

An invitation from the
Nepalese community
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Photo courtesy of Sing Tao Daily

Verbatim

A place for everyone

by DANIELE SANTOS

I arrived in Vancouver on a sunny Sunday in August 2014. Although I was tired, I felt like taking a walk around the famous downtown area. The city was joyous on that day, and the glass in the buildings reflected the sunlight making everything I looked at very shiny – the glitter city, I thought to myself!

I walked down Granville Street and heard some people listening to Latin music and dancing to it quite joyfully. I kept on walking and saw a man feeding pigeons! I hadn't seen that in years. It reminded me of the Pigeon Lady – a character from a classic movie (*Home Alone*, 1990). Those who are about my age might relate to that. Everywhere I looked I saw people of all kinds; a true mosaic of ethnicities. I heard all kinds of languages, and, suddenly, I caught myself playing this little "guess-what-language-that-is" game.

When night fell I headed to Yaletown and had a hard time choosing among the many different options for restaurants with foods from all over the world. Where I come from – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – there is no such diversity and everyone speaks pretty much the same language. I have traveled to other big, multicultural cities, such as Paris, New York and London. Vancouver reminds me of those cities because it really is a melting pot. "Shall I eat Japanese or Thai food?," I asked myself. I ended up playing it safe that night and ate at an Italian restaurant – Italian cuisine is popular in Brazil. I just loved it! In Vancouver you can be in a different part of the world every weekend or even every day! All you need is to be on a bus or a train to get the multicultural feel.

See "Verbatim" page 6

Chinese language media tackle cultural sensitivities

by FLORENCE HWANG

When terrorists attacked the Paris satirical weekly newspaper *Charlie Hebdo* and killed 12 people earlier this month, it played out on the world's stage. The extremists claimed their murders were to protest irreverent cartoons about the prophet Muhammad.

Like mainstream media, local Chinese news outlets took the opportunity to engage their audiences with editorials to help them digest and analyse the

tragic events. On Omni BC's Mandarin news program, Guo Ding, a producer of the show, took up the topic on his segment called *Ding's view*, which delves into everyday hot news issues.

"People didn't necessarily agree with *Charlie Hebdo's* views. It was a different story when the extremists wanted to use violence to achieve their goal," said Ding, who has years of experience as a columnist for the *World Journal*, *Sing Tao* and *SinoQuebec* for Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto. He also writes columns for publications

in the United States, Hong Kong and China.

Ding says that instead of the terrorists' goal of silencing or intimidating the publication through violence, they got the opposite effect of unifying the nation by garnering global attention.

Although Ding does not agree with *Charlie Hebdo's* views, he does support the idea of freedom of speech. He says the station gives him the freedom to speak what is on his mind based on the principle of multiculturalism.

"But my view is not necessarily representing the position of the TV station," says Ding.

Cultural divide

Ding cites the late American political scientist and Harvard professor Samuel Huntington to shed some insight on why people are taking such a strong stand on cultural attacks.

In a 1993 *Foreign Affairs* article, Huntington argued that the main source of conflict in the world would no longer be primarily ideological or economic, but cultural. See "Chinese Media Coverage" page 5

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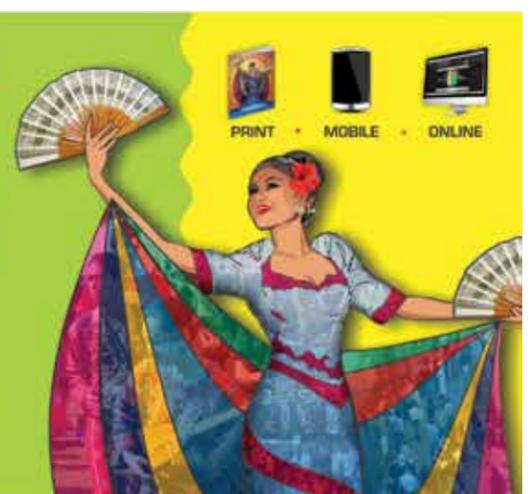


Zen and tea are
of one taste
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▲ Tla'Amin (Sliammon) Totem by Eugene Rodriguez.

Photo courtesy of Sliammon Treaty Society

Wisdom of a Sliammon Elder

by CARIME LANE

Elsie Paul, an elder of the Sliammon (tla'amin) people of the northern Sunshine Coast, will launch her new book *Written as I Remember It* Feb. 24 at the Vancouver Public Library. Paul, one of the last surviving speakers of her mother tongue, will be joined by her collaborators Paige Raibmon and granddaughter Harmony Johnson.

With a long history of community service, especially in the area of education, Paul has encouraged Sliammon youth to value a good education as one of their most important goals and assets. She received social work accreditation from the University of British Columbia (UBC). Paul has worked at schools and at hospitals, as well as being involved in cross-cultural events. She has been a mentor at the university level, giving guidance and encouragement to new students.

Finding inspiration

According to the Sliammon First Nation's website, the Nation is part of the 20 Coast Salish communities living along British Columbia's Northern coast and has a history stretching back over 2000 years.

Their language, the Tla'amin language, was eventually documented and preserved for the future but Paul remains one of the last mother-tongue speakers.

Along with her maternal language, learned at the side of her grandmother, Paul inherited the legends, stories and history of her people, as well as their spiritual practices.

She was initially motivated by a desire to pass on some of her people's history and traditions to her family.

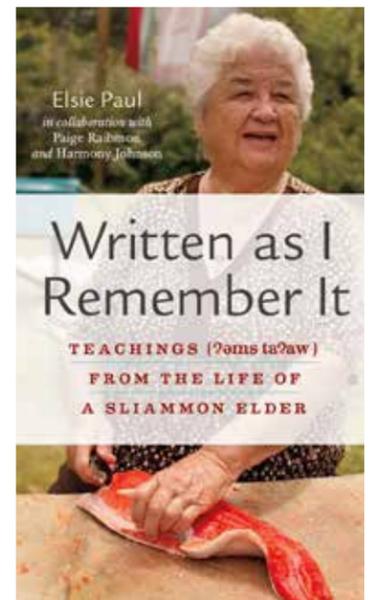
It was at Powell River's Vancouver Island College, where she was an elder-in-residence, that the book project took off, thanks to the encouragement of faculty. Primarily based on Paul's memories of her early life being raised by her grandparents and living a traditional life, the book eventually became a collaboration between the three co-authors.

Life as it was

In Paul's childhood all the roads in her community were unpaved. People walked everywhere. It was not uncommon to walk as much as five miles at a time. Travel over longer distances usually involved going by water. Paul's grandfather owned a large

dug-out canoe. This was important not only for travel, but also for fishing and for trade.

In her book, Paul tells how much of the Sliammon lifestyle was centered around the gathering of food. Salmon and herring were important in this way, and they could be eaten quickly or preserved by either smoking or even just drying in the wind.



They would be available later in the year simply by putting them in water and then, perhaps, by re-cooking them. Clams were plentiful, and even they could be dried and eaten at a later date. Paul's grandfather also had trap-lines and hunted. And then there were the many different types of berries: blackberries, salmon, halal.

Paul writes of how getting this food involved a mobile life as the people moved from place to place following the seasonal patterns. There was a great deal of trade, too, with other people up and down the coast. Local goods could be exchanged for what others had. This was always done by exchange in her grandfather's day.

Paul's book stresses that Sliammon teachings are not about a return to the past. They are about the positive influence the past can have on the present. Knowing where you have come from is important in knowing where you are going. ✍

Elsie Paul's *Teachings from the Life of a Sliammon Elder* is at VPL's Central Branch at 7 p.m. on Feb. 24; and for further information on the series, visit www.vpl.ca.

For more information about the Sliammon language, please visit www.sliammonfirstnation.com/index.php/our-language

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Left Bank


Greek lessons for the B.C. NDP?

Syriza has won the elections in Greece. A new left party, they've gone in just over a decade from the fringes of political life all the way to power, swept in on a promise to end years of vicious austerity policies.

This historic win for Syriza has alarmed right-wingers and bankers around the world. It has also sent a bolt of hope through the political left everywhere.

For my entire adult life (and I'm in my late thirties), we have lived under the political and economic orthodoxy crudely summed up by the late Margaret Thatcher, "there is no alternative."

