

Moon festival
promises
total eclipse
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Struggles and dreams to be found at VIFF

by ALISON CHIANG

In some parts of the world, 10-year-old girls are being married off. In other parts, during times of political instability, musical, cultural and historical elements are brought together as a way of storytelling. *I am Nojoom, Age 10 and Divorced* and *The Dream of Shahrazad* are two films screening at this year's Vancouver International Film Festival that invite audiences to consider these social, political and cultural issues through the unique lens of their directors.

The young star of *I am Nojoom, Age 10 and Divorced* is the niece of director Khadija al-Salami. According to al-Salami, her niece, 11, is aware of what her future holds: she will be married off in a couple of years. This is the situation for many young girls in countries like Yemen, al-Salami's native country.

The film is based on the book *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* by Nujood Ali, but it also reflects al-Salami's own experience of being forced into marriage at age 11. Al-Salami, 45, says that child marriages in countries like Yemen are accepted as normal practice. She recounts being married to a man in his late 30s or early 40s.

"I didn't care what he looked like, I only saw a monster," she says. "What matters is you're a child and you're raped by a man."

Even though she felt the situation was wrong, it was difficult



Photo courtesy of The Dream of Shahrazad team

for her to go against her family and society. By trying to change her fate, al-Salami says she was viewed as a "bad girl," bringing shame to her family.

It took her mother attempting suicide to help al-Salami get a divorce (divorce is possible in Yemen, but it takes about three years, beginning with an extensive approval period). After returning the dowry and wedding money to her husband, al-Salami was officially divorced.

"I had a painful childhood and I knew at an early age that I wanted an education. I was devastated when I was told to marry;

I was deprived of an education," says al-Salami.

After the divorce, she was able to finish school at age 16 and was awarded a scholarship to the United States. Always strong in the Sciences, al-Salami had her sights on an engineering career but says she liked the magic of the small screen and making films.

After becoming a filmmaker, al-Salami did not think she would return to Yemen. Over time, she felt compelled to help young girls in her native country.

"We need to bring more awareness to the situation; not every

girl has the courage or determination to say no," says al-Salami, adding that there were no human rights groups when she was young.

"My hope is to have more educated men and women. Education was my saviour," says al-Salami, who started My Future Foundation, a foundation that aims to help young people who want to go to school but do not have the resources.

Al-Salami would like her audience to know that the people of her culture are not violent. The problem is ignorance: by allow-

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Verbatim

Living the multicultural life

by SOPHIA DELAFONTAINE

Living the full duration of my 17 years in metro Vancouver, I have always been immersed in the cultural diversity this city embodies. My first day of kindergarten at Sir William Osler Elementary, I walked in and sat down to find myself the only Caucasian student in the class. After spending a year being introduced to a variety of styles of living, cultural activities and cultural expectations at the ripe age of five, my exposure to other cultures developed rapidly and intimately through the friendships I formed.

Now in my senior year of high school, I reflect back on all my years as a student among peers so much like me yet diversified by their country of birth; distinct in traditions instilled within from all corners of the world. My current high school, Rockridge Secondary, is riddled with students from all areas of the globe. Students from China, Korea, Germany, Italy, Brazil and Mexico all feed into the kaleidoscope that makes up a large portion of the participants of my everyday life. Walking into our tiny cafeteria feels similar to that of the food court in Pacific Center with different aromas, sounds and accents assailing your senses from every angle. This melting pot instantly immerses me in the simple awareness of the simultaneous familiarity and foreignness of our multicultural city.

I had never truly noticed the day to day impact on me of constantly being surrounded by people speaking different languages, eating foreign foods and celebrating different holidays, until recently. It was not until I took a moment to examine this that I realized how different I would be as a person if I had not had access to such a culturally enhanced education, the lucky by-product of simply living where I do.

While at school, I met one

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lecture goes
beyond
the frame
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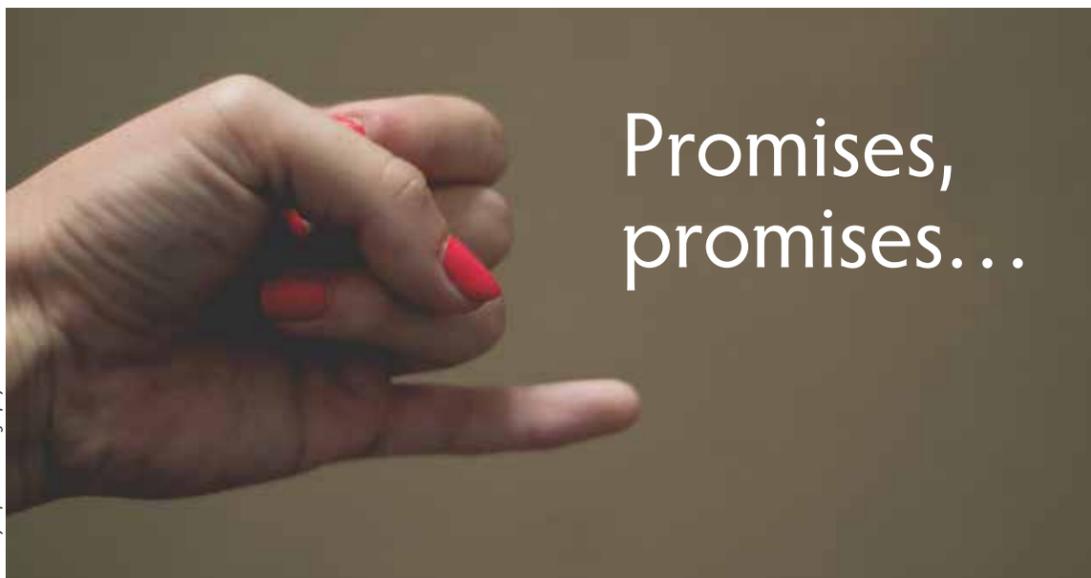


Photo by Sophia/Photography

During an election campaign promises rain down. They come in waves, always with the purpose of feeding the news cycle. No party is immune, each wanting to gain momentum towards polling day.

Almost daily, the party leaders, crammed into a room with smiling, agitated supporters, offer a new commitment. Stephen Harper announces a new tax credit, Thomas Mulcair promises a balanced budget, Justin Trudeau commits to more affordable housing.

During an election campaign political parties run on promises. Promises are indeed an integral part of any campaign. The Conservatives as much as the Liberals and New Democrats use promises to unveil their political platform. One at a time, but all things seem to come in threes.

the cynicism bred in a part of the electorate.

For example, even though mandates are for at most four years – elections are now on fixed dates at the federal level as well as in several provinces – political parties make promises spanning a decade or sometimes even two. But how do you keep your word in 2020 when your mandate ends in 2019?

In simple terms, it is hard to keep a promise when your party has been relegated to the opposition benches.

More to the point what becomes of these promises after the election campaign? Is it all smoke and mirrors, empty words spoken to seduce the electorate? Or do the parties match words with deeds? In short, do the political parties fulfill their campaign promises?

Obviously, the parties that lose their bets on election day will not be able to follow up on their promises. The rules of the game in Ottawa allow for members of the opposition to table bills but, more often than not, these are defeated or subject to financial limitations.

What about the winning party? Does it translate its electoral promises into bills and budgetary lines? For example, is the Conservative party platform from the 2011 elections a reality today?

That is the question posed by a team of researchers from Université Laval. Their results are surprising: 78 per cent of their promises have been fulfilled, 7 per cent partially so and 15 per cent have been broken.

That is to say, Stephen Harper and the Conservative government have essentially kept their word. In other words, the promises of the Conservatives were sincere.

The research undertaken was extensive. The team compiled 140 promises from the 2011 electoral platform of the Conservatives. Only concrete commitments were taken into account.

For example, the Conservatives were promising that every detainee under federal jurisdiction would undergo a screening test at least once a year. This

promise become a reality in the context of bill C-12.

All the details are available from the Harper Polimeter website. The research team has done similar work for the recent Parti Québécois government and is currently tracking the fulfillment of the promises of the Québec Liberal Party.

That being said, although Harper and his party have kept their word for the most part, recent polls show the Conservatives losing ground in voting intentions. Which just shows that the fulfillment of electoral promises is not the road to re-election. ✉

Rémi Léger is a professor of political science at SFU.

Translation by Barry Brisebois



Photo courtesy of the Office of the Prime Minister

▲ Stephen Harper, Conservative candidate.

These promises are often each more enticing than the last. For example, Trudeau promises \$20 billion over 10 years for public transit while Mulcair promises \$1.3 billion per year for 20 years and Harper reminds us of his one billion dollar a year commitment.

