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Without Masks: exposing socio-political inequalities in Cuba Page 8





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Dining between cultures:

A look at Vancouver's fusion food scene

by sonja grgar

Tt is no secret that Vancouver is La multicultural city that fuses many different traditions in all facout fully exploring its complexity.

Revising tradition

Peter Chang is the chef and own-Restaurant, which was the first

it opened in 1999. Chang is ethnically Chinese, but was born and raised in Calcutta, India. Preparets of life. When it comes to food, ing Chinese food infused with Inhowever, fusion has emerged as a dian spices is something he grew trendy term that many use with- up with, so when he emigrated to Vancouver opening a restaurant that would honour both culinary traditions seemed only natural.

"The inspiration behind Green er of Vancouver's Green Lettuce Lettuce was to bring something new to Vancouver's restaurant

Indian-style Chinese food restau- scene. In particular, we wanted rant in the Lower Mainland when to bring a cuisine which would represent the diverse ethnic communities in Vancouver, and one which would be appealing to many," says Chang.

> Chang's cooking philosophy consists of creating unique flavours that blend two distinct cuisines. His favourite dish at Green Lettuce embodies this approach: masala fried rice, which infuses traditional Chinese fried rice with Indian masala spice.

For Andrew Wong, owner of Wild Rice restaurant in New Westminster, fusion food is not just about honouring tradition, but also about adding to it.

"[Chinese food] is a familiar cuisine that I knew people could recognize and identify with. I wanted to break the stereotype of how people would typically see it, have a focus on local artisan farms and create menus based on what we get in season," he says.

See "Fusion food" page 2





The revival of cultural roots

by LILLIAN LIAO

Tam an immigrant. I am **L**a Taiwanese immigrant. These statements are factually accurate, grammatically simple and sentimentally plain. In a city as ethnically diverse as Vancouver, these statements are also not out of the ordinary. Yet, I did not always feel comfortable asserting this part of my heritage, history and identity.

With a hindrance of hesitation and a dash of blunt honesty, I can also add another statement to the already existing ones of my self-identification: I am the poster child for cultural assimilation.

Ninety-five per cent of my day is spent communicating in English, 90 per cent of the music on my Ipod is in English, 96 per cent of the time I prefer Western food to Eastern dishes and a grand total of 100 per cent of my thoughts are in English. I have spent less than four months in Asia - less than one month in Taiwan - over the last 12 years. I do not know what it is that people traditionally do on Chinese New Year to celebrate nor do I understand the significance behind the Chinese Moon Festival. I can count on one hand the number of Chinese celebrities that I can name. If you were to call me by my Chinese birth name, I would not respond.

My fellow cultural-crossing friends have lively experiences of navigating hybridity. They have terrifying, but exciting stories to share of constructing a new life in a foreign country. They have trekked through long journeys of negotiating cultural differences in order to arrive at a balance. They have wonderful and heartwarming memories of their native country.

See "Verbatim" page 9

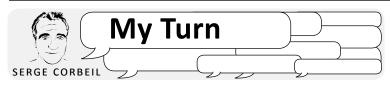


Presenting one's true self through art Page 9



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Gregor Robertson: Invincible?

unexpected turn of events since paign teams may be starting to Gregor Robertson.

Vancouver's municipal politi- spring into action. News about a cal scene has begun to show Non Partisan Association (NPA) signs of pre-electoral activity- an fundraiser emerged shortly after Vision Vancouver released the electoral year has proved an electoral video, starring none somewhat boring so far. But cam- other than its flag-bearer, Mayor



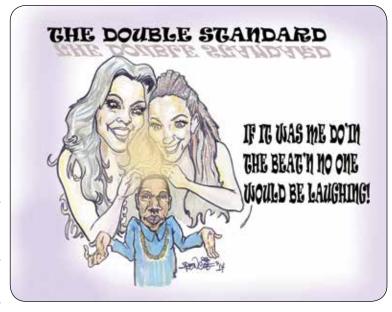
Both events remind us that in less than six months Vancouver's residents will be called to the polls. But, so far, the upcoming election's main characters have been fairly absent from the local political sphere.

This could be partly because no candidate, at least none able to shake the Robertson fortress, has as yet made an appearance. As we know, the NPA hopes to deprive Vision Vancouver of a third mayoral mandate. In fact it is the NPA president's prime objective, going as far as personally financing a small team of electoral organizers.

The success achieved by the recent NPA fundraiser now allows him to believe that change may just be in the air. Honestly, there seems to be a sense of unease floating around the current mayor. He appears vulnerable. Many Vancouverites believe that as mayor he simply doesn't listen to the majority and only gives the appearance of consultation when it comes to the city's major development projects. If we are to believe the NPA's web slogan -'You Deserve a Voice" - their internal polls seem to come to the same conclusion.

However, even though the NPA is reasonably well positioned to exploit Vision Vancouver's apparent weakness, they will still need much more to secure the mayoral chair. First and foremost, they will have to release sooner rather than later the name of their candidate for mayor. Time is of the essence. If they don't reveal the name of that candidate before the end of June,

Spencie's View



it might look like they are having years, one would say that this trouble finding someone able to challenge Gregor Robertson.

A change may very well happen. Many Vancouverites' apparent indifference to the election so far is not unwarranted. Take, for example, Vision Vancouver's online electoral video. Notwithstanding the fact that this sort of electoral tactic is often grandiose in tone, this particular one takes the cake. In fact we hear in it the most extraordinary declaration. I don't know if you have seen it but it's worth doing so. Mayor Robertson is seen, in all seriousness, declaring that Vision Vancouver has "fixed" the traffic congestion problem in Vancouver.

Ahem!

Unless one has been away from the city these past few

is not the case. On the contrary: never has this city been so congested. And most insulting is that this situation is mainly the consequence of policies implemented by the current team. Whether you are for or against bike lanes and other obstacles to traffic flow in the name of the pipe dream of making Vancouver the greenest city in the world is of no importance. The result is that cars running on idle are the norm in this city. And this goes very much against the green dream. In fact the whole thing could be nothing but a mirage.

Let's wait and see what voters decide come November.

Translation Monique Kroeger

Fusion food" from page 1

It was important to Wong that Wild Rice, which was founded in 2001, serve accessible and healthy versions of the traditional Chinese cuisine that he grew up with. This means, for example, reworking the traditional beef and vegetable chow mein into a dish he describes as organic braised beef from the Caribou region, served with baby bok choy, dressed with Wong also wanted to bring a uniquely West Coast sensibility to Wild Rice's menu by serving high-quality foods sourced from sustainable local farms.

Wild Rice's Australian-born chef partner, Todd Bright, explains that he created the menu with the in- extension of the already vibrant tention of taking traditional Can-cultural mix. tonese ingredients and turning them on their head. He cites dishes such as the bacon and cheeseburg- really what we do," he says. er spring roll and steamed buns an and Australian classics.

Finding definition

"Fusion is about taking concepts that work well in their own right



Publications Mail

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and enhancing them to become something different. It's important that fusion hits all the flavour profiles: salty, sweet, sour and a little bit of spice," says Bright.

Darren Clay, chef instructor/industry relations liaison with the Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts (PICA), thinks that fusion cuisine is just beginning to earn respect in the world of gastronomy.

"For chefs, the term [fusion] a ginger and soy reduction and achas a bad connotation in general. companied by chow mein noodles. There was a period when fusion was this terrible thing, where people were taking things that weren't working," he says.

