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rights issues
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Writers' fest – freedom in writing

by FLORENCE HWANG

For the past 27 years, the British Columbia Writers Festival has been bringing people together through the love of reading. This year, more than 100 authors, poets, spoken word performers and graphic novelists will gather at this 28th annual event, which takes place Oct. 20–25 on Granville Island.

Two authors share the history behind the stories they tell.

Stumbling into his chosen craft

British Columbia's own TJ Dawe stumbled into his crafts of writing and directing, rather than planning for them. Dawe is a writer and performer, whose plays have been performed and published across North America, and he is well known for his solo shows, including *Tired Cliches*, *Totem Figures* and *Medicine*. Canadian Theatre Review recently dubbed Dawe as "Canada's most prolific writer of autobiographical monologues."

Originally, Dawe aspired to be an actor, despite his, what he calls, "terrible" auditioning skills. But when he noticed that some of the artists he admired, including Spalding Gray, Daniel MacIvor, George Carlin and Charles Bukowski, made original works, he thought about following suit.

For years Dawe had been writing poems, coming up with sketch ideas and journaling. When he finally started writing and performing his own material, not only was it more success-



ful than his attempts at acting, but also made him feel gratified.

"After a few years of doing this, I started working with other people, helping them midwife their own stories and ideas into shows. I gave feedback; I acted as a sounding board. And after a while, realized that you could describe what I was doing as directing," says Dawe.

Influences and inspiration

Dawe is largely influenced by the theatre; he has been on the fringe festival circuit across Canada since he was cast in a touring show at the age of 20. Writers al-

most always create these shows based on the interests and ideas of the person, or group of people, on stage.

"I got to see a great deal of this kind of theatre that mostly existed outside the gaze of the mainstream theatre world. When I started writing my own stuff, the fringe seemed a natural place to try it out, and I found receptive audiences there," recalls Dawe.

Touring for more than 21 years, Dawe has now seen thousands of fringe shows.

"I've learned from every single one of them – the mind-glowingly amazing, the good, the average

and the unbelievably awful. The best learning in any art form, I believe, is done by osmosis and by doing. The fringe involves both," he says.

Activism in writing

Alberta's Tracey Lindberg, Professor of Indigenous Studies and Professor of Law at Athabasca University and adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Ottawa, describes herself as "next in a long line of argumentative Cree women." She recently wrote her first novel, *Birdie*, and was awarded the Governor General's

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Verbatim

What does diversity mean?

by CURTIS SEUFERT

My conscious life essentially began when I moved to Saskatchewan, just in time to begin kindergarten. There it seemed that cultural diversity didn't mean quite as much as it does here in British Columbia. In Saskatchewan, I lived almost exclusively among working – or middle-class white families, many of Ukrainian descent, many more being Catholics like myself. The few exceptions to this trend that I knew personally were a Senegalese boy, a Filipino girl and my aunt (my father's sister-in-law) who is Cree. It's worth noting that even then I came to know little about First Nations people in Saskatchewan aside from an exceptional case (by Saskatchewanian standards) of having learned about residential schools around grade five. This, at the time, was my definition of "diversity."

Such was the case until the summer after grade six, when I moved back to Langley. This move was much to my chagrin at the time, but eventually I came to define British Columbia as my home.

In Vancouver, one of the most multicultural cities in Canada, and even the world, diversity looks like, to me and many others, a cultural "mosaic" of different foods, stories, dance, music, histories and backgrounds, with many cultures influencing one another while keeping key characteristics of their own. Compared to Saskatchewan, I believe Vancouver has a much broader definition of what it means to have "diversity."

Recently, however, there have been challenges to what was to be my final interpretation of "diversity." Complex and divisive debates have arisen over the wearing of certain kinds of cultural garb, among other things, and

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artists gather to
shatter boundaries
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My Turn

RÉMI LÉGER

“Every vote counts”

Elections are one of the basic requirements of a democracy worthy of its name. Simply put, democracy is dependent upon free and fair elections.

Elections are the essential link between the people and political power: they enable citizens to choose a government and they authorize this government to exercise power. In a democracy, the exercise of power is founded on the people's will.

In practical terms, the electoral system translates citizens' preferences into seats in representative institutions. The political party that wins the most seats earns the right to form government.

In their respective political platforms, both Liberals and New Democrats have committed to electoral reform. The Liberal Party would convene a cross-partisan parliamentary committee to review options and issue recommendations. Legislation on electoral reform would be tabled within 18 months of forming government.

The NDP does not want to further study the matter. Their platform charges forward with a new electoral system: mixed member proportional representation. Different variants of this system are used in several countries around the world, including Germany, Mexico, Russia and Taiwan.

the-post. This electoral system has the merit of simplicity. In every riding, the candidate that wins the highest number of votes is elected, and the party that wins the most ridings forms the government.

Canada has a long history with first-past-the-post. It has been in use for federal elections and across the provinces since Confederation. Its advantages are undeniable: it is easy to understand, it provides a clear link between the elector and the elected representative, and it generally results in majority governments.

However, first-past-the-post also has its share of weaknesses: a recurring gap between votes cast for a party and seats won, the domination of politics by one party for four or five years, and the under-representation of smaller political parties. For example, in the 2013 B.C. Elections, 8.13 per cent of votes were cast for the Green Party, yet the party won 1.18 per cent of seats in the Legislative Assembly.

For both Liberals and New Democrats, the advantages of first-past-the-post come at too high a cost. Among the number of weaknesses or flaws, both parties emphasize how not all votes count in the current system. The problem is the following: votes in support of candidates who do not win their ridings have no impact



Photo courtesy of BBC Radio 4

▲ Ballots cast on Oct. 19 will determine the next four years in Canadian politics.

More significant, both the Liberal Party and the NDP give similar justifications to electoral reform: “We will make every vote count,” declare the Liberals, while the New Democrats pledge to “ensure every vote counts.”

In short, both parties aim to ensure “every vote counts.” Are we thus to infer that every vote does not count in the current electoral system? That is surely what their justification seems to imply.

The difficulty comes from our electoral system: the single member plurality method, more commonly known as first-past-

on the composition of the House of Commons. First-past-the-post essentially discards votes cast for losing candidates.

Both Liberals and New Democrats aim to address these challenges by adopting an electoral system that can better translate votes into seats.

Many experts believe that this phenomenon of ignored or distorted votes – votes that “do not count” – contributes to the decline in voter turnout and more generally to the political disengagement of the population, and in particular youth.

In summary, every electoral system translates preferences into seats, but these systems are not all created equal. ✎

Rémi Léger is a professor of political science at Simon Fraser University.

Translation Hakim Ferria



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Volunteering in Canada

☉ October 23, 10:30am–12:30pm

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☉ October 25, 1–3pm

📍 Our Lady of Mercy Parish, 7455 10th Ave, Burnaby

☎ 604 438 8214 ext 211

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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November 4, Vancouver Public Library

"Diwali on The Drive"

November 3–14
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Community Profile

The Scandinavian community: ethics, contributions and preservation

by JULIE HAUVILLE

Beyond the clichés of Ikea, Santa Claus, Vikings or blonde girls, Nordic communities have for several generations played a little known role in shaping Canadian life. Through upcoming events, such as the Norway Craft Fair and a Wood Carving workshop on Nov. 1, the Scandinavian Community Centre in B.C. strives to keep Scandinavian culture alive.

Judith Anderson, an active member of Scandinavian Dancers of Vancouver (an associate member of the Scandinavian Community Centre) whose great-grandparents came to North America in the 1860s, explains her attachment to her Norwegian roots.

"They first settled in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and I came to Canada from the US. Though my Norwegian roots are in the distant past, I personally feel a strong connection with them. I have studied Norwegian language and have become reasonably conversant."