People and parties of the political left, at least in Western Europe and North America, adapted to this dismal reality. So it was that just a few years ago, at the height of the austerity measures being imposed on Greece, then-NDP President Brian Topp visited Athens and praised his social democratic counterparts in PASOK, the governing party at the time. Writing in the *Globe and Mail*, Topp asserted that PASOK, and sister parties like the French Socialists and the U.K. Labour Party, represented "moderate, responsible, mainstream progressive parties" who were putting forward "the sensible, realistic alternative to conservative misrule."

Less than four years later, PASOK's support has completely collapsed, replaced by a new type of left party willing to actually confront the politics of austerity. So while we know bankers and right-wingers will now panic about Syriza's victory, it should also be a wake-up call to the NDP.

Assuming Syriza is able to form and hold together a government (as of our deadline, it wasn't clear whether they would form a majority government or need coalition partners), it will be the most clearly left-wing adminis-

ing precarity and debt for the rest. Even in B.C., obviously still relatively stable and prosperous in comparison to southern Europe, inequality is endemic: one in five children live in poverty, and basics like housing, child care and post-secondary education are increasingly unaffordable.

In each of the past three elections, the B.C. NDP has been extremely cautious, promising no fundamental economic changes and remaining non-committal about reversing the neo-liberal measures taken by the B.C. Liberals. This was true of the campaigns led by Carole James in 2005 and 2009, but also of the shocking defeat in 2013, when Adrian Dix looked poised to win a landslide. (These campaign decisions, to be fair, were conditioned by a very conservative media landscape here in B.C.)

To actually defeat the B.C. Liberals' agenda, the political left in B.C. needs to challenge the neo-liberal "common sense." We need to explain that the only "sensible" and "realistic" way to close the inequality gap is to implement aggressively progressive policies. Just for starters, the B.C. NDP should focus on championing the \$15/hr minimum wage being advocated by the B.C. Federation of Labour, and demand the implementation of a comprehensive, affordable child care program here in B.C.. Campaigning on these two issues would be a big step in the direction of rebuilding a left that presents its progressive economic ideas confidently.

We should all watch Greece and southern Europe carefully. Already new left parties, well to the left of traditional social democracy, are forming and gaining popularity, from Slovenia to Spain.

The message of Syriza's victory is clear: there is an alternative. Or, at least, we must try to



▲ Alexis Tsipras, head of Greece's Syriza party.

tration in Europe since the end of the Cold War.

It's true that the economic conditions in Greece, and indeed all across southern Europe, are far more disastrous than here. Nevertheless, their example of rapid political change has universal implications, and lessons, in our globalized world dominated by finance capital.

In our grossly unequal world, it is neither sensible nor responsible to propose mere tinkering. The economic system is failing the vast majority. It's producing extreme wealth for a few and grow-

forge an alternative, against all obstacles.

By 2017, the next scheduled provincial election, the B.C. Liberals will have governed this province for 16 years. It often feels like there's no alternative to the party of big business. But now we know better.

Our province is not destined to be ruled eternally by a coalition of corporate interests. We are not doomed to forever be plagued by child poverty, inequality and unaffordable housing.

There is an alternative for B.C.. We just have to make it. ✍

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Comfort & Joy: Sunday, December 14, 2014. 3pm at the Evergreen Cultural Centre, 1205 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam. Choral music to soothe, uplift and inspire during the bustling holiday season. Singers of all ages- Con Brio, Con Bella, Children's Choir and DeCoro- share the stage for this family friendly concert.

As The Rain Hides The Stars: Saturday, February 28, 2015. 7 pm at St. Andrew's Wesley, 1012 Nelson St., Vancouver. Featuring the world premiere of Kristopher Fulton's new work, with all of our 200 singers on stage! Be transported in the gorgeous St. Andrew's Wesley while we serenade you with glorious sound.

From Sea to Sea: Sunday, June 7th, 2015. 7pm at the Evergreen Cultural Centre, 1205 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam. Enjoy songs of travel, adventure and risk on high seas, beautiful songs of Canada, and rollicking folk tunes from our Maritimes and East Coast. Join us as we celebrate our vast and inspiring country, through songs of the sea and the waterways that unite us all.

Indiekör: Saturday, June 14th, 2015. 7:30 pm at the Vogue Theatre, 918 Granville Street, Vancouver. Experience what everyone is talking about! Mixing Mumford and Sons with Monteverdi, Coastal Sound Youth Choir and local indie band The Salteens join forces for a fourth year to present their innovative cross pollination of classical choral music and indie rock. Choral music just got cooler than ever.

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About the Coastal Sound Music Academy

Coastal Sound Music connects singers and outstanding choral music educators with the community. From the wee 4 to 5 year old "Sources" song play program, to the professional and award winning Youth and Children's Choirs, to DeCoro, a new choral experience for adults, there is a place for singers to share a sense of spirit, artistry, heart and community.

A new perspective on diversity in North Vancouver

by DANIELE SANTOS

Neonology is a series of youth workshops that shines a light on discrimination and the power we all have to fight it.

The workshops are held in North Vancouver throughout the year to help students deal with diversity-related issues. Kids from elementary and high school engage in playful activities that promote discussions around stereotypes, bias, privilege and power. This way they can make a difference in their communities by waving the banner of core values such as respect, tolerance and compassion.

"Kids sit in a circle. We create a space for dialogue. But it's not just sitting down and talking about those issues; it is visually putting it out there, getting them to move their bodies, to experience," explains youth program manager Farah Yekanifard.

Neonology's crew believe there is a way to stop discrimination and racism, doing something tangible to change the lives of many who suffer from having a certain nationality or a different cultural background. Developed with the support of the North Shore Multicultural Society, the interactive workshops empower youth to stand up against limiting stereotypes and learn to become more inclusive and welcoming.

Since 2009, the program has been presented to over 7,000 el-

ementary and secondary school students. Workshops are offered to grade 10 youth, grades 5–7 (Neonology 2.0) and adults (Neonology Legacy). Summer Leadership Camps are offered annually to 15 students between the ages of 13 and 18.

Spark for change

The word Neonology derives from the T-shirt given to each participant of the workshop. Neon and with glasses printed on them, they remind participants to have a brighter perspective on life, through a different lens. This encourages a new way to look at life in community, embracing anti-oppression.

The workshops aim to provide youth with a space where they can speak about what these issues mean to them

"We, the facilitators, sit at the same level as the students so we hear everybody's voices. The seating arrangement shows how everyone's opinions are equally important," says Sarah Canning, Neonology's diversity coordinator.

One of the greatest achievements of the project was when some youth, after watching a Neonology workshop, created a "Do Good Committee" and won a humanitarian civic award for the initiative of contributing to society.

"It's really exciting to be able to open up those ideas to kids when talking to them. To see those



▲ Sarah Canning (diversity coordinator and facilitator) and youth leaders Elnaz Pourandalibi (left) and Jasmine Giles (right).

ideas applied in the community is really what Neonology is all about," says Canning.

Neonology's crew intends to offer online courses in the near future. However, Neonology's main challenge is to find the funding needed to cover their expenses, which stresses Elizabeth Jones, executive director of North Shore Multicultural Society.

"To have a program like this and offer more support to everyone involved you need stability in the staffing and to do so you need stability in your funding," Jones says.

Neon future

Every summer, students across the North Shore apply and go

through interviews to be part of the Leadership Camp. 15 youth are then chosen to participate. They learn to embrace Neonology's message and help create social change. After the camp, youth leaders meet every week over the course of the school year to organize and plan more actions in the community, such as potlucks to welcome new immigrants and anti-bullying events.

"Right now we're doing a project called Neon Hope for Change. We're collecting donations at schools – hygiene products, sweaters, and warm clothes to help the homeless," says Elnaz Pourandalibi, a

youth leader from Iran who has lived in Canada for two years.

Those are the neon bright perspectives for the future of North Vancouver's kids and community. It's just a start, since being open to diversity "is life-long learning", as Elizabeth Jones points out.

Jasmine Giles, a youth leader born in Toronto, is proud to be part of Neonology.

"I feel loyal to this group and it's like a family to me. I am proud to make a change and help the community," she says.