> Clay believes that fusion food commands greater acceptance in highly multicultural societies like Canada, where it is a natural

"In Vancouver, with our cosmopolitan population, fusion food is

And even though PICA, where filled with braised kangaroo tail Clay teaches in the culinary proas examples of combining well- gram, is a traditional French culiknown Asian dishes with Canadi- nary school, it offers its students an opportunity to experiment with fusion in the latter portion of its six-month program.

Up to 30 per cent of those ennational students from countries with long-standing food traditions such as South Korea and Mexico. When asked to create their own recipes, Clay finds that the students naturally gravitate towards fusion, mixing their Wild Rice restaurant in New Westminster serves Chinese traditions of origin with Vancou-

ver's quintessential Asian-Pacific sensibilities.

The unselfconscious fusion

Originally from Ontario, Chris Seiler is in the process of finishing his culinary program at PICA, and is very fond of the concept of fusion. Rather than diluting the integrity of original cuisines, he feels that fusion has the potential to highlight their distinctiveness even more, and introduce them to new audiences. He particularly likes Mexican cuisine, and loves to combine it with traditional French dishes.

However, Seiler thinks that fusion is not something that needs to be consciously attempted, because on some level it is already ingrained in most world cuisines.

"If you incorporate a spice from another part of the world, that's technically fusion cooking - everybody in the restaurant world is using it now," he says.

Dutch-born Selma Van Halder, a recent PICA graduate and current teaching assistant at the school, thinks that fusion is a bit of a misnomer because it implies a strict division between culinary traditions.

"No cuisine is free of influences from outside. History - wars, trade routes, immigration - influences cooking as much as technological advancement does," she says.

Van Halder cites Vietnamese cuisine as a combination of typical Asian flavours and very traditional French techniques, as exemplified by the Vietnamese lunch staple bánh mì, which features typical Vietnamese toppings served on a baguette.

And since fusion has always been part of all culinary traditions, Van Halder believes the term is not only unnecessary, but seems to be trying too hard.

"I'd love to work in an openminded place, where interesting combinations are welcomed and creativity is nurtured, where chefs do really unexpected things with local, sustainable, seasonal ingredients. That does not have to be called fusion," she

As for the future of fusion dining, Wild Rice chef Bright thinks that it will continue to evolve and improve in quality.

"There's a multitude of restaurants that are doing well with traditional food, and I don't think those will go away, but it's also very important that we experiment as a society and marry as many ingredients as we can together to create something special," he says.

For more information on Green Lettuce and Wild Rice restaurants and on the Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts, visit, www.greenlettucerestaurant.ca, www.wildricebc.ca and www.picachef.com, respectively.



food infused with Pacific west coast sensibilities.

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Travelling librarians: From UBC to Guatemala

by ALEXANDER AGNELLO

While ensuring access to clean water and adequate health care are key elements in the fight against global inequality, expanding access to information is also vital. That is the philosophy of Librarians Without Borders (LWB), a non-profit organization founded in 2005 that recently established a chapter at the University of British Columbia (UBC).

Matthew Root, co-chair of the UBC group, focuses his efforts in Guatemala, where he seeks to provide aid and expertise in partnership with pre-existing local organizations. In particular, he tries to equip local libraries with reading materials that not only capture readers' interest,

and do not require extensive programming knowledge," says

Low-tech book preservation

Guatemala's climate provides additional challenges, specifically the potential negative effects on bookbinding and conservation, that require flexible and locally-driven solutions. Root explains that high elevation and humid conditions contribute to the problem of bio-deterioration. This includes the threat of mold, bacterial growth and the bleaching and weakening effects of UV light on reading materials.

"When outside groups from developed nations come in, it is too easy for us to default to modern technologies. Guatemala is not a place where we can



English class in Montericco.



▲ The UBC executive committee: (left to right) Matthew Root, Becky Epplett, Kaitie Warren, Kelly Savage, Kelsey Ockert.

but also reflect the linguistic and cultural makeup of the different regions of Guatemala.

"Using the library as a physical space, we want to support a learning community that encourages collective growth. But our involvement must be in a supportive role, following the lead of the community," says Root.

Low-cost, high-tech

Root explains that LWB and its partners seek to create a sustainable library system for these communities, with a basic and cost-effective method for accessing and categorizing information without internet access. Enter the Raspberry Pi: a micro-sized single-board computer with a price tag of less than \$40. Root has been using these devices and a software package called Remote Areas Community Hotspots for Education and Learning (RACHEL) to provide free educational courseware and library database access to children in The success of these projects is developing countries with no internet connection or very limited bandwidth.

"We can create sustainable libraries and learning communi- Borders, and wish to support ties with devices such as these because they are effective, in- http://lwb-online.org/?page_ expensive to purchase and fix id=933

opt for climate control systems. Even if we could afford them, energy blackouts are a common occurrence, even in the wealthiest areas, and the constant fluctuation of conditions would be more harmful to the collection," explains Root.

Instead, LWB and its Guatemalan partners, Miguel Angel Asturias Academy and Limitless Horizons Ixil, opt for simple and cost-effective methods to address ecological concerns. Using fans and high ceilings effectively circulates air and greatly reduces the humidity levels in buildings. Shelving books away from outer walls, which are subject to sometimes drastic outside temperature changes, keeps the collection at a more consistent temperature. These types of solutions can be implemented and maintained, thus providing long term value and benefit for these developing communities.

contingent on the contributions of many volunteers and donors. Follow the link below if you are inspired by the Librarians Without information literacy in Guatemala:



Left Bank

Teachers, not tankers: On Christy Clark's misplaced priorities

was basically her uniform on the ment to jobs, as she touted the fied Natural Gas (LNG) exports.

If only Premier Clark were as committed to and respectful of actual workers in this province as she is to imaginary future workers in this one sector of the economy. (Worth noting: Clark's estimates of the potential of LNG to create jobs seem as wildly overstated as her projections for the climate change causing emissions of this new Gas Rush are understated.)

placed priorities have been on full display of late. Last week, Clark was a featured speaker at a threeday LNG industry conference in downtown Vancouver. Meanwhile, her government was busy antagonizing BC teachers, causing disruption and uncertainty for education workers, parents and students - all this just as exam and graduation time approaches.

Last week, talks between the government negotiator and the BC Teachers Federation (BCTF) broke down. After teachers announced limited job action, the employer retaliated by announc- LNG corporate-government loveing a partial lockout and threatening a wider lockout in June.

BCTF President Jim Iker, who has maintained a remarkably calm demeanour throughout this labour dispute, shot back at the government's actions:

"Premier Clark just yesterday said children should not be put in the middle, yet she is impos-



ing significant disruptions to the education system. We've already heard from secondary school teachers that they will be locked out on the day their stu- to keep a distracted generation dents graduate. Is putting Grade interested. The workday that 12 graduation on the chopping block Christy Clark's definition of families first? Christy Clark's lockout will mean teachers would be insubordinate if they helped a struggling student or a child with special needs during the lunch hour."

the BCTF - and they are legion in this province - have to concede that the Clark government is playing hardball here. They're not acting like they actually want to resolve this dispute; they're acting like they wouldn't mind a protracted public fight with BC teachers.

We've seen this movie before. In ly changed over the years. Christy Clark was the Education Minister back in 2002-2004, when the BC

Thristy Clark loves to do photo- Liberals brought in Bills 27 and Cops wearing a hard hat. That 28, stripping teachers' collective agreements of issues like class size campaign trail last year. It was and composition. The BCTF has meant to symbolize her commit- spent a decade fighting this, and the Supreme Court has ruled in "trillion dollar" bonanza that B.C. their favour, stating that the Liberwould reap from expanding Liqui- als' actions were unconstitutional. In the latest ruling, BC Supreme Court Justice Griffin eviscerated Christy Clark's government for violating the freedom of association of teachers.

