

Hidden history
re-enacted
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The Source

forum of diversity

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Illustration by Nick Booth



Verbatim

No sense of home

by JENNIFER JANG

My experiences of growing up in Vancouver are different from most people's. For one thing, I am a Vancouverite, born and raised here. Also, my family has lived here for four generations. However, my family is of Chinese descent. I found it bewildering, growing up in Vancouver. I always felt as if I didn't quite fit in, which is silly, considering I am a fourth-generation Vancouverite. I think it's because people assume I am newer to the city than I actually am and that English could not possibly be the only language I speak. And I think it's because people don't know their history.

I grew up in a part of the city where the population was mostly of Chinese and European descent. I found that my appearance marked me as someone who would fit into certain categories, regardless of the truth. Perhaps it was where I was hanging out. People would assume I was ESL or that I spoke and understood Chinese (Cantonese).

It is strange to be regarded as a foreigner or a newcomer in the city you were born in and have lived in your whole life.

It is strange when people automatically assume that your parents must not be from the city and that they must not speak English.

It is strange when people hold so many false ideas about you based only on your appearance.

One thing I noticed growing up is that people like to be in their groups; they like to form cliques. Sometimes it was based on ethnicity, other times it was based on language. There is a comfort in being with people like you who suffer the same kind of prejudice as you do.

In the high school I went to there were clear demarcations between white and Chi-

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Media Democracy Day

Solutions-based media for our communities

by FLORENCE HWANG

Media Democracy Day 2017 will take a more solutions-based view on journalism. As part of the Media Democracy Project in partnership with SFU's School of Communication, the free event will be held Nov. 18 at Vancouver Public Library's Central Branch.

Media Democracy Day (MDD) is an annual conference, bringing together several smaller media outlets that serve specific communities - often ones that are marginalized - with bigger me-

dia outlets and non-profit organizations to work more collaboratively. Because of the Internet, more people are sharing their stories without going through journalists as a filter, which Tara Mahoney, lead program director and organizer of MDD, believes has forced a conversation on how journalists and the community can work together. She wants to know how the community can collaborate with journalists who have established platforms or bigger audiences nationally.

"How can we bridge that gap? I think that's what Media Democracy Day is about. How can we all le-

verage our respective strengths? Whether that's being on the ground, being close to community experience with having a platform, having access to resources, having funding...How can we work together to better serve communities?" asks Mahoney.

Mahoney says this idea of solutions media has been around for 10 years, but has been marginal to some extent. In the past, Media Democracy Days was typically attended by about 200 people and many discussions tended to be academic in nature, as well as quite gloomy, which she found worrisome. She does clarify,

however, that the focus of solutions media is not saying everything is fine and always casting the future in a positive light.

"It's not that all. We still talk about the problems, but the lens which you're approaching them from is a constructive, solutions-oriented point of view so as you are describing the problems, you are describing [it] in the context of the variety of solutions that are proposed," Mahoney explains.

She thinks solutions are a good way to discuss journalism and media production because they

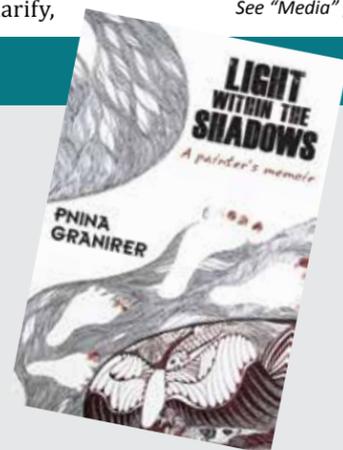
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Cultural Spotlight



Photo by Simon Yee

Lived experiences of interned Japanese Canadians

by SIMON YEE

This past summer, Universal Limited theatre members Yoshié Bancroft, Joanna Garfinkel and their team have been performing a historical re-enactment of the 1942 Japanese-Canadian internment at Hastings Park in Vancouver to remember the stories of those interned there, preserve that history and draw attention to similar events happening now.

Their next live performance will be on Nov. 16 at the Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre in Burnaby, followed by a meet and greet with the cast, crew and community members. A recorded version of the performance is played hourly at the museum until January 14, 2018. Bancroft hopes these performances will illuminate a history usually downplayed today.

"It is a firmly held Canadian fiction that such events happened safely in the past, or more frequently in America," Bancroft says. "We want to destroy those fictions and replace them with truth and conversation. We have seen our piece be a healing agent in families and communities, and we want to expand this."

From Canadian to enemy alien

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in the United States in 1941 and the subsequent Canadian declaration of war on the Empire of Japan, the Government of Canada initiated a program the following year to remove and detain Canadians of Japanese descent. Subsequently, over 8,000 Japanese-Canadians were incarcerated at Hastings Park before being sent to internment sites or work camps across the country.

Many of those detained were sent to Vancouver's Hastings Park, the grounds where the Pacific National Exhibition is held. During the war, the exhibition was suspended and its facilities

– the PNE barns, stables and Livestock Building – were used to intern and process Japanese-Canadians for their eventual relocation. The conditions at the park were extremely rudimentary and unsanitary, and those who remember recalled the horrible smell, noises and food.

"Families were separated. Cars, cameras, and radios were confiscated, and uncertainty was rampant," says Nikkei Museum curator Sherri Kajiwara. "What happened was the result of fear, uncertainty, threat of an enemy and war."

Recovering and re-enacting hidden history

It was this history that inspired Bancroft and Garfinkel to produce their historical play entitled *Japanese Problem*, which provides a look into living conditions at Hastings Park in 1942. They interviewed survivors, vis-

thousand people (or more!) living there at the time, everything looks clean and ordered, and absent of people," says Garfinkel.

"But if you look very closely, you can see children playing and hiding, which is a reflection of the larger story we are telling. You can see the troughs that acted as open sewers in the photo, even if they are swept clean to uphold the BCSC's image of the site as an appropriate place to hold 'evacuees,'" she says.

Their first live re-enactment was performed site-specifically at Hastings Park this past September. Praised for the play's multi-layered storytelling, the play has its actors not only recreate and re-enact scenes that would have happened back in 1942, but also has the actors break character to comment and reflect on the situation and how it appears to present-day audiences. Their goal is not only to inform audiences about



Photo by Simon Yee

▲ Recreation of bed stalls used in Hastings Park, currently at Nikkei.

ited former internment sites and examined primary source materials for their performance.

While researching, one of the things they noted was the divergent accounts between the official version of the internment, such as those provided by the B.C. Security Commission, and the accounts of those living there. One such picture that caught their attention was an interior shot of the Livestock Building by Leonard Frank, featuring women and children in and around stalls.

