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tale of India
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The Source

forum of diversity

Since 1999

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Verbatim

So many languages...

by ÉLISE L'HÔTE

Who knew that a choice made at the age of 11 would impact my personal and professional life for many long years? French is my mother tongue, so what would I choose to study as a second language? I chose German. But then, what of English? English was my second choice and to which I only gave a second thought. Ten years later, deciding to dedicate myself to a career in tourism, I realised the scale of my mistake. After a few years of work I had to face the facts: English was indispensable. I took a few evening classes, but theory is nothing without practice. I then made a decision: I had to go and live in an Anglophone country. Canada came, irresistibly, to mind. Leaving aside Montréal – too French – Vancouver called, with its ocean, mountains and active lifestyle. With my working holiday visa in hand, I left (France) with the prospect of two years ahead of me to become bilingual. But Vancouver had a lot of surprises in stock for me.

Newly arrived, I headed for the lodgings I had secured for my first month in the city. Immediately I noticed the decor of the studio and noted the recurrence of the Cyrillic alphabet. The proprietor was Ukrainian. On a shopping trip I chatted with a sales clerk. She turned out to be Scottish. But that was only a foretaste of the cultural diversity that Vancouver had to offer.

In order to reach my objective of mastering the English language I am now taking part in "exchange conversations," half in English, half in French. In so doing I meet many Vancouverites. But not all of them have been here for long. Some are East-Indian, others Chinese, Korean or Taiwanese. They tell me of their lives in Vancouver, how they came to the city and why.

See "Verbatim" page 9

Pulses: good for the palate, good for the heartbeat

by BRENNA TEMPLE

The 68th UN General Assembly recently coined 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP) with the goal of increasing public awareness regarding food security and nutrition. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), this project was created to promote global production and make better use of crop rotations, as well as strengthen the pulse trade.

Pulses are the dry edible seeds of the legume group and include chickpeas, lentils, mung beans and more. With Vancouver's expansive cultural array, there's no shortage of legume recipes thanks to the city's many ethnicities.

With the variety of pulses available at virtually every grocery store and on every menu, legumes are easy to incorporate into your everyday diet. They're enjoyed not only as everyday granola bars and other convenient snacks, but also as

appetizers, entrees and even dessert.

Legumes with a cultural kick

Defined as both a protein food group and vegetable food group item by the FAO, pulses possess an important commonality: the joining of cultures through healthy food.

One particular pulse dish has made its mark on Vancouver: lentil soup. With Middle Eastern roots, the lentil soup has been adapted to Canadian culture through experi-

mentation based on personal preference.

Madeleine Gwynne, who works at the Bambo cafe in Gastown, believes she has perfected the fine art of lentil soup, which is ordered so frequently it tends to run out. Gwynne says this healthy dish with Persian and Lebanese roots is the perfect addition to anyone looking for a dish with a strong cultural kick.

"Most of our customers showed up because friends recommend-
See "Pulses" page 11

Also in this issue

Poet laureate to bring out beauty and potential in community
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Musician weaves her family's life into her music.
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Community Profile

A Scottish splash in B.C.

by SOPHIA DELAFONTAINE

There is a strong Scottish presence in British Columbia. In fact, roughly 15 per cent of British Columbians are of Scottish descent according to Darryl Carracher, general manager of Vancouver's Scottish Cultural Centre.

From the very start of the 20th century and into the 1960s, there was a large number of Scots settling in Vancouver. Today, the rate is beginning to pick up again.

"Although Scottish immigration seemed to have slowed down for a few decades, we're noticing more new immigrants from Scotland of late than we have for a long time," says Carracher.

With a substantial number of Scots residing in Vancouver and British Columbia, there are many celebrations put on by the community, including the B.C. Highland Games and Scottish Festival, which takes place every June at Coquitlam's Percy Perry Stadium.

"It's a great full day of everything Scottish: from Highland dancing and Royal Scottish coun-

try dancing, to piping and drumming competitions, to the Heavy Events and traditional Scottish food like meat pies and haggis," explains Carracher.

the less fortunate," Carracher adds.

"[Robbie] Burns stands tall in the hearts and minds of all Scots as a symbol of freedom and dignity for the less fortunate.

Darryl Carracher, general manager, Scottish Cultural Centre

try dancing, to piping and drumming competitions, to the Heavy Events and traditional Scottish food like meat pies and haggis," explains Carracher.

the haggis, slice it and enjoy it." The way events like Robbie Burns Day are celebrated in British Columbia is a fair representation of the way they are intended to be celebrated in Scottish culture, says Carracher.

Quickly approaching, Robbie Burns Day is significant for Scots, as Burns is viewed as a

beloved and respected icon in Scottish history.

"Robbie Burns was a nonconformist genius who spoke for the everyman," says Carracher. "He could hold his own conversing with the Scottish elite of the day."

However, the conversationalist was also a rebel against the same elite.

"He championed freedom and equality for all. Perhaps more than his brilliance with verse, Burns stands tall in the hearts and minds of all Scots as a symbol of freedom and dignity for

the similarities and differences in celebration and appreciation that occur in each place.

"Burns is more a part of the fabric of Scotland; [he] is absolutely recognized and remembered in a big way," says Carracher.

The enthusiasm for Robbie Burns Day in Vancouver does in fact mimic the passion with which it is celebrated in Scotland.

"Here, so far away, it's still a great reason to remember Burns and Scotland, and the family and friends still there. And to get together, have fun and celebrate togetherness," says Carracher.

The tradition of this celebration ties into Scottish identity. According to Carracher, a Scot is friendly and welcoming to anyone he or she encounters. This identity is not only repre-

sented locally by the Scottish community, but is also connected in part to Canadian culture.

"Scots don't complain about what needs to be done. They do it. And they don't ask for thanks. In many ways, I'd say that's very Canadian," says Carracher. ✍

For more information, visit www.scottishculturalcentre.com.



▲ A wedding, Scottish style.



▲ The kilt, symbolic Scottish attire.

try dancing, to piping and drumming competitions, to the Heavy Events and traditional Scottish food like meat pies and haggis," explains Carracher.

A poet's legacy

Locally, Scottish people participate in activities that illustrate



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Make change through the power of film

Sunday, January 17 - 3 pm

You're invited!

SUPPORT FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES + AGM

Special Vancouver Premiere of *Salam Neighbor* With proceeds supporting *War Child Canada*



About the Event:
Join us on January 17th for Reel Causes' annual general meeting and Vancouver Premiere of *Salam Neighbor* ("Hello Neighbor") -- and help change the life of Syrian children who now reside in Jordanian refugee camps.

Net proceeds from this special "by donation" event will be donated to *War Child Canada* to help make life a little easier for vulnerable refugee children and their families. So come learn more about Reel Causes achievements in 2015, our plans for the year ahead, and the organizations and causes that you - as Reel Causes supporters - have helped!

About *Salam Neighbor*:
With Canada welcoming 25,000 refugees from Syria and other war torn states over the next year, we're proud to screen *Salam Neighbor*, a touching and inspiring film that directly addresses the men, women and children affected by this humanitarian crisis.

Salam Neighbor puts a very human face to Syrian refugees' experiences, compelling us to re-evaluate mainstream media's often negative misrepresentations. Supported by UN, *Salam Neighbor*'s young filmmakers take us inside Jordan, to Za'atari, the world's second largest refugee camp just seven miles from the Syrian border. Setting up their tent within the camp and living alongside the thousands of Syrians struggling to restart their lives, the filmmakers connect us to the resilience, strength and creative power of people forced to flee their country to face new challenges -- and opportunities.

Every person who watches this film can play an active role in dispelling fear and unlocking the resources needed to create a positive future, not only for refugees, but for the entire region - as well as for our the new immigrants who have made the incredibly difficult journey to Vancouver. This is a story that encourages us not only to be global citizens, but global neighbours as well.

