

Step into
the Fringe
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The Source

forum of diversity

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International degrees seek a path to employment

by RALUCA MANOLACHE

Vancouver is ripe with engineers and doctors driving cabs or dishing out pizza to kids at night.

Foreign professionals find themselves in these positions because many Canadian employers do not recognize their international degrees.

"A lot of people have used up all of their courage [just] to get here," says Marilyn Murray, career counselor at the YWCA.

"They are scared to go out and [network] because it is not part of their culture to get out and meet people. If they don't get out there it becomes horrendous."

The lack of networking abilities is but one of the biggest obstacles in terms of foreign experience recognized in Canada. Another is that newcomers earn points in order to make their way to Canada. And some points are earned based on their education and experience.

"People are...making the assumption [that] their education and experience contributed to their entry into Canada, [and] therefore they are going to be able to move into that profession," says Dr. Roberta Neault, President of Life Strategies Ltd.

"I think that that's where the disconnect happens and I don't think that it's deliberately misleading nor that there is an easy way to change that interpretation."

In Canada foreign credential recognition happens at all levels of government and the process can take from three to six months, and if a new comer has more education, all that means



Illustration by Emílio Batista Almeida Filho, Flickr

is that the path to becoming accredited takes that much longer due to the lower levels of employment for those with higher degrees.

An email from Human Resources Skills and Development explains that they are shortening the amount of time it takes for newcomers to have their credentials recognized so that newcomers can apply their skills and experience.

"I think it's wonderful that the government is fast tracking some professions," says Dr. Neault, "...in general in Canada and in other

countries things move very slow ... [and]... even when something is announced it doesn't mean that it's working seamlessly or it's going to be in place within the short term."

Any immigrant or Canadian born person who holds an international degree and is looking to put it to work in Canada can face numerous barriers. Foreign credential recognition is just one of them. But with the right tools anyone can break through the bureaucratic tape and find success.

See "Foreign Credentials" Page 2 >

Verbatim

Falling for Animals

by ADRIANNA GRANVILLE

My earliest childhood memory is of grass. I'd fallen face down on the brown-green Los Angeles fuzz and frantically summoned my 18 months of coordination skills to get up and toddle away from an angry goose that believed my little pig-tailed self was a threat.

I remember the loud honks and the look of hate in its eyes as it relentlessly followed me and nipped furiously. I was upset at my chubby little legs for not working and at my smiling family for just standing under a sycamore for shade. That was just the beginning.

I've had a long-standing track record of somehow invigorating normally docile creatures and not knowing why. I even

became a vegetarian at nine years old because I wanted to have nothing to do with these furry demons. But no matter how hard I tried to avoid them, animals seemed to seek me out.

While on a quiet hike during my UK travels, a Welsh sheep decided he'd escape from his pen, find me, sneak up on me and jump on a fallen tree while snorting and stomping his hooves enough to scare me onto a different trail. I got lost for hours.

Then there was the time in a Lahu village in Northern Thailand on a narrow trail summiting a mountain. While walking with a group of children we didn't get very far before we were met by a herd of cows storming down the narrow

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Congoles-style
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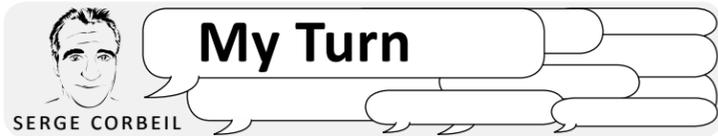
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Now what...?

What else is there to say, when all has already been said? I'm talking of course about Jack Layton.

When it comes to a political figure, the wave of emotion that swept across the country over the days following his death was of a magnitude rarely seen in this country. Proof then, that Jack reached out and touched Canadians in a very special way.

We may as well admit it; the death of the NDP leader will undoubtedly have an impact on Canadian politics. As a matter of fact, the death of a politician while on active duty is a rare event in and of itself. What got the best of many is the unfairness of the timing of his demise: so soon after his massive victory last May.

His personal tragedy touches us all. Whatever our political affiliations, none of us can stay insensitive to the story of a man who through sheer hard work and determination attained a historical success he never had time to enjoy.



▲ Jack Layton
July 18, 1950–August 22, 2011.

But, one question begs to be answered...now what?

The NDP must, quickly, turn its gaze ahead and find a new leader. We will shortly find out the details of that leadership race. This won't be an easy task for the party's members.

We already know, right off the bat that the winner must be bilingual. And since the province of Quebec was so instrumental to the party's victory, any candidate from that province would have a

kept advantage in the upcoming leadership race. Quebec represents about 60% of the official opposition's seats, giving the NDP around 79% of its seats. A fact simply impossible to ignore.