However, these promises also lead to confusion, not to mention



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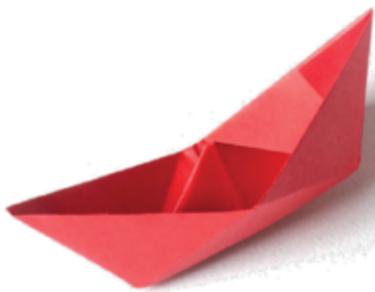
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The Role of Leadership Beyond the Point of No Return A Deep Democracy Leadership Dialogue

Many of us are working tirelessly to make a more socially just and sustainable world. We are determined to make our region green, equitable and inclusive. We are making big strides in many areas, putting us ahead of other places in the world. At the same time, recent accounts suggest that the fight for the planet and its people is a lost fight, regardless of the success of our specific projects. We are too late to turn back the clock on climate change, or reverse the extinction of species and cultures, or correct the damages done to the social sector. In a world largely divided along socio-economic, racial, religious and political lines, violent conflict over limited resources seems ever more likely.

In the face of these possibilities, how do we as leaders in this field hold ourselves up and relate to our work and its context? Do we isolate ourselves in our projects, turn off the news, or do we more fully open to the pain of what's happening, at the risk of our own disorientation? Is hope an appropriate stance to take, and is there a responsible way to engage with despair? Can we afford not to have hope or can hope be re-imagined for this moment in time?

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Community Profile

Youth refugees take action locally

by SOPHIA DELAFONTAINE

The Youth Action Gathering, put on by the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Services Agencies of BC (AMSSA) and its member agencies, MOSAIC, the Vancouver Council for Refugees (CCR) and the Vancouver Foundation brings young refugees and immigrants together to tell their stories, network and connect.

"This year the CCR has asked for a partnership between MOSAIC and Vancouver Foundation's Fresh Voices Initiative in order to host the event in Vancouver," says Jorge Salazar, Project Manager of the Vancouver Foundation.

The Youth Action Gathering aims to encourage a supportive and respectful relationship between all refugees, regardless of backgrounds.

"Amazing things happen when you bring young people together. And in this case, the event will gather a particular sector of our society, which is the immigrant and refugee youth community," adds Salazar.

Eyob Naizghi, Executive Director of MOSAIC, an organization that provides immigrant and refugee support, sees our youth as future leaders. He feels the Youth Action Gathering provides a platform on which to support youth and encourage them to strive in society.

The ultimate goal

According to Eyob Naizghi, the objective of the Youth Action Gathering is to mobilize youth refugees and empower them through each other's connection.

Naizghi feels the timing of the event parallels the current refugee situation particularly in Syria.

"This form is taking place at a critical time when the world is being exposed to the refugee crisis," says Naizghi.

Connections made to last

"Youth meeting other youth will have a wider network and develop leadership skills around diverse issues," Naizghi explains.

Naizghi says different types of relationships form at the Youth

“Amazing things happen when you bring young people together.

Jorge Salazar, manager at Vancouver Foundation

Action Gathering, with the most important being between youth from different parts of the country.

"The relationships built will ensure a different lens in their integration process, as when young people encounter their peers in a safe space, the connections often help overcome barriers and strengthen their resiliency," adds Salazar.

A call to the public

Naizghi says the partner organizations all work together to create solutions to the many youth refugee issues both locally and nationally. He believes the public, especially a culturally diverse



▲ 2014 Youth Action Gathering.

"They will be the owners of these issues and the associated strategic directions for action," Naizghi says of the youth.

Naizghi says MOSAIC is the local go-to place for immigrant and refugee support, prevention of youth gang violence, case management for refugee youth and refugee group networking. He hopes the Youth Action Gathering will help MOSAIC to build strong relationships within our communities.

"At the ground level, our staff are very connected with communities, and are very clued in on the challenges families and youth are struggling with," Naizghi adds.

place like Vancouver, has the ability to help migrant youth via the organization putting on events like the Youth Action Gathering.

"I think the call to action to the public should be to support the community organizations such as the CCR and MOSAIC directly involved in organizing the youth action form so we can sustain the longevity of, and implementation of their action plan," Naizghi says. "Investment in our youth is an action the public can support." ✎

The Youth Action Gathering will be taking place Oct 4–5 at UBC Robson Square. For more information, please visit www.amssa.org.



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Left Bank



Is Vancouver Community College facing death by a thousand cuts?

As school resumed this month across British Columbia, many commentators made note of the one-year anniversary of the B.C. government's dispute with teachers. The situation isn't as hot as last year, but educators at all levels remain in an antagonistic relationship with the B.C. Liberals and Premier Christy Clark.

If you take transit in the city, you've probably noticed the clever bus shelter ads for Vancouver Community College this month. Their slogan, "We built this city," is perfect, evoking memories of the classic song while referring to the tens of thousands of graduates of the educational institution who now work in the myriad vocations

perhaps most ominous of all, the fact that all "non-core" programs at VCC are now under review and facing possible cancellation.

Local activist Pete Fry calls all of this the threat of "death by a thousand cuts." In an op-ed piece in the *Georgia Straight*, he connects the fate of VCC with the B.C. government's attitude toward public education in general:

"It's no secret that under our current provincial government, public education is under attack. Nowhere is that more apparent than here in East Van – where provincial ministry enrollment demands threaten to close primary and secondary schools, and a strangled budget has already led to claw-

“ [Cities are] built by the skilled tradespeople and professionals who have graduated from VCC over the past half century.

that are foundational to any city.

The ads of VCC were timed to mark its 50th anniversary, but they weren't just a splurge for the celebration. They were also about raising awareness of a threatened civic institution, coinciding with the launch of the "Save Our VCC" campaign, which draws attention to the cuts and other threats they are facing.

The new campaign website, SaveOurVCC.ca, warns: "Government decisions are destroying opportunities for young people to create better futures for themselves & their families. VCC is an important part of our community – this scheme will hurt students and make Vancouver even less affordable."

backs and closures of VSB adult education and ESL programs."

Fry locates the cuts to VCC to the broader East Vancouver community. And when you consider the current dynamics of the Downtown Eastside, it's even easier to understand the anxiety of VCC students and staff.

The downtown campus of VCC is an old building on a big lot between Pender and Dunsmuir, just across from Victory Square in the shadow of the new Woodwards towers. This is the epicentre of the gentrification and redevelopment. It's also just down the street from the old Canada Post headquarters, a massive site that has been sold and is slated for redevelopment. In our condo crazed city, it's not hard

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SPREAD THE WORD TO SAVE OUR VCC FROM THE CHOPPING BLOCK.

▲ Infographic from the Save Our VCC campaign.

The immediate alarm stems from layoff warning notices received by 52 staff members and a \$3.5 million, or 8.5 per cent, cut to VCC's core funding. But the Save our VCC campaign says the threat is bigger, and that the school is facing an uncertain future primarily due to the provincial government policies. These include: the loss of 70 per cent of their seats for English Second Language students, in part due to provincial government cuts to adult education; the threat of transfer of a number of VCC programs to other institutions like the B.C. Institute of Technology; and,

to imagine the VCC campus won't be at its present location forever.

So Vancouver Community College marks its 50th birthday at a crossroads. The responsible thing for government to do would be to stop the cuts and reaffirm its long-term commitment to this vital institution.

Because cities aren't built on rock and roll, and they're not built by condo salespeople and politicians. They're built by the skilled tradespeople and professionals who have graduated from VCC over the past half century. Here's to a long life for VCC. ✍



NEWS & UPDATES

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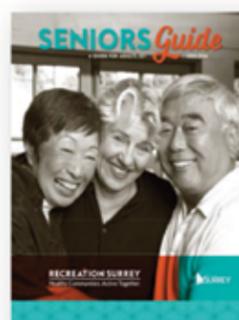
A variety of workshops will be offered regarding different transportation options in Surrey. Engraving of mobility devices and help with filling out applications will also be available on site.

| | |
|---|---|
| 9:45am–11:15am Mature Drivers Reg# 4427552 | BCAA's Living Well, Driving Well workshops designed to increase your awareness about the effects of aging on driving. A Driver Examiner maybe present to answer any questions about DriveABLE and Driver testing after age 80. |
| 9:45am–11:15am Scooting About Reg# 4427669 | Many seniors with physical limitations are getting 'Motorized'. If you have a motorized mobility scooter or are thinking of using one, attend this course and learn how to operate a mobility scooter legally and safely. |
| 9:45am–11:15am Transit 101 Reg# 4427707 | TravelSmart for Seniors helps seniors be more comfortable and confident when using public transit services for some of their trips. In this presentation you will learn tips and tools to help you independently plan and travel on the public transit system in Metro Vancouver. |
| 11:30am–12:15pm Transportation Working for Everyone Reg# 4427553 | Learn about transportation in your city. What is the City's Transportation Engineering division doing to support aging in place? How does land use planning relate to transportation? Bring your questions and come find out! |
| 11:30am–12:15pm HUB Surrey (Cycling) Reg# 4427670 | This introductory workshop on cycling in Surrey will cover topics such as different types of bicycles including electric-assist and stability bikes, how to more securely lock your bicycle, Surrey safe bike routes and greenways, and some tips for feeling safe and comfortable on a bike. |
| 1:00pm–1:45pm Walk and Ride this Way Reg# 4427671 | Protect yourself as a pedestrian on the streets and on Transit. A member of Transit Police and RCMP will be on hand to provide you with important safety tips, information and to answer any questions you may have. Stay Safe on Surrey's Streets! |
| 1:00pm–1:45pm Planning Your Trip on Transit Reg# 4427708 | Through technology, learn how to plan your trip on public transit. |

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Moon-gazing festival a time for families

by SANDRA ZIMMERMANN

On Sept. 27, families in Chinatown will gather to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, an event that is held every year on the 15th day of the eighth month in the Chinese lunar calendar. Traditional food, spending time with family members and moon-gazing are central to the festival, but this year's event will have a special twist: the festival coincides with a total lunar eclipse.