Christy Clark needs to be taught a lesson - again. In 2005, BC teachers pushed back against this same government, when their "illegal" strike action gained widespread public support and major labour solidarity. The teachers have been vindi-Clark and the BC Liberals' mis-cated time and again; it's the government that has been violating the highest law of the land with their unconstitutional actions.

> We need to unite behind teachers once more. Think of it as a teachable moment for how to deal with a bully. Students are learning the hard way about the importance of solidarity; some have even responded by organizing rallies for their teachers.

> Rather than letting the bully divide and rule us, we should unite and make connections between different issues. Last Friday, a rally was held outside the in, to protest expanded fracking in the province and to stand in solidarity with those in Northern BC, who are determined to protect their environment and communities against the Big Oil and Gas juggernaut. The highlight of this demonstration, for me, was the moment one of the speakers saw teachers in the crowd with their BCTF flags and gave them a shoutout. The crowd responded with big applause.

Before I decided to eke out a living as a writer and editor, I worked briefly as a teacher. Before that, in my late teens and twenties, I worked myriad industrial jobs. Sometimes I wore a hard hat to work, punching the clock at places like the now closed Nalley's potato chip factory, the Grimm's meatpacking plant, the Great Canadian Box Factory, and many other industrial workplaces. It was all hard work, but I'd have to say that nothing I experienced compared to the overall demands of teaching. The challenge of managing a classroom. The effort it takes creeps into evenings and weekends with marking and prep work. The burden of responsibility for all those young people's intellectual development and physical well-being.

Not all workers wear hard hats, but all workers deserve respect, Even media pundits hostile to and those who look after our kids for seven hours (plus extra-curricular hours) a day and help shape them socially and intellectually should be compensated adequately and well resourced so that they can excel at their vital jobs.

> BC teachers deserve our full support. They should not have to walk this picket line alone.

fact, the film's director hasn't real- Next week I will be back to municipal politics, with the promised article on the proposed Housing Authority for the City of Vancouver.

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Registration required: Email <u>culture@mosaicbc.com</u> or call 604 254 9626

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Time: June 2 & 3, 5-8:30pm

Venue: Tommy Douglas Burnaby Public Library, 7311 Kingsway

Call 604 254 9626 ext 484 Registration required:

Canadian Citizenship Preparation (French)

Time: June 3 & 4, 5:30-8:30pm

Vancouver Public Library Kitsilano Branch, 2425 McDonald Street Venue:

Registration required: Call 604 438 8214 ext 112

Canadian Citizenship Preparation (New Westminster)

Time: June 4 & 5, 10am-1pm

Venue: New Westminster Public Library, 716-6th Ave

Call 604 438 8214 ext 112 Registration required:

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expectations

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strategies, understanding labour market information and employer

expectations

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Registration required: Call 604 438 8214 ext 112

MOSAIC is a multilingual non-profit organization dedicated to addressing issues that affect immigrants and refugees in the course of their settlement and integration into Canadian society.



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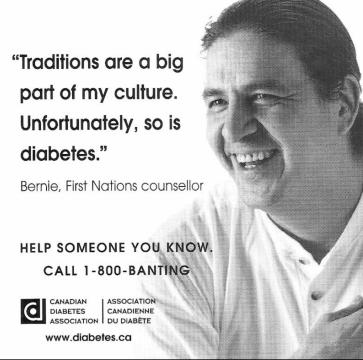
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Please call 604-324-7733, go to www.pics.bc.ca, or visit us at 200-8161 Main Street, Vancouver, to find out how we can best help you.







Adel Masoud, with his wife Layla, in front of the Middle Eastern Friendship Centre.

Middle Eastern Friendship Centre: A gem in the Lower Mainland

by EDIZ DIKMELIK

In the Middle East, hospitality is among the region's chief virtues. One can easily get a taste of such hospitality by walking into the Middle Eastern Friendship Centre (the Centre) in Surrey. Located near the Gateway Skytrain station, the Centre serves all residents of the Lower Mainland by providing a venue for anybody interested in making connections through Middle Eastern culture, independent of ethnicity, age or religion.

Easing the way for others

Adel Masoud founded the Centre in 2009 and is currently acting as its president. Masoud came to Canada from Kuwait with his family in 1997, not knowing anybody and barely speaking Eng-

"I went through really difficult times," he says. "This Centre exists so that people can have an easier time than I did. We worked for nine years to establish this Centre. It has been my dream for a long time."

The Centre provides many services, including a library filled with books in Arabic, Farsi, English, and other languages; plus resume, tax return and citizenship workshops that take place on a regular basis. ESL and Arabic classes, translation and various other services are offered as

Although the Centre was established to help make the transition to Canadian life easier, it is also open to people who have lived in Canada for a long time.

"It is not only newcomers that visit us in the Centre," Adel remarks. "We receive many visitors who are established in Can-

Mahmoud Giratalla is such a visitor; now a retired engineer, he has been in Canada for more than 40 years.

"I met good people here and I started coming day after day. Now I am worried that I come too much!" he says, bursting into

For Giratalla, family issues were the most difficult part of his

"First, you leave your own family. I still miss my brothers and sisters, and when my parents died, I was not able to attend their

funeral. That was heartbreaking. volunteers. Hannah Atoui, a vol-Second, the family you form here has a different structure than the one you could have had back there. In my culture, the families are strongly cohesive. That does not exist here," he says, looking wistful. "I feel like I have found a new family in this Centre."

When asked about the good experiences he has had here, Giratalla brightens up.

unteer for the Centre, helps with translations, administrative issues like obtaining a social insurance number and other practical matters, such as advice on purchasing furniture. Atoui had a hard time integrating into the workforce too. He came to Vancouver from Lebanon 20 years ago, and he spent three years without a job. Before coming, he "Oh, I have had many. The great- worked as a speech therapist, est part of moving to a new land but this experience counted for

66 This Centre exists so that people can have an easier time than I did.

Adel Masoud, Centre Founder

ing this new culture."

Finding strength in community support

For both Masoud and Giratalla, the foremost difficulty of integration was finding a job. Masoud had a harder time than Giratalla.

When you go out looking for a job, they ask you for 'Canadian experience.' How am I going to get Canadian experience when it is a requirement for getting a job?" wonders Masoud.

Masoud considers himself lucky to have found an employer who had the right attitude.

"In my first job, the company partly paid for my ESL classes. That was really helpful for me. I wish more employers did things like that," he says.

Almost all of the services in the Centre are provided by skilled

is the discovery. I liked discover- nothing here, and he was asked to start his education from the beginning. He worked in several jobs unrelated to his expertise, ending up as a security guard and supervisor.

> "Retraining is difficult at my age," says Atoui with a laugh. "I have not had any issues in integrating socially though; I find Canadian people very friendly and helpful."

The Centre, which operates on donations, is open four days a week and offers all of its services for free. All cultures are welcome to visit for a cup of tea or coffee, or to attend the workshops and the monthly potluck.

For more information a bout the Middle Eastern Friendship Centre, visit www.mefriendshipcentre.com/ index.htm



▲ Volunteer Hannah Atoui in the tent

Salt walks represent new form of social practice art

by naomi tse

Salt gets sprinkled on food to add flavour, and on May 31 a dash of salt will be added to art in Randy Lee Cutler's video screening of her Salt Walks project.