The NDP must also keep in mind the fact that if this party is where it is today – with its incredible gains and position since the May election – it owes all of it to Jack Layton's work and his personality.

"Bon Jack" as Quebecers came to call him with affection, was able to reach the "belle province's" sensitive chord as no other NDP leader ever could. As a matter of fact, very few federal political leaders, no matter of what affiliation, ever reached that electorate to such a level as Jack Layton did.

The future should be quite interesting. Will those NDP members who aren't from Quebec think political short term and go for a Quebecois leader, a first for this party? After all, its role as official opposition hangs in the balance.

The next federal elections are still far off, but its status lies in the re-election of most of its Quebec MPs. It's difficult to see how the NDP could make enough gains elsewhere in the country to offset important losses in Quebec.

In this picture, Thomas Mulcair, should he decide to run, has the keenest of advantages. ✍

Translation Monique Kroeger

Spencie's View



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mountainside trail. We had no option but to run for our lives until a kid saw a dent in the mountain, pressed his body against the stone and indicated to the rest of us do the same. That's when stampeding cows rampaged past our group.

And of course the great bunny scare of 2005 when I was rabbit-sitting for a friend in the Hollywood Hills. After tending to Mr. Bunny's needs, who had free-range in the house and was busy in the next room, I snuggled up with a glass of red wine and an emotional film in my friend's white living room.

The drama's soundtrack was about to break into a full violin symphony and my body pulled closer to the TV to hear the whispered dialogue when Mr. Bunny jumped into the air, somehow suspended himself long enough for me to scream and, of course, spill my red wine over every white thing in the room.

I stared into his soulless beads and realized that the bunny had never been anywhere else except right under me. He had been sitting patiently, waiting for the perfect moment to make himself known.

Los Angeles threw other cute animals my way – snorting deer that prevented me from getting to my car, peafowl that circled me and hostile squirrels that stole my food. But then, Los Angeles tossed the cutest creature of all my way – a daughter, born in the summer of last year.

When my husband and I decided to move to Vancouver, I knew I'd have to put an end to this bad animal karma, mostly for my daughter's sake. I want my child's first memories to be of hugging friendly bunnies while looking up to see her family smiling at her, not of running away from a Granville Island goose.

Since Vancouver is full of animals, my plan has been simple. Every day, we venture out to find animals before they find us. With this

mindset, the only disappointment would come out of not encountering an animal, a consequence I'm willing to accept.

Every day, we have been successful in our mission and my daughter's fearlessness has become inspiring.

Recently, we visited a private farm just outside Vancouver, where she ran up to the biggest goat she saw in a pen, bypassing all the adorable and more popular kids, and gave him a nice pat.

To my amazement, the goat didn't snort at her or give her an evil glare. Instead, he let her know that he was grateful for the rare kindness and thoughtfully turned and walked away.

Like the old goat, my affinity towards being an animal target just needed a gentle pat – something to wake it up and point it in a new direction.

My daughter will never get me to eat meat, but I've learned that it's impossible to live without animals. ✍

► "Education" from page 1

"I would encourage [them] to meet a lot of people and do that so called networking [thing]," says Iris Sun, a Masters and PhD graduate from Southern China, now a full time researcher

"The only thing that I would not suggest for them to do is to go back to school, it wastes time and money."

But Iris thinks her MA and PhD degrees helped her land her research position and motivates her to do her job well in order to meet the expectations of her partners and supervisors.

Dr. Neault agrees that the onus of responsibility lies with both job seekers and employers.

"You can only do so much work with the individual if the work place isn't ready to embrace them," says Dr. Neault.

"There's just limits, it doesn't matter what your level of education and experience. The senior management, the vps get it. It is the actual hiring manager or... colleagues that really just don't

have an understanding of what skill set people are bringing with them."

Murray says that 75% of jobs won't be found on job boards and that many people are able to find permanent jobs by taking on contract work or just getting out there and networking.

"They need to start connecting in the community, join social groups through meetup.com," says Murray, "but most importantly do not give up, don't be afraid to take a lower end job in your field, make connections, [and] surround yourself with positive people rather than nay-sayers." ✍



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Fringe Fest seeks to increase fundraising

by TIM REINERT

Theatre lovers have plenty to be excited about as the 27th annual Vancouver International Fringe Festival kicks off September 8.

"It's a celebration of theatre," says David Jordan, executive director of the Fringe Fest.

"Theatre does happen all year round, but what we try to do isn't just to put the theatre on, but to celebrate it at the same time. It's a social event."

Although ticket sales have increased substantially in recent years, festival organizers maintain that the festival's core goal of promoting as many types of theatre as possible remains the same.



