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NBC's Today show coming to Montreal

Cirque du Soleil performers, Chuck Hughes Barenaked Ladies will be showcased

BY ANNE SUTHERLAND, THE GAZETTE JULY 13, 2011

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She's coming baaaack!

It's been more than a decade since Kathie Lee Gifford made an official visit to Montreal; the occasion in 2000 was Caroline Mulroney's wedding.

This time around, she's coming as part of NBC's Today show, and fans are invited to Place Jacques Cartier to witness the taping.

Gifford and her co-host Hoda Kotb are leaving their New York Studios and travelling north of the 49th parallel to tape two segments for Today that will air Thursday and Friday. The Thursday segment will be broadcast live, and the second part, airing on Friday, will be taped immediately following.

In a statement from the producers "Kathie Lee and Hoda encourage viewers to practice their double kisses and join them on a spectacular European adventure without travelling overseas," alluding to our two-cheeked greetings and Old World charm.

The 60-person crew arrives in Montreal Wednesday to begin preparing for the taping.

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The co-hosts will be showcasing the Montreal sights and the show will feature Quebec talent via performers from Cirque du Soleil, and Canadian musical group the Barenaked Ladies.

No visit to la belle province would be complete without "heart attack on a plate" or, as we call it, poutine, and a cooking demonstration of the combo of fries, sauce and cheese curds will be given on the show.

Teaching the funny ladies how to make our regional delicacy will be star Montreal chef Chuck Hughes of Garde Manger who recently beat Bobby Flay on Iron Chef America with his lobster poutine.

The fourth hour of Today (shown at 10 a.m.) will broadcast from Old Montreal.

To be a part of the outdoor audience, fans should arrive at Place Jacques Cartier no later than 9 a.m. Thursday.

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