morrin Centre. This week features **Scottish and Irish Dances**. On **Sunday, March 8, Children's dances and their origins** will be featured. For more details and to reserve your spot on the dance floor, visit [morrin.org/en/in-the-ballroom](http://morrin.org/en/in-the-ballroom).

**Thursday, Feb. 26 – Hyperrealism: This Is Not a Body** opens at the Musée national des Beaux-Arts du Québec (MNBAQ). This intriguing exhibit was conceived and circulated by the Institute for Cultural Exchange and adapted for its North American premiere in Quebec City. For details, visit [mnbaq.org/en/programming/exhibitions/hyperrealism-this-is-not-a-body](http://mnbaq.org/en/programming/exhibitions/hyperrealism-this-is-not-a-body).

**Feb. 27 to March 2 – Disney on Ice** presents *Vivez L'Instant!* at the Videotron Centre. For details and tickets, visit [ticketmaster.ca/disney-on-ice-presents-jump-in-tickets](http://ticketmaster.ca/disney-on-ice-presents-jump-in-tickets).

**Feb. 28 to March 8 – Ta relâche au Musée** – Enjoy **March Break** activities at the Musée de la civilisation. Families are invited to come aboard for an incredible journey by taking part in activities inspired by the *Titanic: Tales and Destiny* exhibition. For details, visit [mcq.org/decouvrir/programmations-speciales/relache-au-musee](http://mcq.org/decouvrir/programmations-speciales/relache-au-musee).

**Until March 1 – Le Mois Multi: Sonoratures**, sound art and literature come together at 17 cultural venues in the Quebec City area, with some 50 shows, performances, workshops, and exhibitions featuring nearly 100 established and emerging artists. For details and to learn more about this festive month-long edition, visit [artsetculture.ca/lancement-de-la-26e-edition-du-mois-multi](http://artsetculture.ca/lancement-de-la-26e-edition-du-mois-multi).

**March 2 to 6 – Visit the Citadelle de Québec during March Break.** In addition to a guided tour and access to the Royal 22e Régiment Museum, visitors can meet military personnel, discover impressive vehicles and participate in the Test Force challenge,

inspired by the test that recruits must pass. The recruitment team will also be on hand to present military careers and answer questions. This educational, interactive activity is accessible to the whole family. For details and tickets, visit [lacitydelle.qc.ca/en](http://lacitydelle.qc.ca/en).

**March 3, 4, 5 – Ma Relâche au Parlement.** During March Break, the National Assembly offers many free activities: creative workshops, visits, exhibits and more for a family outing. For details, visit [assnat.qc.ca/fr/visiteurs/programmation-citoyenne/ma-relache-au-parlement-2026](http://assnat.qc.ca/fr/visiteurs/programmation-citoyenne/ma-relache-au-parlement-2026).

**March 3 to 8 – The Salon International de l'auto de Québec** takes place at the Centre des Foires at ExpoCité. This year's salon includes more than 35 brands, including electric vehicles, along with many fun family activities. For details and tickets, visit [internationaldelautodequebec.com](http://internationaldelautodequebec.com).

**March 5 to 7 – Igloofest is back** at Place Jean-Béliveau (ExpoCité) with

a hot program including headliners **Disclosure, Zeds Dead and Chris Lake**. For details and tickets, visit [quebec.igloofest.ca/en](http://quebec.igloofest.ca/en).

**March 5 to 7 – The first Festival International de poesie de Québec** takes place in various venues around the city. For details, visit [fipdequebec.com](http://fipdequebec.com). See preview on *QCT* website.

**March 5 to 8 – The great illusionist Luc Langevin** is giving four performances at the Grand Théâtre de Québec. Times vary. For details and tickets, visit [am.ticketmaster.com/grandtheatre/fr-ca/promotional](http://am.ticketmaster.com/grandtheatre/fr-ca/promotional). Special offer: two tickets for \$89 until March 5.

**Sunday, March 8 – SPRING FORWARD! Daylight Saving Time begins at 12:01 a.m.** – Reset your clocks and watches ONE HOUR FORWARD to 1:01 a.m. before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7, or you'll be late for church or whatever else you may have scheduled on Sunday morning.

**March 8-12 – Salon international du livre de Québec** takes place at the

Centre des congrès de Québec. For details, visit [programmation.silq.ca](http://programmation.silq.ca).

*JH Partners* promotes the personal and collective well-being of English speakers in the Quebec City region by offering a range of health promotion programs across seven sites, including the Jeffery Hale Pavilion. Learn more at [jupartners.net](http://jupartners.net).

Visit the *Voice of English-speaking Québec* website ([veq.ca](http://veq.ca)) for information about events in English for all ages.

Visit the *Morrin Centre* website ([morrin.org](http://morrin.org)) for information about more literary, artistic and educational activities for everyone.

*Quebec City Reading Council* is a literacy organization for English-speakers offering family programs, adult learning, and activities for 50+ learners. They empower the community through connection and lifelong learning. For details visit [qrc.org](http://qrc.org).

