



Who am I?
Page 3

Fostering literacy, offering opportunity

by KATY THOMPSON

Literacy is a skill that opens the doors to opportunity for Canadians and increases their chances of success in the modern world. Organizations such as Decoda Literacy Solutions in Vancouver show their commitment to literacy and learning through their work in the community.

Decoda Literacy Solutions was born on May 30, 2011 as a result of the partnering of two local literacy organizations: Literacy BC and the literacy department of 2010 Legacies Now. Literacy BC had previously offered training, resources, tools, and support for adult literacy, while the literacy department worked with the Province of British Columbia to help develop literacy in communities across the province. Decoda continues the efforts of both organizations, providing resources, training, and community-based literacy programs to over 400 communities province-wide.

"Our mission is to increase the literacy and learning skills of children and families, youth, adults and seniors to improve their quality of life at home, at work and in the community," says Margaret Sutherland, executive director of Decoda Literacy Solutions.

Literacy Month events

This year marks Decoda's 5th Annual Literacy Month. The B.C. literacy organization will be putting on a number of activities in September based on their theme, Fostering Literacy.



Among Decoda's key initiatives include a Literacy Matters Fact Sheet and Infographic, a Fostering Literacy Tips Calendar featuring tips on ways to nurture literacy for each day of the month, and a Celebrate Literacy Month Contest. Decoda staff will also be offering tips on ways to foster literacy at home and in the community during public service announcements aired on CBC Vancouver throughout the month.

"Our vision is a British Columbia where everyone has the literacy skills they need," says Sutherland. B.C. mayors and city coun-

cils will also be making Literacy Month proclamations, and B.C. landmark buildings will commemorate International Literacy Day on September 8th by lighting up purple.

"Purple is the colour for literacy," says Sutherland. "We are encouraging everyone to #PutOnYourPurple and upload a picture on Twitter or Facebook, using the hashtags #PutOnYourPurple, #FosteringLiteracy and #LiteracyMonth."

More than words

Literacy can be defined in part as having aptitudes for reading, writing and oral communication.

As Sutherland explains, however, literacy also encompasses some skill sets that are less commonly associated with the term, including numeracy and technology skills.

"Essentially, literacy is a set of skills we use every day to get things done," says Sutherland. "Literacy affects every aspect of our lives."

For example, Sutherland states that individuals with stronger literacy skills tend to be healthier due to their better understanding of health information and consequent ability

See "Literacy" page 4 >

Verbatim

The move to Canada

by PRASHANT BHARDWAJ

One day I came home from work and opened my Gmail to find the golden email from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) – a request to submit my passport at the nearest Canadian High Commission. Finally, a new adventure was about to unfold. I was going to be a Permanent Resident in Canada (Kanedaaaa!). I left my job and spent a few months with my parents and friends in India, all this while packing and preparing myself for the BIG move. I was feeling somewhat anxious, a little excited and a tiny bit scared too. But the adventurer in me had high hopes, and as always, those hopes were overwhelming every other feeling.

After almost a 14-hour flight from New Delhi and a 3-hour stopover at London Heathrow, I landed in Vancouver on September 10, 2017. A new land, new people and just two familiar faces, a cousin and a childhood friend, both of whom I hadn't talked to for ages. Some would call me courageous; some a fool. I guess there's a thin line between the two, and honestly, I too sometimes get confused on which side I stand. Anyway, both my cousin and friend helped me set up things and find a place to live. Things were going fine but then came the test of survival, "The Pursuit of Happiness" turning point in my life. I was spending through my life's hard-earned savings in what seemed like an instant. It was time to search for a job. I looked through Craigslist, various job sites and career pages of known companies in my field of work and applied to them all hoping to get a response and land an interview from at least one, but strangely, things didn't go as planned. And I had no idea what it was that was keeping me from getting a job or an interview call.

I have more than two years of experience working for an

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Raw talent,
zen spirit
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Under Paris Skies: La Musique d'Edith Piaf

"As Piaf, Edie Daponte gives everything to us on stage. The performance is magnificent! Bravo! La mome, Edith Piaf would be pleased with this remarkable homage"
Dominique Wozniack,
La Societe Francophone de Victoria



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Cultural Spotlight



Photo courtesy of Michael Schwartz

▲ High Holiday meeting of the Drora Executive, B'nai B'rith Girls, Vancouver, BC, circa 1966. Cindy Wine in foreground, blowing the shofar. Seated, L-R: Antoinette Wertman, Debby Freiman, Jacquie Goldberg, and Wendy Fouks.

A sweet and Jewish September

by COLLEEN ADDISON

Sept. 9 marks the beginning of the three-day Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. It's a time when connections are strengthened, when Jews think about how ties bind them to others in Jewish society and to the environment sustaining that society, says Michael Schwartz.

"New Year's in a secular culture is just 'get drunk and dance,' pure celebration," says Schwartz, a long-time member of Vancouver's Jewish community and director of community engagement at the Jewish Museum and Archive of British Columbia. In the Jewish New Year, by contrast, "there's a thread of environmentalism, of social justice."

The New Year is a great time to consider how the next year can be better, says Schwartz.

A month of holidays

Rosh Hashanah marks the start of a full September of Jewish holidays, Schwartz continues. Ten days after Rosh Hashanah, Vancouver's Jews will celebrate Yom Kippur, the biggest celebration in the Jewish calendar, while, later, Jews have Sukkot, the harvest festival and a big community feast. The whole month is a time when social ties in the Jewish community are reinforced, but the ten days between the New Year and Yom Kippur are special.

"You're supposed to be going through this period of reflection," Schwartz says. "If you feel you've wronged someone or things ended on a sour note, then you have to reach out and try to smooth the waters because you're not allowed to come before God until you've made your peace with the humans in this world."

During Rosh Hashanah's religious service, members of the congregation gather to pray and blow the shofar, a ram's horn that was once used as a tool for village-to-village communication.

"It's made exactly the way they did it 3000 years ago," marvels



Photo by Ryan Jones

▲ Michael Schwartz, a long time member of the Jewish community here in Vancouver.

Schwartz. "You can imagine the messenger of the community going up to the hilltop and blowing this horn that would have echoed for miles."

These days the whole community joins in. "Members of the congregation will go up to the bimah, the pulpit. Most everyone receives a shofar for their Bar Mitzvah," says Schwartz.

"It'll start with people blasting and one by one they'll drop off until there's two people going head to head. Last year the rabbi's son who's eight was the last one standing, still going after a guy who's a professional musician had faded out. It's fun."

Apples in honey

The ram's horn is significant for another reason, Schwartz says. It's made from an animal, signifying the link Jewish people feel with nature. "In the very earliest days, Jewish society was agrarian," Schwartz explains. "It was very connected to the land. It works nicely to have Rosh Hashanah in the fall, because it does feel with the weather and the environment, like an ending and a beginning. Summer's coming to a close. We're entering into the fall, an inside time, a reflective time."