Savouring knowledge: food-focused art

As both an artist and professor at Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Randy Lee Cutler foworks around food and food politics through the media of video. 2D art and writing. Cutler is a vegetarian and seeks to chalterested in how health products are marketed, and her attention tional value.

Cutler says the Chinese were



Randy Lee Cutler engages with a participant in a salt tasting in Chinatown.

the first to harvest salt and it was also used as a form of currency for trade purposes. Cutler attempted to engage strangers on history and culture behind salt by walking around in a custom-made white outfit with test tubes full of salt. However, the response was not positive. In her second attempt, she decided to conduct Salt Walks curated by the Access Gallery.

"I use salt as a way of telling cuses her interests in producing a story about food or survival," says Cutler.

The Salt Walks are an example of a new form of art, called social practice, in which artists lenge conventional ideas about work with communities to crefood in her artwork. Cutler is in- ate an experience and interact with the public.

Chinatown was chosen as the has shifted to salt and its nutri- location for the Salt Walks since Cutler lives near the area, and it is also the location of the Access Gallery, where the walks start. Three walks were organized last year and each had a different theme: herbal medicine, food preservation and crystal structures. Each walk was limited to 12 participants and involved discussions on the history and usage of salt.

> "It was fun to see how people respond to it [the walks]," says Cutler. "It was also very inti-

Cutler says participants included people from the Chinatown area as well as foodies who were interested in salt.

Edward Guiterrez, a local Chi-Guiterrez owns a crystal shop, and he explained the properties of crystals to participants with a show-and-tell.



A Salt Walk participants stop inside a traditional Chinese medicine shop

natown shopkeeper, participat- good for minor aches and pains," terrez, salt lamps clean the air, The video screening event ed as a guest in Cutler's walks. says Guiterrez. "It's relaxing and calms the mind.'

He also introduced particiate energy and negative ions "Amethyst is a quartz, and is when heated. According to Guitary of the walks.

and the clean air affects one's mood and energy levels.

Almost a year later, Cutler has pants to salt lamps, which radi- put together a video of what she calls an experimental documen-

"It makes the project accessible to people who couldn't attend," says Cutler.

She considers the 21-minute video a separate piece of artwork. It can be used to encourage others to learn more about salt, Chinatown and public art projects.

"Lots of people see contemporary artists as intimidating," she

Cooking with salt

Along with the video screening, there will also be another salt tasting similar to the one accompanying the salt walks.

Eric Pateman, owner of Edible Canada and Sea to Sky Seasonings, says salt should have a clean and clear flavour. He also offered some advice on cooking with salt.

"The biggest thing about cooking things in salted water (vegetables, seafood, etc.) is that you want to put a significant amount so that it tastes like sea water," says Pateman, who is a chef by training. "The quality of the food is immensely better."

He adds that since salt tends to dissipate during the cooking process, you should always use it as a finishing agent, and it will add a great texture and flavour profile.

"The best part is we all eat and we all have an immediate relationship with and understanding of salt," says Cutler. 🕰

will be approximately two hours long and will take place at Sun Yat-Sen Garden on May 31. For more information, please visit www.vancouverchinesegarden. com/events

Issues & Ideas

Challenging the Chinese investor immigrant stereotype

by WILL TAO

Who are Canada's Chinese Investor Immigrants? Why has their value to Canada not been fully realized?

The existing Chinese investor immigrant stereotype

migrants has shifted from emilate into Canadian society. ployment-based employees to the entrepreneurial, investor immigrant. Gone are the days when an immigrant from China is welcomed to our country with open arms.

Regardless of your stance on this issue, the brutal reality is that the cost for a Canadian employer to have this employoutweighs the cost of hiring a Canadian. For a middle-aged individual from China who has limited English language the best route to permanent residence in Canada is now ial programs.

spective, the idea is that these capital. For most of us, how-

investor immigrants. Investor immigration is generally viewed as a bad thing. We blame these "rich immigrants" for increases in property prices and abuses of our social services. Our existing stereotype of the typical Chinese investor immigrant is an extremely wealthly, multiple Over the past two decades, property owner who tends to be Canada's "preference" of im- reclusive and not eager to assim-

A different narrative: my own experiences with investor immigrants

with a degree, \$60 in pocket In the past year, I have, as a stuand a letter from an employer dent-at-law, worked closely with Chinese investor immigrants, both in Canada and in China. My experiences have given me a completely different narrative of investor immigrants.

From the outset, I would say ee here, more often than not, that the "stereotypical" profile of my client is a successful, middleclass working couple in their late thirties, with a three-year old son.

In my experience, the primary skills and Canadian experience, motivation for most Chinese investor immigrants to come to Canada is for their family's through various government- future. Many have or expect to run investor and entrepreneur- have a young child who they wish to educate in Canada. They feel From the government's per- the Chinese education system places too much pressure on schemes will create business- young children and is stuck in es in Canada that in turn will traditional ways of learning. Also create local jobs and generate high on the priority list is access to a cleaner environment and ever, this is not how we view better health care. While busi- too are tax-paying residents of



▲ Looking out towards the future.

ness does often take a backseat to family, investor immigrants generally are well-educated and passionate about the work they have done in China and are trying to bring their knowledge and skills to Canada. I have yet to meet a client who did not genuinely want to run a successful Canadian-based business. Given the above factors, I would say that the hopes and ambitions of these investor immigrants are as laudable and similar to the ones we hold for our own families here in Canada. Upon immigration, they

Canada, contrary to what is often reported in the media.

BC's Provincial Nomination Program: finding value for Canadians and small businesses

Finally, I think that we have not yet searched for the "value-added" that these investor immigrants can provide for Canadian society. For example, under British Columbia's Provincial Nominee Program, there are multiple requirements for investor immigrants to directly engage with other Canadians. First, there is a requirement on the investor immigrant to either start up a business or purchase shares or assets of an existing business. These businesses will require Canadian services and clients to succeed and must also hire at least one Canadian permanent resident or citizen.

There are also particular opportunities for regional businesses that have operated for over five years and are looking for what is called a "succession buyout." This category is the quickest option for immigrants and provides a tangible option for a struggling business to either get out of the business or receive a capital injection.

Needless to say, there is an ocean of opportunity for Canadians if we get beyond the vast differences we perceive.





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 5 000 élèves, 37 écoles publiques et dessert plus d'une centaine de communautés réparties dans l'ensemble de la province.

- programme d'enseignement public de la maternelle à la 12° année;
- services à la petite enfance;
- service de transport scolaire;
- programme d'anglais de qualité;
- haut niveau de réussite scolaire;
- portables pour tous;
- programmes de musique, théâtre, etc.







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From Bombs to Books: refugee children share their stories

by ALINA ANGHEL

In the suburbs of Burnaby, Ed-I monds Community School found itself with one-third of its student body newly arrived in Canada as refugees. They came from some of the most conflictridden parts of the globe such as Sudan, the Congo, Afghanistan, Eritrea, and Iraq. David Starr, who was principal of the school for four years, was inspired to author a book, From Bombs to

right people to support them on their journey," explains Starr.

New lives, new challenges

In 2012, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that globally, there were 15.4 million refugees. The UNHCR marks World Refugee Day on June 20 each year to bring attention to the plight of families impacted by war and conflict, and to their amazing ability to overcome these chal-

66 They've been through a lot so it becomes a question of getting to know the kids...

David Starr, author, From Bombs to Books

Books, to share the stories of the lenges. By writing *From Bombs* refugees he met. Starr will lead a discussion of the book's contents at the Vancouver Public Library Central Branch on June 10.

