

Kinga Żak

Hamilton multi-disciplinary artist to perform at Romani event in honour of Sara e Kali in Hamilton, Ontario

For Immediate Release (May 12, 2025): Hamilton based multi-disciplinary artist Kinga Żak will perform in Hamilton's annual Romani event in celebration of Sara e Kali, the patron saint of the Romani people. Żak will perform a traditional Romani dance to a song by Roma band, Teresa Mirga i Kałe Bała, entitled "Taraf". This year's Sara e Kali event will take place on Saturday, May 24, 2025 from 12pm to 5pm at Confederation Park's Willow Cove Pavillion located at 680 Van Wagners Beach Rd, Hamilton, ON. This is a free community event. All are welcome. Żak performed at Hamilton's Romani Day celebrations at The Westdale in April 2025.

Żak became the co-director of the official music video of "Taraf" when she travelled back to her birthplace of Poland in 2023. Żak first met with Roma musician Teresa Mirga for a workshop and they then became artistic collaborators on the short film "Shame". Żak was then inspired to co-direct with Roma filmmaker Delfin Łakatosz a music video for the Teresa Mirga i Kałe Bała song "Taraf". "Taraf" was an official selection at this year's Toronto Short Film Festival and will be screened later this year at the Venice Shorts Awards in the United States, Paris Women Cinefest in France and London Women Film Festival in the United Kingdom. You can also currently enjoy "Taraf" on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkF7UEcBVNs>.



"Taraf" is a moving story about wandering, longing and inner torment. The song is a physical and spiritual journey with lyrics written by Teresa Mirga. "Taraf" explores universal questions about what drives a person to wander and what makes one want to go home. "Where will I go? Where will I go? Which way will I go home." These words, in their simplicity, resonate with anyone who has ever tried to find their place in the world. Mirga's pure voice, combine with the melancholic melody of the Romanian Roma, brought to life by the members of her Kałe Bała band. The atmospheric music video, created by Delfin Łakatosz, Kinga Żak and Noemi Łakatosz visually reflects the emotions of the song. The music video premiered on November 20, 2024.

"Working on the video was a beautiful, spontaneous, and rewarding artistic collaboration. "Taraf" is a song that not only delights, but also inspires inner reflection on your personal journey in both the material and spiritual world. Teresa Mirga i Käte Bata is constantly developing artistically, remaining faithful to its roots, and at the same time opening up to new forms of expression," says Żak.

Żak's short film "Shame" will premiere at the 2025 Hamilton Film Festival. Żak's journey took her through dance, song, nature and art. Her film is an allegory of her search to find a place to be real. There may even be monsters.

"I sold my house in 2022 and quit my job and invested all my money in making art. After studying art therapy, I understood that art functions not only as a commodity, but more importantly as a self-reflection and healing mechanism that facilitates growth in me as an individual. I am far more interested in investing in that kind of growth than anything a bank could have offered," says Żak.



KINGA ŻAK: Żak earned a Bachelor of Arts with a focus on Illustration from Sheridan College. Her postgraduate studies with the University of Toronto were in Art Therapy. She then received her Yoga Teacher Certification and took part in continuing education workshops like Sweet Action Theatre's Acting Through Body Reflections and Bouffon Intensive. At Hamilton Film School, she honed her skills in indie filmmaking creating her first film. Her work has been shared across different mediums and platform. From literary events like "The Narrative Method Writing Salons" and "6 Minute Memoir"; to theatrical events like SOULO Theatre's "Pretty Perfect" that she wrote, performed, costumed and created puppets for. Żak has been an art therapy facilitator for organizations such as Body Brave, The Barn School, Paparella Innovative Art Program, Peak To Peak Men's Group, The First Unitarian Church of Hamilton, Waterdown Montessori School, Lawson Ministries and Camelot Centre.

TERESA MIRGA & KALE BALAJ: Käte Bata is a Roma band that has gained great popularity in Poland and abroad thanks to its unique combination of traditional Roma music with elements of flamenco and Balkan music. Its founder and leader Teresa Mirga is a singer, poet, composer and guitarist, whose work is deeply rooted in Roma traditions. The ensemble was founded in 1992, initially focusing on the performance of traditional Roma songs, the so-called purane gila, which were sung by generations of Romani living in the Carpathians. Teresa Mirga, as the leader of the band, became not only the voice of this community, but also its ambassador. Käte Bata consists of exceptionally talented musicians who bring a variety of styles and sound to each piece: Teresa Mirga (lead vocals, guitar), Maciej Rybka (akordeon, vocals), Piotr Hortmanowicz (flamenco guitar), Jonasz Mirga (darabuka, pitcher, spoons), Jacek Kacica (cajon, pitcher, oral bass) and Piotr Ondycz (guitar).

SARA E KALI FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/SaraKaliHamilton>

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