"[The scene shown in the picture] is very clean and serene on the surface. Though there are a

the past, but also use the play to ask questions about anti-migrant racism and the widespread Islamophobia of the present.

"Seventy-five years later there is still lasting pain from the experience," says Kajiwara. "Hopefully now, through dialogue and this exhibit, we can find some healing and learn from the past so as to never repeat the mistakes made." ✍

To learn more about the exhibit, please check out www.hastingspark1942.ca.

For more information about the play, please visit www.japaneseproblem.ca.

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Mailing Address
Denman Place PO Box 47020
Vancouver, BC V6G 3E1

Office
204-825 Granville St., Vancouver, BC

Telephone (604) 682-5545
Email info@thelasoource.com

www.thelasoource.com

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Associate Publishers Saeed Dyanatkar (Digital),
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Movement and mobility – a European perspective

by JAKE MCGRAIL

In an age of ever-growing mobility, migrants and tourists mingle in great numbers in most metropolis around the world.

The Green College at the University of British Columbia (UBC) will be the host of a panel entitled *Images of Movement: Migrants and Tourists* on Nov. 14.

Led by Professors Gaozheng Zhang and Anna Casas, the panel will discuss how immigration and tourism interact, as well as how it is portrayed through photography and the media.

The *Images of Movement* lecture is the second part of a series focused on the theme of movement and mobility. The two speakers at the lecture will be Gaozheng Zhang and Anna Casas, both of whom are Assistant Professors in the UBC Department of French, Hispanic and Italian studies. Casas, whose research and classes focus on gender and cultural studies in contemporary Spain, with a special interest in literature, cinema and photography, will be speaking on the subject of tourism in Spain, while Zhang will be focusing on Chinese immigration in Italy, and more specifically, Milan.



▲ Scenes of migration and tourism from Milan, Italy (left) and Barcelona, Spain (right).

Photos by Björn Giesenbauer (left) and Karen Elliot (right)

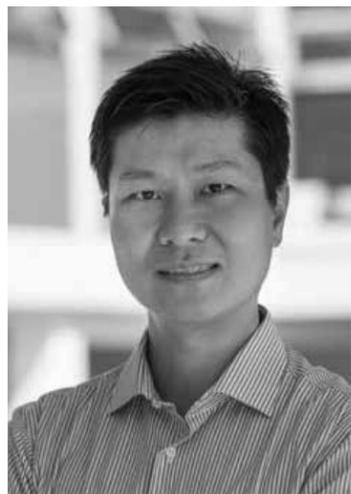


Photo courtesy of Gaozheng Zhang

▲ Gaozheng Zhang will discuss Chinese immigration to Italy on Nov. 14.

Debates and the media's influence

"The Chinese community in Milan is one of the largest ones in continental Europe," says Zhang, "and there has been lots of debate in the media about the benefits or drawbacks of their presence in the city."

As with any debate surrounding immigration, there are many different viewpoints. In Italy, it is the Chinese that are talked about and used as an example the most when discussing issues of immigration, likely due both to their growing presence in the country as well as the relatively recent rise in number.

"Chinese mass migration in Italy didn't really begin until the 1990s," says Zhang. "So in my opinion, I think that until the early 2000s, many of the journalists who reported on immigration were not very knowledgeable on the subject."

An example of Zhang's view is that during the 90s, when the mass migration began, there were a lot of Italian journalists who connected the influx from the East to the Chinese Mafia. These sorts of stories are (for the most part, at least) not reported today, as the media's present-day angle on Chinese immigrants

focuses on their entrepreneurship and how they seek business opportunities, but it does show the power that the media has to influence its audience.

"For my presentation I will be mostly speaking about television, as that is the main source of information for Italian audiences," says Zhang. "Certainly, the public's opinion of Chinese migrants is influenced by the media, as they would not necessarily have many interactions with them in their daily lives: the main source of information about immigration comes from the media."

And that aspect of society is by no means limited to Italy. Arguments surrounding Chinese immigrants in Italy are the same arguments that are taking place all over the world, by different people and about different people.

"The Italian case is quite representative of Southern Europe in general," says Zhang, "and I would say that the same kind of media debates have occurred in other countries around the world. The Chinese are an example, but I think there is universality to it." ✍

For more information please visit: www.greencollege.ubc.ca



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nese. Among the Chinese, there were further demarcations between those who were Cantonese-speaking "Hongers" (Hong Kong-born Chinese), Mandarin-speaking Taiwanese and Canadian-born Chinese.

I have never felt that I belong in this city. I grew up on the West side, and I have never felt that I quite fit in; I always perceive that I am seen as an outsider even though my family has lived on the West side for four generations, back when it was known as Point Grey municipality.

ent-sounding languages and cultures. We enjoy eating food from a multitude of countries but do we converse with and become close to all the people from these countries? It is too easy to stay in groups that are familiar and comfortable. It is much harder to branch out. There is potential to build bridges and learn from each other; I know some people are doing this. But I don't think enough of us are.

We see the city as this unfriendly, lonely place. We see the city where its inhabitants are not like us. Instead, we



▲ Racial divisions exist even within schools.

Growing up in the 1980s there was quite a kerfuffle about "monster houses" – I sometimes wonder if the consternation was partly race-based, specifically towards the Hong Kong Chinese at the time. This city has a long history of racism towards the Chinese community.

I also remember that it was frowned upon if you spoke in a language other than English, in public.

I think Vancouver is a very diverse city with all of its different-looking people with differ-

need to see the city full of people who want the same things. We have to find what we have in common instead of the differences. Because if we build commonality, then we'll talk to each other more and learn about each other more. Because what's needed in a diverse city is more interaction with each other and more understanding to find more common ground. Then the city won't seem like some big, unfriendly, unfamiliar entity but rather a community of communities. ✍

Photo courtesy of Vancouver School Board

Women leading new global thinking and change

by ISHA DALAYA

The BC Women's Economic Forum will take place in Surrey under the title Women Leading New Global Thinking & Change Nov. 16–17.

Based in New Delhi, India, WEF organizes conferences around the world, often gathering women from more than 50 different nations. In this context, *The Source* met two B.C. women who will attend WEF as guest speakers: Anita Huberman, CEO of the Surrey Board of Trade; and Bonita Zarillo, city counselor of Coquitlam.

WEF is part of ALL Ladies League, the largest global women's chamber in the world. For Zarillo, such organizations are crucial because they enable "women to increase the size of their networks." For Huberman too, conferences like WEF play an important role.

"They provide women and men opportunities to hear different perspectives, to learn from each other, to inspire each other, how to do better in the world, not only from a business perspective but a person-

al perspective. When you bring people together at such events, it is about collaboration, new ideas and new programs for people around the world," she says.

