



Will the hero please stand up?

Photo by Andrew Magill, Flickr



by SONJA GRGAR

Every major disaster or a terrorist attack like the one at the Boston Marathon this past month brings about stories of heroism – people who selflessly run into the face of danger to save a fellow human being. In October 2011, acts of heroism were seen, here at home, when several people risked their own lives to pull passengers out of a burning plane that crashed on a Richmond highway. These acts of altruism are certainly worthy of profound praise and grati-

tude, but it's hard not to wonder where they come from.

It seems fitting to start with the words of Philip Zimbardo, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Stan-

ford University, in his article *What Makes a Hero*. He says "simply put... the key to heroism is a concern for other people in need – a concern to defend a moral cause, knowing

Local views on heroes

"In the pure sense of the word, a

cover based videographer who agrees with Zimbardo's definition of heroism.

Kamylli Mendive, an American university student visiting Van-

“ I come from Rwanda, a place where so few have survived... I can not afford to have anyone other than me as my hero.

Louise Uwacu, author

cover sees a hero as "somebody who makes a decision or acts in a way that is selfless," while her fellow student and American vis-

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Verbatim

Two is more than just 1+1

BY JESSICA LI

At my high school, curious teachers and classmates sometimes ask me, "What language do you speak at home? English or Mandarin?"

I tell them I speak both.

Occasionally, I find myself speaking in 'Chinglish' without realizing it. This is, of course, the mixture of English and Chinese. And it slips out more often than I'd like.

Once I told someone to "close the music" instead of "turn off the music." So even though the words are English, the grammar is Chinese. With no place in the outside world, and barely any in the home, 'Chinglish' is the domain of culturally confused teenagers like me.

To me, the more widespread use of 'Chinglish' reflects the increasingly diverse society we now live in. Fifteen years ago, at the same time my parents were beginning to learn English, my Chinese-Canadian math teacher was forbidden by her mother to speak Cantonese.

"If you do that, you won't be able to improve your English," her mother warned.

Today things are different. Talking to my classmates, I find that most of them are bilingual and are proud of their cultural roots.

"It's not a matter of either/or for us anymore," says Mia, a Greek-Canadian classmate. "We can embrace all of our heritage."

That's the way I feel too.

But it hasn't always been this easy for me. In elementary school, I discovered that the word "banana" isn't only used to describe a mushy yellow fruit; it was also a pejorative term used for Asians that act "too white." Most often, it was said as a joke – but not always.

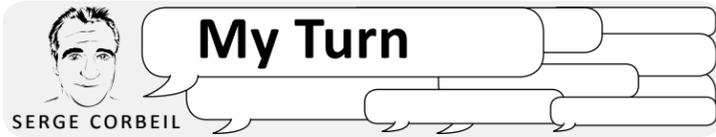
Depending on the tone of voice, and who was saying

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My Turn

SERGE CORBEIL

Mid-mandate, Stephen Harper's agenda is about to take a different turn



▲ Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Last week, the government of Stephen Harper celebrated the second year of its majority mandate. I still remember his comment as he greeted his partisans after the Conservative victory in 2011.

He said his new government would be "strong, stable, national and majority."

His majority has allowed him to make major changes that he probably wouldn't have been able to implement in a minority

government situation. Just look at his agenda in matters of justice and crime fighting or omnibus budgets that go far beyond the country's basic financial management to see the major changes he has made. Oh, and there's the fisheries' laws, and environmental protection changes, too.

But the awaited revolution around social issues never materialized, and this doesn't surprise me. Despite a large number

of skeptics convinced that the Conservative Party's leader is hiding in some cave somewhere in the nation's capital with a secret agenda, if we observe Stephen Harper's path, there is little room for doubt.

The government, then, is at a crossroads. It has two years behind it and two years ahead. Typically, during that period, governments try to keep away from bad news. We should surmise that any policies likely to be controversial or will be very soon. A surgical approach should follow, that is to say policies that will consolidate the party's base and offer opposition parties some very difficult choices. To put it plainly, the government will be doing all it can to win another majority.

In the background, there is Liberal Party leader Justin Trudeau. His arrival as a leader is hard to ignore. Pollsters didn't waste any time to announce – numbers in hand – that he could become the next Prime Minister. Let's take a moment for a big collective breath, now.

OK...

Two years is an eternity in politics. Also, even though the conservatives very rapidly aired ads aimed to cast doubt over Justin Trudeau in voters' minds, it's barely the beginning. Depending on how you view these kinds of tactics, the best or the worst is yet to come.

The real test for Trudeau will be in about a year's time, when he'll be called to offer the electorate the outline of a political program. From then on, he will

Spencie's View



have to state his position on a great number of issues. It will be the start of in-depth debates – we'll see then, how the new leader really fares.

One thing's for sure – he won't have an easy time against a toughened Prime Minister. It's been said, lately, that Stephen

Harper is losing traction, yet he seems to always have an ace up his sleeve.

Next year will give a taste of what's in store for the following year – and the election that will come with it. ✍

Translation Monique Kroeger

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ator Julia Powanda asserts that "a hero is someone who gives someone else hope."

Fauzia Rafique, a Surrey author, views those fighting for social justice as heroes: "I really respect activists who are working at the grassroots...working with people who are at an underprivileged level of society," says Rafique. In particular, she admires the Vancouver immigrant rights activist Harsha Walia, as well as the Idle No More movement that champions Aboriginal rights.

In a piece published on the *Psychology Today* website, psychologist Frank Farley makes a distinction between what he calls "big H" heroism, and "small h" heroism. Farley defines big H heroism as something that "involves significant risk" like death or injury, while small h heroism "is everyday heroism, helping others, doing good deeds."

When asked if they thought whether big H heroism was more important than small h heroism, both Senna and Rafique mention that they don't think the two can, nor should, be compared – that each is meaningful within its own range of impact. Senna men-

tions that he considers David Suzuki to be a big H Canadian hero because of his environmental work, but equally admires smaller h heroes such as his Vancouver acquaintance that adopted and raised 18 foster children.

Nature vs. nurture

Like many other issues, heroism doesn't escape the nature versus nurture debate of whether the capacity to act heroically is innate, or teachable. Founded by Zimbardo, the Heroic Imagination Project (HIP) claims that heroism can be learned. Its mission is to provide "insights and tools that individuals can use in their everyday lives to transform negative situations and create positive change," and includes structured workshops that are designed to awaken the inner hero.

Allison Ross, an administrative assistant living in Vancouver disagrees with HIP's entire premise. She believes that, like humility, heroism can't be taught: "You either have it, or you don't," she says.

Rafique is also critical of the project's premise: "I really reject this academic attitude...who does what in any situation is solely determined by their socio-economic situation, and the interests they have to follow." Rafique also points out that projects such as HIP seem to assume that heroism is an objective and universally shared value. She however believes that what we

see as heroic is determined by one's political and ideological leanings.

"For example, I will never call American soldiers who are bombing Afghanistan heroes, but this system will call them heroes, because it is being fed by their work...they are pumping money back into the war industry in Europe and America," says Rafique, emphasizing that many others hold a very different view on that same issue.