As a celebration of their connection with the earth, Jews at Rosh Hashanah eat treats made from natural products, apples with honey and challah. "Apples in honey bring about a sweet new year," says Schwartz. "Apples are in season and honey is from bees, from nature. We're the stewards of this land. If we do a good job, we get to have sweet things, like honey."

The eating of challah, or egg bread, is important both for reasons of the community and the environment. "Part of the meaning is that God gives us wheat, but we can't do anything with it without our labour," Schwartz comments. "Grain to bread requires people, requires us to use our hands [together]."

But challah is also a present from the earth. "[It's] symbolic of our general relationship to the world. We're given this beautiful blue ball with all of its treasures, but we're responsible for it." ❧

A great opportunity for Vancouver area singers

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Current members live throughout the metro region, with many serving as conductors, music educators, and/or professional singers and players in their communities.

Weekly rehearsals are held on Thursdays from September to May, with occasional weekend events/concerts and additional dress rehearsals as required.

For more information, please email the director, Fiona Blackburn at fiona@fonablackburn.com. If you do not receive a response within 48 hours, please email pacificasingers@vancouverchamberchoir.com to ensure your message is received.

Please forward to any singers who may be interested

Pacifica Singers is an Associate Choir of the Vancouver Chamber Choir

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Exploring Muslim youth identities and their sense of belonging in Canada

by OZLEM SULEYMAN

With the growing number of Muslims in Canadian schools, Neila Miled, a PhD Candidate of the Faculty of Education at UBC, explores how Muslim youth negotiate their identities as Muslims and Canadians. She looks at how they express their sense of belonging in Canada, particularly in Metro Vancouver.

Miled was born and raised in Tunisia, a Muslim country with a secular culture. She started her career as an English teacher in Dubai, an Islamic non-secular city. She was perplexed at the different Islamic interpretations in the regions.

"I was raised in a country where you don't have to wear the veil. It doesn't mean that you are not a Muslim if you don't wear the veil," says Miled. "I was raised in a country that didn't have polygamy. These policies are based on different interpretation of Islam."

Diversity in Islam

Miled delves into diversity among Muslim youth from an intersectional perspective: sex, gender, social class, socio-economic class, education, and country of origin.

"The purpose of my work is to resist the homogenization of what we call 'Muslims,'" Miled

explains. "When I say 'intersectional perspective' I mean we need to see how the multiple (axes) of identities are different."

A recent Canadian survey asked Muslims if they felt more "Muslim" or "Canadian."

"As if we cannot be both," Miled expresses. "This is what pushed me to explore first of all how school experiences impact these Muslim youth."

Miled is exploring how these experiences affect the students (who are between 14 and 19 years old) both inside and outside school and how they impact their sense of belonging in Canada and their "Canadianness." Miled found that sometimes religion becomes an invisible marker of a student's identity.

"If you talk to a Somali woman, she will tell you, 'I am excluded because I am black, not only because I am Muslim,'" explains Miled.

According to Miled, the religious identity of a Muslim white woman from a region like Sarajevo is one of invisibility. She is never perceived as a Muslim; therefore, her experience with peers, teachers, and activities outside and inside the school is completely different from an obviously visible Muslim woman.

"There is [also] a huge difference between the students who

were born in Canada or who were young [when they came] to Canada," Miled says.

The Muslim students born in Canada speak English fluently. She also points out that the experiences and lives of Muslim refugees coming to Canada have been impacted by the political environment and the media.

Photo voice project: Can the displaced speak?

During her project, Miled noticed a group of refugee and new immigrant Muslim girls with limited English language skills. To include

these girls in her research, Miled came up with the photo voice project, an art project that uses photography to promote discussions surrounding any topic.

"[It is] especially used with marginalized communities," she says. "I wanted the experience of research to inspire these young people, and especially the young girls, to appreciate and to know the value of knowledge and edu-



Photo courtesy of Neila Miled

▲ A photo that was taken by one participant to express that Muslim women are silenced and they are only perceived in relation to their religious identity.

cation," says Miled. "They took photos and then we started talking about these photos, and what they mean to them. It was an amazing experience. I had very good feedback."

The school had an exhibition at the end of the year.

"This group of girls who were very excluded in that corner of the school became the centre stage of the school," Miled

describes. "They felt that they belonged to the school because they became contributing agents in the school. They became people whose experiences are important."

Miled wanted to bring a changing experience to her participants during the process of her research.

"I didn't want to just be the researcher who comes, does the interview, and then writes the findings in papers that most of the time the participants themselves don't read," Miled says. "I would urge that we try to do research with youth using participatory methods that would encourage them to speak about their experiences and the way they want to be seen and perceived."

Miled suggests that we need to move beyond simpler forms of identification and try to understand the more complex reality for these students.

"The question is not if they see themselves as a Canadian, because they see themselves as Canadians and Muslims in most cases, but do we see them as Canadians? Does the system see them as Canadians?" says Miled. ✍

For more information, visit www.grad.ubc.ca/campus-community/meet-our-students/miled-neila

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Sofia
Meryem Benm'barek – Morocco/France/Qatar
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MAR. 9 OCT	21h	INTL VILLAGE 9
JEU. 11 OCT	13h45	INTL VILLAGE 9

À Casablanca, une jeune femme de 20 ans Sofia (nouvelle venue Maha Alemi, excellente) a un bébé sans vouloir nommer le père et doit faire face aux conséquences imposées par sa famille en quête de statut social et la société marocaine dans son ensemble, qui considère encore les relations sexuelles hors-mariage comme un crime. Ce premier long métrage de Meryem Benm'barek, superbement écrit et interprété par ses acteurs, lève le voile sur l'hypocrisie sur laquelle est fondée la culture patriarcale du Maroc. « Le scénario sobre et nuancé de Meryem Benm'barek décortique astucieusement l'hypocrisie des classes au sein de la société marocaine. » —Variety



Doubles Vies
Olivier Assayas – France

SAM. 6 OCT	15h	CENTRE FOR ARTS
JEU. 11 OCT	18h15	CENTRE FOR ARTS

Olivier Assayas, réalisateur très apprécié au VIFF (12 de ses films ont été présentés au festival, depuis *Une nouvelle vie*, VIFF 93, à *Personal Shopper*, VIFF 16), porte son regard sur le monde de l'édition et les perturbations que lui cause l'ère numérique dans ce drame relationnel qui met en vedette Juliette Binoche et Guillaume Canet. Lui, éditeur dépassé par les nouvelles pratiques alors que sonne le glas de l'imprimé, et elle comédienne lassée de son métier - et sans doute de sa relation. Le film intelligent d'Olivier Assayas qui s'adresse aux esprits raisonneurs en dit long sur notre mode de vie actuel.