Skilled workers needed

As a representative of the Surrey Board of Trade, Huberman



▲ Bonita Zarillo, city counselor, Coquitlam.

will be holding a talk at WEF on education and skills. Businesses, she says, are having a hard time hiring people with the right skills.



▲ Anita Huberman, CEO of the Surrey Board of Trade.

"[There is] a necessity of focusing on ways to capture that, for women to have more opportunities and to be confident about doing so," says Huberman.

According to Huberman, this will become even more relevant in the future, as the workforce is constantly changing, especially in the face of automation. The Surrey Board of Trade has been working together with local universities and manufacturers in B.C. so

that needs on both sides can be matched in order to tackle this problem of skill shortage.

"We want to provide appropriate training programs, whether it is in welding, making machines, or aerospace and we had some success in that," she says.

A focus on women and underrepresented groups

In her talk at WEF, Zarillo will focus more on attitudes and behaviours that lead women to success.

"I want to share the experience of moving from business into local government and I do think we need more women's voices at all levels of government. I hope I can inspire women to consider this as a career option," she says.

Zarillo was appalled by the lack of diversity on her council and that inspired her to change things. Her role within the city council is to remind decision makers about the existence of people who are normally underrepresented, like women or people with disabilities.

"I am constantly putting a gender lens on initiatives and

planning. It is interesting how easy it is to forget about it. [...] It just takes somebody to mention it. It is not until somebody speaks out that people will start thinking about this issue and they will realize it is missing," she says.

This year, WEF collaborated together with the Vancouver International South Asian Film Festival to celebrate stories from countries that are usually not represented by mainstream cinema like India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"It is a wonderful idea to connect the art world with women and leadership. It widens the audience for WEF and I do think that there is a need to bring more people than just those interested in business and the economic forum together because there is also a component of leadership that is important in everyday life. I think it is a wonderful idea and I am looking forward to enjoying some of the films," says Zarillo. ✍

For more information, please visit www.wef.org or follow the conference live on weftv.org.

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evoke feelings of positivity and empowerment, as well as addressing problems and promoting education on crucial issues.

Revitalizing media

"I think the state of media is an in-between place right now where publicly, there's not a lot of trust; there's a lot of talk about fake news," says Brielle Morgan, Discourse Media writer. "But on the flip side, there's a lot of innovation."

Morgan thinks the destruction of the media industry is forcing people to rethink the way journalists have been showing up in communities and what can they do to build trust. She feels people are tired of doom and gloom reporting.

"They're tired of seeing newsroom of white journalists across the country and old white men sitting as editors. I think there's a total re-shaping of our industry happening right now. I think focusing on solutions reporting is a big part of that," says Morgan, who will co-present one of the showcases during MDD 2017.

Fair representation

Rabia Mir, a graduate student in Educational Studies at UBC who was part of the advisory committee for MDD 2017, says that fair representation of different ethnicities is not just a problem for Muslims, but for all marginalized communities. The project she is involved with, Not Just Your Average Muslim, is based on the Muslim Literacy Project.

"For me, it was important to realize it happened to all marginalized communities. We care about it because it's not just a specific issue in itself, because the entire framework is faulty," Mir explains.

Mir started this project because she was disheartened about problematic narratives and ideologies regarding Muslims. She wrote an email, which then turned into an opinion piece, to *The Tyee*. In the letter, she urged her liberal friends to challenge their own assumptions about Muslims.

"I am encouraged by people showing concern, but I am also disturbed by a somewhat reductionist approach it has taken. The hatred and discrimination run much deeper than [Trump's immigration] ban and therefore, should be resisted against as such," she wrote.

When asked to take part in organizing this year's Media Democracy Day, she agreed to the solutions-focused approach in media critique.

"Let's all have a day where instead of being thoroughly depressed about the problems we critique the problems. Let's come together and also highlight some ways to building things to address those problems," she says.

Media as a resource

Christopher Cheung, writer for *The Tyee*, agrees that solutions media is becoming more popular. The publication he works for has been reporting via solutions-media-style for about 10 years. Cheung, one of the presenters at the event, feels solutions are happening all the time behind the scenes but it's not necessarily something that makes the front page. The goal of solutions media is to slow down and take more time to write pieces that can act as a resource.

"We want to be able to create something that's 'evergreen,' so it's content that doesn't really go away and that you can continue to come to if you need a reminder of how an issue works," he says.

Cheung is also looking forward to hearing some optimism at the conference.

"I don't know if anybody knows what's next but there's a lot of new publications that are doing things differently, so the ability to hear about success stories in this industry is a good thing because we don't hear about it very often," he says. ✍

For more information, please visit: www.mediademocracyproject.ca www.vpl.bibliocommons.com/events www.thetyee.ca/Opinion/2017/02/07/Letter-From-Muslim-Woman-For-Liberal-Friends

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'Islamophobia is intertwined with sexism'

by MASHA RADEMAKERS

Canada, often regarded as an inclusive, multicultural haven, has increasingly been the scene of a series of hate crimes against Muslims. This Islamophobia is concerning and based on misperceptions about Muslim people, according to Itrath Syed, PhD candidate in the School of Communication at SFU. She will give a public lecture on *Gendered Islamophobia and Muslim Women's Resistance*, on Nov. 14 at SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts.

The rise of Trumpism has emboldened far right groups across North America to begin a direct hate campaign against ethnic and religious groups. The hate

"Islamophobia is internally intertwined with sexism. There is a particular construction about Muslim women and a particular construction of Muslim masculinity in the heart of it. Women are thus dealing with a double threat: they are seen as a danger, and are at the same time seen as submissive victims," she says.

Despite the increasing tides of Islamophobia, several activist groups and initiatives have started challenging the stereotypical images. One example was the creation of the hashtag #DressCodePM as a response to former PM Stephen Harper who then issued a statement around Muslim woman's clothing being anti-women. Thousands of people questioned his statement by posting pictures in which they

“Women are thus dealing with a double threat: they are seen as a danger, and are at the same time seen as submissive victims.

Itrath Syed, PhD candidate researching the relation between Islamophobia and the media in Canada, post 9/11.

itself is not new, but is presented in a more direct way than before, explains Itrath Syed, who researches the relation between Islamophobia and the media in Canada, post 9/11.

"Muslims have to deal with a lot of daily indignities and experiences of racism. Racial slurs like 'go home' and 'go back to your country' are some examples," she says. "But there is also a more subtle racism going on in the media, in which Muslim women are often seen as victims in need of saving."

According to Syed, the media is not directly using these racial slurs, but is spreading a message framed around a certain idea of Muslims, which instigates Islamophobia.