From refugee camps to Canadian schools

Amelmadug, the mother of two of his students, approached Starr one day and told him her story of walking 1,000 kilometers from civil war-torn Sudan to Ethiopia at the age of 14. She then spent 20 years in refugee camps before finding her way to Canada with her children. All of the families Starr met wanted to share their stories for different reasons, from preserving the memories of a loved one to simply informing the world.

Refugees are individuals who, due to their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, categorization in a certain social group or war, are no longer able to stay in their home countries. According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Canada welcomes more than 12,000 refugees annually and provides asylum to over 10,000 individuals.

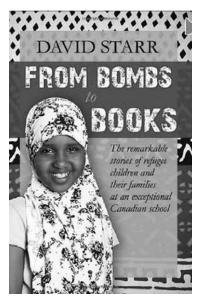
"The Canadian population as a whole doesn't understand or have been through. There might be a preconceived notion that they come from some sort of deficit background but many of the families are highly educated people. And whether they are or not, they are all people who have endured significant loss and repression," Starr explains.

Refugee children entering the Canadian school system have very different needs than the average student. Many have grown up in refugee camps with no access to education, or have had their education interrupted. They now have to deal with learning and understanding the school system in an unfamiliar environment. On top of that, many suffer from trauma or mental health issues due to the experiences they endured at an early age.

"They've been through a lot so it becomes a question of getting to know the kids and having the

to Books, Starr is also trying to focus attention on refugees by highlighting the human element in past and ongoing conflicts, and reminding us of the modern day challenges that we can see right in our own communities.

"These refugee families are a living testament to the crises that happen in the world. We are part of a global community and we have a responsibility that ex-



appreciate what these families tends beyond our borders to support people" says Starr.

> As part of the lead-up to World Refugee Day, the Vancouver Public Library (VPL) has invited Starr to discuss From Bombs to Books on June 10. Starr sees the event, titled Sharing Stories and Honouring Journeys, turning into an informal forum, where the curiosities of the audience will shape the night. He hopes to contribute in his own way to creating social and educational policies that help these refugees adjust. One of the issues Starr highlights is that these families are not just starting a new life with nothing, but in-debt as they must repay the Canadian government their flight fee, with interest. The upcoming conversation at VPL is an opportunity to get a glimpse into the resilience of refugees, the hardships they face and how our local society reacts to these challenges.

For more information, see the events calendar at www.vpl.ca.

MOA exhibit showcases contemporary Afro-Cuban art

by sonja grgar

The Cuban Revolution marked **I** a turning point in the nation's history because of its efforts to improve the social inequalities within the country. Yet, the economic crisis that engulfed the island in the early 1990s exposed the continuing marginalization of the country's Afro-Cuban minority and brought this issue to the forefront of national discourse.

rary Afro-Cuban Art, on display that Cubans view Afro-Cuban (MOA) until Nov. 2, Vancouver Monte, Santería, Ifá and Abakuá -

very attractive for the intellectuals and the Cuban government. In the years before, people thought that racism didn't exist in Cuba because, at the beginning of the revolution, the government said that we were an egalitarian society," explains Hernández.

Collective Afro-Cuban consciousness

In Without Masks: Contempo- However, Hernández emphasizes at the Museum of Anthropology culture and its religions - Palo

"In recent years this issue [of artists, José Angel Vincench Bar Afro-Cuban marginalization is rera, believes that the Afro-Cuban heritage is not a conscious area of focus within the Cuban art world.

> "The new generation of artists is not preoccupied with tradition, and is interested in new technology and a more universal, international language. I belong to this new generation that has to compromise to find new ways to represent the tradition,' he says.

> Barrera's Rogación de Cabeza features 25 ritual white cloth caps that are used by the practitioners of Santería and Ifá during the ritual known as Kobori, which is designed to feed the personal deity that resides inside an individual's head.

> Barrera distributed these caps to a cross-section of the Cuban population residing both in Havana and Miami, asking them to write down their life's problems and dreams on top of the hats.

The allusion to unity between Cubans residing in the country and those living in the United States is a controversial notion in Cuba, and a reflection of Bar rera's fascination with the political. The latter is also evident in his The Weight of Words piece, which features four words (all colloquial derogatory references to Afro-Cubans) that are laminated in gold leaf on top of black acrylic canvas.

"We have a lot of examples of discrimination in Cuba, not only with reference to black people, but also with regards to homosexuality and religion, and sometimes people don't react because they feel they can't change any thing. This is one of my criticisms of our society," says Barrera.

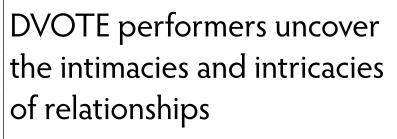


A Remember by The Merger captures the complexity of inherited cultural memories, as well as the impact of western technology on Cuban culture.

Though he has been unable to exhibit some of his work in Cuba, due to its strongly political content, Barrera says that with the opportunities that the internet brings, he is always able to show the work internationally.

"I don't want to promote this drama of the Cuban censorship. I create my art pieces without any restriction in my mind. I love my country and I can't imagine living anywhere else right now,' he says.

For more information on the Without Masks: Contemporary Afro-Cuban Art exhibit, visit www.moa.ubc.ca/experience/ exhibits.php



by ANASTASIA SCHERDERS

 $R^{\text{elationships}}$ are never simple. In fact, they are one of the most complicated and challenging parts of life. And Nova Bhattacharya and Noam Gagnon, both award-winning dancers and choreographers, want to dig beneath the surface and consider why we connect with one another and why we don't. In their collaborative creation, DVOTE - presented by The Cultch from May 27–31 – they boldly explore the dynamic relationship between a man and woman and the unseen forces that guide them.

Because Bhattacharya and Gagnon come from different cultural and technical backgrounds, the first and perhaps most important step in their creative process was coming to understand each other as performers and creators.

Bhattacharya, who is Bengali, is known for her innovation within the classical bharatanatyam form and contemporary dance. French-Canadian Gagnon is known for his emotionally and physically intimate performances.

Upon meeting at the Canada Dance Festival, Bhattacharya and Gagnon expressed a shared respect and admiration for each other's work, and started discussing the possibility of working together. Gagnon describes their collaboration as serensurface.

versation between artists. We seemed to have an energy and a strong connection," says Bhattacharya.

Striking an emotional chord

Through their latest collaboration, Bhattacharya and Gagnon discovered an in-between space where their creative energies and artistic visions came together. The world of their characters seems to relate in some aspects to their own collaboration; and as the story explores the relationship between a man and woman, their personal effort to connect with one another is revealed to the audience.

Bhattacharya says the work is about two people who are trying to find a connection, and the moments of disconnect that sometimes occur between them. She considers relationships to

have many colours and feels *DVOTE* explores a relationship's most striking contrasts: longing and hope, power and struggle, desire and fear.

"These two characters are in a tumultuous relationship of push and pull, and there are extraordinary forces that keep them apart," says Gagnon, who hopes the piece resonates with the audience and strikes a universal chord.

Sharing creative spaces

In 2011, Bhattacharva and Gagnon spent a week at Vancouver's Chateau Theatre, where they worked together in a studio space and began experimenting with ideas, exploring thematics, and researching ma-

"Because of the opposition of where we come from, we spent a lot of time generating a common language," says Gagnon. "We are extremely different as artists in the way we create, and we both have such strong perspectives."

Bhattacharya and Gagnon point out it was very important to use their shared time to learn about each other, and develop a sense of what it was like to create and dance together.