Senna also believes that a one size fits all approach to teaching heroism is problematic, but is even more concerned with the way in which we sometimes idolize our heroes. "When you turn a real person into an icon, things get out of control...it becomes al-

most like a tool for exploitation," he says, saying that nations, for example, often elevate famous athletes to hero status in order to boost the country's international status. Senna believes that this mechanism not only distorts the very concept, but also leads to the inaccurate association of heroism with celebrity.

Celebrating heroism

Mendive thinks that relegating the capacity for heroism to someone who is a celebrity, or is perceived to have a special aptitude for courage, can be dangerous because it can promote the bystander effect, the tendency to absolve personal responsibility while those we believe to be more capable than us are left to handle

the problem at hand. "People don't believe that doing small acts is worth anything...I think it's important to emphasize that large scale things aren't the most important kind of selfless thing you can do," she acknowledges.

One of the most glaring characteristics of hero centered dialogue is the question of whether heroes are needed as unifying emblems of any national identity. "I don't think it's necessary that we all have one common hero that we celebrate...there are different pillars of different communities, I think it's just nice to celebrate everybody," says Ross.

On the other hand, Rafique feels that there is no reason why Canadians shouldn't inaugurate and celebrate national heroes like Terry Fox, but points out that "if people are really interested in representing the heroes of this country, they need to go to the source – the Aboriginal and immigrant heroes who built it – and project that source to the public."

Louise Uwacu, another Surrey based author, isn't afraid of internalizing heroism: "I come from Rwanda, a place where so few have survived...I can not afford to have anyone other than me as my hero."

Perhaps that's one of the most fundamental things any of us can do on our path to exploring heroism – be brave enough to believe that no one else is more up to the task than us, right here, right now. ✍



▲ Protecting the Future: Serving the Present, artwork found in Surrey's Holland Park.



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Organization urges you to vote

by LÉO NEWMAN

With the provincial election campaign in full swing, citizens are preparing to participate in the cornerstone of democracy: voting. But according to Max Cameron, a professor of political science at the University of British Columbia, democracy involves much more than simply

Talks, a joint initiative of Samara Canada and SFU Public Square, is striving to create a more engaged citizenry, especially among youth.

"It's not strictly about the vote, it's about the engagement of the citizen, of the individual, in politics," says Marissa Lawrence, B.C. program coordinator of Democracy Talks.

newcomers to Canada are also among the demographics more likely to be disengaged.

Lawrence says that one key to engaging those that feel disconnected from the realm of politics is showing people that political engagement is worth their time.

"Politics is a two-way relationship, and if citizens aren't feeling like they're getting from their

“If you don't exercise your voice in politics, what else don't you exercise your voice in?”

Marissa Lawrence, Program Coordinator at Democracy Talks

casting a ballot. It also requires citizen engagement.

"As important as elections are in a democracy, they are insufficient," says Cameron.

He says that voter participation and citizen engagement have seen a decline since the 1980s, what he describes as a "disturbing trend" that is clear among young people between the ages of 18 and 24.

"[They]...are not connecting well with our political system," says Cameron.

The 2009 provincial election saw a record low turnout with a mere 51 per cent of eligible voters casting a ballot. The rate of voter participation was significantly lower amongst young people.

According to Elections BC, less than 27 per cent of eligible voters aged 18 to 24 voted, as opposed to 71 per cent of those aged 65 to 75.

Repressing the trend, not the vote

Some are working hard to reverse this trend. Democracy

She says there is more to this than just voting and she thinks that civic engagement is a bigger word and it's not just political engagement.

"If you don't exercise your voice in politics, what else don't you exercise your voice in?" asks Lawrence.

In addition to youth, Samara Canada's research has shown that low-income earners and

politicians, they're not willing to give," she says.

When people from these more commonly disengaged groups were asked why they didn't vote in the last provincial election, many responded that they were too busy, says Don Main of Elections BC. These findings have spurred Elections BC into running advertising campaigns, developing mobile apps and increasing its online presence, hoping to boost the availability of election information to British Columbians.

How politicians affect voters

Another potential factor in citizens avoiding the ballot box is the emerging trend of politicians campaigning outside of election time.

"I think we're in a world where politicians increasingly never stop campaigning and that's what turns off voters and doesn't help to produce good government," says Cameron.

He says that with electoral campaigns now at their height in



▲ Max Cameron, political science professor at UBC.



▲ A voter exercises his or her right to vote, by dropping a ballot into the ballot box.

the final days before the May 14 vote, it is an important time to remember that democracy runs deeper than just casting a ballot once every few years, and that working for a cause, volunteering for a politician or engaging in discussion about issues of concern all represent forms of democratic engagement.

"Everyone that lives in Canada belongs to our democracy, so therefore they should be able to

take part in the conversation," says Lawrence.

Regardless of which political party forms the B.C. government after May 14, this election will help to show whether the last four years have resulted in a democratic deficit or surplus in British Columbia. The next four years will give British Columbians a chance to demonstrate that political engagement does not stop when the ballots are counted. ✎

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► Verbatim from page 1

it, the real message could be: "You're not Asian enough, so you're not one of us."

The funny thing is that new immigrants were often referred to, in sneering voices, as "too Asian" – and once again, the message was: "You're not one of us."

I tried to steer clear of both of these labels. I did well in English class during the day and went to Chinese class at night. I watched *Twilight* and *The Hunger Games* with my friends, and read *Dream of the Red Chamber* – one of China's great classical novels – with my mother.

The way I looked at it, I had the best of both worlds. What could be better?

I didn't figure out until recently that the answer is to enjoy and appreciate my two cultures simultaneously, not separately.

Before, whenever my Chinese cousins asked me to explain a culturally specific joke on an American TV series, I'd shrug it off.

"It's just American culture," I said, "You wouldn't get it."

"Maybe we would if you'd bother to explain it," they would mutter under their breath.

And they were right. By separating the two parts of my culture, I was missing out on an opportunity to understand and appreciate them better. Cultural differences do not only consist of differences in language or dress, they manifest themselves in fundamental ways of thinking and living. Until I thought about how Canada and China were different, I was unable to grasp the concept of a significant cultural divide. And as a result, I was ignorant of the

fact that fundamentally we are all the same.

Years ago, when *Titanic* was in theaters around the world, moviegoers from different countries laughed at different parts of the movie. But everyone cried at the same part – when the ship sank and Jack sacrificed himself to save Rose.

I realize that I still have a long way to go before I can truly understand either Canadian or Chinese culture in a profound way. But by realizing that all cultures are intertwined, not separate, I think I've taken a step in that direction.

When I was in grade five, my mother decided to take me to a Caribbean festival here in Vancouver. Despite my curiosity, I was also filled with uncertainty; I had never been to a cultural festival that wasn't Chinese. Having always been self-conscious, I wondered if we would be the only Asians there, or if we would look out of place.

My fears couldn't have been farther from the truth. At the festival, there were people from all cultures and walks of life who had come together for one purpose: to celebrate the rich culture of the Caribbean. By the time we left, I was stuffed with jerk chicken and I couldn't have been any happier.

Vancouver is a culturally diverse city, and that's why I'm proud to be a Vancouverite. But if there is one thing that is more enriching and empowering than multiculturalism, it is interculturalism. That is, there must not only be the presence of different cultures, but dialogue and understanding among them.