Photo courtesy of David Jordan, LinkedIn

▲ David Jordan, Fringe Fest Executive Director

Jordan says that this year's output is the festival's largest, with 86 shows in 11 days. He says the festival has taken a leap to a new critical mass, with new venues and programs designed specifically to deal with the extra traffic they've seen in recent years. Another big priority for the festival this year is fundraising.

"Next year we'll be losing some of our funding," says Jordan, "and we have been increasing our fundraising efforts to account for that. We encourage people to top up their ticket purchase, so if the ticket is \$17, we encour-

age them to add another \$3 and make it \$20."

One thing the festival has been known for over the years is its commitment to highlighting diverse cultures. Jordan says that this is an organic result of the

“Because our artists are selected through lottery, it means we have a wider variety of cultures and ethnicities that participate in the festival...the cultures themselves vary from year to year, but they're always there.

David Jordan, Executive Director of Fringe Fest

festival's random selection process rather than an official mandate of the festival.

"[Multiculturalism] flows organically from our inclusivity," says Jordan. "Because our artists are selected through lottery, it means we have a wider variety of cultures and ethnicities that participate in the festival...the cultures themselves vary from year to year, but they're always there."

Joy Ong, a first generation Chinese-Canadian, and producer of the upcoming Fringe show *The Illumination Of The Grumpy Guitarist* is one of many Vancouver artists that favour the festival's selection process.

"The Fringe Festival has been amazing," says Ong. "It's a great non-profit organization that gives performers a way to share their art, and the fact that it's un-juried makes it so accessible for artists to offer exactly what they want."

Ong says her production's themes of love, inclusiveness, and fun are a perfect fit for the festival.

"What's very unique about the performance is that everyone in the show has the aim of building community, and sharing fun that's accessible to everyone,

through art, play, and music," she says.

Another artist who is benefiting from the festival's commitment to theatre is Melanie Gall, star and producer of the upcoming Fringe show *The Sparrow and The Mouse*.

going to all these fringe festivals. As a performer, if you've never had the opportunity to do a fringe tour, you should definitely do it."

It's obvious that audiences are sharing the performer's Fringe

Vancouver will be her last stop on an extensive tour of Fringe festivals that took her all the way from Orlando, Florida, to her hometown of Edmonton, Alberta.

Her production is a musical about the early life and music of acclaimed French singer Edith Piaf, and as such is the only bilingual show at this year's Vancouver festival. Although the tour has been taxing, Gall has no complaints.

"It's my vacation," she says. "It's been a fantastic four months

passion. Jordan says that last year's attendance increased by 39% over the previous year. He attributes the increase to the sense of community encouraged by the Fringe festival.

Jordan says a new influx of volunteer interns will ensure everything goes off without a hitch.

But says with a laugh, "And then we will all be very very tired." ☘

For dates and times, check out www.vancouverfringe.com/



▲ Melanie Gall from *The Sparrow and the Mouse*.

Old West Vancouver neighbourhood infused with new world culture

by RIC MOORE

Neighbourhoods in and around Vancouver's lower mainland don't look the same as they used to 10 years ago, not to mention 50 years ago.

"Life was good back then, [and] it moved at a slower pace and was much more family orientated," says Mary Sinclair giving us a different name so as to remain anonymous, and like a lady she did not disclose her age.

Sinclair has lived in West Vancouver for nearly 50 years. She came with her family from Alberta and recalls the town as half the size of what it is now.

"The whole family attended special events," she says. "Children could run around all day and parents didn't worry unless the kids were late for dinner."

She remembers often seeing and speaking with local politicians at the park or walking down the street and discussing the city's issues. She laments that things just aren't the same anymore.

"Parking is ridiculous with all the cars on the road," says Sinclair. "Condominiums are scattered everywhere and they're even building them higher on the mountain. Park Royal shopping centre was half the size it is now; we had small, family-owned stores and the only large restaurant in town was White Spot."

Sinclair notes that one of the most noticeable differences in the city is the people. She says residents walking down the street showcase nationalities that are quite diverse including languages and clothing. She says there are unique stores and restaurants that sell delicacies from around the world and the arts and entertainment centres highlight concerts of traditional dance and music.

A 2010 Community Survey reveals that almost 90% of West Vancouverites rated their overall quality of life in the district as very good, with those 35 and older being particularly satisfied.

Positive sentiments also showed that 77% of the residents thought the district was a very good place to raise a family and 69% thought it would be a great place to retire.

An increase in ratings from a 2004 survey showing that residents noted an improvement in arts and culture facilities as well as youth services, community land use planning and environmental protection. The results unfortunately, do not identify the years of residency of the West Vancouver residents when they completed the survey.