Entry by donation at the door.
Proceeds from this event will be donated to *War Child Canada* to help provide nurturing, stable and protective environments for Syrian refugee children who have fled to Jordan.

When: January 17th, 3 pm (doors open 2:30 pm)
Where: SFU Woodward's Djavad Mowafaghian Theatre, 149 W. Hastings St.



Supported by Simon Fraser's Vancity Office of Community Engagement

WOODWARD'S

About War Child Canada
War Child Canada works with war-affected communities to help children through difficult circumstances with access to education, opportunity and justice.



About Reel Causes:
Reel Causes' screening events are great social gatherings -- with a twist! We feature award-winning independent films and highlight the work of film artists and Canadian organizations working to address social justice, environmental and health-related causes. Audience members catch special film screenings, engage and connect with organizations making real change -- locally and globally - and learn how to make a positive difference.

Contact us at:
info@reelcauses.org

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Syrian refugees in good hands

by ELIANO ROSSI

Tiny numbers despite big expectations, at least until now. Since the Federal Government announced its plan to welcome 2,700 Syrian refugees in British Columbia, only 300 to 500 government-sponsored people have made it from the refugee camps to Western Canada. These are rough numbers that Rahim Othman, spokesperson of the Syrian Canadian Council, shared with *The Source*. But a big wave of arrivals is expected to come in the next few weeks, and the challenge to help them to settle down will be harder.

Muslims, Alawis, Druzes, Christians. People from all the Syrian ethnic groups arrived, especially during the last three weeks of December, and more are expected to make it in the next 30 days. Despite the different causes that turned them into refugees, they all have to find their way to start a new life once they land in British Columbia.

A new beginning

"They come with the fear of the unknown, and that is normal. They know that they have left their own country for their lives and the lives of their kids," says Othman.

The Syrian community of B.C., which includes around 2,500, is playing a big role in helping them.

"They are very excited. They are providing food hampers and



▲ An emotional journey for Syrian refugees.

hygiene kits and simply socializing with them. We are working on organizing reception days that will help the refugees to integrate here," says Othman.

Othman also brings up the challenge that language poses for a lot of the refugees, as the majority speak little to no English. Another difficulty will be finding permanent accommodation for the refugees, which is difficult in Vancouver because of the high housing prices.

A good recipe for newcomers

MOSAIC, a multilingual non-

profit organization dedicated to addressing issues that affect immigrants and refugees has found a good recipe to help newcomers settle in: the Tibetan model.

The non-profit organization has helped over 200 Tibetan refugees integrate in B.C. with what they call "sustainable community building." They bridge sponsors, potential employers and financial institutions to help these people get status in Canada and have a smooth transition from their old situation. As their experience with the Tibetan community has been successful, they are

replicating this model with the Syrian refugees that are arriving in Vancouver.

By the end of February they expect to assist around 200 privately sponsored refugees. MOSAIC works closely with those sponsors to make the whole process more fluid.

"We support private sponsors from the moment they submit their application to bring in refugees with all the background information that they need," says Saleem Spindari, manager of Community Outreach and Advocacy programs at MOSAIC.

Spindari says they are suggesting that sponsors bring in refugees that already have family in B.C. in order to make the transition an easier one.

With this kind of support, the shock of being transferred from a refugee camp in the Middle East to a completely different reality is less dramatic.

"People that arrive here are really happy and grateful for the opportunity that they receive. Nevertheless they are concerned about their relatives that are still in the camps," says Spindari. ✉

Hardline Productions Presents

BRIGHT BLUE FUTURE

A play by Sean Harris Oliver

February 17th - March 5th
Pacific Theatre - 1440 West 12th Ave
Tickets from \$15 at pacifictheatre.org

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WORLD PREMIERE - FEBRUARY 2016

BRIGHT BLUE FUTURE

Written by Sean Harris Oliver

Arianna and Alexandra are a live-in couple whose relationship is on the rocks. When Carston, Arianna's former boyfriend-now-gay best friend, arrives for an unexpected visit, a fun night out quickly gets heavy. Drugs, booze, and a cute club take-home named Josh push the party - and the partiers - past their limits, and there will definitely be hell to pay in the morning.

Bright Blue Future is set in Victoria BC during the global economic recession of the late 2000s. The story takes place over the course of a Saturday night as four twenty-somethings navigate a substance-fueled evening rife with feelings of inadequacy, sexual tension, and fear of the impending future.

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

Bright Blue Future has been featured in the Playwright Theatre Centre's Writer's Colony, the rEvolver Festival's Playreading Series, was shortlisted for the 2014 American Actor UK Playreading Festival, and was a finalist of the 2013 Theatre BC Playwriting Award. *Bright Blue Future* is playwright Sean Harris Oliver's first play. His second, *The Fighting Season*, recently won the Georgia Straight's Critics Choice Award and the Cultivating the Fringe Award at the 2015 Vancouver Fringe Festival.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR KIDS ARE TONIGHT?

Directed by Shawn Macdonald

Featuring Rachel Cairns, Dmitry Chepovetsky, Genevieve Fleming, and Curtis Tweedie

Designed by Christopher David Gauthier (Costumes), Matthew MacDonald-Bain (Sound), and Jenn Stewart (Set and Props)



Left Bank



2016: Will developer profits keep trumping our right to affordable housing?

After four moves in the last four years, my family begins 2016 confident we've finally found a place to call home in Vancouver. It's been a constant search to find decent sized and relatively affordable rental housing in this city. Settled at last, it's a relief to know we can at least plan for the new year knowing we won't be on the move again.

Hundreds of thousands of renters in Vancouver live in a precarious state, often one or two paycheques away from eviction. Even when they're lucky enough to be able to make their rent, the threat of 'renoviction' often looms.



▲ Trump Tower in Vancouver.

With so much of the household budget consumed by the cost of housing, lives are constrained: there's less money to buy basic let alone healthy food, and not enough cash for transportation let alone quality child care or programs for the kids. In a province plagued by high rates of child poverty, it's amazing how rarely we hear anyone in positions of power talk about its main cause: the rent is too damn high.

All levels of government share the blame for this dismal state of affairs, especially the corporate cheerleading BC Liberals, who have, like Ayn Rand's Atlas, shrugged in the face of this crisis. When asked last year about the spiralling cost of housing in Vancouver, Premier Christy Clark said something inane about not doing anything that might reduce homeowners' equity. New Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was slightly more nuanced when asked about the same thing at a recent Global TV appearance, but basically said nothing of substance except to echo Clark's worries about owners' equity.

Meanwhile, even with ominous signs for the global economy in 2016, Vancouver's real estate bonanza continues. The downtown skyline is being remade with skyscrapers dedicated to the whims of the global elite. At the north end of the Granville Bridge, Vancouver House is under construction, and will begin its ascent skyward this year on its way to opening in 2018. City council recently approved a piece of public art to complement the luxury condo tower – a \$1 million chandelier to hang from underneath the bridge.

By 2018 all the tallest buildings in Vancouver will include condo-mansions in the sky. There's already the Shangri-La and the Wall Centre, and the most ostentatious of all is set to open this year: the Trump Tower on Georgia Street. The bottom half of the skyscraper will be a Trump hotel, while the upper floors will be luxury condos. Built by the Holborn Group, a development company run by Joo Kim Tiah, the son of a Malaysian billionaire, the project is branded with Trump's name after a multi-million dollar licensing agreement.

Apparently no one in Vancouver batted an eye when Trump first came to town a couple of years ago to announce his project, even though the American billionaire and reality TV star already had a well-known history of spewing misogynist and racist nonsense, including his notorious campaign questioning the birthplace of U.S. President Barack Obama.

