



A story from
Russia and China
with love
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International greetings to be received with open arms

by JAN HILARIO

Your friend introduces you to someone. Automatically, your right hand reaches out for an enthusiastic handshake. The other person leans in for a *beso beso* – a kiss on each cheek. Next thing you know, you're pumping a fist full of oxygen, and they're exchanging dainty kisses with thin air. Awkward.

Living in a multicultural city, you learn to choose your words with care and assess your verbal interactions with people, in order to respect and understand other cultures.

In greetings, you – perhaps subconsciously – decipher more about the individual and aspects of their culture through body language.

Body language consists of all the non-verbal cues we give when we interact with others. It involves anything from eye contact, facial expressions, gestures, patterns of touch, all the way to spatial arrangements between individuals.

In fact, according to research conducted by American professor Albert Mehrabian, only seven per cent of the message we give is conveyed through the words we use. The other 93 per cent is derived from our body language.

At the risk of channeling "Captain Obvious" or his better-looking, but perhaps slightly seedier counterpart, "Commander Generalization," non-verbal communication varies among cultures. And it can be deeply rooted in that culture's history, customs or social expectations.



Photo courtesy of UK Ministry of Defence, Flickr

In Inuit tradition, for example, the *kunik* involves breathing in or sniffing the scent of a person's cheek, nose or forehead. Contrary to popular belief that the practice was developed to avoid mouths freezing together in a kiss, it is actually an affectionate greeting for friends and family.

In France – and many central and eastern European countries – acquaintances and friends kiss on both cheeks each time they meet and leave, while in Canada, handshakes are a common way of greeting a stranger or an acquaintance. Among friends and

family though, a hug is a common greeting in Canada.

Some Canadians perceive greetings such as cheek kissing to be too intimate. Interestingly enough, other cultures, such as the French, consider hugs or embraces to be more intimate than a kiss on the cheek because of physical proximity to the other person.

Aireen Luney lives in Vancouver and has traveled to Europe many times on business. She notes that the differences in body language arise from cultural norms.

See "Body Language" Page 2 ➤

Verbatim

The Vancouver kiss

by VALENTIN PEREZ

In the middle of June, a time when the weather was hot, I was listening to Amy Winehouse at the corner of two Parisian avenues. I stopped in a kiosk, because in Paris, newspapers are sold in kiosks and not in big green or grey boxes. It is not often, frankly, that the French press cares about Vancouver. Since the Olympics, we had no news. But then, several weekly and daily newspapers were going over the same picture in their 'picture of the week' or 'story of the week' section: *le baiser de Vancouver* (the Vancouver kiss).

It was the now famous picture of a kissing couple on the ground during the Vancouver June riot. I learned since, as everybody else, that the young

woman had in fact been injured. What looked like a kiss at first, turned out to be a man lying on a woman who was trying to help her. But at the time, wandering in the *Tuileries* gardens of Paris with my dark glasses, I thought that the picture was saying a lot about Vancouver: on the one hand, it was romantic, and on the other hand, it was rebellious. In the picture, the background was chaotic: the forces of law and order against people running away, and although it was about hockey, you could feel the feverishness of a city awakening.

In France, it is no secret that to strike is a tradition. Since I left France two months ago, trains, airline companies and education have already taken to the streets and slowed

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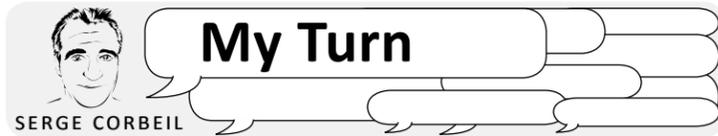
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Barack Obama – there is still hope

In a year's time, the American electorate will go to the polls and vote for their next president. If nothing changes by then, they will be facing their future with a dose of pessimism they've hardly ever experienced.

The next political year will be a tough one for our neighbors south of the border. Yet, despite this less than joyful prospect, there is still hope, for Barack Obama.

Even if a recent poll indicates that three-quarters of Americans feel that their country is headed down the wrong path—a hardly encouraging reality for the incumbent president—he nevertheless continues to have the upper hand against Republican hopefuls in voters' intentions, at least according to the findings of a survey done for the Wall Street Journal and NBC.

True, American politics have the reputation for being fickle enough to make it difficult to infer any sort of outcome, especially a whole year ahead.

The issue is not to gain a majority within a pool of voters. What matters is to reap as many votes as possible from the states richest in what is known as the Electors, the members of the Electoral College. The majority must be obtained within this College.

The good news for President Obama is that his problems seem lesser than the Republicans'. Although the Republicans have yet to announce who will represent them in the 2012 presidential race, the dynamics running the electoral campaign are auguring peril with the party.

Even though the campaign doesn't officially start until next January with the state of Iowa kicking off the primaries, the Republicans' main players are already crisscrossing the United States and organizing meetings.

The road ahead is a long one since we won't know, before next August, who will be at the Republican helm in the electoral race.

