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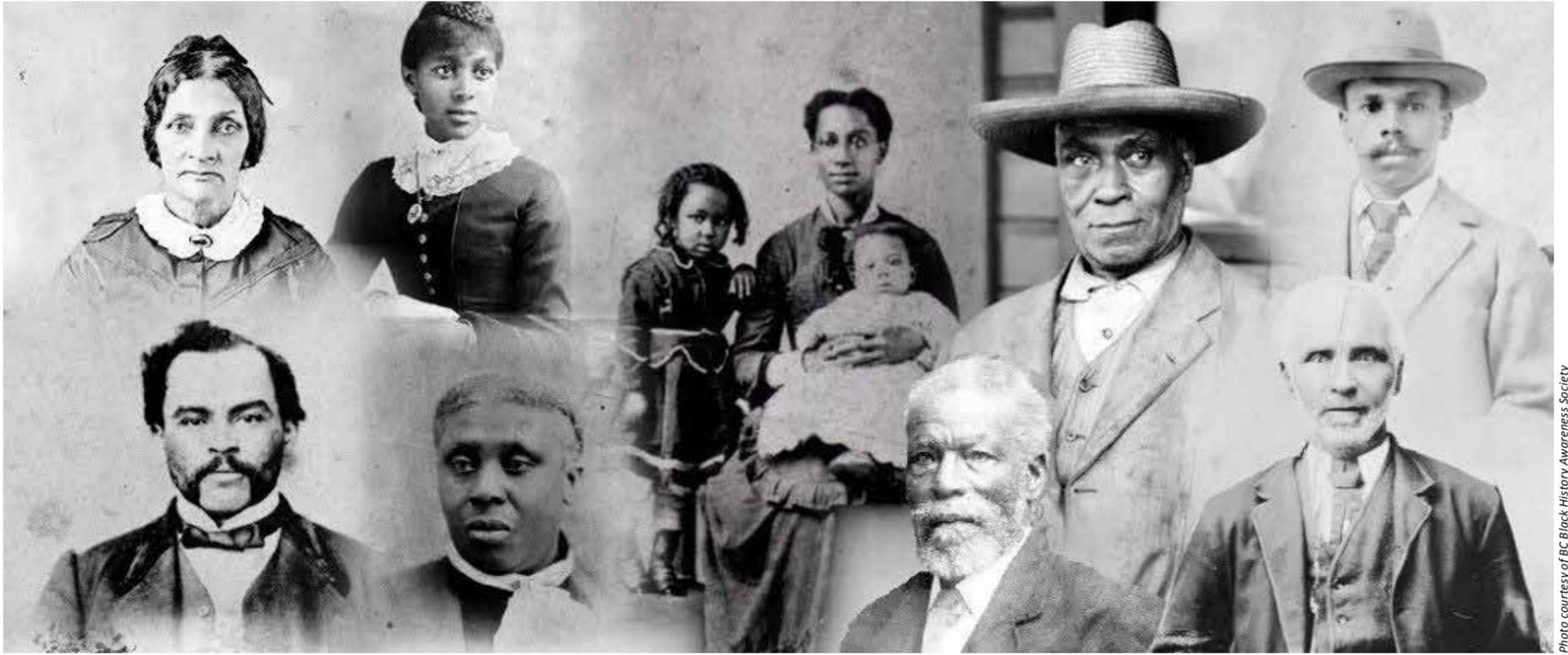


Photo courtesy of BC Black History Awareness Society

Advocates want more of B.C.'s Black experience taught in schools

by GEOFF RUSS

Calls to include British Columbia's Black history in the public-school curriculum have grown over the past year. Many Black British Columbians have said that the province is not doing enough to ensure people are taught about the history of Black people in B.C.

"When I first came to this province, and for much of the time when my kids were growing up, I knew very little," says June Francis, associate professor of marketing at Simon Fraser University and a multiple award-winning educator. "I just assumed there had not been a Black community there."

Born in Jamaica, Francis is an advocate for equity and the

inclusion of racialized groups which extends to an inclusive teaching of history in BC. "Just because it's not recorded, or taught in the official books or curriculum, does not mean it doesn't exist," she says.

Even though Black history is not officially part of the province's education curriculum, the Ministry of Education "encourages" school districts to

educate students on Black History Months or highlight Black history during the month of February, leaving the decision up to teachers whether or not to do so. According to a statement from the Ministry, "B.C.'s curriculum supports the teaching of Black history topics, such as the history of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the Underground Railroad.

The curriculum also celebrates the many contributions that Black Canadians have made and continue to make in our communities."

In addition, the provincial government recently commemorated August 1 as "Emancipation Day," marking the day in 1834 when the British parliament voted to abolish

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Cultural Spotlight

A dream come true

by RAMAN KANG

It was all a dream – literally. Rebecca Lyon was in the middle of pursuing her PhD in Indigenous studies when she had a dream about a jacket, unlike any she had ever worn.