Now, however, Trump is running for president, and his crude xenophobia has caught the attention of Vancouverites. After Trump called for a ban on all Muslims entering the United States, former city planner Brent Toderian initiated a campaign to rebrand the Holborn tower. Vision Vancouver City Councillor Kerry Jang and Mayor Gregor Robertson joined in, denouncing Trump's hateful remarks and urging the developer, who as it happens donated to Vision's 2014 election campaign, to reconsider the name. Tens of thousands signed online petitions asking Holborn to rebrand.

None of this has been enough to convince the Holborn Group to change their mind. They issued a few banal statements, and then put their heads down, wishing that the public outrage will just blow over. In one sense, I hope the campaign to rebrand the tower doesn't go away. It's heartening to see so many Vancouverites reject Trump's overt racism. In a year when all eyes will be focused on the presidential election down south, it makes sense for Canadians to vote with their feet by divesting and boycotting the corporate interests of the most toxic contender for the White House.

On the other hand, maybe the name should stay. The basic security of having a place to call home is a fundamental human right. In a city where real estate speculation by and for the super-rich trumps the basic right for everyone to decent and affordable housing, the name fits. While downtown skyscrapers are built ever higher to cater to the hubris of the rich, thousands remain on the streets or dependent on inadequate and insecure temporary shelters. This dismal reality persists year after year, despite Mayor Robertson winning three elections on the promise to end homelessness by 2015.

If Vancouver's going to be a playground for the world's super-rich, we might as well have Trump's name dominating the skyline. The luxury tower, equal parts ostentatious and obnoxious, will stand as a perfect symbol for a city that has sold its soul.

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REVITALIZING JAPANTOWN? A Right to Remain Exhibition

October 24, 2015 – January 31, 2016

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

A creative repossession 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

Laudato Si After Paris, COP 21: Our Mission for Healthy Planet

Join Reverend Dr. Robert Allore, SJ and the Honourable Joyce Murray for an evening of dialogue on January 22. Open to the general public, this is a **FREE** public lecture.

When: Friday, January 22, 2016 at 7pm
Followed by light refreshments

Where: St. Mark's College, University of British Columbia
5935 Iona Drive, Vancouver

Speakers: Reverend Dr. Robert Allore, SJ
Pastor, St. Mark's Parish at the University of British Columbia (UBC)
University Chaplain

Honourable Joyce Murray
Member of Parliament for Vancouver Quadra

Limited seating.

www.eventbrite.ca/e/laudato-si-after-paris-cop-21-our-mission-for-a-healthy-planet-tickets-20114890178

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Source

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Exploration program to launch Indian start-up

by ALBERTO MARENGO

Lightmetrics, an Indian-based tech start-up that invented an app capable of giving a 360-degree view of driving behaviour, came to visit Vancouver's new Simon Fraser VentureLabs in early December 2015. Now Lightmetrics is ready to target the Canadian market.

Lighmetric is one of the five winners of the Next Big Idea contest held by Zone Start-up India, the first Canadian-led international incubator/accelerator in India: a collaboration between SFU, Ryerson University, Ryerson Futures Inc., and the Bombay Stock Exchange Institute.

An app to help drivers

The app is a tool that uses smartphone sensors to help the people behind the wheel. The setup is really easy: the camera phone needs to face the road and from the dashboard, the app can figure out distances and driving behaviours of surrounding cars, like braking and acceleration; read traffic signs on the fly; tell if the car in front ran a red light and how aggressively the person ahead is driving.

"What if a driver is stuck in snow and tries to accelerate, or if I'm driving and there is a skateboarder or a dog on the street. The app helps us deal with that," says Krishna A. G., product manager and co-founder of Lightmetrics.

A.G. believes the potentials of this app are enormous. From in-

surance companies being able to price policies based on driving behaviour, to fleet companies tracking their drivers and using the videos for driving behaviour coaching.

"We are not trying to go alone in the market, but we are trying to work with existing insurance and fleet management companies, to add our device on top of their technologies. That's the primary reason we visited Canada," says A.G., adding, "There is still a challenge with uploading the data since the app works all in real time."

The Lightmetrics team is composed of six people who worked together at Nokia for five years. They made the choice of using the smartphone technology because they thought it was the best way to get into the market, but in the future there will be the opportunity to have it on any kind of device.

"Visiting Canada, for us, was primarily customer discovery. The western market is ready to receive this technology because the basic telemetric stuff is already there installed on commercial vehicles for now," says A.G. "The visit was a complete success and there are potential partners in Canada to work with in the new year."

SFU VentureLabs: acceleration program in the heart of Downtown Vancouver

The Simon Fraser VentureLabs – an exploration program helping companies to develop their



▲ Lightmetric Team visiting Vancouver's VentureLabs.

market, validate their business opportunities and connect them with financing and customers – also offers mentorship in the tech sector. When Lighmetric came to Vancouver to visit the VentureLabs, located inside the Harbour Centre, they were connected with different groups: experts in different technology areas, customers and Indian entrepreneurs in Vancouver.

"Indian companies are doing international business already from India; 20 per cent of their business, in general, is coming from international locations over the internet; but having contact here in Canada, is a big advantage for them," says Ian Hand, executive director at the VentureLabs.

VentureLabs is going to be fully operative at the end of the first quarter of 2016, meaning there are going to be regular trips with

Canadian companies to locations like India and China to do business development.

"Companies from India and China will get assistance here at VentureLabs with entering the Canadian market; likewise, Canadian companies will get assistance there too. We believe that Canadian start-ups need to be born global, they need to have an eye on business outside Canada because, while our market is a good one, it's really small," says Hand.

Meanwhile for Lightmetrics, the next step will be to take action with the customers.

"The next step is to target the Canadian market more aggressively, which will mean visiting Canada a lot or transferring there," says A.G. ✍

For more information visit: www.lightmetrics.co and www.venturelabs.ca

Postcard from India

A Delhi state of mind

Beneath the surface of New Delhi traffic lies acceptance. One might easily miss it amid the cacophonous honks, the strain of overworked engines and the veil of smog, but it is persistent. You find it on the face of every driver who is cut off (and honks) or crosses on red (while honking) or slices between a lorry and concrete barrier (honking frantically).

It is not the face you would expect in these situations. No, the Delhiites' countenance is inappropriately passive, far removed from the grinding, masochistic anguish of navigating a city of 25 million people.

First-timers, thrown into this heady mix, find their senses overwhelmed. Visually, Delhi's road are bracketed by sidewalks and demarcated by lanes, but these are soon found to be only decoration. From above, the flow of traffic resembles darting schools of fish – tightly gathered but jockeying – except that livestock, bicycles and wedding processions gum up what flow there is. Beyond the diversity of locomotion, one finds along the edge of each lane an unabashed corridor of opposition merrily making its way upstream and into hard-to-reach driveways.

Not to be outdone, the auditory experience crowds out and distorts the other senses. With careful practice, one can begin to distinguish the beeping horns from the truck bass from the rowdy bells. As it so often happens, after a day or two, you'll think you've heard it all. Then, from behind, comes an emergency vehicle siren and nobody budges. It goes by and you find you're the only one in disbelief that it's just an emergency-less sedan. "But, what if..." and flashbacks of Jack crying "Wolf!" are eventually suppressed.

Weddings are worthy of a case study in and of themselves. They meander along – drums in tow



▲ Taking a bicycle rickshaw to Chandni Chowk, one of Delhi's oldest markets.

so deafening that one's chest bursts in synchronous pops – while launching full-scale fireworks aimlessly by hand. Around them, either to complement the ruckus or simply by habit, vehicles step up their already feverish honks and taxis find space to drop off additional troops who are immediately hustled to the frontlines by the Bhangra rhythm. To have heard a procession is simply a well-understood figure of speech; they are, and must be, felt.