"When it is a new collaboration, there is a lot of discovery that needs to happen in order for the work to come together," says Bhattacharya.

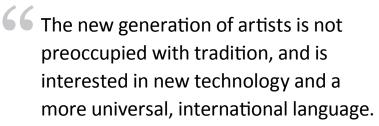
Bhattacharya discovered there dipitous, explaining they both was not only variation in their sought to examine the dynamics technical backgrounds, but also of relationships, and the power- in their performance energies. ful forces that exist beneath the She feels they both bring a high level of intensity to their work, "It really started as a con- and because of the significant differences in their performance styles, this proved to be a challenge. They needed to find a way to combine their two unique aesthetics so that it made sense for the piece, as well as for the audience.

"We are sharing who we are and what we are all struggling with," says Gagnon.

DVOTE invites us to enter the world of its' performers and the world of its' characters, where the intimacies, desires, and tensions of relationships are uninhibitedly revealed.

"There is quite a lot of intensity in what we are presenting on stage," says Bhattacharya. "It is very emotional."

DVOTE performs May 27-31 in the Historic Theatre at The Cultch. There will also be a Q&A session on May 28 and 29.



José Angel Vincench Barrera, conceptual artist

observe how contemporary Cu- even if they do not have African ban art reflects on social stereo- roots. types and racial issues.

Acknowledging social inequality

Without Masks drew about 1,500 visitors during its May 2 opening weekend. The 85 works in the exhibit were created by a diverse mix of 31 artists, and feature a vaphotography, collage, soft-sculpture and video art.

All of the works on display were collected by South Africans Chris and Marina von Christierson. They established a collaboration with the Havana-based Cuban poet and art critic Orlando Hernández to showcase the contemporary Afro-Cuban perspective, as well as African influence in Cuban art.

In 2010, Hernández curated the first exhibit of works collected by the von Christiersons, and it showed with great success at the Johannesburg Art Gallery. Some of the works from the South African exhibit are on display at the MOA, but additional pieces have been added to the mix, some created by emerging and others by

audiences get the opportunity to as part of their national heritage

"In Cuba, this separation between the Afro-Cuban and the white person is very difficult to establish. [Without Masks features] artists reflecting on the African heritage that we all received [collectively]," he says.

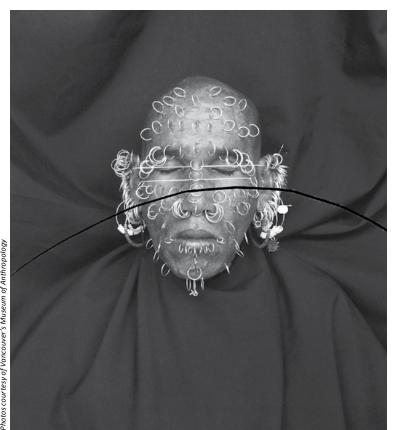
To that effect, though not of Afro-Cuban ancestry, Alain Pino and riety of media, such as painting, Mario Miguel González (Mayito) of The Merger, a Havana-based art collective, nevertheless feel a connection to this aspect of Cuban culture. Their bronze sculpture titled Remember references the notion of inherited Afro-Cuban cultural memory that exists in the religion, dances, music and food that African slaves brought to the island.

The piece depicts an Afro-Cuban face with computer flash drives sticking out of the head in lieu of hair, commenting on the intractable influence that Western culture exerts on Cuban identity.

"In the end, technology imposes itself even in developing countries," said Pino during the Without Masks artist talk on May 6.

Embracing the political

internationally renowned artists. One of the exhibit's conceptual



Sin Palabras by Juan Carlos Alom alludes to Afro-Cuban heritage by recreating the image of an African slave who arrived in Cuba in the 16th century.

Vol 14 No 9 | May 27-June 10, 2014 The Source 9

Making a face: Netherlander artist reflects on the immigration experience

by dong yue su

that dot the gallery space at the Burnaby Art Gallery (BAG) until June 22. Some faces are playfully recognizable, such as a clown, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck; other faces are more serious and gest two different facets of the same person or conflicted emotions between playfulness and melancholy. As Jennifer Cane, the assistant curator of BAG points out, visitors who have immigration experience may recognize in Jetten's work the tension of negotiating a new identity in Canada.

of immigrating," Cane comments on the Saskia Jetten exhibition that she curated.

tigious award of printmaking in ing is also more complex. Netherland. Over twenty years of her career as an artist, her works have been shown internationally. she says. This exhibition is her first solo show in Vancouver that includes into her works and provokes both her recent works produced in Vancouver and works from the Netherlands.

Playing with faces and masks

immigration is very

work," says Jetten. "When I approached people here and Saskia Jetten likes to make tried to make a joke, some did faces. A celebrated Dutch artnot get it. So I had to change a ist who recently immigrated to little bit. Part of my identity Vancouver, Jetten's works are also changed a little bit. Since in the form of masks, clowns, my experience has changed, I comics, cartoons and puppets need to make some changes in my works too."

The negotiation of one's true self and its presentation can be seen in Jetten's pieces where she plays with faces and masks. In the work titled Faces and elusive. Many of the faces sug- Masks for example, a portrait of a human face is printed on a piece of translucent paper and is layered with another translucent paper which displays a mask. These papers are hung from the ceiling so that viewers can walk around to see through both the face and the mask.

"When people are feeling in-"It is the bittersweet emotions secure, they tend to put on a mask," Jetten says.

However, Jetten states that masking is more than hiding Jetten has won the most pres- one's true face. For her, mask-

> "It is not hiding because it is expressing what life is about,"

This dynamic is woven thoughts on the real and the surreal immigrating experi-

Themes beyond immigration

much connected to my recent lenging, Jetten offers a positive than the theme of immigration,



Still image from the stop motion animation Departing Arriving.

recurrent subject in her works. Jetten says that she dreamed of becoming a clown as a kid.

"A clown is laughing away our own difficulties," Jetten says.

The clown personality helps her to make light of difficult topics.

Although the foundation of While immigration can be chalher works is much broader

attitude. Clowns are another Jetten says she is open to interpretation. She refers to her artistic process as the way she

> This is the experience many fellow Canadian immigrants can relate to, according to Cane. She sees her works as a story.

"It depicts a voyage from loss of identity, to a sense of con- $\mbox{For\,more\,information,\,visit\,Things}$ flicted personas, to newfound

Cane reflects her own experience of becoming someone new. "It is the feelings of loss, but

also of growth," says Cane. "It is an identity shift of who you were in your homeland, and who you are in your new

to Do at www.burnaby.ca or saskiajetten.com

chosen home."





Present Sal Capone: The Lamentable Tragedy of

"the performances range from high-octane to explosive" - Montreal Gazette "a must-see. No doubt about it...I implore you to go see Sal Capone" - Bloody Underrated "balls-out performance" - Montreal Godzilla

April 7, 2014 urban ink productions in association with Black Theatre Workshop, presents the Vancouver premiere of Sal Capone: The Lamentable Tragedy of at the Roundhouse Performance Centre May 22 - 31 2014.

This hip-hop theatrical powerhouse, written by Montreal native and Vancouver resident Omari Newton and directed by urban ink Artistic Director Diane Roberts, was inspired by the loss of unarmed youth Fredy Villanueva in a police shooting six years ago in Montreal. Following the ensuing protest come riot, the playwright was compelled to investigate the complex relationship between socially and culturally marginalized youth and the police, and the pressures they face while trying to reconcile the violence that impacts their lives. Sal Capone adds an essential voice to this timely and

The play follows a young hip-hop group caught in the aftermath of a violent police shooting. Struggling to cope with the death of one of their members, the group confronts issues of their own

the urgency of youth struggling to find their place in the world through an energetic mix of hip-hop, spoken word and experimental sound and video. For a taste of Sal Capone please go to http://vimeo.com/90914002.

