



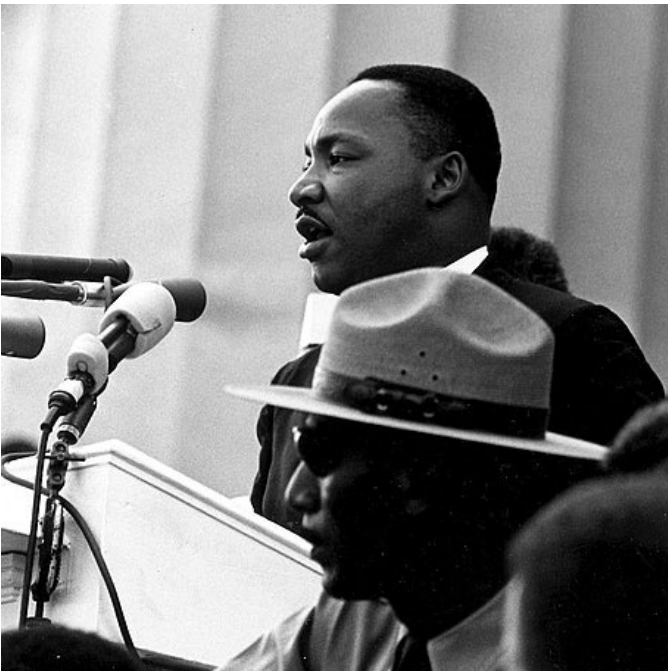
Mid to end of January
events to watch for

Description

Theatre, lectures and music to warm up a cold month

By **Byron Toben**

January 19, 2023



Martin Luther King Jr. delivering his speech "I have



a dream” — Image: Rowland Scherman, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

The **third Monday in January** was **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**. Dr. King, a Baptist minister, was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15, 1929. Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, he preached peaceful resistance to racial segregation and voting exclusion. The **Rosa Parks** bus incident in 1955 led to his organizing a series of protest marches from **Selma, Alabama**, to the state capital of Montgomery. Most famous for his 1963 march on Washington, D.C., where he gave his “**I have a dream**” speech, he was also active in the **anti-Viet Nam war movement**, urging that military spending for the war be diverted into social spending.

He was assassinated in 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, at the age of only 39. A movement immediately sprang up to declare a national holiday in his honour but it wasn't until 1983 that legislation was introduced to do so and fully adopted in the USA nationwide in 1986. Some local observance in Canada takes place in Ottawa and Toronto. Should Montreal also consider something of the sort?

Until January 28

As part of the annual **Wild Side Festival**, the **Centaur Theatre** and **La Chapelle Theatre** have banded together to host the latest **Talisman Theatre** production of **Wildfire**. Talisman's niche is French plays translated into English. Here, much awarded **Le Brasier**, a tragi-comedy by **David Paquet**, is enacted by **Julie Tamiko Manning**, **Kathleen Stavert** and **David Chiazzese**. I would go to see anything one of these actors is in, and here are all three in one play! Besides, where else can you see a play that includes a “murderous pet tarantula”? It plays at 7:30 pm each night (closed on Wednesdays and Sundays), with one matinee on January 28 at 3 pm.

talisman-theatre.com

Le Brasier [Wildfire]... is enacted by Julie Tamiko Manning, Kathleen Stavert and David Chiazzese. I would go to see anything one of these actors is in, and here are all three in one play!

January 23 to 29

Red Bull Theater of New York City, which specializes in Jacobean dramas, offers a free streamed on-demand dramatic reading of **Animal Magnetism**, an 18th-century farce by **Elizabeth Inchbald**, one of the very few women playwrights of that era. The preview is on January 23, and it runs until January 29. There is also a “bull session” panel discussion of the play on January 26. It apparently has overtones of *Le médecin malgré lui*, and includes mesmerism (hypnotism) as well as urging really early women's lib. Although free, voluntary donations are encouraged, and based on other Red Bull shows I have reviewed, well worth it.

redbulltheater.com

January 25 and 26



Image: courtesy of Mary-Ann Lacey

The **Cummings Centre** is streaming two fine music-related events. On **January 25** at 12:30 pm, **Rob Lutes** returns with his inimitable **The Story Behind the Song** series (package of three, includes February 15 and March 22) streamed online.

On **January 26** at 2 pm, the **Great Entertainers** series resumes with presentations from ***Fiddler on the Roof***.

cummingscentre.org

January 26 at 5 pm

Jazz singer **Mary-Ann Lacey**, in a change of pace, performs with one guitarist instead of her usual trio at the spacious **La Petite Marche** restaurant. No minimum, no cover. \$ 6 snacks are available as well as full meals.

lapetitemarche.ca

Featured image: Wildfire, by Maxime Côté



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Byron Toben, a past president of *The Montreal Press Club*, has been *WestmountMag.ca*'s theatre reviewer since July 2015. Previously, he wrote for since terminated web sites *Rover Arts* and *Charlebois Post*, print weekly *The Downtowner* and print monthly *The Senior Times*. He also is an expert consultant on U.S. work permits for Canadians.



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