It's something to aspire to. ✎



Left Bank



DERRICK O'KEEFE

Enough is enough: 10 reasons why Christy Clark and the B.C. Liberals are unfit for office

In May 1989, the student newspaper at Simon Fraser University ran a story about embattled student union president-elect Christy Clark under the headline 'Unfit for office?' Clark was late paying a fine for violating election rules, and so she was removed from office.

Twenty-four years later, Christy Clark is desperately trying to avoid being kicked out of office again.

She has run a wildly dishonest campaign, consistently repeating falsehoods – whether with respect to her claims of having 'balanced the budget' or her projections of LNG financial windfalls.

Complementing these falsehoods about her own record and election platform, Clark's campaign has been relentless in attacking her opposition, conjuring up stories of ghosts of past NDP governments. Clark's campaign paints a dark picture of the 1990s, while attempting to ignore the years since 2001 altogether. No one should fall for this trick; the record of the past dozen years is too scary to forget.



Photo courtesy of BC Govt Photos

▲Christy Clark.

The B.C. Liberals swept to power back in 2001, winning 77 of 79 seats in the legislature. From the beginning, buoyed by their super-majority, Gordon Campbell, Christy Clark, and the rest of the Liberals carried out their pro-corporate agenda with ruthlessness and mendacity.

After the HST debacle, Campbell finally left office as one of the least popular politicians in the history of Canada.

Among other things, this May's election is a chance for B.C. voters to have their say on Gordon Campbell's legacy, taking a sober look at the Liberals' years in power.

Here then, in no particular order, are 10 reasons why Christy Clark and the Liberals richly deserve to be booted out of office. This could have been a much longer list.

The B.C. Liberals allowed gaping inequality to grow. Year after year, B.C. has had close to the highest rates of income inequality and child poverty in Canada. While the rich and corporations have received new tax breaks, welfare rates have remained appalling low and social housing has received scant provincial support.

The B.C. Liberals lied and privatized BC Rail. Of the many election promises Gordon Campbell brazenly broke, this was one of the biggest. Not only did the Liberals privatize a vital public asset after saying they wouldn't, but the BC Rail scandal and subsequent criminal trial exposed the blatant corruption of the Liberals. Two senior B.C. Liberals eventually plead guilty, and the B.C. Liberal government agreed to pay their legal fees – close to \$6 million!

The B.C. Liberals' cuts hurt the most vulnerable. While allowing social assistance rates to stay at appallingly low levels, the Liberals impose additional cuts against the poor who live with disabilities, and reduced access to assistance for those living with HIV/AIDS.

The B.C. Liberals made it easier to exploit child labour. Bill 37 changed the rules so that kids as young as 12 could work almost anywhere. This has made B.C. one of the worst jurisdictions in North America in terms of child labour, and led to an increase of child workplace injuries.

The B.C. Liberals ripped up union agreements. In their ideological zeal to attack working people, in 2002 the Liberals tore up contracts with health care workers. This was an unprecedented attack on the rights of workers. In 2007 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that major parts of the Liberals' Bill 29 were in fact unconstitutional.

The B.C. Liberals neglected parks and conservation. In 2012 the B.C. Liberals killed a plan for a new national park in South Okanagan. The move was par-for-the-course; the Liberals have systematically undermined BC Parks, among other things cutting back on park conversation officers and installing parking metres in provincial parks.

The B.C. Liberals squandered billions on boondoggles. The Liberals poured two billion dollars into building a new Port Mann bridge, while underfunding public transit; they spent half a billion dollars putting a new roof on BC Place, while failing to provide enough funding to put roofs over the homeless.

The B.C. Liberals have been boosters for Big Oil and Gas. Christy Clark's former chief of staff was once a lobbyist for Enbridge. Clark avoided taking any stand at all on Enbridge until widespread public opposition forced her to address the issue. On the Kinder Morgan pipeline, Clark has attacked Dix and the NDP for opposing the pipeline while failing to make her own position clear.

The B.C. Liberals have given a green light to fracking. As jurisdictions around the world impose restrictions on this dangerous method of extracting gas, Clark and the Liberals won't even support the NDP's call for a full scientific review of fracking.

The Liberals have ignored Indigenous people's inherent rights and opposition to mega-projects, including the Indigenous wall of opposition to the tar sands pipelines, and the Tsilhqot'in opposition to the Fish Lake copper and gold mine. And we should not forget the insulting referendum on Native rights that Campbell's government held. Indigenous peoples deserve respect and solidarity.

Back at SFU, Christy Clark was removed from office within weeks. We've been stuck with her as premier for over a year. On May 14, let's not miss our chance to get rid of Clark and this whole corrupt, right-wing government.

After a dozen years of the B.C. Liberals, enough is enough. Christy Clark and the B.C. Liberals are indeed unfit for office. ✍

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▲ Bitterballen, a Dutch snack served at events such as Queen's Day, is popular amongst the Dutch and others.

Dutch community comes alive at orange events

by ERNA VAN BALEN

The Dutch national anthem, followed by O Canada, sounded at the De Dutch restaurant at Canada Place on April 30, where more than one hundred people gathered. Some of them wore orange scarves or ties. It was Queen's Day, one of the most popular holidays in the Netherlands, and Dutch Vancouverites celebrated at the *vin d'honneur* organized by the Netherlands consulate-general.

This event serves as an example that the Dutch community in Vancouver is alive and well. Among the things that unite this group are soccer, their language and the national colour orange – the last name of the royal family is 'of Orange-Nassau.'

"You see, [the Dutch] unite at the moments where they can wear orange [like] Queen's Day, [or] when the national soccer team is playing", says Paul van Rhijn, deputy consul general for the Netherlands.

This year, Queen's Day was even more special for the Dutch community, as Queen Beatrix – who lived in Ottawa as a little girl during the Second World War – abdicated in favour of her son, crown prince Willem-Alexander. He becomes the country's first king since 1890. According to Edie Bijdemast, president of the Netherlands Association Je Maintiendrai (NAJM), this moment had been greatly anticipated by a Dutch community that generally admires the royal family.

Honouring the past

The NAJM honoured the royal family with a gala on May 5, an-



▲ Edie Bijdemast on a Dutch Bicycle Trip to Barnston Island in Surrey on September 15th 2012.

other Dutch holiday called Liberation Day that is considered important among many Dutch Canadians, especially those of the older generation. Canadian troops helped liberate parts of the Netherlands in 1944-1945.

Many older Dutch Canadians were children when they immigrated to Canada in the 1950s and 1960s. With the older generation slowly disappearing, the NAJM is suffering from declining membership. The club is now trying to

feel part of that community," she says.

But through her husband, she knows that it was not easy for immigrants. Many Dutch Canadians who arrived as children or teenagers did not want to stand out as different in a new country and worked hard to become Canadian as soon as possible.

For Bijdemast, whose parents immigrated when she was five, it wasn't until later in life that she became interested in her



▲ Dutch Vancouverites watching the European soccer championships at the Manchester pub, June 2012.

attract the younger generation, keeping traditions and the community alive. The NAJM organizes bike rides in the summer, weekly coffee clubs in many Lower Mainland municipalities and several family activities throughout the year. There is also a Dutch choir, a Dutch library opening its doors in New Westminster, TV station Tulip TV, a magazine in English and a newspaper in Dutch.

