

## Reppin' the 613 at Bluesfest '09: Marie-Josée Houle

Written by Ren on Tuesday, July 7, 2009.



Photo courtesy of J.B. Hildebrand on Flickr.

**When and Where:** Thursday July 9th, 6:15 pm, Barney Danson Theatre

Former punk-rocker Marie-Josée Houle didn't start recording albums until after she'd turned onto a different musical path. She chose a somewhat unconventional one, and we're lucky that she did, because what she's produced in the last few years is both refreshingly new and deliciously vintage.

She describes her current sound as "French café, folksy gypsy jazz," which is fitting enough, but this beauty is hard to pin down. At once tough as nails and petal-delicate, Marie-Josée epitomizes the contradictions of modern femininity: she may be sensitive and emotional, but she also knows her powers, and she'll certainly use them! On a self-proclaimed mission to propel the accordion into the ranks of sexy instruments, Marie-Josée takes her objective seriously.

With her flirty retro style, fire-red hair and equally fiery onstage presence,

she performs, and this summer's Bluesfest show is bound to be scorching. Whether she's purring a sensual ballad or tapping her foot as she belts out a danceable refrain, she's got a gift for making a connection with her audience and pulling them into her world. The bilingual songstress also has the language of love in her arsenal, and her French tunes will soon have you dreaming about *l'amour*.

Marie-Josée will be backed by a full band at Bluesfest, which means we'll be treated to the entire gamut of her musical stylings. In addition to her original tracks, she's adapted some wicked covers, including a steamy version of Tom Waits' "Tango Til They're Sore" – which we can only hope will appear on her upcoming third album. If the accordion has any hope of attaining sexiness, it couldn't be in more capable hands.

Marie-Josée is touring in Western Canada this summer, but she calls Ottawa home and looks forward to returning to the capital, so keep an eye out for more Ottawa shows in the fall! For more about Marie-Josée Houle, check out her [website](#), [Myspace](#) and [Facebook page](#).