

Culture **WHAT** • binds our diverse societies together

The Summit of the Americas is far more than a meeting of leaders discussing political, social and economic issues. It's a chance for Canadians to explore the many vibrant cultures of the Hemisphere, and for people from all over the Americas to discover Canada.

Youth contest

The Québec City newspaper *Le Soleil* holds an annual drawing and writing contest for high school students. This year, contestants are tackling an apt theme: "My favourite person in the history of the Americas." Students in Secondary I and II (ages 12 to 14) have to submit a drawing; those in Secondary III, IV and V (ages 14 to 17) have to write an essay of 250–300 words.

The contest began last October and runs until March 25. Each Sunday, *Le Soleil* publishes winning entries, chosen by cartoonist André-Philippe Côté. The winners then go to a jury, which will select the best of the best—one drawing and one essay. The grand prize winners will be announced on April 12 in a ceremony at the Artillery Park National Historic Site.

Youth theatre

Fuerza Activa is a theatre company with a difference: Its members are a dozen high school students from a poor district of Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. The group first came to Canada last year to stage their production of *El Principito*, an adaptation of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince*. For the Summit, they return to perform their short play *Audiencia de descargo*. The piece explores the relationships between rich and poor, and the aspirations of people marginalized by society.

The Americas on screen

Images du Nouveau Monde is a festival that began in 2000 as a competition for films from throughout the Hemisphere. Attracting 8000 visitors, it was an immediate success. In its second year the plan is for an even larger show. The honorary patron is well-known filmmaker Denys Arcand.

At least five Québec City theatres are participating. The festival presents both short and feature-length films in their original language, with some of them subtitled in English or French.

At the local library

From February 13 to April 30, a special attraction is drawing visitors to Québec City's Gabrielle-Roy Public Library: a series of some 20 panels, each profiling a writer from one of the countries participating in the Summit. And there's more on offer at the library:

- Arte de la Tierra
Colombia is an exhibit of 20 clay statuettes loaned by the Colombian Ministry of Culture. Accompanying it is an audiovisual display on Colombia's art and culture.

Flanked by actors Jessica Paré and Dan Aykroyd, director Denys Arcand (centre) speaks at a Toronto International Film Festival press conference, on September 8, 2000.