Moral panics

"In Canada, we have a lot of what I call 'media moral panics,' short instances in which the media is immensely focused on a particular issue. This happened with Bill 62 in Quebec, a newly formulated law that bars people from covering their faces while using public services. These kind of discussions activate a set of ideas about the Muslim community and the way these ideas are presented could inflame Islamophobic ideas," says Syed.

For Syed, however, it is important to define the boundaries of an Islamophobic act or statement.

"I see Islamophobia as a form of racism that targets religious communities, but also targets people assumed to be from that religious community," she says. "An example of this is when Jagmeet Singh, who is now leader of the NDP, was attacked by a woman at a town hall, accusing him with an Islamophobic slur, while he actually identifies as Sikh."

Submissive

As Syed points out, public discourse and the media often reinforce the negative, sometimes conflicting, image many people have about Muslims.

asked him permission to wear certain clothes.

"These are all attempts to raise awareness and to address the stereotypes around Muslim women's lives. But their continuation of life is also a form of resistance. As long as Muslim women continue to be in the world, as long as they work and study and are part of their families and communities, they automatically go against this stereotype," she says.

The recent debate surrounding MP Iqra Khalid's motion (M-103) to condemn Islamophobia revealed how sensitive the topic is in Canada's multicultural society. Khalid received all kinds of hate mail and read the racist accounts aloud on live television.



▲ Itrath Syed, PhD candidate at the School of Communication, SFU.

"It is important to point at this racism, and it is needed to research how these Islamophobic, stereotypical ideas are created," confirms Syed. ✍

Itrath Syed will provide a public lecture on 'Gendered Islamophobia and Muslim Women's Resistance', at SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts on Nov. 14, at 7 p.m. After the lecture, the dialogue will be moderated by Samaah Jaffer, a program assistant in SFU's Vancity Office of Community Engagement. For more information, please go to www.sfu.ca/sfuwoodwards/events.

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Photo by Colleen Addison

A crawl across arts and countries

by COLLEEN ADDISON

Juan Pablo Gonzalez Amaya combines Venezuela with Vancouver, visual arts and music at the Eastside Culture Crawl.

A Venezuelan-born artist, Gonzalez now calls Vancouver home. The influence of both cultures can be found in a new exhibition held as part of the Vancouver Eastside Culture Crawl.

“My mom still lives in [Venezuela], so I know exactly what’s going on in the country,” explains Gonzalez, who moved to Canada in 2008 to pursue studies at the Alberta College of Art and Design in Calgary. “And feeling homesick makes me pull all these things in. [Yet] Canada is my home now too. I’ve been here almost 10 years. I’m a permanent resident; a part of this society.”

Gonzalez showcases this mix of cultures in an exhibition held as part of the Eastside Cultural Crawl, a festival of visual arts, design, and crafts in East Vancouver. The show, a series of paintings depicting cultural and political Canadian and Venezuelan icons, can be viewed at the Artists Resource Centre from Nov. 16–19.

Dual heritage

Gonzalez’s art has come a long way since coming to Canada, he reveals.

“My work used to be very geometric,” he clarifies, speaking about the government-funded abstraction style so popular in his home country. “*The Geometry of Hope* had to do [with] Venezuela [and its] young democracy. It was a moment where all the progress was going on in the region. Everything had to be geometric. It’s all order; it’s progress.”

Since moving to Vancouver, Gonzalez’s art has been influenced by the cultural aspects of the city. Using half-tones with no mixing of colours, he feels that his paintings have that geometric style. However, the geometric influence is lessened by a looser, more curved style.

“[The paintings] don’t have those straight, square handles. Geometry is black and white. There’s no in-between,” he says.

The figures in Gonzalez’s exhibition represent cultural figures such as salsa singer Gustavo Cerati and Amy Winehouse,

linked in Gonzalez’s mind with both Canada and Venezuela and paired with a significant Venezuelan political icon.

“I actually took the eyes of Simon Bolivar from the 100 bolivar bill and blew it up and that’s the image I created,” Gonzalez states, “and it’s particularly interesting because the Venezuelan currency is worth nothing.”

Art, music and food

Cultural fusion is evident in every aspect of the life of Gonzalez, who, as well as being an artist, is also a cook and musician. With his partner, Alexandra, he owns a Venezuelan vegan food cart.

“We’re part of the local food movement. It’s cultural food. It’s vegan cultural food, which is a niche that we invented,” he laughs. “So that’s another area in which I have my tentacles.”

Gonzalez is also a jazz musician who plays swing jazz and gypsy jazz with bands at locations around Vancouver about five days a week. It’s this last interest that will also feature in Gonzalez’s exhibition at the crawl. As befitting a show about musical celebrities, Gonzalez will also have music and musicians at his studio.



Photo by Colleen Addison

▲ Gonzalez’s work combines elements of Vancouver with Venezuela.

“[Last year] I opened my doors to the Crawl and had music playing all weekend, and the people that I played with at the time were involved and it was very relaxed,” says Gonzalez. “We’re doing that again this year with more musicians, more music and more art to show.”

He adds that he is already getting requests.

“We’re really happy to do that because last year the response was really positive,” he says. “My building manager was like, ‘Are you going to have music again this year? It was such a good touch.’”



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Public Service Announcement: November 1 – 15 2017 Free Community Activities

Culture Smart English Conversation Circle

For Newcomers. Join this free conversation circle to practice English. Discuss topics on culture, music, hobbies, current issues and more!

- 🕒 Fridays, until November 17, 1 pm – 3 pm
- 📍 MOSAIC Head Office, 5575 Boundary Road
- ☎ Gerardo 604 254 9626 ext 1022 || gdelapaz@mosaicbc.org

English Conversation Circle for Persian-Speaking Women

Join this free conversation circle for women to improve your English. Persian-speaking volunteer assistants provide support to Persian-speaking women of all English levels. Topics are relevant to everyday life and are chosen by the group.

- 🕒 Tuesdays, until December 19, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
- 📍 MOSAIC Head Office, 5575 Boundary Road
- ☎ Mehrzad 604 254 9626 ext 1013 || msalari@mosaicbc.org

Drop-In English Conversation Circle for Work Permit Holders

- Learn effective communication skills and practice workplace English
- Familiarize yourself with Canadian workplace culture
- Meet new people and have meaningful conversations
- 🕒 Mondays, November 6 & 13, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
- 📍 MOSAIC Head Office, 5575 Boundary Rd, Vancouver
- ☎ Rey 604 438 8214 || rblasco@mosaicbc.org

English Conversation Circle in Burnaby

The core of this workshop will be to practice your speaking and listening skills through active participation. Topics will be based on daily life.