For the moment, former Massa-

chusetts governor Mitt Romney seems to have the Republicans' electorate's favor. However, the internal competition is fierce. For some members of the Tea Party, Mitt Romney is too centrist.

This group, an ultra right winged one, now plays an omnipresent role in the affairs of the Republican Party and makes life difficult for anyone seeking the Republican candidacy.

Quite simply put, it's hard to see how the Republicans can hope to realize their White House dreams while basing their campaign on that group's political agenda.

Barack Obama's victory is subject to the Tea Party's performance and, first and foremost, his skills to reach out and engage the young voters of America, once again. This is truly the key to his electoral success. Surveys show that his greatest allies stem from this core group. However, this same group has shown, traditionally, the least interest in voting duties.

Barack Obama and his team now have a full year to try and motivate them, a year to see if he will follow in the footsteps of Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter. ✍

Translation Monique Kroeger

► "Body Language" from page 1

She observed that the acceptable spatial distance between people or the amount of personal space an individual needs varies among cultures, with North Americans requiring greater personal space than Europeans or Asians.

Similarly, Luney says that in some cultures, avoiding eye contact is a sign of respect. On the contrary, in other cultures, such as North America, eye contact conveys engagement and avoiding it could signal a lack of interest and attention, or could even be a sign of insincerity.

In China, and many other Asian countries, placing the palms together at chest level and bowing or nodding is a common greeting. The level of respect for the other person is conveyed through the depth and length of the bow, and the height of the palms.

Karan Suri, 27, is an Indo-Canadian who frequently meets and interacts with international clients in his work. He says that when he is greeted with a bow, it signals that the ensuing conversation or interaction will be approached with "respect [and a] willingness and openness to work together."

He also notes that meeting in professional settings, individuals from Asia will typically present their business card with both hands.

Among some of the more interesting non-verbal acknowledgements is the Tibetan greeting. When Tibetans meet, they briefly stick their tongues out. Because Tibetans believe in reincarnation



▲ An Indian girl demonstrates the greeting of Namaste.

Photo by Rashanth N.S., Flickr

and fear the reincarnation of a particularly cruel Tibetan king who, ominously enough, sported a black tongue – likely to match his black heart – the greeting is a sign of openness and shows that they are not guilty of evil deeds. In North America, such a greeting is likely to be frowned upon, especially by mothers.

With varying types of non-verbal communication from country to country, it's easy to see how misunderstandings can occur.

One famous anecdote tells the tale of former U.S. president Richard Nixon arriving in a foreign country, standing regally at the doorway of the presidential jet with a beaming crowd below him, he flashes the "peace" or victory

sign...and is promptly met with a mix of jeers, guffaws, and stares.

Nixon didn't realize that in that country, the sign is an offensive gesture, equivalent to using the middle finger.

Even within the same culture though, greeting patterns may vary depending on the individual's age, social status or the context of the interaction.

Sandia Wu, a Taiwanese-Canadian who has lived in both Mexico and Vancouver, comments that Latinos are generally more affectionate in their greetings, giving a kiss on the cheek even when first meeting someone.

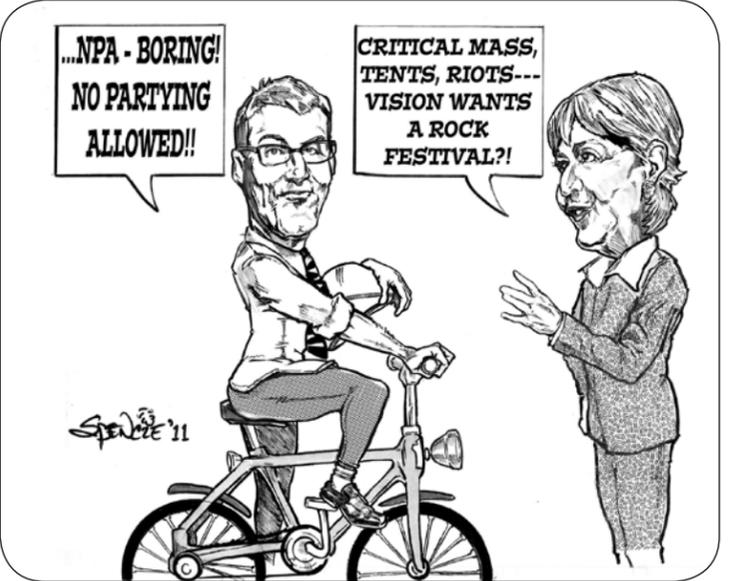
However, according to Wu, body language can also reflect a social hierarchy in Mexico, in that physical contact is not common among acquaintances of a different social status or between people in an employer/employee relationship.

Suri observes that there are some types of body language which are so well known and recognized in Canadian society that people can generalize where the individual is from, based on the greeting.

"If you saw someone greet someone else by putting their hands together and saying 'Namaste' you'd know they were from India," says Suri.