See "West Vancouver" Page 4 ▶

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Funding support provided by:
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This project is undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).
Ce projet est réalisé avec l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada accordé par l'entremise de l'Agence canadienne de développement international (ACDI).

Public Dialogue

Diaspora Contributions to Development: Opportunities and Lessons Learned

Date: Wednesday, September 14, 2011
Time: 5:30 – 9:00 PM
Venue: SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue
580 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1L6

This event is open to the public but advance registration is required. **Please register on our website:** www.sfu.ca/diasporas

In this final dialogue we will identify the ways in which diaspora contribute to development, and explore what is required to enable them to have greater impact including personal capacity development, public policy mechanisms, and institutional support.

Please note: registration starts at 5:00 pm - unclaimed reservations will be released to the waitlist at 5:15 pm.

For more information, please see our website: www.sfu.ca/diasporas

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Latin American films show both sides of life

by SAMUEL RAMOS

Movie lovers can indulge themselves with southern sights and sounds at the 9th annual Vancouver Latin American Film Festival (VLAFF).

On September 1, VLAFF hit the film scene with a bang, and you have until September 11 to be struck by everything Latin American.

"I've never been to VLAFF," said Adam Picotte, a lawyer from Vancouver and first time VLAFF attendee. "There's definitely a fantastic excitement in the air."



Photo courtesy of VLAFF

▲ *El Hombre de al lado.*

Picotte and his wife Lisa attended the opening gala on September 1 at Empire Granville 7 Cinemas to watch *El Hombre de al lado*, an Argentinian film about a neighbour who irritates a bourgeois architect and his family.

El Hombre de al lado is fitting as it portrays both the levity and triviality of humans, all the while exposing how selfish we can be and how we can mistreat each other.

VLAFF seems eager to explore serious issues, yet still leave room for laughter.

For nine years VLAFF has continuously brought Latin American films to Vancouver in order to allow the public to explore and

appreciate not only Latin American cinema, but the diverse Latino culture itself.

No film is exactly alike and every country from Mexico, El Salvador, to Venezuela and Argentina, and even Brazil is given the opportunity to bring Canadian audiences a taste of the films they create and the culture they cherish.

Heather Ritchie, 40, is a Canadian who has Vietnamese, Punjabi, Anglo, and Maori blood flowing through her veins. She grew up near Montreal, Quebec where there was no shortage of different people from different cultures and back grounds milling about. What she likes about VLAFF is that it steps out of the ordinary when it comes to cinema, and yes, even life.

Ritchie previewed the film *Abel* which you can catch on Friday September 9 at 9:30 p.m. at the Pacific Cinémathèque theatre. She was attracted to the movie's quirkiness and lighthearted tone, but discovered that it was also quite bold in its message and touched on taboos not normally seen in regular films.

She describes it as a story about a mother's love for her son

who is deeply affected by his father's abrupt departure from their lives.

"It looks like a very cute story about a family," said Ritchie,

"and how our actions can deeply affect them."

Like *Abel*, VLAFF is intent on continuing to push boundaries and affect audiences with new

with the concept of the toy as something innocent, and how at the same time, it can be seen as a symbol of commercialization and capitalism."

“VLAFF is the smallest of the big festivals, and the biggest of the small festivals

Marc Fournier, Board Director of VLAFF

"but it's also a story that is willing to push boundaries and show that a mother's love has no boundaries itself."

Abel starts to push boundaries when its 9 year old protagonist is left speechless after his father leaves the family behind. One day Abel wakes-up feeling a sense of ownership of the family and begins to run the house as if he was the head of the family, and in his mind, he is.

The film takes viewers through the delusions of a 9 year old who suddenly has to deal with the surprise return of his father.

"This movie seems to shed light on how impressionable our children are," said Ritchie,

features such as the art exhibit "*Yuxtaposicion*" by Mexican painter Jose Luis Ramirez.

"*Yuxtaposicion*" is described by VLAFF as a mix of sombre images of strangled teddy bears, decapitated puppets and armed angels. A huge departure from lighter films such as *Abel* and *El hombre de al lado*.

Ramirez told VLAFF that he was motivated to paint the series because he wanted to "play

Ramirez's work will be showcased at the Ayden Gallery in the International Village on the second floor. Admittance is free with a cash bar.

This year also marks the very first time VLAFF will be holding not one, but three competitions.

The first and most prestigious competition is set to have seven documentaries compete against each other. The director of the film will receive \$3,500 sponsored by the Al Jazeera Documentary Channel.

All of this excitement might be too much for film goers who feel that autumn already brings a slew of film festivals, leading to possible overdose by movie.

But at the opening gala, Marc Fournier, a Board Director of VLAFF, poetically encouraged people to support the festival and challenged the audience not to dismiss it amongst the other festivals.