Most of the nordic immigration to Canada happened in the same time period as the one to the US, starting in the 1820s as a trickle, then in heavier numbers from the late 1800s through the 1920s, with many more coming after the Second World War. Many of the Norwegian soldiers who trained at Little Norway, the Royal Norwegian Air Force training camp in Canada, met their spouses here and ended up settling in B.C.

Some Norwegian immigrants settled in Bella Coola, where in 1894 they were granted homesteads and many of them initiated the first commercial logging, fishing and farming in Bella Coola.

"For some reason the large Norwegian settlement in Bella Coola doesn't seem to get a mention. It could be because they emigrated first to the United States and then as a group to Bella Coola. It was largely Norwegians who built the famous road [Freedom Road]," explains Marian Toft, volunteer at the Norwegian House Society.

Scandinavian impact on Canadian industries

Coming from similar environmental conditions, Scandinavian people found familiar work opportunities in Canada – forestry, fishing, mining, farming – all things they had done at home.

"The skiing industry here certainly had its roots in Scandinavia. If there is a ski hill anywhere in B.C., it's pretty much a guarantee there was, and still is, a Norwegian there, like in Grouse, Cypress, Mt. Seymour, Whistler, Revelstoke."

A strong nordic ethic

Scandinavia's influence in Canada comes from the way of life, usually seen as an example through the history. Nordic people share the idea of strong cooperation or working together.

"If you look up the names of those who founded Western Canada's cooperative movements you will see many Scandinavian names among the leadership," says Carolyn Thauberger, a member of the Scandinavian Community Centre.

In artistic areas, Nordic people value simplicity and functionality.

definitely makes our group stronger, and in fact it is an amalgamation of older Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish dance groups that all became too small to survive on their own," Anderson says.

For some members it seems difficult to get the younger generation interested in their Scandinavian roots, in general,

"To make your home look more Nordic first throw out most of your stuff then use mainly wood."

Carolyn Thauberger, member of the Scandinavian community centre

"To make your home look more Nordic first throw out most of your stuff then use mainly wood. A Nordic fabric has only two colours. Nordic people are scrupulously honest. None of us will walk across the street against the red light at midnight with no one else in sight. The law is to be obeyed. We have a powerful work ethic," adds Thauberger.

Keeping the Scandinavian identity alive

Although the Nordic countries each have their own Society

mostly because it has been a long time since this immigrant community has received infusions of new young people.

"However, the third generation is usually more interested. And this is common to almost all immigrant cultures. They join the mainstream culture as quickly as possible. They enjoy Nordic related celebrations, foods, etc., when they can," explains Anderson.

Proof that the interest of Scandinavians in their heritage is far from dead, the Swedish and Finnish communities do



▲ Participants at the annual Midsummer Festival at the Scandinavian Community Centre in Burnaby.

House in Vancouver, the overall "Scandinavian" umbrella is now necessary, and quite positive. In the past, the individual immigrant groups set up their own immigrant organizations here in Vancouver, but numbers and energy have diminished over the years – the number of new immigrants has declined dramatically since the 1950s.

The Scandinavian Community Centre is co-owned by the Danish House Society, the Finland House Society, the Norwegian House Society and the Sweden House Society, with the support of associate members, including the Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia.

"The Scandinavian umbrella

have active programs for children at the Scandinavian Centre. A Scandinavian and Baltic program is also offered by UBC and the enrolment numbers have almost tripled since the program began in 2002.

Geoffrey Winthrop-Young, undergraduate advisor & department head explains.

"We have by a very large margin the highest enrolments in Scandinavian language and literature classes in Canada, and are on level with large US Departments." ✎

For more information on activities at the Scandinavian Community Centre, please visit www.scandinaviancentre.org



Left Bank



As the world focuses on climate, will Premier Clark remain fixated only on LNG?

By the time this column is printed, Canada may well have elected a new prime minister. As I have noted previously in this space, B.C. Premier Christy Clark has remained scrupulously above the fray of the federal election campaign. Frankly Clark would be fine with the Harper government surviving for another term, but she would probably be just at ease with the federal Liberals returning to power.

In either scenario, Clark will find a friendly colleague in Ottawa to support her ambitious plans to expand liquified natural gas (LNG) exports in this province. In fact, even during the last week of the federal election cam-



Photo courtesy of Government of British Columbia

▲ B.C. Premier Christy Clark is focused on LNG.

aign, Clark appeared content as chief booster and campaigner for LNG, speaking at the third annual convention of the industry and sympathetic politicians here in Vancouver.

Despite a glut of supply that has led to a crash in the price of gas and growing local protests against specific LNG projects, Premier Clark remains stubbornly optimistic about the prospects for the industry in B.C.

She told the conference, "It's true. I am an optimist. I'm also a hard worker, because I know that optimism doesn't get you anywhere unless you're willing to roll up your sleeves and get the work done."

In fact, LNG opponents and skeptics have called Clark much more than optimistic. She was elected in 2013 after touting gas exports as a panacea for B.C., promising many tens of billions of dollars for the public purse. But it was a mirage. Even the most optimistic B.C. government projects today make the rhetoric of 2012-2013 look like pure hyperbole.

In addition to the worsening conditions in the global market, here in B.C. there are significant issues with First Nations opposition to LNG. However on this front Clark's optimism is not without reason, as her government has managed to bring a number of First Nations onside.

As the Canadian Press reported, "Hours after Clark's speech, the Squamish Nation announced it had granted its own legally binding environmental certificate for the Woodfibre LNG project on Howe Sound, about 60 kilometres north of Vancouver.

Chief Ian Campbell called the agreement 'historic,' as the band had issued 25 conditions as part of a unique independent assessment. Woodfibre LNG has agreed to comply with the 13 conditions that apply to it, while negotiations continue with Fortis B.C. and the province."

This is indeed significant, and the news of this latest agreement must have come as a disappoint, if not a surprise, to the many protesters who had gathered outside the Vancouver conference to protest the industry. Much of the moral (and in many ways legal) authority of opposition to oil and gas pipelines in B.C. comes the opposition of so many First Nations. That's undoubtedly what has stalled if not yet completely defeated Enbridge's plans for the Northern Gateway tar sands pipeline.

Clark, the B.C. government and its friends in industry have obviously learned some lessons from the Northern Gateway debacle, as they have now adjusted their talking points to include reference to First Nations' historic grievances.

In reference to the Squamish, Clark told the conference, "First Nations in this country, as in many others, have been left out of the economic mainstream for way too long. The LNG opportunity truly does represent a chance to redress historical wrongs, to change the course of post-colonial history and make sure that First Nations are fully included in economic growth."

This line of argument shows precisely the nature and priorities of the B.C. government. It's simply all about LNG. There is no debate about whether these projects should happen; it's all about how the spoils will be distributed, if and when they finally arrive.

One of the biggest contradictions of this approach will soon be highlighted, as we near the beginning of the most important United Nations climate summit in the history of the planet. In just over one month, world leaders will convene in Paris to try and finalize a new binding international agreement on reducing emissions of gases that contribute to climate change.

Christy Clark struck a special advisory committee earlier this year to look at B.C.'s climate priorities. But the committee's points of reference specifically include instructions to consider emissions reductions in the context of implementing the government's LNG plans.