In multicultural Vancouver, the non-verbal clues in communication are everywhere. True, there are just as many cultural gaffes lurking in unforeseen social scenarios and waiting to be clumsily realized. But don't keep that from introducing yourself to someone. Let's shake on it. Or not. ✍

Spencie's View



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The Vancouver Chamber Choir acknowledges the generous assistance of the [Canada Council for the Arts](#), the [City of Vancouver](#), the [British Columbia Arts Council](#), the [Province of British Columbia](#), the [Chan Centre for the Performing Arts](#), the [Chan Endowment Fund at the University of British Columbia](#), the [UBC Museum of Anthropology \(MOA\)](#), and [The Vancouver Sun](#).

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Erratum

In the last issue of *The Source*, Vol 12 No 18, Denis Bouvier's street photography *Behind the Mask* should have read that David Suzuki addressed Occupy Vancouver on October 22, not November 22.

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Photo by Nemo's Great Uncle, Flickr

Maple Ridge: a little known land of diverse opportunities

by JASMINE GURM

They think we live in the boonies and have nothing to do," says Stevie Shayler, 25, who has lived in Maple Ridge B.C. all her life.

"People honestly think we tip cows and hunt game for fun."

If you don't know what "tipping cows" means, you're excused, as it doesn't sound very nice to those poor cows, anyway.

What you should know is that Maple Ridge is far more than just the collective assumptions of those that don't live there.

You might be surprised to discover that Maple Ridge is as diverse and multicultural as any other place—just on a much smaller scale.

The Unity-In-Diversity Multicultural Association of Maple Ridge (UID) is a major contributor in what they themselves call "build[ing] positive relationships among all people,

strengthen[ing] equality and promot[ing] the end of all forms of prejudice."

Since 1992 UID has strived to meet its mandate of recognizing "diversity in its broadest sense, including race, gender, age, class, religion, culture, difference of ability and education or economic positions." And the association is proud of hosting community events like their annual Unity-In-Diversity evening celebration.

According to the District of Maple Ridge, since its inception in 1874, Maple Ridge with 33,000 acres, has become home to a population of 75,000 people.

In fact according to investmapleridge.ca "over the past decade [Maple Ridge] has been one of the fastest growing municipalities in [Metro Vancouver]...growing at a rate of approximately 3.7 per cent over the last ten years."

This tremendous growth has paved the way for Maple Ridge's cultural evolution. As noted by

the city's most recent Official Community Plan (OCP 2007), there has been a marked increase in ethnic diversity in the community in recent years.

Supporting an ever-growing and diversifying population, Maple Ridge has seen a number of infrastructural and developmental advances over recent years. With a re-vitalized downtown-core, a renewed sense of community and belonging is palpable as people unite in celebrations of art, diversity and cultural exploration.

"The arts and culture are a major part of what makes Maple Ridge a unique and great place to call home," says Mayor Ernie Daykin.

Downtown is home to everything from The ACT – arts centre & theatre, to the newly renovated leisure centre and library. It is also where the weekly farmer's market, which supports local farmers and sustainable living, is held, and where many cultural

celebrations, including the highly anticipated, Carribean Festival, take place.

Moreover, despite rapid growth, the "town still has that small town feel," says Southeast Asian Kiren Gandham, 33, who was born and raised in Maple Ridge but now lives in Surrey B.C.

"I liked growing up there. Anywhere you went you would basically know someone," she says. "It may be changing and developing but it still has its [small-town] charm".

Gandham says she would still live in Maple Ridge, but her marriage has taken her to Surrey.

Although some are leaving Maple Ridge, its charm is drawing families from all over, and it is precisely what captured the heart of city council candidate Corisa Bell when she was a child.

Bell is originally from Terrace B.C., but spent her summers in Maple Ridge with relatives while growing up. Since then, she says

she has always wanted to live in Maple Ridge, and nowhere else.

Bell moved to Maple Ridge six years ago to raise her two girls.

"I want them to be raised here, with small-town mentality, [but] with big-town opportunities," she says. Something the UID recognizes.

The UID is proud that events like theirs help promote multiculturalism and diversity. They say it gives newcomers and long-time residents a chance to revel in an event that has grown from hosting close to 50 people back in 1992 to more than 500 people, today. Their events have featured 70 cultures, including the contributions of the area's Katzie First Nation.

"[Maple Ridge] is beautiful," says Bell. "I want [my girls] to grow up and think – there is nowhere else in the world I would want to live than here." ✍

With files from Samuel Ramos

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The Source: 2011 Cultural Harmony Award Winner

▲ Mayor Gregor Robertson presented The Source with the award and received a copy of our previous issue.

▲ Samuel Ramos (English Editor) and Mamadou Gangué (Founding Publisher) plant a tree in the Cultural Harmony Grove on November 4.

▲ Members of The Source team at City Hall on November 1 for the ceremony.

All photos by Denis Bouvier

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Trees: preserving ancient knowledge for a better future

by KATE KOVALEVA

Trees are as diverse, indicative and as full of meaning as the region they come from and the people that cherish them. It's no wonder then that arbor days are observed in many countries including Canada.