Average annual levels of pollution in Delhi surpass Beijing – an easily confronted fact when one notices that lingering ring of smog never lifts. But drivers, being at once minor culprits and ongoing victims, wear no masks and, beyond newspaper forecasts and over-the-top exposés, are blissfully unaware if today is a respiratory onslaught or mild peppering. To this base of fumes is added the frequent culinary delights vended at roadside and sewerage, all brought to a pungent stew by the trapped heat.

Perhaps acceptance is borne of this sensory plunge. Stretched every which way, a mind must adapt and, amid the stubborn liveliness, find a narrower bandwidth from which

to take it all in. The very real, immediate threat of serious harm, if not death, to both pedestrians – in a Frogger nightmare – and drivers is no doubt an obstinate incentive.

Karma, possibly, has a role to play in placating would-be road rage and perfectly level-headed panic: a shared belief that our actions, and what we intend, make an indelible difference in how our future pans out. Being cut off and forced to make space for a fellow rickshaw would not put a damper on the day, but rather divine some slither of space in a coming bind.

In a communal society like India, one begins to imagine that even the stress has been socialized. As if small, manageable dollops have been meted out to everyone instead of the imposing command of "I mustn't be late" and "You're in my lane."

Whether any, all or none of these explain the acceptance found in New Delhi traffic is irrelevant. A newcomer is soon soothed by it, willed along if one so chooses, and finds irresistible pleasure in the deeper calm on offer. ✍

CARL DENSEM

Poet Laureate digs deep to reclaim Surrey's identity

by SUSAN HANCOCK

The newly appointed Poet Laureate for the City of Surrey, Renée Saklikar, incorporates her poet practice of place and community to connect people living in Surrey.

"Being a Poet Laureate for the City of Surrey is both terrifying and wonderful all at the same time," says Renée Saklikar.

Saklikar, a local author, won the 2014 Canadian Authors Literary Award for her book of poems *children of air india: un/authorized exhibits and interjections*. In November of 2015 her book of poems was turned into an opera and presented at the SFU Woodward's campus.

Saklikar makes use of place and community, literacy and language, to foster connections between people of different cultures who reside in one of the six towns that shape Surrey. She digs deep, behind the news headlines and into everyday life, to understand what is actually happening in the city. She is intent on using her heart, mind and voice to create spaces for people who are interested in coming together through poetry and to create art, and

culture, that reflects the beauty and potential of Surrey.

Neighbourhood stories reclaim Surrey's identity

Saklikar is eager to address what it means to be part of an intercultural and multilingual community. Her immediate plans include working with youth and seniors to form poetry ambassadors, members of the community who are willing to share their personal stories of immigration and settlement. By focusing on the richness of different cultures that exist in Surrey, Saklikar hopes to use storytelling to reclaim the identity of one of the fastest growing cities in B.C.

Another priority for Saklikar is to work with local cultural and arts centres to generate a network of support from institutions across the city. She has already arranged listening tours with nine community partner organizations, and she continues to receive invitations from important events like Surrey's International Writer's Festival.

Community through poetry

According to Councillor Judy Villeneuve, the Poet Laureate position is important for building a welcoming and inclusive city that creates space for the more



▲ Renée Saklikar at SFU's Lunch Poems.

than 40 different cultures residing in Surrey.

"We want to give a voice to the people living in Surrey to help elevate the goals of the city, to build and promote art and culture as part of a healthy and sustainable community," says Villeneuve.

The City of Surrey is also interested in the economic development prospects of creative industries that are just as lucrative as tourism and the sports industry. Villeneuve is keen to encourage people to live, work and play in Surrey, rather to go somewhere else where the arts might be more appreciated.

Villeneuve, who chairs both the Public Arts Advisory Committee and the Metro Vancouver Cultural Committee, expressed a great deal of admiration for Heidi Greco, a local writer and poet living in Surrey who brought the idea forward to establish a Poet Laureate. Villeneuve and Greco, along with various community institutions and colleges involved in public art and culture, worked together to establish the first Poet Laureate role for the City of Surrey.

Saklikar is now figuring out how to balance her hectic work schedule with her pioneering role as Poet Laureate. Like any artist,

she craves the variation, flexibility and space to be creative and make connections.

"It's about finding time to do the reading, the writing, and then being part of the community, so I can help build the community using poetry," says Saklikar.

Her most recent publication is a collaboration with Wayne Comp-ton called *The Revolving City: 51 poems and the stories behind them*, which includes a number of entries from poets who call Surrey home. ✍

For more information visit www.surreylibraries.ca



MOSAIC Settlement Services
604 254 9626 ext 255
elam@mosaicbc.com
www.mosaicbc.com/settlement-services

Free Community Workshops & Activities: January 2016

Emotional Health & Stress Management Workshop

Christmas and holiday season is a time for family and friends' gathering. For new immigrants, it is exciting to celebrate the festivals in Canada, but it may be stressful as they are away from their home country. This workshop will provide information about how to manage your mood with limited winter daylight hours, maintain good health and make friends so that we can move forward in 2016!

🕒 January 6, 10am–12pm

📍 New Westminster Public Library Main Branch, 716–6th Ave

☎ Angel 604 438 8214 ext 104

Legal Information Workshops: WorkSafe Standards

Learn about workplace safety and protecting yourself. Topics include certification and training; bullying and harassment; first aid; WHMIS; personal protective equipment (PPE); road safety; mental health in the workplace; violence prevention.

For adults: January 10, 1:30–3:30pm

For youth: January 23, 1:30–3:30pm

📍 MOSAIC Burnaby Centre for Immigrants, 5902 Kingsway

☎ 604 438 8214 ext 211

Canadian Citizenship Preparation

🕒 January 18 & 19, 5:30–8:30pm

📍 Tommy Douglas Burnaby Public Library, 7311 Kingsway

☎ Angel 604 438 8214 ext 104

English Conversation Circle for Newcomers

🕒 Tuesdays, 1–2:30pm, January 19–February 23

📍 MOSAIC Vancouver Language Centre, 304–2730 Commercial Dr

☎ Paeyon 604 254 9626 ext 288

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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FÉLIX & MEIRA

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AVEC MARTIN DUBREUIL HADAS YARON LUZER TWERSKY

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Tues. March 22nd 7:00pm

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

Crystal and Tibetan Singing Bowl Sound Garden with Mike Nichols

Share the powerful vibrations of Crystal and Tibetan singing bowls. Synchronize the most subtle vibrations and dissolve the boundary between mind and matter leaving you in a state of utter clarity. Led by well-known yoga and meditation instructor Mike Nichols.

JANUARY 22

Gu Zheng Improvisations with Vi An Diep

You are invited on this journey through mutual opportunities to witness and to the discover delicious sonic-gifts of Vi An Diep, a proponent of the Asian zither. An original musician, Vi An intuitively improvises her own spontaneous compositions.

JANUARY 29

Learning the Art of Steel Tongue Drums with Bryn Clingwall

Experience the ability of steel tongue drums to create a connection between the player and their own inner-world regardless of age or experience. Kindred Spirit drum maker and musician, Bryn Clingwall will share how this magical instrument can be used to attain a deep meditative state, for healing purposes, and for the care-free experimentation with music.

FEBRUARY 5

Spirituality through Native Flutes with Edgar Vinicio

The haunting beauty of Native Flutes from around the world played by one of Canada's most renowned world music flutists. Edgar strives promote the connectedness between people and nature through his music.

FEBRUARY 12

A World Music Guitar Concert with Itamar Erez

To capture the essence of Itamar's music is to be taken on a journey where different cultures meet in harmony. Itamar's music holds a depth and sensitivity that will touch your heart; it blends the delicatessen of Middle Eastern music, the freedom found in Jazz and the passion of Flamenco, creating a unique sound all his own.

