



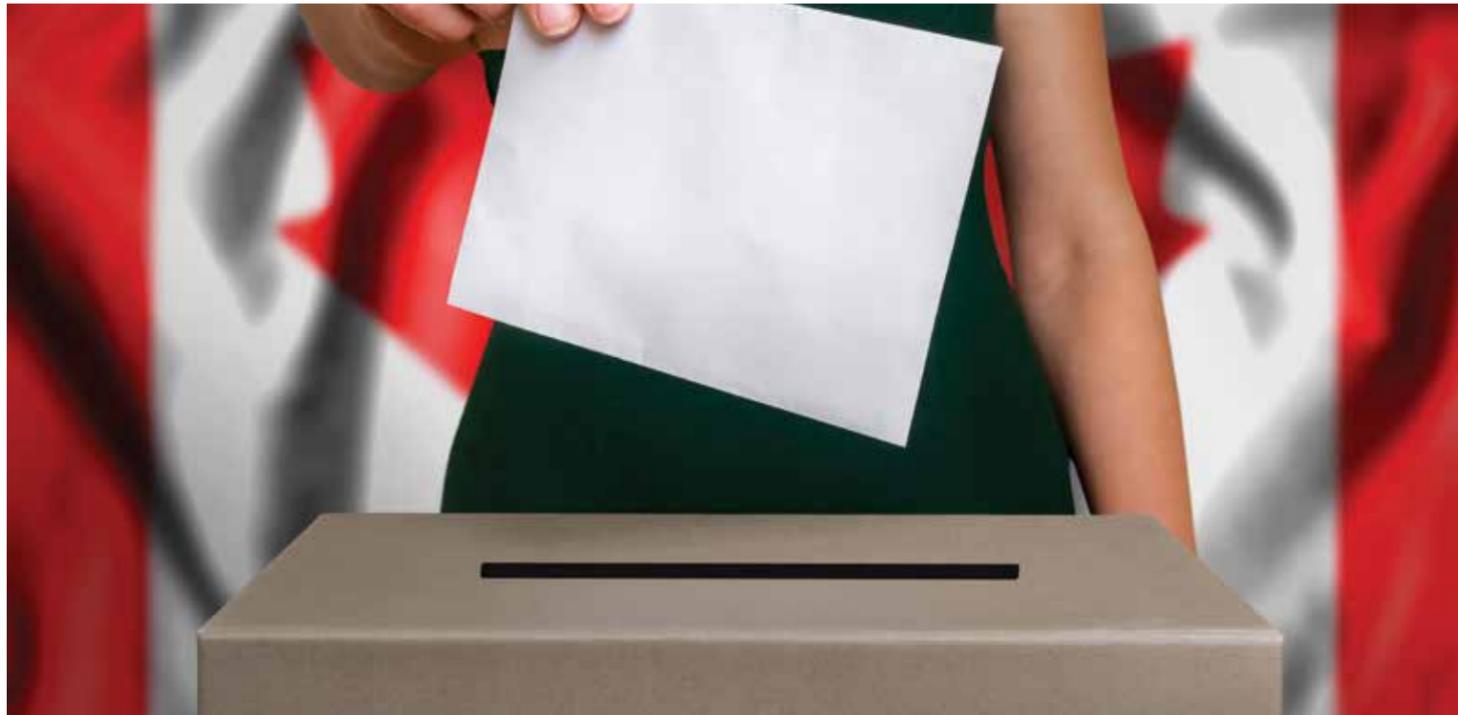
Taking VR a step further
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The Source

forum of diversity

Vol 20 No 6 | October 8–22, 2019

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Political complications

Two communities share their views

by MATTHEW FRASER

For better or for worse, the political arena has become the place where people look for understanding, representation, and solidarity.

On October 21, Canadians will have the opportunity to either re-elect the current Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau or usher in a new leader to redefine the country's direction. Canadian values are thought to be constant and shared throughout all communities and ethnicities, but that doesn't mean that all

Canadians believe or feel identically about the same problems.

Rattan Mall, editor of the newspaper *The Indo-Canadian Voice*, and Leo Cunanan Jr., publisher at *Dahong Pilipino*, have shared their knowledge of their own communities and the way that some scandals and instabilities may not have shaken people quite the way it may seem.

Who is seen, who isn't heard?

Canada's large and diverse immigrant population has been vocal in support of Canadian ideals and present in Canada's presentation on the world stage,

but not all see themselves represented at home in politics. Many in the community have embraced politics with confidence.

"You know, us [Indian] South Asians sometimes call ourselves 'political animals' because everyone is in politics in India..." says Mall. "Everybody wants to become a counsellor or an MLA or an MP and to be blunt, it's a little bit of a craze. Also, we are well received in all of the parties, even now the conservatives, at least for the past decade or so, have been wooing South Asians actively."

Though this attention has created confidence in one community, it has left the Filipino community feeling neglected.

"As a matter of fact, Filipinos are underrepresented in politics," says Cunanan. "In the 60 or so years that Filipinos have been coming to Canada, we have had only one MP – Dr. Rey Pagtakhan of Winnipeg – and that's not for lack of Filipino political candidates among the almost one million Filipinos in Canada today."

This representational discrepancy also manifests itself in news and media portrayals, prompting

See "Election" page 6 >

Verbatim

With an open mind

by THIERRY MAOUT

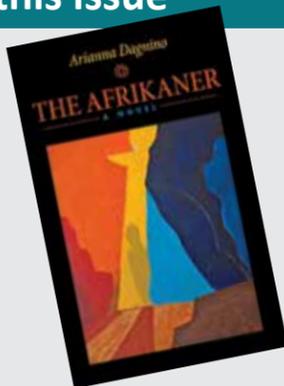
Originally from Le Havre, an industrial city in the west of France, I arrived in Vancouver in June. Since 2012, I have been fortunate to live and work in various countries, collecting lessons and teachings along the way: I've experienced hard work in Atlanta, discovered work-life balance in Ireland, learned about management at a Cameroonian company in Oxford and saw what it takes to start successful companies in both Munich and San Francisco. I've learned a lot in each of these places, and I would like to think that all this time spent far from home and loved ones has helped shape me into a better person (at least a little bit, I hope).

Why did I choose to come to Vancouver next? After experiencing an east coast winter, the weather might have been a factor – although I am only now realizing I was naively misguided – but what really attracted me were the professional opportunities and the diversity that the city boasted. I knew Vancouver had long been a hub for immigrants and cultures from all around the world, and I've always sought the company of people of different backgrounds than mine, so I was naturally interested. Fast forward to a few months later, I can say that my time here has been up to par with my expectations: I work in the historic Chinatown neighborhood with colleagues from Rwanda, Australia and Italy, I deal with clients from all over Canada and the United States, I have Korean roommates and I've started taking Japanese classes. Rarely have I interacted with such a diverse group of people on a daily basis.

Before coming to Vancouver, part of me was worried that moving to this city might be a professional and personal step backward. Despite the di-

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Also in this issue



A tale unearths secrets in South Africa
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BlackArt: a community preserves, promotes
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Cultural Spotlight



Photo courtesy of 3E Organization

The 3E Organization
ENGAGE • ENABLE • EMPOWER

Our Vision
To Enhance the well-being and potential of our youth and enabling them with opportunities that empowers and connects within our mosaic community.

Our Mission
To bridge the gap between youth with a platform inclusive and fun, self-confidence, empowers them to realize their potential and a positive future.

