

ARTS & LIFE

THE GAZETTE | MONTREAL | TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2006 | EDITORS: ARTS, MARK TREMBLAY ■ LIFE, DOUG SWEET | 514 987 2560 | arts&life@thegazette.com

JAZZ FESTIVAL

CASUAL AND COMFORTABLE are the dominant themes on the streets of our annual musical extravaganza, with patrons and participants sporting what makes them feel good, be it a bit of bling or a favourite hat

Fashion fusion

SUSAN KELLY SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Prada-wearing she-devils may prowl the big screen this summer, but any couture label is rare avis at this year's Montreal International Jazz Festival. The casual look is in on the promenades, as always. And uncertain weather patterns call for some fashion improvisation. Lots of quick-change layers were spotted, meaning not all transpositions were happening in onstage riffs.

Zara Allen: A pre-med student majoring in neuroscience at McMaster University, she was in town from Toronto, just for the fest.

Was listening to: The Accories Sax free outdoor show by the group from Marseilles that fuses jazz with rap, hip-hop and funk — "my favourite influences," she said.

Stays strong in: All cotton is cool. Her camouflage-inspired skirt and head scarf have been in the closet a while; the cami and new cropped jacket are from, yes, Zara. "I'm shy usually," she said. "The military look makes me feel more confident in a crowd."

Made in the shades: No, they really can't be too super-sized this season. Here are by Urban Behavior

Josée Lamarche: A nurse from Lachine, employed at a downtown hospital, has some gypsy in her soul.

It's in the bag: Her striking hand-tooled leather bag, oversized as is the trend, is commodions enough for jazz fest programs, tickets, snacks and water bottle. "It's from Morocco, and goes with me everywhere," she said. Her sandals are made for trekking, her cotton top and capris by Tristan & America.

That old standard: A rose roll-brimmed sun hat has accompanied her at every fest for eight years.

Wouldn't miss: Anything "jazz manouche," gypsy-influenced à la Django Reinhardt. "The Biréli Lagrène New Gipsy Project show is a must-see for me."

Lina Salim Garcia: A third-year high school student who lives in LaSalle

The look: Capri-length jeans, green baby-doll top, ballerina flats from Guatemala.

The accessories: It could be all Baby Phat, all the time for the budding fashionista, down to the dangling rhinestone earrings with signature kitten logo and lozenge bag, also with rhinestone detail. "A little bling is a good thing, but I never overdo it," she said.

Grooved to: Cheb i Sabbah, the Algerian-born musician who takes world beat to a new level. "I like jazz with international influences."



Zara Allen is confident in oversized shades and camouflage prints.



Josée Lamarche totes her Moroccan tote everywhere.



Lina Salim Garcia won't shed her Baby Phat.



Performer Nikki Yanofsky (right), artist Francis X. Pavy (top left) and spectator Geneviève Denis (bottom left) each have distinct styles. PHOTOS: DAVE SEAWAY THE CAZETTE

FESTIVAL Local prodigy wears charms for luck

CONTINUED FROM D1

Nikki Yanofsky: To listen to the 13-year-old Montreal prodigy — stage name Nikki — is to wonder if she has the soul of Aretha Franklin. She was discovered by jazz fest organizers this spring, when she joined the Porn Flakes on the Club Soda stage. The rest is jazz history in the making.

Off-stage attire: Pink floral print cotton sundress by Benetton, brown Flojo flip-flops, perfectly comfortable for wearing to check out the competition at late afternoon outdoor shows. "Though on stage I'm always barefoot, I like to dance around," she said. Nike high-tech watch, so she's on time for a live radio interview done on her mom's cellphone.

Who she listens to: Aretha Franklin, Etta James and Ella Fitzgerald. She also likes Stevie Wonder and rock singers. "But when I sing, I just want to be my own self."

The show won't go on without: A gold bracelet with Italian horn charm, a metem-

orphic diamond musical note charm worn on a necklace. "It's good luck, too, a gift from my grandpa."

Francis X. Pavy: An enlarged version of this celebrated artist's latest painting, titled Crow's Road Float, served as a backdrop on the GM main stage for the Neville Brothers' opening-night show. A limited-edition reproduction of the work is also available at the Galerie du Festival.

Claim to fame: His paintings and sculptures grace the collections of Paul Simon, Bob Dylan and Jimmy Buffet. The festival is paying tribute to Louisiana's jazz tradition. Pavy hails from Lafayette. Rolling Stone magazine once dubbed him "the Picasso of zydeco."

Listens to: Jazz and more jazz, mostly bebop and 1950s and '60s styles. He also digs the blues and plays in a zydeco band.

Fashion statement: A unique, brightly coloured bubble-print shirt from a second-hand shop. It reminds him of his own paint-

ings. Worn under black wool suit by Perry Ellis — tropical-weight, of course. Pavy manages to keep his cool in it — apparently Montreal's heat and humidity index can't hold a candle to that of his home state. "I only regret not packing my crocodile shoes."

Geneviève Denis: A sales coordinator for a Montreal alternative newspaper, taking in some outdoor shows and the opening cocktail party.

How she mixes it up: She shares the eclectic taste of many young Montrealers. Today it's a long, black cotton jacket with white piping from Simons, jean drindl miniskirt and lozenge bag from Le Château, sunglasses by Akko.

Will listen to: Blues, especially Etta James. But loves any kind of music that creates an ambience. "I'm not that big a jazz fan — yet. I'm here to listen and learn," she said.

Fashion ambition: "Someday I'll wear Chanel — no matter where I am."