FEBRUARY 19

Experience a Gong Bath with Kathy Cameron

Himalayan singing bowls and gongs produce multiple overtones that are recognized for their ability to induce a deep sense of peace, tranquility and well-being. We invite you to experience the healing power of sound.

FEBRUARY 26

The Beauty of the Sitar with Mohamed Assani

Join us for a mesmerizing workshop on the extraordinary Indian sitar led by renowned musician and teacher, Mohamed Assani. Along with his tabla accompanist, Mohamed will take us on an enthralling and emotive journey into this fascinating musical world.

AS WELL, OUR CONTINUING SERIES ON TUESDAY NIGHTS - UKULELE!

TUESDAYS, JANUARY 12 TO FEBRUARY 16

Beginner Ukulele with Heather Stubbs

Learn how to play the cheerfulest instrument out there: the ukulele in a fabulously fun crash course workshop. Fee is \$75 in advance for all 6 sessions and \$20 drop in at the door. Ukuleles can be rented for \$10. All levels and all ages welcome. From 7:30pm to 8:30pm.



Photo courtesy of Beau Dick

A journey of nature, culture and justice

by CURTIS SEUFERT

From Jan. 16 to Apr. 17, the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery will present *Lalakenis/All Directions: A Journey of Truth and Unity*, an exhibition paying tribute to Kwakwaka'wakw chief Beau Dick's journey. Along with friends and family, he made the journey to Parliament Hill to perform a copper shield breaking ceremony, marking a ruptured relationship between the Government of Canada and First Nations people.

When he was younger, Kwakwaka'wakw chief and renowned carver Beau Dick (Wallas Gwy Um) was given the suggestion, by his uncle and mentor, that they should one day break a copper shield at the Victoria Legislature. The practise of copper shield breaking is a deep and complex economic and legal ritual marking an injustice committed that is in need of address. It is a practise seldom seen outside of a First Nations context. One day, however, Dick decided he would take his uncle's suggestion to heart.

"I woke up on [my daughters'] couch one morning [and] my girls were all excited. They dragged me off the couch over to the computer to see what was going on in the world. The Idle No More movement was erupting, and we looked at each other and they said, 'Is it time?' And I said, 'Yeah, let's go,'" Dick says.

On Feb. 2, 2013, Dick, along with some friends and family, walked from Quatsino, B.C. (on the north end of Vancouver Island) to the British Columbia Legislature in Victoria on Feb. 10 for an emotional copper-breaking ceremony in full regalia, in a journey that became known as 'Awalaskenis.'

A little more than a year later, it was decided that Beau and 21 other friends and family members would start another journey, this time the destination being Parliament Hill in Ottawa. *Awalaskenis II: A Journey of Truth and Unity*, would begin on July 2, 2014 at UBC and formally end with the copper breaking ceremony itself on Parliament Hill on July 27, 2014.

Identity and authority

Breaking a copper shield can mark any number of unremedied disputes, but it was evident that there was a very important problem in need of being addressed with many friends and family accompanying Dick on the journey to Ottawa bringing along masks, medicine and regalia and conducting the entire ceremony on a printed-out sheet of then Prime Minister Stephen Harper's apology for the residential schools on behalf of the Canadian government.

Dick gave a kind of prayer before the ceremony itself, synthesizing the issue at hand: "In breaking this copper we confront the tyranny and oppression of a government who has forsaken human rights and turned its back on nature in the interests of the almighty dollar, and we act in accordance with our laws."

In addition to the meaning of the ceremony itself, part of the idea behind breaking copper in front of Parliament was to show an important part of their culture: a practise that is central to many west coast First Nations' people system of economy and justice.

"It was identity and authority that were demonstrated," he says.

Destination and journey

There was no shortage of anecdotes about the journey itself and the time shortly after, such as the government's response to the ceremony (sending the piece of broken copper left behind to a museum), and dancing in full regalia outside the Canadian museum of history in Quebec.

But one incident Dick says he'll never forget occurred in Winnipeg, where one evidently well-off man's livid response to being asked to contribute to their journey, "I'm tired of feeding you people," was met by an equally quick response by one of the younger members of the group along the lines of "Quit stealing from us then" – a reference, in short, to the history of colonialism and its consequences today.



Photo courtesy of Beau Dick

▲ Beau Dick: practitioner in keeping culture alive.

For Dick, the exchange illustrated a piece of wisdom from his uncle: "You'll learn more from people who will teach you how not to be, so have some appreciation for them!" It also exemplified the continuing struggle between those who prioritize 'the almighty dollar' and those who place more importance on nature.

"They probably don't even care, but we do," says Dick. ☞

Photo courtesy of Ann Shin



The Little Movie That Could: My Enemy, My Brother

by HAMILTON HOLLANDS

Ann Shin's op doc, *My Enemy, My Brother*, is a story about Zahed and Najah, two former enemies in the Iraq and Iran war. After Zahed found Najah injured in a bunker during a raid, he risked his own life to save him. Years after the separation, both men miraculously found each other in Vancouver, Canada. Chosen to be a part of TIFF's Canada's top 10, the short documentary will be playing at the Cinemateque (Jan. 13, 7 p.m.).

"I was inspired by how these two regular guys, young guys, in one moment of bravery, managed to save another person's life. It's a real brave, heartening, positive story coming out of the Middle East. You rarely hear positive stories coming out of the Middle East," says Shin.

A road to the Oscars

Shin grew up in Langley on a mushroom farm, and attended Mountain Secondary High School. She later moved to the East Coast,



Photo courtesy of Ann Shin

▲ Ann Shin.

where she graduated in English Literature from the University of Toronto and had her first experience in documentary film making while working as an intern for CBC radio. Shin's hard work seems to have paid off: Jan. 14, *Fathom film group* will find out if

My Enemy, My Brother has made it to the Academy Awards nomination list.

"It screened in Toronto, L.A, San Francisco, New York, and a number of other places. Once the Oscar campaign is over, the website will revert back to the web series," says Shin.

The filmmaker is not only ex-

tors was there to film it," says Shin.

According to her, there's been interesting developments in Najah's search for his son and wife in Iraq.

"It's an ongoing process. We'll be going to Iraq soon with Najah because he's got his Canadian passport and Canadian citizen-

“It's a real brave, heartening, positive story coming out of the Middle East.

Ann Shin, documentary filmmaker

cited about the potential nomination, but the feedback she's been receiving around the world.

"We've had a lot of feedback from veterans, who were really moved and have been inspired by the story. We've had a lot of feedback from the diasporic Iranian and Iraqi communities in L.A, Vancouver, Toronto and New York," says Shin.

Web series

Shin found a narrative in the story, which surpassed the movie length the company was commissioned to produce. The web series will keep the audience up to date with the lives of Zahed and Najah. A few months ago there were developments in Zahed's story after he went bankrupt.

"I'm based in Toronto. When Zahed ended up in the hospital for surgery, I couldn't get there in time, but one of the unit direc-

ship this year. He's finally eligible to go back to Iraq safely," says Shin.

Iraq shoot

This January, Shin and the production crew will shoot a portion of the series in Iraq. The team will follow Najah as he becomes reacquainted with the country and his family. The director is concerned with questions like whether or not she will have to wear a hijab.

"What's the most respectful thing to do? And how do I do this safely?" says Shin, since the production company will not be filming undercover, as she did in North Korea for the film, *The Defectors*.

Although Najah is able to fly back to his country of birth, Zahed has no immediate plans to travel back to Iran. However, Najah is determined to see his family.

"They're the only reason I'm going," says Najah.

According to Shin it's a different kind of safety concern going to Iraq.

