



POP Montreal is an international music festival celebrating its 10th anniversary from September 21st to the 25th, 2011. POP is now recognized as an important multidisciplinary taste-making event, expanding its mission through various components: Puces POP, Art POP, Film POP, Kids POP and the Symposium.

Kids POP: It's where the fun is at

We have often jokingly said that POP Montreal is a festival where a few babies are conceived every year. Well, not to take full credit for Montreal's population renewal, but over the last 10 years, a whole lot of families have started in and around our community. In light of that, Kids POP was born in 2008.

It could be said that Kids POP is a more casual component of POP Montreal. Having been initiated because young families were popping up all around us, its growth has been purely organic: a response to a need. Its mission is to offer children accessible bilingual activities that will challenge their imaginations and expand their creative minds. In other words, Kids POP organizes workshops, activities and lessons which provide families with something original, fun and educational at the same time. The clever programming gives kids a taste of their first music lesson, initiates artistic projects, sensitizes them to environmental issues and even lets them shake it at their first dance party!

Over the course of the festival's weekend, Kids POP offers various free activities during the daytime and while it's catered to children between the ages of 4 and 12, all are welcome. Due to its growing popularity, Kids POP is now organized twice a year, once in the spring and again in the fall during the festival. Despite the increase in participation levels, Kids POP promises to remain very community-centred.

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Important Info...

- Created in **2008**, Kids POP was inspired by the need to offer free and accessible daytime activities to young families.
- Taking place over **2 days**, Kids POP organizes a **dozen activities** and receives over **100 families**.
- Kids POP now takes place twice a year, once in the spring (during our Spring POP event), and again during the main festival.



Kids Party at Rialto

Kids POP Events

Kids POP activities are free and happen during the afternoon. We offer:

- Creative Workshops
- Music Lessons
- Concerts
- Much more!!



Workshops at Drawn & Quarterly



Krista Muir



Fred Penner

Bunchland

New Family Fun

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[« Chicken Soup Is Good for the Soul](#)

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Uncategorized

Look Out Weekend: October 1-3, 2010

No idea what to do this weekend? Bunchland's got your back



TORONTO

What: [Nuit Blanche](#)

When: Saturday, 6:57 p.m. to sunrise

Where: Various locations in the city

Price: Free

The details: There's plenty of exhibits and interactions to delight and amaze kids at this all-night contemporary art thing, such as the [all-night birthday party](#), the [human clock](#) and [musical sing-alongs](#). Be sure to purchase an [all-night TTC pass](#) for your family and get the [Night Navigator app](#).

MONTREAL

What: [Kids POP](#)

When: Saturday & Sunday

Where: Workshops held at Librairie Drawn & Quarterly Bookstore (211 Bernard Ouest), offsite events are held at the Rialto (5723 Avenue Du Parc)

Price: There is a charge for some of the programming, you can peep the details [here](#).

The details: The kids' programming at POP has always been amazing. This year, it includes songwriting and printing workshops, as well as performances by Fred Penner! The 5-year-olds inside us are squealing with joy.

NEW YORK CITY

What: Free Ice Cream with Lemony Snicket

When: Saturday from 12 p.m – 1 p.m.

Where: Cones (272 Bleecker Street)

Price: Free



POP MONTREAL | FRED PENNER is coming to town to perform a pair of shows for youngsters on Sunday, but his appeal stretches across generations. Page C8



ONLINE | ROBERT LEPAGE'S production of Das Rheingold opened last night at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. See Arthur Kaptainis's review at montrealgazette.com/arts

ARTS & LIFE

C8 ARTS

THE GAZETTE • montrealgazette.com • TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

POP MONTREAL

FRED PENNER is about to give his first local children's concerts in 16 years, but his audience now spans multiple generations

This cat is coming back

KATHRYN GREENAWAY
THE GAZETTE

Entertainer Fred Penner was a rock star with the preschool set during the run of his popular CBC television show *Fred Penner's Place*, from 1985 to 1997. His tiny fans were called Fredheads and they would swarm him whenever he appeared in public. Penner, 63, still gets stopped by Fredheads, but now they're all grown up. "Some of them tell me they are going into music or teaching because of me. To hear that is an amazing honour," Penner said during a telephone interview from his Winnipeg home. "The (television series) was gentle and protective and stressed communication with the viewers. It seems to have had an effect on their memory banks."