More information about Neonology workshops can be found at www.neonology.ca



Make change through the power of film

Save the Date: Sunday February 1st 2015

6:30 pm: Annual General Meeting

7:00 pm: Special Screening of "Dr Cabbie" (2014)
(Doors open at 6:00 pm)

While Reel Causes often tackles some weighty topics, that doesn't mean we take ourselves too seriously! So immediately following the Annual General Meeting, we invite you to join us for some light-hearted humour with the screening of *Dr. Cabbie*.

This rollicking, tongue-in-cheek, and decidedly **politically incorrect** comedy touches on very real issues affecting many newcomers to Canada. Parodying Bollywood productions and Indian culture, *Dr. Cabbie* is a visual feast with some great dance numbers and colour-rich street scenes. Co-produced by Bollywood legend, Salman Khan, *Dr. Cabbie* features *Big Bang Theory*'s Kunal Nayyar as the raunchy party-boy foil to Vinay Virmani's (*Breakaway*) earnest lead, and Liliete Duby (*The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* and *The Lunchbox [Dabba]*) at her comedic best.



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Make change through the power of film

Reel Causes is a Vancouver-based registered BC non-profit society that connects and engages film-goers with Canadian charities working to address social justice, environmental and health-related issues

► "Chinese Media Coverage" from page 1
tural. He felt that the clash of civilizations would dominate global politics and that the fault lines between civilizations would be the battle lines of the future.

"We have to find a way to get out of the violence. We need to create a stage of dialogue, a stage of mutual understanding and the cultural harmony. The war is not the solution and we need to get rid of the 'soil' for terrorism," Ding says.

Cultural sensitivity and sensitive topics

Ding mentions the anti-immigration sentiment some Canadians have against the Chinese. However, he says multiculturalism needs to be supported. For example, recently non-Chinese people began to complain about the Chinese-only signs for some businesses in Richmond.

"We need to think about other peoples' feelings who are not Chinese," he says. "We have to make efforts to let all Canadians know that the history of Chinese immigration is part of the mainstream history. People would change their mind," says Ding.

When it comes to sensitive topics, Ding aims to present a balanced picture. When he looks at environmental issues, the solutions generated should take into consideration what effect they will have on the economy. This is something the Chinese are concerned about.

"Is there any alternative out there that is good for the environment that does not shut down the oil industry? You have to have a new industry to replace that when you talk about shutting

down the oil industry so Canada can have prosperity," Ding says.

Sensitivity to hot topics

In Vancouver's Sing Tao newsroom, editor-in-chief Victor Ho says the staff exercises great care when handling potentially explosive topics such as the recent terrorist attack in France.

"For the Charlie Hebdo issue we handled the problematic cartoons very carefully," says Ho.

The bottom line was that they judged that it was not suitable to emphasize again the Islamic prophet's image in their paper, he says.

"The real news value is in the terror attacks, not that on the religious hatred/argument. Since



▲ Guo Ding interviews Bai Xianyong, a well-known writer in China as well as in US.

we treated the said story along with this guideline, we did not receive negative feedback from readers up to the moment," says Ho, who is no stranger to handling editorials.

Aside from having over 25 years of experience as a journalist, he was the current affairs commentator for *Fairchild Radio of Toronto* from 1998 to 2002. In 1994, he had written a media commentary column for *HK Sing*

Tao Daily for over three years before coming to Canada in 1997. He joined the Vancouver Sing Tao newsroom in 2005.

"Sing Tao's role play is sort of like a bridge between the Chinese immigrants and the 'new' society of Canada. We are really the ethnic 'media' when East meets West, in terms of immigrant communities of the new land in North America," says Ho.

Asked about culturally mixed readership Ho says that he prefers not to translate his columns to English as the topics he treats are mainly of interest to Chinese language speakers here in Canada and/or abroad.

The *Sing Tao Daily*'s readership tends to be age 40 or above, ac-

ording to Ho. He points out the readers are diligent in calling, emailing, faxing or even writing letters to the editor to convey their 'keenest concern' in regards to the newspaper's coverage.

"Of course they are interested in reading the sensitive topics, like the *Charlie Hebdo* with reference on those Islamic cartoons in Paris, or even the Falun Kun stories," says Ho.

Workshop explores Zen and the Japanese tea ceremony

by MANDEEP WIRK

Maiko Behr's February workshop at the Nikkei Centre will explore the historical, philosophical and aesthetic influences of Zen on the development and practice of the tea ceremony.

Behr, a long time tea practitioner is a certified instructor in the *Omote-senke* tradition of *chanoyu*, the Jap-

American father but came to America shortly afterwards as a baby. Her family settled in Maryland.

"When I was 12, I was sent for a year to live with my grandmother in Tokyo. I didn't speak any Japanese or know anything about Japan at the time. But I had Japanese citizenship because of my mother and I attended a regular public school," says Behr.

it there. So I continued to study Japanese language at college," says Behr.

She went on to earn her Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Japanese and French literature from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. After graduating, she returned to Japan for a year of advanced studies in Japanese language.

"My aunt was a tea ceremony teacher, and she introduced me

English, but Behr wanted to practice her Japanese.

"I found work in a traditional Japanese sweetshop, and every season the sweets change. Sweets are such a big part of the tea ceremony – and in Japan even sweets are an art form," says Behr.

In her spare time, Behr visited temples, shrines, gardens, museums and art galleries.

"Then I left Japan to come here to Vancouver to do my Master of Arts in Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia where I continued to study Classical Japanese literature and visual culture," Behr says.

Life long learner

"I still go to Japan twice a year for two-week intensive training sessions. I teach but I have my own teacher who I have continued to study with for the past 20 years," says Behr.

Behr has been giving workshops at the Nikkei Centre for many years. Her next workshop explores the influence of Zen on the development of *chanoyu*. In the late 12th century, Zen monk Eisai brought the tradition of tea drinking to Japan from China. She says even today Zen principles of harmony, respect, purity and tranquility are at the very heart of the Japanese tea ceremony.

"Zen is a philosophy of riddles, and the ideas of simplicity and impermanence – embracing the moment you're in – are central to Zen and tea. The reason we hold these tea gatherings is because they are never repeated the same way again though there is the same structure that everyone understands and works within. Even though it is a very simple thing of preparing a bowl of tea and a little something sweet to eat before you drink it, [the ceremony is] presented in a way that makes it absolutely memorable," says Behr. ☞

Zen and Chanoyu workshop
Sunday, Feb. 8
Nikkei National Museum
& Cultural Centre, Burnaby
Registration: 604-777-7000
info@nikkeiplace.org

“Sweets are such a big part of the tea ceremony – and in Japan even sweets are an art form.

Maiko Behr, tea practitioner

anese tea ceremony. She will present a slide lecture and discuss how Zen is profoundly connected to the development of *chanoyu* as a cultural practice in Japanese society. Behr's interest in the way of tea is interwoven with her own journey.

First time in Japan

Behr was born in Japan to a Japanese mother and a Euro-

At first she felt lost but gradually caught on to the Japanese language. Eventually, she decided to stay for one more year. Although Behr returned to America, she would never forget her time in Japan.

Student of Japanese culture

"That was my first experience in Japan and I just really enjoyed

to her own teacher who was a tea master. He was a truly enlightened being who looked like a Zen monk – completely at peace. Whenever you would see him, it was a humbling experience," Behr says.

Again, Behr decided to stay one more year but now she had to find work to support herself. Everyone told her she should teach



▲ Maiko Behr making tea.

► "Verbatim" from page 1

That was my first day in the city. Let me fast forward a bit. It has been two months now. Here I am. I still have the same impressions I had back on that very first day in August, but I guess now, to a certain extent, I'm more of a local. I have a routine in the city. I am taking a course about Digital Music Production at Langara College. My classmates are from Russia, Colombia, Tanzania, Mexico and, of course, Canada! One of my teachers is Japanese and the other is Brazilian – just like me. It is great to see everyone on the same wavelength; speaking the same language. John Lennon's Imagine lyrics keep playing back in my head: "Imagine there's no countries. It isn't hard to do."