"In my previous documentary, I followed a group of defectors and their broker, [and] their smuggler in North Korea, ferrying them across the country. That was at times nerve-racking, but we made it out safely. As a filmmaker, you're in that situation with them," says Shin. ☞

The short documentary can be seen at www.myenemybrothermovie.com

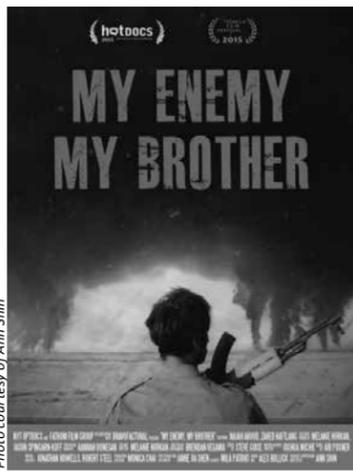


Photo courtesy of Ann Shin



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, including a special 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 an 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 ties in this varied and invigorating concert of music from two continents.



THE LOVE THAT MOVES THE UNIVERSE

Bach, Handel & Schafer
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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HORN OF AFRICA EMERGENCY

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Le Temps scellé

A performance of perpetual movement

by HAKIM FERRIA

“Confronting one’s own demise” is the premise of choreographer and dancer Nacera Belaza’s performance in her work *Le Temps scellé*. The performance is being presented at the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival from Jan. 27 to Jan. 29.

Le Temps scellé was originally commissioned by the Festival d’Avignon in France in 2009.

“I had to create it in a very short period,” says Belaza, who will be sharing the stage with her sister Dalila Belaza. “This was extremely difficult because creation is a long process that needs a maturation phase.”

Through her art form Belaza closely examines repeated gestures, slow movements and stretching time. She explores light, space, time and the body to define her own style of dance.

Le Temps scellé is not only the title of a book by Russian-born

filmmaker Tarkovsky; it was also part of what helped Belaza grow as an artist. *Le Temps scellé* is a journey that explores perpetual movement. Nacera expresses the emotion behind this perpetual movement, saying *Le Temps scellé* communicates her wishes that:

“it were possible to confront one’s own demise while shouting one’s rebelliousness to the world, express every thought and then slowly begin to erase all traces of oneself so that all that remains is the desire to merge with the air, the sky and the emptiness in which the deafening noise of our existence resonates.”

The body as first language

Born in Médéa, Algeria, Belaza now lives in Paris. She went to France when she was five years old. While her focus was on modern languages when she was at university and not on the arts, she has always danced. With the Compagnie Nacera Belaza, she has created over a dozen works and has performed them internationally.

“I have been dancing since I was a child and dance has always been part of my life. Dancing is like speaking for me. It’s a natural way of communication,” says Nacera.

A self-taught choreographer and dancer, Belaza’s way of expressing herself is entirely personal.

“It’s lucky to be an autodidact because you must find your own methods, your own rules. And this is the main duty of the artist: to find out and to create a unique path,” explains Belaza.

Belaza adds that she doesn’t believe in traditional teaching



▲ Self-taught choreographer, Nacera Belaza.



▲ Liberation through dance.

Photo by Pons Straley

Photo by Jerry Adiguna

for the arts. There are some basic tools that can be taught, but art is mainly a thought process, a quest that everyone must go on.

“Dancing is a liberation as a human being and not as a woman. I used, and I still use, the art of dance to grow, to ask questions, and to communicate,” says Belaza. “It’s not only the pleasure of dancing, it’s also a way to express myself.”

The world as a source of inspiration

Belaza is inspired by the world that surrounds her as well as by

other kind of arts such as literature, poetry and theatre.

“A great source of inspiration is how people, scientists, poets, etc., will experience my work and how they feel it,” says Nacera. “I am deeply interested in how differently the same thing is felt, analyzed and thought about.”

This is this kind of diversity that Belaza prefers – the diversity of emotions, the diversity of receiving life.

“I am not interested in what is different between people but what they have in common.”

She does not want to deliver a message. She does not want

to stimulate the intellect of the audience.

“I want to stimulate their emotions. Nowadays the intellect is overstimulated whereas the other parts of the body are not stimulated enough,” says Belaza.

Last December, Belaza was named a *Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication. The quest of this new knight is to catalyze the spectators into reactivating their emotions. ✎

For more information, visit: www.pushfestival.ca



MOSAIC Settlement Services
604 254 9626 ext 255
elam@mosaicbc.com
www.mosaicbc.com/settlement-services

Public Service Announcement

Registrations start now for MOSAIC Seniors Club Winter Term.

MOSAIC Seniors Club provides free activities for immigrant seniors age 55 and above. We also provide workshops and individual support on topics relevant to seniors including. We run activities such as English Conversation Circles and Taichi class. Come make new friends, practice English, get information and have fun!

Burnaby South: 5902 Kingsway || 604 438 8214

English Conversation Circle (Beginners): Starting January 18, Mondays, 9:30–11:30am
English Conversation Circle (Upper Beginners): Starting January 18, Mondays, 9:30–11:30am
Knitting Circle: Starting January 19, Tuesdays, 2–3:30pm

Burnaby North: 2055 Rosser Avenue || 604 292 3907

English Conversation Circle (Beginners): Starting January 20, Wednesdays, 9:30–11:30am
Wai Dan Gong Exercise: Starting January 22, Fridays, 9–10am
Taichi: Starting January 22, Fridays, 10:30am–12pm
English Conversation Circle (Upper Beginners): Starting January 22, Fridays, 12:30–2:30pm

Vancouver: 1720 Grant St || 604 254 9626 ext 273

Priority for Permanent Residents.

English Conversation Circle (Lower Beginners): Starting January 14, Thursdays, 10am–12pm
English Conversation Circle (Beginners): Starting January 14, Thursdays, 12–2pm
English Conversation Circle (Upper Beginners): Starting January 14, Thursdays, 2–4pm
‘Wai Dan Gong’ exercise: Starting January 22, Fridays, 11am–12pm

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.

##

► “Verbatim” from page 1

Getting off the bus in the street, I asked directions of a passerby who noticed my accent and asked where I’m from. When I answered that I’m French he responded in French while declaring that although he is British he is married to a Frenchwoman! At work, which consists of a few hours in a shop, the coming and going of clients allows me to try and guess their backgrounds. I note different accents by the way customers ask for products. These discoveries continue day after day thanks to all the nationalities that crisscross the city of Vancouver.

These various encounters reflect the richness of the city. When you leave France for Vancouver you expect you’ll be learning English. That was my



▲ Life has become multilingual.

mistake. You don’t go to Vancouver to learn one language but many. The city is rich by way of its multiple nationalities, mainly Asians who have settled here over the last three centuries. Each of its citizens enriches the city by their accent, their sounds and sometimes by their untranslatable vocabulary. At the whim of various roads and detours one takes it is no longer Vancouverites whom one meets but rather countries, cultures and people who have been swept to the shores of Vancouver. These cultural mixes make up the wealth of the city and those who come to study and practice their English. One learns to be able to decode the different accents, recognise the backgrounds and adapt to the inherent expectations of each culture. Vancouver is a perfect example of the melting pot. In a literal sense it is the melding of people and backgrounds to make up one group of Vancouverites united in their love of nature, the ocean and the mountains. Each person puts forward their sense of belonging to the city. All along the avenues, the streets and the tangle of alleyways of the city you meet the diverse nationalities thrown into a colourful but pragmatic mix that seek to melt into one great mass, all the while maintaining their differences. ✎

Translation by Barry Brisebois

Photo by Joshua Willis

Creating music – a family affair

by FLORENCE HWANG

Creating folk music for children is important for award-winning Vancouver-based artist Gina Lam. Including her four young children in her creative process is also important for Lam, who considers them the source of her inspiration.

