



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For the attention of culture and entertainment editors

Twenty Years of Otakuthon: Coming of Age of Canada's Largest Bilingual Anime and Manga Convention, with an Extraordinary Lineup for a Grand Edition

Montreal, July 28, 2025 — This year marks the 20th anniversary of Otakuthon, signalling the official coming of age (成人式 – Seijin Shiki) of Canada's largest bilingual anime and Japanese pop culture convention.

First organized in 2006 by Concordia University's anime and manga club, Otakuthon has grown into a true cultural phenomenon, attracting otakus from all over the province and across the country. In 2024, the convention welcomed a record-breaking 35,720 participants. Operated as a non-profit organization run entirely by volunteers, Otakuthon brings together more than 900 passionate individuals who invest their time and energy to make this gathering for otakus in Quebec and Canada. In recognition of its efforts to foster mutual understanding between Japan and Canada, the Otakuthon Cultural Society received a special commendation in 2018 from Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

To celebrate its milestone anniversary, the Otakuthon team has pulled out all the stops. For the first time, five major concerts will be held outside the Palais des congrès de Montréal, at the salle Wilfrid Pelletier in Place des Arts. Additionally, the convention will expand into the Oasis Immersion space to welcome video game enthusiasts, while continuing to occupy the entire Palais des congrès.

This year's programming is designed to entertain and engage a broad range of participants. Attendees can enjoy tabletop gaming rooms, a wide variety of panels focused on the anime universe, martial arts demonstrations, and meet-and-greets with virtual idols (VTubers), such as **Mataran Kan**. The convention will also host events featuring international figures from the world of anime, including voice actors, directors, animators, singers, and producers.

Cosplayers will take centre stage with the Canadian preliminaries of the **World Cosplay Summit**, a prestigious international cosplay contest held annually in Japan. Otakuthon will also feature the Masquerade, a cornerstone event of the convention where amateur cosplayers can showcase their diverse talents. Anime Music Video (AMV) creators will have their time to shine with a competition that allows enthusiasts to present their videos and participants to vote for their favourites.

Notable guests this year include **Shouta Aoi**, the acclaimed singer and voice actor making his first appearance in Canada in collaboration with J-rock North Promotions Inc. and King Records CO., LTD. Our attendees will also have the chance to meet the legendary Japanese narrator and voice actor **Ryōtarō Okiayu**, who is known for his work on *BLEACH*, *The Prince of Tennis* and *Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba*, and **Masaya Onosaka**, a renowned radio personality and a Japanese voice actor in *The Prince of Tennis*, *BLEACH* and *TRIGUN*. **Donald Reignoux**,

renowned French-dubbing actor in *Kingdom Hearts*, *Neon Genesis Evangelions*, and *Final Fantasy X*, and **Dorothée Pousséo**, French-dubbing actress in “Wreck-It Ralph” and *Overwatch*, will be there to meet their fans. **KizunaAI**, considered the world's first female VTuber, will be performing her first concert in Canada, celebrating her comeback after several years' absence. Doubler and YouTuber **SungWon Cho**, which you may have heard in *Delicious in Dungeons*, *One Piece* and *Pokémon*, is also among the celebrities expected. **Ryan Bartley**, known for her iconic roles in *Neon Genesis Evangelion*, *Re:ZERO*, and *Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba*, will be present, along with **Tatsuya Oishi**, the renowned animation director praised for his unique visual style and storytelling in works such as *Bakemonogatari* and the *Kizumonogatari* trilogy.

The complete list of guests and program details will be available on Otakuthon's official website and through the Guidebook app.

WHEN?

Friday, August 8th, 2025

Saturday, August 9th, 2025

Sunday, August 10th, 2025

WHERE?

Palais des congrès de Montréal

1001 place Jean-Paul Riopelle

Montréal, QC H2Y 0A3

ABOUT OTAKUTHON

Otakuthon is Canada's largest bilingual convention celebrating Japanese animation (*anime*), graphic novels (*manga*), gaming, and pop culture. As the first of its kind in Montreal, Otakuthon is a full-fledged, bilingual anime convention that features a diverse range of special guests as well as many panels, activities, and events spotlighting all aspects of Japanese culture. Every year, this event is made possible by the hard work and dedication of passionate volunteer staff members who generously devote their time to creating a convention that is entirely for fans, by fans.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: <http://www.otakuthon.com/2025/home/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OtakuthonMTL/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/otakuthon>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/otakuthonmontreal/>

CONTACT

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