En guerre
Stéphane Brizé – France

MER. 3 OCT	16h15	INTL VILLAGE 10
LUN. 8 OCT	16h30	PLAYHOUSE

Le drame syndical de Stéphane Brizé démarre sur fond de crise : une grève sévit, les employés d'une usine française s'opposent à leur équipe de direction majoritairement allemande. Le leader syndical, Laurent (Vincent Lindon), essaie de garder ses camarades unis, mais les ouvriers sont tiraillés entre le pragmatisme et les principes... Stéphane Brizé excelle dans son évocation de la violence, comme d'ailleurs le superbe Vincent Lindon, tout en insistant sur le fait que le corps humain est un très bon moyen de donner leur dû aux droits syndicaux. *En guerre* est un film à la fois éprouvant et captivant.



Coincoin et les Z'inhumains
Bruno Dumont – France

SAM. 6 OCT	19h	VANCITY
LUN. 8 OCT	10h30	VANCITY

De l'esprit délicieusement dérangé de Bruno Dumont nous arrive cette farce démente, qui fait suite à sa mini-série de 2014 *P'tit Quinquin*, et nous permet de retrouver sa bande de marginaux. Composée de quatre épisodes loufoques de 52 minutes chacune (la série est présentée en une seule projection), *Coincoin* suit son protagoniste devenu adolescent (Aïane Delhaye) qui enquête sur un nouveau mystère sur la Côte d'Opale : quel est ce magma extraterrestre qui s'est mis soudainement à tomber du ciel, et d'où vient-il?



La Prière
Cédric Kahn – France

MAR. 2 OCT	19h	INTL VILLAGE 9
JEU. 4 OCT	10h45	SFU-GCA

À la suite d'une overdose, Thomas (Anthony Bajon, prix du meilleur acteur à Berlin), héroïnomane de 22 ans, est envoyé dans un refuge catholique dans les montagnes pour un sevrage radical. S'y retrouvant parmi un groupe d'anciens toxicomanes, il sait qu'il doit faire des choix difficiles... La réalisation vigoureuse de Cédric Kahn (*L'Ennuï*) est un plaisir à regarder, mais c'est l'interprétation remarquable du jeune comédien qui donne au film son cœur et son âme. « Cédric Kahn nous revient en pleine forme et sans fioritures avec cette étude poignante et dépourvue de sensiblerie. » —Variety



La Douleur
Emmanuel Finkiel – France/Belgique

SAM. 6 OCT	21h30	INTL VILLAGE 10
LUN. 8 OCT	15h45	INTL VILLAGE 9

Mélanie Thierry joue le rôle de Marguerite Duras dans ce film d'époque réalisé par Emmanuel Finkiel, qui fonde ce drame palpitant sur les mémoires de Duras qui décrivent la vie sous l'occupation des nazis. Le mari de Duras, le soldat de la résistance Robert Antelme, est capturé et elle joue un jeu dangereux du chat et de la souris avec un policier/collaborateur (Benoît Magimel) pour tenter de le faire libérer... « Mélanie Thierry est absolument irrésistible et convaincante du début à la fin, dans un rôle sans glamour mais d'une grande sensualité... » Hollywood Reporter



Shéhérazade
Jean-Bernard Marlin – France

MER. 3 OCT	12h15	INTL VILLAGE 9
VEN. 5 OCT	21h	INTL VILLAGE 9

Lauréat du Prix Jean Vigo en juin pour le meilleur premier long métrage de l'année passée en France, le drame « tranche de vie » de Jean-Bernard Marlin à propos d'une histoire d'amour dans la violence des rues de Marseille, rappelle le néoréalisme italien avec ses acteurs non professionnels et ses quartiers mal fréquentés. KENZA FORTAS, qui incarne la coriace adolescente prostituée Shéhérazade, est une véritable découverte. Ayant grandi à Marseille, Jean-Bernard Marlin a façonné « un portrait ultra-réaliste de la délinquance juvénile... Et une histoire d'amour surprenante et absolument séduisante de surcroît... » —Cineuropa



Ville Neuve
Félix Dufour-Laperrière – Canada

VEN. 28 SEPT	21h30	CINÉMATHEQUE
SAM. 29 SEPT	13h	INTL VILLAGE 8

Le premier long métrage de Félix Dufour-Laperrière raconte l'histoire de Joseph (Robert Lalonde), sur fond le référendum de 1995 sur l'indépendance du Québec. Robert est un romancier amoché et dissident politique qui relance sa relation avec son ex-femme Emma (Johanne-Marie Tremblay) dans une cabane isolée sur la côte de l'Atlantique. Utilisant superbement un style d'animation monochromatique, *Ville Neuve* est une étude envoûtante d'une crise personnelle et collective, baignant dans un camaïeu de gris.

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Promoting social change through the media

by RAMAN KANG

Joanna Chiu is a journalist who serves as the editor and founder of WAM! Vancouver (Women Action and the Media), a non-profit dedicated to creating gender justice in the media, and NüVoices, an international editorial collective that focuses on self-identified women's work in China. Chiu will be speaking at the Peace and Conflict Studies Lecture Series: Transforming Culture for Social Change at Langara College on Sept. 19.

"The media is so influential. It's how most people learn about the world," says Chiu. "I can't advocate for people to think a certain way as a journalist, but I can try to make sure that I give people the information to make up their minds."

Getting into journalism

Born in Hong Kong, Chiu came to Canada with her family at the age of two when they no longer felt safe living there. She explains that her interest in China grew when learning about the dark issues of the country in middle school. This led her to study Chinese history and Asian studies at the University of British Columbia.

Chiu eventually went back to China as a foreign correspondent. While there, she used what she considers to be her

relative safety and privilege as a Canadian to tell a range of stories that Chinese journalists struggle to tell safely.

"I went into this field because it was a way for me to put together my passions and natural talents," Chiu says.

As a journalist, Chiu believed she could make a positive contribution with her writing. She wanted to do it in a way that could make an impact because people trust the mainstream media organizations that she writes for.

"Journalism is a balanced and credible way to make people think about issues without telling them exactly what to think," she says. "Journalists can't really start a bunch of petitions but we can do our

best to make sure what we write and who we write about is done in a good way."

Sources of diversity

"In my experience as a journal-

ist, some media organizations and journalists aren't doing as much as they can to make sure what they're putting out there

is something that they want to see," Chiu says. According to Chiu, the change can start with being aware of how many women versus how many men journalists quote,

rights, women's rights, LG-BTQ rights civil society and politics to name a few. In her lecture, 'Promoting social change through media and the arts,' Chiu will reflect on

“Journalism is a balanced and credible way to make people think about issues without telling them exactly what to think.

Joanna Chiu, editor and founder of WAM! Vancouver (Women Action and the Media)



▲ Joanna Chiu will be speaking at Langara about her journey as a journalist.

finding more diverse resources and experts and being aware of negative stereotypes about people or places. When speaking to female journalists, Chiu found many of them admitted to heavily quoting male experts and it wasn't something they were happy with.