- Guest teacher: Sue Innes
- Criteria: Minimum English Level 2
- 🕒 Fridays, until December 15, 12:45 pm – 2:45 pm
- 📍 MOSAIC 5902 Kingsway, Burnaby
- ☎ Mona 604 438 8214 ext 120 || masmani@mosaicbc.org

Seniors Club: Everyday English Conversation Circle

For Permanent Resident seniors. Learn useful English expressions and practice the spoken English in a comfortable and friendly environment.

- 👤 Volunteers provide support in multiple languages
- 🕒 Thursdays, until December 7, 10 am – 12:00 pm
- 📍 MOSAIC Head Office, 5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver
- ☎ Daisy 604 254 9626 || daisyau@mosaicbc.org

Seniors Club: English Conversation Circle (Beginner)

Learn useful English expressions and practice the spoken English in a comfortable and friendly environment.

- 🕒 Wednesdays, until November 22, 9:30 am – 11:30 am
- 📍 Brentwood Community Resource Centre, 2055 Rosser Ave, Burnaby
- ☎ Eliza or Jennifer 604 438 8214 || echan@mosaicbc.org or jng@mosaicbc.org

Seniors Club: English Conversation Circle (Upper Beginner)

Learn useful English expressions and practice the spoken English in a comfortable and friendly environment.

- 🕒 Mondays, until November 27, 9:30 am – 11:30 am
- 📍 MOSAIC Highgate Office, 310–7155 Kingsway, Burnaby
- 🕒 Fridays, until November 24, 1 pm – 3 pm
- 📍 Brentwood Community Resource Centre, 2055 Rosser Ave, Burnaby
- ☎ Eliza or Jennifer 604 438 8214 || echan@mosaicbc.org or jng@mosaicbc.org

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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.



Inclusive Theatre: The Ridiculous Darkness

by KEVIN VERGEL

Alley theatre, in partnership with Newworld Theatre, presents the North American premiere of *The Ridiculous Darkness* showing from Nov. 11–19 at the ANNEX.

The Ridiculous Darkness is a German radio play by Wolfram Lotz, written as a satirical work influenced by both the film *Apocalypse Now* and *Heart of Darkness*, a novella written by Polish-British novelist Joseph Conrad in 1899.

The play, translated into English by Daniel Brunet won the German Play of the Year and Dramatist of the Year awards since its first stage adaptation in 2015.

Challenging the notion of 'foreign'

The play begins with a Somali man who seeks understanding after being charged with piracy. The show then follows two German soldiers as they struggle with their assumptions of people different from themselves. The final moment of the show leaves the audience with the message that attempting to understand and connect with 'others' is what ultimately keeps the audience sane.

"The play [is] an epic journey into what we consider 'foreign,' and it challenges people's perceptions of it," says co-director Nyla Carpentier. "It's a ridiculous time in the world. Makes

sense to put on a play that reflects the issues as well as bring people together."

Bringing Vancouver together

Representatives throughout the Vancouver community get to participate and even perform alongside the cast. Community participants include Theatre Terrific, Tetsu Taiko, Richmond Youth Honour Realwheels Theatre, and the East Van Powwow Crew, among others. Thirty percent of revenues will be go to these participating organizations.



▲ Members of the Ridiculous Darkness cast.

The idea of collaborating with the community came from the New York Public Theatre's Public Works program, which produces one play annually created by and for New York residents to celebrate the diversity of the city.

"Marisa (Emma Smith, co-director) and I witnessed a production that was co-created and performed by a wide variety of professional actors, community members, and performance groups. It was such a powerful and transformative experience that we wanted to make a similar creation with and for our own city. An exploration of how to connect across boundaries of difference," says actor Daniel Arnold, who, with members of the Vancouver community, adapted the play.

Colour blind stories

Actor Munish Sharma described *The Ridiculous Darkness* as "Inclusive and interactive theatre."

"It's very progressive in what it's doing. Through the forty cast members it does its best to be colour blind in casting and not perform the same archetypes in theatre. It does its best to honour the idea of making more inclusive theatre, it's a 'world play.' Using the narrative it shows how people's stories are all similar and that we can all learn from each other," says Sharma.

The production also aims to be a different kind of interac-



Photo by Wendy Dee

▲ The Ridiculous Darkness explores the necessity to understand one another.

tive experience for the audience.

"We try to create a world unlike any we've experienced. The production makes the audience involved by placing them in the physical playground that is our stage," says Carpentier.

But audiences are not go-

ing to be asked to come on the stage and perform.

"The show builds the audience into the world, so they get to experience the show like you're in the world," says Sharma. ✎

For more information, please visit www.alleytheatre.ca.

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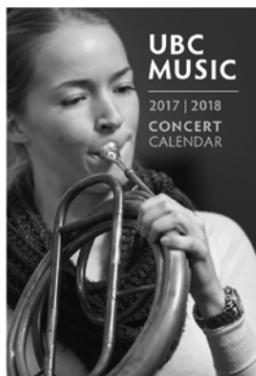
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Celebrating Milestones, New Faces and Special Guests with the UBC School of Music 2017-2018 Concert Season

Vancouver - The UBC School of Music announces the 2017-2018 season of performances and special events by our ensembles, faculty, and guest artists. This year we are both celebrating past milestones and welcoming the future, including our new faculty member, distinguished clarinetist **Jose Franch-Ballester**.

80 · 70 · 50 · 20

80 Years

It's a big birthday year for UBC Music Professor Emeritus **Robert Silverman**. The School helps him mark this milestone with two performances: as concerto soloist with the **UBC Symphony Orchestra** on November 10, and as recital soloist in the **Wednesday Noon Hour** series on February 28, 2018. Looking to the future and the next generation of performers, we are delighted to announce the founding of **The Robert and Ellen Silverman Piano Concerto Competition at UBC**. The inaugural competition will be held in Roy Barnett Recital Hall on March 2, 2018.

70 Years

In 1947, the first academic courses were offered in the **new Department of Music**. In the earliest years, celebrated Canadian violinist **Harry Adaskin** (first department head at UBC) and pianist **Frances Marr Adaskin** began giving concerts at noon on Wednesdays, a tradition that has evolved into the current concert series.

50 Years

The Music Building opened in 1967. Our **Wednesday Noon Hour** series celebrates this anniversary throughout the year, starting with a special season launch concert on September 20. This concert features performances by **Terence Dawson piano**, **Eric Wilson, Laine Longton**, and **Oskar Falta cello**, accompanied by a chamber orchestra conducted by **Jonathan Girard**.

20 Years

The **Chan Centre** is celebrating its 20th anniversary with their own special season of concerts. The School of Music is pleased to salute this magnificent hall and important anniversary all season, including a celebration concert: **20 Years of Opera at the Chan Centre** with the **UBC Opera Ensemble** on April 3rd.

