

FREE

Local News
in English

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N°154- June 6, 2008

WEEKLY

St-Barth



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Michèle Alliot Marie Visits Saint-Barth

Michèle Alliot Marie, French Minister for the Interior, Overseas, and Local Collectivities, was originally expected to come to Saint Barth in April. As of Wednesday, June 4, a few months after that initial date, she is currently conducting a tour of the French West Indies. The trip is meant to clarify certain French Overseas political decisions, highly criticized by officials and businesses, and which the minister will address. “Mam,” as she is referred to, attended a ministers’ council before flying to Martinique, the first stop of her voyage throughout the Antilles. The next stop was Guadeloupe on Friday, then the collectivities of Saint Martin and Saint Barthélemy on Saturday. As of Thursday, she has been traveling with Yves Jégo, Over-



seas Secretary of State, who met with a rather cool reception in Guadeloupe 10 days ago, where roadblocks in protest over measures to change certain tax laws (in particular concerning the construction of public housing) and their impact on the local economy marred the first hours of his visit. Jégo promised that the government will give the towns in

Guadeloupe the tools they need for proper development, and it is up to them to use them properly. In Saint-Barth, during a very short visit, there will just be time for a meeting with the territorial council—and the social, economic, and cultural committee—early Saturday afternoon at the Hôtel de la Collectivité in Gustavia.

FRENCH OVERSEAS FILMS HONORED AT CANNES

The Hohoa Prize (hohoa means image in Polynesian) given for the best short film scenario is intended to help stimulate and promote the visibility of overseas French films. Presented during the 2008 Cannes Film Festival, first prize the year was awarded to Nicolas Polixène (from Martinique who lives in Paris) for “Le temps des cendres,” and second prize went to Jérôme Verdoia (from Reunion Island) for “La gueule de bois.” During a reception attended by Yves Jégo, the French Overseas

Secretary, the jury also announced two special mentions, one for “Lozong-long, les oiseaux de malheur” by J. William Cally, and one for “Le tambour de José” by Jeff Bourgade. Since it was created in 2003 by RFO and the agency, Invariance Noire, with support from the Overseas Ministry, the Hohoa Prize has helped promote the production of short films and supports emerging young filmmakers from the overseas regions (past winners seen at the St Barth Film Festival include “Monsieur Eti-

enne” by Yann Chayia and “Il Etait Une Fois...Sasha et Desiré” by Cécile Vernant) The president of the 2008 jury was Jacques Martial, president of the Parc de La Villette du Parc in Paris. As part of the activities at Cannes, RFO—which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year—organized the first Overseas Film Day. A round-table discussion held on filmmaking and production in the overseas departments included Tony Coco-Viloin of Guadeloupe, a regular at the St Barth Film Festival.



The Weekly's Summer Schedule !

For the next two months, the St. Barth Weekly will appear once every two weeks, or every other Friday through the end of July, when the Journal de Saint Barth goes on summer vacation.

We will be back on a weekly basis as of Thanksgiving, for the sixth season of The St. Barth Weekly, the only all-English newspaper on the island. The Weekly covers the island from all angles, allowing you to keep your finger on the pulse of local politics, cuisine, art, and cultural events.

In the meantime, you can stay in touch with the latest on the island by downloading The Weekly's electronic version every other Friday through July at stbarthweekly.com.

If you are on the island, please enjoy your stay.
If you are checking in from afar, please come back soon!



DOUCHY, THE DOYENNE OF FRANCE

Eugénie Blanchard alias “Douchy,” became the oldest woman in France on Sunday, May 25, according to the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM), which since 2003 has kept an eye on the aging of the population. Douchy, who lives at the hospital in Gustavia, learned this honor when Clémentine Solignac, passed away on May 25 at the age of 113, surrounded by her family at a retirement home in France. Douchy, who celebrated her 112th birthday on February 16, could well be the 47th oldest person in the world, according to the US-based Gerontology Research Group. After Marie Louise Lhuillier passed away on December 28, 2007 in New Caledonia at the age of 112 years and 185 days, Douchy became the oldest woman



in the French Overseas territories.