Larry Wong is a Vancouver-born writer, who grew up in Chinatown. His most vivid memory of the moon festival took place in Barkerville a few years ago.

"I had just finished dinner and walked out, it was pitch dark. All I saw was a glow marching down the streets. It was the town folks, holding paper lantern," he explains.

It took him by surprise since he didn't remember that it was the day of the moon festival. "It was amazing!" he says.

Moon cakes lanterns

Wong explains that in Vancouver, the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival focuses on family and food.

Moon cakes, in particular increase in popularity in the weeks prior to the festival and can be found all over Chinatown. The traditional Chinese dish comes in different flavours and colours, says Wong, adding that along with traditional fillings like black bean, fruit or coconut flavours have become popular, too.

"Chinese people love to eat. That's why you won't find a bad Chinese restaurant in Richmond," he says.

Unlike the Chinese New Year's celebration, there is no parade for the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival.

"It is celebrated at home with your family and a special dinner," says Wong. "Families in Chinatown wish each other well."

The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden in Vancouver will host a special celebration in honour of the festival. The garden will be lit up with lanterns and candles, which will shine in different colours.

"You can sit in the garden and watch the moon, it's really beautiful," says Wong.

The garden, which has been recognized by the National Geographic Society, was created for the Expo in 1986 and modeled after a 400-year-old classical



▲ Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Garden.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden

garden in China, he explains. Celebrations at the garden begin at 5 p.m. and last until 10 p.m.

The event revolves around traditional Chinese food and arts, such as music, tea artists, and a demonstration of Chinese martial arts. Local storytellers like Mia Zhou and Loretto Seto, will also be present to share their narratives.

Lunar eclipse can be seen with the naked eye

This year, a total lunar eclipse will take place on the night of the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. Visitors of the event can watch it through telescopes provided by the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, whose astronomers will be at the

garden to answer questions and talk about the natural phenomenon.

Derek Kief, astronomer at the space centre, is looking forward to the eclipse.

"Total lunar eclipses are one of my favourite things to see, so I always get excited about them," he says. "This is the first one for which I don't have to wake up in the middle of the night!"

On Sept. 27, the moon will be completely eclipsed at 7:47 p.m., with the whole event lasting for around an hour.

Kief explains that a lunar eclipse occurs when the earth, the sun, and the moon are lined up, so that the earth's shadow falls upon the moon.

"The moon then turns red," says Kief. "It never goes full black."

Unlike with solar eclipses, spectators will not need special glasses.

"You can see the lunar eclipse with the naked eyes," explains Kief, who studied at UBC and has been an astronomer for the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre for one and a half years.

Lunar eclipses are more common than solar ones and occur every few years. Kief says that this year's lunar eclipse can partially be seen all over the world except for China, Japan and Australia. ☞

For more information on the festival: www.vancouverchinesegarden.com.

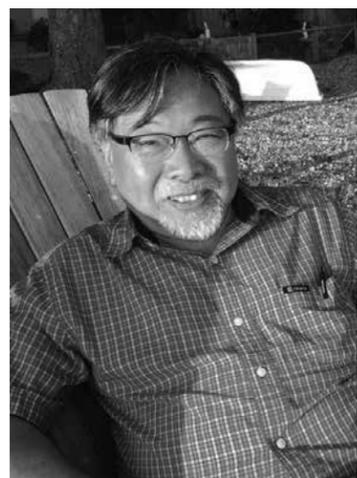


Photo courtesy of Larry Wong

▲ Larry Wong, local writer.



We Did It on a Song

(DAVID ANDRÉ, FRANCE)

MON. OCT 5, 7:00 PM, VANCITY
WED. OCT 7, 1:15 PM, SFU-GCA

Documentarian David André follows five teenagers from depressed Boulogne-sur-Mer throughout their final year at school, with the life-determining "baccalauréat" exams awaiting them at the end. Their lives, dreams and ambitions are captured in poetic visuals, in songs that the teenagers themselves provide, and in a captivating mélange of anger, humour, frustration and boredom... "Glee meets *To Be and To Have*... A touching film, [this] hybrid French docudrama-musical comedy... deserves extra credit for trying to pull off something new." — *Hollywood Reporter*

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Le Dep

(SONIA BONSPILLE BOILEAU, CANADA)

TUE. SEP 29, 6:30 PM, RIO
FRI. OCT 2, 3:30 PM, INTL VILLAGE 8

Sonia Boileau's debut is a taut psychological drama about Lydia, a young Innu woman who works at a convenience store in a small First Nations community in rural Quebec. As she prepares to close up shop one night, a masked robber holds her up at gunpoint. This traumatic experience becomes even more troubling when Lydia recognizes her assailant. She'll soon have to make a decision that will change the course of her life. "[An] engaging social-issue drama..." — *Variety*



A Dog's Life

(HÉLÈNE CHOQUETTE, CANADA)

TUE. OCT 6, 6:45 PM, INTL VILLAGE 8
WED. OCT 7, 1:45 PM, INTL VILLAGE 10

Hélène Choquette's documentary examines the symbiotic relationships that form between homeless people and their faithful canine companions. On the sometimes mean streets of Montréal and Toronto, the dogs and their owners offer one another company, protection and unconditional love. This remarkably candid film provides genuine insight into the homeless experience from an unusual angle, inspiring newfound compassion and understanding.



The Measure of a Man

(STÉPHANE BRIZÉ, FRANCE)

SUN. OCT 4, 1:00 PM, PLAYHOUSE
TUE. OCT 6, 6:45 PM, PLAYHOUSE

The zero-sum game that is the "law of the market" (the French title)—wherein if one wants a job another must be let go—lies at the heart of Stéphane Brizé's profoundly humanist drama. Vincent Lindon is superb as an unemployed mechanic whose new job in security at a big-box supermarket forces him to make decisions that go against everything he believes in... "A powerfully affecting social drama... Lindon [gives] a veritable master class in understated humanism." — *Variety*



My Golden Days

(ARNAUD DESPLECHIN, FRANCE)

FRI. OCT 2, 6:30 PM, SFU-GCA
SUN. OCT 4, 3:30 PM, INTL VILLAGE 9

An emotionally piercing youthful romance between the adolescents Paul (Quentin Dolmaire, terrific) and Esther (Lou Roy-Lecollinet), told in flashback from the adult Paul's (Mathieu Amalric) perspective, Arnaud Desplechin's *A Christmas Tale* supremely intelligent drama is visual storytelling at its finest. "Rich and intensely personal... A roving, restless tale, [it features] some of the most fluid, emotionally resonant filmmaking of Desplechin's career..." — *Variety*



The Sound of Trees

(FRANÇOIS PÉLOQUIN, CANADA)

TUE. SEP 29, 9:00 PM, CINEMATHEQUE
THU. OCT 1, 3:15 PM, INTL VILLAGE 8

François Péloquin's debut is a subtle and charming coming-of-age story. Jérémie (*It's Not Me, I Swear!*'s Antoine L'Écuyer) dreams of a very different life from the one awaiting him at the family sawmill (presided over by Roy Dupuis). However, his crazy joyride comes to an end when a fateful mistake shatters his fragile world. Péloquin drafts an impressive chronicle of one teenager's summertime crucible. "Affecting and beautifully shot." — *Hollywood Reporter*



In the Shadow of Women

(PHILIPPE GARREL, FRANCE/SWITZERLAND)

SUN. OCT 4, 6:45 PM, SFU-GCA
MON. OCT 5, 12:15 PM, VANCITY

Male narcissism and infidelity are analyzed in veteran Philippe Garrel's gorgeously shot (in 35mm!) B&W drama about a married documentary filmmaker (Stanislas Merhar) who falls for a younger woman... "The currents of desire, jealousy and resentment that flow through a relationship over time receive an exquisite close-up from director Garrel in [this] tightly focused romantic drama that exudes... the lucid craftsmanship of a filmmaker in full command of the medium." — *Variety*



Sabali

(RYAN MCKENNA, CANADA)

FRI. OCT 2, 9:15 PM, INTL VILLAGE 9
SUN. OCT 4, 4:00 PM, CINEMATHEQUE

When her boyfriend stops making love with her, Jeannette (Marie Brassard) begins an affair with a young co-worker (Francis La Haye). Alas, it turns out that her heart problems are physical as well as metaphorical. When Jeannette inherits the heart of a deceased Malian woman, she's stalked by the donor's son (Youssef Camara) who's convinced that she's the reincarnation of his late mother... Ryan McKenna's stylized and nuanced film is sure to delight.