New Faces and Special Guests

New UBC School of Music faculty member and acclaimed Spanish-born clarinetist **Jose Franch-Ballester** will be featured as concerto soloist with **UBC Bands** on February 9, featured in the **Music on the Point** concert in a Mozart quintet with the **Borealis String Quartet** on October 20, and in a **Wednesday Noon Hour** concert with **Keith Hamel electronics** on January 31.

Special guest **UBC President Prof. Santa J. Ono** will join the **UBC Symphony Orchestra** as the narrator for Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, under the baton of conductor **Jonathan Girard** on December 2. The concert also includes works by Poulenc and Stravinsky.

On March 31, **UBC Choirs** and **UBC Symphony Orchestra** perform Bach's masterpiece *St John Passion*, conducted by **Graeme Langager** with guest **Derek Chester** as the Evangelist. This magnificent work is a fitting finale for a year that both honours the past and looks forward to the future.

A PDF of the entire season and up-to-date online event listings are available at www.music.ubc.ca.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA





Photo by Danylo Babiyk

Raucous camaraderie: collectif9 puts their own spin on classical music

by CURTIS SEUFERT

On Nov. 12, collectif9, a Montreal-based nine-piece string band, will take the stage at the Kay Meek Centre in West Vancouver to perform their latest acoustic concert entitled *VolksMusica*. The band has found a performative middle-ground between the intimate and the grand, aiming to share an engaging, entertaining approach to classical music.

It has been more than 10 years since Thibault Bertin-Maghit studied music performance, and even longer since he first picked up the double-bass at the age of 18. But before the bassist for collectif9 began playing classical music profes-

sionally, he played in bands as a teenager in France, where he grew up.

Bertin-Maghit says the kind of companionship he found

than a typical string quartet, but fewer than most chamber music ensembles.

“There was really this feeling of camaraderie – where

ferent for the classical music audiences,” says Stewart. “It’s not its own visual interest, but we’re actually using it to highlight different parts of the

past few years,” says Bertin-Maghit.

The collectif9 will rehearse with the high school students and perform with them afterwards.

This will not be the first time that collectif9 has brought on students and other performers either. Whether it be six-year-olds playing guitar or amateur adult fiddle players, Stewart says the collective tries to bring on other musicians as much as possible.

“We do it whenever we can, honestly it’s really fun for us to do,” says Stewart. “It’s educational, but not in terms of us coming in and teaching someone how to play, but really letting people come up on stage and experience it.”

Stewart says the collective musical process gave the group its name – the camaraderie and shared experience of music is what drives the nine-piece ensemble.

“Every time you play music with someone else, you learn something different every time we get to go and do that with anyone, we learn something, and we hope that they learn something,” says Stewart. “But sometimes you learn something about yourself, or about the audience, or about the community. It’s a win-win all around.”

For more information, please visit the following sites: kaymeek.com www.collectif9.ca

“So the idea was to bring the classical repertoire and the energy and vibe you get from a non-classical concert [together] to create this camaraderie vibe onstage with eight other people.

Thibault Bertin-Maghit, musician

in those bands isn’t always found in larger string orchestras, which prompted him to create the unique size of collectif9: nine members, more

you feel there’s a lot of energy on stage and communication with the audience,” says Bertin-Maghit. “It doesn’t feel the same way in the classical context usually. So the idea was to bring the classical repertoire and the energy and vibe you get from a non-classical concert [together] to create this camaraderie vibe onstage with eight other people.”

It’s not just the size of the band that differentiates collectif9 from other classical ensembles. The group also uses lighting and amplification to put on a rock-like audio and visual show. Andrea Stewart, cellist for collectif9, says the result is a more immersive experience than a typical classical performance.

“We try to make a whole experience with the concert, and I think that’s one of the things that makes it a little bit dif-

ferent for the classical music audiences,” says Stewart. “It’s not its own visual interest, but we’re actually using it to highlight different parts of the

Bringing classical to the masses

On this tour, the ensemble is performing classical pieces from composers such as Ligeti, Shostakovich and Bartok, all of whom have drawn some influence from folk music, hence the name of the show, *VolksMusica*. For this particular stop in West Vancouver, however, the nine-piece band will be bringing on a few more performers for a Bartok arrangement.

“There’s [are going to] be nine string students. We’re going to do a workshop on a Bartok piece and they’re going to come play onstage with us for the concert because we love doing stuff like this, and we’ve done it a few times in the



Photo by Danylo Babiyk

▲ The collective camaraderie of nine musicians.



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Memoirs of a Romanian Canadian painter

by NAOMI TSE

After working as an artist for seven decades, Pnina Granirer has released a memoir, *Light Within the Shadows*, to chronicle her life as an artist.

She will be holding an artist's talk and book launch in conjunction with her exhibit for the Jewish Book Festival on Nov. 16.

Establishing herself as an artist

As an artist, Granirer enjoys working with mixed media: from charcoal to acrylics and oil, as well as using feathers and leaves or other items to create textures in her work.

Early on in her career, Granirer says she was influenced by different artists and took a while to find her voice.

"I was never interested in trends and doing things in fashion," says Granirer, 83.

She learned painting in series that followed a theme helped her focus her work since she was working with so many different elements.

"I would get an idea and develop it, and as long as it was still challenging and fresh, I would keep going; and when I knew I was repeating myself, I would stop and look for a dif-

ferent idea," says Granirer. "It was a very panicky moment: will I ever get another idea?"

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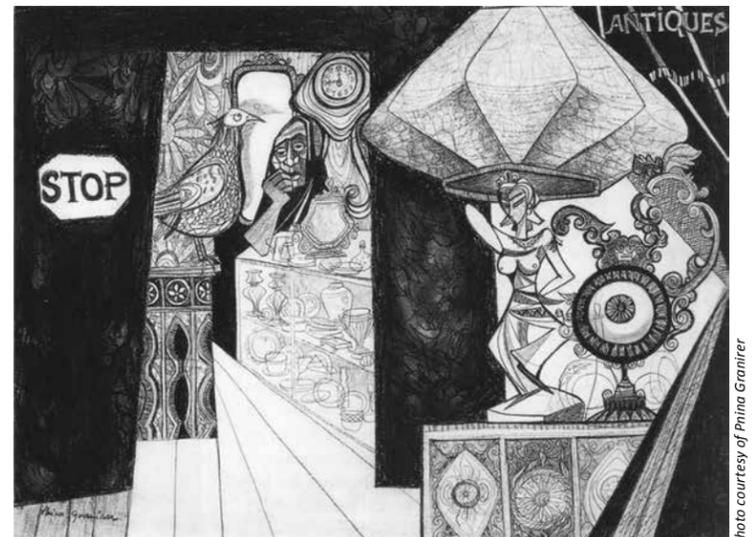
ferent idea," says Granirer. "It was a very panicky moment: will I ever get another idea?"

ferent idea," says Granirer. "It was a very panicky moment: will I ever get another idea?"