“One of our teachings as Ojibwe people is to listen to our dreams, and the dream was me in a jacket,” she says.

Lyon is part Lebanese and part Ojibwe, although she has always admired regalia from her Ojibwe side, she’s always felt a little strange about wearing it.

“In the dream, it was really about being able to go to a powwow and insert your identity in a way that’s not necessarily wearing regalia but something that is inherently Indigenous in a way,” she says.

Inspired by ribbon skirts, ribbon shirts and regalia, Lyon decided to make her dream a reality by creating powwow jackets as a way of connecting and celebrating her identity.

She is hosting a virtual workshop curated by the Museum of Vancouver to show others how they can make their own powwow jackets on Sept. 11.

The dream

“As a creative person, I’ve always wanted to make something instead of just doing written work all the time,” says Lyon.

In the Spring of 2020, she was busy pursuing her PhD, constantly in meetings and writing papers, when she had her dream.

“I was definitely looking for a way to express myself because I needed to be creative,” she says.

Lyon never thought her jacket would turn into a business, and she still doesn’t think of it as such.



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Lyon

▲ So far, Rebecca Lyon has made around 100 jackets...and counting.

“It was really just something personal for me to wear, and people just really started admiring it. It really helped me in my studies, and it gave me an outlet to put my creative juices in while I’m really deep into academic stuff,” she adds.

Embracing culture

Lyon is Ojibwe on her mom’s side and Lebanese on her dad’s side. Growing up, she knew very little about her mom’s side of the family. It wasn’t until she and her sister were young adults that they began asking their mom about her culture and family.

When Lyon went to Trent University to study Indigenous studies, she learned even more.

“I started learning the language at school and that really is what inspired me to embrace that part of my life, and it’s really brought my sister, my mom and I together,” she explains.

Lyon says her jackets are for everyone to wear, she wanted them to be customizable and rooted in identity, whatever that means for each individual person.

Lyon puts cedar – big in Lebanese culture – into her jackets to celebrate that part of her life as well.

Sustainability – an Indigenous teaching

“I think it’s really important that we have more and more people talking about what it means to be Indigenous, Indigenous culture and identity, so having that foot in the door gets the conversation started,” says Lyon.

Thrifting is a passion of her’s. She tries to thrift her jackets and use anything she already owns

as much as she can to keep things sustainable.

“Sustainability is an important topic, especially as Indigenous people, those are our teachings – to only take as much as you need,” she says.

Lyon is inspired by Indigenous teachings, issues and topics, working that into her jackets.

“When we first heard about the Kamloops unmarked graves, I immediately knew I needed to make a jacket and auction it off to raise funds. I wanted it to make a statement,” says Lyon.

Having a voice, a face or place in the fashion world as an Indigenous person, a mixed person and a woman is really important, she says.

The workshop

“We’re going to talk about how powwow jackets came to be, what it means to create your own and put your own identity into it and why it’s important,” says Lyon, about her upcoming workshop.

Ribbons and fabric adhesive will be provided, however, participants will need to bring their own jacket or vest.

Lyon says these workshops give her a chance to tell others how she found this niche and how it’s possible for others to do the same thing and hopefully inspire people to create and do sustainable things.

“That’s really what it is about for me. Workshops like this, where I get to meet other people from all over and see what they have to say, are so much fun and really a dream of mine,” she says. ✍️

Learn more here:
www.museumofvancouver.ca



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Lyon

▲ A dream becomes reality for Rebecca Lyon.



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Mailing Address
Denman Place PO Box 47020
Vancouver, BC V6G 3E1
Office
204-825 Granville St., Vancouver, BC
Telephone (604) 682-5545
Email info@thelastsource.com
www.thelastsource.com

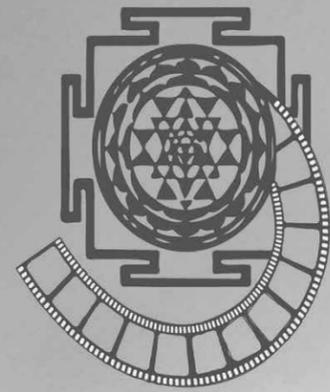
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Translation **Barry Brisebois, Louise Dawson, Monique Kroeger**
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Confucius or Confusions

Addressing happiness and democratic freedom in contemporary Asian Studies

by RAFAEL ZEN

The 2021 TAIWANfest aims to re-think Asia through the lens of Taiwan and Korea, and Josephine Chiu-Duke, PhD, will address the taboos around Confucianism and its theoretical legacy to 21st Century thinkers on Sept. 4.