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Dreams, resilience, support: a mix for success

by CARL DENSEM

For refugees dealing with a new land and memories of past ordeals, learning English is notoriously difficult. Thankfully, there are those who want to help and none are more strong willed than the English teachers who help refugees communicate the past and discover their future.

Kue Bway was born in a UN-run refugee camp on the Thai-Myanmar border after the Burmese government began its attacks on the Karen people. At seven months old, she lost her father when he left for Thailand to earn money to support Kue's mother, two sisters, brother and aunt. For 14 years, she languished in the camp with her family, lacking the financial resources to leave.

Upon reaching Canada in 2007 as a refugee, Kue enrolled in high school and soon dreamed of attending college despite it seeming like an impossibility. She says she wants to become a teacher and return to Karen State in Myanmar to assist the people in the growing refugee camps. In her camp, there were no real teachers for children like her.

What helped make her dream possible was an award for refu-

gees. Four years after arriving with little knowledge of English, she was accepted into Douglas College.

BC TEAL

The B.C. Teachers of English as an Additional Language (BC TEAL) was the first of its kind to gather ESL teachers, promote research and share advancements in the field. Started in 1967, BC TEAL's unique position as English language educators put them in a position to understand the needs and struggles of immigrant and refugee communities.

From there, the BC TEAL Charitable Foundation (TCF) was begun in 1986, enshrining empathy in its mandate, which promotes an "understanding of the impact of the learner's cultural environment on the ability to learn additional languages." Scholarships are offered to teachers to allow attendance at industry conferences and foreign travel in the pursuit of research.

Refugee awards

The foundation's leadership also created the first refugee award to provide education funding to an adult or high school student. Annually, \$2,500 is awarded with most students choosing to pursue a two-year degree.

The inception of the TCF refugee award began major fundraising through silent auctions and the annual Grouse Grind "Climb for the Cause" challenge. This year's event was held on Sept. 13 and raised over \$11,000 towards a second refugee award.

Though helpful to those wishing to start college, the first award only covers about half the tuition through the first year. Kue made it through her first year before having to take a break to work and save up before returning. Going into debt is not an option for most newcomers.

This is where the second refugee award comes in. Michael Galli, former president of BC TEAL, started the Taiga Galli Memorial Refugee award in honour of his son, Taiga, who passed away at six weeks old. Once fully funded, the award will provide \$2,500 for continued attendance for students like Kue who see university as critical to a bright future.

Supporters

Kue is not the only one to hope. Those who understand best what refugees bring to Canada are helping and advocating too. Past TCF Annual Conference speakers include Ujjal Dosanjh, the former BC Premier and long-time volunteer with such organizations as Vancouver Multicultural Society and MOSAIC.

One of this year's keynote speakers, Kim Phuc, managed to strike an especially salient chord. She is perhaps best known for being the "Girl in the picture" in an award-winning photograph taken in 1972. When she was nine years of age, she was photographed running unclothed towards the photographer with terror on her face following an attack by a South Vietnam jet fighter. The image marked a turning point in public perceptions of the Vietnam War. Phuc was not expected to live but made a full recovery and later sought political asylum in Canada. She now lives outside Ontario. ✍



▲ Kue Bway (right) and Michael Galli (left) with other hikers at the 2015 "Climb for the Cause."

► "VIFF" from page 1

ing child marriage, families are committing a crime even if they do not realize it.

"My point is to make [the audience] think. We shouldn't be afraid. If something isn't right, it isn't right," she says.

Music, art, politics and 1001 Arabian Nights

The Dream of Shahrazad is an award-winning documentary where characters make reference to the well-known stories of 1001 Arabian Nights amidst the events surrounding the Arab Spring – the political uprising that began in 2010.

"What people do in Egypt is storytelling, to be able to live together in very difficult times," says director Francois Verster.

Verster's original intention was to speak political ideas such as Islamophobia and Orientalism – in line with the works of Edward Said.

In the process of making *The Dream of Shahrazad*, Verster became intrigued by how the interaction of music, art and cultural storytelling helps to make connections between life and art. For Verster, music is equivalent to the dialogue in a film and becomes a kind of third dimension.

"It's a very creative process [with music]. Music should be there all along," he says.

Verster's own musical background, having played music his entire life, inspired him to use music to structure the film.

"It provides a much broader historical and cultural perspective and allows a retrospective look at the Arab Spring," says Verster, adding that the film used Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's symphonic poem, *Scheherazade*.

While filming in three countries – Egypt, Turkey and Lebanon – Verster says he dealt with linguistic and political barriers.

"There's this perception of us

as these White Europeans taking over, but we were fortunate to meet helpful people [who] opened their homes and lives to us," he says.

For Verster, one of the problems with making a documentary is that the audience thinks they are going to engage with the real world and therefore anticipates an objective truth.

"Reality doesn't work like that. The aim is to give an insight, a new experience in the world," he says.

According to Verster, one of the benefits of documentaries is that they allow the audience to ask a lot more questions, rather than find the answers. He says the Arab Spring is an extremely complicated and layered subject.

"You're making a statement about reality with documentaries; not everyone is agreeing with what you say. People are going to really like it – or not," he says.

Verster urges viewers to allow themselves to experience his film rather than look for specific answers or solutions.

"Just feel it," he says. ✍



▲ Francois Verster filming *The Dream of Shahrazad* in Egypt.



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Doors open at 6:00pm, dinner program starts at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$100.

Entertainment by the Cory Weeds Quartet.

Underwater project stirs interest in Chinatown history

by FLORENCE HWANG

A digital storytelling workshop, *Underwater Chinatown*, is stirring the waters and capturing what floats to the surface. Cinevolution hopes *Underwater Chinatown* will open up new dialogues between newcomer communities and the established Chinese-Canadian community through a creative exploration of the symbolic meaning of Chinatown. The free event runs Sept. 26 and is already filled to capacity.

"Chinatown, as a space and as a concept, is about difference, migration, belonging, survival, identity and all the complex questions that come up as a part of all that," says Yun-Jou Chang, operations manager and project coordinator of *Underwater Chinatown*.

Project origins

Several years ago, the Orchid Ensemble commissioned musician/composer/performance artist Yawen Wang to create an original composition. It was a metaphor to express the tension and inner conflict second and third generation Chinese immigrants experience, and how they constantly negotiate and define their cultural identity.

After the project was finished, the idea of an *underwater Chinatown* lingered in Wang's mind. In 2014, she approached Cinevolution to co-produce *Underwater Chinatown*, an interactive multimedia project exploring another aspect in the history of Vancouver's Chinatown. By inviting

diverse communities, particularly newcomers, to engage with Chinatown through evocative human stories Wang expects to create an experience both immersive and multi-sensory.

"We wanted to move away with more traditional forms of story documentation and fact-based education, and instead emphasize discovery and connection building," says Chang.

Underwater Chinatown: Digital Stories includes a set of three five-week, artist-facilitated community digital storytelling workshops focused on the space and the subaltern histories of Vancouver's Chinatown.

"The listeners experience the stories in real-time while walking the specific routes/sites related to the stories," says Toni Zhang McAfee, museum manager at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver.

Unlike most digital storytelling projects, which focus on visual storytelling, this project is anchored by the concept of PodPlay: a form of site-specific audio play to integrate stories and walking routes.

"Through the unique interplay of space and sound, Podplay not only serves to highlight the social, cultural and geographic particularities of Chinatown; but steers our attention away from sight as the only way of knowing, and compels us to reflect upon the other sensory input that inform our knowledge of the world," says Zhang McAfee.

By inviting participants to research lesser-known aspects of Chinatown's history and creating a story around their research,



▲ Working on digitizing stories.

the participants enter the emotional space of Chinatown residents and explore their feelings and motivations.

"Thus, participants are able to map parallels between their own experiences and motivations, and that of the people who once lived in Chinatown," says Chang.

Opening new dialogues

Chang feels many new immigrants feel no kinship or connection to Chinatown even though they are of Chinese descent.

"Instead, they see Chinatown as an outdated, irrelevant tourist trap. However, Chinatown is more than that. It is more than a place you visit for dim sum on the weekends. It is more than a geographic space where the Chinese community once congregated," says Chang.

Underwater Chinatown: Digital Stories emphasizes the diversity within the Chinese community and the particularity of individu-

al experience within the broader context of migration.

"Differences in socioeconomic status, cultural norms and political systems often make it difficult for different subsets of the Chinese community to relate to one another, not to mention mainstream Canadian society," says Zhang McAfee.