A new challenge

Five years ago, Granirer decided to stop painting and focus on writing her memoir. In her previous writing attempts, she had found herself distracted by painting and found the writing difficult to pick up again where she left off. For Granirer, writing was another way for her to be creative.

"I realized how different writing was from painting. When you see a painting, you see it in its entirety and you can spend



▲ *Antiques*, a painting by Pnina Granirer.



▲ Pnina Granirer, Canadian painter and writer who has recently released her memoir *Light Within the Shadows*.

ferent idea," says Granirer. "It was a very panicky moment: will I ever get another idea?"

"In the establishment of the art, they like to categorize you. I always hated to be categorized and I always thought that being different was an asset, but it's not," says Granirer.

Granirer is from Romania and grew up under two com-

as much time as you want with it; but you need a certain amount of time to listen to a piece of music or [to] read a book," says Granirer.

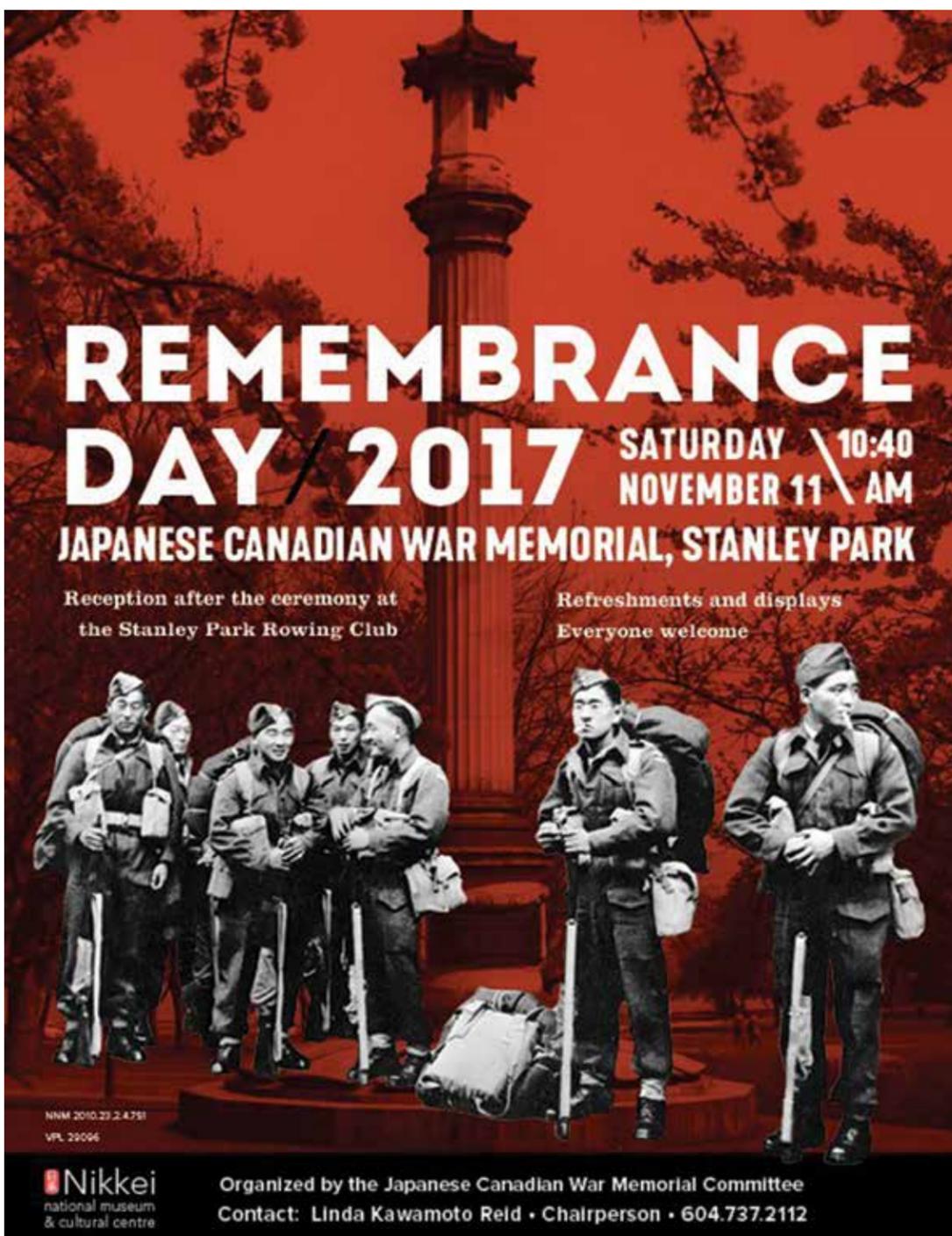
The book is written in the style of a play with three acts. The first act recounts her time growing up in Romania; the second act follows her life in Israel; and the last act is about her life in America and Canada.

As someone who likes to experiment and try new things, Granirer found writing to be a new challenge.

Granirer doesn't like to sound preachy but humbly hopes readers will feel that "one must never lose hope and that humour helps one to cope with life in dire circumstances."

Granirer says her exhibit at the Sidney and Gertrude Zack Gallery will be like a retrospective. Most of the pieces featured will be from her book. There will also be pieces that she's never shown before, including some from her time as a student in Jerusalem.

For more information, please visit www.jccgv.com/content/jcc-cultural-arts.



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Cultural Calendar

November 7–21, 2017

by SIMON YEE

I hope everyone is having a great November so far. The weather may be cold and wet, but there is still much to see and do this month. Honour our veterans and fallen soldiers at a Remembrance Day ceremony, get cultured at an art exhibit, attend a movie festival, watch some live performances and, for the men, grow out your facial hair for Movember awareness. From film festivals, craft markets and fan expos to theatrical plays, art exhibits and environmental lectures, there's something for everyone! Here are a few events to mark down on your calendar.

Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival Fall Series

Nov. 7–10
Rio Theatre, Vancouver & Centennial Theatre, North Vancouver
www.vimff.org

This outdoor and mountaineering-themed film festival has been promoting active lifestyles on the cinematic screen since 1998, featuring films that inspire and educate audiences about life at high altitudes. Watch alpine enthusiasts, skiers and adventure climbers scale the tallest cliffs, perform extreme skiing on some of the trickiest mountains and traverse snowy landscapes. Check out the festival website for tickets and showtimes.