Youth Programs

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- EMPOWERMENT
- MENTORING
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- LEADERSHIP SKILLS
- SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

"We cannot always build the future but we can build our youth for it."
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt

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Aspire to Inspire: conveying hope

by JAKE MCGRAIL

An evening aimed at youth but welcoming all, *Aspire to Inspire* is The 3E Organization's second annual youth empowerment event scheduled for Oct. 22.

The group is hoping to encourage collaboration and action among youth by hosting a free evening full of speakers and interaction with other members of the community.

Reaching out to all

Established in 2017, The 3E Organization is a non-profit group that focuses on engaging, enabling and empowering – the three Es – women and youth in our local communities. The group was founded by six members of the Fijian community, who decided to come together after recognizing their shared ideals.

"We were all volunteering at different organizations," says Sadhana Kumar, co-founder of 3E, "and we realized we had a common goal, and that's to help those in our community. We all have children – we're first generation Canadians – so we see the struggles people are going through. We have a lot to share and a lot to learn."

While they all hail from the same community, the leaders of 3E don't focus on any specific group or culture. With the As-

pire to Inspire event, they hope to reach those from all walks of life.

"When we are volunteering, networking, and living our lives we're surrounded by diversity," says Sandhya Prasad, co-founder and executive director of the organization. "We want to give back to everyone who is interested."

“I'm always trying to bring new faces into the community.”

Sandhya Prasad, co-founder and executive director of 3E organization

The event will bring in three motivational speakers who will share their journeys and ideas in an interactive way: Rochelle Prasad, an SFU student who co-founded the non-profit organization Camp We Empower; Karima Essa, a local dance instructor and performer; and Paul Nijar, an author and founder of the unique yoga centre Yoga Dojo.

"We like to bring people with different ideas, different mindsets, so we can empower the youth and make sure they know they don't have to limit themselves to just one thing," says Kumar.

Resources for all

The three speakers will provide variety in their presentation styles as well. There will be visual aspects to the talks, the chance for some Q&A with the speakers and also a more hands-on part of the night where Essa will do a dance demonstration and help those in attendance to participate as well.

"It's all about what kind of platform we can bring for the youth," says Prasad. "We want them to use these speakers as a resource to help get them where they want to go."

She touches on the core idea behind the organization and events like *Aspire to Inspire*: providing a resource for people who might not have access to as many,

or might not be sure where to look. And the resources are not just for youth. Prasad and Kumar are eager to invite people of any age to listen and engage with the speakers and their stories.

"I'm always trying to bring new faces into the community," says Prasad. "I will personally be learning and growing as well, just as much as the rest of my team and the youth."

What Prasad and the rest of The 3E Organization hope the event will convey is that nothing the speakers describe is out of reach for those in attendance.

"These are ordinary, everyday people. They're not on talk shows; they have normal lives like we do, but they do amazing things... and the things that they do are not beyond anyone," she says.

For more information, visit www.eventbrite.ca/e/aspire-to-inspire-2nd-annual-youth-event-tickets-72295288153 or The 3E Organization Facebook page.

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P.E. Moskowitz: The 'plastic straws' of gentrification

by CURTIS SEUFERT

New Orleans-based author and journalist P.E. Moskowitz (who identifies as queer) has written for The New Yorker, Slate, and the New York Times. They will speak about their research surrounding the topics of both free speech and gentrification on Oct. 19 at Christ Church Cathedral.

Moskowitz's new book, *How to Kill a City: Gentrification, Inequality, and the Fight for the Neighborhood*, chronicles the process of gentrification in New Orleans, New York, Detroit, and other American metropolitan areas, and offers suggestions for how to fight back.

"I think the lessons are applicable everywhere. I think the lessons of New York and San Francisco are applicable to every city to see the writing on the wall," says Moskowitz. "It's going to sell in the same way, the decisions are always the same, everyone says the same thing like 'oh maybe it won't be that bad, maybe it won't displace everyone.' But fast forward ten years and who would've thought, it's always the same results."

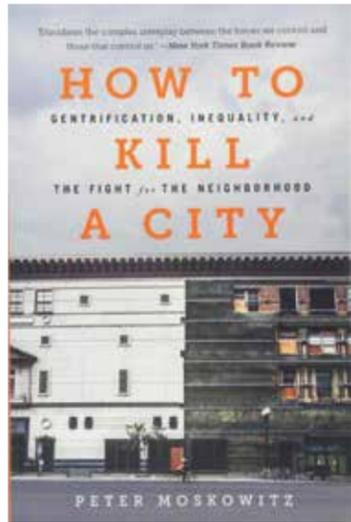
Recognizing the problem

Having grown up in New York's West Village during its own early stages of gentrification, Moskowitz first became interested in understanding the socio-economic phenomenon when they returned home from college to

their newly unfamiliar home neighbourhood.

"It was like a bomb of money had just been dropped on [West Village]. All of my favourite stores were closed, there were no pizza stores left within a ten-block radius which seems criminal for New York," they say.

More than just pizza shops however, Moskowitz's home had changed drastically in terms of affordability and socioeconomic demographic. Upon realizing that this situation was not unique to their own neighbourhood, they



▲ P.E. Moskowitz.

they were all sort of telling me the same thing was happening there," he says. "So I knew there had to be something bigger going on than just what was happening in the Village, so that's why I started investigating."

Resistance to a recurring pattern

Though much research and theorizing has been put into understanding the process of gentrification, what Moskowitz's research has brought to the fore are two key points that they urge people to consider.

First is the striking repeatability of the gentrification pro-

cess. Rather than a spontaneous series of events which plays out differently in every city, Moskowitz says that it's often the same actors and corporations that are involved in gentrifying different cities.

"It's not even just a similar process, it's often the exact same players behind the process. And that's especially true if you're talking about large global banks like Goldman Sachs or other banks...all these entities that are really heavily invested in real estate," says Moskowitz. "So it's not even that the lessons are applicable, it's that, a lot of the time, the

same people and policies are appearing."

Moskowitz says that it's easy to feel helpless, or turn to the wrong solutions to combat such a force and phenomenon. So as important as it is to recognize gentrification in its initial stages, what's just as important is knowing what to do about it.

Drawing parallels to tackling pollution and climate change, Moskowitz highlights the second key point: the importance of collective action and community organizing over individual consumer choices, such as recent campaigns against individuals using plastic straws. Moskowitz encourages politicians to embrace policies beyond limited social housing expansion, and for concerned citizens to get involved in community organizing, finding ways to resist policies and proposals which are at the root of gentrification, rather than its symptoms.

"I think we do a lot of 'plastic straw' work when it comes to gentrification, kind of nibbling around the edges," says Moskowitz. "But, to use the example of someone protesting a [gentrifying] condo, that's an example of a really effective individual action that you can take, to organize. Because it's not only about that condo being built, it's about the larger policies that add up to it. I think that individual actions need to be directed towards the systemic cause." ✂

For more information on the event, visit banyen.com/events
For more on Moskowitz, visit moskowitz.xyz

Photo by Erica B. Christmas

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DOUGLAS COLLEGE

(Em)Powering up for winter

by GAIL PINTO

As winter looms ahead again, people bring forth woollens and knits. However, what precautionary measures are they taking for their houses?

Deborah Wong, communications coordinator of the Empower Me program, talks about saving energy, money and the environment over the winter through simple tips that help make homes more energy efficient.

Weathering the move

Immigration is a stressful event in itself, but there may sometimes be the added pressure of adjusting to a different climate, especially if one has relocated to another part of the globe.