I guess Lennon would have loved to either visit or live

in today's Vancouver because the impression you get is that you don't need to be a dreamer to be in a place where you can feel as if there are no countries, no barriers, a "brotherhood of

man" where difference is embraced with respect. There is a place for everyone; it is Canada. Canadians are so welcoming that you feel like you are in a country where there is no coun-

try – "above us only sky" – that of British Columbia.

I've been enjoying the sense of community and the care you see here for one another. When I found an apartment in the city, it was unfurnished. My neighbors in Marpole soon introduced themselves and, magically, my flat became furnished with their donations! On Thanksgiving Day, a Canadian couple invited me and a friend to have dinner with them in Surrey. We got in contact through a website whose purpose is to connect immigrants and Canadians in order to share dinner on Thanksgiving Day (www.sharethanksgiving.ca).

This is a bit of my Vancouver experience. I'm sure more and more will happen. In the meantime, I will tell John Lennon in my head that there is no need to imagine any longer. ☞



▲ In Vancouver you can be in a different part of the world every weekend.



Photo courtesy of Capilano University

Capilano University's Tribute to Brazil

by JAKE MCGRAIL

Fans of Brazilian rhythms will be treated to an evening of the country's sensual music at Capilano University. On Jan. 30, vocal ensemble NiteCap will perform Brazilian jazz hits of the last decades.

"[NiteCap] is made up of about eight or nine vocalists and a rhythm section. All of the vocalists have their own microphone," says instructor Réjean Marois.

"I write the vocals for them. We work with an outside artist; I contact them and decide what music to do. Then we practice."

Born in Thetford Mines, Quebec, Marois has worked as a conductor, music advisor and arranger throughout the U.S. and Canada for the last 25 years. He teaches at Capilano University, and has been in charge of NiteCap since 1988.

The group has three or four shows a year, so they rehearse often. While most of their shows take place at the university, the group occasionally has performances at The Cultch.

Working with a rotating group

Since the group is made up of university students, there are always members leaving and new members coming in.

"The transition isn't all at once; it is fairly smooth. With the vocalists, it's not as if all eight or nine of them leave each year, about four of them do, so we have about four new, four old students. The older students help the younger ones learn what to do, and to keep a good attitude and work ethic," says Marois.

Attitude and work ethic are very important in the ensemble. The students have a lot of other commitments outside the ensemble, so they have to be willing to work hard.

"We need to have positive spirit," says Marois. "If one group member is negative, everyone will be negative. I have been very fortunate the students have always been helpful and willing to work hard."

Many of the members don't necessarily pursue music or singing after university.

"I look at the people I taught. I see singers yes, but I also see professors, doctors, many different things. To influence so

See "Tribute to Brazil" page 9 ►



Musica in casa 3

The Vancouver Chamber Choir continues its new series of intimate house concerts in support of its fundraising efforts for the 2014-15 season.

The Guitar Speaks

Music for solo guitar interspersed with poems and stories evoked by the music, accompanied by fine wines from BC.

Guitarist Ed Henderson is an award-winning performer, composer and orchestrator who has worked extensively in Canada's music community. His choral works are widely recorded, presented and published.

Jon Washburn is the longtime Conductor and Artistic Director of the Vancouver Chamber Choir. Well known internationally for his mastery of choral technique and interpretation, he travels widely as guest conductor, lecturer, clinician and master teacher. A Member of the Order of Canada, he is also an active composer, arranger and editor.

Sunday, February 1st, 2015

2:00 pm

(please arrive no later than 1:45 pm)

at Casa Johnston:

46 - 1386 Nicola Street

(buzzer 46)

Vancouver, BC

Tickets: \$125 per person

(includes a tax-deductible donation of \$100)

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE.

For more information or to make your reservation, please contact the Vancouver Chamber Choir at (604) 738-6822.

Featured Artists:

Ed Henderson, guitar



photo credit: Michael Cooper

Jon Washburn, stories



photo credit: Yukiko Onley

Hot chocolate with a twist

by RUTH JAVIER

Purple potato and sake. Yes, these are the new hot chocolate flavours created for the 5th annual Vancouver Hot Chocolate Festival, on until Feb. 13.

This 30 day event is hosted in 24 cafés throughout the city, as well as in Burnaby and North Vancouver. A walking map on the event's website shows you the locations of this savory experience for a first date or a nice afternoon with friends.

Shobna Kannusamy, owner of Soirette, a Coal Harbour café participating in the festival, is delighted by the craziness of this hot chocolate celebration.

"We go as crazy as we can," says Kannusamy.

Her creative process starts with stress. When she contacted the festival about participating, Kannusamy was given a 24

sulted her records to give an accurate number; it turned out they both had been sold in exactly the same quantities.

Sweet organic experiments

The festival has brought a lot of new people into the store and the growth allowed Kannusamy to employ 10 staff, since they are open seven days a week.

Soirette specializes in macarons and tea, but hot chocolate and all kind of desserts have been featured since day one. Kannusamy found in macarons a diverse route of baking. Some of the exotic flavours created at Soirette include pineapple wasabi, jalapeno and sun dried tomato.

If you worry about good, healthy food, all the elements of Soirette's creations contain the best quality organic and fair trade ingredients.

"I won't sacrifice my reputation for cheap ingredients," says Kannusamy.



▲ A serving of PO-TAY-TO PO-TAH-TO for your pleasure.

There is still demand even when treats get pricey, because customers respect proper prices for better processes and ingredients.

Love for baking did not come to this macaroon designer from birth. Kannusamy still remembers being 12 years old and telling her mother she would never have a kitchen in her house. Born in Malaysia with Indian heritage, she moved to New Zealand at 16 to pursue engineering school.

In 2003, married and with degree in hand, she decided to enroll in the baking program in Le Cordon Bleu school in Ottawa. Though she had not intended to stay, when her program was finished, Kannusamy decided to settle permanently in Canada. Vancouver was the chosen city and after the birth of her first child, she decided it was the best time to start her dream.

Chocolate for a good cause

The festival shines a light on the creativity of local cafes and can be a great opportunity to find that special spice you love and miss from your home country or special trip, but also supports a worthy cause.

Five per cent of the profit from the 24 locations for the Hot Chocolate Festival goes to the East Roasters. This organization helps women with mental health problems and drug abuse with treatment, housing and training to be back in the work force. Recently they suffered a dramatic cut in their funding from the government and this festival is making efforts to help them staying afloat. ☞



▲ Shobna Kannusamy, owner of Soirette.

hour deadline to come up with a new flavour for the beverage. She chose the chocolate first and then thought of ingredients never intended to be mixed with chocolate. This year Soirette came out with two out-of-left-field recipes, already well accepted by the public.

"PO-TAY-TO PO-TAH-TO" is a purple rimmed cup of hot chocolate created with Michel Cluizel Mokaya chocolate, flavoured with sage, cinnamon and purple potatoes, and served with a homemade yam marshmallow. "SAKE TO ME" uses blond Valrhona Dulcey hot chocolate infused with sake kasu, lees of sake production, accompanied by a caramelized Nori Mini Pavlova chocolate. This adventurous recipe can almost describe the passion of Kannusamy creating what she calls her children.

When asked which of the two has been the best seller, she con-

surrey art gallery | SURREY ART GALLERY | new art | new ideas | new media | Exhibitions & Education in Contemporary Art since 1975

Celebrate BC's Family Day Weekend with hands-on art and stories

Family Day, February 8, 12-4 p.m.

Where we live, play, and work is a huge part of who we are. On Sunday, February 8 from 12-4pm at the Surrey Art Gallery, families will celebrate BC's Family Day weekend engaging in fun and creative art activities that delve into the physical places around us, from our backyards to our cities, and from the historic past to the beckoning future. Hands-on art-making activities and a special interactive performance are inspired by the exhibition Views from the Southbank I: Histories, Memories, Myths that presents stories of Surrey and the surrounding South of Fraser region through a variety of visual art. The suggested donation is \$4 per child. Children must be with an adult. Everyone is welcome.

Participants will make their own passport to Surrey containing clues for artistic discoveries that will help them get to know their city. They'll step back in time with their own tinfoil time travelling toque, make their backyard out of clay, draw what Surrey's future looks like—and more. At 2 pm in the Studio Theatre, families can join storytellers Max Tell, Comfort Ero, Amy Eustergerling, and Sudnya Mulye to hear some Super-Special Surrey Stories! Free tickets on site; seating is limited.