"I hope my talk called *Confucius or Confusions* will allow the audience to dismantle and put aside any previous prejudice and negative impressions on Confucianism," says Chiu-Duke, professor of Chinese Intellectual history in the Department of Asian Studies of the University of British Columbia (UBC). Chiu-Duke says that negative attitudes toward Confucianism may be related to the fact that its teachings have been and can be appropriated by political powers as an official ideology.

The professor addresses the necessity, however, to distinguish systems of oppression from classical schools of knowledge.

"Official Confucianism basically absolutized the relations between rulers and ministers, husbands and wives and fathers and sons", she says. "Such absolutized relations completely replaced the reciprocal ones originally advocated by Confucius and other classical Confucian scholars. Modern scholars have described the 'official Confucianism' as 'Con-

fucianism outward, but Legalist inward."

Chiu-Duke further explains that Classical Confucian teachings always emphasize individual moral autonomy.

"Mencius, the second most important Confucian scholar once said: 'above he is not ashamed to face Heaven; below he is not ashamed to face man.' Based on this teaching, throughout Chinese history, we see that there have always been courageous Confucian scholar-officials who chose to speak up on behalf of the public well-being," she says.

Against oppressive powers, Chiu-Duke acknowledges that many have risked their own

modern scholars have identified the tradition of protest as a liberal tradition in China, and

the revival of the glory of the nation-state, appropriating Confucianism as a value sys-

“...throughout Chinese history, we see that there have always been courageous Confucian scholar-officials who chose to speak up on behalf of the public well-being.

Josephine Chiu-Duke, PhD

benefits, often giving Mencius' words cited above as an answer. In her analysis, many

also regarded it as a foundational source for the Confucian idea of human rights.

tem that will help revive this system," Chiu-Duke says.

She addresses the strategic usage of such slogans, stating that their appropriation may very well be just a political slogan, and has nothing to do with granting their people – such as the Hongkongers – the enjoyment of their lost freedom.

Chiu-Duke invites all readers to attend the 2021 TAIWANfest, acknowledging that Canada is a democratic country and a multicultural society that believes in and upholds all the liberal values and basic human rights.

"Taiwan, like Canada, is a democratic," she says, "and a multicultural society, and in the past decade TAIWANfest has been enriching and strengthening our pluralistic values as well as demonstrating how people in Taiwan cherish and treasure the same liberal values as we do in Canada."

Questions on happiness and democratic freedom

In the talk, Chiu-Duke will challenge the audience with a simple question about whether people would choose freedom or happiness if necessary.

"Such a question was mentioned in a great 19th Century Russian novel. From my point of view, in today's world ideally no one should be forced to make such a choice, but we have seen the sorrowful situation Hong Kong has been subjected to," she says.

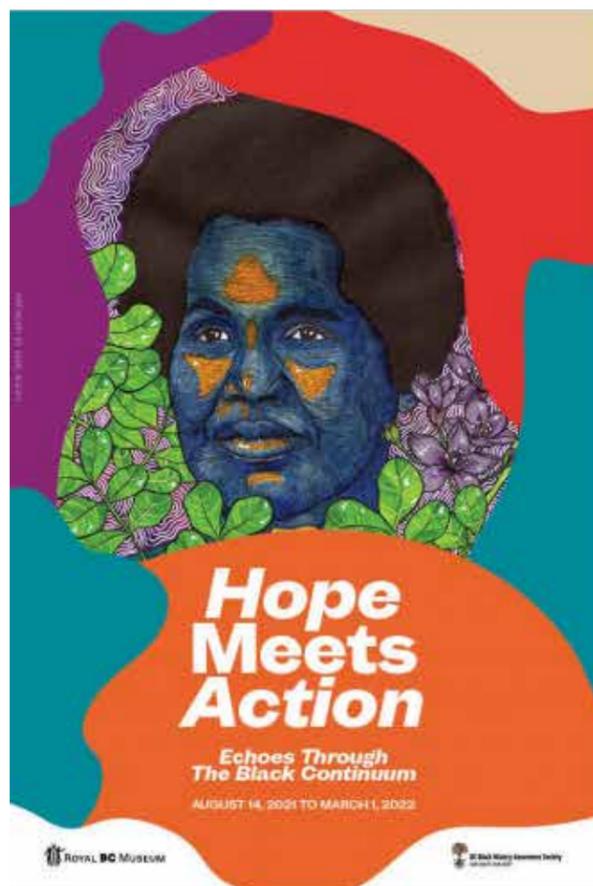
The professor remembers that Hongkongers could enjoy both freedom and happiness before the imposition of the national security law. Now, she provokes, Hong Kong has become a city where freedom is basically forced to wither away if not dead already.

"Also in China, where the government started to talk about



Photo courtesy of UBC

▲ Josephine Chiu-Duke, professor of Chinese Intellectual history in the Department of Asian Studies of the University of British Columbia (UBC).



stolen people on stolen land

...

in a space where our voices have long been suspiciously absent ...

