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## **FRENCH CULTURES FESTIVAL KICKOFF CONCERT TO TAKE PLACE THIS FRIDAY, MARCH 13 AT DISCOVERY GREEN IN HOUSTON**

*Kick-off concert will feature three French bands and launches a month of events celebrating French language and cultures across Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas*

*Participating bands to head to SXSW after the festival*

(AUSTIN, TEXAS – March 2015; source: Juice Consulting) – **The Cultural Service at the French Consulate** in Houston is proud to announce the **French Cultures Festival (FCF)** taking place throughout the month of March in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. The festival aims at celebrating French language through cultural and educational events.

A free kickoff concert will showcase a bouncing mix of pop, rock and electro sounds with four bands: **The Dove and the Wolf (France)**, **Deep Cuts (Houston)**, **The Inspector Cluzo (France)** and **Air Bag One (France)**. The event will take place **this Friday at Discovery Green park** located at **1500 McKinney, Houston, Texas 77010** beginning at **6 p.m.**

The event is open to the public and is family friendly. For more information, please see: [http://frenchculture.org/music/events/french-cultures-festival-2015-kick-concert#overlay-context=Discovery Green](http://frenchculture.org/music/events/french-cultures-festival-2015-kick-concert#overlay-context=Discovery%20Green) park website: [www.discoverygreen.com/1125428](http://www.discoverygreen.com/1125428)

### **AIR BAG ONE (FRANCE)**

"All the way from Douala, Cameroon, Cyp (Drums, backing vox), Loris (Lead vox, keys, guitar) and Jips (Guitar, backing vox) better known as Air Bag One chose Houston to kick-off their first US

Tour. This "mysterious and atypical" French indie-rock electronic trio will then be heading to legendary SxSW festival in Austin. Both the band and their songs come across as unquestionably cool, and we especially like the fact that even though Air Bag One are going for a casual, light-weight sound, their songs are not written as tight little pop songs, rather plenty of time is given at the end of compositions for the either solos or noisy little climaxes." [SXSXW](#)

### **THE INSPECTOR CLUZO (FRANCE)**

"Delivering a jacked-up explosion of soulful funk-influenced classic rock intensity, The Inspector Cluzo's fourth studio full-length, 'Gasconha Rocks,' was recorded in full analog by the band on their old MCI mixing desk on their farm in Mont de Marsan, Gascony. The album's diverse 10 tracks capture the act's most closely represented recording of their insanely energetic live show." [SXSXW](#)

### **THE DOVE AND THE WOLF (FRANCE)**

The Dove & the Wolf is Paloma and Lou, two girls raised on opposite sides of the Atlantic ocean; one in Paris and the other on the French Caribbean island of Martinique. They started playing together in 2004 and formed this project in 2012. Six months after creating the band, they released a first EP (self-produced and self-distributed) that caught the attention of the New York Times, earning them a full page in the magazine that praised: "a four-song collection of spare but soaring harmonies."

[The Dove and The Wolf & New York Times](#)

### **DEEP CUTS (HOUSTON)**

"In just sixteen minutes, [Deep Cuts](#) takes you on a journey that you can't help but fall in love with, while they spread their wings as a band growing from their former selves. There's something about these six songs ('[Love Grows](#)' album) that truly echoes sounds of the past, in a fresh new way. Upon first listen I heard the influence of [Joe Higgs](#), the vibe of [The Mighty Diamonds](#), and the rhythmic infusion of [Tom Ze](#) almost coupled with the genius of [Sergio Mendes](#)."

[Free Press Houston](#)

In addition to the live music performances, the French Cultures Festival will offer attendees an exclusive selection of delicacies and gourmet dishes from France and francophone countries. Bites will include macarons by **Bite Macarons**, crêpes by **Sweet Paris**, ham and cheese baguettes, boeuf bourguignon and onion tarts by **Central Market**, quiches, shawarma and charcuterie by **Phoenicia Foods**, madeleines, financiers and pâtisseries by **Culinary Institute LeNôtre**.

The French Cultures Festival would not be possible without the support of valued sponsors including **Total**, **GDF Suez**, **Schlumberger**, **TV5 Monde**, **the Government of Canada**, **the Confederation of Switzerland** and the **Swiss-American Society Houston**.

"The French Cultures Festival is designed to create awareness of the diversity of contemporary French culture and to provide opportunities for exchanges with the public. With an eclectic program ranging from music and dance performances to film screenings, we hope to generate interest in all creative expressions from France and French-speaking countries and to encourage the teaching and learning of French language" said **Cultural Attaché Sylvie Christophe**.

The FCF gathers many institutional partners from diplomatic representations, museums, universities, schools, associations of teachers of French and other cultural organizations. The Festival features numerous events including lectures and talks, film screenings, performances, concerts, encounters with artists and writers, training sessions for teachers, writing contests, exhibits and many other educational activities.

For more information including the official calendar, visit [www.frenchculture.org/frenchculturesfestival2015/](http://www.frenchculture.org/frenchculturesfestival2015/) or [www.facebook.com/frenchculturesfestival](http://www.facebook.com/frenchculturesfestival).

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**\*MEDIA NOTE:**

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