"VLAFF is the smallest of the big festivals, and the biggest of the small festivals."

For more information about the Vancouver Latin American Film Festival, and to purchase tickets, visit www.vlaaff.org.



▲ *Abel* is screening at the Pacific Cinémathèque theatre on September 9 at 9:30 p.m.



▲ Mexican artist Jose Luis Ramirez.

Photos courtesy of VLAFF

► "West Vancouver" from page 3

Andrew Potter author of *The Authenticity Hoax*, writes in his book that "a healthy culture is like a healthy person: it is constantly changing, growing, and evolving, yet something persists through these changes, a ballast that keeps it upright and recognizable no matter how much it is buffeted by the transformative winds of trade."



▲ Andrew Potter

He challenges readers to "think of a culture as something akin to a society's immune system - it works best when it is exposed to as many foreign bodies as possible. Like kids raised in too-clean environments, cultures that are isolated from the world are beautiful but extremely fragile."

In comparison to other major cities in Canada, Vancouver, West Vancouver and the rest of the lower mainland is relatively young. It's no surprise that they are constantly changing their culture to adapt to new citizens. So Sinclair is reflectively receptive of the future.

"Nothing stays the same," she says. "It's progress."

Photo courtesy of Andrew Potter

Farmers Markets 2011 Summer Schedule

Trout Lake Farmers Market – Saturdays, May 14–October 22
North Parking Lot of Trout Lake Park behind 13th Avenue
between Templeton and Lakewood

Interactive Market Map:

<http://www.managemymarket.com/mapping/?marketID=314>

Kitsilano Farmers Market – Sundays, May 22–October 23
10th and Larch at the Kitsilano Community Centre

Interactive Market Map:

<http://www.managemymarket.com/mapping/?marketID=313>

Main St Station Farmers Market – Wednesdays, June 1–October 5
Station Street between Terminal and National in front
of the Pacific Central Station and Thornton Park

Interactive Market Map:

<http://www.managemymarket.com/mapping/?marketID=311>

West End Farmers Market – Saturdays, June 1–October 22
1100 Block of Comox Street between Bute and Thurlow

Interactive Market Map:

<http://www.managemymarket.com/mapping/?marketID=312>

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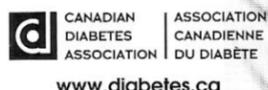
Vancouver Farmers Markets is a non-profit community-based group that organizes four farmers markets in Vancouver each Spring to Fall, a weekly Winter Market and an annual Holiday Market.

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Bernie, First Nations counsellor

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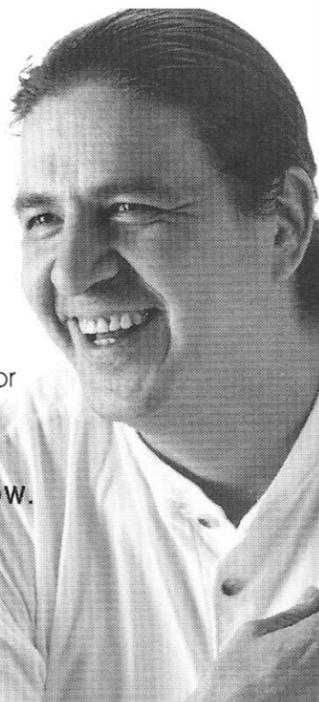


Photo courtesy of Sisu Productions



▲ Members of Staff Bilili! pose with their home-made instruments and guitar.

Congolese street music hits Vancouver

by NIGEL BARBOUR

The Vogue Theatre will be rocking with Congolese street music on September 19.

Vancouver will never be the same after the Staff Benda Bilili concert hits it.

Street music in Kinshasa, Congo is supplied by the handicapped, and a few years ago Florent de la Tullaye and Renaud Barret, two French film-makers exploring the urban jungle, were introduced to a group of polio victims, who played and performed on their motor tricycles.

These handicapped men were surrounded by some 40,000 shégés, (street youth) who they adopted and encouraged. Barret and de la Tullaye found the music to be hot, catchy and happy. It was wild music about daily living, and the musicians – like other Congolese street musicians – danced, and made their motored tricycles dance.

The resulting documentary *Benda Bilili!*, which will be screened at VIFF and was a big hit at Cannes last year because of the amazing musicians and what they have accomplished in the six years since their discovery. The dance comes in because Djunana Tanga Suele, has a tendency to dance on his hands.

The film-makers call him

the choreographer...and his big hit, *Avramandole* “inflames the crowds” says de la Tullaye.

“We didn’t dare to translate it into French... Ricky Makodou and Coco Yakala, the band leaders, have also created dances for the handicapped,” says de la Tullaye.