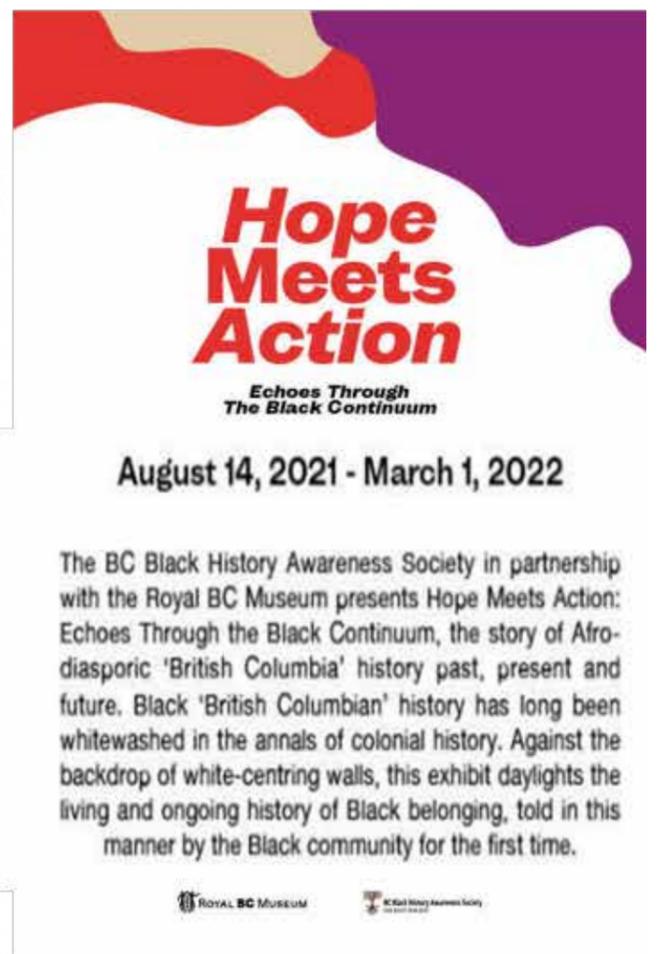
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How to bake a financier

by ELAHA AMANI

Be whisked away on a European adventure full of class, elegance and dainty desserts all from the comfort of your own home. Betty Hung, co-owner and head pastry chef of the French-inspired Beaucoup Bakery, is reaching new heights with not only her delicious pastries but by sharing her love of baking with children through UBC's Junior Chef: Kid's Cooking Class.

"I want to share a little bit of my knowledge with those who are passionate about it," says Hung.

In light of recent events, the event will be held online Sunday, Sept. 19, where kids of all ages get the opportunity to work alongside a talented baker: learning, having fun and baking chocolate chip financiers.

Smooth, fluffy goodness

What are financiers? Financiers are small French almond cakes, traditionally baked in rectangular tins to imitate gold bars. Made with brown butter, almond flour and egg whites, these tiny desserts are light, moist and a perfect dessert to have with tea or on its own. Second only to madeleines, financiers are the most common treats one can enjoy while strolling down the bustling streets of Paris, as it is a common street food.

But there's no need to travel to Paris: Beaucoup Bakery makes, from scratch, scrumptious raspberry-chocolate-dipped financiers, as well as a gluten-free option.



▲ Beaucoup Bakery is offering baking classes for kids.

"They're common tea-cakes, and very good snacks," Hung explains. Financiers are also a great, go-to snack for those with a sweet tooth.

Hung prides herself on Beaucoup's financiers, and it is one of her favourite pastries they offer, but to her, no pastry can top flakey, butter croissants.

Favourite treat

"Nothing beats a freshly-baked butter croissant," says Hung.

After years of working with pastries, Hung has found that her tastes lie with treats on the more savoury-side. Beaucoup Bakery's butter croissants are her absolute favourite snack, one she praises proudly and couldn't recommend enough to all, especially new customers.

Although the three-day process to create these pastries is quite laborious, it is definitely worth it. According to Hung, whether solo or with coffee,

one can't go wrong with Beaucoup Bakery's butter croissant.

Then and now

Formerly a graphic designer studying at UBC, Hung joined Beaucoup Bakery in 2013 as an unpaid intern; and, despite having no prior training in pastry arts, worked her way up to head pastry chef.

She enjoyed her time working at the bakery immensely, so when previous owner Jackie Kai Ellis put

the place up for sale, Hung took a leap of faith. She and her brother, Jacky Hung (co-owner and barista at Beaucoup Bakery), have been running the bakery since, expanding on its success and making their name known in the community.

The program that's going to be offered at UBC this fall will help Beaucoup accomplish just that.

Aside from producing new and unique pastries, and creating more opportunities to offer to her community, Hung has other goals for Beaucoup Bakery in mind. She hopes to make a few handy renovations and perhaps open another bakery.