Underwater Chinatown: Digital Stories grew out of a desire to enhance the interactivity and authenticity of the project website.

"We wanted users of the *Underwater Chinatown* website to be able to participate by sharing their own Chinatown stories in addition to exploring or manipulating the content that we have created. At the same time, we realized that there are significant challenges to being able to create a good digital story. Therefore, we decided, the onus was on us to make it possible," says Zhang McAfee. ✍

For more information, visit www.explorasian.org

ethniK yarn: weaving multiculturalism

by KATRINA TRASK

From Sept. 25–27, Kasturi Guha will be showcasing her Indian hand woven textiles at Port Moody's Inlet Theatre as part of the sixth annual Culture Days weekend.

Kasturi Guha, a fashion designer, first came to Canada as a graphic designer and retail manager before perusing her passion in Indian weaving.

"When I was in marketing, there was no fashion designing part in my head, so I came here just as a normal immigrant looking for a job. I did my career counseling, and then I realized that I had the passion in me. I knew what I would want to do: fashion weaving," says Guha.

According to Guha, her line, ethniK yarn, arose from her passion to bridge Eastern and Western forms of weaving. This blend of styles has Guha wondering what she can bring from what she knows and understands.

"[How do I] make choices with a lot of talented people here whom I've had the privilege of meeting?" says Guha. "How can I work with the weavers from here? Canada is very mosaic, very multicultural. How can I bring those two together here?"

The tradition of Indian weaving

Guha says that she was first ex-



▲ An ethniK yarn scarf.

posed to Indian weaving while growing up in India's silk capital, Kolkata.

"We grew up in the city where we found the fibres line, the silk line. With my father being a doctor, we had the privilege of visiting the villages where they had huge areas to line dry the silk threads. Then they would wring them out, and you would see small little village women whose job was to get the thread in the loom," says Guha.

She highlights that India's tradition of weaving is unlike other weaving traditions of the world.

"The weaving technique used in India is the loom. Everything is done hand loomed. Silk, cotton and linen are only made by women because their nimble fingers don't pull the thread too much and the thread doesn't get caught in between. So when you pull the thread, it doesn't have that breakage point and the whole fabric comes out much more clean," says Guha.

ethniK yarn's products

Currently, Guha's line carries a wide range of products ranging from scarves to jackets to jewelry, all of which reflect the various techniques of Indian weaving.

"We use a lot of different kinds of stitches and a lot of different dyeing techniques," says Guha.

As well as showing off the different forms of Indian weaving, ethniK yarn's products also embrace the spirit of Vancouver's multiculturalism with inspiration from the Cherry Blossom festival and African designs. Only 20 percent of the line is South Asian based, with saris as the focus.

"When you come to a different country you need to know the culture, the people, the language, who they are, what they are wearing, what they are talking about. You cannot jump from

there and just bring something here," says Guha.

In the future, Guha hopes to expand the multicultural bridge between Canada and India through her products, as she would like to work with other ethnic designers in Vancouver.

Weaving ambassador and Culture Days

In 2014, Guha was selected as one of the invitees to Premier Christie Clark's trade mission to India. This year, Guha was invited to Culture Days, a Canada-wide celebration of multicultural arts and culture. Her event, *Love Story with Loom*, aims to teach the public about the art of Indian weaving.

"People only know that this is just a sari with a border and that is it, maybe with sparkles; it is just a gold something. But there are so many techniques that have been used. I will be showcasing some of those pieces there, mainly to educate the people so that they feel much more knowledgeable about the product," says Guha.

Guha believes that her event suits the spirit of Culture Days.

"Culture Days is all about the education, the learning, the knowledge. It's all about the mosaic society and celebrates the people living here," says Guha. ✍

For more information, please visit www.bc.culturedays.ca.

Volunteer with The Source

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The Source is a bilingual newspaper published twice monthly to serve the various cultural communities in Vancouver. Volunteer writers and photographers contribute material to the paper which focuses on multicultural aspects of the city. As well, The Source relies on volunteer copy editors, translators and production layout designers.

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Transcending the generational and cultural gap

by NICOLE ALIVOJVODIC

Writer and star of *Empire of the Son*, Canadian-Japanese broadcaster and scholar Tetsuro Shigematsu takes the stage at the Vancity Culture Lab at the Cultch Theatre from Oct. 6–17.

Produced by the Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre (VACT), *Empire of the Son* is the story of Shigematsu's personal relationship with his now dying father. While they speak different languages and have different value systems, it is their similarities that have created a distance between them.

While both generations of Shigematsu men can boast of successful careers in radio broadcasting, the generational and cultural gap between them offers different understandings and traditions, notably of what it means to "be a man."

Dubbed "the voice of our Azn generation" by Ricepaper Magazine, Shigematsu tells the story of his immigrant family and their intergenerational conflicts in his one-man play.

An outsider looking for answers

"When people ask me where I'm from, they're surprised to hear I grew up in Surrey, because that's not what they're expecting" says Shigematsu. "Then maybe I tell them what they really want to hear, that my par-

ents are from Japan. Ah that's much better!"

While he was born in England and is of Japanese descent, Shigematsu is Canadian bred and educated. Nevertheless, his Asian heritage plays a big part in his strongly autobiographical work.

"A big part of my self-identity has always been as an outsider," says Shigematsu, recalling a time when being Asian in Vancouver was quite unusual.

Being the child of immigrants, Shigematsu considered his reserved communication with his father to be normal and had no problem with it.

"I suppose like many men, I've never really had a heart-to-heart conversation with my own father – especially given his generation."

Now a father himself however, Shigematsu knew that eventually his two young children would have questions about their grandparents – who they were and why they came here – and that he wouldn't have the answers.

With his father having maybe less than a year to live, time was running out for Shigematsu to find the answers and so *Empire of the Son* was born.

From ashes to glass towers

Being that both Shigematsu and his father are big fans of public broadcasting, and specifically the "immersive and transporting" experience of radio, Shige-



Photo courtesy of Tetsuro Shigematsu

▲ *Empire of the Son* tells a father and son story.

matsu attempts to enrich the listening experience of the theatre audience in *Empire of the Son*.

"I heard an interesting comment from one of my theatre heroes, Robert LePage – he said

that radio was the most visual of mediums," says Shigematsu.

Due to the nature of the one-man show and because it includes numerous archival audio and radio moments, the audience experience for this play is often simply listening.

"I thought of campfire stories and how staring at dying embers or the dancing of flames can draw you more deeply into the act of listening – so what was the visual equivalent within the theatre that could have the same effect as a flickering campfire?" asks Shigematsu.

The solution is what Shigematsu describes as a sort of "live cinema." Using cameras, miniatures and projectors, Shigematsu and his crew create entire worlds in the imaginations of the audience, from the combination of deep listening and hypnotic imagery.

"Using the simplest of means, we transport the audience from the ashes of Hiroshima to the glass towers of Vancouver," says Shigematsu.

Being the artist-in-residence with VACT, Shigematsu has worked closely with artistic director Donna Yamamoto. "It would be hard to overstate her contribution to *Empire of the Son* – my name is on the show, but she made it possible." ✍

For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.thecultch.com or www.vact.ca.

An exploration of the Grove through sound

by NAOMI TSE

An exhibition at the Surrey Art Gallery explores the multitude of ways community space is used and reflects on its history. The soundscape project, by collaborators Phinder Dulai, Carmen Papalia and Andrew Lee, is an audiovisual exploration of the Grove, a forest in Newton, Surrey.

Papalia was invited to work on the soundscape project by the art gallery and teamed up with Dulai, who was his mentor in college, as well as with Lee, a musician who compiled the recordings.

The hour-long electro-acoustic soundscape composition consists of recordings taken in the Grove at different times, meshed together to create an auditory experience for visitors at the tech lab in the Surrey Art Gallery.

The lab will have eight different speakers set up to produce an immersive experience that will simulate walking through the Grove. Through this experience, visitors are expected to pick up on the sounds and create their own meanings in their mind as well as leave with some thoughts on what the Grove is.

As someone who is visually impaired, Papalia identifies as a non-visual learner. Papalia works on socially engaged projects with themes of accessibility and exploration of the non-visual features of gallery spaces. One aspect of his work involves leading "eyes-closed" tours of various spaces.

"The tours allow people to consider their non-visual senses as a way of being and a way to learn about their surroundings and the place they're living in," says Papalia.

Papalia, who grew up in Vancouver, explains that when you close your eyes it's a very grounding experience and you can't help but realize what your surroundings are and pay attention to things that are around you.

Part of the audio in the soundscape includes a segment that documents Papalia walking through the Grove. In addition, he has also led Lee and Dulai on an eyes-closed walking tour through the Grove.

The tech lab where the sound-

scape will be exhibited is a dimly lit room with grey walls, and the speakers are the only focal point so that the sound becomes the highlight of the room. Papalia explains that there are many ways that visitors can enter the work, as it is a collage of people's voices and stories about things that have happened in the Grove as well as some abstract sounds. There is space for visitors to sit and reflect on the sounds around them.