Born on February 16, 1896 in her family home in the Merlet neighborhood of Saint Barth, Eugénie Blanchard was known by the nicknames of “Nainaine Nini” or “Mi-Douce,” before she decided to become a nun. Because there were Dutch priests who came to say mass in Saint Barth, she entered the convent in Curaçao (the capital of the Dutch West Indies) at the age of 26, and became Sister Cyr-

ia Costa. Her niece, Cécile Magras, told us that the order was very strict and that Eugenie did not have the right to leave the convent or visit Saint Barth. She finally left the convent for good, after a 33-year exile, and returned to Saint Barth at the age of 60. That is when everyone started to call her Douchy. “It’s a word in Papiamentu, a language spoken in the Dutch islands, where it means candies and sweets. When she returned to Saint Barth, she offered candy to chil-

dren, saying “douchy, douchy” to them. “The name stuck,” says her nephew, Daniel Blanchard. Douchy settled in Anse des Cayes, near her sisters but kept coming back to Merlet to the house where she was born. It was in bad shape and was destroyed but the materials were used to build her a pretty little cottage in wood, close to one of her older sisters, Lucina. She remained there until 1980, by which time she was almost blind, and she moved to the hospital. Today, she is very weak but does not take any regular medications. Her 12 brothers and sisters have all passed away and she does not have any children, although her relatives visit regularly. On February 16, she received a plaque from the island in honor of her place as the oldest woman in Overseas France.

The opinion of a Visitor

I have been a visitor to your beautiful island for the last 7 years straight, and felt I should write about some views that might be helpful to maintain your tourism from North America in the remainder of 08 and 2009: -With rising fuel prices and airfare and the drop in the value of the US Dollar we were surprised on our last visit in April that local villa owners, shops, and

restaurants seemed unwilling to offer any incentive to offset the Euro’s impact. We found the opposite on French St. Martin where shops and restaurants were offering discounts for cash payments in some cases at 1 euro = 1 US dollar to keep business.

-Many hotels and rentals are also offering loyalty discounts of 10-15% and are willing to guarantee the

2008 rate if you book early. We are not seeing that on St. Barths unfortunately.

-I can say that our spending while on the island this past April was down considerably because of the Euro/ Dollar and the additional taxes levied.

I hope your business owners can recognize what they need to do to show it’s repeat customers that they want to be helpful and

appreciative of visitors, or much your tourism will move to more affordable locations. Just today in the USA reports are indicating that airfares will go up of the next by perhaps 50-100% over the next year.

We hope St. Barth can respond positively in this environment.

Sincerely yours,
Daniel Powers
South Wales, New York,
USA



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Seventh Annual Theatre Festival A Great Success!

More than 1,500 spectators in 2008, up from 1,116 in 2007: The local theatre festival is more successful every year and even had to turn away dozens of disappointed people who had not reserved in advance. The biggest audience was for the second evening of the one-woman show, *Lead In Her Head*, by humorist Sophia Aram. Approximately 200 people crowded into the “theatre” at the Capitainerie, where extra chairs were added at the last minute. In addition to the success of comic works, this also demonstrates the power of word-of-mouth, and the buzz surrounding this festival: “The festival has its fans and their numbers increase every year. And every year there are newcomers who heard about the festival or about one show in the festival and who come for the second performance. For us, this is a clear sign of success, and word-of-mouth works well in Saint Barth where you know right away if something is good... and just as quickly if it is not,” explains Nadège Emmanuelian, artistic director of the festival, who is happy with the ongoing collaboration

between SB Artists and Ankou Culture, now in its third year: “Ankou is a company that produces and tours productions from Paris, and they help with our programming on a volunteer basis. For the festival, Isabelle and Patricia create a list of artists who are likely to be free during the dates of the festival and contact them for us, whether we have worked with them before or not, especially if we have certain artists in mind, as was the case for Clémence Massart, who I absolutely wanted to bring again this year, or the company, A Cour et A Corps, who exhibited a different kind of theatrical family with artists from many different disciplines, and based in circus arts. What I like about this genre of live performance, compared to cinema and video, is the direct contact between the artist and the spectator. For me, it is a genre that is not yet fully appreciated by those who program festivals. That’s why it was so important to invite this troupe.”