The biggest break for the group came when the film-makers introduced them to a Belgian music producer; their first album, “Très très fort” was an instant hit, and tours and music offers poured in, first from Europe in 2009, then from Montreal and Quebec last year.

The songs are mostly in Lingala, the major language of the Congo, and are played on home-made instruments. The refrains are in French and they are funny, catchy and most audiences have started dancing along with the music.

Another big boost to their success came when the Africa Express group of musicians visited the Congo in 2007; the musicians acknowledged Bob Marley, James Brown and Massive Attack as influences.

This tour brought them to the attention of the world wide Rotary movement, whose major ongoing campaign is polio eradication through vaccination. Rotary International is a major sponsor of

their North American tour, and one of the Vancouver Rotaries is in touch with Kinshasa Rotary.

“Their *Polio* song is about this virus which affects hundreds of thousands of Africans” says Florent. “Their message is to the mummies, to have children vaccinated.

Moto Moido calls Africans to wake up and take their destiny in their hands, but they don’t sing about politics.

“They are always very creative, with lots of new songs on stage for the next album,” says Florent. “They are observers of the street scene, their messages are for street people. They are always singing to people who have nothing in the world, they have never forgotten who they are and what they have been; they also sing about their love lives...they are still always surrounded by street kids.”

One of them, Roger Landu, adopted by Ricky Madodou, invented his own one-string instrument, the satongé; hence, more songs and more dances.

Polio victims? Or, brave men and true musicians, who laugh at polio? The choice is clear. ✍

Info: www.thefestival.bc.ca.

Tickets \$35 at www.vogue theatre.com or 604.602-9798

Rio theatre welcomes premiere of local film *Neutral Territory*

by JASMINE GURM

Screenwriter Joel Mark Harris’ fate was sealed from the get-go when he embraced his good friend Josias Tschanz’s native Swiss culture. Harris was prepared to have his butt handed to him during schwingen – a Swiss-style throw-down where two men, wearing leather hosing, duke it out in sawdust...and all that tussling around led to their first movie.

Inspired by director and producer Josias Tschanz’s real-life, the film *Neutral Territory* lifts the veil on the cross-cultural challenges that often go unob-

from Beijing to New York, and won awards for Best Feature Film, Best Cinematography, Best Female Actress (Laura McCarthy) and Best Female Supporting Actress (Crystal DeBruyn). In addition to being an under-dog success story, Tschanz and Harris feel this has been the opportunity of a lifetime as they have traveled the world, forged new industry connections and welcomed new sources of inspiration into their lives.

But this success came with a cost – sacrificing sleep, relationships, homes, cars and their own money. Tschanz and Harris found

“I know I won’t have the perfect film, but I’ll have a film I really care about.”

Josias Tschanz, Director and Producer of *Neutral Territory*

served and misunderstood as first and second generation youth struggle to locate a balance between their cultural heritage and their Western lifestyle.

The film unravels the complex nature of this continuous tug-of-war in the context of a dynamic father/son relationship that finds itself at the intersection of inter-generational and cross-cultural conflict.

Main character, Henry Hugel, played by Tschanz (whose real father is also his on-screen father), immigrated to Canada with his family and has been hell-bent on severing any connection he has to his Swiss roots. Not wanting to be tied down by tradition, Henry comes to embody and emulate everything and anything that he deems representative of Western life. From the car, to the girl, Henry represents the epitome of the North American Dream – however, in a struggle to maintain this so-called ideal, Henry finds himself at a crossroads where he will have to commit the ultimate compromise to keep this dream alive.

With a first time director/producer, first-time screen-writer and a cast of first-time actors, *Neutral Territory*’s creation and subsequent success has truly been a labour of love. From the moment the script was written to the completion of filming, a mere three months had elapsed.

Producing a feature film under such time constraints was a risk Tschanz had to take – he recalls telling himself, “I know I won’t have the perfect film, but I’ll have a film I really care about.”

With that, the twelve day shoot commenced, and through the dedication and commitment of every cast and crew member, along with the outpouring of love and support of the Burns Lake community (where the film was shot), Tschanz’s *Neutral Territory* dream became a reality.

Neutral Territory has premiered at eighteen film festivals

themselves on the emotional rollercoaster of a lifetime as they faced rejection upon rejection in their struggle to get *Neutral Territory* some form of recognition.

A true team at heart, when one was ready to throw in the towel, Harris says it was “Josias determination to get the film out there,” that kept them going. “[Josias] was the driving force behind it.”

In February 2011 the boys’ chance finally came when *Neutral Territory* was accepted into the Beliot International Film Festival. Where is Beliot? – Wisconsin!