Marking the Gallery's 40th anniversary, Views from the Southbank I: Histories, Memories, Myths presents artwork that engages with the stories of Surrey and the surrounding South of Fraser region—its cultural legacies, individual memories, and collective myths. Whether it be the re-enactment of history through the celebrations and displays at Fort Langley, the burying of ancient history under new freeways in North Delta, or the memorialization of the past in one of the province's oldest pet cemeteries in Surrey, artists in this exhibition show the many ways the Southbank region collectively presents—or turns away from—its histories and memories. The exhibition features art from the Gallery's permanent collection along with artworks borrowed from private collections. This project is the first of a three-part series of exhibitions titled Views from the Southbank that will run throughout the year. The exhibition continues until March 15, 2015.

Surrey Art Gallery is located at 13750-88 Avenue, 1 block east of King George Boulevard, in Bear Creek Park. 604-501-5566 | www.surrey.ca/artgallery

HOURS: Tues-Thur 9am-9pm | Fri 9am-5pm | Sat 10am-5pm | Sun 12-5pm | Closed Mondays and holidays.

Surrey Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of BC Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts.



Photo courtesy of World Hobbit Research Project

Researching the reality of fantasy

by SIMON YEE

What does fantasy mean to you? That's what a university research team is hoping to find out.

Ernest Mathijs, professor of film studies at the University of British Columbia, is helping to coordinate a study of *The Hobbit* film trilogy in order to investigate international cultural attitudes toward J.R.R. Tolkien's book, Peter Jackson's adaptations, and the myriad meanings of fantasy in general.

Mathijs and his colleagues Martin Barker and Matt Hills from Aberystwyth University in the United Kingdom initiated the study, the World Hobbit Research Project, which consists of an online survey questionnaire which has been designed and translated with the help of an international team of 146 scholars from 45 countries. The survey will remain accessible until the summer of 2015, when the team will begin analyzing responses and publish findings this time next year.

"I think this project presents the first time a truly comprehensive global survey has been undertaken that respects the diversity of audiences from all cultures. This was a big impetus behind our decision to have the survey available in more



Photo courtesy of World Hobbit Research Project

▲ Ernest Mathijs invites you to participate in a collaborative journey of discovery.

than 30 languages, including so-called minority languages such as Welsh or Māori. Their voices count too," says Mathijs.

Global impact

The questionnaire asks participants various questions regarding the recent *Hobbit* film trilogy, their views on the nature of fantasy and what role they believe it plays in the world. According to Mathijs, the survey is designed to measure enjoyment

of the film, allowing audiences to use their own words to vocalize their views. So far, over 30,000 responses have been submitted.

Tolkien published *The Hobbit* in 1937, introducing the world to Middle Earth and its inhabitants, locales, politics and artefacts. To date, *The Hobbit* has sold over 100 million copies in more than 50 languages around the world. Moreover, Peter Jackson's film adaptations of *The Hobbit* and its sequel, *The Lord of the Rings*, have furthered the spread of Tolkien's Middle Earth on our Earth. It was this global reach that had Mathijs and his team wondering what fantasy means to worldwide audiences.

"I saw how people near me, such as my brother, were captivated by it, and that has always intrigued and puzzled me. It was clear that these were texts and worlds that meant a lot to them, and that they became (for some, such as my brother, a die-hard fan) pathways and guidelines for life," Mathijs says.

Bringing fantasy to life

This is not the first time Mathijs has probed the meaning of fantasy to audiences. In 2003, he and his colleagues undertook a Lord of the Rings international audience research project, gauging responses to Jackson's first movie trilogy. Researchers from 18 countries designed a questionnaire that was translated into 14 languages and gathered around 25,000 responses. From that project, they learned that audiences were increasingly accepting of fantasy, taking a fictional children's book very seriously and mining it for real-life relevance for their spiritual journey in an increasingly complex world.

"The LoTR project noticed that audiences were very keen to give political interpretations: comparisons were made between then-U.S. President George W. Bush and Sauron, and between terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the ominous towers of Middle Earth," says Mathijs.

With the release of *The Hobbit* trilogy, the rise of social media tools and increasing global distribution of epic fantasy films, Mathijs and his team think the *Hobbit* project is in a much better position to analyze cross-cultural comparisons as well as to find out how audience attitudes toward fantasy have evolved or changed in the last decade. ✍

Let your views of The *Hobbit* be known. Visit worldhobbitproject.org for more information.



MOSAIC Settlement Services
604 254 9626 ext 255
elam@mosaicbc.com
www.mosaicbc.com/settlement-services

Free Community Workshops & Activities January 17–31 English & Multilingual

Drop-In Conversation Circles for Work Permit Holders (Burnaby)

🕒 January 17–March 21, Saturdays, 1–3 pm
📍 Brentwood Community Resource Centre, 2055 Rosser Avenue
☎ 604 292 3907

MOSAIC Vancouver Seniors Club: Free ESL Conversation Circles

Learn useful English expressions and practice spoken English in a comfortable and friendly environment. Priority for Permanent Resident seniors aged 55+. Classes start on January 22 and take place every Thursday. Language support in different languages is provided by volunteers.
Basic Level: 10am–12pm
Lower Beginner Level: 12–2pm
Upper Beginner Level: 2–4pm
📍 MOSAIC Vancouver, 2nd floor, 1720 Grant St
☎ 604 254 9626

MOSAIC Vancouver Seniors Club: Free Computer Basics Classes

Priority for Permanent Resident seniors aged 55+.
🕒 January 23–February 13, Fridays, 10–11:30am
📍 MOSAIC Vancouver, 2nd floor, 1720 Grant St
☎ 604 254 9626

Newcomer Women's Drop-In ESL Conversation Circle

🕒 January 28–March 4, Wednesdays, 2–4pm
📍 MOSAIC Burnaby Centre for Immigrants, 5902 Kingsway
☎ 604 438 8214

Nobody's Perfect Moms' Support Group (English, Chinese, Farsi)

🕒 January 30–March 6th, Fridays, 1–3 pm
📍 MOSAIC Vancouver Language Centre, Room 304, 2730 Commercial Dr
☎ 604 438 8214

MOSAIC is a multilingual non-profit organization dedicated to addressing issues that affect immigrants and refugees in the course of their settlement and integration into Canadian society.

naQsh is back in 2015 with "Armaan"

Canadian Sufi Rock Band naQsh returns in 2015 with their 2nd studio single "Armaan"



(Left to right: Imran Habib (Guitar), Daksh Kubba (Lead Singer), Irfan Lawrence (Bass), Karan Mattu (Drummer))
Photo credit: Aziz Dhamani Photography

Vancouver, BC - January 14, 2015 - Mystical Sufi music of the East with strings and rhythms from the West, create a uniquely Canadian Sufi Rock sound - that is naQsh. After their debut single "Saajna" released in July 2013 - naQsh returns with their 2nd studio single entitled "Armaan". Since the debut, naQsh has been busy working on their upcoming releases while entertaining crowds in Vancouver and collaborating with internationally acclaimed artists Qurat-ul-Ain Balouch and Sufi Mystic Saieen Zahoor at Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration's City of Bhangra festival. January 2015 sees the new chapter for naQsh with multiple releases and stage shows planned for the year ahead - this journey begins with "Armaan".

"Armaan, for me, is a reminder of the two extremes of Love. One that elevates you to a point where you are immersed in this incomprehensible bliss, and the other where you feel like a part of your soul is slowly dying each day." - Lead Singer, Writer and Composer Daksh Kubba

naQsh's signature sound encompasses a blend of East meets West through the essence of live music - all instrumentation was recorded live at RainCity Studios in Vancouver and the video stars talented dancer Priya Pranjivan of Shiamak and was captured by Aziz Dhamani.

-30-

About naQsh:

naQsh has been creating music that is socially relevant and soul touching since 2007. The band has an eclectic sound that comes from the band's diverse background and experiences. With the band members originating in Pakistan and India, but settling in Vancouver, Canada - they have been influenced and are inspired by artists such as Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Shafqat Amanat Ali, Pink Floyd, Led Zeplin, and U2. naQsh epitomizes the depth of their Eastern roots, a moody rock genre and West Coast Canadian style.