"It's about what the space is now, what it has been and how it has evolved through a period of time, almost like a time lapse," says Papalia.

A complex space

Local poet and writer Dulai has

lived in the Newton area for seven years now and walks past the Grove every day on his way to work. Dulai describes the area as a small oasis of trees with four pathways that crisscross each other to different locations and abuts the Newton bus loop and recreation centre.

"The thing about the Grove is that over the years, it has been the site of both legal and illegal uses," says Dulai.

Dulai, who contributes a poetry reading to the soundscape, says that the space has been used for recreation and leisure, as a transit point, for drug dealing or as a space for people who may not have anywhere else to go.

According to Dulai and Papalia, the Newton area has historically had some violence. After the violent assault and murder of Julie Pascal in 2013, a small group of dedicated residents banded together to form "Friends of the Grove" in an effort to make the Grove a safer and more inviting place.

"As an artist myself, I wanted to explore what urban living is about, both the positives and the negatives," says Dulai.

Although the space is still tenuous, Dulai hopes that the soundscape will help spark conversations about the type of community we are living in and raise questions about how healthy it is. ✍

The Grove exhibition will run from Sept. 19–Dec. 15 at the Surrey Art Gallery. For more information, please visit www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/17207.aspx.



▲ Poet and writer Phinder Dulai takes a selfie in the Grove.

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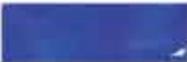
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|  <p>FROM BYRD TO BARD</p> <p>The Glorious English Tradition 8pm Friday, September 25 Ryerson United Church</p> <p>Jon Washburn and the Vancouver Chamber Choir explore the magnificent choral music of England, ranging from the rich polyphony of Elizabethan master William Byrd to the jaunty Shakespeare settings of present day composer John Rutter.</p> |  <p>MONTEVERDI VESPERS OF 1610</p> <p>The Early Baroque Masterpiece 7:30pm Friday, October 23 Chan Centre for the Performing Arts</p> <p>Early Music Vancouver and the Vancouver Chamber Choir are collaborating in this spectacular performance of Monteverdi's great masterpiece - the monumental Vespers of 1610. The Choir joins in with eight outstanding vocal soloists and an orchestra of Baroque instrumentalists from Pacific MusicWorks under the direction of guest conductor Stephen Stubbs.</p> |  <p>NEW WAVE</p> <p>The Latest in Choral Music 8pm Friday, November 13 Ryerson United Church</p> <p>The 21st century has proved to be a new renaissance for choral composition. There are dozens of outstanding living composers - both young and old - and we will bring you a scintillating selection of recent pieces by composers from Argentina, Estonia, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA and Canada.</p> |
|  <p>CHRISTMAS IN THE ORPHEUM</p> <p>Renaissance, Baroque & Carols 8pm Friday, December 4 Orpheum Theatre</p> <p>Nothing says Christmas more than choirs, and this concert brings you the city's finest, singing the glorious voice-and-brass music of Gabrieli and Pinkham, intimate Christmas moods of Derek Healey with harp, and a grand carol sing-along of traditional favourites, as the audience joins in with the choirs and brass ensemble. Venite! Venite!</p> |  <p>A DYLAN THOMAS CHRISTMAS</p> <p>A Child's Christmas in Wales 8pm Friday, December 18 Shaughnessy Heights United Church</p> <p>Choose the Vancouver Chamber Choir's signature performance of <i>A Child's Christmas in Wales</i> (Dylan Thomas) with our favourite Welshman - Russell Roberts - narrating on Friday evening. The concert starts with English, German and international songs of the season conducted by Carrie Tennant, including a special appearance of her accomplished Vancouver Youth Choir.</p> |  <p>A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS</p> <p>Finding the True Meaning 8pm Saturday, December 19 Shaughnessy Heights United Church</p> <p>Enjoy this lively concert performance of <i>A Charlie Brown Christmas</i> with actors, jazz duo and the Vancouver Chamber Choir on Saturday evening. This concert also begins with English, German and international songs of the season, conducted by Carrie Tennant, with a second appearance this weekend of her delightful Vancouver Youth Choir.</p> |
|  <p>THE MAESTRO'S ART</p> <p>The National Conductors' Symposium Concert 8pm Saturday, January 23 Ryerson United Church</p> <p>This year the Vancouver Chamber Choir's remarkable National Conductors' Symposium concert focuses on the music of the Masters - Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Brahms and Wagner. Five talented conductors from around the world lead the outstanding professional choir along with master conductor and teacher Jon Washburn and pianist Stephen Smith. Join us for an exciting evening of music-making and special insight into the art and craft of choral conducting.</p> |  <p>THE SOURCE OF SONG</p> <p>Gregory's Gift of Chant 8pm Friday, February 12 Ryerson United Church</p> <p>Gregorian chant is still a seminal force in choral music, even a thousand years after Saint Gregory the Great lent it his name. Jon Washburn and Kevin Zakresky conduct the Vancouver Chamber Choir in an a cappella programme that traces choral repertoire back to the Gregorian chant on which it is based.</p> |  <p>CHORAL TAPESTRY</p> <p>Our Heritage of Song 8pm Friday, March 4 Shaughnessy Heights United Church</p> <p>The outstanding repertoire of North American choral music is based substantially on the models of musical immigrants from Europe. Jon Washburn and the Vancouver Chamber Choir illuminate many of these ties in this varied and invigorating concert of music from two continents.</p> |
|  <p>THE LOVE THAT MOVES THE UNIVERSE</p> <p>Bach, Handel & Schaefer 8pm Friday, March 25 Orpheum Theatre</p> <p>One of the Vancouver Chamber Choir's most acclaimed performances was the 2010 premiere of R. Murray Schafer's radiant choral/orchestral work <i>The Love that Moves the Universe</i>, based on the final lines of Dante's <i>Paradiso</i>. In answer to popular demand, we repeat that magical experience, and extend it by singing the equally luminous <i>Jesu, meine Freude</i> by Bach and <i>Laudate pueri Dominum</i> by Handel.</p> |  <p>THE CHAMBER CHOIR AND THE ISLER SINGERS</p> <p>Two Great Choirs 8pm Friday, April 22 Ryerson United Church</p> <p>Every few years Vancouver's and Toronto's famous professional choirs join forces in one city or the other - this time, it's in Vancouver. You are guaranteed a sumptuous sonic experience as the ensembles sing together and individually. Two great choirs... an evening of wonderful music... don't miss it!</p> |  <p>HEAR THE VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR!</p> <p>In addition to 11 wonderful concerts, there are many recordings to enjoy.</p> <p>All titles are presently on sale to celebrate our 45th anniversary. Treat yourself!</p> |

Visit www.vancouverchamberchoir.com to subscribe and save up to 35% off single ticket prices. Subscriptions can be for as few as four concerts or up to 11. Tickets to individual concerts available through Ticketmaster or the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts



▲ The Annunciation by Sandro Botticelli (and possibly assistant), c. 1490–95.

Inside and outside the Glasgow Collection

by EVELYNE YOUNG

On Saturday, Oct. 3, Francesco Freddolini will lecture at the Vancouver Art Gallery on the historical use and purpose of the works of some of the greatest known European painters of all time.

Presented by the Vancouver Art Gallery and the Consulate General of Italy in Vancouver, *Inside and Outside the Frame: Understanding Paintings in their Historical Context* is an attempt to bring to life the current exhibit at the Vancouver Art Gallery, and to reveal to its audience that paintings were not solely revered for artistic intent.

Links to Italy

In tandem with *Of Heaven and Earth: 500 Years of Italian Painting from Glasgow Museum*, an exhibit tracing the “Golden Age of Italian painting” from the 14th to 19th centuries, Freddolini’s lecture will portray the artistic relevance of Italian paintings to Italian culture. The featured artworks were produced in the

artistic centres of Italy, such as Rome, Milan, Florence, Bologna, Siena, Naples and Venice, abundant in revolutions, conflict and religion.

The exhibit is a treat for all, particularly for those Italians living in Vancouver who retain a devoted passion for their culture and history. Many arrived as immigrants in the 1940s and 50s to escape war, and settled in the bustling Commercial Drive area. Their cultural presence was so strong that the area was and con-

tinues to be called “Little Italy” by many. It is no wonder that the Consulate General of Italy had a hand in organizing Freddolini’s *Inside and Outside the Frame*, to celebrate and reunite the links between the Glasgow masterpieces and Italian culture and history.

“[The exhibit is] one of the finest civic collections in the UK, from Glasgow Museums,” says Kathleen S. Bartels, director of the Vancouver Art Gallery. It features masterpieces by acclaimed artists such as Sandro Botticelli, Giovanni Bellini, the Cavaliere d’Arpino (Giuseppe Cesary), Francesco Guardi, Domenico Tiepolo, Salvatore Rosa and, the most celebrated, Titian.