The singer-songwriter gives two performances of his show *The Cat Came Back!* Sunday at the Rialto theatre, as part of Kids Pop. Kids Pop is a component of the five-day Pop Montreal festival, which begins tomorrow.

Two years ago, Penner began a new phase in his life — performing gigs at university pubs.

"I sing (signature hits) *The Cat Came Back* and *Sandwiches*," he said. "There is definitely a nostalgia thing happening in the audience, but I also sing new tunes. It's cool to reconnect — that's where we were. Here's where we are now."

Penner performed for young adults at McGill University in 2008, but it has been 16 years since he did a children's show in Montreal. The *Cat Came Back!* show is a mix of old hits and songs from his latest children's album, *Where in the World*.

Penner is the parent of four grown children, with wife Odette Heyn-Penner (co-director of Winnipeg's School of Contemporary Dancers).

"I think being a dad has been the biggest influence on what I do," Penner said. "And my work with mentally and physically handicapped children (after the completion of his psychology degree) gave me a

"I think being a dad has been the biggest influence on what I do."

FRED PENNER

strong understanding of how a good song can bring a child out of a negative space and how important child participation is."

Penner began singing and making up songs when he was 4 years old. He gravitated toward folk music at an early age.

"Folk music, by definition, is about everybody coming together," Penner said. "That's what my shows are about, whether I am singing for children or adults."



POP MONTREAL

Fred Penner will be performing his show *The Cat Came Back!* Sunday as part of Kids Pop, the children's component of Pop Montreal.

Penner plans to continue touring university campuses and hopes to record an album of his new material over the next year. He also speaks at early-childhood-education conferences and visits seniors' facilities.

"I feel like I'm covering the entire spectrum, from birth to golden age," he said. "It's all important."

Kids Pop presents Fred Penner at the Rialto theatre, 5723

Other Kids Pop events

These free events are at the Drawn & Quarterly Bookstore, 211 Bernard Ave. W.:

Saturday and Sunday: Learn about radio from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children must be at least 4 years old.

Saturday: Make your own cards and stationery, from 11 a.m. to noon; 4 years old and up.

Saturday: Learn about the connection between a band's music and the images it uses, from 1 to 2 p.m.; 6 years old and up.

Sunday: Learn about the power of radio and be a DJ, from 11 a.m. to noon; 4 years old and up.

Sunday: Learn how to write songs, from 1 to 3 p.m.; 4 years old and up.

Park Ave., Sunday at 3 and 7 p.m. Lily Fawn opens the 3 p.m. show; Brittany Kwasnik opens the 7 p.m. show. Admission is free for children 12 years old and under. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and children 13 years old and up. For more information about Kids Pop, visit www.popmontreal.com/en/kids/shows.

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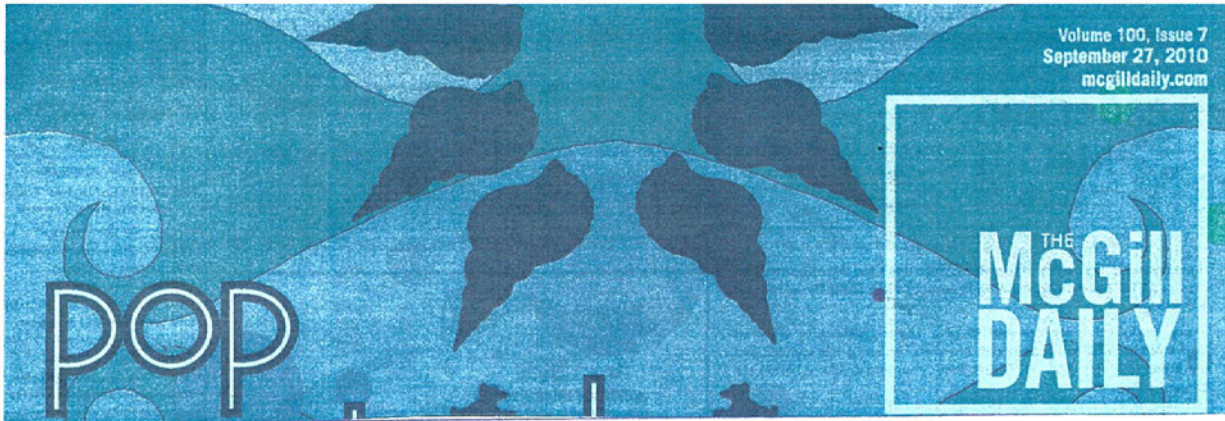