De Dutch in Canada

Retired French teacher Marion Stroet is an active member of the Dutch community. Born in Manitoba, she married Bill, a Dutch man who came to Canada when he was eight. Stroet learned Dutch and became interested in Dutch culture. She wears orange to Dutch events such as bike rides and serves *stamppot* – a dish with mashed potatoes, vegetables and smoked sausage – at home and at potlucks with Canadian friends.

"We're part of a community, and even though I'm not Dutch, I

Dutch heritage and learned to speak Dutch. When at age 33 she first visited the country of her birth, she felt a sense of belonging. That belonging also defines the Dutch community in Vancouver, according to Bijdemast. She says the Dutch have *gezelligheid*, a term that loosely translates to 'conviviality.'

"Although I find Dutch people really integrate here just seamlessly, they still seem to long for this *gezelligheid*, that they can't quite find any other way other than to do something with another Dutch-Canadian," she explains.

Both Stroet and Bijdemast believe that it is important to put in some effort to pass on the Dutch culture and the Dutch language – spoken by some 8755 people in Vancouver according to the 2011 census – to younger generations. But there is one Dutch tradition that Stroet is still amazed by.

"They eat raw herring!" she says. ☞



AUDITIONS

Saturday, June 1, 2013

The Vancouver Chamber Choir is holding auditions for professional-level singers. All voices (SATB) are invited.

The Vancouver Chamber Choir is a fully professional choir of 20 experienced, well-trained singers. The key activities of the Choir include a subscription series that is unique in Vancouver, extensive touring in Canada and abroad, broadcasting live concerts on the CBC, recording, commissioning and premiering new choral compositions, and presenting four to five educational programs throughout each season. The Choir demands a major commitment of time and needs to be the singers' top priority.

The Vancouver Chamber Choir usually rehearses on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. A list of substitute singers is maintained; these people may also be used to augment the Choir if a larger group is needed.

An audition lasts approximately one half hour and singers will be required to sing three or four pieces in different styles and languages; there will also be an interview with Jon Washburn. A formal résumé is required.

Singers are expected to provide their own accompanist for the audition.

**Contact Catherine for an appointment
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Traditional Chinese Medicine programs seek to raise standards with degrees

by SASHA LALLOUZ

Nearly 430,000 British Columbians with a Bachelor's degree were employed in 2012. Statistics Canada records also indicate that 754,000 diploma program graduates were employed in the same year. Although this data indicates the diploma program is a more common choice for post-secondary education, in competitive fields such as health, a sector that only employed 159,000 British Columbians in 2012, a diploma may not meet employers' competitive requirements.

Due to the income difference between those with a Bachelor's degree and those with a diploma, it may not be surprising that the number of Bachelor's degree

initiated a push for this degree to raise standards in B.C.

Dr. John Yang, the dean and director of PCU College, believes that a TCM undergraduate degree

"The public are looking for graduates with a degree credential in terms of their knowledge and safety and competency," says Yang.

ern Medicine and diagnostic techniques, additional clinical practicum, extensive acupuncture study and a significant component speaking to the links

"I think people will perceive it as more legitimate. It will give it a stamp of western approval."

Dr. Jeda Boughton, Doctor of Chinese Medicine at BodaHealth

will have a positive impact on the acceptance of TCM by the Western medical community.

"With degree training, the future practitioner will have the

Dr. Jeda Boughton, Doctor of Chinese Medicine at BodaHealth, agrees that the degree will have a positive effect on acceptance. "I think people will perceive it as

between Eastern and Western Medicine. Yang anticipates that the degree will facilitate future TCM research. He acknowledges that current practitioners in the TCM community have responded positively to the idea of a Master's degree, which PCU College plans to pursue in the next five years.

Registered Acupuncturist at Studio Health, Delphine Baumer, hopes the degree will help both the general and the medical community recognize the different strengths of each TCM and Western medicine.

"They have different purposes; TCM helps the body heal itself and this complements ongoing medical care. Working together we can create a complete medical system," says Baumer.

Baumer says the degree can only be positive for the TCM community.

"We are only as good as our cohorts. This will give us a solid foundation," she says.

As the public, current TCM practitioners and the Western medical community push for higher academic standards in

Practitioner Opinions

Dr. Jeda Boughton, Doctor of Chinese Medicine at BodaHealth

On acceptance of TCM in the lower mainland: "I think people will perceive it as more legitimate. It will give it a stamp of western approval."

On altering TCM in order to "fit" Western degree program requirements: "There are TCM techniques practiced in China that are not allowed in Canada. Over time as acceptance changes this will likely change. I think the degree program is a stepping stone in that direction."

On how it will affect current TCM practitioners: "I don't see this as negative. We all have to pass the same rigorous licensing exams. Everyone is tested at the same level."

On upgrading: "I personally likely would not, I've already been practicing for 10 years now. I think some practitioners might choose it as part of their annual continuing education depending on the courses."

Delphine Baumer, R.Ac at Studio Health

On acceptance of TCM in the lower mainland: "There will be great interest from the general public, but the real strengths will be the bridges built with the Western medical community."

On altering TCM in order to "fit" Western degree program requirements: "We are in this dichotomy of fitting classical Chinese practices into a Western mind and model. This degree will help people understand through a western perspective."

On how it will affect current TCM practitioners: "This seems like nothing but good for our community. Having a degree program is something we can do to keep moving forward within our profession."

On upgrading: "I think most likely. If there are advanced courses in acupuncture, which is my passion, then absolutely. This seems like nothing but good for our community."



Photo courtesy of PCU College

▲ Studying Traditional Chinese Medicine at PCU College.

graduates in British Columbia has increased in the past decade. Statistics Canada indicates that in 2005 B.C. residents with a Bachelor's degree earned on average 53 per cent more than those holding a diploma or certificate.

For alternative medicine programs that currently only offer diplomas or certificates, this means taking matters into their own hands. The PCU College of Holistic Medicine presented the Degree Quality Insurance Board with a proposal to offer a Bachelor's Degree in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) – the first of its kind in B.C. and Canada. Both the regulator and practitioners

right credentials. Of course they will match with the medical system and medical community more easily," says Yang. He explains how this acceptance will transition into acceptance by the general public.



▲ Jeda Boughton at BodaHealth.

more legitimate. It will give it a stamp of western approval," says Boughton.

Dr. Bohdan Bilan, vice president of academic and regulatory affairs at the parent company Eminata, indicates the positive effect the degree will have on the academic community. Currently, diploma holders must upgrade to a degree before pursuing Chinese graduate studies.

"Students who would be graduating from this program now have the opportunity to go to China and to partake in graduate studies there," he says.

The program will involve several general science courses, added hours focused on West-



Photo courtesy Delphine Baumer

▲ Delphine Baumer at Studio Health.

fields of complementary medicine, degrees in alternative medicine may grant tomorrow's students with more options in the health profession, the potential for a higher income and a greater acceptance by the Canadian community. ☒

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Dodgeball is no typical team sport

by RACHAEL DUDLEY

When you think of team sports in Vancouver, beach volleyball, hockey and baseball might spring to mind. But a diverse community of more than 1600 Vancouverites has a different sporting passion – dodgeball.