"I had never used a thermostat before I moved here seven years ago, and I was not familiar with a furnace," Wong says. "I was lucky that I had mentors in my life to teach me the know-how of settling into and surviving a Canadian winter."

Yet a number of new immigrants do not have the knowledge or resources to deal with the changes that they must adapt to.

"Many of us don't even know how garbage recycling or composting worked because it's just not something that is emphasized in the home countries we come from, and the different



Photo courtesy of Empower Me

▲ The Empower Me program helps make homes more energy-efficient.

parts of Metro Vancouver, like Richmond, Langley and North Vancouver all have different recycling systems, so one must understand how it works, which can be a little overwhelming," she says.

In Canada's multicultural communities, lots of families find themselves living with very high energy bills, drafty rooms and sometimes mould growing in areas of their homes.

"To top it off, you also have the language barrier," Wong adds. "I had never previously known what

'adding insulation' meant. Single family homes here are made of wood which are, as opposed to concrete, very different in how they withstand the elements."

Families may also not buy a house outright, but rent one. If they do, they face the confusion of separate utility bills, which many pay off without questioning the amount. This is why the Empower Me program includes an explanation of how utilities work, and the complexities surrounding them, which a lot of people don't know much about.

The Empower Me program helps with overcoming these hurdles that newcomers and other communities face by offering free, personalized energy advice with the objective of saving money on energy bills and, as a happy consequence, helping the environment. All of this is delivered to communities by hired members that belong to the same community, to maintain a standard of trust. Many new families are from countries where corruption and scams are rampant, and so they naturally

view civic relationships with a wary eye.

Baby steps

A Vancouverite's biggest concern would be insulation, according to Wong, since it can reduce energy bills by half.

"Upgrading your insulation can help. In addition to that, installing weatherstripping around your home can help you save energy and money to boot! It air-seals your home to ensure all the heat is kept in," she says.

Small behavioural changes can also make a big impact too and cost nothing. Wong suggests limiting showers to five minutes, preferably with low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators that will cut down on water usage and water heating costs. Wash clothes in cold water instead of hot.

"Keep your home between 20 and 22 degrees Celsius," says Wong. "One relatively inexpensive change you can make that will be impactful, would be buying a programmable thermostat."

The province of B.C. offers up to \$3,000 and the City of North Vancouver offers up to \$350 towards the purchase of a heat pump. However, no matter what strategy you use, Ms. Wong advises to do a good amount of research beforehand. ✍

For more information, please visit: www.empowermeprogram.com.

► "Verbatim" from page 1

iversity I was hoping for, I knew that Canada was still very much a western country, and having only lived in Europe and the United States, I was wary of living in a bubble – only experiencing similar places with slight cultural differences.

In certain ways I was right, as daily life here can be fairly similar to England, France or Germany: overpriced coffee shops on every other corner, tech startups looking to raise funding, everyone spotting my thick accent within seconds of meeting me (it's not going any-

of opportunities when my state of mind shifted, allowing me to experience much more in these past few months than I have in other places in years.

Things aren't perfect here, of course. Working in the Downtown Eastside has also introduced me to a gritty, nerve-racking at times and definitely upsetting side of Vancouver. But it is a reality for many down here, hidden away from the rest of the city behind a convenient, yet thin, curtain, and I wouldn't trade my Chinatown office for another in a fancier location. It might not always be pretty, but



▲ To stay or not to stay.

where at this stage) and roommates universally taking their shower exactly when I want to take mine. But my outlook on life changed and so did the world around me when I decided to approach the city with an open mind, embracing being here instead of treating Canada as another temporary pit-stop or line on my resume.

From interviewing international artists, getting invited to cultural events, trying out new activities and taking on new professional responsibilities, Vancouver opened up a lot

it's a real place whose slices of life, history, activism and unsung heroes are part of the canvas giving to this city a unique flavour, like no fuming clock ever could.

I am not sure how long I will stay in Vancouver, but I can say that these past few months have been some of the most interesting I've experienced, and have helped me open up to a lot of opportunities and worthy challenges. I am happy to call this city home, and I am looking forward to discovering what else it has in store for me. ✍



Hosted by AMSSA and UBC Migration

Why Should I Care? Refugees and Canada in 2019 – A Community Dialogue

Date: October 15, 2019 | Time: 5:30PM– 8:00PM

Location: UBC Robson Square – Room Theatre C300 & Online via Livestream:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRYPUM9dlpo&feature=youtu.be>

AGENDA

5:30 – 6:00 PM	Networking
6:00 – 6:15 PM	Welcome and Introductions by host Katie Rosenberger, Chief Executive Officer, AMSSA
6:15 – 6:30 PM	Refugee lived experience journeys
6:30 – 7:45 PM	Panel discussion led by moderator Yang-Yang Zhou, Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics, UBC Migration. Panelists: Antje Ellermann, Co-Lead, UBC Migration Suzanne Huot, Co-Lead, UBC Migration Kay Scorer, Refugee and Immigration lawyer Discussion from public and invited guests.
7:45 – 8:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks

Light refreshments will be served.

Those attending in person are requested to register via Eventbrite:
<https://amssa-and-ubc-migration.eventbrite.ca>

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www.mosaicbc.org/sip

Public Service Announcement: October 16 – 31, 2019 Free Community Activities

Canadian Citizenship Preparation (English with Mandarin support)

Join us for a two-day workshop to prepare for Canadian citizenship! The sessions will be facilitated by MOSAIC staff. We will talk about topics such as Canada's history, symbols, government and geography, as well as the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Free service. Registration required.

🕒 October 18 & 25, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

📍 Tommy Douglas Burnaby Public Library, 7311 Kingsway

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

Canadian Citizenship Preparation

Join us for a two-day workshop to prepare for Canadian citizenship! The sessions will be facilitated by MOSAIC staff. We will talk about topics such as Canada's history, symbols, government and geography, as well as the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Free service. Registration required.

🕒 October 22 & 29, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

📍 MOSAIC #200A-7134 King George Blvd., Surrey

☎ Aida 604 318 6971 || ajadallah@mosaicbc.org

Financial Literacy (Arabic/English)

Know about identity theft and how you can protect your personal information. Find out what is fraud, the methods used and how to prevent it from happening to you. Also learn about the difference between credit cards and prepaid cards, and the advantages and disadvantages of them.

🕒 October 24, 12:00 pm – 2:15 pm

📍 MOSAIC #200A-7134 King George Blvd., Surrey

☎ Fairuz or Aida 778 591 9334 || fzenati@mosaicbc.org or ajadallah@mosaicbc.org

English Conversation Circle

Increase your vocabulary, learn how to make small talk, answer simple questions on the phone and improve your spoken English skills. Make new friends and learn about the community and Canadian culture.

🕒 Thursdays, August 22, 2019 – February 27, 2020, 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm

📍 MOSAIC #200A-7134 King George Blvd., Surrey

☎ Aida or Fairuz 604 318 6971 or 778 591 9334 || ajadallah@mosaicbc.org or fzenati@mosaicbc.org

Culture Smart Conversation Circle (Citizenship)

- For permanent residents applying for citizenship in the next 1-2 years
- Should have at least CLB 4 speaking and Listening to participate in the conversation
- Topics: Canadian geography, climate, history, civic life, rights & responsibilities of Canadian citizens based on the Discover Canada guide
- Not a citizenship test preparation workshop
- Light refreshments and bus tickets will be provided
- Facilitator: Pia Kolba

🕒 Fridays, October 11 – November 22, 2:00 – 4:00 pm (no session on Nov 15)

📍 MOSAIC Head Office, 5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver

☎ Shaima 604 254 9626 ext 1021 || sjaff@mosaicbc.org

Navigating Healthcare System (Cantonese/Mandarin)

Learn more about BC healthcare system and what to do in a medical emergency. This workshop is for seniors and conducted by Barbara Ho (Chief Nursing Officer and Health Director for iCON – InterCultural Online Health Network) in Cantonese and Mandarin.