A First: Performances For Students

An expansion of the festival this year included special performances just for stu-

dents: eighth and ninth graders came to the show by Sophia Aram at the Capitainerie, while sixth and seventh graders saw the a performance by A Cour et A Corps in the new theatre in the Catholic Church hall (see inset). “We were asked to do this by the parents association at the junior high, and we hope to do it again next year. It would be more interesting for the student if there were better prepared in advance and knew what to expect. We realized that except for the performance that SB Artists put on for children at Christmas, only 10% of the students had ever seen a live performance! So they are likely to behave as if they are watching television: they talk, they laugh, they heckle. That is why it is interesting, if possible in the future, to present live performances throughout the year, whether it be theatre, music, dance, circus, or magic shows, to put the students in direct contact with the performers,” notes Emmanuelian, who also likes the idea—a large enough space is found—to offer theatre classes for adolescents.

Even Better In 2009!

This is the wish made by SB Artists who have already announced the dates for the eighth edition of the festival, which will be held from Thursday, May 7 through Sunday May 16, 2009. The program will be set during the winter.

Special Thanks

Nadège Emmanuelian expressly wanted to thank

all the sponsors, without whom the festival would not exist. Starting with the 18 actors of SB Artists, who take part in the festival each year and are among its benefactors: “This is a 100% volunteer festival. They carry coolers, move chairs, help put up and take down the scenery, take reservations, sell tickets, welcome the performers, and everything else. They work hard during the 10 days of the festival. That’s another reason why the festival cannot be any longer, or have more performances.” Another important aide to the festival, the hotels: “the artists who perform here are not paid. In exchange for their participation, we offer them great accommodations in Saint Barth thanks to our partner hotels. The performers tell us they are welcomed warmly and treated like VIPs, and for us, that helps with the word-of-mouth in Paris with other performers and helps us produce a high-quality program,” adds Nadège, who thanks all the other partners who help support the festival. And last, but certainly not least, a large thank you to the Collectivity of Saint Barthélemy, which renovated the church hall into a real theatre that meets the needs of the population. “This allows us the possibility of presenting performances throughout the year, either by SB Artists, another local association, or performers from outside the island. In any case, that would be great.”

TIME OUT

Where to go dancing? See an art exhibit?
Listen to live music? Time Out keeps you up to date on local happenings. Let's party !

Live Music

► Every Evening

- Lounge mix by Jacques Dumas, 7:30 pm to 1 am, Bar'tô, hotel Guanahani, Grand Cul de Sac

Let's Party

► Tuesday

- Chic & Romantic, Jazz blues, Saoul, Ti St Barth, Pointe Milou

► Wednesday

- From 60's to the 80's, Funny & Sexy spectacle, Ti St-Barth, Pointe Milou

► Thursday

- Angels party, Ti St-Barth, Pointe Milou

► Friday, June 23

- Latino Party, Ti Zouk K'fé Gustavia

► Saturday, June 24

- Zouk evening, Ti Zouk K'fé Gustavia

► Sunday

- Brunch at Manapany, Anse dess Cayes, Mix music, from noon to 3:00 pm

Night Club

► Every night

- Casa Nikki, Gustavia

- Yacht Club, Gustavia

- Bubbles Club, Gustavia

- Hot Spot Café, Lurin

- The Strand Supper Club

► Monday

- Electro evening, Yacht Club, Gustavia

► Tuesday

- Caribbean Influence, Yacht Club, Gustavia

- Pink Party, dress code white & pink, Casa Nikki, Gustavia

► Wednesday

- We never know Evening, Yacht Club, Gustavia

Yacht Club, Gustavia

► Thursday

- Pure House Evening, Yacht Club, Gustavia

Fashion Show

► Everyday

- 1:30- 2 pm, Case de l'île, Isle de France, Flamands

- 1.30pm & 8:30pm, fashion show featuring Wild Side, La Plage, St Jean

► Every Tuesday

- 6:30 pm, Hôtel Isle de France Boutique, Flamands

- 9:30 pm, Fashion Show

Ti St Barth, Pointe Milou

Exhibitions

► Through June 15

Andrew Radcliffe, Janes Gallery, Eden Rock, St Jean

► Through June 15:

Sue McNally at Les Artisans, Gustavia

Gustavia

► Alain le Chatelier,

Les Artisans, Gustavia

► Rose Murray at Comptoir

du Cigare, Gustavia

► Dave Stevenson

Jewelry & sculpture les Artisans, Gustavia

► Art Galleries

- Carole G. Art Gallery, Gustavia

- To-b.art galerie, Gustavia

- Pipiri Boutique, art gallery, Gustavia

- Sandra's Art Gallery, Gustavia

- Gustavia

- Gustavia

- Gustavia

► Permanent exhibits

- Alain le Chatelier, Les Artisans, Gustavia

- Pompi, Petit Cul de Sac

- Didier Spidler, Gustavia

- Hannah Moser, Cul de Sac

- Antoine Heckly, Galerie

Indochine, Gustavia

Special Events

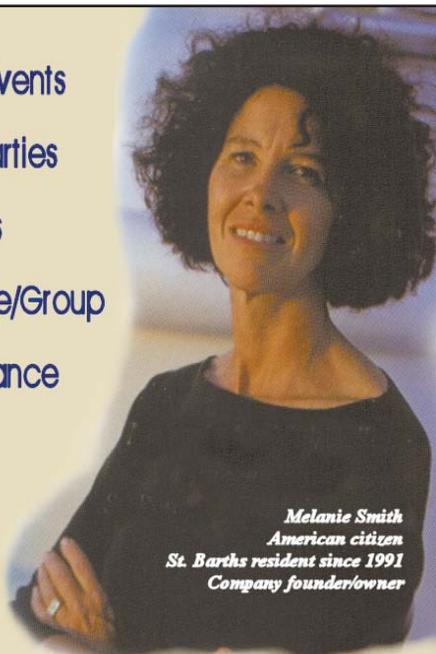
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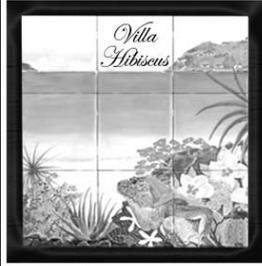
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Local Weather

<p>Saturday</p> <p>Scattered Clouds High: 82° F. / 28° C Wind ESE 8mph / 14km/h Night : Scattered Clouds Low: 78° F. / 26° C. Wind East 11mph / 18km/h</p>	<p>Monday</p> <p>Scattered Clouds High: 84° F. / 29° C Wind East 15mph / 25 km/h Night : Scattered Clouds Low: 80° F. / 27° C. Wind ENE 15mph/25km/h</p>
<p>Sunday</p> <p>Scattered Clouds High: 84° F. / 29° C Wind East 11mph. /18 km/h Chance of precipitation : 20% Night : Scattered Clouds Low: 80° F. / 27° C. Wind ENE 13mph/21km/h</p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>Scattered Clouds High: 84° F. / 29° C. Wind East 15mph / 25km/h Night : Scattered Clouds Low: 80° F. / 27° C. Wind East 15mph /25km/h</p>

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Classified ads

Real Estate

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For sale, a land on the hillside of St. Jean with a double view on St. Jean and Saline. Contact St. Barth Property/ Sotheby's International Realty : 0590 29 75 05

Land

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	Rapid Explorer 05 90 27 60 33
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	Saint-Jean 05 90 27 75 81
<u>St Barth Shuttle (Bus Service)</u>	05 90 29 44 19
<u>Town Hall</u>	05 90 29 80 40
<u>EDF</u> (electricity company office)	05 90 29 80 81
<u>Water system</u>	05 90 27 60 33
<u>Post office</u>	Gustavia 05 90 27 62 00
<u>Marine Reserve</u>	06 90 31 70 73
<u>Catholic church</u>	Sunday 8:30am Gustavia 05 90 27 95 38
<u>Anglican church</u>	Sunday 9am. 05 90 29 74 63
<u>Evangelical church</u>	St Barth Beach Hotel Sunday 9am



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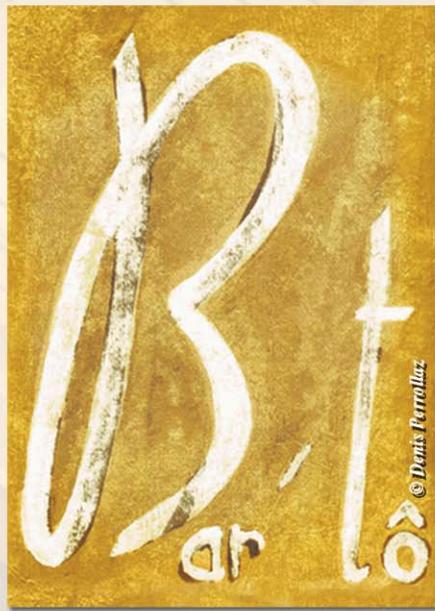
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