Shafique Adatia plays every Monday night with twelve of his work colleagues on a team named *The Dodgefathers*.

Adatia agrees, noting that the friendly sport is a great way to meet new and interesting people. Among Adatia's teammates are friends from Kenya, Ireland and Croatia. Not only does the game bring people from all around the world together, he says it also unites colleagues from different departments who play together on work teams like his.

Adatia says that the first few games have mixed players.

“ I like it because it's such a diverse group of people and most importantly no one takes it too seriously.

Camille Quinton, player on the team Balls to the Walls

“The main appeal for me is to do something with my work colleagues recreationally, outside of work. We usually hang out after the game and have a couple drinks and it's really sociable,” says Adatia, a technical support analyst from Burnaby.

The aim of dodgeball is to eliminate the opposing team by throwing balls at the players. The game starts with six balls lined up on the central dividing line. Both teams simultaneously rush towards the centre to grab one of the dodgeballs to throw at the opposition or roll back to their teammates.

Peter Tang, executive director of the Vancouver Dodgeball League (VDL), explains that dodgeball is played when a ball is thrown at another player and makes contact, thus eliminating the player from the game. But a catch by a fellow teammate can bring them back and eliminate the thrower.

“In its simplest form, it's exactly what we all played in school.”

Dodging alienation and health issues

The physical benefits to playing dodgeball are clear, and as with volleyball, the social aspect of the sport is a big draw for many. According to Tang, it is this community vibe that makes the sport so successful.

“Everyone has a common goal of having a good time,” says Tang. “We play the honour system which is uncommon in today's world, but having a great community makes this work.”

He says that the games do not have paid referees, so they are “peer-refed”.

“[This] really puts the onus on players to learn the rules inside out,” says Tang.

This means newcomers meet a lot of new people, right away.

“Unlike some team sports there's no drama and at the end of the night everyone goes home happy,” says Adatia.

The VDL plays 4 nights a week in rented school gyms across the city and Tang himself plays on two of those nights.

“It's a moderate workout depending how hard or smart you play. For the veterans, the movements start to be reduced in return for more strategic play and teamwork,” says Tang.

The sport has wide appeal, and grows more popular each year.

Tang says that the VDL is popular among university students, young professionals and seniors. The sport is so simple and exciting that it attracts



▲ Dodgeball players demonstrating strong team spirit.

crowds of all ages and backgrounds.

“We have 148 teams and needless to say the popularity is there and we are continuing to grow,” says Tang.

Memories make for future friends

Camille Quinton, a 28 year old professional living in the city, plays on a team called *Balls to the Walls* and thinks it's a great mid-week

pursuit. She appreciates the way that dodgeball's relaxed and fun atmosphere allows people from many different backgrounds and communities to come together and enjoy themselves.

“I remember playing dodgeball in gym class in elementary school and wasn't prepared for how fun it is to play as an adult,” Quinton says.

She says that teams have chants and specially made T-

While no experience or athletic skill is necessary to start to play and enjoy the sport, many players find that they become increasingly devoted and passionate about dodgeball.

“When we first started playing it was friendly play and actually we really sucked at the beginning, but now it's getting more competitive and the team is stronger,” says Abatia. “We're on our 7th game of the season and



▲ An example of the costumes people create for their VDL teams.



▲ This season's VDL league players.

shirts with team names and logos on them.

“Some of the teams go all out and wear costumes. I like it because it's such a diverse group of people and most importantly no one takes it too seriously,” says Quinton.

we have our first tournament coming up soon!”

The Vancouver Dodgeball League has two seasons: Fall/Winter and Winter/Spring. Register online at www.vdldodgeball.ca



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Arts & Culture and the Provincial Election

The Vancouver Chamber Choir Advocacy Committee submitted a questionnaire to 137 lower mainland candidates in the provincial election from the BC Conservatives, BC Liberals, BC NDP and Green Party of BC. We asked four questions and one optional question with a deadline of April 30.

The party headquarters of the BC Liberals, BC NDP and Green Party of BC answered on behalf of their candidates. Eleven from the Green Party of BC and two Conservatives responded individually. Most members of the Green Party repeated their party platform.

1. According to Statistics Canada, more than 87,000 BC citizens have their primary employment in the arts and culture sector. This is more than mining and forestry combined. How will your government show leadership in this important sector?

BC Conservatives Please be advised, a fundamental Conservative principle for funding valuable groups like yours is to establish sustainable funding by growing the economy, improving high income employment opportunities and thus grow the tax base. In this regard both NDP and Liberals are borrowing (and promising) against our future. These promises are not sustainable and inevitably will result in "payday" where the Government debt and associated interest charges will no longer be able to support anything except core Government programmes. A Conservative government is committed to reversing decline of BC's financial flexibility. In the long term this will be in the best interest of Vancouver Chamber Choir and similar interest groups. (Paul Redekopp, Abbotsford West).

BC Liberals Arts and culture is an incredibly important sector in British Columbia. BC Liberals... launch(ed) BC Creative Futures, a strategy to support sustainable, long-term success for British Columbia's creative sector... and by expanding capacity at Emily Carr University of Art and Design. A key part of the strategy is a \$6.25 million increase in arts and culture funding for this fiscal year, including a \$5.25 million boost to the BC Arts Council. This raises the BC Arts Council budget to \$24 million, its highest ever from government. Many teachers enrich school communities by investing time and money into extracurricular sports and arts activities. Today's BC Liberals will provide a new tax credit so teachers can claim up to \$500 of their own money they put toward these activities. Balanced Budget 2013 has a \$60 million investment for arts and culture, \$7 million higher than last year, stable funding for arts and culture to families and communities.

BC NDP understands there is no question that the arts and culture sector is a key economic driver across our province... promises to grow BC's creative economy by 1) Increasing BC's domestic and foreign production tax credit programs to improve competitiveness with other Canadian provinces and create

jobs in BC's film, TV and digital media industries and 2) increasing funding for the BC Arts Council.

Green Party of BC are committed to: establishing a separate Ministry of Arts, Culture and Heritage... increase arts and culture funding and establish new funding objectives to provide multiyear funding to established and traditional Arts & Culture (A&C) groups to encourage their transition to financial independence... expand the BC Arts Council mandate to distribute government funds at arm's length from government, include... the goal of liaising with the sponsorship world by connecting arts and culture programs with corporate benefactors. We will also provide funding to develop affordable rental facilities for local A&C development... encourage the formation of co-operatives within the A&C community to reduce members' operation costs and improve profits.

2. What value do you ascribe to choral music in British Columbia society?

BC Liberals Choral music is an amazing part of the arts and culture sector – the vast majority of British Columbians participate in choral music whether in the shower, in a school gymnasium or at a theatre. British Columbians sing recreationally, professionally, and even therapeutically. Choral music allows each of us to express our deepest and most passionate emotions.

BC NDP The BC NDP is grateful to all BC artists, cultural workers and all the volunteers who bring our province alive through the arts. Arts and culture are essential components of strong and healthy communities and of a compassionate and thriving society.