🕒 October 28, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

📍 MOSAIC Head Office, 5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver

☎ Daisy 604 254 9626 ext 1005 || daisyau@mosaicbc.org

SENIORS CLUB ACTIVITIES

Activities at MOSAIC 5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver

English Conversation Circle (Beginner) **

When: Thursdays, September 5-Dec 12, 10 am-12 pm

Holistic Stretching and Patting Acupressure Exercise **

When: Mondays, September 9-Dec 9, 8:30 am-9:30 am

Knitting Circle

When: Tuesdays, September 17-November 19, 1-3 pm

Activities at MOSAIC 5902 Kingsway, Burnaby

English Conversation Circle

When: Thursdays, September 19-November 14, 9:30-11:30 am

Activities at Brentwood Community Resource Centre, 2055 Rosser Avenue, Burnaby

English Conversation Circle

When: Fridays, September 20-November 15, 1-3 pm

Qigong

When: Fridays, September 20-November 15, 9-10 am

Tai Chi

When: Fridays, September 20-November 15, 10:30 am-12 pm

Contact: Jennifer 604 218 7347 or jng@mosaicbc.org

**Daisy 604 254 9626 ext 1005 or daisyau@mosaicbc.org

LGBTQ

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Meet new people, make friends and participate in fun activities! Registered clinical counsellors will provide this group counselling session. Language support provided by volunteers (please contact us in advance to ensure that we have a volunteer who speaks your language).

🕒 October 28, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

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

Pushing boundaries: VR storytelling

by XI CHEN

Edward Madojemu, a 19-year-old Emily Carr University student who arrived in Vancouver just two years ago from Nigeria, has not only built a new life for himself in a new country, but also managed to construct new worlds in virtual reality (VR) based on his personal experience of moving.

Madojemu's first VR graphic novel, *Dami and Falian*, about two female lead characters exploring new worlds and overcoming different challenges, was so ground-breaking in this still-developing medium that it was featured in this year's Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) and became a finalist of the International VIFF Immersed Competition alongside works by industry veterans.

According to his university faculty, Madojemu is charting unknown waters in VR as he constructs his characters and sets directly in a 3D space whereas other animators typically still work with

2D devices and then translate the results into a 360 degree experience.

"I can't say I am an expert in making these experiences, but I wasn't trying to make the same old VR story. I wanted to make something that feels like an extension of a comic book on paper. If there is something in the background you want to learn more, you can do so to satisfy your curiosity," he says.



▲ Still from *Dami and Falian*, a VR graphic novel.

Madojemu and his team incorporated a lot of interesting little details in the story that the audience can explore at their own pace. For example, they invented a new alien language that can be translated when one interacts with a character.

"The more you write, the more you start to notice what could be changed for the better; the medium kind of tells you how to make it best. I am taking the same values that I learned on paper and in film, I am just opening the field of view even wider," he adds.

This VR project irreversibly changed Madojemu's life trajectory too.

"Once you open up something that the audience can participate in, I really want to see where I can take this. I want to push boundaries as far as possible, to see how many different ways I can use the medium and what kind of story I can tell, truly," he says.

Grateful for the opportunity given by the Basically Good Media Lab at the university, Madojemu says he also grew and learned while assembling a team and working with other people.

"There is enough room for everyone to be creative in VR and you end up with something deeper and greater than you originally started with."

The moral of the story

The story idea of *Dami and Falian* came to Madojemu a few months after he arrived in Vancouver.

"I just landed here and it was a lot to take in – it is very different from Nigeria. I needed a way to process that, so I wanted to make a story to get all these emotions out. Just as I was writing the story, my brother purchased an Oculus Rift, and I just kept on using it, you can literally draw in three-dimensional space and till this day it still blows my mind," he says.

As a male writer, Madojemu feels it is an interesting choice for his lead characters to be female. He explains that it is challenging, and he himself feels male writers do not portray women properly, especially in sci-fi. But since he grew up with strong women in his life – his mother and his friends – he opted to give it a try.

"A lot of the dialogue that happens in the story have happened in real life," he says with a chuckle. "There are aspects of me in both of them too; they are very dysfunctional. Dami is the sweet and optimistic one and Falian is full-on cynic."

Parallel to his own experience adjusting to a new environment, *Dami and Falian* is also about self-discovery, where the two characters are either learning



▲ Edward Madojemu, VR enthusiast.



about the world around them or about themselves, sometimes with their values pushed to the limits.

"If I see something horrible, am I going to accept it as this way or am I going to fight against it? In the VR space it stops being a debate and you can see them in action and you can make your own meaning out of it," he says. ✍️

Universal themes in a unique setting

by VICTOR VAN DER MERWE

When it comes to societies like South Africa, there is always something that will contradict your preconceived notions, says Arianna Dagnino, author of *The Afrikaner*. Published by Guernica Editions Inc..

"I think what is happening now in the Western world, is something that has already happened in South Africa," says Dagnino, who spent five years in the then newly democratic South Africa and can write about that time with great ease.

The novel is set in the South Africa of 1996. The book follows Zoe du Plessis, a paleontologist of Afrikaner descent, struggling with white group guilt, a dark family secret and the recent loss of a lover and colleague. The Afrikaner begins as Zoe embarks on a journey of self-discovery and atonement, while on a field expedition into the hot plains of the Kalahari Desert. She is there in search of early human fossils.

Witness to transition

Dagnino was born in Italy but has traveled as far as London, Boston and Moscow for work and studies. In 1996, Dagnino and her husband moved to South Africa to become international correspondents who wrote for the Italian press. Aside from the wire service, she and her husband were the only two Italian reporters in the country.

"It was the right time to be there (South Africa)," says Dagnino. "All the foreign correspondents from the UK, the US, from all over Europe, they were all interested in what was happening there. It was a very dramatic moment of transition for the country, so everyone wanted to witness what was happening and report about it."

As a former travel writer for an Italian magazine, she was mostly prepared for what to expect when arriving in Africa, but there were still facets of South African life that surprised her.

"What really surprised me was that most of the white people in South Africa had never visited a township," says Dagnino. "So, the first thing I did as a reporter, I went into the Soweto township to see how people lived there."

Dagnino says she ended up being the person that told white South Africans about how people live in Soweto, one of South Af-

Dagnino and her family again faced the choice of a new destination. The couple applied for Canadian permanent residency at the same time they applied for Australian permanent residency. After Dagnino received her PhD, they figured, why not give Canada a try?

"We wanted to offer our kids the opportunity to experience

“I think it is important for people to understand that they need to address certain issues related to racial divisions.

Arianna Dagnino, author of The Afrikaner

rica's most famous townships. The class distinction even within a township like Soweto was another big surprise.

"It was a real city. It wasn't a squatter camp like the Favelas in Brazil. There were people there who were very poor, but there were also people who were very rich. Some people had mansions and big cars in Soweto," she says.