Asking someone to come up with a plan to reduce carbon emissions while massive expanding a major fossil fuel industry is a bit like asking someone to come up with a plan for a diet that has to include three super-sized meals a day from McDonald's. It's impossible. Sadly this means that whomever the prime minister is come time for the Paris climate summit, B.C.'s premier won't likely have much of anything positive to contribute, except more emissions and more LNG pipe dreams. ✂



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Check out Surrey's Spooktacular Collection of Halloween Events and Adventures



Activities for Kids, Youth and Adults

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Featuring domestic, international and craft beer, plus authentic Bavarian food, music, dancing and games, Surrey Oktoberfest 2015 starts this weekend at the Cloverdale Agriplex. Plan a safe ride home and take advantage of the complimentary shuttle bus from King George Station.

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Garden Light Festival

A Colourful Fusion of Nature & Technology

Join us November 5 as **Partners in Parks** and 365 Productions pull out all the stops to bring the gardens at Bear Creek Park to life. Combining bold digital technology with natural landscapes, this all new experience of sound and light is guaranteed to delight. Food vendors, crafts and the Wildlife at Night Walk are all part of the family-friendly festivities.

The Nautical Miles Hit Centre Stage at Surrey City Hall

Be part of the excitement as The Nautical Miles bring down the house November 5 at Surrey City Hall **Centre Stage**. Starting at 8pm, the adventurous alt-roots band—which includes a rhythm section and horns—will perform everything from hold-your-breath ballads to electrifying showstoppers. Tickets: \$23–\$28.



Lisa Brokop: The Patsy Cline Project

When she was just getting started—before writing songs of her own—Lisa Brokop honed her voice by belting out her favourite Patsy Cline songs. On November 7, after a 20-year career, Lisa pays tribute to this great lady of country music in a show featuring some of Patsy's most memorable songs.



Surrey Remembers

Join us November 11 for the annual Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cloverdale Cenotaph, next door to the **Surrey Museum** and the **Surrey Archives**. After the ceremony, visit (admission by donation) the museum to enjoy special crafts and activities, while you warm up with hot chocolate and cookies. WWII documentary videos will be shown in the museum theatre.

The present through the past: Japantown and the legacy of displacement

by KATRINA TRASK

On Oct. 31, the Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre will screen the film *Right to Remain*, a documentary part of the Revitalizing Japantown? exhibit, which explores how present-day human rights issues of the Downtown Eastside are connected to the area's legacy as a Japanese-Canadian locus.

The *Right to Remain* exhibit is intended to be a multi-layered exhibition. The centre's curator, Sherri Kajiwara, says that it focuses on three themes of human rights: the right to history, home and culture.

"History is about the memory and constant repetition of displacement of those living in the Downtown East Side. There is also the displacement of memo-

ries, the silencing, oppression and erasing from public consciousness," says Kajiwara.

This repetition of displacement draws parallels between the internment of Japanese-Canadians living in the Powell area and present-day displacements, explains Kajiwara.

"From the late 1800s to 1942 the Canadian population of Japanese immigrants were in that area most famously known as Powell grounds or Powdugai. Subsequent displacement have included the black population through Hogan's Alley when the viaduct was built and in modern day, it is low income – those requiring social assistance mental health assistance," she says.

Japanese-Canadian internment and modern displacement

Greg Masuda's film, *Right to Remain*, is the product of a three-year research project conducted by several scholars at Queen's University, including Masuda's own brother, Jeff.

"Jeff has been studying the Downtown Eastside for about nine years. He and I are of Japanese-Canadian descent, as our grandparents immigrated to Powell Street in the early 1900s. Our family was displaced from the West Coast during the Japanese internment of the Second World War," says Masuda.

In the film, Masuda shows how the identity of the historical Japanese community through the use



▲ Still from film *The Right To Remain*.

Photo courtesy of Greg Masuda



Photo courtesy of Greg Masuda

▲ Filmmaker Greg Masuda.

of the brand of 'Japantown' gentrifies the Downtown Eastside.

"The question mark in *Revitalizing Japantown?* is the most important thing because Japantown is being used to displace low income residents," he says.

With this goal in mind, Masuda chose to film the documentary in a genuine style.

"You show up with your camera and hope that something happens. You don't manipulate or stage anything and there isn't any sit down interviews. I wanted to show things from the perspective of a fly on the wall," says Masuda.

A community-friendly business, a single dad, a couple on

welfare and an activist are the main subjects for the film – subjects that Masuda believes will counter misrepresentations of the Downtown Eastside in the media.

"It is a vibrant, functional group of thousands of people that happen to live under challenging circumstances. The film highlights the impact that the middle class have on the area using the 'Japantown' brand as a form of gentrification," Masuda adds.

Masuda hopes that by disseminating the results of the research project through the Nikkei Museum, the public will be more informed. He also hopes that the

public will take away an important lesson in history for the future.

"There are injustices happening today that are similar to past injustices that have happened in Canada's history. We keep making the same mistake and society keeps letting things happen to people," says Masuda. "It's important to tell these stories and bring it to the surface that history is repeating itself so we don't continue to repeat mistakes of the past." ✉

For more info:

www.discovernikkei.org,

www.revitalizingjapantown.ca

STRETCH

Stretch to host
#blackcatyoga
a halloween fundraiser for cats

Surprising duo Stretch and VOKRA are teaming up again to help kittens.

Vancouver, BC - Following incredible press coverage for #catsonyourmats, Stretch is supporting Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association (VOKRA) once again for #blackcatyoga, a Halloween fundraiser for rescue kittens.



The Event.

On Sunday October 25, 50 costumed Vancouverites will be taking part in *Black Cat Yoga: a Halloween special* at Stretch in Chinatown. This fun and unusual yoga party will help raise funds and awareness for homeless cats and specifically shine a light on black kitties and the superstitious prejudices they have been suffering.

Emmanuelle Rousseau, owner of Stretch: "We were really proud to help raise such awareness and connect VOKRA with potential volunteers, foster families and permanent families for the cats. We also learned a lot. One thing that stood out, was that **black cats** don't get adopted and have the highest euthanasia rate. That's where we got the idea for a black cat only edition of this class: a Halloween special"

Stretch Yoga Studio in #chinatownYVR is 9 months old! Stretch was conceived in 2012, from a desire to connect the currents of yoga in Vancouver, bringing together the vast range of traditions and practices in a way that supports dialogue, creativity and growth. Stretch was founded by partner(d)s Boyd and Emmanuelle who decided to collaborate to offer the yoga they had been seeking, a modern and secular yoga, to their own neighborhood and community.
Learn more at stretchvancouver.com



Erratum

In Vol 16 No 7, the article *Haida Gwaii: On the Edge of the World* was mistakenly attributed to Evelyne Young. The correct writer is Alison Chiang.

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Photo by Sara Marlowe

Beyond the lights: spices of the Diwali Fest

by KATE MURRAY

Diwali Fest, an annual South Asian arts and culture festival, is celebrating its 12th year in Vancouver. Diwali, meaning “row of lighted lamps,” is a Hindu tradition undertaken by many throughout the world and signifies the spirit’s triumph of light over darkness.

Diwali Fest Co-Producer Rohit Chokhani explains.

“Our society is driven to build bridges between communities to promote intercultural understanding by exploring how traditional South Asian arts evolve into fusion forms in the context of new countries and contemporary values,” he says.

Spicing up the festival

The festival, which started as a one-day volunteer-led event in Vancouver, has grown into a two-week professionally staffed event spanning Vancouver, Surrey and Richmond. The festival

boasts a variety of events and activities, including cooking classes.

“Food is an essential part of the Diwali holiday. At Diwali Fest, we try to bring in food into everything that we do. We have food at our planning meetings, at our Volunteer orientations, events, workshops and various other programmed events. So like every year, we are inviting people to get into the Diwali spirit through exciting and tasty cooking demos...” Chokhani explains.