"Having a directory and network where people are encouraged to find more diverse sources is a good way for them to create the kind of media they want to see out in the world," she says.

Thus, NüVoices created a directory of 500 female experts on Greater China to encourage and aid people in finding more diverse sources.

Changing the media

Throughout her career, Chiu has written about human

being a foreign correspondent and discuss leaving her full-time job to pursue WAM! Vancouver and NüVoices. Through these organizations, Chiu aims to change the way the media frames issues in the hopes that media becomes more diverse and free of negative stereotypes.

"I'm cognizant that everyone has bias. Every journalist chooses and frames stories in a certain way; that's why I got involved with starting up WAM! Vancouver and NüVoices," says Chiu. "Writers and artists are really influential, and we do have a powerful say in what gets out there." ✍

For more information, please visit www.langara.ca/news-and-events/events-calendar/180919-pccn-lecture-series.html

► "Literacy" from page 1

to act on it. These individuals are also better equipped to handle their own finances, are more likely to take part in adult education, and generally find it easier to communicate in today's technological society.

Sutherland adds that literate individuals are more likely to find work and maintain the employment they need to support their families. Parents with stronger literacy skills are also better able to help their children with their schoolwork and literacy development.

"Imagine the struggle for a parent without strong literacy skills – it is harder to support your children's learning and interact with the school system," comments Sutherland.

This is where some of Decoda's literacy services come into play.

"Family Literacy programs can have a lasting impact – teaching parents how to support their children's literacy development, helping struggling school-age readers and providing opportunities for parents to improve their own literacy skills," Sutherland explains.

Community-based literacy

Decoda employs a delivery method referred to as community-based literacy. This non-formal system of learning takes place in many locations and targets a wide range of demographics, from babies to seniors, in a variety of ways.

As Sutherland explains, community-based literacy uses a "place-based" approach, in which each community finds its own way to address its unique needs. Programs can take place in different settings, such as literacy centres, public libraries, schools or workplaces.

Decoda supports this system through a network of 100 Literacy Outreach Coordinators (LOC), who each connect with a literacy task group. Together, the LOC and task group plan and implement literacy programs and services tailored to the needs of a specific B.C. community. In addition, Decoda delivers weekly updates, projects, training, resources, webinars and opportunities to communities across the province. For example, their resource lending library, which contains specialized collections on literacy, learning, English language acquisition, and community development, is free for B.C. residents to access.

For newcomers to Canada, Decoda offers a culturally responsive family literacy program known as Parents as Literacy Supporters in Immigrant Communities (IPALS). The goal of IPALS is to help immigrant and refugee families settle into their new community and provide parents with strategies to nurture their children's literacy growth.

Sutherland is well aware of the impact that Decoda and other community-based literacy organizations have on the lives of the many individuals they serve.

"Each year, when we receive the community's reports, we hear stories about how participating in community-based literacy programs and accessing services has changed people's lives," she says. "Many adults find work or improve their current work situations. Others develop skills they need for their day-to-day lives. Many become better integrated in their communities." ✍

For more information about Decoda Literacy Solutions, visit www.decoda.ca.

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LiterASIAN festival Ethnic identity in writing

by JAKE MCGRAIL

With eleven featured authors, LiterASIAN is the biggest celebration of Asian Canadian writing in the city. The festival runs Sept. 21–23 and will provide an array of stories, styles and events, ensuring something for every literature lover to enjoy.

One of the featured authors at this year's festival is Kevin Chong, whose most recent book, *The Plague*, is set in a disease-riddled Vancouver. He will lead a workshop on dystopian fiction at LiterASIAN, talking about the genre and how to write it.

"I want people to have a better grasp of it, and to leave with the spark of creativity that brought them into the workshop further refined," says Chong.

An identity struggle

When Chong first began writing—his debut novel was published in 2001—he was very aware of his identity and background as an Asian Canadian, but didn't want it to be the main focus of his work.

"I didn't want to be someone whose background defined their work, and spent many years making that clear," he says. "I realized later on, however, that I was shutting myself off from a perspective I knew best, one that the general reading public wasn't exposed enough to, so I have tried to figure out a way to write about my background."

Chong says this wasn't an entirely smooth transition, as even he came into his career with preconceived notions of what Asian Canadian writing should be.

motivator and provides a sense of community, which is very important to provide moral and tangible support."

A unique event

First held in 2013, LiterASIAN was the first Asian literature festival in the country, and with a clear mission from the outset.

"The festival was started by the Asian Canadian Writers' Workshop," says Tham. "There are still relatively few minorities involved in Canadian literature, and as such, the festival functioned as a way of giving attention to Asian Canadian writers in order to promote and showcase their work."

Since its inception, LiterASIAN has featured dozens of both up-and-coming and existing Asian Canadian talents, and is focused on spreading writers' work and ideas, but the festival does not want to exclude anyone from attending or being involved.

"While Asian Canadian readers and writers are our primary target audience, everyone interested in Canadian literature is invited," exclaims Tham. "It is a good chance to see exciting new works and perspectives of a diverse group of writers."



▲ William Tham, LiterAsian coordinator.

The festival's schedule is anchored by two panels, both of which are free and feature many of the artists together. Tham believes that this public and more interactive format is a great way to engage and stimulate those in the audience.

"There is something special about getting a group of experts together and letting them respond to questions and talk amongst themselves," he says. "Our goal is for the public to have a better idea of each writer's thoughts and personal philosophies, but we also hope that the writers will leave the festival with new ideas too."

In addition, there will be multiple workshops led by some of the authors individually, relaying their expertise and experiences in a way that Tham hopes will be insightful for attendees and beneficial to those who want to write themselves.

"We hope that people will gain a deeper love for Asian Canadian literature, and we would also like to nurture emerging talents," says Tham. "Some of our featured writers fell into writing through a variety of hands-on experiences, and workshops are a good way to provide that sort of experience to festival-goers. Perhaps the next big name in writing is somewhere in the crowd!"

For more information, visit www.literasian.com.



▲ Kevin Chong, author of *The Plague*.

"When I first started writing I struggled with the idea that I felt I had to be put into a box labeled 'Asian Canadian writer.' In some ways I was operating under a delusion that your ethnic identity shouldn't be factored at all into who you are. I think in the last seven or eight years of my writing career I've tried to make peace with that, and know that if I don't write about it, then no one else will," explains Chong.

That last statement is echoed by William Tham, who has helped coordinate the festival and is the creative non-fiction editor at *Ricepaper Magazine*. Tham believes that seeing other Asian Canadians write is an essential key in fostering more literature and art in the community.