This unique collaboration brings together a talented cast of actors and design team from across the country including Letitia Brookes and Tristan D. Lalla (Montreal), Billy Merasty (Toronto) and Kim Villagante and Jordan Waunch

(Vancouver). Troy Slocum (original sound design); Ana Cappelluto (set/lighting design); Candelario Andrade (projection design); Sarah Hall-Khlifi (costume design)

urban ink is dedicated to developing, producing, touring and disseminating astonishing works of theatre sourced from Indigenous and intercultural processes. Our goal is to ultimately create, through every project and every event, a fertile meeting ground— creating and producing extraordinary theatre from diverse cultural perspectives.

> Sal Capone: The Lamentable Tragedy of May 22 - 31 2014, Roundhouse Performance Centre Tickets \$12 - \$25 salcapone.brownpapertickets.com

Also Featuring:

BAMN! Youth Speak Truth to Power! (youth hip-hop performance) May 25 and 31, 1pm (before 2pm matinees) Rue Surreal Art Installation and spontaneous events Roundhouse Exhibition Hall May 22 - 31

➤ "Verbatim" from page 1

I have none of these. My cultural roots were planted in the West long before my family left the East.

Mandarin birth name consisting of three characters. I grew up in an ordinary, Mandarinspeaking, suburban housecal Chinese school. As a result ents, I was sent to an after- and the borders of Canada. school learning centre that left Taiwan.

had trouble pronouncing recognize. some words - such as the With my foot situated on word "bear," which is pro- Vancouver soil and roots nounced as "xióng" - but al- firmly planted in Western

hands could confidently ma- legiance.

neuver through the syntax of the English language and my sense of belonging became imbedded in the Western culture of British literature, Hol-I was born at a metropoli- lywood movies and Broadway tan hospital in Taiwan, sur- music. The willingness to give rounded by my Chinese fam- up my ethnic sovereignty of ily and granted a traditional a culture that I never felt a connection to allowed me to assimilate into the ways of Western life.

Yet, the ethnically diverse hold in Taipei. Upon turning landscape of Vancouver consix, I began attending the lo- stantly reminds me that I have a past that expands beyond of having two working par- the Western cultural frontier

Vancouver is neither this taught primarily in English. nor that - it is always the I was already traveling be- in-between, the maybe, the tween the Eastern and West- perhaps, the not quite this ern culture - between English but not quite that either - it and Mandarin – long before I is neither extremely cold nor devastatingly hot, neither a As a kid navigating between big city nor a small town. It is the divisions of these two a combination of the historilanguages, I soon came to the cal and the modern, the new realization that I am a miscal- and the old and the East and culation in the construction the West. These fragile borof the universe's cultural for- ders between culture, time and space provide liberation I had an extraordinary dif-from the need to choose sides. ficult time learning Mandarin. This freeing quality of being The strokes of the Chinese able to live on the margins is characters felt unnatural, in- a characteristic of Vancouver organic and strange. I even that I am just beginning to

ways came out of my mouth traditions, I now begin to yearn for a revival of Chinese My failure to excel in Chi-culture in my identity. Livnese would not have been so ing in Vancouver allows me strange had it not been for the opportunity to recover my ability to pick up English. these Chinese roots from a My tongue could smoothly long drought - without limitavocalize the compounds of tions, sans expectations and the English alphabet, my in the absence of declaring al-

Cultural Calendar

of European culture and tradi-

tion, from eating Dutch fritters,

Balkan Ćevapi and drinking Ger-

man beer to admiring authentic

ethnic dress and watching tra-

ditional dance like the Spanish

Flamenco and the Serbian Kolo.

Learn about the connections be-

tween Canada and Europe and

see how each culture has affected

Vancouver Mini Maker Faire

PNE Forum, Vancouver

www.makerfaire.ca

Canadian culture.

May 27-June 10, 2014

by JAKE MCGRAIL

There are many events happening in the always-busy city of Vancouver. Check out Punjab dance and music with the City of Bhangra Festival or sample some of Europe with the 17th European Festival. If you're hungry after that, go have some food and beverage at EAT! Vancouver Food and Cooking Festival.

Vancouver International Children's Festival

May 27-June 1 Granville Island, Vancouver 604.708.5655 www.childrensfestival.ca

A performing arts festival for young audiences, the Vancouver International Children's Festival returns to Vancouver for the 36th straight year. Performances range from circus to puppeteering to music and dance. There is also the activity village, where kids of all ages can have fun with face painting, § sculpting, origami and much more.

* * *

Italian Day on the Drive

June 8 Commercial Dr., Vancouver 604.251.2884 italianday.ca

Celebrate over 50 years of Italian heritage on Commercial Drive with Italian Day on the Drive, organized by the Italian Day Festival Society to share the spirit and all things Italian with other cultures in Vancouver. Showcasing food, fashion and performing arts, along with many exhibits and



Commercial Drive celebrates Italy.



From crafting to robotics, 500 vancouverites set a new world record at the Mini Maker Faire.

activities, Italian Day has become performing arts. Thirteen houses The festival highlights the best Cirque du Soleil is back in Vanone of the most celebrated cultural festivals in Vancouver, with over 300,000 attendees in 2013.

* * *

City of Bhangra Festival May 29-June 7

111 West Hastings St., Vancouver www.vibc.org/festival-info

Join a ten-day celebration of dance and music showcasing the Punjab area of India and Pakistan, featuring hundreds of local and international artists performing indoors and outdoors, at parks and clubs and right in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery. The theme of the festival's ten-year anniversary is #BhangraLove, embracing love across all boundaries - social, cultural, sexual, religious, geographic and uniting everyone through music, art, poetry and dance.

In the House Festival

Iune 6-8 Various locations, Vancouver www.inthehousefestival.com

In the House Festival takes a

* * *

in and around Napier and Victoria Street in Vancouver have opened their doors for performances in their backyards and living rooms. Come see twenty shows featuring local artists performing music, dance, comedy and magic in the comfort of East Vancouver houses.

* * *

The 17th European Festival May 31-June 1

Swangard Stadium, Burnaby www.europeanfestival.ca

Have a European getaway without leaving British Columbia.



unique approach to showcasing A European heritage in colourful display.

Founded in 2011, the Vancouver Mini Maker Faire is a show and tell of the art of making, for and by all ages and backgrounds. Come by to witness feats of engineering, crafting and robotics, and watch as 500 Vancouverites attempt to set the new world record for the most people simultaneously crocheting.

EAT! Vancouver Food and Cooking Festival

May 30-June 1 BC Place Stadium, Vancouver www.eat-vancouver.com

Canada's largest consumer food, beverage and cooking festival is here! Celebrity chefs, local restaurants, wineries, cookbook authors and many more come to BC Place for a three-day food and beverage party. Come hungry, as there are hundreds of food samples to try, and you can learn about and shop for hard to find food products.

* * *

TOTEM Cirque du Soleil

Now until June 6 88 Pacific Blvd., Vancouver www.cirquedusoleil.com/totem

couver with the show TOTEM. Inspired by many founding myths, TOTEM shows the evolutionary process of species through visual and acrobatic language. TOTEM shows the journey of humanity from amphibian state to the ultimate desire to fly.