“Once we look beyond the frame, to investigate the context, our understanding of paintings becomes more complex and multifaceted.”

Francesco Freddolini, Renaissance and Baroque art expert



▲ Virgin and Child by Giovanni Bellini, c. 1480–85.



▲ Death of Julius Caesar by Vincenzo Camuccini, c. 1825–29.

tinues to be called “Little Italy” by many. It is no wonder that the Consulate General of Italy had a hand in organizing Freddolini’s *Inside and Outside the Frame*, to celebrate and reunite the links between the Glasgow masterpieces and Italian culture and history.

“Every society and individual interacts with objects, asking them questions that are relevant to their specific needs, interests and objectives,” says Freddolini. One of the first paintings of the exhibit, Niccolò di Buonaccorso’s *St. Lawrence*, was used as a tool for prayer in the 14th century, for example. Similarly, the *Nativiti of Christ* by Francesco Francia was once part of a complex altarpiece, with a complex narrative scheme that interacted with other paintings. Today, we examine these masterworks behind glass at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Seeing the exhibit on its own provides the viewer with the inspiration for a passionate appreciation of artistic precision and delicacy, full of meaning and purpose. This much is evidenced in the tightly packed gallery rooms of the exhibit, which has been open since June 12.

With tilted heads and sideways glances, viewers carefully examine the colorful and dark brush strokes in each painting and read their descriptors. It is important to note, however, that *Inside and Outside the Frame* can help enrich the meaning of such artworks. “Once we look beyond the frame, to investigate the context, our understanding of paintings becomes more complex and multifaceted.” says Freddolini.

For more information, visit www.vanartgallery.bc.ca.



John Kameel Farah: Multi-dimensional storytelling with music

by CURTIS SEUFERT

Toronto-based John Kameel Farah will be performing Sept. 25 as part of Western Front's 88 Tuned Bongos piano concert series, but one can expect more than just piano in his Solo for Four Hands performance. Jazz, classical and improvisational piano are fused with electronic music and Middle Eastern melodies to create a multi-dimensional, multicultural music experience.

The combination of jazz and improvisational piano with electronic music and Middle Eastern modes might sound unorthodox, or even counterintuitive. Indeed at first, for Farah, it was.

"These things came together very gradually," says Farah, referring to the different styles and "musical lives" he has as a classical pianist, composer and jazz pianist, to name a few.

However, while exploring beat-based electronic music, it all came together at once.

"It was a revelation," he says. "Because imagine making tracks like this, using synths and samples, but composing them more like 'classical' pieces, with a depth of form and structure, rhythmic complexity, counterpoint and narrative."

As for melodic styles of a distinctly Middle Eastern vibe, that was music that Farah grew up with around the house, alongside classical composers such as Bach.



▲ Incorporating electronic beats.

Fusing classical depth of composition and Middle Eastern modes evocative of grandeur and ancient aesthetic into electronic synth-filled pieces creates a "counterpoint of genres," often synthesized by his own piece *Lake Trasimene's* subtitle: *Blade Runner in Babylon*.

Antiquity and art

One only needs to read Farah's latest album's title, *Between Car-*

thage and Rome, to know that influence in his art is also drawn heavily from history. However, Farah tends to go beyond reference and allusion, instead digging deeper, telling nuanced stories, sometimes as seemingly counterintuitive as the musical and stylistic blend he employs. For example, the dancing title track of his latest album can allude to the Punic wars (300–100 BCE), but tells the tale of eyewitness accounts of bitter enemies of the Crusades, the Franks and Saracens, dancing together by the fire.

Pieces such as this tend to tell a story that run contrary to our conception of history, and even the present.

"[Studying history] helps me in trying to understand how things came to be as they are now, to see how Europe and the Middle East were much more part of the same civilization. And even when later on they became more clearly separated, they were like two branches springing from the trunk of the same tree," he says.

A global artist

As an artist who has drawn influence from many different genres and styles as well as from history and mythology, it seems fitting that Farah has performed across the globe. He has toured in Europe and North and South America as well as in Korea and Jerusalem.

Yet, in a somewhat unexpected fashion, much that has influenced him as an artist stems from his native country of Canada. Farah describes an influential visit to St John's, Newfoundland, inspiring him to perform Ravel's *Gaspard de la Nuit* a few months later, and notes the stark contrast between Brampton, the "sensory-deprivation chamber"-like suburb outside of Toronto in which he grew up, and Toronto itself.

He says that some may argue Brampton "forces you to become more imaginative," but describes the music scenes of Toronto as "remarkably open-minded."

"They follow new developments in music, check it out, process and do their own thing. I found this very freeing, to piece the world together in your music as you see fit," says Farah. ✍

For more information on the event, visit front.bc.ca. For more on Farah, visit www.johnfarah.com.

LITER ASIAN 2015

A Festival of Pacific Rim Asian Canadian Writing

OCTOBER 8 TO 11, 2015

LiterASIAN: A Festival of Pacific Rim Asian Canadian Writing is a community-building initiative by the Asian Canadian Writers' Workshop (ACWW).

2015 FEATURED WRITERS

Derwin Mak, Tony Pi, Eric Choi, JF Garrard, Wesley Lowe, David Ng, Shirley Camia, Holman Wang, Christina Park

EVENTS

Book launches, author book signings, writing workshops, readings, book fair, celebration dinner and more!

EVENT LOCATIONS

UBC Learning Exchange, 612 Main Street in Vancouver's historic Chinatown, Jade Dynasty Restaurant (137 E Pender Street, Vancouver).

For more information

On workshops and activities, go to:

literalsian.com



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

Free Community Workshops & Activities September 21–27

Pro Bono Legal Clinic

Pro Bono lawyers from ACCESS Pro Bono provide a 30-minute free legal consultation on employment, family, human rights and immigration issues for temporary foreign workers. Currently accepting appointments for September 21, 7–9pm. Clients must book an appointment by phoning MOSAIC at 604-254-9626 ext. 487

Changes in Citizenship Application

- Application process and timeframe
- Eligibility criteria
- Language requirements
- Documentation needed for citizenship applications
- Differences between the old and new Citizenship Act

🕒 September 22 (Tuesday), 10am–12pm
📍 MOSAIC Vancouver, 2nd floor, 1720 Grant St
☎ 604 254 9626 ext 484 Joy

Successful Parenting in a Cross-Cultural Context

Explore challenges that immigrant parents encounter, learn about effective communication with your children and participate in your child's education

🕒 September 24, 6–8pm
📍 Port Moody Pacific Grace Church, 2622 St. Johns St
☎ 604 438 8214 ext 209

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.

September 22–October 6, 2015

Cultural Calendar

by JAKE MCGRAIL

Japanese Fall Harvest

Fair and Bazaar
Sept. 26
Nikkei Centre
6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby
www.centre.nikkeiplace.org

Come sample a variety of Japanese dishes at the Nikkei Centre. There will be loads of vegetables including gobo, kabocha, daikon, kabura, ninjin and napa. Baked goods and other platters are also available. All proceeds will go to supporting the programs that the Nikkei Centre has to offer. For more information, please visit their website.

State of the Practice

Sept. 28–Oct. 2 and Oct. 5–10
Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre
181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver
www.roundhouse.ca

This exhibition showcases the theme of art making in the community. Two separate exhibitions are being highlighted. The first is *The Granddaughters Mural* exhibition, with stories and images of the land and water of Stanley Park. The second is the Northwest Coast Aboriginal Doors project, which is a panel discussion on Aboriginal art for community development. For more information, please visit their website.

Living with Global China

Sept. 26
UBC
2329 West Mall, Vancouver
www.cstudies.ubc.ca



▲ Private homes: open-house.

Come to the UBC Point Grey campus and soak in one of the 20 free lectures during the UBC Centennial celebration. Paul Evans, a member of the Asia Society Global Council and the Asia-Pacific Centre, will be speaking about China's influence on the security, prosperity and order of the world. For more information, please visit their website.

Mid-Century Modern House Tour

Sept. 26
Various homes
throughout Vancouver
vancouverheritagefoundation.org

Explore five private homes designed in the West Coast version of mid-century modernism. Learn about the houses, their surroundings and the architects who designed them. Tickets include a donation to the support the Vancouver Heritage Foundation. For more information, please visit their website.

Vancouver International Film Festival

Sept. 24–Oct. 9
Various locations
throughout Vancouver
www.viff.org

One of the largest film festivals is back for another year with hundreds of films from over 70 countries. The festival offers numerous Canadian films, the largest selection of East Asian films outside of that area and a huge and vibrant non-fiction collection. With selections for everyone, this event is a can't miss for movie lovers. For more information, please visit their website.

Word Vancouver 2015

Sept. 23–27
Various locations
throughout Vancouver
www.wordvancouver.ca

Come and check out Western Canada's largest celebration of reading and literacy. Exhibits and hands-on activities showcase a vast collection of books and authors. An entertaining and educational experience for all ages. For more information, please visit their website.