"Asian Canadian writers need to see people like themselves writing and creating art," he says. "This can be a wonderful

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 30, 2018
 Media Contact: Laurie Townsend
 604-822-9161 | laurie.townsend@ubc.ca



UBC School of Music 2018–2019 Concert Season: Exploring the Power of Music

Vancouver — The **UBC School of Music** is excited to announce its 2018–19 season. Scientific research is confirming what music lovers and musicians have known since the dawn of time: our brains are hardwired to respond to music, which serves to ease pain, evoke memories, stir emotions, change our physiology, and more. This year, our concert offerings continue to explore the power of music, with performances by our large and small ensembles, faculty and guest artists.

Concert of Winners: Showcasing the School of Music's brightest young pianists

We begin this season with a showcase of the winners of the inaugural Robert and Ellen Silverman Piano Concerto Competition. Held last March, the competition was a brilliant success, and we are thrilled to present this concert of the winners, each performing with the **UBC Symphony Orchestra** at the Chan Centre on September 23rd. The grand prize winner **Benjamin Hopkins** performs Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 4*, while the other prize winners, **Evgenia Rabinovich**, **Ayunia Saputro** and **Aydan Con**, will perform selected movements of concertos by Beethoven and Mozart, all conducted by **Dr. Jonathan Girard**.

The Power of Music: A Pulitzer Prize-winning opera and Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat*

Two events explore the unifying and healing power of music in response to the horrors of war, and the internal conflicts of human beings. On Nov. 3rd and 4th and 8th and 9th, the **UBC Opera Ensemble** will perform the Pulitzer Prize-winning opera *Silent Night* by **Kevin Puts**, which recounts the remarkable true story of the 1914 Christmas Truce: a spontaneous cease-fire during World War I. In a spring performance, the music of a soldier's violin is a central theme in **Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du soldat*** as it explores the ancient story of making deals with the devil in the hope of happiness and fortune. UBC's Director of Bands, **Dr. Robert Taylor** conducts a chamber ensemble of faculty and guest artists with a narrator and custom projections in our Music on the Point series on March 17th.

Chamber Music: Intimate Conversations | Collaborations and Intersections

You are invited to "Listen in" on the intimate conversations of musicians in many chamber music concerts throughout the season. One highlight is a recital by internationally-renowned artists **Jose Franch-Ballester** *clarinet*, and **Jane Coop** *piano* of works by Brahms, Schumann and Weber in our Music on the Point series on March 1st. In February, **Rena Sharon** leads a two-day event of concerts and workshops entitled "Collaborations and Intersections," which explores ideas about the Chamber Music realm, and collaborations with Mathematics, Mediation, Medicine, and more.

New Energy and Perspectives

The School is pleased to welcome new faculty member **Valerie Whitney** *horn*, who will bring her energy and fresh perspective to our explorations. Whitney is featured in a solo recital on January 23rd and performs chamber masterworks by Dohnányi and Prokofiev with faculty and guests on November 21st. Both are on our popular Wednesday Noon Hours series.

The Piano - A powerful tool of communication in the hands of masters

Piano recitals are plentiful this season, revealing a wide range of voices, emotions and messages. Concerts include solo piano recitals by faculty members **Mark Anderson** and **Corey Hamm**, with Anderson playing works by Röntgen and Brahms on October 24th, and Hamm performing pieces by Prokofiev, Dutilleux, Ping, and Kapustin on January 18th. Guest artists **David Jalbert** and **Douglas Finch** will also give solo piano recitals.

Invoking peace, introspection and jubilation this holiday season

On December 1st, **UBC Choirs** and **UBC Symphony Orchestra** explore contrasting themes in performances of Poulenc's *Gloria* and Vaughan Williams's *Dona Nobis Pacem*, conducted by **Jonathan Girard**.

Scheduling note

Bands, Choirs and Orchestra concerts at the Chan Centre have new start times this year: **7:30 pm** (previously 8:00 pm).

The above is a small sampling of our many exciting concerts and events.

Please explore our concert calendar and visit music.ubc.ca/calendar for the latest updates!

"Ah, music," he said, wiping his eyes. "A magic beyond all we do here!"
 – Dumbledore in J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

A PDF of the entire season and up-to-date online event listings are available at www.music.ubc.ca.
 Digital photos of UBC faculty, student ensembles, and guest artists are also available upon request.

Postcard



Photo by Carl Densem

Haggling in India

It feels as though everyone in India is an entrepreneur. A fair assumption when travelling the country is that no product or service is too insignificant to bargain over. Even those already in employ, such as IndiGo baggage charge collectors, appear somewhat disappointed not to be cajoled. An expectant look, daring you to twist their arm, is included in the fare.

Enterprising ways give theatrical and surprising turns to mundane chores. Groceries promise a thrilling twist. Servicing your car can feel like a hostage crisis. A taxi ride can take more turns than the road even offers.

Take the example of my friends and I needing 10 bouquets shortly before the start of a wedding.

At an otherwise nondescript street corner, we found a

raphy – the window left down, the door not quite closed – that solicited an acceptable offer shouted from a block away.

How hard can it be? Awestruck and wanting a chance to lead the haggle, I visit Calangute's street market to buy fruit. In my first of many mistakes, I pick out a pitiful old woman on her haunches, encircling a bucket's worth of produce, and ask for four oranges and two bananas.

In my head I'm busy converting the price I'd expect to pay in Vancouver into rupees and readying myself for an exaggerated lob that I'll undercut with gusto. Game, set and match. So you can imagine my surprise when I snap back to find her unloading everything she's got into my hands.

There are fruits I have never seen before and, I think, some rocks in there. As things turn

“Enterprising ways give theatrical and surprising turns to mundane chores.

busily-threading flower walla (shopkeeper) tending to two customers. Shekhar, the savviest amongst us, leads price negotiations around, and often over, enquiries from other passers-by. Meanwhile, our semi-attendant walla weaves vines and sparkling ribbons around lavish hydrangeas with the dexterity of Goddess Durga. After 10 minutes it all ends in a flurry and, before I know it, we're back in our taxi high-tailing it down the street.

Do we really have time for this? I come all this way for an Indian wedding and spend the night in florist trade talks. Perfect. Suddenly, we're thrown forward as the taxi lurches into reverse and, back at the walla's makeshift worktable, he's preparing our order with a juggler's precision. I'm dumbfounded. What just happened?

It dawns on me: that was the negotiation! Worthy of a *Penn & Teller* finale, I was misdirected by what appeared to be a breakdown when there was never any thought of us leaving the table, so to speak. Our bid was the abruptness of that indignant wheel spin. As I rewind events, I marvel at the choreog-

pear-shaped, I come to the conclusion she has launched a war of attrition; by offloading her medley of fruit and stones on me, she assumes I'll give in to an ignorantly large offer.

My protestations fall on suddenly – or perhaps genuinely – deaf ears, and my attempts to reiterate (in Hindi, mind you) my order are rebuffed by hand shooping and head rolling. Realizing the situation is now beyond saving, I pull the only manoeuvre I can think of and make for the nearest escape, handing her rocks back as I turn.

