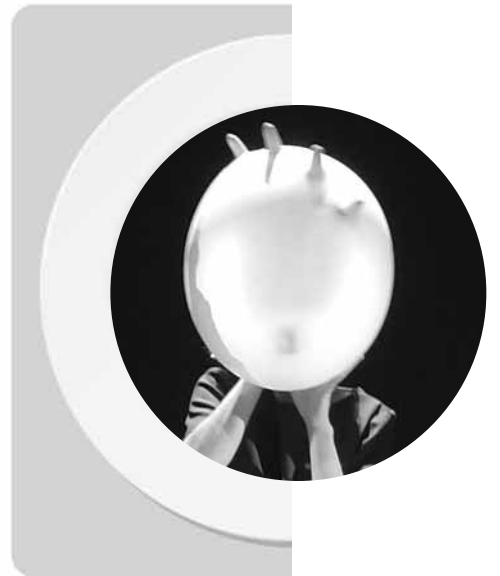


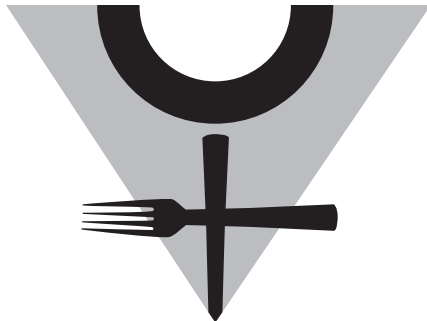
CULTURAL PROGRAM

The delegates at the *Bargaining Women's Equality Conference* are in for a treat! Unlike other conferences, this one has a cultural component made up of some of the best talent Québec has to offer! Reflecting some of the diversity and breadth of Québec society and the CUPE membership, this cultural program is sure to provoke thinking, inspire action and build solidarity for the myriad of struggles faced by women in our unions and communities.



SETTING THE TABLE

BARGAINING WOMEN'S EQUALITY



SPOKEN WORD ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE



**Information gathering:
Tuesday–Thursday, February 10 to 12**

**Performance:
Friday, February 13, 9:30 a.m.**

While at the conference, look out for the two artists-in-residence: **Kyra Shaughnessy** and **Queen Ka!** For the duration of the conference, these two artists will be attentively listening to the discussion, taking careful notes of the various issues, and madly and passionately writing poetry about it!

On Friday morning, as part of the closing proceedings, they will perform their poems to the conference. When you see them, feel free to introduce yourself and say hi, talk to them about the issues that you feel are important to you and help inspire them. Kyra and Queen Ka will be attending the opening plenary and the two morning sessions on Wednesday and Thursday.

About the artists:

Queen KA is a slammer. She started out performing other people's work, but decided to start composing her own material in 2004. Accompanied by the musicians in the band, her performances unfold in a unique world of sound. The effect is like lightning. Two years later she discovered the slam scene in Paris. Then in September 2006, Ivy introduced slam poetry to Montréal, and Queen KA has been rolling with slam Montréal ever since. She performed at the Théâtre Sainte-Catherine in December 2006 with the music of Pierre-Philippe Côté. Since then, between acting and directing, she has continued to write and take part in a variety of spoken word projects. She participated in slamgame for the *Nuit blanche sur Tableau noir* festival, and in *Bienvenue à Slamcité*, opening for Abd el Malik at the old Montréal Spectrum during the Francofolies in 2007. She took part in the Combat contre la langue de bois at the 2008 Festival voix d'Amérique and the *Grand Slam* 2008, and later appeared as a guest artist for *Grand Corps Malade's* Québec tour in Fall 2008. Queen KA is currently working on a more theatrical and musical spoken word show with composer Blaise Borböen-Léonard.

More info: www.myspace.com/thequeenka

Hailing from the Eastern Townships in Québec, **Kyra Shaughnessy** has been performing her original spoken word poetry in Montréal since the age of fifteen. Her work as an artist focuses on issues of environmental and social justice and is nourished by a strong connection to the earth, and the desire to expose and heal the damage done by the ongoing devaluing of the feminine. She was listed among the top ten Montréal spoken word artists for two years running, has performed internationally throughout the United States and England and been selected to participate in the CBC National Poetry Slam twice in her career. Kyra has three self-produced CDs available for purchase.

More info: www.kyras.net

SETTING THE TABLE: CABARET NIGHT

Thursday, February 12

Doors: 7:00 p.m.

Show: 8:00 p.m.

Grand Salon

Queen Elizabeth Hotel

Have you ever wondered what to do with that mini food processor you got as a present last year? Or that mixer you never have time to use anymore, or really have no interest? Well, wonder no more with the appetizing **Women With Kitchen Appliances**, as they whirl, beat and mix a symphony of sounds using every common kitchen appliance you can think of: mixers, beaters, processors, blenders, grinders, juicers, electric knives, can openers, slicers and more! And that's only the first course! For seconds, **Sofia Baig** will serve up an insightful and cutting critique of the world we live in, according to her experiences as a young Muslim woman. And finally, for dessert, the delectable and smooth sounds of **Lynda Thalie**, who will wow you with her fusion of Middle Eastern and North African grooves and her melodic tunes. You'll definitely feel satisfied and ready for a good night's sleep after this stellar and impressive three-course cabaret!

About the artists:

Being of Pakistani, Chinese and Spanish background, Montréal born **Sofia Servando Baig** began penning words of love and hope at an early age. Frustrated with the world's apathy and indifference to war, pain and suffering, she took it upon herself to use her voice to express her own struggles with life. As a spoken word poet, she aspires to instill in people passion, courage and confidence and above all, to inspire. Sofia has shared her work extensively with audiences all across Canada, the United States and Europe. Sofia has recently released her debut album entitled, *Daughter of the Sand*, which is a collection of selected poems and has already begun to garner great acclaim. More info: www.sofiabaig.com; <http://sofiabaig.blogspot.com>



SETTING THE TABLE: CABARET NIGHT

"We are three, four or five or six. Identical. Interchangeable. Disposable. And dead serious. We are a rock band, a sound project, a cabaret act, a synchronized rubber glove routine, a BBQ chicken washing machine, a confectionary flour Christmas jingle and kitchen certification service."

Formed in 1999, more than a dozen artists have participated in the **Women With Kitchen Appliances** collective project. WWKA have performed live in theatres and cabarets settings, on radio and television, in galleries, corner stores, in bars, and numerous festivals. WWKA have performed for audiences in Montréal, Toronto, New York, Brussels, Shawinigan, Rimouski and Gaspésie.

More info: www.myspace.com/womenwithkitchenappliances

Considered one of Québec's most beautiful voices, **Lynda Thalie** offers a musical tapestry created through a harmonious interweaving of world music instruments and tones. In recent years, the Algerian-born artist has reaffirmed her universal appeal, drawing enthusiasm from thousands of listeners on four continents. Her unique voice and musical style has earned her a special place in the arts community.

Depicted as a singer/songwriter who gracefully weds North African and Middle Eastern beats with Occidental sounds, Lynda Thalie has garnered critical acclaim as an artist who mirrors the diversity of today's Québec. Since her debut, the collaborations and accolades have continued to grow in number: in 2000 she won a Ma première Place des Arts award in the Vocalist category as well as Distinction and Radio-Canada awards, in 2004 she won the Prix du patrimoine d'expression du Québec, in 2005, she represented Canada at the Quinzaine de la Francophonie held in Rwanda, and many others. In 2007 she did a tour of six countries in the Middle East, North Africa, Europe and Latin America. Lynda Thalie has put out two albums, most recently *La rose des sables*, and *Lynda Thalie*.

More info: www.lyndathalie.com