The Stó:lō First Nation revere the cedar tree. Their traditional territory encompasses all of the Fraser Valley, spans the area from Coquitlam to Yale, with roots from Mission B.C. down to the U.S.



▲ Sisters Rita and Janie Dubman enjoy fallen leaves in Burnaby, British Columbia.

"Everything in our life depend[s] on the cedar tree," says Charlotte Point, Resident Elder at the University of the Fraser Valley of her Stó:lō tradition.

"They were very crucial and central in our lives...[because they met the people]...cultural, spiritual and basic survival needs [and they] were never cut down without a great ceremony."

During the autumn season, a striking contrast of every shade of red, green and yellow presents itself on trees. They are all around us – which only makes sense as they offer countless benefits to people and animals.

An abundance of trees, for instance, has been linked to reducing not only CO₂ emissions, but also the number of asthma cases, as well as noise from traffic, and soil erosion from heavy rain.

There is no doubt that British Columbia trees and forests are also important to our economy, because many businesses and communities depend on the for-

est industry. However, there are also many other narratives that connect trees and people. Around the world, trees are cultural symbols and the preservers of a collective memory.

When it comes to the cedar tree itself Charlotte Point says that they are used in cleansing ceremonies, where cedar bows would act as incense, instead of sage or sweet grass, which are not as prevalent in this part of B.C.

"Fresh cedar bows were [also] placed around doors or at cul-

There are an incredible number of tree species in the world, many of them perfectly adapted to their unique circumstances. For instance, the Palo Verde grows in relatively arid landscapes, and has been named the state tree of Arizona. Its green bark allows it to carry out photosynthesis even in periods when it has no leaves at all, due to drought.

There are also many tree and plant species which are unique to our province and its ecosystems, including one right here in southern B.C.

Douglas Justice, associate director and curator of collections at the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research, says that the Garry oaks ecosystem features significant plant biodiversity.

It is unique to two areas in the Fraser Valley, and is also found on "southeastern Vancouver Island, further into Puget Sound, and in south coastal Washington and Oregon."

Justice says that the UBC Botanical Garden has many other collections, including rare maples.

"We have what would be considered a good collection of maple species from around the world," says Justice. "There are native Canadian maples, but the vast majority of the collections are from China, Japan, and Korea."

According to him, the maples are an interest, "because [researchers are] concerned about the loss of habitat... particularly in Asia."

Justice says that in collaboration with other botanical gardens, researchers are also "trying to grow out a lot of the seedlings to maintain the genetic diversity of the trees, with the ultimate goal of one day giving back the species to their place of origin," which is referred to as ex-situ conservation. However, conservation is not limited to other countries.

"The local Garry oaks ecosystem in Canada is very endangered, and is disappearing," says Justice.

With its Garry Oaks Meadow and Woodland Collection, Justice says that the UBC Botanical Garden is showing people that tree conservation is an issue that thrives right here at home.

"We hope to raise awareness to help protect the ecosystem." ☞



▲ Douglas Justice, associate director and curator of collections at the UBC Botanical Garden.

Photo courtesy of UBC Botanical Garden

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Rebellious love in the time of communist rule

by OLENA MOROZOVA

The story of Dr. Yao Lan Chen is one of strength, perseverance, love and an interracial relationship, set not in one, but two of the world's worst dictatorial regimes.

Some people impress you with their achievements, while others inspire you with their outlook and way of thinking. And yet others take your breath away urging you to write down their story.

Yao Lan was born into a well-to-do Buddhist family from the Chinese province of Guangdong. They lived in British Hong Kong and she studied Chinese medicine in Beijing.

While there, she came across a newspaper article featuring a star Russian student, Vasily Tovarov.

Sporting a red pioneer tie, Vasily, a top student at Moscow State University, was selected to study in Beijing as part of student exchange with the Soviet Union.

Impressed by Vasily's accomplishments, which included fluency in nearly 10 foreign languages, Yao Lan wrote to him through the newspaper, and he responded. A whirlwind ro-

mance ensued, eventually leading to a wedding.

Happy romantic moments in Beijing were tempered by the concerns of Yao Lan's family, who liked Vasily but worried about the ramifications of marrying her off to a Soviet communist.

"During Stalin's rule, when my parents met, dating a Soviet communist was acceptable in mainland China, [but] not when you had family in Hong Kong," explains Yao Lan's daughter Kristina Tovarov.

She added that during this time, her mother's relatives in Hong Kong were being persecuted because of a family connection with a Soviet citizen.

When Stalin's successor, Khrushchev, came to power in the Soviet Union, dating a Soviet citizen became unacceptable in mainland China because of the ideological differences between the two Communist parties, historically known as the Sino-Soviet split.

The situation was further exacerbated with the onset of Mao Tse-tung's Cultural Revolution that targeted Chinese intellectuals, teachers, and other potential counter-revolutionaries. Yao Lan and Vasily had to flee to the Soviet Union with their baby boy Sasha.