Green Party of BC A strong arts and culture community in BC will give the province an advantage in attracting people from everywhere and every walk of life to this outstanding province. BC Greens believe that the arts and culture communities are a significant part of our economy.

BC Conservatives "This is an interesting question, I don't know if I can answer it in terms of BC society. I believe a survey has to be conducted to find out what value residents ascribe to the choral music. In terms of my personal view, I value this form of music." (Satinder Singh, Surrey-Newton)

3. The 2012–2013 budget keeps BC per capita arts funding dead last in Canada at 25% of the national average, and this support is frozen for three years. If you form the next government will you commit to increasing arts and culture funding up to the national average?

BC NDP will increase funding for the BC Arts Council by \$5 million a year starting in 2015.

Green Party of BC would restore arts and culture funding to 2008–09 levels of \$23.8 million.

BC Liberals will expand funding levels to arts and culture by 13% this year, allocating more than \$60 million to artists, arts and culture organizations... and will also increase the BC Arts Council's core funding from \$16.8 million last year to a record high level of \$24 million.

None responded to the challenge of bringing funding up to the national average.

4. Despite increased revenue from gaming, the BC Government under Premier Campbell drastically reduced the portion to the not-for-profit sector, including arts and culture. The Clark government restored some of this funding. If you form the next government, will you commit to restoring gaming funding to arts and culture to at least the 2008 level?

Only the **Green Party of BC** committed to this.

BC Liberals promise "Any additional increases will have to be considered in light of the Province's overall fiscal situation. If the global economy improves, today's BC Liberals would be pleased to consider more funding. Our goal is to keep taxes low for families and create a debt-free BC."

BC NDP will consult... and will also ensure that non-profits are guaranteed an ongoing source of revenue from gaming and that eligibility rules for funding will be maintained."

Most declined to answer the optional question of direct experience of the Vancouver Chamber Choir. One Green Party of BC candidate had attended concerts and one BC Conservative had heard recordings.

For full-length versions of all survey responses received by April 30 :
<http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1104713134315-198/VCC+Prov+Elect+Survey+2013+.pdf>

This survey was an initiative of the Vancouver Chamber Choir Advocacy Committee. We encourage all British Columbians to vote during this election.



MANITO AHBEE FESTIVAL MOVING TO AUGUST

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES CHOICE MUSIC AWARDS NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FOR 2013

The much-anticipated Manito Ahbee Festival is poised to make itself a summer staple.

The weeklong event, which brings thousands of First Nations dancers, performers and musicians from across the world together each year in Winnipeg, will take place August 16–21, 2013 – a departure from its usual November date.

"It's with great anticipation and excitement that we announce the new dates for the Manito Ahbee Festival," says Executive Director Lisa Meeches. "The change is welcome and allows us to expand on outdoor activities and programming that offer new experiences to youth, families and the thousands of visitors that come to Winnipeg each summer."

Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries – a strong advocate of promoting Aboriginal arts and culture – will once again serve as Presenting Sponsor.

"Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries is pleased to be the Presenting Sponsor of the Manito Ahbee Festival. We look forward to the first – ever summer celebration that will no doubt enhance the experience of the thousands of people who take part in the Manito Ahbee Festival every year," said Winston Hodgins, President and CEO of Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries. "Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries takes great pride in supporting our communities and celebrating the rich Aboriginal culture that is an inherent part of our province."

The Festival will return with the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards, Indigenous Marketplace and Trade Show and International Competition Pow Wow at the MTS Centre. New with the summer schedule will be outdoor events at The Forks' Oodena Circle and a Cultural Camp for youth, more exciting details to be announced over the next five months.

"This is just such a time of innovation, reflection and celebration for us," says Meeches. "We can't wait to see what the summer will bring."

THE TIME TO GET INVOLVED IS NOW

With the new schedule comes new timelines, which means the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards (APCMA) submissions are now open. The APCMA celebrate the finest in Aboriginal music from across North America and beyond. Artists can submit now, with an industry vote to decide official nominees from the submissions. This will be followed by worldwide free online voting by fans to determine the winners.

Submission timelines are as follows:

Deadline for submissions: May 17

Industry voting period: May 27–June 17

Nomination announcement: June 28

Public voting: June 28–July 19

Awards: August 2013

Artists can download submission entry forms at aboriginalpeopleschoice.com.

"Traditions are a big part of my culture. Unfortunately, so is diabetes."

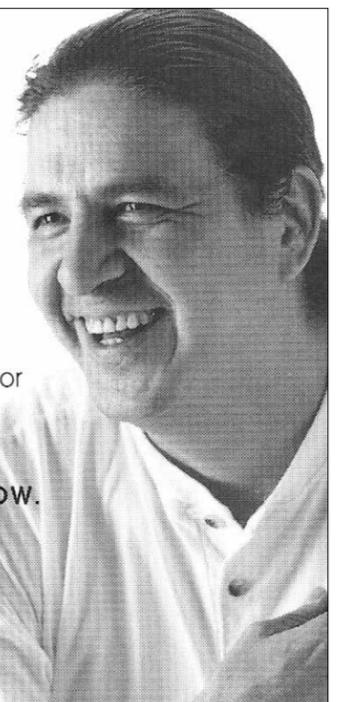
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▲ The New Westminster Quay during the 2012 DiverseCity Festival.

Festival unifies roots and communities

by SARA WHITTAKER

The 11th annual New Westminster DiverseCity Festival kicks off May 18 with food, art, entertainment, and history.

Kendra Johnston, executive director of the Downtown New Westminster Business Improvement Association (BIA), says the idea of the festival started with a group of local business owners who wanted a family oriented outdoor festival along the boardwalk. The nonprofit organization represents the interests of businesses and property owners in downtown New Westminster and promotes the area as a welcoming site for shopping, dining and entertainment with activities like the DiverseCity Festival.

She says the only requirement for participants is that they offer "something engaging, educational, or entertaining to the public."

"What makes this festival special is that the community comes together, celebrates each other's culture and many connections are formed that last a lifetime through this event," says Johnston.

Discovering heritage

Christine Manzer's story is one of such connections.



▲ Performers waiting to perform at the 2012 DiverseCity Festival.

"[Last year] my cousin and I approached the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada [UELAC] booth attracted by [the volunteers'] colourful period clothing," she says. She was excited to find that her last name was on the list of proven Loyalists' names, says Manzer who is a support librarian at SFU.

The first Loyalists were European colonists who migrated from the U.S., to what is today Canada after the American Revolution. The UELAC preserves

and promotes the Loyalists' era and their role in the history of Canada.

"It's great. It's given me a focus and a project for when I retire next year," says Manzer who expects to receive her official descendant certification this month.

While Manzer found her heritage during a visit to the festival, Rita Khimani is an artist who shares her heritage there. Khimani, a henna artist from India, has been practicing this art since she was seven years old. She remembers taking leaves from a tree and crushing them, adding water, then applying the paste to her hands. That was the beginning of her love for henna art, she says. She has participated in the festival for a couple of years and says people enjoy the history and the beauty of the art.

"It's origins arise from Ancient Egypt where the Pharaohs and Cleopatra applied [it] as eyeliner. People are always surprised [by] that," she says.