The classes, which take place in the Roundhouse Mews on Nov. 3, will showcase Raj Thandhi from Pink Chai Living demonstrating a popular Indian recipe. The classes were featured on Breakfast Television last year, and have proven to be a big hit. The recipe for this year’s demo is yet to be determined. Thanghi, the Western Canada Diwali ambassador for Loblaw’s and an accomplished blogger who created Pink Chai Living has an authentic, North Indian style, and will most

likely teach a seasonal vegetable dish.

When asked what types of spices are generally used, Chokhani elaborates.

“Indian cuisine is characterized by the extensive use of numerous spices. Spices, or Masala as it is called in Hindi, may be called the “heartbeat” of an Indian kitchen,” he says. “When I think about my childhood memories from my mom’s kitchen, I think of Indian household terms in Hindi such as Dhaniya, Jeera, Lavang, Mirchi, Namak, etc. I have never cared to think about their English translation because people around me refer to them in Hindi, even in Canada.”

Food diversity

Because Indian food is so diverse depending on the region, not everyone is acquainted with the Indian food served in restaurants in Vancouver.

“Being raised a vegetarian, I had never heard of certain dishes that you get served at an Indian restaurant in Vancouver before I immigrated here. [...] I grew up in Mumbai and the food you get there is quite different from the food you will get in Southern India or Northern India, so it’s not hard to imagine what is offered as Indian food in Canada,” says Chokhani.

Not everything is different though. Chokhani mentions that certain basic elements of Indian cuisine, such as the common spices of coriander, cumin, turmeric, mustard seed, cinnamon, curry, tamarind and fenugreek, remain the same across the world.

When asked why they decided to have Diwali as the main focus of the event, Chokhani explains that Diwali was his favourite festival as a child, and he missed the Diwali celebrations from back home when he immigrated to Canada.

“It’s a time to unite with friends and family – it’s like Thanksgiving or Christmas in Western culture... So I felt the need to serve something bigger during the Diwali timeframe that would be a huge celebration for the masses, not just people from India,” he says. ☞

Diwali Fest will take place from Nov. 3–5. For more information on events and times, please visit www.diwalifest.ca.



Photos courtesy of Pink Chai Living

▲ Raj Thandhi from Pink Chai Living demonstrating a popular Indian recipe.



REVITALIZING JAPANTOWN? A Right to Remain Exhibition

October 24, 2015 – January 31, 2016

Opening Reception - Saturday, October 24, 2-5pm

A creative repositioning of the human rights legacies of Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside (DTES)

This multi-layered exhibition looks at the contradictions, co-optation, commemoration, heritage, and redress that have shaped the DTES, as unearthed by a three-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)-funded research project.

An extensive academic research project led by Drs. Jeff Masuda, Audrey Kobayashi, and Aaron Franks from Queens University pursued a unifying exploration of human rights, branding, and place in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. In all, seven research team members spoke with 51 past and current residents of the DTES and analyzed eight oral histories provided by Japanese Canadian Elders. An early public garden project addressed the Right to Access Food. Community engagement art projects under the Right to Remain, Right to Community initiatives included Gallery Gachet, the Carnegie Centre, the Powell Street Festival, Centre A, and the Nikkei National Museum.

The first Right to Remain exhibit held at Gallery Gachet March 6 – April 12, 2015, enlivened Human Rights stories of ancestors who once dwelled in the DTES and placed them in conversation with current residents. Spoken through people’s histories, voices, and artwork, this exhibition wove together stories of the DTES, told through the Right to Remain Community Fair workshops, held between July 2014 and January 2015. These stories presented a visually provocative dialogue about the Right of all people to Remain in the places they call home and form community. <http://gachet.org/2015/02/25/the-right-to-remain/>

This final Right to Remain exhibit is an overview of the entire Revitalizing Japantown? project with outcomes from over three years of research. Artwork from local contemporary artists will animate the scholarly results. Featured is a seminal photograph by Greg Masuda and his newest documentary film titled The Right to Remain. CBC aired the film on August 8 and online at cbc.ca/bc, cbc.ca/Edmonton, cbc.ca/Calgary. <http://www.revitalizingjapantown.ca/right-to-remain-film-premiering-saturday-aug-8-on-cbc/>

PUBLIC PROGRAMS - Free and open to the public

- Saturday, October 24, 2-5pm. Talks by Dr. Jeff Masuda & Dr. Audrey Kobayashi, followed by reception
- Saturday, October 31, 3pm. Film Screening of Right to Remain documentary by Greg Masuda
- Saturday, November 28, 2pm. Right to Remain Artist Team talk and Pie Chats in collaboration with the ‘Seeing the Whole Picture’ Project

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A day of magic for Girls & their Champions!

G Day Vancouver takes place on Friday October 23rd, 2015 at the Creekside Community Recreation Centre in Vancouver, BC. The day-long event - the third to take place to date in Vancouver - is expected to draw up to 150 girls aged 10-12 and 100 adult Champions in a modern day rite of passage, celebrating and empowering girls as they transition from childhood into adolescence.

Speakers include Global TV's Sonia Sunger, City Councillor Andrea Reimer, two-time Olympic Snowboarder Alexa Loo, Clinical Therapist and Mental Health Expert Michele Kambolis, and THEGROOVE Master Trainer Liz Zdunich. Teacher, writer, and storyteller Comfort Ero can speak French. See the full list of presenters here.

G Day Toronto launched in April 2015, and the sold-out G Day Victoria took place on September 20. The two Vancouver events in 2014 were attended by over 500 people.

Event details:

Friday, October 23, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Creekside Community Centre, 1 Athletes Way, Vancouver BC V5Y 0B1
Info and tickets: www.gdayforgirls.com
Tickets \$75 for girls and adult champions

Social media:

Facebook: [Facebook.com/gdayforgirls](https://www.facebook.com/gdayforgirls)
Twitter and Instagram @gdayforgirls
YouTube: [YouTube.com/gdayforgirls](https://www.youtube.com/gdayforgirls)
#GDayforGirls

Génération Sacrifiée: art, conflicts and action

by HAKIM FERRIA

Engaged art raises awareness, brings a hidden reality to light, and then snatches it from oblivion to make it part of the collective memory: this is the vision of artist Sayeh Sarfaraz. Her drawings will be presented in her latest exhibition, Génération Sacrifiée (sacrificed generation), at grunt Gallery in Vancouver.

Sarfaraz was born in Shiraz, Iran, and studied there before attending l'École Supérieure Des Arts Décoratifs de Strasbourg in France. She is currently based in Montreal, Quebec. She began her artistic work by focusing on women in the Iranian Muslim society under the Islamic regime.

A committed artist

Sarfaraz's creative world draws its inspiration from the political events that relate to her home country's government. The constant anxiety of conflict, censorship and the repression of the people of Iran is expressed through the childlike language of a plastic toy collection and drawings.

"Leaving Iran gave me a real personal development, a sense of independence. The frontal encounter with different cultures has given me another perspective on others and myself, and a strong bond with my country, my past and my culture," she says.

Relating directly to her wandering and exile, the figurines, haphazardly staged in child-like patterns, experience dra-

rich, strong and ancient Persian culture and express it in a contemporary way with modern references," says Sarfaraz.

She uses bright and solid colours not only as a reference to Persian miniature paintings but also to highlight strong social and cultural references in people's minds.

"The same colours sometimes have opposite meaning depending on the culture," explains Sarfaraz.

Part of her artistic approach is to translate Iranian political events with toys, which serve as a reference to youth and a collective fantasy world.

Through her work, Sarfaraz attempts to de-traumatize very difficult and serious situations. By making them fun to watch, she gets viewers' attention and permits them to reflect. She also intends to ridicule the dictators by reappropriating their symbols of power, which they use to empower themselves in front of others, and presenting them for what they really are - a big show, according to Sarfaraz.