“We hum songs over snack time together. We go to the recording studio together. We work through album design layout together. We sing and dance on stage together. It’s exhausting at times, hilarious at times, and it’s all pretty special,” says Lam, adding that she often pulls out her portable voice recorder when spending time with her children.

Seedlings of music

Lam, whose parents are from Taiwan, is proud to be Canadian-Taiwanese, to speak the language and to honour some of its traditions.

“My Asian background has its way of infusing into my life, my language, how I raise my kids, and I know it must influence my music as well. People can be understood through the things they say and do; sometimes it’s obvious and sometimes things are more subtle,” she says.

and university that she explored songwriting more intentionally as a way to express her thoughts and experiences, which she considers to be at the core of folk music.

“I played in empty stairwells, in coffee shops, on open stages and in the quiet of my room. I recorded a few albums to share with family and friends; it was just a part of who I was and what I did,” explains Lam.

Crowdsourcing

Her first foray into crowdsourcing was Kickstarter, which enabled her to involve the community in her musical journey and the making of her album.

“It’s one thing to make great music. It’s a whole new game getting the music into people’s hands and into their ears and into their hearts. Crowdsourcing is one step to doing that and it helps that people know they were a big part of making this possible,” she says.

Lam admits she is not the most seasoned in terms of using social media, and that it took a while to figure out how much information to share without being too pushy.

Family folk music

Recently nominated for album of the year by the Canadian Folk Music Awards, Lam’s artistic



▲ Gina Lam with band members Joseph Lam and Adam Thomas.



▲ Gina Lam.

goal has always been to write good, meaningful music, which she can share with her grandkids one day.

“It’s amazing to think that my music is being heard, spreading to more places and enriching more lives. It helps keep me focused to work hard on my dream to make excellent quality family folk music,” says Lam.

Most of her themes centre on family activities. Her first album focuses on beauty in the mundane: she took everyday activities of her family and wove them into musical backdrops to showcase the magic.

The second album, *Forest Friends’ Nature Club*, is about her family’s visits to British Columbia’s Pacific Spirit Regional Park. In her second album, she also includes songs in French because it is Canada’s second language, and a language her kids are learning.

Like other artists, Lam puts her personality and character into her work. Her music, she says, reflects her as a person: a silly mom, a structured thinker and a gentle spirit. ☺

For more information, visit www.ginalina.com.

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Cultural Calendar

January 12–26, 2016

by JAKE MCGRAIL

Faculty Performance Series: A Celebration of Robbie Burns

Jan. 16
Place des Arts
1120 Brunette Ave., Coquitlam
www.placedesarts.ca

Back for the fourth year by popular demand, faculty member Rosie Carver and the Celtic band Blackthorn will celebrate the musical traditions of Scotland, with a focus on Burns' songs. Enjoy a delicious Scottish-inspired supper and the music of one of Scotland's most famous poets.

* * *

Salon Speakers Series: JJ Lee

Jan. 22
Place des Arts
1120 Brunette Ave., Coquitlam
www.placedesarts.ca

The award-winning author and fashion writer JJ Lee will discuss his critically-acclaimed memoir, *The Measure of a Man: The Story of a Father, a Son, and a Suit*, and read from his latest works of non-fiction. Lee has won a National Magazine Award for Best Short Feature and has hosted the CBC Radio show *Head to Toe*.



▲ Celtic band Blackthorn will perform at Place des Arts Jan. 16.

Photo by Sue Renaud

over 100 notable figures. *BOOM* explores the legacy and impact of key events and figures of the post-war generation.

* * *

Dine Out Vancouver Festival 2016
Jan. 15–31
Various locations
throughout Vancouver
www.dineoutvancouver.com

Experience Canada's largest annual food and drink festival this year at Dine Out Vancouver! This 17-day festival features hundreds of restaurants with plenty of food,

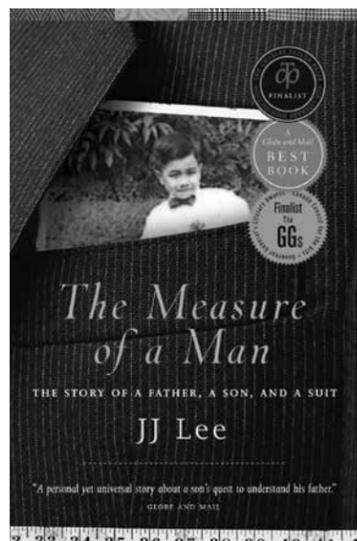


Photo courtesy of Place des Arts

▲ Author's talk explores father-son rapport.

* * *

Arts Club Theatre Company Presents: BOOM

Jan. 14–Feb. 13
Granville Island Stage
1585 Johnston St., Vancouver
www.artsclub.com

Get ready to experience "25 years in 100 minutes." Rick Miller, one of Canada's most noted and prolific solo performers, will guide you, documentary-like, through over two decades of history using archival videos and photography and spot-on impersonations of



▲ Anatoli Souvlaki makes a dish for Dine Out Vancouver.

craft beer and cocktails to go around. Experience all the culinary expertise you could possibly want with guided dining tours, cooking classes, cocktail masterclasses, dinner and film pairings, craft beer tasting and much more.

scribed as compelling, dynamic and highly sensitive.

* * *

2016 PuSh Festival: Intimacy
Jan. 20–23
Orpheum Annex

cooks for families and friends of all cultures. She claims her Filipino cooking skills came to life after she touched down in Canada in 1976. Her main dish includes pulses she's learned to prepare by heart, bringing guests of various ethnicities and languages into her home.

"Mung is made of little green beans and it's one of the smallest. It's not really spicy and it's more like a Mexican bean, like lima beans. You boil it until it's soft and mix it with tomatoes," says Cruz.

Cruz says mung is a healthy, cheap, easy meal she learned to make by watching her mom make it; she serves it stand alone or with bacon puffs and pork

823 Seymour St., Vancouver
www.pushfestival.ca

One night in Melbourne, Adriano Cortese, of Ranters Theatre, found himself lonely and inspired, so he left his apartment to find strangers on the street who wished to talk. From those conversations came *Intimacy*, which features four scenes inspired by real-life encounters and is presented with a liberating lack of inhibition.

* * *

**Vetta Chamber Music
Presents: 20th Century Music to Love**
Jan. 21–22
West Point Grey United Church
4595 West 8th Ave., Vancouver
www.vettamusic.com

Vetta Music presents a variety filled collection of music from the early 20th century Soviet Union. Works from Russian composer Igor Stravinsky, Hungarian composer Zoltán Kodály and Armenian composer Aram Khachaturian provide a wide variety of musical style and a taste of the music from the Soviet Union.

* * *

**Music on Main and the
PuSh Festival Present:
Roomful of Teeth**
Jan. 25–26
The Fox Cabaret
2321 Main St., Vancouver
www.musiconmain.ca

rings, and claims the dish is always a hit with her guests.

Marcio Neitzke says his favourite pulse dish is spread amongst a rich cultural mosaic, similar to his own name. From Brazil, his family has carried on the tradition of *feijoada*, a meat stew with black beans.

"*Feijoada* is a common staple we cook it at home and eat it with everything. It's really interesting to see how so many different people love it," says Neitzke.

Neitzke gets the beans uncooked and prepares them in a pressure cooker. Influenced by his grandparents who eat beans for every single meal, Neitzke feels the protein, nutritional value and easy preparation of le-

Get ready for Roomful of Teeth, the Grammy Award-winning vocal ensemble, to wow you in an intimate and powerful performance with eight top vocalists singing music for the 21st century including *Partita*, the piece that won Music on Main's Composer In Residence Caroline Shaw the Pulitzer Prize.