Connect with naQsh:

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/aboutnaqsh>
Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/naQshIPB>
Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/naQshIPB>

Need the skills to find a job? We can help!

Design a fantastic resume and cover letter, fine tune your interview techniques, learn valuable skills to succeed in the Canadian workplace, gain insight into the job market, access special services for skilled works – all at NO COST. The Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) Society, Vancouver Branch, has been helping immigrants and newcomers to Canada for over 14 years!

Our Group Job Search Workshops are a flexible, 5 module rotating program, running weekly, with 16 sessions each month. This includes basic computer orientation, with instruction on using Word and Excel, and accessing the Internet. Workshops are held within a culturally diverse environment, led by qualified facilitators.

Past and current E.I. recipients are always welcome. Knowledgeable case managers are available to guide you through the process of reaching your career goals.

PICS Vancouver also offers one-on-one employment assistance, paid on-the-job work experience through our Wage Subsidy program, and a one-stop Career Centre with a broad range of job hunting resources. Funding for all programs is provided by the Ministry of Social Development, Employment and Labour Market Services Division.

Please call 604-324-7733, go to www.pics.bc.ca, or visit us at 200-8161 Main St., Vancouver, to find out how we can best help you.



DOXA DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL



Motion Pictures Film Series

Sex(ed): The Movie

Brenda Goodman

Friday, February 06, 2014

Screening at 7:00pm

Richmond Cultural Centre Performance Hall, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond, BC

For anyone who ever suffered through a droning lecture on ovaries and the uterus, or rolled a condom over a banana, this film is for you.

On the eve of Valentines Day and International Condom Day, *Sex(ed): The Movie* offers a hilarious and informative look both back and forwards on our ideas about sex. From the days when kids buried their stash of porn in the woods, to the current cornucopia of x-rated images and clips on the internet, teenagers have found ways to satiate their curiosity about sex. But educating kids about the bare bones of anatomy or disease prevention is just the beginning.

Using clips from an astounding array of sex ed films, featuring everyone from Donald Duck to Marcia Brady, Goodman examines how sex education has changed over the years. From masturbation to same-sex attraction to STIs, sex is a complicated business, with business being the operative word. Whether it was the US Army or the Christian Right, different agendas have determined how information has been disseminated. In the swinging 70s', social movements (from feminism to gay rights) radically changed the cultural landscape, and gave rise to some of the strangest films ever committed to celluloid (witness the *Masturbatory Story*). In the 80s, abstinence-only program threatened the direst of consequences for anyone who dared to have sex. "These films are not about the past," remarks archivist Rick Prelinger, "but a predictor for the future." Even today, sex education continues to be an issue that divides as much as it unites.

With intelligence and humour, *Sex(ed): The Movie* offers an honest look at this most intimate and human of activities, warts and all.

Screening to be followed by a panel discussion.

Magic Hour: Activating the Archive

by JESENKA DURANOVIC

The Instant Coffee Collective (ICC) brings its uniquely quirky aesthetic to the Nikkei National Museum archives, unwrapping old stories and creating a stage for new discoveries of Japanese Canadian history.

Magic hour is that time of day when the sun sits below the horizon, and offers a brief period of soft light that takes the breath away. The collective will tease the magic out of the National Nikkei Museum's archives in an interactive and dynamic way.

Known for their do-it-yourself makeshift approach to art installations and events, ICC have created a stage that is set for unwrapping the collective and individual narratives of the many individuals who have contributed to the Nikkei National Museum's archive in an interactive and dynamic way.

"Our ongoing theme is to provide a platform for things to happen. In a collection, items are wrapped and tagged. We get to unwrap them to see what the story is," says Jinhan Ko, member of Instant Coffee.

The Nikkei Narrative: Japanese Canadian legacy

Nikkei National Museum is the only professional museum in Canada specifically focused on Japanese Canadians. The museum's collection, delineating the legacy of the Japanese Canadian community since the 1800s, has been acquired from and donated by community members.

"We have a range of items in our collection that speak to Japanese Canadian history; like paper records, letters and records. The collection is a community initiative," says Beth Carter, museum curator.

Recording historical events for Japanese Canadians is behind the community initiative and the overriding mission of Nikkei Centre. The centre was built in the aftermath of the signing of The Japanese Canadian Redress Agreement (1988). Its activities, exhibits and events are aimed at honouring, preserving and sharing Japanese history and culture.

"With changing exhibits and events, there is always a reason to visit," says Carter. "We are hinting at stories, inspiring people to ask questions and research further. We have books, a reference library and an online database that can give people access to deeper information in the collection."

ICC's collaboration with the Nikkei National Museum's collection resulted from its battle to retain the collective's Powell Street studio, situated in the historic Japa-

nese neighbourhood. Although the studio was lost due to development, the moment was a catalyst for ICC to engage with the Downtown Eastside residents and activists, and the Nikkei Centre.

"History repeats itself. The Japanese community was interned, disappeared, and now displace-

"We have always wanted to do a project with an archive. There is something very interesting about collecting and activating the archive by pushing our aesthetic on those items," says Ko.

The novelty and creativity of the exhibit has not gone unnoticed. By receiving the BC Arts Council In-

“There is something very interesting about collecting and activating the archive by pushing our aesthetic on those items.

Jinhan Ko, member of Instant Coffee

ment is happening through development and real estate speculation," says Ko.

This sense of repetition is present in the exhibition. Most notably with the replication of an internet desk, using traditional Japanese tools and techniques.

An effective substitute

As a first collaboration between the museum and ICC, the quirky

novation Grant, there is support for the innovative collaboration: a lighthearted and fun way to share stories.

"I hope that the younger audience will engage with the exhibit, as well as those outside of the Japanese Canadian community. And, of course, I hope that it will be fun," says Carter.

It is called Magic Hour, after all. ☞



▲ Visitors are encouraged to interact with exhibited pieces – in the case of "Self DJ Station," by taking advantage of the rich collection of records from a bygone era.

collective has found a common ground with the makeshift nature of the archive's many items. Tools, desks and knitted fisherman shorts from the museum's collection combine with the collective's lighted display stage, plywood platform and neon tags to create unexpected harmony.

For more information on Magic Hour at Nikkei National Museum, please visit: www.centre.nikkeiplace.org/magic-hour/

For more information on the Instant Coffee Collective, please visit: www.instantcoffee.org

► "Tribute to Brazil" from page 6 many people, and such different people, it's very fulfilling," says Marois.

The music

Along with the university's "A" Band, NiteCap will be performing Brazilian jazz, a bubbly, rhythmic genre. They're using the music from several famous Brazilian composers, including João Gilberto, Antônio Carlos Jobim, Baden Powell, Jorge Ben and Caetano Veloso.



▲ Members of NiteCap.

"We're taking the structure of the song, but we're changing it," says Marois, "it's still jazz, still by the same music, but it does sound different. We want to challenge ourselves, create something artistically interesting, that's the goal." ☞

A *Tribute to Brazil* will be performed at Capilano University Jan. 30, 8 p.m.

For more information, please visit capilano.ca.



GOOD DAY SUNSHINE

An afternoon of groovy folk, pop & intercultural music

Sunday February 15, 2015 at 2:00 pm
Frederic Wood Theatre, UBC
6354 Crescent Road, Vancouver
Tickets (\$29) via
www.vicosunshine2015.bpt.me/
Information: info@vi-co.org

VICO does the Beatles, Pink Floyd...and more! This annual fundraiser is as unconventional as the intercultural orchestra itself: a fun afternoon of groovy folk, pop and traditional tunes, performed on instruments from all over the planet. Also on the bill: tasty refreshments, an "instrument petting zoo" & silent auction. All proceeds support VICO's artistic & educational programming.

Featuring the Good Day Sunshine Band: Moshe Denburg (guitar, voice), Amy Stephen (accordion, tin whistle, Celtic harp, voice), Bic Hoang (danbau, voice), Lan Tung (erhu, voice), Ali Razmi (tar, voice) and Russell Sholberg (bass).