It's action that counts

Globalization is another element of reference implicit in the artist's work. Sarfaraz uses Lego, for example, because of its power to reach worldwide collective memory.

"Alone or without any reaction from its counterpart, a social uprising has no meaning or interest," she says. "The action from one and the reaction from another that goes back and forth creates a movement."



▲ Génération sacrifiée (Sacrificed generation), 2015.

matic situations such as violent struggles, bombardments and imprisonment. This distortion between play and politics highlights the injustice of manipulating the weak, the gulf between great powers and a people's struggle for freedom.

"Conflicts are fought in part around the globe with the help of classic media and social media and its worldwide impact," adds Sarfaraz.

Art and politics

"Persian miniatures are a very important part of my work. It is a great way to celebrate the

For Sarfaraz, globalization helps to enrich her work because of the many interactions between people that are a result of new technologies.

"Those interactions between different groups of people around the world and the ways in which a situation evolves become more and more interesting because every year it [technology] gets faster and more powerful. It defines our times in some ways," says Sarfaraz. ✍

From Oct. 22 until Nov. 28 at grunt Gallery. For more information, please visit www.grunt.ca.

"Traditions are a big part of my culture. Unfortunately, so is diabetes."

Bernie, First Nations counsellor

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Aboriginal art exhibit pushes boundaries

by SOPHIA DELAFONTAINE

Pushing Boundaries is an Aboriginal art exhibition put on by the North Vancouver Community Arts Council at the CityScape Community Art Space that shines light on up and coming First Nations artists. From across the lower mainland, 16 artists come together to contribute artwork of a cultural, traditional and contemporary mix.

Janice Toulouse and Kelli Clifton are two participants from Pushing Boundaries' handful of artists this year, both of them with a unique contribution to the exhibition.

Engaging in a movement

Believing that Indigenous people are making some of the most profound and innovative art today,



▲ Opening reception of the exhibit, including 11 of the 16 artists.

Toulouse wanted to participate in the movement with other artists in Coast Salish Unceded Territory.

"My work is about pushing boundaries and challenging stereotypes of Aboriginal people," says Toulouse.

For Kelli Clifton, this is the second time participating in the Pushing Boundaries exhibition. Although she was unable to attend the show originally, she heard a lot of positive feedback with regards to the content.

"With such a variety of artists, there is a certain type of energy and excitement present in the gallery. This is what drew me to apply for Pushing Boundaries 2015, and I am very proud to be a part of this show once again," says Clifton.

Unique opportunities

Though mainly a painter, Clifton is excited about the chance to showcase two of her carvings in the exhibition.

"Both are interpretations of old stories told through my lens," she says.

Clifton's inspiration for her carvings is a mixture of both cultural and personal influence.

"My culture is what inspires me to create, however, my personal interpretation is what makes my work unique," the artist adds.

Motivation can also come from mentors, and, for Clifton, this would be the Freda Diesing School of Northwest Coast Art.

"I always look to them for advice," she says.

Her work is also encouraged by others, while she still follows her own personal vision.

"I appreciate the historical work of the Woodland School of



▲ Kelli Clifton's carving Raven and the Man in the Moon.

Photo by Kelli Clifton

Art and the Northwest Coast, and I am moved by seeing contemporary Aboriginal artist's work," adds Clifton.

Vision comes from all angles

Artists pull inspiration from many places, and, as an Anishinaabe Kwe, Toulouse finds that both cultural and personal motivation go into her artwork.

"I believe all Canadians must learn our history from an Indigenous perspective," says Toulouse.

The painting Toulouse has included in Pushing Boundaries is entitled Nbiish, a meditative work that allows the viewer to contemplate to sacredness of water. This is a very personal piece to Toulouse, touching on

the environment of her hometown.

"My birth community of Serpent River First Nation has contaminated water from uranium mining in Elliot Lake. In the 1950s, the Canadian Government allowed a sulphuric acid plant to be dumped in the community of Serpent River, unconcerned of its impact on the residents. Finally after all the generations living with poisoned water, Serpent River received a water treatment plant in 2015," explains Toulouse.

With all of her artwork made for exhibitions, Toulouse is more than familiar with creating artwork with a deadline.

"I work in a disciplined mind state that allows the images to flow, and the works are assem-

bled to be presented to the public," says Toulouse.

On the other hand, Clifton usually decides if her artwork is a fit for the exhibit after her work is done.

"My process is generally to create work, and then, when I see a call for artists, I am able to decide if any of my pieces are a fit for that show or not. In this case, Pushing Boundaries is very welcoming, so I felt confident in submitting my two carved pieces," explains Clifton. ✍

The 2015 Pushing Boundaries exhibition will take place from Oct. 9–Nov. 14 at the CityScape Community Art Space.

For more information, visit www.nvartsCouncil.ca.

► "Verbatim" from page 1

freedom, religion, secularism, rights, equality, privacy and openness have come into conflict with each other, challenging Canada in how it defines its core value of "multiculturalism." As many conflicting and nuanced opinions arose out of these debates, I, once again, found myself coming to question what it means to have "diversity."

Or if that's even the right question to be asking.

What I've realized is that it isn't in fact a matter of "having" diversity. With a country like Canada, it's actually very difficult to debate whether or not we "have" diversity, especially in Vancouver: we simply do, it's all around us. For me, what

the question really becomes is what do we decide to "do" with the diversity that surrounds us?

What I've learned this year in my introductory sociology course is that every group relates itself to the "other" that they've decided does not "belong," thus defining themselves. On any scale, we take pride in what we believe we stand for, as groups, communities, cities, provinces and countries. Living in Canada, I often see a national comparison to our southern counterparts in America. Compared to Canada's "cultural mosaic" diversity metaphor, America's form of diversity is more commonly described as a "melting pot," which is more about embracing the monolithic "American identity" than embracing all different kinds of cultures.

So when it comes to diversity, some may choose not to acknowledge any of it, while others may seek to embrace every ounce with open arms.

What's worked best for me, however, time after time, before I make a decision in any debate, especially one so divided as this one, is taking it upon myself to listen and learn about other cultures, perspectives and ideas around me.

And while some might achieve different results, I'll note that for me, time and time again, when I take time to truly understand the ways in which we differ, I come to realize all the ways that we are the same. ✍



Photo by Chad Gibson

▲ Cultural diversity in Saskatchewan.

De Profundis Speaking of Music

A panel discussion and performance



A fascinating journey into the darkest hours of Oscar Wilde's life...
October 29, 2015 at 7:30 pm in Barnett Hall at UBC

Vancouver - The UBC School of Music, Department of English and UBC Library jointly present an evening event called De Profundis | Speaking of Music. This two-part evening begins with a panel discussion about the words of **Oscar Wilde**, the music of **Frederic Rzewski** and the fusion of the two. Panelists are **Dr. Terence Dawson** and **Dr. David Metzger** of the School of Music with **Dr. Gregory Mackie**, an Oscar Wilde scholar from the Department of English. Part two is a concert presentation of Frederic Rzewski's *De Profundis* for speaking pianist performed by Terence Dawson.

Pianists do not often play and speak at the same time—let alone whistle, sing and play percussion. Terence Dawson decided to take on the challenge and perform Frederic Rzewski's *De Profundis* as a career milestone marker.

Rzewski's *De Profundis* has been described as a melodramatic oratorio, in which the pianist recites text consisting of portions of Oscar Wilde's letter to Lord Alfred Douglas, which was written during the author's imprisonment in Reading Gaol. There, Wilde served a two-year sentence of hard labour in solitary confinement for his relationship with Douglas.