This really demonstrates Hung's passion and ambition, which is what has made Beaucoup Bakery into the success it is today. Hung and her brother will continue providing the delicious treats they are known for, and make strides to take their bakery to even greater heights in the upcoming few years.

A tasty opportunity indeed. Hung wishes she was able to host more classes with children this year, but for the sake of health and public safety she decided to hold off until late this year. Hung is very excited to share her baking expertise with the children participating in her class, and is looking forward to more similar opportunities in the future.

UBC's Junior Chef: Kid's Cooking Class is sure to be a recipe for laughter, floury fingers and a little bit of European culture. Children are invited to grab their aprons and get baking something delectable. ✍

For more information, please visit: www.alumni.ubc.ca/event/ubc-homecoming-junior-chef-kids-cooking-class www.beaucoupbakery.com

► "Black history" from page 1
ish slavery across the British Empire – including pre-Confederation Canada.

However, the Black British Columbian experience remains unknown to most people, including Black British Columbians, and contributes to their feeling of not belonging. In 2006 in Grade 10, Josh Robertson, curator of the new Hopes Meets Action exhibit at the Royal BC Museum centered around the history of Black people in British Columbia recalls, he had a similar experience to June Francis.

"I wrote a Canadian history paper in high school about Black immigration, and the immigration practices put into effect to stop Black people from immigrating to Canada," recalls Robertson. "I was told upon handing in my paper that that was not Canadian history."

History is taught with intent

Francis says that education is key to shaping how people come to know – or believe they know – the world. She argues that history taught from the top down, that is, history centered around the most powerful figures and institutions, obscures the truth by leaving out unpleasant truths that continue to shape modern Canada. As an example, she also points out that in the early twentieth century Canada implemented discriminatory immigration policies designed to

keep Black people from coming into the country.

"History coming from the top down is highly politicized; it often erases many perspectives. It doesn't reflect the truth, of course, because it's a version that has an intent," says Francis. "History in that perspective is political. It's being taught to reinforce a certain view of the world; it's been taught to reinforce certain power structures."

Robertson, a musician and a founding member of the Hogan's Alley Society, adds that Black people were instrumental to the founding of B.C. but were treated as disposable once the cities began to grow and



▲ June Francis.

their stories excluded from history books. Much of Robertson's work is dedicated to curating Black history and art in a decolonial way.

Vancouver's Hogan's Alley was an area near the intersection of Main and Prior Streets in Strathcona which multiple generations of mainly African Canadian workers and families called home for decades. Also known for its restaurants, clubs, and other businesses, its heyday was in the 1930s and 1940s. The construction of the Georgia viaduct in the early 1970s displaced this community.

Black people have been in B.C. longer than many other non-Indigenous people. They arrived in British Columbia less than a decade after the founding of the Colony of Vancouver Island in 1849. More than 800 Black people came to the colony between 1858 and 1860, fleeing racial animosity in California and encouraged by the first governor of both Vancouver Island and



▲ Josh Robertson.

British Columbia, James Douglas. Considered the "father" of the province Douglas himself was of Black and European descent, the only person of non-white ancestry to govern B.C. until Ujjal Dosanjh became premier in 2000. And Douglas needed the support of colonial Victoria's Black community to achieve his political goals that were vital to the creation of British Columbia, says Francis.

Given how Black people in colonial Victoria affected the history of the province, Francis considers it very strange that the Black community in cities like Victoria are still relatively small. There are only roughly 5000 Black people in Greater Victoria which has a population of nearly 360,000.

"That strikes me as something extremely puzzling," says Francis. "Where did they go? What happened to them? Why did they not thrive? And why do we today see so few descendants of that group?" For B.C. as a whole, according to the 2016 census, more than 43,000 Black people live here.

Inclusion of Black history makes B.C. history accurate

"I think what was striking was the amount of Black folks who looked to B.C. for refuge from racial terrorism but often found that the British form of racism was not better but different," he says. "When we white-wash history that does not fit the roman-

ticized colonial narrative, we are missing an accurate depiction of the richness of our collective history."

For Robertson, the lack of recognition of the presence of Black history in school curriculum has an effect of Black Canadians.

"British Columbian history, even from the colonial founding, has had Black folks centrally contributing to our history," says Robertson. "The fact that very little of this is known or officially recognized is a major reason why Black Canadians continue to feel a lack of belonging."

He adds that Black people have played an important role in the history of B.C.'s labour movements as well forming Canadian federal unity and that history deserves to be fully included in a future B.C. curriculum.