Vasily's rural hometown greeted Yao Lan with caution and hostility. She did not speak a word of Russian, and looked different from the predominantly

outcast to being a nationally recognized physician, whose clients included famous poets, painters, actors and members of Soviet intelligentsia.

love and personal strength.

Her second son, Leonard Tovarov, is continuing her professional legacy through a private acupuncture practice in Yalta.

“During Stalin's rule, when my parents met, dating a Soviet communist was acceptable in mainland China, [but] not when you had family in Hong Kong

Kristina Tovarov, daughter of Dr. Yao Lan Chen

blue-eyed population. The couple moved to the somewhat more cosmopolitan Moscow, where Vasily got a job at a radio station.

Political hurdles continued and Yao Lan refused to accept Soviet Union citizenship, as it would prevent her from visiting her family in China.

As a result, she was to report to KGB monthly to describe her activities and movements. Her letters were intercepted and the apartment could be searched at any time without notice. In turn, Vasily was persecuted for having a non-Soviet wife, leading him to eventually lose his job.

Still, Yao Lan did not despair. Her doctoral training in traditional Chinese medicine and unique aptitude placed her in an exclusive position in the Soviet Union. The word of her healing skills spread through Moscow, eventually reaching high-ranking party officials.

"By day they questioned, her as a potential spy, and by night they lined up to use her acupuncture services," says Kristina Tovarov, noting her mother's underground popularity.

Yao Lan eventually learned to play the system and got her patients to help her family relocate to the warm Yalta (now Ukraine), where she and Vasily could work.

In the following years, Dr. Yao Lan Chen went from being an

"People waited up to a year to get an appointment with her," recalls Kristina Tovarov, who met her mom's famous visitors during her childhood.

"My mom's message was to never give up, live today and look forward to tomorrow," says Kristina Tovarov. "She never regretted anything she did, and



▲ A young Yao Lan Chen and husband Vasily Tovarov.

After Vasily's death in the 1990s, Yao Lan moved to Canada and at 60 years old, obtained a medical license, soon becoming a renowned practitioner of Chinese medicine.

She is listed in the Cambridge Who's Who directory, and, according to Kristina Tovarov, she had "enough medical distinctions to fill two full walls in the apartment."

Dr. Yao Lan Chen passed away recently from esophageal cancer leaving behind a legacy of talent,

said that she would follow my dad anywhere. In turn, my dad called her not a wife, but a saint woman."

An '80s-themed gala in memory of Dr. Yao Lan Chen will take place on Nov. 19, 2011 at 7p.m. at The Kozmik Zoo (53 W. Broadway). ☞

Donations to the BC Cancer Foundation in memory of Dr. Yao Lan Chen are being accepted at: www.bccancerfoundation.com



▲ Dr. Yao Lan Chen (left), Kristina Tovarov (centre) and Leonard Tovarov (right).

The Facade

Behind this facade at Bidwell and Davie, a 21 storey tower, the Alexandra, will soon be constructed.

The tower greatly exceeds the usual height and density allowed in the area, but the developer has been able to circumvent the zoning by-laws due to the City of Vancouver's STIR program - designed "to develop new rental housing stock in the short-term to assist with housing affordability."

What's being developed in the tower are 49 rental units at current market prices along with 85 high-end condos.

The facade is in the Mission Revival-style, and will be the only part of the fabled Maxine's two storey heritage site to be saved.

Maxine's has hosted a boarding house, beauty school, brothel, restaurants and burlesque cabaret. For many years in its recent history it was popular as the restaurant and lounge, Balhazar.

Its last incarnation, Maxine's Hideaway, hosted the Candy Girl Cabaret which puts us in mind of its rumoured early history.

Built in 1905, it was named after its original owner, Max-



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ine McGilvary, known as Madam Maxine. She ran a beauty school and boarding house for young women, but when times were tough during the depression years, the lower floor was used as a brothel.

It's been claimed there were two tunnels beneath the building - one connected to the Rogers Mansion on Davie, last known as

the Macaroni Grill and the other to an exit on English Bay near the present bathhouse.

B.T. Rogers, the sugar magnate, is popularly rumoured to have used the first tunnel for a clandestine route to the brothel; however, having died in 1918 before the depression era leaves this rumor in grave doubt. The tunnel to English Bay was said to

be used by rum runners during prohibition.

The last owner of Maxine's has claimed that Errol Flynn used the brothel and that Maxine herself was murdered on the premises. Apparently, her ghost haunted the lower levels of the building.

The colourful history of Maxine's and the mystery it conveys was embedded in its complete

structure.

Incorporating original facades into ultra modern buildings like the Alexandra tower is generally used to maximize density in Vancouver, and seems a shallow nod to Vancouver's disappearing historic buildings.

Don Richardson



Photo courtesy of Corinne Wolcoski

▲ Corinne Wolcoski's studio.

Eastside Culture Crawl showcases the talent of Vancouver artists

by TIM REINERT

To help celebrate the vibrant and exciting arts community of East Vancouver, the 15th Annual Eastside Culture Crawl will take place from Nov. 18–20 at various art studios and locations in the part of the city bounded by Main Street and Victoria Drive, north of First Avenue.