Not guilefully, as I was shown by Shekhar, or presciently, assuming she would reform her tactics, but out of sheer embarrassment and failure. Whether insults, actual offers or the delayed onset of pity for my feeble attempt, she shouts after me for what seems an eternity.

Wherever you may view yourself, or end up, on the haggle-o-meter, give it a whirl.

Who knows, maybe your neighbourhood grocer is up for sparring over the price of grapes, but nobody ever asked. ✉

CARL DENSEM



MOSAIC Settlement Services
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🕒 September 17 & 18, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

📍 Mount Pleasant Vancouver Public Library, 1 Kingsway, Vancouver

☎ Tim 604 438 8214 ext 114 || tchow@mosaicbc.org

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🕒 September 26 & 27, 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

📍 MOSAIC Surrey Office, #200-7134 King George Blvd

☎ Attif 778 591 9334 ext 126 || aihsan@mosaicbc.org

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- FAQs

🕒 September 28, 10 am – 12 pm

📍 CCM Centre, 2nd floor Crystal Mall, 4500 Kingsway, Burnaby

☎ Angel 604 254 9626 ext 2121 || atse@mosaicbc.org

MOVING AHEAD

Tenancy Rights (Farsi)

🕒 September 19, 2–4 pm

📍 MOSAIC Highgate Office, #310-7155 Kingsway, Burnaby

☎ Rafi and Zarif 604 636 4712

Healthcare and You (Tigrinya)

🕒 September 22, 4–6 pm

📍 MOSAIC Highgate Office, #310-7155 Kingsway, Burnaby

☎ Dirar 604 636 4712

Crime Prevention (Tigrinya)

🕒 September 28, 4–6 pm

📍 MOSAIC Highgate Office, #310-7155 Kingsway, Burnaby

☎ Dirar 604 636 4712

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🕒 Thursdays, September 13 - December 20, 4–6 pm

📍 MOSAIC Head Office, 5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver

☎ Joy or Angel 604 254 9626 ext 2121 || jjhocson@mosaicbc.org or atse@mosaicbc.org | | Text message: 778 321 5406

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- 📍 MOSAIC Head Office, 5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver
- ☎ Rey 604 438 8214 || rblasco@mosaicbc.org

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🕒 Tuesdays, 10 am – 2 pm

📍 MOSAIC Head Office, 5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver

☎ Mehrzad 604 254 9626 ext 1013 || msalari@mosaicbc.org

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🕒 September 24, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

☎ Masashi 604 254 9626 || ibelong@mosaicbc.org

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.

Home sweet home

by BRITTANY THOMSON

Vancouver-based artist Germaine Koh describes her work as “An attempt to be attentive to the poetics of daily life.” With the help of the City of Vancouver, Koh plans to show Vancouverites how poetic their city really is. Known for her See-Saw Seat off of Main Street, Koh plans to impress her audience with an even bigger exhibit this year. Koh’s exhibit *Home Made Home* will run from Sept. 15–Nov. 4 at the Evergreen Culture Centre in Coquitlam.

As the City of Vancouver’s Engineering Department’s first Artist-in-Residence, Koh is ex-



▲ Germaine Koh.

cited to get her projects off the ground. Koh’s work will point out the systems around us within our city’s infrastructure. The city plans to start with three consecutive artists-in-residence and hopes it will become an ongoing project. Koh herself will not fabricate the projects but she will help with conceptualization and design.

“They do a lot. We have no idea about all the amazing infrastructure that supports our daily lives,” says Koh about the City of Vancouver’s Engineering Department.

Public space appeal

Over her career Koh has found herself pulled towards public art versus the typical gallery art. She found herself frustrated with how inaccessible the gallery world was. Koh believes that it is worthwhile to put ideas out into the public realm for debate.

“In my mind the essence of putting out ideas and intriguing situations will further the ideas,” she explains.

Public art allows Koh to engage with a larger public than what one normally finds in an art gallery.

Exploring living small

Home Made Home can best be described as a “DIY project.” Making up the bulk of the exhibit is



Photo courtesy of Germaine Koh

▲ Germaine Koh, *Home Made Home: Lululiving*, 2018.

a collection of structures Koh has built that highlight the idea of “living small.” The exhibit will include a sub exhibition of architectural panels. Each panel has a different image and corresponding text of a different builder and designer local to the Pacific Northwest. This project will focus on accessible and affordable housing, especially in smaller forms.

“I’m aligning what I’m doing with a long history of people taking the initiative to find solu-

tions to the housing challenges,” says Koh.

Koh does not credit Vancouver’s current housing crisis for her inspiration for this exhibit, but there are underlying concerns on which her work shines a light. She feels that the current crisis makes the work more pressing, furthering the argument that we should be expanding our ideas that could be a partial solution to the problem. Ideas like laneway houses, co-housing projects, social housing and even

houses made out of shipping containers could, in her view, really make a difference in Vancouver.

“There is a long history in my work of doing projects that are concerned with basic survival,” she says.

Something new emerges from the old

Along with her exhibit, Koh is also working with the City of Vancouver on another building project. Due to Vancouver’s new by-law where every house built before 1940 must be dismantled rather than demolished, Koh has plans for those housing materials. Timber and other building materials will be used to build smaller structures that could serve as small pop-up stores, artist’s residences, information kiosks, etc. She plans to highlight the uses before the material finds its way into a landfill.

Koh hopes that by the time her career is done, she will have made a difference. She hopes to have made things people will remember.

“I guess as I get older my desire to make a difference becomes stronger. I’ve become more willing to be an activist in my work. I’m in as good a position as anybody to make a difference and make stuff happen,” she says. ✎

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

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Silence, suspended

by PETRA GIFFARD

Ontario-based artist Xiaojing Yan, known for fusing together traditional Chinese artistic techniques with contemporary practices, will be presenting *In Suspended Silence*, an installation work based on symbolism.

Yan's first solo art exhibition in Metro Vancouver will run Sept. 14–Nov. 10 at Richmond Art Gallery (RAG).

"This exhibition will be a unique experience" says Xiaojing Yan. "The gallery space is quite different to other places I have exhibited. There are going to be two installation works – *Mountains of Pine II* and *Lingzhi Girl*. [*Mountains of Pine II*] is made with pine needles piercing through silk organza. These are then layered and suspended to form a landscape. The silk organza is translucent... It will be like mountains in the mist."

For the piece entitled *Lingzhi Girls*, Yan has cast eight busts using wood chips containing Lingzhi mushroom spores. The mushrooms then grow out from the busts.

"So each sculpture has a different form" says Yan. "These two [works] are intertwined with



▲ Xiaojing Yan.

each other.. People can go into the organza landscape to discover the figures, and the people visiting then become part of the work."

Symbolism and suspension

Symbolism is central to this exhibition. "I used Lingzhi mush-

rooms and pine needles to create the work and both symbolise fragility," says Yan.