"What I envision is a curriculum that both tells a decolonial history of these lands, giving importance to pre-colonial history," says Robertson, "as well as giving a full accounting from a Black and Indigenous lens of our rich history." ✍

For more information about June Francis, visit www.beedie.sfu.ca/profiles/JuneFrancis

For more information about Josh Robertson and the Hopes Meets Action exhibit, visit www.bcblackhistory.ca/hopes-meets-action



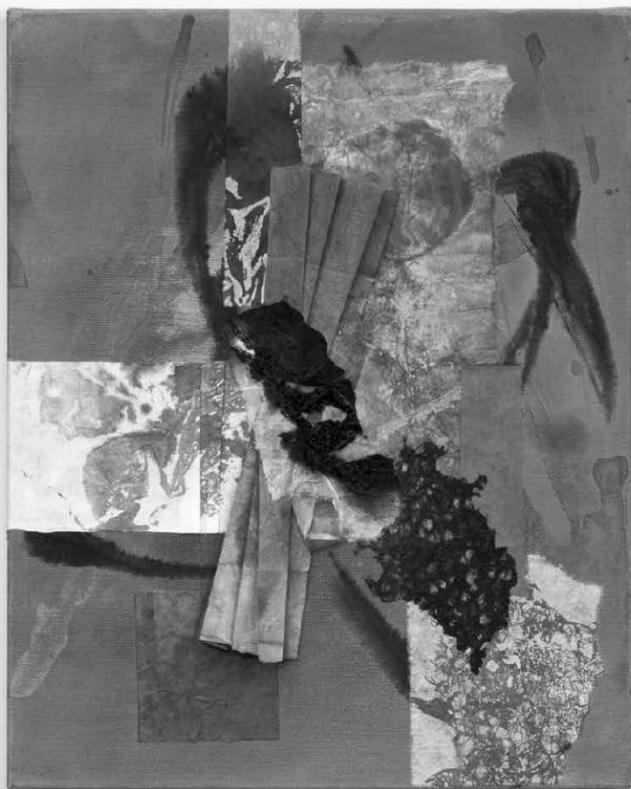
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Ed Hill – asking the right questions through comedy

by XI CHEN

"What comedy brings is the ability to ask the right question. I don't have the answers, I just have the stories, but I think people will find the answers through these stories," says comedian Ed Hill.

This year's Vancouver Taiwan Festival will host live comedy for the first time as part of its programs. The upcoming show, *Rethink Asia – dialogue through comedy*, will debut with Ed Hill, Aidan Parker, and Asian Canadian improv troupe Fistful of Kicks.

"The show goes with the festival theme of rethinking Asia for the past few years," says Hill "There have been a lot of stereotypes about what Asians are. The festival really tries to have a dialogue between different people and different cultures to show there are more similarities between us than differences. We also bring different forms of comedies [from standup to improv], so even comedy can be translated in different ways."

A dialogue through comedy

Hill, a seasoned comedian, has toured all over the world and won a number of accolades for his performances. This year he became the first comedian of Taiwanese Canadian descent to release a full one-hour comedy special titled "Candy & Smiley". The show is currently streaming on Amazon Prime and Apple TV and was named "Top 10 Comedy Special of 2021" by Paste Magazine.

He has also launched a new podcast with Aidan Parker ear-

an Asian, to be successful and to be an achieving individual, I shouldn't have certain weaknesses."

Hill chose comedy as a profession out of his desire to connect more deeply with people after working as a DJ. He cites the most rewarding aspect of his work is when he gets emails or when people come up to him to thank him for telling the story.

"Humour makes it digestible; people are not so on guard when it comes to the subject matter. Not everything has to be a debate with people going around looking for an answer when they don't even know what the question is," he says.

The son of Candy and Smiley

Humor is close to home for Hill, his parents named themselves Candy and Smiley after the family moved to Canada. His style is observational, satirical, and highly personal, drawing from everything he has lived, usually with a strong reference to his family.

"We all have a family. I am not just me; I am this unit that I am part of, who I am has been shaped by the people around me," he says, "When I did my first podcast, the son of Smiley, it was to record these childhood stories with my parents. I really just don't want to forget them."

Working as a professional comedian is not without obstacles and frustrations. He shares a pearl of wisdom from his father that kept him going.

"If you get to do something, you gotta do it to the end. What he means is you have to participate fully, either you win or lose; that doesn't matter. It is going to be worth it in the end;



▲ Ed Hill says that if you get to do something, you have to take it to the end.

lier this year named Model Mythology. Season 1 hosted nine guests of Asian descent from all walks of life. Season 2 has just started recording recently.

"We are kind of skewed to the model minority myth; we are still not the norm. That is what we are trying to do with the podcast, we are trying to break through, to show we are just people like everyone else," Hill explains.

He adds that the biggest impact of stereotypes is on the next generation when people are limited by their beliefs that there are things they are not supposed to be involved in.

"For example, I am not supposed to be an actor, these fields are not for me. It goes micro to mental health issues. As

that is what I carry to my whole life," he says.

As a man maturing into life and his profession, Hill is increasingly citing influences from women in his life such as his mother and his wife and the strength he draws from them. He hopes to explore further gender roles in his new comedic materials.