## REVIEWS

# Autobiographical play explores living with a glass eye with eye-opening humour

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As part of Mois Multi, Stéphanie Morin-Robert performed her award-winning solo show *Angle Mort* in Quebec City. The deeply vulnerable and wickedly funny French-language play narrates Morin-Robert's childhood growing up in Northern Ontario with an ocular prosthesis, also

known as a glass eye, after having her left eye removed as a result of cancer at the age of two. The 80-minute show was performed at La Caserne, for a teenage audience, with many references for parents and a 20-minute question period that helped deepen the audience's experience. Through storytelling, contemporary dance, puppetry and multimedia, the actor shared the advantages

and disadvantages of her disability – including her eye popping out at school during a dodgeball game – and a hilarious story about swapping eyes with her first camp crush.

Morin-Robert estimates she's done around 1,300 performances over 12 years, originally in English (*BLINDSIDE*). She said she created the French version *Angle Mort* “to combat my linguistic insecurities” after eight years of doing the English-language show. At first, sharing her story was a path to self-acceptance “because I was afraid of my own handicap,” she told the audience, seated on the edge of the stage with her eight-year-old daughter Olive, who joined her for the tour from their home in Winnipeg. As she gained confidence, she challenged herself to reveal more, such as removing her glass eye onstage in front of a camera. She invites people to either close their eyes or to “get out of their comfort zone” and watch, with a group countdown to the pop-out moment. With the aid of a webcam projecting her face on a large screen to allow for a closeup of her eyes, it's a can't-look-away moment that feels 1,000 per cent authentic. “I wanted to invite people into my personal space and give permission to look in my eyes. Often we pretend not to see a handicap or look elsewhere,” she explained.

She also frankly answers many of the questions she must have been asked over the years:

the glass eye looks more like a bowl than a ball, costs about \$3,500 – and yes, it bounces, as one horrified substitute teacher (and all her classmates) found out during a game of freeze dance in Grade 4.

At summer camp, an invitation from a cute boy named Andrew to meet after bedtime behind the toilets, led to “the most intimate thing” she has ever done with anyone – a swapping of prosthetic eyes with someone who had the same difference as her. The two challenged each other with dares that summer, including eyeball juggling at the talent show and practical jokes that led to her friend swallowing her eye in a hamburger. Everyone in the audience wanted to know if she is still in touch with Andrew; their distant relationship continues on Instagram. However as she grew up, she realized that she had “a lot more choices than just Andrew,” even if he had a big impact on her life. Despite the tricks and treats, painful memories related to how her dysfunctional family dealt with her cancer still haunt her today. Yet Morin-Robert thinks the best way to deal with difference and trauma is to confront it head-on. One audience member asked, “What advice would you give to a young [teenager] who has a difference?” Her advice: “Don't be ashamed. Share it with as many people as possible; talk about it and be proud. It makes you original.”



Photo by Danielle Burns

Stéphanie Morin-Robert brought her daughter on tour to Quebec from Winnipeg. The eight-year-old was amazed to see all the signs in French.

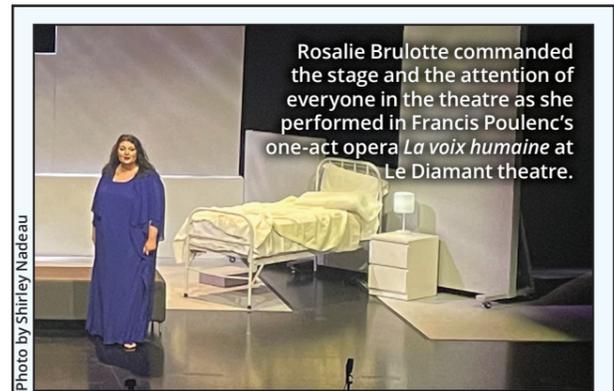


Photo by Shirley Nadeau

Rosalie Brulotte commanded the stage and the attention of everyone in the theatre as she performed in Francis Poulenc's one-act opera *La voix humaine* at Le Diamant theatre.

## Opera students present *La voix humaine* and *Burnt Toast* at Le Diamant

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Students of the Conservatoire de musique de Québec opera workshop recently presented two totally different operatic works at Le Diamant theatre that were dramatically serious and hilarious.

The *QCT* was privileged to attend a dress rehearsal the evening before the Feb. 13 and 14 productions. The first part featured *La voix humaine*, a one-act opera by Francis Poulenc, based on a play by Jean Cocteau, performed solo by Rosalie Brulotte in the form of a telephone conversation with her lover, who has left her. We realize that the bedroom she is in is inside a mental institution when a nurse comes to give her medication for the evening. Hers is the only voice we hear in the one-sided phone call, but it was such a beautiful, powerful soprano voice, and her character was

portrayed so realistically.

The second part of the evening had a completely different tone. *Burnt Toast* is a contemporary work by Canadian composer Alexina Louie, based on a libretto by Dan Redican. Originally created for television, this series of eight comedic mini-operas, to which *Toothpaste* by the same composer is added, took the audience on a journey through the various phases of romantic relationships with ridiculous and sometimes very dark humour. From candid first loves to murder over a toilet seat left in the upright position, and a break-up caused by a tube of toothpaste left open, love was presented in its many forms with nods to opera classics.

Students of the conservatory's symphony orchestra, directed by Dmitri Zrajevski, accompanied the singers of the two productions. The stage direction was by Bertrand Alain.