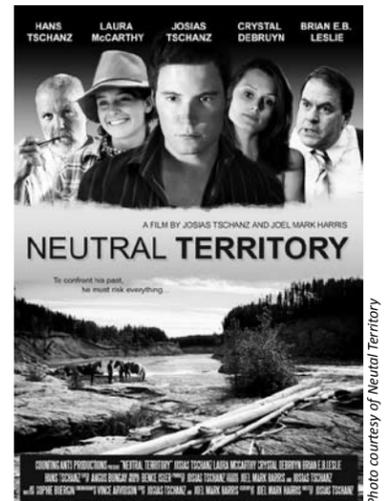


Photo courtesy of Neutral Territory

At the end of the day, when Tschanz asked Harris “dude, you are divorced, you spent a lot of money, you lost your house over [this], how do you feel?” Harris recalls replying, “I have no regrets ...we’re going to New York...to see our movie in Times Square.”

Perhaps this lack of regret also had something to do with the fact that Harris’ life long dream of meeting his leading lady, Megan Fox, was about to come true at the New York International Film Festival.

What was he going to say upon meeting the one and only Miss. Fox? Well, an option he was pondering at the time was, “I loved you in *Transformers 3*.” ✍



▲ Screenwriter Joel Harris (left) and director Josias Tschanz (right).

Photo by Jasmine Gurm

Street Photography by Denis Bouvier

Jericho Wharf



© 2011 Denis Bouvier | denisbouvier.com

The demolition of Jericho Wharf is proceeding and will result in restoring the original beach. The project will cost nearly \$3 million, but it has been expensive to maintain the structure; it creates environmental damage from the 70 year old creosote-coated pilings threatening marine life and swimmers. Located next to the Jericho Sailing Centre, the structure itself is felt to be a hazard for boaters. However, neither the tanker in the background nor the swimmer in the foreground seem worried.

The area around the wharf was a naval reserve dating back to the inception of the city. It was named Jerry’s Cove after a Hastings Mill logger called Jeremiah Rogers. The same name evolved into Jericho – hence

Jericho Beach. It was also the site of Vancouver’s first golf course.

From 1921–1945, the site was home to the Pacific Coast Station of the Royal Canadian Air Force, serving as a training base for seaplanes and flying boats – huge seaplanes used for cargo transport and which now exist in the form of water bombers. It was the terminus of the first flight by seaplane from Montreal in 1926 and launched air patrols which searched for Japanese subs during WW II.

Taken over by the city in the late 60’s, it became the basis for Jericho Park. In 1976, it was the key location for Vancouver’s Habitat Forum, bringing together personalities like Buckminster Fuller, Margaret Mead, and Mother Teresa, to discuss and explore

human living conditions and social justice. 5 huge hangars in back of the wharf left over from WWII were used for the forum and modified to resemble native longhouses; one was adorned with a beautiful First Nations mural by Bill Reid. All the hangars were demolished by the Parks Board in the late 70’s. What will be saved are the wharf’s heritage iron railings which were originally from the Lions Gate Bridge.

Although the wharf will be gone, and there are many who wanted to save it, there will be some form of interpreting its historical significance which will be determined at a later date through public input.

Don Richardson

Cultural Calendar

September 6–20, 2011



Photo courtesy of Luciterra Dance

▲ Luciterra Fusion Belly Dancers.

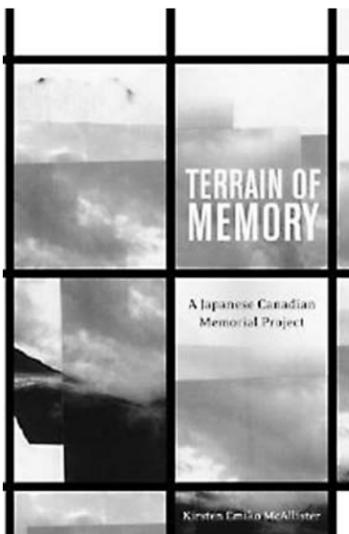
by PHOEBE YU

With September in full swing, we'll soon be feeling a notable chill in the air as the days slowly become shorter. But fear not, as you can celebrate the change in season with the *Autumn Shift Festival*. Or if you're not quite ready for autumn, enjoy the last days of summer with the *Southlands Country Fair*. Other notable events are *An Evening of Middle-Eastern Music and Dance* or the *Vancouver International FRINGE Festival*, not to be mistaken with the *Vancouver International FILM Festival*, which is this month.

Terrain of Memory

Thursday, September 8; 7:00 p.m.
Nikkei National Museum
120-6688 Soutoaks Cres., Burnaby
604.777.7000
www.jcnm.ca

Kirsten Emiko McAllister will present her new book, *Terrain of Memory*. It tells the story of Japanese-Canadian elders who built a memorial in New Denver, BC, in an effort to transform a site of political violence to one of remembrance. Refreshments will be served. Free admission.