ABOUT THE VICO

The Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra, founded in 2001, was one of the first concert orchestras in the world devoted specifically to performing new intercultural music on a grand scale. It is currently the only professional ensemble of its kind in Canada. The VICO brings together musicians and composers from many cultural and artistic communities in the Lower Mainland, including Chinese, Taiwanese, Japanese, Indian, Persian (Iranian) and Middle Eastern, Latin and South American, Vietnamese, African, North American and European. Since its inaugural performance in 2001, the VICO has commissioned and performed over 40 new intercultural pieces by respected, ground-breaking Canadian composers such as Elliot Weisgarber, Jin Zhang, Stephen Chatman, Mark Armanini, Farshid Samandari, Trichy Sankaran, Michael O'Neill, John Oliver, Grace Lee, Neil Weisensel, Joseph "Pepe" Danza, Moshe Denburg, Coat Cooke, Ed Henderson, Larry Nickel, Rita Ueda and Niel Golden. The VICO's annual activities include festivals and/or standalone concerts, public educational events; professional development workshops for musicians and composers; interactive educational programs for students at the elementary, secondary and college/university level; the creation and distribution of educational materials (video, audio, text) via the web; the creation, development and performance of new Canadian repertoire; outreach and collaboration with other artists and organizations in the contemporary and world music scenes of Vancouver, Canada, Europe and Asia; and more. All of the VICO's activities are linked by common objectives: to showcase the work of Canadian composers, shed light on the musical traditions of Canada's many cultures, and perform new intercultural music on a grand scale. A 2012 recipient of the City of Vancouver Cultural Harmony Award, the VICO has been described as "the United Nations of music" (CBC Radio) and "music that sounds like Vancouver looks" (Georgia Straight).

Music on the Point

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2015
Media Contact: Laurie Townsend
604-822-9161 | laurie.townsend@ubc.ca

Alan Matheson and Wade Mikkola introduce Jazz to the Music on the Point series February 6 at UBC's Barnett Hall

Vancouver - Alan Matheson (piano and cornet) and Finnish acoustic bassist Wade Mikkola introduce the jazz genre into the third **Music on the Point: Concerts with Personality** concert of the 2014-2015 season. Their duo will perform original compositions and jazz classics by Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn and Stan Kenton perform at Barnett Hall, Friday February 6th.

The Music on the Point series features UBC School of Music personalities performing and sharing glimpses - through engaging commentary - of their unique interpretation. Each concert begins at 7:30pm (no intermission) and includes light refreshments afterwards so audience members can mingle with the artists. Presented in partnership with UTown@UBC.

Of special interest to Alan Matheson and Wade Mikkola is the Finnish composer Oskar Merikanto. Merikanto was known as a leading Romantic era composer of Art Song and solo piano music. They have discovered that Merikanto's compositions have a surprising relationship to jazz in their use of modal harmony and folk like melodies. Alan and Wade feel that Merikanto, who was writing in the late 1890s and early 1900s, anticipated the directions jazz would take in the 1950s. Matheson and Mikkola will include a number of their own jazz arrangements of Merikanto's music on February 6th.

Alan Matheson and Wade Mikkola Duo

Well known in the Vancouver jazz community, Alan Matheson is a performer, composer, arranger, bandleader, teacher and is often a guest on CBC's program "Hot Air". Matheson studied trumpet with Vincent Cichowicz in Chicago, and has performed with such renowned artists as Clark Terry, Phil Woods and Louis Bellson. Finnish bass player Wade Mikkola is currently based in Finland. In the early 1990's he moved to New York and performed extensively throughout the east coast. Alan and Wade have been crossing oceans to work together since 1998 and have played at many festivals including: the Tallinn Jazz Festival, the Storyville Jazz Club in Helsinki and the Vancouver International Jazz Festival. They met in 1998 having both been invited to perform with Estonian jazz pianist Aldo Meristo at the Tartu Jazz Festival. Alan and Wade have recorded together two CDs: *Duetti* and their new release *Summer Evening's Jazz - Jazz Interpretations of Oskar Merikanto*.

When Friday February 6, 2015 at 7:30 pm
Where Roy Barnett Recital Hall, Music Building, 6361 Memorial Road, UBC
Tickets \$25 for Adults | \$15 Students
In advance - Online (www.music.ubc.ca/music.on.the.point)
- In person at the Chan Centre Ticket Office (hours at www.chancentre.com/tickets)
- By telephone 604.822.2697 (service charge)
Concert day At the door (Barnett Hall, Music Building) one hour before start of the performance



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Nathalie Paulin soprano, Krisztina Szabó mezzo-soprano,

Lawrence Zazzo countertenor, Zachary Wilder tenor,

Matthew Brook bass-baritone

Pacific Baroque Orchestra & Vancouver Cantata Singers

Saturday, February 14, 2015 | 7:30pm

Chan Centre for the performing Arts at UBC



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www.thelasource.com Twitter: @thelasource Facebook: thelasource

Cultural Calendar

January 27–February 10, 2015

by SALENA TRAN

Take time out of your busy schedule to attend these wonderful events! With dance performances to children's celebrations, there is something for everyone. These cultural events celebrate different communities in the Lower Mainland, so join in on the festivities!

* * *

Hot Chocolate Festival

Jan. 17–Feb. 14
Multiple Venues
www.cityfood.com/hotchocolate/coming-soon-

The 5th annual Hot Chocolate Festival is back with bigger and bolder flavours! With over 20 participating venues, this event was made for chocolate lovers. Part of the Hot Chocolate Festival proceeds goes towards East Van Roasters who provide training and employment to female residents of the Ranier Hotel. For more information on participating venues, please visit the website.

* * *

Feast on Film – Like Water for Chocolate

Jan. 28, 5:30 p.m.
Studio 1398, 1398 Cartwright St., Granville Island, Vancouver
www.dineoutvancouver.com/events/feast-on-film

Part of the Dine Out Vancouver Festival, the Feast on Film gives background to different foods and cultures. The featured film *Like Water for Chocolate* is a Mexican film that features themes of food and love. This dinner-movie event provides guests with a wonderful film and a three course meal. For more information on pricing, please visit the website.

* * *

Apres Moi & The List

Jan. 28–Feb. 1
Ruby Slippers Theatre
1555 W. 7th Ave., Vancouver
www.rubyslippers.ca
778-834-9948

Join the Ruby Slippers Theatre in their re-enactment of two touching French plays: *Apres Moi* and *The List*. The two featured plays are an English translated version of two French plays. The themes presented in the plays are about love, loss and the ability of strangers to influence our lives. For more information on ticket pricing, please visit the website.

* * *

Le Cargo

Jan. 29–31
Scotiabank Dance Centre
677 Davie St., Vancouver
www.pushfestival.ca/shows/le-cargo

Part of the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, *Le Cargo* is a feature performance that incorporates dance and storytelling. Faustin Linyekula uses his home-



▲ Elaborate dance moves and costumes in *Time Machine* during the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival.

land of the Congo to blend his solo dance with a story of culture. His movements are thought-provoking and culturally specific to the Congo. For more information on pricing, please visit the website.

* * *

Carnaval Skate

Jan. 31, 12:30–3 p.m.
Bill Copeland Sports Centre
3676 Kensington Ave., Burnaby
www.burnaby.ca/Things-To-Do/Calendar-of-Events

Bring the family to enjoy the fun that winter brings at the Carnaval Skate. This event celebrates French culture with face painting, ice skating and French crafts! The kids will have a great time enjoying the crafts and festivities at this one-day event. For more information, please visit the website.

* * *

North Delta Winter Market & Food Truck Festival

Feb. 1–April. 26
Sunbury Hall,
10409 Dunlop Rd, Delta
www.northdeltawintermarket.flavors.me

Every Sunday from now until April, purchase locally grown produce, baked goods and gluten-free options at the North Delta Winter Market and Food Truck Festival. Not only does this event sell a variety of foods, but there are also hand-made jewellery and clothing for purchase.

* * *

Broadway Across Canada Presents Beauty and the Beast

Feb. 3–8

Queen Elizabeth Theatre
630 Hamilton St., Vancouver
www.vancouver.broadway.com

The classic fairy tale *Beauty and the Beast* is brought to life on stage for five days in Vancouver. The tale as old as time, brings laughter, tears and enjoyment to all ages. This event is suitable for the whole family. Watch as Belle falls in love with her Prince in this Broadway production. For more information on scheduling and pricing, please visit the website.