Although the show has gotten a lot bigger over the years, the event's director, Jeffrey Boone says that its goal – to shine a spotlight on East Vancouver artists – hasn't changed.

"Basically, the Crawl focuses on artists in their studio space," says Boone. "It's about people who have made handmade work. We define that work by allowing anything other than food production. [We allow] textile, ceramic, photography, furniture, design, sculpture – any of those things. It's artists and crafts makers in their own shops. Part of the idea was to eliminate the middle man from the process, and to give the public direct access to the artists in the place where they actually make their art."



Artwork courtesy of Corinne Wolcoski

▲ Sea to Sky, by Corinne Wolcoski.

The Crawl is an annual happening, with 1997 being the first year that the name was used. That first year saw over 50 artists display their art at three studios, with almost 1,000 people in attendance. This year, over 10,000 people are expected to view the work of over 400 artists spread throughout over 70 buildings.

Boone says the event performs a valuable service by highlighting the work of a specific group of artists, namely those who have their studio space in that part of the city. He says that the artists who make their homes and work spaces, face a unique set of challenges.

"There's pressure on real estate in every part of Vancouver, and that area is no exception," says Boone. "What used to be a very creative community with lots of artists in the neighborhood is now shifting to residential housing. Obviously, people who

are buying million dollar houses there are probably not artists."

He says that economic pressure can be a strong motivator for some artists during the Crawl. He adds that the range of artists that can be found at the event is very diverse.

"We have everything from the hobbyist who isn't interested in making a living from art, to the people who make the Crawl a big part of their annual income."

Corinne Wolcoski is a renowned local painter, who moved her workspace into the massive art space at 800 Parker Street, a major focal point of the Crawl, last year.

She says that sales aren't really a top priority for her during the Crawl, but since most of her art is sold through galleries, she doesn't have many opportunities to meet her audience.

"If I do [get sales], it's a bonus... it's more about meeting the people, and getting feedback on my work," says Wolcoski.

"And for people who have collected my work in the past, they have a chance to visit me in my studio and see what I'm working on now. The Crawl is a nice

opportunity for me to meet my viewers."

It's not just the artists who have a diverse range of backgrounds and styles. It's the viewers too.

Boone says that due to its huge footprint, and the fact that the art that is found at the Crawl is fairly affordable, this year's event has something for everyone. From serious collectors to people just looking for smaller works as gifts for the upcoming holiday season, art is in abundance.

What matters most though, is showcasing the artists.

It [the art community in that area] is so special," says Boone. "I don't know anywhere else in Canada, or even the world, where there are so many artists packed into one small area." ✉

Full list of the artists and spaces involved can be found at www.eastsideculturecrawl.com



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 4 600 élèves, 36 écoles publiques et dessert plus d'une centaine de communautés réparties dans l'ensemble de la province. **Inscrivez votre enfant dans une école du CSF!**

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csf.bc.ca

La Rafle - The Round Up



Melanie Laurent & Jean Reno
Ridge Cinema 9:00pm - 16 nov.

Amnesty International Film Festival

Films aim to expose the struggles of the oppressed

by ADRIANNA GRANVILLE

Amnesty International, in conjunction with the Simon Fraser University School of International Studies, will present the 16th annual Amnesty International Film Festival – packing

some of the issues through my work with Amnesty International,” says Don Wright, director of this year’s festival, “it is always inspiring to see and hear the stories from the people most affected by the issues.”

He adds that the event is a

which are run by militia in eastern Congo, the film, *Blood in the Mobile*, will haunt you with its captured footage of malnourished teenagers working in mines for days at a time for cassiterite, a mineral essential in the manufacture of mobile phones.

“Although I’m familiar with some of the issues through my work with Amnesty International, it is always inspiring to see and hear the stories from the people most affected by the issues.

Don Wright, Director, Amnesty International Film Festival

in 26 inspirational documentary films – from Nov. 17–20 at SFU Harbour Centre Theatre.

As Amnesty International celebrates 50 years of serving the world, the films this year project both the perseverance of individuals, and the resilience of the human psyche in the quest for basic human rights.

In a mission to shine a light on social injustice, the documentarians, themselves, act as witnesses – venturing into the lives of the oppressed or overlooked as they go into dangerous lands like Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, to articulate a historical record that we can choose to learn from.

“Although I’m familiar with

great way to “celebrate the work of [the] many brave and courageous people [who are] profiled in [the] films.”

One of the films that Wright is eluding to, is the Liberian documentary, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*. The film, which is directed by Gini Reticker, documents the brave women of Liberia as they stand together and demand to put an end to 14 years of civil war.

Ultimately, they turn their country around by successfully electing their first female president. This inspirational film is a testament to a grassroots movements and its power to redirect the fate of a country formerly in despair.

Moving to the illegal mines,

This film, which is made by Frank Piasecki Poulsen, exposes the links between the mobile phone industry and the civil wars of the Congo, that are accountable for the death of millions.