Moving to Canada

In 2000, Dagnino and her husband left South Africa and moved to Australia where she received her PhD in Comparative Literature and Sociology. After a few years of living in Australia,

being raised in an English-speaking country," she says. "We felt it was important for them to be raised in an English-speaking country, because it gives them a lot more opportunities."

It was in Canada, where Dagnino started and finished the novel *The Afrikaner*. Although the story takes place in a very remote corner of the world and is set in a very specific time of South Africa's history, Dagnino still feels everyone can take something from the theme of the book.

"I think the theme is very universal," she says. "I think it is important for people to understand that they need to address certain issues related to racial divisions."

Dagnino hopes everyone who reads her book takes away the idea that we should not be so quick to judge.

"Societies are very complex and South Africa's society is one of the most complex I have experienced," she says. "It is very challenging. It isn't black and white, there are many shades of grey and we need to take into consideration these shades of grey before creating our perception, before making judgements."

Dagnino currently teaches at UBC. ✉

For more information go to: www.fhis.ubc.ca/people/arianna-dagnino/



▲ Arianna Dagnino, PhD.

► "Election" from page 1

Mall to explain that a lot of people would love to trust mainstream media, but feel they are not represented honestly, and that many immigrants want to have their opinions heard fairly and objectively. He notes that immigrants tend to respect reporters who pursue the truth as opposed to asking leading questions or continuously quoting figures who will give them answers that they want to hear while disregarding wider community sentiments.

Inherited confidence

One of the largest issues that this election has been forced to tackle has been immigration. Though Mall points out that previously the Conservatives had higher immigration numbers in the 80s and 90s, Cunanan counters by reminding us that current memory and rhetoric is up for election.

"Filipino immigrants will likely support the Liberals because Liberal governments have done a lot of good for immigrants since Pierre [Elliot] Trudeau made multiculturalism a national policy in 1971," he says. He also contends that other scandals have not bothered most Filipinos as much as the Conservatives' anti-immigrant sentiments. "Many understand Trudeau's father

opened the door for non-white peoples and put the pressure on all successive governments thereafter."

Recalling the relationship and influence between America and Canada, Cunanan reveals that most Filipinos don't consider Trump a good model to follow, and in fact most Filipinos are proud that Canada has thus far stood behind Justin Trudeau as Prime Minister instead of someone ideologically or rhetorically motivated. Mall expands on this idea.

"People have faith, and communities are mixing more and more nowadays; they don't expect [white] Canadians to behave like [white] Americans," he says. "There will always be a certain fringe group that will never accept non-white immigration and we have to live with that reality."

Scandalous for some

A series of photos made their thunderous arrival in Canadian media and politics late September depicting Prime minister Trudeau wearing "brownface" or "blackface" makeup in separate incidents. Though these photos have shaken Trudeau's reputation, and the media gave it thorough coverage in the ensuing days, both Mall and Cunanan believe that their communities have

not been massively shaken by the pictures.

"What he did eighteen years ago when he was young and in the spirit of fun is understandable," says Cunanan. "Filipinos understood that he did it as part of his costume as Aladdin at a costume party with Arabian Nights as a theme. He had to be colored if he was going to appear as Aladdin. After all, Aladdin was not an Anglo Saxon."

In addition, he points to the Filipino artistic and fun-loving culture as helping to smooth over the controversy.

Mall believes that the scale of these travesties is more important. "[People] are more interested in reality, are there jobs open for us or not?" he asks. "They don't have the time to care about whether or not someone is dressing up as a black guy or a white guy. [Justin] Trudeau came wearing this 'brownface' but he was not standing on the road telling people to go back home. There is a big difference between the two."

For all the uncertainty and speculation plaguing current political discourse, the points of view in both Mall's community and in Cunanan's is as varied and dynamic as the people in them – and that holds true for Canada at large. ✉

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Settlement Online Pre-Arrival (SOPA) is a network of Canadian agencies delivering online facilitated workshops to individuals abroad who have been approved to immigrate to Canada.

Shining a light on Vancouver's Black communities, past and present

by THIERRY MAOUT

BlackArt Gastown is committed to preserving and promoting the historical, cultural, societal and economic contributions made by Black settlers, immigrants and their descendants to Vancouver.

The non-profit organization is presenting the collaborative installation *East End Uprising*, a love letter to Vancouver's Black communities past and present, from Oct. 1 to 15 in locations across downtown Vancouver.

East End Uprising

Vancouver's Strathcona neighborhood, adjacent to Chinatown and affectionately referred to as the East End, was a historically Black neighborhood from the early 1900s up to the 1970s. Home to Black settlers from California, Oklahoma, and Alberta, it consisted of a church, businesses, and a population of approximately 800. Notable residents included Nora Hendrix, grandmother of Jimi Hendrix, a guitarist widely regarded as one of the most influential instrumentalists in the history of rock music.

Hendrix worked as a cook at the iconic Vie's Chicken and Steak House, a landmark for Black food and culture which operated from 1950 to 1976. Part of what was known as Hogan's Al-



▲ East End Uprising at Massy Books.

ley, it was a hub for Black music and cultural events in Vancouver. The restaurant was eventually destroyed to make way for the construction of the Georgia and Dunsmuir viaducts, causing the dismantlement of one of Canada's only Black neighbourhoods.

In 2019, BlackArt Gastown is dedicated to creating artistic and informative installations about the presence of Black history in Vancouver, while imagining the future of Black communities in the city. *East End Uprising* is the organization's art showcase, presented in the

form of a collaborative installation. Employing Black artists to create surrounding the theme "the anticipation of Black community," it is described as a love letter to the Black communities that came to Vancouver in the 1900s and made Strathcona their home.

East End Uprising showcases the work of local artists in various locations across downtown Vancouver, including Massy Books, where Michel Kamanzi, a Vancouver-based queer artist from Rwanda, is exhibiting his photography project.

Proudly taking space

Michel Kamanzi, 27, moved to Ottawa from Rwanda in 2009 before relocating to Vancouver two years ago. "I consider myself Africanadian," he confides, when asked about his relationship to Canada and to Vancouver. "I have built my home in Vancouver because this is where I have gotten to discover myself and build my own community, my own sense of self. I consider Vancouver home, the place where I am authentically myself."

Kamanzi's artwork celebrates the uniqueness, talent and beauty of Black individuals, highlighting the radiance and magic of claiming space in a Black body today. After creating for several years as a fashion writer and photographer, he started focusing on portraits when taking

closeup pictures of his community and family members.

"It brought me a lot of joy seeing faces like my own being represented properly: exposure, composition – usually photographers do not capture Black people the same way I do," he explains. "I want to showcase them in the proper light."

Portraits for the *East End Uprising* showcase were intentionally taken around the Gastown and Strathcona area, in homage to the historic Black neighborhood. According to the artist, these photographs are reflecting "joy of life, queerness, happiness." They focus on drawing viewers into the now, honouring both present and past Black communities in Vancouver, and documenting the lives and telling the stories around Kamanzi.

Kamanzi describes his work as an effort to change false narratives and break barriers. "Most of my work is with the queer Black community here in Vancouver," he says.

The artist feels his work is about proudly taking space.

"Because we deserve to be here, just like anybody else," he says. ✍

For more information, please visit:
BlackArt Gastown:
www.blackartgastown.com
Michel Kamanzi's instagram:
www.instagram.com/instadoode
Massy Books:
www.massybooks.com

Photo by Michel Kamanzi

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Women in clay

by COLLEEN ADDISON

Mangia! Mangia! Images of Italian women abound in popular culture, from the grey-haired grandmother who urges to eat spaghetti to sultry sirens the likes of Sophia Loren. A new ceramic art exhibition at the Italian Cultural Centre, curated by Angela Clarke, engages with these and other female stereotypes, examining what they mean for women today.