Khimani says that, on their wedding night, traditionally Indian grooms look for their hidden initials as they caress their bride's hands or feet decorated with intricate henna designs. Back when marriages were arranged, this gave the husband the chance to connect with his new bride. Today, she works with brides of all cultures who appreciate the beauty of this tradition.

Passion for sharing

Belly dancing is not a tradition in Lisa Jordan's heritage, but she shares her passion for this art at her Ammara Dance Co. studio in New Westminster, and at the festival, where she has danced for past five years. Jordan is a Middle Eastern dance instructor from B.C., who for the past 12 years has focused on a style of belly dance called *Raks Sharqi*.

"[It's] captivating for all audiences - it's dynamic, glitzy, and portrays a range of expressions from a soft, lovely veil dance to a dynamic, exciting drum solo."

She says there is an exotic element to *Raks Sharqi* that seems to fascinate lots of people, especially children.

"I think...it is a combination of the colour and movement as well as human connection to rhythm that draws people to this dance. There are many untruths about (it) that I feel compelled to dispel. It is important for me to perform and teach (it) with cultural respect and integrity," says Jordan. ✍



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CSF
Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique



Cultural Calendar

May 7–21, 2013

by JESSICA LI

The sunny weather isn't the only thing to look forward to – there are many fun and fascinating events to choose from. Explore artwork by local craft artists, or attend a classical Persian music contest. Whatever you do, it'll be worth your time.

**Speaker Series:
Steveston Japanese Hospital**
Thursday, May 9
Event begins at 7:00 pm
Nikkei National Museum
6688 Southoaks Crescent,
Burnaby
604-777-7000
www.centre.nikkeiplace.org

In conjunction with the Nikkei National Museum's exhibit *Ryoshi: Nikkei Fishermen of the BC Coast*, PhD candidate Helen Vandenberg will be speaking on the history of the Japanese hospital in Steveston. Regular admission is \$5, admission for members and seniors is \$3.

Savage Anxieties
Thursday, May 9
7 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
Vancouver Public Library,
Central Branch
350 W. Georgia Street,
Vancouver
604-331-3603
www.vpl.ca

Renowned professor Robert Williams explores the history of the denial of indigenous peoples' rights to lands and resources in the West from the time of ancient Greeks and Romans up through Canada's 21st century treaty negotiations in BC. This lecture is part of the Vancouver Public Library's series of First Nations rights and laws. Admission is free but seating is limited.

**River to Sea
Regional Heritage Fair**
May 10–11
11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Burnaby Village Museum
6501 Deer Lake Ave, Burnaby
604-297-4560
www.burnabyvillagemuseum.ca

A celebration of Canada's heritage in the form of student projects with a Canadian history or heritage theme. There are prizes to be won, demonstrations, a scavenger hunt, and free rides on a 1912 CW Parker Carousel – a great family event. Admission is free.



▲ Dancers twirl their partners at Strictly Salsa. You can too every Sunday night from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Dancey ballroom on Hamilton Street in Downtown Vancouver.

Photo by John Bollwitt

El Jinete: The Rider
May 10–12
8 p.m. (Friday and Saturday),
2 p.m. (Sunday)
Frederic Wood Theatre
6354 Crescent Rd, Vancouver
778-977-6398
www.puentetheatre.ca

Inspired by a much beloved Mexican mariachi song, the world's first Mariachi Opera tells the tale of a lonely and wounded rider in search of his beloved. The show brings together an award-winning team of Vancouver artists. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors.

AfriCaribbean Spirit Night
Tuesday, May 11
6:30 p.m.–1:00 a.m.
Victoria Event Center
1415 Broad St., Victoria
www.tourismvictoria.com

This is a fun monthly community night celebrating African & Caribbean cultures in music, dance and food with the objective of promoting intercultural communication. Enjoy some delicious free African and Caribbean appetizers! Admission is \$15, but a limited quantity of early bird tickets are available for \$10.

**Highland Games &
Celtic Festival**
May 11–19
Various locations in Victoria
www.victoriahighlandgames.com

Join in on a nine-day celebration of Scottish culture, including a Tartan Parade and Kilted Golf Tournament. HRH The Duke of York will be the Chief of the Games. Admission: \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors/youth. Admission for children under 12 is free.

Strictly Salsa
Every Sunday
3 p.m.–7 p.m.
The Dancey Ballroom
505 Hamilton Street, Vancouver
604-813-6739
www.danceyballroom.com

Dance the afternoon away at a casual Sunday salsa social dance. The event is friendly and non-intimidating, and dancers of all ages and all dance abilities welcome. Admission is \$7 at the door.

Cultural Diversity and Craft
Thursday, May 16
7 p.m.–8:30 p.m.



▲ Handwoven scarf by Yoriko Ori, one of the five artists featured at the Cultural Diversity and Craft fair

Photo by Yoriko Ori

**Kereshmeh Ensemble
ft. Hossein Behroozinia**
Thursday, May 16
7:30 p.m.–9 p.m.
UBC Museum of Anthropology
6393 N.W. Marine Drive, Vancouver
604-827-4738
www.kereshmehensemble.com

Come enjoy a performance by Kereshmeh Ensemble, one of the world's leading Persian classical music ensembles. All of the members are experienced musicians with a unique technique that has been developed over years of performing. General admission is \$35.

Chinatown Night Market
May 17–Sept 8 (every Friday,
Saturday and Sunday)
6 p.m.–11 p.m.
Keefe St., Vancouver
604-682-8998
vancouverchinatownnightmarket.com