"One can feel a huge amount of empathy and try to get one's head around the idea that this creative artist was denied books, denied writing material, placed in solitary confinement for two years," says Dawson, chair of the keyboard division at the UBC School of Music. "That in and of itself would bring an ordinary man to their knees."

Eight sections of rhythmically notated recitation are preceded by eight preludes, with the pianist directed to perform simultaneously as speaker, singer, whistler and percussionist. At approximately 30 minutes in length, this performance is no small feat.

"It took patience. And it took a lot of experimentation to figure out what I needed to do to absorb the physicality of playing as well as the emotional demands of the piece," says Dawson, who read Wilde's work extensively to learn what the prolific author went through during those desolate years in prison.

"I was extremely moved by the experience, and in awe of what took place. The melding of sound and word was transporting and the achingly haunting, keening, sounds of his soul will always resonate with me." -audience member, earlier performance

Panel Discussion Performance **Dr. Terence Dawson and Dr. David Metzger**, School of Music; **Dr. David Mackie**, Department of English
Terence Dawson, speaking pianist

When Thursday October 29, 2015 at 7:30 pm
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2015-2016



FROM BYRD TO BARD

The Glorious English Tradition
8pm Friday, September 25
Ryerson United Church

Jon Washburn and the Vancouver Chamber Choir explore the magnificent choral music of England, ranging from the rich polyphony of Elizabethan master William Byrd to the jaunty Shakespeare settings of present day composer John Rutter.



MONTEVERDI VESPERS OF 1610

The Early Baroque Masterpiece
7:30pm Friday, October 23
Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Early Music Vancouver and the Vancouver Chamber Choir are collaborating in this spectacular performance of Monteverdi's great masterpiece - the monumental Vespers of 1610. The Choir joins in with eight outstanding vocal soloists and an orchestra of Baroque instrumentalists from Pacific MusicWorks under the direction of guest conductor Stephen Stubbs.



NEW WAVE

The Latest in Choral Music
8pm Friday, November 13
Ryerson United Church

The 21st century has proved to be a new renaissance for choral composition. There are dozens of outstanding living composers - both young and old - and we will bring you a scintillating selection of recent pieces by composers from Argentina, Estonia, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA and Canada.



CHRISTMAS IN THE ORPHEUM

Renaissance, Baroque & Carols
8pm Friday, December 4
Orpheum Theatre

Nothing says Christmas more than choirs, and this concert brings you the city's finest, singing the glorious voice-and-brass music of Gabrieli and Pinkham, intimate Christmas moods of Derek Healey with harp, and a grand carol sing-along of traditional favourites, as the audience joins in with the choirs and brass ensemble. Venite! Venite!



A DYLAN THOMAS CHRISTMAS

A Child's Christmas in Wales
8pm Friday, December 18
Shaughnessy Heights United Church

Choose the Vancouver Chamber Choir's signature performance of A Child's Christmas in Wales (Dylan Thomas) with our favourite Welshman - Russell Roberts - narrating on Friday evening. The concert starts with English, German and international songs of the season conducted by Carrie Tennant, including a special appearance of her accomplished Vancouver Youth Choir.



A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

Finding the True Meaning
8pm Saturday, December 19
Shaughnessy Heights United Church

Enjoy this lively concert performance of A Charlie Brown Christmas with actors, jazz duo and the Vancouver Chamber Choir on Saturday evening. This concert also begins with English, German and international songs of the season, conducted by Carrie Tennant, with a second appearance this weekend of her delightful Vancouver Youth Choir.



THE MAESTRO'S ART

The National Conductors' Symposium Concert
8pm Saturday, January 23
Ryerson United Church

This year the Vancouver Chamber Choir's remarkable National Conductors' Symposium concert focuses on the music of the Masters - Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Brahms and Wagner. Five talented conductors from around the world lead the outstanding professional choir along with master conductor and teacher Jon Washburn and pianist Stephen Smith. Join us for an exciting evening of music-making and special insight into the art and craft of choral conducting.



THE SOURCE OF SONG

Gregory's Gift of Chant
8pm Friday, February 12
Ryerson United Church

Gregorian chant is still a seminal force in choral music, even a thousand years after Saint Gregory the Great lent it his name. Jon Washburn and Kevin Zakresky conduct the Vancouver Chamber Choir in a cappella programme that traces choral repertoire back to the Gregorian chant on which it is based.



CHORAL TAPESTRY

Our Heritage of Song
8pm Friday, March 4
Shaughnessy Heights United Church

The outstanding repertoire of North American choral music is based substantially on the models of musical immigrants from Europe. Jon Washburn and the Vancouver Chamber Choir illuminate many of these lies in this varied and invigorating concert of music from two continents.



THE LOVE THAT MOVES THE UNIVERSE

Bach, Handel & Schaefer
8pm Friday, March 25
Orpheum Theatre

One of the Vancouver Chamber Choir's most acclaimed performances was the 2010 premiere of R. Murray Schafer's radiant choral/orchestral work *The Love that Moves the Universe*, based on the final lines of Dante's *Paradiso*. In answer to popular demand, we repeat that magical experience, and extend it by singing the equally luminous *Jesu, meine Freude* by Bach and *Laudate pueri Dominum* by Handel.



THE CHAMBER CHOIR AND THE ISELER SINGERS

Two Great Choirs
8pm Friday, April 22
Ryerson United Church

Every few years Vancouver's and Toronto's famous professional choirs join forces in one city or the other - this time, it's in Vancouver. You are guaranteed a sumptuous sonic experience as the ensembles sing together and individually. Two great choirs... an evening of wonderful music... don't miss it!



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Melody of light and colour

by NAOMI TSE

A group of photographers, known simply as the Group of Five, will be exhibiting their photos at the Yaletown Roundhouse (Oct. 20-29). The "Melody of Light and Colour" exhibition explores the interplay of light in photography. All originally from Hong Kong, the group is comprised of older adults and members: Jonathan Lau, Ben Chan, Yui Hung Cheng, William Zhou and John Leung.

"Our main purpose is to share photography with the community. And we want the general public to appreciate the kinds of things we do," says Jonathan Lau, in his 80s and leader of the Group of Five.

Socializing with community focus

The Group of Five started in 2006 when they went on a trip together to Yellow Mountain in Anhui, China. Lau says the trip was sponsored through the Chinese Photographer's Association and that was how they all met. They decided to band together and branch out to put on exhibitions.

Lau, who immigrated to Vancouver in 1968 after studying here, says they decided to have their first exhibition at the Cen-

tral Library in 2009. From then on they held an exhibition every two years with various themes such as "Old Towns and Villages" and "East Meets West."

"Light is always changing and people are the most difficult to capture since they are more dynamic," says Lau. "When you have different lighting, you have different colours."

Although most of his photographs focus on landscapes and scenic views, Lau also enjoys

him to capture images from China (where he's been many times), other parts of Asia and Europe.

He says the group does not meet frequently. It can be as often as four times a year to as little as once a year that they gather to discuss photography over coffee. Despite not meeting often, the group will occasionally travel together around B.C. and even make an annual trip to Clearwater Lake.

“Light is always changing and... When you have different lighting, you have different colours.”

Jonathan Lau, leader of the Group of Five

taking candid photos of people in action such as the daily lives of people in China. However, he explains it is difficult to display portraits of people from his travels since he would need their permission.

Lau, who worked as a social worker before his retirement, says he took up photography as a hobby in 1991 since he enjoyed travelling and capturing special moments from his trips. Lau's enthusiasm for both travel and photography has allowed

"When we feel like it, we will organize trips to take pictures together," says Lau.

Oasis of creativity: exhibiting at the Roundhouse

Marie Lopes, arts programmer at the Yaletown Roundhouse, says the Roundhouse has a long history of exhibiting community artwork from all ages and in all art forms.