Ignite...An Affair with Art!

Thursday, September 8
7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Place des Arts
1120 Brunette Ave., Coquitlam
604.664.1636
www.placedesarts.ca

An adults-only open house. View the exhibitions and enjoy talks by exhibiting artists. There will be hands-on visual art demos and a discount on class registrations. Complimentary glass of wine provided. Free admission.

Mixed Flicks: Hapa-Palooza

Thursday, September 8
7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
Vancouver Public Library
350 W. Georgia St., Vancouver
604.331.3603
www.vpl.ca

An evening celebrating multi-ethnicity in film. Hapa filmmaker Jeff Chiba Stearns starts the night off with a multi-ethnic actors panel to discuss mixed identity in media. After that, there will be a screening of short films exploring the mixed experience and a question and answer with the filmmakers. Free admission.

Vancouver International Fringe Festival

September 8–18
Granville Island, Vancouver
604.253.1924
www.vancouverfringe.com

The annual Fringe festival is back with more shows and events. Enjoy performances like Houdini's Last Escape, a comedic, dramatic and magical play and This is Cancer, a modern cabaret. Opening night will have an auction and food. Full festival schedule and details on their website. Individual show tickets from \$10. Festival passes and opening night tickets available.

Southlands Country Fair

Sunday, September 11
10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
7025 Macdonald St., Vancouver
604-351-5522
www.southlandsridingclub.com

Have an old-fashioned country experience without leaving the city. There will be lots of attrac-

tions to choose from, aside from horse demonstrations the whole day. There will be pony rides and hayrides, music, food, markets and a farmland where you can meet different animals. Admission by donation, suggested donation of \$5.

Two Views

Friends of the Surrey Museum & Archives Society
September 13–October 29
Surrey Museum
17710-56A Ave., Surrey
604.592.6956
www.surrey.ca

A photography exhibit by Ansell Adams and Leonard Frank, which tells the story of the Japanese interment from the perspectives of Japanese-Canadians and Japanese-Americans. Admission by donation.

Philosopher's Café with Miriam Libicki

Wednesday September 14
7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Jewish Museum and Archives of BC
6184 Ash St., Vancouver
604.257.5199
www.jewishmuseum.ca

Miriam Libicki is an American-Israeli and the creator of the comic book series Jobnik! She'll discuss comic books as a Jewish medium, whether they advance the artistic tradition of the Jewish people, or if they challenge the prohibition of graven images.

Scotiabank Dance Centre Open House

September 15–18
677 Davie St., Vancouver

604.606.6400
www.thedancecentre.ca

The performance from Sept. 15–17 will feature Aeriosa's Being. Aeriosa's dance spectacle combines the movements of rock climbing with the grace of dance. See the company dance down the seven-story building outdoors. Tickets \$10. Sept. 17–18 will feature free events like open classes, workshops and more. Check out their website.

Eat! Fraser Valley Food + Cooking Festival

September 16–18
Tradex Exhibition Centre
1190 Cornell St., Abbotsford
604.850.1533
www.eat-fraservalley.com

Eat, drink and be merry with this food festival. Sample some food and drink from local restaurants, celebrity chefs, wineries and food and beverage manufacturers. There will also be cooking demonstrations, shopping, and more. Tickets: adults \$10, seniors \$8, children \$6.

Autumn Shift Festival

Mount Pleasant BIA
Saturday, September 17
12:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.
Main St., Vancouver
Between 12th Ave. and Broadway
604.874.9816
www.mountpleasantbia.com

Celebrate the shift into autumn with sustainable living. The festival is about engaging the community and sharing ideas on how to incorporate sustainable choices to daily living. There will be music, activities for kids, a market, gardening booths and more. Open to the public.

Le français au CSF, bien plus qu'une langue !

Depuis sa création en 1995, le Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique offre des programmes et des services éducatifs valorisant le plein épanouissement et l'identité culturelle des apprenantes et apprenants francophones de la province. Le conseil compte aujourd'hui plus de 4 500 élèves, 38 écoles et dessert une centaine de communautés réparties dans l'ensemble de la province. **Inscrivez votre enfant dans une école du CSF !**

- programme d'enseignement public de la maternelle à la 12^e année ;
- service de transport scolaire ;
- portables pour tous dès la 4^e année ;
- maternelle à temps plein ;
- programme d'anglais de qualité ;
- programmes de musique, théâtre ;
- services à la petite enfance ;
- haut niveau de réussite scolaire ;
- programme du Baccalauréat International.

Conseil scolaire francophone
de la Colombie-Britannique

csf.bc.ca