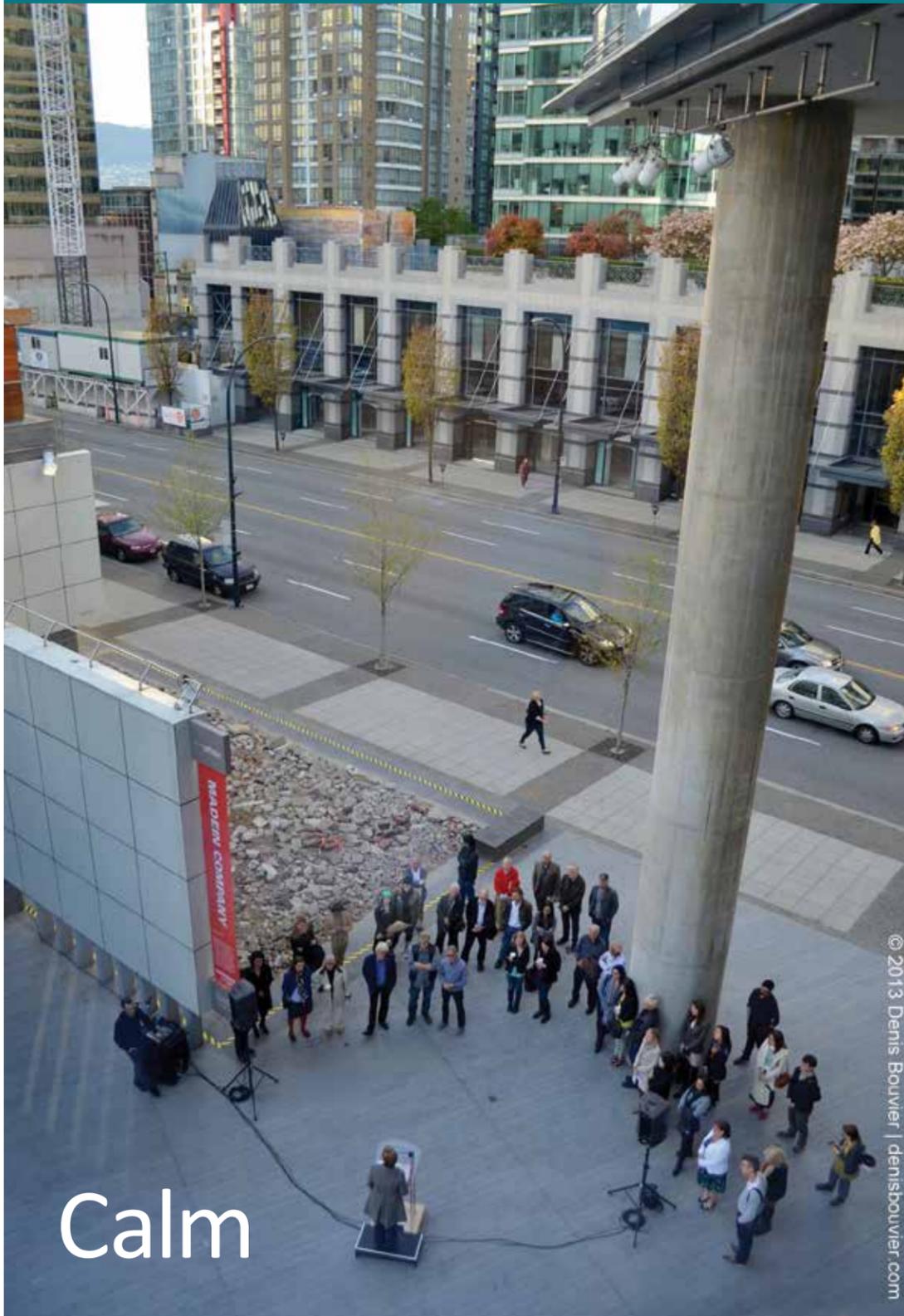
This year, the Chinatown Night Market is mixing it up – old and new, mainstream and handmade – in an effort to celebrate art, culture and summertime in the ever-changing Chinatown neighbourhood. Come find something you love, or just have fun.



▲ Bagpipers will be on large display at this year's Highland Games in Victoria, B.C., so ride the ferry from May 11 to 19 and catch the festivities throughout the city.

Photo by Dori Blackie

Street Photography by Denis Bouvier



Calm

© 2013 Denis Bouvier | denisbouvier.com

Photographed from the third floor of the Shangri-La Hotel, we are looking down upon the opening ceremony of the Vancouver Art Gallery Offsite's latest exhibition, "Calm." Situated to the left of the attendees, we see what appears to be a common enough site in Vancouver – a pile of rubble at a construction site before it is transformed into another building like the surrounding modern towers. The rubble, sourced from a Vancouver synagogue, is the exhibition; it consists of chunks of concrete, rebar, brick and stone, arranged in a relatively neat fashion and nicely contained on the rect-

angular site. However, after staring at the site for a few seconds, it begins to move in a slowly undulating fashion, almost like breathing. This is an intentional effect to stimulate the viewer to "question ways of observing, believing and understanding facts." It's also related to urban construction and its implications for a city's inhabitants. "Calm" reflects on the apparent ordinariness of such sites, especially since they are so ubiquitous in Vancouver and other developing cities. And whether or not we feel complacent about changing cityscapes and their implications, this exhibition seems to indicate, especially

with the "breathing" aspect of the rubble, that like a monster we've created, it has now taken on a life of its own. It gives the feeling that something has been set in motion, the consequences of which seem disturbingly dire. The installation is by MadeIn Company, an artist collective based in Shanghai and Beijing, established by Chinese artist Xu Zhen in 2009. MadeIn Company has participated in many national and international exhibitions. The curator is Diana Freundl, assistant curator at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

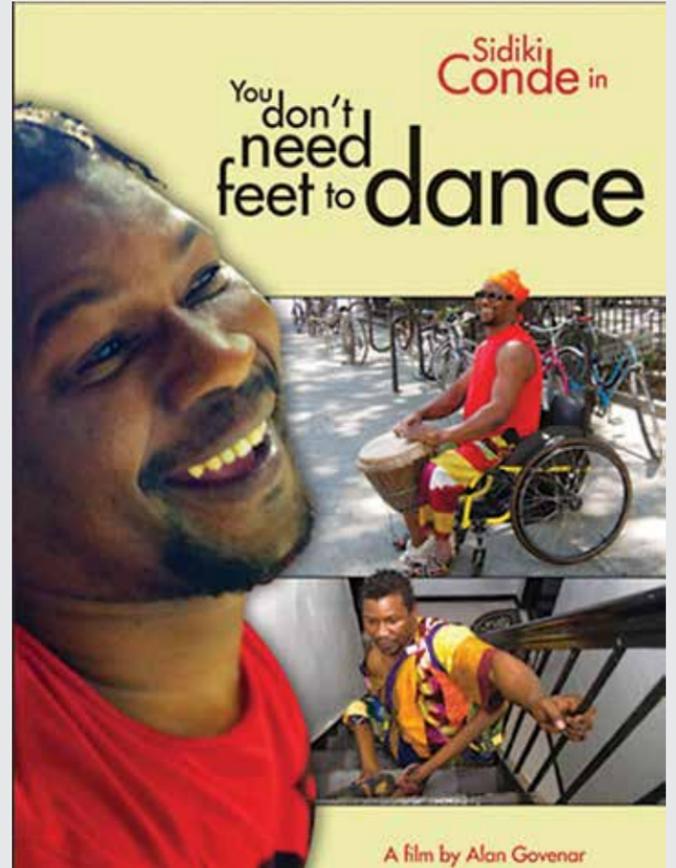
Don Richardson

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A benefit for **REELABILITY**

Canadian Premiere



Thursday May 23rd, 7:15 pm
 Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema
 Goldcorp Centre for Arts
 149 West Hastings, Vancouver
 (1 block from Waterfront Station via Cordova)
 (Doors Open at 6:45 pm)

Advance Tickets through Eventbrite:
 Reel Causes Members \$10
 Non-Members \$12

Cash at the Door:
 Reel Causes Members \$12
 Non-Members \$15

Become a Reel Causes Member:
<http://reelcauses.org/membership/>

African immigrant Sidiki Conde, having lost the use of his legs to polio at fourteen, balances his career as a performing artist with the almost insurmountable obstacles of life in New York City, from his fifth-floor walk up apartment in the East village, down the stairs with his hands and navigating in his wheelchair through Manhattan onto buses and into the subway. Sidiki struggles to cope with his disability and to earn a decent living, but he still manages to teach workshops for disabled kids, busk on the street, rehearse with his musical group, bicycle with his hands, and prepare for a baby naming ceremony, where he plays djembe drums, sings, and dances on his hands.

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