When asked about the title of the show, Yan explains: "Suspension for me is both an aesthetic method and a way of overcoming the idea of being suspended in two different cultures. Art

gives me freedom to see the world in a different way. It is a way for me to communicate. I see colour, form, materials and even display methods as my vocabulary," she says.

Yan is heavily inspired by her Chinese heritage and her experiences of moving to Canada from China. "Chinese Culture and tradition have always inspired my work" she says. "I am drawn to Chinese materials and traditions but I give them a new identity and contemporary context."

However the work has not been made purely for a Chinese audience.

"People from different backgrounds can associate with the work. It is talking about life and death and the human-nature relationship," she says.

Intercultural exchange

RAG curator, Nan Capogna agrees.

"I am looking forward to bringing Xiaojing's work to B.C. – specifically to Richmond" she says. "Richmond has a large Chinese community.. But even if you have no experience of China I think anybody who walks into the space will hopefully have the aesthetic experience of this environment that is dream-like, tranquil and meditative. The

materials that she uses are pretty unusual and a bit provocative, and I'm looking forward to seeing what that does to our visitors in the gallery."

According to Capogna intercultural relationships, exchange, fusion as well as cultural hybridity are the main elements at the heart of the show.

"Humans on the move is clearly a global condition and one that more people are experiencing. The aim is to bring work to the gallery that will resonate with the gallery visitors," she says. "Do they see themselves in this exhibition? Do they relate to her experience? Has this work made them curious to learn more?"

In Suspended Silence opens on September 13, with an artist talk and tour. The exhibition will also coincide with the 2018 Culture Days, Sept. 29–30.

"We will be running multi-lingual tours in Mandarin and Cantonese on those days" says Capogna.

In addition the gallery is also planning other special events to coincide with both the Xiaojing Yan exhibition and the Wen-Li Chen exhibition that will be running at the same time. ✉

For more information, please visit www.richmondartgallery.org.

► "Verbatim" from page 1

online English news portal as a distinguished video editor and a news producer. All of a sudden, it all went down the drain when I moved to Canada. Wow! It kind of shows you the reason why many of the capable people who immigrate to Canada are under-employed. Engineers, doctors and others move here and start working as truck drivers, bus drivers, electricians and sales reps. At first it made me question my decision to move here, but then, being an adventurer, I set out to overcome this challenge. I started a day job to meet my monthly expenditures. Meanwhile, I attended social events and gatherings to network and find opportunities to work in my field. I managed to find a few projects, but the journey still continues with the hope of finding a clear path that leads me to where I want to be.

here there are people from all over the world who are living together. I believe a major contributing factor to this peaceful co-existence is the freedom that each community has to express and follow their religious and cultural practices.

I was surprised to see the prominent impact of the Sikh culture in Surrey, BC. It's quite a surprise when you find that a foreign land has a culture that is not that different from your own hometown. Honestly, the two places, Surrey and Patiala, are worlds apart when you consider the infrastructure and facilities, but when I met people living here in Surrey, everyone talking in Punjabi, they are still connected to their Punjabi culture. My friend and his friends obsess over Bollywood flicks and Punjabi songs. A gurdwara (Sikh temple) and a Khalsa school are on every other block. It felt as if I had never



▲ Bollywood in Vancouver.

But my outlook isn't all negative. I'm from India. It's a diverse country. It has so many cultures, hundreds of languages and religions. But when I came to Canada, it redefined diversity for me. Well, of course it would. I've seen people from the same country (India) living together and co-existing, but

left Punjab. The familiarity in a foreign place provides a base to be in touch with your original self – it's like a beacon that doesn't let you stray too far off. It is something that is required especially as a new immigrant who leaves behind his family, friends and culture to live in a new land. ✉

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Afrobar: setting the bar high

by XI CHEN

Hailing from Uganda, Afrobar, a young singer-songwriter with a soulful voice, came to Canada just three years ago. He has already made a splash in the local music scene and made it to one of the top five finalists in the Cumberland Music Festival Artist Challenge this summer and was recently on the radio with the Medicine show.

With a new recording project launching late September, he also does live performance at

sleep, it is all good. I wanted to perform on a stage in America when I was a young kid, and when I came to Canada, my dream came true."

With raw talents and a zen spirit, the artist has bigger dreams and hopes for a bigger stage, not just for himself but also for what he can do for other people through his music.

"I came from Uganda. If I leave and never go back, then probably I haven't done what I wanted to do. I want to use music to become successful and use that to inspire and help people. I see people need help from all around the world.

“ I wanted to perform on a stage in America when I was a young kid, and when I came to Canada, my dream came true.

Afrobar, young singer-songwriter from Uganda

Guilt & Company and has an upcoming show on Sept. 17.

Born to sing

Afrobar, a catchy name that has nothing to do with a drinking venue, is actually a combination of the two things that the artist is proud of: Afro, for his African identity and bar, from part of his real name.

The artist says he has been living and breathing music practically since he was born. He started performing on stage when he was just seven years old.

"I was already singing before that. There was this kind of tree that grows in Uganda and it looks like a microphone. When I was about four years old, I would use it to start singing and I found people had an interest in listening," he says. "Music is something I appreciate and it is very valuable to me. I probably will be on my deathbed and I will still sing."

Afrobar loves creating music across all genres, though most of the time he focuses on R&B and soul music. Citing influence from Michael Jackson, he says he wants to do something innovative and groundbreaking in music.

"I just love writing music. I can listen to a certain beat and I start writing on it. I could wake up and want to write a song, or write about a kind of experience that I had. It is a natural thing; even in my dreams sometimes I write music," he says.

Music with a perspective

Steeped in emotions, the artist feels he has a style and interpretation of music unparalleled to his age, reflecting his mature perspective on life.

"If I don't accept what I have already, I won't have a happy life. Everyone has had a hard life, and in the future there will be tougher or easier times. Accepting what is happening, that is fulfilling," he says. "As a kid from Uganda, if I look at my life from ten years back, I can

If I can do that then that is an achievement. I want to have a charitable organization like an orphanage or an Afrobar foundation one day," he says.

The artist is thankful for his experience in Vancouver, despite some initial difficulties adjusting to new customs that he was not familiar with.

"Vancouver is an open place. I have performed in front of a crowd that was mostly rock-based, but I feel they just love



▲ Afrobar lives and breathes through music.

whatever you throw at them. The place is so welcoming, as long as you are here and doing the right thing, you will feel like [you are] home," he says.

To check out more of Afrobar's work, please visit www.facebook.com/afrobarmusic.

Photo courtesy of Afrobar



Cultural Calendar

September 11–25, 2018

by SIMON YEE

The 2018 Fall Equinox begins on Sept. 22, ushering in the end of summer and the start of autumn. The summer days may be over for the year, but the events continue! From art gallery exhibits and folk dancing to theatre nights and musical performances, there are plenty of festivities, celebrations, exhibits and shows to see and attend throughout the city. Have a great September everyone!