The exhibit, *Malleable*, which will be held from Oct. 18 through Dec. 10, marks the final instalment of the 2019 series *Gendered Voices*, organized by the Centre's museum Il Museo. Three previous shows, *Princesses and Monsters*, *Ancient Women in Textile*, *Brides: Portrait of a Marriage*, used other mediums to look at the various traditional stories that shape and constrict women's lives.

"*Malleable* is about life without restrictions," says Clarke, museum director and curator at Il Centro Italian Cultural Centre in Vancouver. "Clay is flexible; it can be put into any shape, [and] with clay, the will of the artisan precipitates the change. Traditionally women's lives were predetermined. But now we're entering a period

where women can self-determine."

Fish, females, and the importance of age five

Such self-determination often means challenging old images, notes Clarke.

"In traditional societies," she explains, "particularly in Italy and Europe, young girls, right from the time of birth, are told stories, [which] become moral models. Women were told how they should behave. You're born; your gender is established, and as a result of this gender, your life is established. You have the story of Rapunzel, who is a parallel with Saint Barbara. This young woman is locked in a tower; she's protected from growing into womanhood."

In both stories, continues Clarke, a male figure finds the young woman. In the story of Rapunzel, it's a prince, and in the hagiography or saint's biography, it's God, with the saint becoming a martyr for her religion.

Women are now breaking free from these models, says Clarke.

"As opposed to these restrictions in your life, let's just let life happen," she says.

One example, a 2019 sculpture by Louise Solecki Weir from the exhibit *Entangled* shows a mermaid, a traditional figure of myth and fairy tale, caught up in a net.

"The mermaid is really the embodiment of a hybrid," says Clarke.

"She's a fish, but she's also a female. So she's continuously trying to negotiate her way through the world. For a lot of women that is our lives."

The sculpture embodies gendered roles in another way, adds Clarke. The mermaid is in the water, often associated with the womb and motherhood.

"Women [can be] called upon to play dual roles, wife and mother, the inclusion or not of a career," she says. "For men, traditionally, there's never this debate. In Italian Renaissance manuscripts, the notion is that a man shouldn't even worry about his kids until they're at least age five."

Laughing at teapots

The exhibition showcases some of BC's other top female ceramic artists such as Georgian Lohan and Amy Chang, both of whose work also contests stereotypes about women, as well as mythological and fairy tale figures.

"These archetypes aren't being thrown out," Clarke points out. "There's references to women as benevolent goddesses [and] a gardening theme. There's this beautiful piece by Georgian Lohan that's like a goddess in a forest [*The*



▲ The Mermaid by Louise Solecki Weir.

Return, 2010]], and a piece by Amy Chang [that] looks at the Cinderella story [*Cinderella*, 2010]], but if you're a woman with a big foot that doesn't fit into the glass slipper."

As with Chang's piece, some of the ceramics in the exhibit address issues in a more lighthearted way, notes Clarke.

"In feminism, there's a lot of things like the #MeToo movement that look at social injustice," she says. "But at the same time there's humour. As Carl Jung says, the vessel is a representation of femininity, the womb, the ability to procreate. We have woman as represented by teapots, serving platters." ✍

For more information, please visit:
www.vitalianculturalcentre.ca

Photo courtesy of Italian Cultural Centre

Spill: fluidity over boundaries

by KYLIE LUNG

The Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery will be flooded with the inspiring and educational environmental work of the artists contributing to the *Spill* exhibit.

Guadalupe Martinez curated the *Spill: Response* portion of the exhibit, which can be seen from Sept. 3 to Dec. 1.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Martinez moved to Vancouver in 2008 at the age of 28. As an immigrant herself, Martinez often engages whole heartedly with the concepts of colonization and immigration, as well as the local histories of her new and old homes. Martinez is drawn to strong female artists like Ana Mendieta and Lygia Clark, both of whom staged their own performance pieces in the 70s and 80s. With these influences surrounding her, Martinez began



▲ Guadalupe Martinez.

her own version of performance art with her involvement in *Spill*.

This large collaborative work began over a year ago with Martinez and fellow curator, Lorna Brown, and has picked up several artists along the way since its inception.

“The exhibition focuses on video research projects that look at the exploitative practices of bodies of water,” says Martinez. “All the projects presented in *Spill: Response*, whether it is a film or an episode of the radio, have a performative component to them either through the research process, the radio conversations or the social or political engagement process of making the works.”

Talking about *Spill*

Spill is a multi-media work that has several parts including Martinez’s *Spill: Response* as well as *Spill: Radio*. The latter of which is put on by Tatiana Mellema in collaboration with CiTR 101.9FM and extends the themes of land exploitation, providing the listener with podcasts, book readings and more so that the conversation can go on with the viewer wherever they are.

Martinez describes her exhibition *Spill: Response* as a combination of research, performative artists and educators with the intent of strengthening one’s connection to the land on which people live, the water they use



▲ From the exhibition *Spill, the Arrow – Reservoir*.

to survive, as well as the changes needed to enact in order to keep these things sacred.

“It also extends the projects into multiple realms of activism, beyond the specific issues of mining and land extraction into the everyday life through social practices, community development and education all seen under the umbrella of healing and decolonization,” says Martinez. “The artists that I have invited are committed to social change, love and care in their own communities and they perform their research and artistic practice in ways where they blend with their own life.”

The gallery goes on an outing

During the tenure of her exhibit, Martinez will also work with 15 students and lead them on vari-

ous retreats related to environmental problems in the surrounding Vancouver area. Instead of an enclosed traditional gallery exhibit setting, Martinez and other local artists will lead the students to specific sites to show them how close to home some of these problems are. For instance, a dialogical walk and talk to the Pipeline Watch House on Burnaby Mountain is one event.

Education and awareness is paramount to Martinez. If one cannot grasp their own environmental footprint, then she feels understanding the messier and harder to remedy footprints of industry is impossible. This exhibit strives to make the viewer want to make personal changes and take action of their own. Martinez’s use of several different artistic mediums is testa-

ment to the importance of the work: artists, educators, and researchers all have the ability to come together to create a positive change. So, to Martinez, the gallery has no boundaries and will extend wherever these ideas of activism and action want to permeate.

“It was important for me to expand the space of the gallery into public space and sites where local communities habitually work...,” says Martinez. “I am interested in the interdisciplinary potential to bridge these spaces and use the synergy of these practices and artists to heal rather than keeping things in fixed and static compartments... fluidity is an amazing thing.”

For more information, visit www.belkin.ubc.ca

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The Great Green Wall Proudly presented by **Source**
Jared P. Scott – UK, 92 min.

SUN. SEP 29	11:15 AM	INTL VILLAGE 10
WED. OCT 2	6:00 PM	INTL VILLAGE 9
WED. OCT 9	11:00 AM	INTL VILLAGE 9

Malian musician/activist Inna Modja embarks on an expedition through five African nations, gathering an ensemble of artists to celebrate the pan-African dream of realizing the Great Green Wall: an 8,000 km mosaic of fertile land that would represent the Earth’s largest living structure. Backed by a dazzling array of musical diversity, Jared P. Scott’s documentary is an unforgettable exploration of a modern marvel of ecological restoration and a powerful call to take action to help reshape the world.