Rethink Asia – dialogue through comedy will run on Sept. 5 at the Annex. This year's Vancouver Taiwan Festival will kick off on Sept. 2 with a combination of in-person and virtual programming that will last for 10 days.

For more information, please go to: www.eventbrite.ca/e/rethink-asia-dialogue-through-comedy-2021-taiwanfest-tickets-166235800755

Photo courtesy of Ed Hill



Photo courtesy of Karishma Deo

Karishma Deo: an upcoming artist

by ISHA OHRI

Karishma Deo, an Indo-Canadian singer-songwriter with more than 85,000 followers on TikTok, has captured many hearts through her soulful renditions of classic Bollywood songs as well as mash-ups of Hindi and English songs. The artist will perform as part of the 5X Fest Blockparty at the Beaumont Studios, which runs from Sept. 17–19.

“[The festival] is iconic because it promotes South Asian music and supports both established and upcoming artists,” says Deo.

Her musical journey

As a child, Deo recalls that she was terribly shy, but music was the one thing that got her to

Hindi – and forms. Her classical Indian music training combined with her Western vocal training has allowed her to create a bridge between her two cultures, creating music is at the intersection of these two identities. This is something she feels many Indo-Canadians can relate to. For example, her song *Jhmo to the Rhythm* uses both English and Hindi lyrics.

Deo feels lucky to be surrounded by a supportive community of artists, where she can blend her Indian and Western cultures. She says social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram and TikTok are drivers of change and they provide opportunities for minority artists to have a voice and to collaborate.

“I believe that these opportunities can help to combat dis-

“My musical journey [and] experiences made me realize that music is where I find the most happiness and peace.

Karishma Deo, Indo-Canadian singer-songwriter

come out of her shell. Her parents put her in various music classes so she could be more involved and outgoing in her community, which Deo feels was the biggest blessing in her life, as she is now an outgoing, confident performer and able to express herself through music.

“My musical journey [and] experiences made me realize that music is where I find the most happiness and peace,” she says.

Deo is an emerging artist on both the North American and South Asian music scenes. She has performed with Canadian singer-songwriter Daniel Caesar at the 2018 Junos and with India’s top Bollywood singers Neha Kakkar, Sunidhi Chauhan, Atif Aslam and Sonu Nigam during their North American tours.

Although Deo has spent a lot of time working and collaborating with other artists, she still finds time to create her own original music. So far, she has produced and released two original songs with accompanying music videos. She notes that these successes did not come without challenges, so new artists just starting out need not be disheartened.

Deo’s advice for any young artist: “Follow your dreams and work hard at it.”

Cultural mashup

The artist notes that although Western and Indian music are different, they are both very rich and she can express herself in both languages – English and

crimination against artists of different ethnic backgrounds and cultures,” she says.

Deo says these sites are the grounds of cross-cultural music and new genres are constantly being formed. There are also clear ethical boundaries that have been set up due to the rise in popularity of social media. For example, the audience and the artist have ways of preventing discrimination on their platforms like blocking, reporting and turning comments off. Artists do not need to be subjected to cruel behavior and the platforms are in total agreement as seen through their community standards.

Deo is very excited to perform at 5X this year, and she is thankful for events focused on elevating South Asian culture.

“It is such an honour to be part of the lineup of amazing artists that are performing... and I am so stoked about it,” she says. ✉

For more information, please visit www.5xfest.com

Instagram:
www.instagram.com/karishma_deo/?hl=en

Tiktok:
<https://vm.tiktok.com/ZMRYspF1/>

Youtube:
<https://youtube.com/channel/UCtefXTnwVzMnc4aSUN5IHJA>

Spotify:
https://open.spotify.com/artist/3aSGfRaFaacCX8WXY8KMPp?si=sErdvNvGTdO6yxdc1sniQQ&dl_branch=1

Kelly Cannell - ʔəy̓xʷatəna:t
Angela George - qʷənat
Rick Harry - Xwalactun
Laiwan - 朱麗雲
Sarah Ling - 凌慧意
Lam Wong - 王藝林
Cease Wyss - T'uy't'tanat

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What would it be like to live in the ocean?

by SELIN OĞUZ

Compassion for nature and self, and enjoyment of the underwater culture to bring out questions and discussions is what artist Paula Nishikawara hopes visitors will consider walking through her current exhibition at the Vancouver Maritime Museum titled, *If I Lived in the Ocean*.

Running until Oct. 24, Nishikawara's exhibition is an immersive underwater experience right within the four walls of the exhibition room, demonstrating humanity's footprints on the earth and her own personal relationship with the ocean.

While paying a visit, people will be able to engage with the vast array of mediums Nishikawara works with against the 60-year-old backdrop of the Maritime Museum, which stands to shed light on the age-old relationship between humans and the sea.