Benefit Concert for Serbian and Bosnian Flood Victims June 3

St. Mark's Anglican Church 1805 Larch St., Vancouver

Vancouver's music community invites you to help the people living in the areas of Serbia and Bosnia that have been devastated by flooding in the past two weeks by attending a benefit concert and silent auction. The performer lineup includes Cyrilika Slavic Chamber Choir, pianist Vlada Mars, Branks Milanovie Romale band, jazz singer Tina Milo, R&B performer Tea Petrovic, Ivan Tucakov from Tambura Rasa and pianist Oriana White. Tickets \$20 at the door (cash or cheque). If you would like to donate items for the silent auction, please call 778 554 6277.



June 7-8



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vancouver foreign film society a film club for lovers of foreign and international feature films

welcome to:

Vancouver's new foreign and international feature film club

monthly Sunday night single / double feature film screenings

* Our First International Feature Film * Vancouver Premiere: 9 Months Stretch

Sunday June 8th 7:00 pm (doors open 6:15 pm) 1660 E Broadway, Vancouver



Membership

Premier Membership (Clip Card), \$72

- entitles the member to attend up to 12 screenings at \$6 with no extra costs
- a member can bring a guest on their card (clipped) as a prospective member at an additional cost of \$3 for a temporary membership for the evening

Annual Membership, \$10 per year, \$5 for 2014

- single screening \$9
- double feature \$15

Temporary Member Card, \$3

- valid for the evening
- single screening \$9
- double feature \$15

membership is open to anyone 19 years or over

Visit our website to review a sample of the potential double feature films we are considering over the next 12 months

www.vanforfilm.org



Halmondartgallery.org = 604-347-6313

Street Photography by Denis Bouvier No Enbridge Rally No TANKERS NO SLICK NO PROBLEM Bicycle Parking © 2014 Denis Bouvier | denisbouvier.com

On Saturday May 10, several thousand protesters gathered at the No Enbridge Rally at Sunset Beach in Vancouver. They to transport bitumen (heavy crude oil) from the Alberta tar sands in northeastern Alberta through sensitive ecological areas to Kitimat, BC. where it will be shipped by oil tankers to Asia. The federal Governabout the planned expansion of the Kinder Morgan pipeline which would almost triple ca-Metro Vancouver. From there oil tankers move along the West There is great concern about oil leaks from pipes and tankers with both projects.

The speakers were all eloquent and did not mince their words. At the forefront were many First Nations leaders. Among them was Amy

She spoke of the cancers spreading among the fish and wildlife First Nations people depend on, were protesting the Northern threatening their traditional way Gateway pipeline proposal of life. This is happening especially in the region of the Athabasca River near the Alberta tar sands where leaks from tailing ponds are contaminating the river with arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel. People living in contaminated ment is moving forward to ap- areas are being affected by rare proval next month in June 2014. forms of cancer and respiratory Protesters were also outspoken ailments. She has also pledged to protect the Salish Sea (Strait of Georgia, Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound) from potential oil pacity from the tar sands to Port spills. She stated that what's at risk is the water we drink, the air we breathe and the food we eat, Coast mainly to US destinations. not just for us but for our children, grand children and all future generations. The Tsleil-Waututh Nation has launched a legal challenge of what they consider the National Energy Board's (unfair) review of the Kinder Morgan pipeline and tanker project.

Lynne Quarmby, microbiolo-George of Tsleil-Waututh Na- gist and concerned scientist is tion (North Vancouver). She part of a group of eight scientists, Canadian Federation of Students. spoke of the role of her people civil liberty advocates and en-

the environment to protectors. launched a constitutional challenge of Canada's National Energy Board's rules on public participation in oil and gas hearings, especially concerning the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion. The group feels the rules suppress public debate, infringing freedom of speech. At the rally, she vehemently spoke of the Harper led Conservative government's muzzling of government scientists speaking out against the environmental damage caused by the tar sands and also the government's discouragement of any scientific research on the issue.

There were many other passionate speakers including Kate Hodgson, representing Kids for Climate Action. Politicians were represented by BC MLA Spencer Herbert, Members of Parliament Libby Davies and Joyce Murray, Vancouver City Councillor Andrea Reimer. The protest was organized by ForestEthics, leadnow and Wilderness Committee. It was hosted by Ben West of ForestEthics and Nimmi Takkar from Vancouver Community College, former BC chairperson of

It's well known that the tar

cantly to greenhouse gases and climate change but use incred- been negatively exploited. 56% ible amounts of water and natural gas to extract the bitumen. are receiving a fair share of the Vast areas of Canada's boreal forest, considered to be the largest intact forest on earth, a source of clean water for millions of Canadians, habitat for wolverine, caribou and over a billion birds that sustain First Nations communities, are being clear cut to develop the tar sands.

Supporters downplay environmental effects and highlight the economic benefits. There are certainly economic benefits for Alberta and for the many foreign companies who own large tracts of the tar sands: the United States, Abu Dabai, South Korea, Norway, France, Germany, the UK and China. And some tar sands workers are making high wages, but they are also subject to the health hazards mentioned earlier, and there are an abundance of social issues like alcoholism and drug use. According to Greenpeace, in towns near the tar sands, like Fort Mc-Murray, suicide rates for men between the ages of 18-24 are the highest in the country. More than 58,000 temporary foreign workas changing from stewards of vironmentalists who have also sands not only contribute signifiers have poured into Alberta to Don Richardson

work the sands and many have of Albertans do not feel they wealth. Because of burgeoning rents and home prices, homelessness has greatly increased in Alberta.

The issues revolve around profits versus the environment, physical and social. Clearly, this is not a new issue. It's just that many people like our First Nation protectors feel this time it's the end game and our very existence is at issue. So many unmuzzled scientists have warned we have to switch to sustainable energy resources now. Is anyone listening? Behind the people in the photo we can see an abundance of bikes as many protestors declined to use cars. According to Ben West of ForestEthics Advocacy, 20,000 people have pledged to non-violent direct action. And many First Nations leaders have flatly stated the pipelines will not pass through their territories.

If you wish to join in the pledge, visit www.holdthewall.ca

Recipe by Chef Ben Kiely

Warm pita bread with flaked sea salt and cumin

various dips like hummus and

By mixing cumin and flaked sea salt you add a really nice texture to the bread.

Ingredients

- 450 g White flour
- 300 g Whole meal flour
- 10 g Cumin seeds mixed with flaked salt
- 12 g Fast action yeast
- 12 g Caster sugar 12 g Fine sea salt
- 45 g olive oil
- 500 g warm water

1. Put all the dry ingredients in 8. I cooked mine on a hot cast $\frac{8}{6}$ a bowl and mix well.

- I like to serve this bread with 2. Add the olive oil and rub in to the dry ingredients.
 - 3. Add the water and mix well. You want to make sure all the dry ingredients are wet and the dough is mixed, that's all.
 - 4. Cover the bowl with plastic or a tea towel and leave in a warm place for 30 minutes.
 - 5. Take out the dough and scale it into approximately 110 g pieces, you should get 12 pieces.
 - 6. Leave the 12 pieces on a floured ≥ board to rest for 15 minutes.
 - 7. Roll out the pieces of dough so 5 that they are about 5 mm thick § and 15 cm in diameter.
 - iron pan taking about 2 min- A Flaked sea salt for a traditional treat.

utes for each side. They could be cooked on a tray or baking stone in a very hot oven for

about 3-5 minutes. You may also grill the bread on a BBQ if you would like





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