"It's nice to have the work of older adults at the Roundhouse," says Lopes.



▲ The Miao ethnic group in Guizhou province in China performing an ethnic dance.



▲ Members of the Group of Five from left to right: Ben Chan, Jonathan Lau, Yui Hung Cheng, John Leung and William Zhou.

Lopes says the photos will be displayed in their 7,800 square foot exhibit hall with moveable walls, allowing people to weave in and out between the walls to enjoy the photos. Some photos of the same scene will be displayed side by side for comparison.

According to Lau, a self-taught photographer, each photographer contributes ten photographs to the exhibition for a total of fifty photographs; and humbly consider their photographs to be of amateur quality.

For more information on the Melody of Light and Colour exhibition, please visit www.roundhouse.ca.

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Vicky Chow: an eclectic, prolific, and inspired performer

by CURTIS SEUFERT

Following Andrew Czink's and Doug Blackley's performance of Blackley's "Spectral Piano Project" compositions, renowned pianist Vicky Chow will perform a work from composer Adam Basanta and present a world premiere of a Remy Siu composition at Western Front (Nov. 6). Chow was commissioned by Western Front for the event.

Chow explains that the use electronics, video and lighting will highlight different aspects between the performer and instrument. The different techniques will call on her to perform different roles as a pianist.

"I am very excited to present these works," says Chow.

Influence and expression

Chow has certainly proved to be a very prolific and talented contemporary pianist, but that wasn't always the plan.

While her parents are from Hong Kong, Chow was born and raised in Vancouver, where she was trained in classical music. Her geographical leap to New York, where she studied music at The Juilliard School and the Manhattan School of Music, parallels her musical leap from being a classical pianist, to an artist influenced by many more contemporary, experimental and modern composers.

Though influenced by Western Classical tradition, Chow found being categorized solely as a classical musician was too restrictive.

"Over the years, I began questioning my self-expression and doing it through this genre didn't quite do it for me," says Chow.

Indeed, Chow notes she listens to a wide variety of musical genres, and is influenced by many different artists. Chow listens to Classical, Chinese Pop, Techno, and R&B; but she says she is most often influenced by Radiohead.

Chow's diversity in musical taste and influence matches her prolific and diverse career so far. Along with many associations

and Glenn Kotche of Wilco. She's performed compositions by Steve Reich on the same album as Radiohead guitarist Jonny Greenwood, and hopes to work more closely with the group in the future.

"I am very fortunate to be able to work with so many amazing and wonderful artists. I've learned so much from them!" says Chow. "It is impossible not to be touched and inspired by the energy and passion from artists you make music with or listen to live."

Journey of a musical life

Growth as an artist has not only allowed Chow to explore and experiment with other collaborators, but to also discover the best way to learn and eventually perform a piece. For Chow, it's all in the preparation.

"Whenever I set my mind on working on a project or a new piece, I need to immerse myself completely," says Chow. "I've tried for many years to be good at multitasking but I haven't been able to be successful at it."

Chow acknowledges the hectic nature of being a musician - let alone being one who's commissioned often - and says she tends to embrace the often frenetic schedule as exciting: a challenge to overcome.

Chow both embraces the fever of a frenzied schedule, which might deter others, while living out a growing musical



▲ A classical but contemporary artist.



▲ Vicky Chow and Bang on a Can.

and collaborations - with ensembles such as New Music Detroit, Wet Ink Ensemble, and the Wordless Music Orchestra - Chow notes one of her main "musical roles" is as the pianist for the New York-based, award-winning Bang on a Can All-Stars, a sextet that has commissioned hundreds of works with countless artists.

Additionally, she's worked with, among many other established artists, Lee Ranaldo, a founding member of Sonic Youth,

career which has her meeting both influences and fans along the way.

Those who follow her work can expect a focus on recording in the near future, and albums featuring the music of Jacob Cooper, Chris Cerrone, Jakub Ciupinski and many others. ✎

For more information on the event, visit front.bc.ca. For more on Chow, visit www.vickychow.com

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Cultural Calendar

October 20–November 3, 2015

by JAKE MCGRAIL

In case you haven't heard, October has arrived, and along with it the season of Halloween. But while there are plenty of spooky places and attractions to go to they are far from the only places and things to see. Dance, music, writing, sports and more are alongside the haunted houses, so check out what Vancouver has to offer!

* * *

A Doll's House

Oct. 8–24
Jericho Arts Centre
1675 Discovery St., Vancouver
www.jerichoartscentre.com

For the first time in over a decade this landmark play is returning to the Jericho Arts Centre. First performed in Stockholm in 1880 (causing debate and controversy), this play starring the celebrated character Nora Helmer, a symbol for women fighting for liberation and equality, is as equally resonating now as it was then. For more information, please visit their website.

* * *

Chinatown Haunted House

Oct. 21–31
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden
578 Carrall St., Vancouver
www.chinatownhauntedhouse.com

Canada's fastest growing Halloween event is back and better than ever with the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen gardens transformed into yet another creepy adventure. Over 25 actors, musicians and dancers will guide



▲ Heart of the City Festival – giving a voice to low income families and neighbourhoods.

you through the stories of Judge Dee, China's Sherlock Holmes. For more information, please visit their website.

* * *

Fearmongers Haunted House

Oct. 23–Nov. 22
14211 Burrows Rd., Richmond
www.fearmongers.ca

Fearmongers was started in 2014 as a haunted house designed to simply scare the daylights out of you. And not with simple jump scares, but with fear in the back of your mind, carried with you through the whole adventure. This year's haunted house is about the ancient gods fed up with mankind, forcing you to navigate through traps, monsters and obstacles in the house. For more information, please visit their website.

* * *



▲ Chinatown goes ghoulish.

The Case of the Cannery Curse

Oct. 23, 24, 25 and 31
12138 Fourth Ave., Richmond
gulfofgeorgiacannery.org

This Halloween the Gulf of Georgia Cannery is hosting its own ghoulish adventure with a more family friendly atmosphere. Solve the Cannery Curse after meeting the ghostly victim and a cast of other ghoulish characters on your self-guided adventure of the historic cannery. For more information, please visit their website.

* * *

Solitudes Solo

Oct 28–31
Firehall Arts Centre
280 East Cordova St., Vancouver
www.firehallartscentre.ca

Five dancers perform complex and sublime solos choreographed by Daniel Léveillé. Witness seemingly impossible dancing and performance as each dancer pushes their body to the limit in this elegant and graceful piece. For more information, please visit their website.

* * *

Heart of the City Festival

Oct. 28–Nov. 8
Various locations throughout the Downtown Eastside
www.heartofthecityfestival.com

The 12th annual Heart of the City Festival is here with over 90 events at over 25 locations

throughout the Downtown Eastside. The festival is a cultural and heritage event giving many of the area's low income families and neighborhoods a voice. Check out the 12 day showcase of music, stories, songs, poetry, films, theatre and more. For more information, please visit their website.

* * *

BC Place Tours – All Access Experience

Oct. 22
BC Sports Hall of Fame
777 Pacific Blvd., Vancouver
www.bcsportshalloffame.com

Visit the BC Sports Hall of Fame with an enhanced tour and an exclusive behind the scenes look at BC Place, including the media lounge, the premium suites, the locker rooms and access onto the field. For more information, please visit their website.

* * *

Evening Lecture at Hycroft – Artists, Architects and Artisans: Canadian Art 1890–1918

Oct. 27
University Women's Club at Hycroft
1489 McRae Ave, Vancouver
vancouverheritagefoundation.org

Located in beautiful Hycroft Manor, this lecture presented by Vancouver Heritage Foundation will illustrate the history of Vancouver, covering the events, movements

and people that helped shape Vancouver as it is today. For more information, please visit their website.