Controversy also surrounds the film *10 Conditions of Love* as it takes us into the complex life of Rebiya Kadeer, who was born into a Muslim Uyghur minority in Xinjiang, which is an autonomous region located in China.

Kadeer, who is now in exile in the United States, has been a prominent force in spreading awareness of the Uyghur struggle for basic human rights. Accordingly, she has been accused of inciting terrorism by the Chinese government.



▲ A still image from the movie *Pray the Devil*.

Filmmaker Jeff Daniels, follows Kadeer, once the richest woman in China, over the course of two years as she is forced to choose between spreading awareness of the 20 million oppressed Uyghur people, and her own family’s safety.

Sergei Magnitsky, an ordinary Russian lawyer, died in a Moscow detention centre in November 2009, after he uncovered a huge tax fraud committed by government officials, spurring local and international outcry. Justice for Sergei, by filmmakers Hans

Hermans and Martin Maat, interviews friends, family and colleagues of Magnitsky to gather insight into the man who held firm to his convictions and paid the ultimate price.

Complimenting the array of poignant films will be guest speakers and a few directors who will communicate with the audience via Skype.

“[Skype] helps connect audiences with individuals and organizations working for change,” adds Wright. ☞

LES SIX SAISONS DE L'AMOUR

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ouverture des portes à 19h

Thurs November 24 at 7:30pm
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accordéon/accordion

Réjean BUSSIÈRES
voix/voice,
guitare/guitar

Cam CULHAM
voix/voice,
théâtre/acting

Val VANILLE
voix/voice

Stéphanie GEEHAN
voix/voice
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produit par/produced by:
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billets/tickets:

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► “Verbatim” from page 1

down their activities several times. It is part of everyday life. We are never surprised when it is in the news.

But then, since June, the word ‘riot’ covered the front pages of newspapers and the movement *Occupy Vancouver* is becoming more important. You would think Vancouver is “frenchifying.”

The unrest of the city gives it an air of agitation which suits it well and something that photographer Richard Lam beautifully captured with his picture.

But as I’m in Vancouver now, I must say that this place is rather soothing.

When I arrived to *Canada Place*, the harmony in which forests, water and buildings get mixed, relaxed me. The clean and invigorating air makes you forget about the pollution of the French capital.

And also the calm, the fluidity of traffic circulation without car horns or insults, and the ‘calm’ manner of the city dwellers walking around, makes a big difference to me, as I’m usually impatient with people moving far too slowly in the corridors of the Parisian subway.

Most of all, in Vancouver, there is an incredible kindness, a common courtesy, and a certain elegance in relations between people. Gone are the stony and grave facial expressions of bus passengers. They are replaced with enthusiastic “Thank you!” by passengers

getting off the bus.

In Vancouver, when I cross the streets, I seem to scare drivers with my jaywalking, which is the usual way in Paris. Here in university, one of our professors gave us Smarties to make us happy – my French friends and I were speechless.

There is also the gentleness and candour of Vancouverites, who are always ready and willing to give information and even take the risk of answering me in my native tongue – French, that is.

From English to French, from French to English, going back and forth and also dealing with new exotic words from Quebec. So, for two months now, I don’t use ‘acheter’ (buying). Instead I now use ‘magasiner’ (shopping). I don’t even use *magasiner de la crème fraîche* (to buy fresh cream) but *je magasine de la crème sûre* (I buy sour cream). The taste of certain foods is not ‘modified’ (*modifié*) but simulated (*simulé*).

I note all this new vocabulary, close my eyes and enjoy the fresh air, then open my eyes again and catch sight of the snow-capped mountains, and if it’s raining, I open my umbrella and look at couples, hand in hand, heading for cover, or else, kissing under the rain, as in romantic comedies. Apparently, in Vancouver, everything begins and ends with a kiss. ☞

Translation by
Nathalie Tarkowska



▲ Tents from Occupy Vancouver site at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Cultural Calendar

November 15–December 13, 2011



Photo by cybertoad, Flickr

▲ Discover flamenco at Discover Dance! Spanish Passion Productions.

by JAN HILARIO

In the prelude to the holiday frenzy of December, people are taking a breather to experience some calm before the storm. But don't forget that the Vancouver buzz never dwindles and November is no exception to the rule. From discovering flamenco, consuming copious amounts of poutine, to being mesmerized at an illusionist magic show, the city is humming with entertainment.

The Distance Between You and Me

Sept. 24–Jan. 22
Vancouver Art Gallery
www.vanartgallery.bc.ca

The Distance Between You and Me presents the work of three notable contemporary artists from Vancouver, Los Angeles and Guadalajara: Isabelle Pauwels, Kerry Tribe, and Gonzalo Lebrija. The exhibition consists of video installations exploring the ideas of location and dislocation from a geographical and psychological perspective. More details can be found on the Vancouver Art Gallery website.