Circle Craft Market

Nov. 8–12
Vancouver Convention Centre West
www.circlecraft.net

Circle Craft is dedicated to providing opportunities for craftspeople to connect with the community. Formed in 1972, Circle Craft has grown to become a major force in the marketing and promotion of quality craft utilizing a "direct from the artist" approach. Generations of locals and visitors have attended and enjoyed a market where they come face-to-face with fine BC and Canadian artisans and their work: wood-turners, glassblowers, sculptors and potters, clothing and jewellery designers, toy-makers and many more. For tickets and a complete list of artisans, check out the Circle Craft website.

Fan Expo Vancouver

Nov. 10–12
Vancouver Convention Centre
www.fanexpovancouver.com

Pop culture extravaganza Fan Expo returns to the Vancouver Convention Centre this month, featuring autographs and photo ops with celebrities, exclusive merchandise, cosplay sessions, workshops, exhibits and more! Watch your favourite comic artist produce their comics live, go behind the scenes in a brainstorming session with sci-fi screenwriters, and meet and greet cast members from some of the latest animes, web series and TV shows airing today. Check out their website for tickets and more information.



Photo by Michael, Flickr

▲ Cosplayers will abound at this year's Fan Expo.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Nov. 11
Various locations throughout Canada
www.legionbcyukon.ca

Ninety-nine years ago this month, the First World War ended. The Great War, or the War to End All Wars, as it was called at the time, was one of the deadliest conflicts in human history. Today, Canadians hold Remembrance Day ceremonies on Nov. 11 in order to commemorate and honour the sacrifices Canadian soldiers made in the name of freedom. There are many Remembrance Day ceremonies held in municipalities throughout Metro Vancouver. To find a ceremony near you, please check out the Royal Canadian Legion website.

Only Drunks and Children Tell the Truth

Nov. 11–Dec. 2
Firehall Arts Centre, Vancouver
www.firehallartscentre.ca

The Firehall Arts Centre will be producing and presenting *Only Drunks and Children Tell the Truth*, a play by celebrated indigenous playwright Drew Hayden Taylor. Taylor's play is the gripping account of the "Sixties Scoop," a painful chapter in Canadian history in which indigenous children were taken from their homes, their communities and their culture, and placed with non-indigenous families, without the consent of their parents. The play presents a devastatingly truthful production and an unforgettable piece of Canadian theatre that deals with themes of abandonment, reconciliation, identity and cultural dissonance. Check out the website for tickets and more information.

Sam Sullivan's Public Salon

Nov. 15, 7:30–9 p.m.
Vancouver Playhouse
www.publicsalon.org

The 29th Public Salon presented by former Vancouver mayor Sam Sullivan will be taking place at the Vancouver Playhouse on Nov. 15. This Vancouver tradition presents public policy ideas from prominent Vancouverites and promotes public discussion of them. Over 200 outstanding citi-

zens have presented their ideas for public discourse over the past five years. This salon features a theatre professor, a fertility expert, a sculptor and a clean energy entrepreneur. For tickets and more information, please check out the website.

East Side Culture Crawl

Nov. 16–19
Various locations in the Downtown Eastside, Vancouver
www.culturecrawl.ca

Over 500 artists will be opening their studios to the public for four days as part of the East Side Culture Crawl visual art festival. Emerging and internationally established artists will be demoing their artistic processes: watch textile artists build organic vats, glass blowers create glass sculptures, clay makers mold chalices on the potter's wheel and stump artists use their chainsaws to carve artistic wood figurines.



Photo by Karen Lee

▲ Preparing for the East Side Cultural Crawl.

Peter and the Starcatcher

Various dates between Nov. 16–25
BlueShore at the Cap, North Vancouver
www.capilanou.ca/blueshorefinancialcentre

Visit the world of Neverland as you've never seen it before in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, a prequel adaptation to J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* playing at the BlueShore Centre at Capilano University. Based on the prequel novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson, this adaptation shows how Peter

Pan got his name, how he met Tinkerbell and how he came to Neverland. It's a rollicking tale of friendship, daring and the search for the leader in us all. For tickets and showtimes, please check out Capilano's website.

FACT-O: Focus on Deep Ocean and Biodiversity

Nov. 17, 5:30–8 p.m.
Beaty Biodiversity Museum, University of British Columbia
www.beatymuseum.ubc.ca

The French Ameri-Can Climate Talks – Oceans (FACT-O) will be traveling to Vancouver to hold a conference highlighting the impact of climate change on the biodiversity in deep oceans from the perspectives of France and Canada. The oceans play a major role in the functioning of the climate system and in return they suffer the effects of climate change, such as sea level rise and acidification. The degradations driven by human activities, such as overfishing and oil extraction pollution, have also contributed. These talks and workshops bring together scientists, representatives of NGOs and institutions in charge of ocean protection to disseminate knowledge, share experiences and foster Franco-Canadian partnerships.



Photo courtesy of Hopscotch Festival

▲ Raise your glass to the Hopscotch Festival.

West Coast Christmas Show & Artisan Marketplace

Nov. 17–19
Tradex – Fraser Valley Trade &

Exhibition Centre, Abbotsford
www.westcoastchristmasshow.com

Want to get your Christmas shopping done early? Why not come down to the Tradex Centre in Abbotsford for the West Coast Christmas Show? Check out holiday knick-knacks, décor ideas, hand-crafted toys and ornaments at the artisan market. Children can learn model making, decorate and bake Christmas cookies, and listen to storybook time at Santa's Workshop. Plus, there will be plenty of live family entertainment, festive foods, and presentations and demonstrations on all three days.

The Fabric of Our Land

Nov. 19, 2017–April 15, 2018
Museum of Anthropology, University of British Columbia
www.moa.ubc.ca

For generations Salish peoples have been harvesting the resources of their territories, transforming them into robes of rare beauty and power. Symbols of identity, they acted as legal documents and were visible signifiers of the presence of knowledge holders and respected people. This exhibit by UBC's MOA from Nov. 19 to April 15 is an opportunity to see the unique design of Salish blankets up close and to learn the rich history and significance of weaving in this region. The exhibition takes you on a journey through the past two hundred years of Salish weaving from the early 1800s through to today's vibrant renaissance.



Photo courtesy of MOA

▲ Salish blankets on display at the Museum of Anthropology.

Hopscotch Festival

Nov. 20–26
Various locations
www.hopscotchfestival.com

The 22nd annual Hopscotch Festival will be in Vancouver from Nov. 20–26, featuring some of Cana-

da's premium whiskeys, beers and spirits available for tasting. This festival will also host live entertainment, delicious dinners, distillery tours, BBQ parties and master (tasting) classes.