* * *

Ayumi Goto and Peter Morin: how do you carry the land?

Until Oct. 28

Vancouver Art Gallery
www.vanartgallery.bc.ca

Ayumi Goto and Peter Morin: how do you carry the land? is currently on display at the Vancouver Art Gallery until Oct. 28. The exhibit is a dialogue between two artists, presented via their individual and collaborative performances. Ayumi Goto and Peter Morin's work begins with their respective positions as a Japanese diasporic woman and a Tahltan First Nation man, reflecting on the ways in which their bodies and experiences are inscribed by colonialism. Grounded in explorations related to the land, Goto and Morin ask how cultural knowledge and history inform the human experience of place and our perceptions of others.

* * *

Kim's Convenience by Ins Choi

Sept. 7–Oct. 6

Pacific Theatre, Vancouver
www.pacifictheatre.org

The Pacific Theatre is currently showing the play that inspired the hit TV show at 8 p.m. Wednesdays to Saturdays until Oct. 6. Mr. Kim is proud of his store, Kim's Convenience. After thirty years of selling lottery tickets, catching petty thieves and reporting illegally parked cars, he tries desperately – and hilariously – to convince his artist daughter Janet to take over the store. For a list of the cast and to get tickets, please visit the theatre's website.

* * *

Burnaby International Folk Dancing

Tuesdays, 7–9:30 p.m.

Charles Rummel Community Centre, Burnaby
www.burnabyfolkdance.org

Ever wanted to try to learn folk dancing? Then why not come on down to Burnaby's Charles Rummel Community Centre and join the Folk Dancing Group! Meeting every Tuesday evening from September to June, the dancers teach and perform dancing styles from various cultures throughout the



▲ Lee Shorten, Jessie Liang, Maki Yi, James Yi, and Tré Cotten in Kim's Convenience.

world. They will host a free open house on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. No partner or prior experience is necessary; beginners are welcome.

* * *

Tales of an Urban Indian

Sept. 19–30

Presentation House Theatre,
North Vancouver
www.phtheatre.org

Featuring comedian Craig Lauzon, *Tales of an Urban Indian*, playing at the Presentation House Theatre, Sept. 19–30, is a deeply personal and darkly comic telling of the life of Simon Douglas, an Indigenous man born on a B.C. reserve and raised both there and in 1970s Vancouver. Told entirely from a personal perspective, the show conjures up an array of characters that come in and out of his life as seen through Douglas's eyes. For tickets and showtimes, please check out the website.

* * *

Thai Dance Company

Sept. 20, 12 p.m.

Scotiabank Dance Centre,
Vancouver
www.thedancecentre.ca

The Discover Dance series by the Scotiabank Dance Centre offers informative and inspiring shows by B.C. dance companies, which combine performance and question-and-answer sessions with the artists and sometimes even audience participation. On Sept. 20, discover the elegance, beauty and precision of Thai dance. Originating in the Royal Court of Old Siam, this exquisitely detailed form of dance has a strong sacred element, and many dances are performed during ceremonial events. Artistic director Mega-

ra Solloway teams up with renowned Ottawa-based Thai classical dancer and choreographer Kai Whitcomb to present a selection of dances, in homage to their spiritual and cultural traditions.

* * *

2018 Mid-Autumn Moon Festival: Music Under the Moon

Sept. 21, 5:30–9:30 p.m.

Vancouver Chinese Garden
www.vancouverchinesegarden.com

The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden invites you to be serenaded under the moonlight by local musicians and artists at the 2018 Mid-Autumn Moon Festival! In Chinese culture, music is seen as an expression of the perfect harmony between the earth, human beings and the heavens above. Under the celestial and transcendent power of the moon, many ancient Chinese scholars composed music and poetry that united families and friends. At the festival, you will get to experience the connection between music and the moon, whose eternal nature inspired Chinese artistic tradition. Come along with your friends and family to sample mooncakes, release wishing lanterns and enjoy the various musical activities and performances celebrating the second largest festival in the Chinese calendar.

* * *

Leap and the Loom Will Appear

Sept. 21–Oct. 2

1359 Cartwright St., Granville Island, Vancouver
www.solafiedler.com

Leap and the Loom Will Appear is an upcoming exhibition by 82-year-old, world-renowned Canadian fibre artist Sola Fiedler,

known for her intricately woven tributes to cities that have hosted Olympic Games. Each hyper-realistic tapestry takes the artist as much as five years to complete. Self-taught, Sola's method is as impressive as the final piece. Using yarn from recycled sweaters, she meticulously weaves large-scale cityscapes in pinpoint detail, from the number of floors in a building to the colour of the trees and water. Her work captures the architectural elements and spirit of each city at that moment in time.

* * *

Escape to India

Sept. 22, 12 p.m.–9 p.m.

North Burnaby Neighbourhood House
www.facebook.com/events/1867501656889998

The North Burnaby Neighbourhood House will be hosting a charitable fundraiser *Escape to India* on Sept. 22. This Indian pop-up market will feature all things Indian, including various food and drinks, handicrafts, clothing, music, henna artists, performances and much more. The event benefits three local charities: Burnaby Neighbourhood House, Cameray Child and Family Services and Surrey Food Bank. There will be a local brewery and a five-star B.C. winery on site as well as some Indian-inspired cocktails. The event will be exploring ways to repurpose beautiful and gently used Indian clothing and fabrics, with the proceeds going into projects that impact change locally and abroad. Check out their Facebook page for more info.

* * *

Aida Cuevas:

Totalmente Juan Gabriel

Sept. 22, 8 p.m.

Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at UBC, University Endowment Lands
www.chancentre.com

The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts will welcome Grammy Award-winning Mexican superstar Aida Cuevas and her illustrious band Mariachi Juvenil Tecalitlán at 8 p.m. on Sept. 22. Hailed as "The Queen of Mariachi" and renowned for her elegance, charisma, and stunning vocal range, Cuevas will sing traditional Mexican songs by the late singer-songwriter and musical icon Juan Gabriel in this hotly anticipated season opener. A master of the ranchera genre, Cuevas has been celebrated both in her home country and on the world stage for more than four decades. For more information, please visit the Chan Centre's website.

* * *

Kamloopa

Sept. 25–Oct. 6

The Cultch, Vancouver
www.thecultch.com

Come along for the ride to *Kamloopa*, the largest powwow on the West Coast, showing at The Cultch from Sept. 25 to Oct. 6. This high energy Indigenous matriarchal story follows two urban Indigenous sisters and a lawless trickster who face the world head-on as they come to terms with what it means to honour who they are and where they



▲ Kaitlyn Yott in Kamloopa.

come from. How do you discover yourself when Columbus already did that? Bear witness to the courage of these women as they turn to the ancestors for help in reclaiming their power. Kim Senklip Harvey explores the fearless love and passion of Indigenous women reconnecting with their homelands, ancestors and stories through her exciting approach to Indigenous theatre.



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