HIDE

Oct. 20–Dec. 1
Craft Council of BC
1386 Cartwright Street
www.craftcouncilbc.ca

An exhibit of unique leather masks by artist Andrea Russel. Masks have been used for different purposes throughout history and across cultures. Explore the concepts behind the literal and figurative masks we wear at the Craft Council of BC.

Flavours of Italy – Dine Italia

Nov. 1–30
www.iccbc.com

During the month of November, the Italian Chamber of Commerce will host the annual Dine Italia. Embark on a gastronomic tour of Italy and taste culinary specialties and wines typical of each of the featured regions for this year: Lombardy, Veneto, Sicily, Piemonte. Events are happening across Vancouver. Check the website for schedule and updates.



Photo by blansandwich, Flickr

Sensation of Magic: An Evening of Wonders

Nov. 8–20
The Cultch Theatre
1895 Venables Street
The Culture Lab
www.thecultch.com



▲ Illusionist Vitaly Beckam.

Born in Belarus in the era of the Soviet Union and raised in Israel, illusionist Vitaly Beckam started practicing magic at fifteen years old. Be mesmerized and awed by his show, Sensation of Magic: An Evening of Wonders, at the Cultch Theatre. Tickets are \$22 to \$25. The show runs from November 8 to 20. See The Cultch website for additional details on showtimes.

Recognition, Reconciliation and Resentment in Indigenous Politics

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 6:00 p.m.
SFU Woodward's
Goldcorp Centre for the Arts
149 West Hastings Street
Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema



▲ Assistant Professor Dr. Glen Coulthard.

Dr. Glen Coulthard is an assistant professor in the First Nations Studies Program and the Department of Political Science at the University of British Columbia. A Yellowknives Dene First Nations, Coulthard has written and published numerous articles in contemporary political theory, and indigenous thought and politics. Join him for this public event on November 16. Free admission.

Discover Dance! Spanish Passion Productions

Thursday, Nov. 17,
12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.
Scotiabank Dance Centre
677 Davie Street

604.606.6400
www.thedancecentre.ca

The Scotiabank Dance Centre's popular Discover Dance! noon series continues with a flamenco program performed by Vancouver-based Spanish Passion Productions. Trace the evolution and cultural influences of the passionate flamenco in the performance, Dos Amores – From Classical to Modern Flamenco. The performance will be followed by a question-and-answer session for artists and the audience. Tickets are available through www.ticketstonight.ca.

International Men's Day

Saturday, Nov. 19,
1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.
Roundhouse Community Arts
and Recreation Centre
181 Roundhouse Mews
Exhibition & Performance Centre
www.roundhouse.ca

Come celebrate Vancouver's second International Men's Day. Now celebrated by over 50 nations around the world, International Men's Day is in its twelfth year. The event is a Roundhouse Community Centre Partnership, and will showcase all the organizations and people who work to support boys and men in our community. Free admission.

Festival de la Poutine de Vancouver

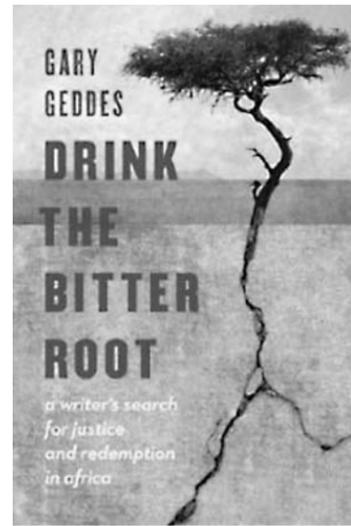
Saturday, Nov. 19, 12:00 p.m.
Hellenic Community Center
4500 Arbutus Street

Francouper presents Festival de la Poutine de Vancouver, an event to honour the culinary delight

which is poutine. The festival includes all-you-can-eat poutine, a "Poutine Crawl" of downtown Vancouver, and an evening event with francophone music, open mic, and of course, more poutine. Come indulge in food, drink and the Quebecois culture! Tickets are \$12 to \$25.

Gary Geddes

Monday, Nov. 21,
7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
Vancouver Public Library
Central Branch
350 West Georgia Street
Peter Kaye Room, Lower Level
www.vpl.ca



Join internationally acclaimed author Gary Geddes as he reads from his new novel, *Drink the Bitter Root: A Writer's Search for Justice and Redemption in Africa*. Free admission.

James Tracy

Monday, Nov. 21,
7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Vancouver Public Library
Central Branch
350 West Georgia Street
Alma VanDusen Room,
Lower Level
www.vpl.ca

James Tracy reads from his groundbreaking book, *Hillbilly Nationalist, Urban Race Rebels, and Black Power: Community Organizing in Revolutionary Times*, co-written with Amy Sonnie. Free admission.



Tea with City Soul

Thursday, Nov. 24, 8:00 p.m.
The Cultch Theatre
1895 Venables Street
Vancity Culture Lab
www.thecultch.com

Serbian-born Tea is a Vancouver-based musician who combines R&B, soul, and pop music into her own unique sound. Tickets are \$40, and can be purchased through The Cultch box office at 604.251.1363 or online at www.tickets.thecultch.com

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The Party

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