JUST TRY TO KEEP UP WITH THEM

We're getting you ready for Pop Montreal with coverage on our Festival Central page, including our searchable events calendar: montrealgazette.com/festivalcentral

Once the fest starts tomorrow, our usual suspects — including T'Cha Dunley, Jordan Zivitz, Mark Lepage, Alana Coates and Basem Boshra — will be posting reviews, news, videos and more through Sunday at Words & Music: montrealgazette.com/wordsandmusic





kids pop

Kids Pop is an exciting, interactive part of Pop Montreal that aims to engage and inspire children of all ages. Workshops, concerts, and other activities will be taking place on October 2 and 3 at Drawn & Quarterly and the Rialto Theatre. If you've got a gang of younger siblings, or if you grew up listening to Fred Penner, Kids Pop is sure to bring out your inner child.

Established in 2008, Kids Pop has become an increasingly popular part of the festival. Its mandate, director Jenny Lee Craig said, is "to provide some awesome daytime programming that encourages and supports independent creation for young people."

All weekend long, Kids Pop will broadcast from Drawn & Quarterly on a low-frequency radio channel, thanks in part to CKL F. On Sunday morning, Heidi Naggekaal will host "Radio Radio" – a session that will explore radio history and give kids the opportunity to try their hand at playing DJ. But the fun doesn't end there.

Youngsters can attend a print-making workshop led by local singer-songwriter Krista Muir, or explore music through a workshop incorporating movement and drawing. Muir will also lead "Songwriting Machine," a workshop in which kids can cre-

ate their own original songs using provided instruments.

For those of you who don't know Fred Penner, he was – and remains – one of Canada's most beloved children's entertainers. His TV show, *Fred Penner's Place*, aired on the CBC from 1985 until 1997. There may very well be a lot of young adults at his Kids Pop concerts because according to Penner, the 18-and-over university age group is currently his predominant audience. "It seems like the strongest demographic right now really is the university kids, and until they start becoming parents, then that circle will be complete and turn around," he said, on the phone from his home in Winnipeg.

A few years ago, Penner played in Gert's to a crowd of eager McGill fans. A video from that night has received over 35,000 hits on YouTube. In it, Penner plays a medley of *The Cat Came Back*, *Hit the Road Jack*, and *Crabucket*. That's right, *ios's Crabucket*.

In an age dominated by electronic entertainment and computer-generated TV characters, events like Kids Pop and performers like Fred Penner try to emphasize the importance of human interaction and the personal connection between the performer and audience. Are attention spans getting lower? "I think children are not given as much credit as they deserve," Penner said, explaining that

so long as you "keep the energy going," a young audience can be captivated by just one man with a guitar. "When I'm on stage, from the moment I step out until the moment that I am out of sight of the audience, I am aware of that entire audience," he said, later adding, "That kind of connectivity doesn't necessarily happen if you're watching a computer-generated program."

The Drawn & Quarterly bookstore, run by the influential graphic novel publishing house, will be a small and intimate setting for the Kids Pop workshops.

Event organizers are excited about the partnership. As Craig said, "I think it's important to introduce kids of any age – people of any age for that matter – to smaller and more

innovative booksellers as well as independent production and independent creativity."

On Sunday at the Rialto (5725 Parc), Fred Penner and guests will perform two shows – one for kids at 3 p.m., the other for families (and you!) at 7 p.m. Drawn & Quarterly is located at 211 Bernard Ouest.

For complete workshop descriptions and times, visit popmontreal.com/kids.

—Madeleine Cummings