A Dog and His Man
Siddharth Tripathy – India, 84 min.

SAT. SEP 28	9:30 PM	SFU-GCA
MON. SEP 30	3:30 PM	VANCITY

In what remains of his hometown in Chhattisgarh, Shoukie drifts aimlessly through both abandoned streets and bittersweet memories of better days. It’s been his decision not to make way for the mechanics of progress. Evoking the work of VIFF mainstays Jia Zhangke and Pedro Costa while evincing a distinct sensibility of his own, Siddharth Tripathy immerses his protagonist in a dust-speckled night of the soul that speaks to the aging and dispossessed everywhere.



Castle of Dreams
Reza Mirkarimi – Iran, 86 min.

TUE. OCT 1	8:45 PM	CENTRE FOR ARTS
WED. OCT 2	3:30 PM	INTL VILLAGE 8

VIFF alumnus Reza Mirkarimi (he was here with *Under the Moonlight in 2001*), director of three of Iran’s nominees for the Best Foreign-Language Film Academy Award, returns with this subtle, gritty, wonderfully acted road movie that evokes memories of neo-realism. Fresh out of jail, Jalal (Hamed Behdad) reluctantly takes charge of his now-motherless two children and heads to Azerbaijan with them and his new Azeri wife. It is a trip that will change everything...



Oh Mercy
Arnaud Desplechin – France, 119 min.

FRI. OCT 4	9:00 PM	PLAYHOUSE
SAT. OCT 5	11:00 AM	SFU-GCA

Located in the north, close to the Belgian border, Roubaix is one of the poorest towns in France. It is also the hometown of VIFF fave Arnaud Desplechin (*A Christmas Tale, My Golden Days*), and he uses it to great effect as the setting for what is a radical change of pace for him: a police procedural centred on a true-life murder case. Roschdy Zem is the police captain investigating a routine arson that soon takes on a more sinister shape; Léa Seydoux and Sara Forestier play the suspects he grills.



No. 7 Cherry Lane
Yonfan – Hong Kong/China, 125 min.

TUE. OCT 8	6:00 PM	CENTRE FOR ARTS
THU. OCT 10	3:00 PM	PLAYHOUSE

Master director Yonfan makes his animation debut with this sensuous, passionate story of a young man’s sentimental education. Hong Kong, 1967: as leftists riot in the streets, Ziming is attending university and negotiating a tricky situation – he’s got strong feelings for both young Meiling and her worldly mother Mrs. Yu. Featuring hand-drawn images that evoke ardour, lust, and bittersweet nostalgia, this is the director’s love letter to his home and to cinema; as such, it’s an absolute triumph.



Parasite
Bong Joon Ho – South Korea, 131 min.

FRI. SEP 27	9:00 PM	CENTRE FOR ARTS
SUN. SEP 29	3:00 PM	CENTRE FOR ARTS
SUN. OCT 6	9:00 PM	CENTRE FOR ARTS

After the international spectacles of *Snowpiercer* and *Okja*, master filmmaker Bong Joon Ho returns to his Korean roots with this suspenseful, satirical, black comedy, which functions both as a devastating social critique and a brilliantly executed exercise in Hitchcockian pure cinema. Ki-taek (Bong regular Song Kang Ho) and his family of miscreants insinuate themselves into the rich Park family’s lives – and home – with brilliantly unpredictable, ingeniously conceived, and gorgeously designed results.



The Cave
Tom Waller – Thailand, 104 min.

TUE. OCT 8	9:15 PM	PLAYHOUSE
WED. OCT 9	3:30 PM	PLAYHOUSE

In the summer of 2018, the world was gripped by the plight of a Thai boys’ soccer team trapped in a flooded cave for over two weeks. Focusing on the rescue side of the story, Thai-Irish director Tom Waller’s recounting throbs with real-time, nail-biting tension. Four divers (one a Vancouverite) who joined the daring rescue mission play themselves in this stirring account of how an international coalition of experts and volunteers raced against time and circumstances to pull off a moving miracle.



Young Ahmed
Jean-Pierre Dardenne, Luc Dardenne – Belgium, 84 min.

FRI. SEP 27	6:30 PM	CENTRE FOR ARTS
WED. OCT 2	4:00 PM	PLAYHOUSE

Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, recipients of two Cannes Palme d’Or awards, turn to the darkest subject of their sparkling careers, fashioning a frightening and plausible (and controversial) character study of a 13-year-old boy, swayed by his radicalized imam, who decides that only one thing will complete his embrace of the jihadi spirit: killing his teacher... Curly-haired newcomer Idir Ben Addi is fully committed to his difficult role, and the Dardennes yet again demonstrate their directorial mastery.

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GRATUIT

16



Photo courtesy of Derek Flores

A bus tour with El Jaguar

by RAMAN KANG

“We’re looking down at our phones so often that we rarely look up. This bus tour is a way of looking up and engaging with your city in a completely new way,” says the Mexican luchador known as El Jaguar.

He will be hosting the *El Jaguar Fiesta Bus Tour* taking place in Vancouver from Oct. 18–20 as part of the 2019 International Theatresports Institute’s Conference and Festival.

Finding Improv

“The importance of improv isn’t just about finding your family or tribe, it’s about having an undeniable connection with people,” says El Jaguar.

El Jaguar has been with TheatreSports for 30 years and credits his teacher Keith Johnstone for inspiring him and giving him the tools to teach others.

“Improv is whatever inspires you, you come with nothing and find ways to spark joy,” he says.

Now, taking on the persona of El Jaguar, he works to find the joy in the world with the *El Jaguar Fiesta Bus Tour*.

Reconnecting with the city

“You don’t need a stage to do improv. Improv is about working with your environment,” says El Jaguar.

As he explains, the *El Jaguar Fiesta Bus Tour* is a way of getting people to look up from their phones and seeing the city they live in, in a completely new and different way.

“This isn’t your average, run-of-the-mill bus tour, it’s a fiesta,” he says. “It’s like re-meeting something you already know, but in a different way.”

When an earthquake hit his home of Christchurch, New Zealand, it devastated the community. However, El Jaguar began noticing how the city was rebuilding and it was as if he was being reintroduced to his home.

El Jaguar got the idea to start the *El Jaguar Fiesta Bus Tour* when he started doing bus tours of Christchurch to get other people reacquainted with their hometown, pointing out all of the new buildings and architecture the city had rebuilt.

As you ride through your own city on a tour, passing by landmarks and places you think you know, El Jaguar will present you with ‘alternative facts,’ few would’ve ever thought of.

“The best part is – because you’re not the one driving the

bus – you can just sit back and enjoy the show,” says El Jaguar.

Fighting to make the world better

After retiring from professional wrestling, El Jaguar says he struggled with finding out who he really was.

“I wrestled with my own identity and self worth,” he explains.

El Jaguar eventually found that engaging with the community and bringing joy to others in turn brought joy to his own life.

“I go out there and I communicate joy,” he says.

Being a *luchador* is about getting ready for a fight and in this case, El Jaguar says he’s getting ready to fight to make the world a better place and to spread positivity.

“This bus tour is a way of looking up and engaging with your city in a completely new way.”

El Jaguar, luchador

“I spent a lot of time being sad and you can’t do much with sadness, you can do a lot more with positivity,” says El Jaguar.

Breaking barriers

As a single father, El Jaguar is always looking for new things to do with his son and these bus tours are his way of connecting with his family.