* * *

Opera with Nicolas Krusek

Feb. 4, 12:30–2:30 p.m.
Welsh Hall
215 E. 17th Ave., Vancouver
www.westvanlibrary.ca/events

Musician and composer Nicolas Krusek engages his audiences in this series on operas by Russian composers. For music lovers, this opera is a great way to expand musical horizons. Spend an afternoon reveling in the songs of Borodin's *Prince Igor* and more.

* * *

Time Machine by MACHiNENOiSY

Feb. 4–7
Scotiabank Dance Centre
677 Davie St., Vancouver
www.thedancecentre.ca/events

The Dance Centre presents *Time Machine* by MACHiNENOiSY, part of the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival. This modern day, rule-breaking performance pushes boundaries with handcrafted costumes and outrageous dance moves. *Time Machine* is a performance by adults and kids, which hopes to inspire audiences with a new perspective.

* * *

Valley Song

Feb. 5–21
Gateway Theatre

6500 Gilbert Rd., Richmond
www.gatewaytheatre.com
604-270-1812

Valley Song, as directed by Giovanni Sy, brings themes of love and tribulation to the South African landscape. This story of overcoming racial prejudice will warm the heart of many. Follow 76 year old Abraam "Buks" Jonkers as he tills the land he will never own. Meanwhile, his talented granddaughter, Veronica, can't wait to become a superstar. For more information, please visit the website.

* * *

7th Annual Children's Arts Festival

Feb. 9–13
Richmond Cultural Centre
7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond
www.childrensartsfestival.ca

The annual Children's Arts Festival is back again this year to celebrate and promote creativity in youth! Located in the heart of Richmond, the festivities include special guests, crafts and wonderful displays made by local children. Bring the kids to this joyous event to enjoy the fun or even to join in on one of the multiple creativity classes.

* * *

Family Day at the Carousel

Feb. 9, 12–3 p.m.
Burnaby Village Museum
6501 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby
www.burnabyvillagemuseum.ca

Spend Family Day at the Carousel at the Burnaby Village Museum! There are many activities for the kids to enjoy, including children's entertainers, heritage games and unlimited carousel rides. This event was made for families with young children in mind, so bring the children and spend a great time with your family!



▲ Faustin Linyekula in his performance of *Le Cargo*.

Photo by Agathe Poupeney



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Triumph of the Technocrat

Triumph of the Technocrat by Vancouver artist Reece Terris is the featured artwork at the outside ground level of The Lauren at 1051 Broughton St. The interior design of the building is by Westbank and the architect is Henriquez Partners. The Lauren is touted as “the first new high rise purpose-built market rental building to be built in the West End in decades.”

Terris’s sculpture is constructed from reclaimed wooden girders salvaged from St. John’s Church, the previous occupant of the site from 1906-2011. The church is commemorated on a tombstone-like structure in front of the building.

Triumph of the Technocrat has a symmetrical beauty which is enhanced by a circular reflective pool it sits atop. The water streams into a channel much like a little creek, which spirals downward in front of the property till it fills another circular pool. The sculpture itself is two intersecting circles that in turn are mirrored by both circular pools and other circular elements in the ground landscape creating quite a beautiful effect. The pools, water channel and landscaping were designed by the Vancouver architectural firm Durante Kreuk.

The side of the water channel is inscribed with text written by Greg Snider, Vancouver sculptor and installation artist, in conjunction with Reece Terris. It expresses, in a flowing narrative poem, how developments like the Lauren impact our culture and are a triumph of a sort for technocrats who have created its ilk. The inter-



secting circles of the sculpture could be seen as worlds colliding – that of development and that of the traditional culture it disrupts. The spiraling channel could signify growth, flux and evolution while the intersecting circles also form a kind of gyroscope to focus a subtle balance in the face of all this change.

There are many ironies in the art and the building project itself. On The Lauren website the building is described as embodying the principles of *gesamtkunstwerk*, a harmonious blend of design that takes into account the building, its grounds, the environment, artwork, the local community, etc. To some extent this has been achieved – but it ignores the fact that there was much controversy during development of the project over community consultation, the height of the building and its conse-

quent shadowing. There were also promises of community use in the building, but no agreement was reached. Furthermore, the artwork described above in the sculpture and water channel, although beautiful, has a dire comment on the negative impacts of the development process.

The Lauren was built under the STIR project to stimulate affordable development of rentals in the city where we have such low vacancy rates. Elements of the STIR program include a lot of incentives for developers: development cost levy waiver, parking requirement reductions, discretion on unit size which can be as little as 320 sq. ft. under current regulations (like Rental 100 which has replaced STIR), increased density which allows more height than current zoning, and expedited permit processing. At The Lauren these incentives

have produced the following “affordable” housing units. A one bedroom plus den ranges from roughly \$1800- \$1975, depending on the floor level. Although square footage is no longer listed, a spec sheet given out has some footage penciled in. A generous calculation would probably be around 350 sq. ft. for the one bedroom whereas a two bedroom plus den ranges from \$2200 to \$2925 for roughly 500 sq. ft. Although there are some deals on parking and temporary deals on Internet, you can pay an extra \$100 for parking below the 20th floor, hydro is not included and insurance is mandatory. Conservatively speaking, this means you could be paying between \$24,000 and \$36,000 a year for “affordable housing.” And prices may increase in the near future. However, it is possible to save money on furniture since you

can’t fit much into these spaces. The den, for example, consists of a 28 square foot windowless closet. You might be able to squeeze a queen size bed in one of the two-bedroom units with a small end table or two. The living room area would best be suited to a love seat, and a group of 4 for dinner would amount to a flash mob.

The Lauren website also touts their adherence to minimalist housing in alignment with the city’s former STIR mandate. Minimalism basically means doing more with less, and this seems to have been interpreted as doing more money with less space. Another triumph of the technocrat!

For more information on Reece Terris: reeceterris.com

Don Richardson

Recipe by Selma van Halder

Nepalese Red Lentil Dal

Because of its remote location in the Himalayan mountains and her valleys, the cuisine of Nepal uses mainly locally grown produce and lean meats. Like any nation, its dishes resemble those of neighbouring countries but with a particular national twist. Nepalese classics include steamed dumplings, noodle soup, pilau and a version of the warming lentil dish, dal. This Nepalese take on the vegetarian staple of the Indian subcontinent doesn’t require a whole lot of ingredients, but boasts a deep and wonderful flavour.

I like making a big pot of dal and freezing it in small batches. Just defrost slowly in your fridge and heat it up gently on the stove, adding a bit of water if needed.

Serve the dal with jasmine rice for a simple vegetarian dinner or make it part of a larger curry spread, like the Nepalese do in their traditional ‘Dal Bhat’: rice and lentils with a lamb or goat curry, spicy pickles, chutney and yoghurt.

Ingredients

- Clarified butter or canola oil
- 750 g red lentils

- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves chopped garlic
- 3-inch piece of ginger, grated
- 1 tbsp coriander seeds, crushed
- 1 tbsp turmeric
- 1 dried chili, or chili flakes to taste
- 1250 mL water
- Cilantro, roughly chopped

Method

1. Heat a heavy bottomed pan and add about three tablespoons of oil or clarified butter. Sweat your onions on medium heat until translucent, about 5 minutes.
2. Add turmeric, garlic, ginger, chili and coriander seeds. Fry the spices and aromatics for 3–5 minutes. Your kitchen will smell amazing and it will bring out the flavours.
3. Add the lentils, stir to coat with the spice mixture. Add water and stir again, to remove any stuck bits from the bottom of your pan. Bring to a boil, then turn the heat down to low and simmer for about 15 minutes until the lentils are cooked but still hold their shape. Stir occasionally to prevent sticking. Keep an eye on the consisten-



▲ A hearty bowl of a Nepalese classic.

cy; you don’t want the dal to be too watery, but be careful not to burn it. If you need to add a little more water, do.

4. Season your dal with salt to taste. Roughly chop the cilantro and stir into the dish just before serving.



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