* * *

Haunted Village at the Burnaby Village Museum

Oct. 28–30
Burnaby Village Museum
6501 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby
www.burnabyvillagemuseum.ca

The village, farmhouse and carousel at the Burnaby Village Museum will all be decorated in spooky yet family friendly fashion this Halloween. Trick or treating, entertainment and carousel rides will be available for all. For more information, please visit their website.

* * *

Vancouver Recital Society Presents Caroline Goulding, Violin

Nov. 1
Vancouver Playhouse
600 Hamilton St., Vancouver
www.vanrecital.com

By the age of 17, Caroline Goulding had already performed with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony and been nominated for a Grammy for her first recording. Now she's making her Vancouver debut at the Playhouse in a night of violin and piano. For more information, please visit their website.

► "Writers' Fest" from page 1

Gold Medal. She describes the novel as a love letter to all the women in her life, including her mom, aunties, the female friends around her who raised her, and even to herself.

"Ultimately, it was a recognition – that everything I have, everything I am, every gift I have been given has been given to me by women," she reflects.

Initially, she thought writing was part therapy, part creative outlet and part cerebral spring-cleaning.

"There were so many ideas, images and stories in me that it felt like I could not be effective until they were out. The problem was, they never stopped!" exclaims Lindberg.

Seedlings of activism

When she was in her early 20s, Lindberg was arrested for chaining herself to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), even though AANDC would not acknowledge her family or her Nation as status Indians.

"I was an activist because I knew that there were issues larger than me that would require



▲ Tracey Lindberg.

me to be dedicated and make sacrifices in order that others could have some notion of "fairness" in their lives," says Lindberg, who is of Cree and Métis ancestry.

She sees that activism requires a commitment to the community, because she wants the larger community to understand and to receive fair treatment.

Journey to becoming an activist

Lindberg believes being born female and Indigenous means there is a known risk of being

exposed to violence. She became an activist to gain some sense of societal sanity.

"Living through violence is an activist story. Not being violent though you have lived through violence is an activist story. Having been exposed to colonial violence and deciding to fight and eradicate it is an activist story," she says.

Lindberg was born into a family where generations of women, children and men knew what colonial violence was. It morphed, changed shape and assumed the cloak of family, community and strangers.

"We didn't know whom to trust and sometimes trusted the wrong people, organizations. We were damaged. Cocooned. Woke up. Instilled in each generation a little more know-how. The survival mechanism, the steel of our backbones, took its place in our voices, our brains and our tongues," she says. "Activism is not just doing something; for some of us it is refusing to sit silent, be ignored, to die. I refuse. In person and in writing. I suppose that makes me an activist." ✍

For more information, please visit www.writersfest.bc.ca.

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Friday, October 30, 2015
Pavilion Ballroom, Wall Centre, 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver

6:30 Reception
7:00 Performance
8:00 Dinner

Formal Dress

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The proceeds of tickets sold by the Vancouver Chamber Choir will help support our award-winning educational programs.

To reserve your tickets, please contact the Vancouver Chamber Choir at 604-738-6822 by October 23, 2015

Vancouver Chamber Choir
1254 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6H 1B6

WALL CENTRE SHERATON VANCOUVER

Mooning

The moon is our nearest heavenly body and, as such, has played a pivotal role in human existence influencing tides, farming, divination, lovers, body cycles and much more. It's important in romantic songs, such as Blue Moon.

A Blue Moon is also the event of having an extra full moon in one of the four seasons, usually occurring in one calendar month having two full moons. This is fairly rare, occurring every two or three years. Almost as rare as seeing a Bicycle Moon! Hence we have the expression "once in a blue moon." At times the moon can actually take on a bluish tint as the result of some volcanic eruptions and forest fires, which emit smoke and dust particles into the atmosphere. It makes you wonder if many expressions have some basis in reality.

The Old Farmer's Almanac suggests planting and harvesting dates based on the moon's sign and phase. Last month we had a lunar eclipse on the Harvest Moon, which is the full moon closest to the fall equinox. This was also a Blood Moon, which makes the moon appear reddish instead of going completely dark when the Earth moves between the sun and the moon. The red colour is produced by atmospheric conditions on Earth, and it has been thought by some to be a sign of the apocalypse.

The Harvest Full Moon is aptly named because it allowed farmers in the northern hemisphere to have light while harvesting a crop at night. Harvest time is also festival time.

Last month's Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated as well on the closest full moon to the fall equinox. It's a harvest festival and moon cakes are sacrificed to the moon to pay homage to its role in agricultural production.

The next full moon is October 27, not too far from Halloween,

which actually has its origin as a harvest festival. It dates back 2,000 years to Celtic priests, the druids. The harvest season marked the end or death of the Celtic calendar year (October 31) signaling the coming of cold and darkness.

It was also the time when the souls of the dead were believed to visit their relatives who would provide food for them to avoid dire consequences and so

evolved our tradition of trick or treat.

The next full moon is also known as Full Hunter's Moon. According to the Farmer's Almanac, northeastern indigenous peoples would hunt at this time in preparation for winter. Certainly, the New England Pilgrims in 1620 were indebted to indigenous hunters who helped them survive their first winter by supplying them with food and introducing them

to corn production and the catching of eel. In 1621, the Pilgrims had a great feast to celebrate their first and successful harvest. And wild turkey comprised a part of the feast. They invited almost twice as many indigenous people as their own numbers, which had dwindled from 100 to 50 after the first winter. It was a real thanksgiving on so many levels.

Finally our Bicycle Moon is indicative of all the pleasures a

bike can bring: lovers riding together while singing, the exhilaration of speeding downhill on a summer's day in the country, filled with the sensual scent of plants and trees, riding next to the ocean, the crisp crackle made when riding through fall leaves, and the wonder of bicycling through the moon.

Don Richardson



Recipe by Jen dela Luna

Gravlaks

It comes as no surprise that salmon is one of the first foods we think of when it comes to Norse cuisine. Norwegian smoked salmon is one of the most popular and valuable food exports from the region to the rest of the world. Another salmon product introduced to the world – and one far easier to make at home – is gravlaks. Quite literally translated as buried salmon, gravlaks is made by curing the fish in a mixture of salt, sugar, and dill. Simple, delicious, and rich in flavour – in just a day, you'll have a delicious dish, ready to serve at your next party (or on a bagel with cream cheese). Enjoy!

Ingredients

- 1 kg filet of salmon, skin on, pin bones removed
- 1 cup kosher salt
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup white sugar
- 2 tbsp black peppercorns, cracked



▲ Go for easy, delicious salmon – home cured.

- 1 bunch fresh dill, roughly chopped

Method

1. Mix the salt, sugars, and peppercorns. Lay half in a deep dish, followed by half of the dill.
2. Place the filet of salmon over it, skin side down.
3. Cover the flesh of the salmon with the rest of the salt mixture and dill, effectively burying it in the mix.
4. Cover with plastic wrap, then put a weight onto the salmon (such as a smaller glass dish or pan).
5. Refrigerate the salmon for 24-36 hours, flipping the filet every 12 hours. If there is any runoff juice, baste the salmon with it.
6. After that time, you will see that the cure has worked its way into the salmon, "cooking" it and causing the flesh to go opaque.
7. Traditionally, the salt and herbs are simply scraped off of the fish, and the flesh is then sliced thinly before serving. Alternatively, you may wish to rinse the salt and dill mixture off and pat the filet dry.
8. Serve with crackers as a canapé, or more traditionally, with boiled potatoes and mustard dill sauce.



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