“I want to break barriers,” says El Jaguar. “Because we’re constantly putting up barriers, like our phones, that keep us from learning about one another, we get used to seeing certain things so we sometimes stop appreciating the beauty of connection.”

According to El Jaguar, this bus tour is a way to reconnect with the world around you, to re-meet people who you already know and see things in a different way. It’s about making that connection again.

“We are here to celebrate, meet new people, share experiences” says El Jaguar, “We’re trying something new where every action is different and we all share a love for the city.”

Find out more: www.vtvl.com/conference-show/el-jaguars-fiesta-city-bus-tour/

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

Cultural Calendar

October 8–22, 2019

by SIMON YEE

Thanksgiving in Canada occurs in October, unlike the United States' holiday of the same name in November. Canadian Thanksgiving has a long history – the Indigenous peoples' communal feasts celebrated the autumn harvests including prayer, dance and potlatch long before the arrival of European settlers. Sir Martin Frobisher in 1578 and Samuel de Champlain in 1606 also held feasts giving thanks and observing communion. Canadians officially declared this tradition a national holiday in 1879. Whatever you decide to do this month, spare a moment to give thanks, spend time with family and share a delicious meal!

Garden in the Machine

Sept. 21–Dec. 15
Surrey Art Gallery
www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/29669.aspx

The digital world changes as much as the natural world. To mark the past 20 years of digital art programming, the Surrey Art Gallery will present new and recent works from leading artists in this field. Examine the complex relationship between computer technology and nature through digital art, large-scale images and environments. The artists invite visitors to question the limits of technology and nature. There will be an exhibition tour on Oct. 16 and an artists' talk on Oct. 26. Check out the Art Gallery's website for artists and exhibit information.

Sixth Annual Vancouver Halloween Parade & Expo

Oct. 11–13
Downtown Vancouver
www.vanhalloween.com

This multi-day family friendly Halloween Expo in downtown Vancouver starts on Oct. 11 and culminates with a cosplay parade on Oct. 13. Bring out your favourite cosplay costume and watch or participate in the Halloween Parade. This is a family friendly parade, so no blood or gore costumes allowed. There will be dance and musical performances at the Vancouver Art Gallery, expo exhibits at Robson Square on the last two days and the parade on Sunday morning.

Fort Langley Cranberry Festival

Oct. 12, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
Glover Road, Fort Langley
fortlangleycranberryfestival.com

Join in on the Thanksgiving tradition and come celebrate B.C.'s



Photo courtesy of Vancouver Opera

▲ *La Traviata*: the classic opera gets a makeover.

proud berry history at the 24th annual Fort Langley Cranberry Festival. Throughout the day over 100 marketplace vendors line Glover Road displaying their wares, and 16 popular food trucks offer something for everyone. There is a schedule of live entertainment and more than 20 teams participate in the Cranberry Festival Regatta. The childrens' area includes face painters, balloon artists and the Creative Cube, all providing plenty of fun for the kids. And of course, there are copious amounts of fresh local cranberries for attendees to purchase. The festival starts at 10 a.m. (the pancake breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m.). For more information, check out the festival's website.

Vancouver Rare Book, Photograph & Paper Show

Oct. 12–13
Heritage Hall, Vancouver
www.vrbppshow.ca

The Heritage Hall, a beautiful historic venue, will be hosting the Rare Book, Photograph & Paper show, housing a delightful selection of top quality antiquarian material on offer by some very knowledgeable exhibitors. The show features 21 exhibitors with wonderful, rare books, fine maps, significant photographs and interesting paper items. A number of these exhibitors are recognized as Canada's top dealers in collectible, antiquarian and rare material. Check out their website for a list of exhibitors.

pikiskwe-speak

Oct. 16–Dec. 15
Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch
www.pikiskwe-speak.ca

The Vancouver Public Library will be host to the collaborative arts exhibit pikiskwe-speak, featuring the work of Arts Actionist Lana Whiskeyjack and documentary filmmaker Beth Wishart MacKenzie from Oct. 16 to Dec. 15. The exhibit seeks to engage host communities in conversations of reconciliation through art—conversations that will explore the enduring effects of Canada's Residential School system with the aim of writing a new chapter, painting a new vision and creating a new protocol for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous relations in Canada. Check out the art installation website for more information.

China Doll

Oct. 17–26
Gateway Theatre, Richmond
www.gatewaytheatre.com

This month, the Gateway Theatre will host a presentation of *China Doll*, a historical drama by Canadian playwright Marjorie Chan. This universal coming-of-age story tells one girl's journey trying to honour her family's values in an increasingly changing world. Bound by tradition, Su-Ling's world is closing in around her. Her grandmother is determined that she will marry well



Photo courtesy of Gateway Theatre

▲ Traditions are put to the test in *China Doll*.

and bring prosperity to them both. But when she learns to read, Su-Ling's mind is opened to new possibilities, setting her on a dangerous path to independence. Check out the theatre's website for showtimes and more information.

La Traviata

Oct. 17, 19, 24, 7:30 p.m.;
Oct. 27, 2 p.m.
Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver
www.vancouveropera.ca

La Traviata, a glorious work by Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi was last performed eight years ago at Vancouver Opera. This perennial favourite has been given a brand-new look and features a terrific cast. And, in an unprecedented collaboration, five Canadian opera companies have joined forces to produce lavish sets and costumes inspired by the decadent music hall scene of 1920s Paris. Violetta, a famous Parisian courtesan who is consumed both by love and a life-threatening illness, is sung by Canadian Emily Dorn. Tenor Andrew Haji is the love-struck Alfredo. For tickets and showtimes, check out the Vancouver Opera's website.

Tenth Anniversary Sunshine Coast Art Crawl

Oct. 18–20
Various venues along the Sunshine Coast Highway, Sunshine Coast
www.suncoastarts.com

"The Crawl" is held along the entire Sunshine Coast between Langdale and Earls Cove. Over three days, the Sunshine Coast transforms into one large interactive art show. It is a celebration of events, demonstrations, displays and opportunities to meet

the artists behind their amazing creations. There are over 360 artists in 186 galleries, artist studios and a variety of other venues. It is such a great time to gather your friends and family and get a taste of what coast life is all about, and discover some unique and sometimes very off the road locations.

UBC Apple Festival

Oct. 19–20, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
UBC Botanical Garden, University Endowment Lands
www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca

The 28th UBC Apple Festival takes place at the UBC Botanical Garden on Oct. 19 and 20. A family event for all ages, the festival cel-



Photo courtesy of UBC Botanical Garden

▲ Discover the unbelievably vast world of apples.

brates one of British Columbia's favourite fruits. With about 75% of B.C.'s orchard lands dedicated to apple trees, there are plenty of apple varieties grown right here in our province. From learning about the diversity of apples to tasting rare and unusual varieties, the festival is a great opportunity to discover more about this delicious fruit.

Vancouver Writers Fest

Oct. 21–27
Various venues around Granville Island and Downtown Vancouver
www.writersfest.bc.ca

Words shape our worlds. They can delight, inspire, provoke, comfort and unite – as do the authors, journalists and poets who wield them. The Vancouver Writers Fest encourages readers of all ages to explore the power of storytelling and books through dozens of events with local and international writers. The celebration takes place in the cultural oasis of Granville Island and continues throughout the year with programs including the free Incite reading series at the Vancouver Public Library, special events with leading writers and youth education outreach programs. For a complete schedule of events, check out the Writers Fest website.



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