* * *

Gluten Free Expo
Jan. 16–17
Canada Place
999 Canada Place,
Vancouver
www.glutenfreeexpo.ca

Canada's largest gluten free event is back and bigger than ever. Sample hundreds of products including beer, pizza, bread, perogies and more, while learning from leading health experts at this year's exposition.

* * *

Children's Arts Festival
Jan. 20–22
Richmond Cultural Centre
7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond
www.childrensfestival.ca

The annual Children's Arts Festival is back, and once again children under 12 can immerse themselves in a huge variety of hands-on workshops led by professional artists and performers. Dance, music, art, kites and yo-yos will be on hand at this fun family festival.

► "Pulses" from page 1

ed the lentil soup – it's a favourite for people looking for an affordable and gluten-free dish," says Gwynne. "Ours is an adaptation of [Iran]'s influence, using a garnish of balsamic vinegar and oil with a Mediterranean twist."

Diverse dishes, common ingredients

Claudia Wong, originally from Panama, says another diverse legume dish that has found a home in Vancouver is pigeon peas (known as *gandu* in Latin America). She refers to these pigeon peas as a favourite found all over the world, especially South America and the Caribbean – a sign she feels creates unity between all cultures.

"I came to Canada in 2002 and I didn't realize at first how often I use pigeon peas in my diet. I'm from Panama, but *gandu*, the mixture of pigeon peas with other foods, comes from all over South America," says Wong.

Wong believes *gandu* is the perfect dish to learn to make in 2016 due to its simplicity and versatility. She suggests mixing fresh or canned peas with white rice and coconut, fresh fish and even plantains.

"The dish works well with different food groups and it's something that's traveled the world," Wong adds.

Beans for every meal

Lola Cruz, from the Philippines,

gumes offer variety and a cheaper alternative to meats.

A healthy pulse

Pulse Canada's director of nutrition, Julianne Curran, says there is a science to pulses and that incorporating them into your diet not only provides a cultural twist, but also improves health.

"There are many easy ways to add more pulses to your diet," says Curran. "The power of pulses is remarkable. They are a low fat, and low saturated fat, source of protein and contain high amounts of complex carbohydrates like fibre and resistant starch." 🌱

For more information please visit:
www.fao.org/pulses-2016/en

Gold Digging

This massive construction site along Howe St. and Pacific St. is not unfamiliar in Vancouver but it typifies the expensive building projects in the city. Luxury condos are enriching developers, construction firms, real estate companies and investors. Of course, they provide a beautiful space for those who can afford it, and some investors will actually live in the condos.

This particular project is designated Vancouver House. There will be a 59-storey main tower with a uniquely twisting shape containing mostly owned units, a 9-storey podium for rentals and office space, and two 6-storey triangular structures for office and retail. Environmentally, the builders are seeking Leed Gold certification. For community enrichment, the derelict area around and under the Granville Bridge will be transformed into a public space which may include retail, restaurants, beer gardens, drive-in movies and an outdoor gallery installation on the underside of the bridge. This comprehensive development which considers environmental, social and cultural amenities with a mix of owners, rentals, and businesses is certainly admirable and the combination of all these aspects have been named Gesamtkunstwerk by the award winning Danish architect of the project Bjarke Ingels. There is a *Source* article by this name with more details in the January 7–21, 2014 issue.

With projects like the above, Vancouver is attracting attention from international architects, real estate firms and investors. Engel & Völkers, a German real estate firm will

supplant the Yaletown office of Sotheby's, a multi-national corporation based in New York which brokers real estate among other things. This amounts to a takeover of the luxury real estate market. According to Sotheby's, sales of homes in the first half of 2015 worth more than \$4 million increased by 71%.

For those of us lesser mortals, if we are hoping for a break into a lower-priced market, the outlook is bleak. The median market in Vancouver is well over \$1 million for detached homes on the east side and over \$2 million on the west side. Increasingly, condos are listing at prices exceeding \$1 million. At Vancouver House, condos of roughly 750 square feet can be over \$1 million with a rise in price matched by the increase in square footage until we reach prices of over \$3 million for 1572 square feet. This inflated market is predicted to only increase for the next several years. With Vancouver's limited space for growth and low interest rates, it's a veritable gold rush for wealthy investors.

So where does that leave room for most wage earners to buy or rent in the city? It's a question, in spite of municipal promises, that does not seem to have any hope of a reasonable answer.

It's time to think of our city not just as a playground and investment opportunity for the wealthy, but also as a viable place for its citizens to live. Like climate change, it has taken a while for people to realize the extent of the destructiveness caused by the inflated housing market. It takes the form of the empty homes of absentee landlords which alter the harmony of neighbourhoods and deplete rental opportunities, people



continually displaced to make room for luxury apartments, and most visibly we have the ranks of the homeless. And it's not just the impoverished who are being marginalized but even the middle class can not compete in this exaggerated market. There is loss of business opportunities because of jacked up rents and the inability to attract employees to a city too expensive to live in. The overall effect is an impover-

ishment of the quality of life for most city dwellers.

The answer is not just to raise salaries that could never be commensurate with the current cost of housing, or move to another city or province. There needs to be federal, provincial, and municipal willingness to cooperate with changing this situation. If we can have international conferences on the urgency of addressing climate change, we should

also have ones on the growing unaffordability of housing in major cities that should be regarded with a similar urgency. Housing in these places has become like a stock market commodity with no regard for the human element. This must end. Decent, affordable housing is a right for everyone and not just a privilege of the wealthy.

Don Richardson

Recipe by Jen dela Luna

Kedgeree

Having just returned from a long trip to Scotland last summer, this assignment was a delightful surprise for me. Though there are plenty of more familiar, perhaps stereotypically Scottish dishes out there (Shortbread? Haggis?), I knew exactly what I wanted to make from the get go.

Don't be fooled by its ingredients – though it is most certainly influenced by Indian khichari, kedgeree as we know it today is, in fact, a Scottish creation! It is believed to have been devised by Scottish soldiers as early as the 18th century, missing the flavours of the cuisine they had tried from locals on their travels in the east. The result was a marriage of traditional Indian spices and a Scottish specialty, smoked fish. Over the years, it became en vogue to partake in Brito-Indian fusion cuisine, so kedgeree became commonplace in many British homes for breakfast. Though commonly made with haddock (Arbroath smokies or Finnan haddies are typical, and arguably best), I chose to use smoked tuna loin instead, as it is readily available here in Vancouver, and a far more sustainable fish.



This dish is perfect for winter, served piping hot for breakfast, lunch, or dinner, but is just as good cold. Ith gu leòir!

Ingredients (makes 2 litres)

- 3 tbsp butter
- 1 onion, medium, chopped fine
- 2 cups basmati rice
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 200 g smoked fish (I used tuna loin), sliced thick
- 1 ½ cups milk
- 1 ½ tsp curry powder
- Eggs, soft or hardboiled
- Nutmeg, salt and pepper to taste

- Fresh parsley

Method

1. In a pot, sweat the onion in melted butter.
2. Stir in the rice, coating each grain in the butter, then pour over the chicken broth.
3. Bring the pot to a boil, then turn the heat down to low. Put a lid on it and cook until the rice has absorbed the broth – about 12 minutes. Stir occasionally so rice does not stick and burn to the bottom of the pot.
4. Meanwhile, in another small

- pot, bring milk to a simmer and drop the slices of tuna loin in, letting it poach lightly in the milk. This mellows and rounds out the flavour of the fish, so it is not too overpowering in the dish. Flake the fish at the very last minute before adding it to the rice.
5. Once the rice is cooked, stir in the curry powder, flaked fish, chopped egg, and season to taste.
6. Before serving, mix in chopped fresh parsley, and enjoy hot.



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