Doors Open Vancouver

October 3
Various locations
throughout Vancouver
www.doorsopenvan.ca

Free, behind-the-scenes access to over a dozen Vancouver sites, *Doors Open Vancouver* showcases buildings including The Orpheum, Queen Elizabeth Theatre and City Hall. Experience the wide range of architecture and cultural heritage of Vancouver's buildings. For more information, please visit their website.

Forbidden Vancouver Presents: Who Killed Kraft Bier?

Sept. 27
Mount Pleasant, Vancouver
www.forbiddenvancouver.ca

Sample craft beers and solve a murder at the same time! Teams of eight will move through Mount Pleasant, trying to uncover who killed the German brewery entrepreneur Kraft Bier. Meet the three suspects, and try to determine who murdered Bier. For more information, please visit their website.



▲ Beer and murder: a dynamic duo.

Summer Love with Dawn Doucette

Sept. 23
CSNN Kitchen
2245 West Broadway, Vancouver
www.earthbites.ca

Dawn Doucette will demonstrate how to create a simple and delicious menu using food coupled with the produce of this season. The menu includes sweet corn soup, potato gnocchi and lemon cream with sugar cookies. For more information, please visit their website.

PCHC
MUSEUM OF
MIGRATION

The PCHC-MoM Society Presents
A Banquet of Stories

You are cordially invited to a special storytelling event

Saturday, September 26, at 2:30pm

At the Sunset Community Centre, 6810 Main Street. Free admission, parking and refreshments. Please bring a recipe, dish, photograph, or heirloom relating to the theme of food and migration, as well as a family story inspired by that item. See Eventbrite or PCHC MoM website for registration and program details. Contact Eleanor Munk at <pchcmom.intern@gmail.com> for inquiries.

► "Verbatim" from page 1

of the most sincere, interesting and genuine people I have ever known. A vibrant boy from Mexico City who came to Vancouver to enrich his education and have an experience away from home unlike any he had had before. This boy quickly became not only my best friend but the entire school's friend. To this day, five years later, the majority of my grad class are still in touch with him, and he comes back once a year to visit. I have shared all my major moments with him and been the beneficiary of a friend who has different influences, different perspectives and different expectations, all instilled within in him by his culture. I can't imagine ever having not known him, not having received the benefit of his influence, not having been touched in a very personal way by the Mexican culture through my friend. Nor can I imagine going to a school in a city where opportunities to meet new people from multiple places across the world didn't exist.

When I see something foreign and new each time I walk downtown, I experience much the same emotions I do when I see a sunset over the ocean, emotions of gratitude and a thrill. Both experiences envelope me in a sense of wonder and a sense of comfort all at once. It is a true blessing to live in Vancouver, to be immersed in one of the most culturally accepting cities on the planet where uniqueness is encouraged and developed. It is inspiring to live in a city that welcomes rather than excludes and gives platforms for the cultural initiatives and thought provoking ideas that fuel the planet. I am proud to say that I am a citizen of the multicultural metropolis that is Metro Vancouver, and I will forever be mindful and grateful of how it has positively shaped me as a person. ✍

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A shucking good time!

A trip to Gibsons, BC on Saturday, September 12, provided the opportunity to discover *Shuckfest 2015*, the 4th annual outdoor festival celebrating food, drink and music. Presented by Smitty's Oyster House and the Rotary Club of Gibsons, part of the proceeds go to the local St. Bart's Food Bank. Another purpose of the festival is the promotion of Gibsons not only as a summer place but somewhere exciting to be outside the main tourist season.

The festival took place in the parking area of the main wharf at Gibsons Landing. It was a fenced off event with full-priced tickets at \$75. However, you got to eat and drink as much as you pleased for the 6-hour event, with the price being reduced as the day progressed. And with the live reg-

gae music by Mostly Marley, people were dancing both inside and outside the fenced area.

It was a beautiful, sunny fall-like day in a quintessential BC setting, with views of mountains, sea, marinas with fishing and pleasure boats, and Keats Island in the distance.

There were, of course, local oysters and a shucking contest, and a variety of food provided by Smitty's Oyster House. BC wines were promoted by Richard Massey whose wine agency provides access to small-farm terroir driven wines, ciders, spirits and meads made in BC. Craft beers were provided by Steamworks Brewing Co. which has a pub in Gastown and Townsite Brewing Inc., a micro brewery from Powell River.

The driving force behind *Shuckfest* is Stafford Lumley.

He's the former owner/operator of Rodney's Oyster House in Vancouver. Always dreaming to have a seaside oyster house, he was thrilled to discover a rundown but historic marine building along Gibsons Wharf in 2005. It is a sturdy fir structure built and operated by Henry Smith as a marine supply centre. It flourished from 1957 to 1995; then the commercial fishing industry began to decline. It was renovated by Lumley with friend Shawn Divers and opened in 2007 as Smitty's Oyster House, in honour of Henry Smith. The popular restaurant has been featured in the *New York Times* and on the *Food Network*. However, like many businesses in resort areas, it's difficult to make a go of it in the off-season.

Historically, Gibsons has been a forestry and fishing communi-

ty, but now tourism has become a mainstay. The beautiful seaside village with a population of approximately 4,000 has a museum, galleries, shops, restaurants and outdoor markets. There is the *Plein Air Festival*, part of a 3-day international event that celebrates artists painting outdoors. It coincided with *Shuckfest*. Many people know Gibsons as the setting for CBC's long-running series *The Beachcombers*. Molly's Reach, the famous café in the series, now functions as a genuine café celebrating its famous history.

Gibsons is located north of Vancouver on the mainland of the Sunshine Coast along Howe Sound. It's a 40-minute ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Langdale and then about a 10-minute ride from there. What's fantastic is it can all be accessed by public

transportation with local buses meeting the ferry and traveling up the coast as far as Halfmoon Bay.

Gibsons is an environmentally conscious community and in 2005 entered the Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting Contest winning first place in the world. In 2009, it was declared the "Most Livable Community in the World" (under 20,000) at the international *Livcom Awards*. These awards focus on local environmental management practices and are endorsed by the United Nations.

Gibsons is a great place to visit and makes an easy day trip from Vancouver. And it's charming, no matter the time of year!

Don Richardson

Recipe by Jen dela Luna

Hourensou no Goma-ae (Spinach salad with sesame sauce)

Whether served as a side dish to a meal or eaten as a snack on its own, this Japanese salad is delicious and filling. It's filled with umami flavour, vegetarian, gluten free and packed with vitamins and minerals. Best of all, it only takes a few minutes to prepare from start to finish! Though many local joints typically shortcut this recipe and use peanut butter (no-no!), goma-ae quite literally translates to goma (sesame) ae (sauce). Tahini is an acceptable substitute in this dressing if you need it in a pinch, but toasting your own seeds, as in the recipe below, contributes the best flavour to the dish. Itadakimasu!

Ingredients

- 450 g Spinach (approximate equivalent to 1 frozen bag)
- 1 ½ tbsp Soy Sauce
- 1 tsp Mirin
- 1/3 cup White Sesame Seeds
- ½ tsp Sugar
- Salt to taste

Method

1. On low heat, toast the sesame seeds in a frying pan until they're light golden brown. Be careful not to burn them!
2. Meanwhile, rinse the spinach thoroughly (if fresh) and blanch in salted boiling water.
3. Transfer to an ice bath after two minutes to stop the cooking process.
4. Once cooled, remove the spinach from the ice bath and squeeze out the excess water, then chop.
5. With a mortar and pestle, grind the seeds to release their flavour.
6. Stir in the wet ingredients, and once combined into a paste-like dressing, mix in with the spinach.
7. Sprinkle whole toasted sesame seeds over top if you wish (optional).
8. Serve warm or cold, and enjoy!



▲ Impress your guests with this easy to make Japanese classic.



Vancouver Chamber Choir
JON WASHBURN, CONDUCTOR
45th Anniversary



A Wall Centre Gala with Alyson McHardy

An opportunity for you and your guests to be entertained by one of Canada's most outstanding mezzo-sopranos at this gala event. Alyson McHardy will be joined by the celebrated Vancouver Chamber Choir and harpichordist/pianist Alexander Weimann. This exclusive evening is hosted by Peter Wall, the Vancouver Chamber Choir and Early Music Vancouver.

Friday, October 30, 2015
Pavilion Ballroom, Wall Centre, 1088 Burnard Street, Vancouver

6:30 Reception
7:00 Performance
8:00 Dinner

Formal Dress

Individual tickets available at \$250 (tax receipt issued for \$164)
Tables of 10 available for \$2,500

The proceeds of tickets sold by the Vancouver Chamber Choir will help support our award-winning educational programs. To reserve your tickets, please contact The Vancouver Chamber Choir at 604-738-6822 by October 23, 2015

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