"I hope that people will be jolted, in a way, to be able to look differently at the ocean and our environment," says Nishikawara. "I want them to think, 'If this artist can have these ideas in her head to create this, what can each of us individually do to be helpful or different?'"

Harnessing the power of art for change

Local and global communities at large are facing some of the toughest environmental chal-

lenges in the history of our humanity. With every passing year, climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss exacerbate, negatively affecting the most vulnerable communities and setting off chain reactions that have the power to affect many biological systems.

Through her art, however, Nishikawara hopes to weave together a hopeful environmental message.

"Art has this ability to have people think differently," she says. "Our lives have become so fast and so economically driven that we don't ask these deeper questions anymore. We are now facing all these crises and realizing that maybe we do need to take the time to ask, 'What would it be like if the ocean was my home?'"

Pondering such questions, the artist hopes to allow people to take away their own messages from the body of work.

Artistic influences

Nishikawara says her own artistic experiences and personal connection to nature continue to shape her creative body. In the exhibit, visitors can spot the artist's ancestral connection with Japan, along with anecdotes regarding her experiences in Berlin, Germany and Lagos, Nigeria.

"Berlin is such an amazing place to go if you want to do anything in the art world," she says. "I saw so much art and



Photo by Selin Oğuz

▲ Immersive art installation titled Plastic kelp beds can grow up to one foot a day.

what is possible, which has in turn shaped how I create."

One of the many different forms of art that Nishikawara employs is *Gyotaku*: a traditional Japanese art form developed in the mid 1800's. Before a camera was available to document a fisherman's catch at sea, Gyotaku was employed for record-keeping, which included some now-extinct species.

This Japanese art form is created by applying paint or ink on the body of a fish. Rice paper is then gently placed and rubbed on the inked-side to transfer an incredibly realistic image of it. The piece is complete with a hand-painted eye, background decorations, and artist signature signed with a seal or red chop made from stone.

Today, Nishikawara employs this technique to create beautiful images of sea creatures and incorporates them within her immersive and large-scale pieces that utilize a large variety of materials. The use of both natural and man-made materials, she says, highlights a polarity similar to that of the rhythm of life.

"The choosing of pieces for this exhibition was a really deep, reflective, introspective, creative process," says Nishikawara. "In the end, I just hope we can try as human beings to have a little bit more empathy and compassion, not just for nature and for animals, but for ourselves, too." ✍

For more information please visit: www.vanmaritime.com

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GRATUIT

September 1–21, 2021

Cultural Calendar

by SIMON YEE
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

September is here and it's back to school, but not quite back to normalcy. With the fourth wave here and rising COVID-19 case counts due to the Delta variant, we're not out of the woods yet with this global pandemic. As always, wash hands, wear a mask indoors and stay safe everyone!

* * *

Fort Langley Jazz Festival
Sept. 2–5
www.fortlangleyjazzfest.com

The Odlum Brown Fort Langley Jazz & Arts Festival is a not-for-profit organization whose mandate is to enrich cultural life in the Fraser Valley by bringing emerging and established jazz acts and visual artists to Fort Langley. The annual festival is typically held over the last weekend of July and draws thousands of residents and visitors to the streets of the community. The 2021 version of the festival was delayed to September and will feature a mix of limited capacity, socially distanced live shows and live streamed events. For a list of headliners for the festival, check out their website.

* * *

ScotFestBC: The British Columbia Highland Games
Sept. 3–4
www.scotfestbc.com

ScotFestBC – the British Columbia Highland Games & Scottish Festival – is held at Lafarge Lake Park in Coquitlam, just steps away from the Lafarge Lake-Douglas Skytrain station. Join the Scots for all the fun of a great west coast highland games, with pipe bands, caber tossing, lots of piping, dancing, singing, a whisky school, live Celtic music and more. Check out the ScotFestBC website for a complete and updated list of events and information.

* * *

Place des Arts Gallery Exhibitions
Sept. 3–Oct. 20
www.placedesarts.ca

Visit the Place des Arts Gallery as they unveil three new exhibits for the month of September. Check out the artwork of the teachers of School District 43, creative individuals who are dedicated to pursuing their own art practices in connection with, and outside of, their duties of teaching students. The atrium exhibit showcases Korean ceramics, pottery created in the traditional Korean style by the Clay for You artists. Vancouver-based visual artist Kiranjot Kaur will be showcas-



▲ ScotfestBC is held in a large, safe outdoor space.

ing Sovereign Elevations, featuring acrylics, inks and sculptures of the Sikh dastar headgear, an important component of a Sikh's identity.

* * *

Nikkei Matsuri – Mini Matsuri
Sept. 4–5
www.nikkeimatsuri.nikkeiplace.org

This summer, Nikkei Matsuri returns with Mini Matsuri on Sept. 4 & 5! Planning is underway for a scaled-down event with a health and safety plan. They plan to showcase Japanese dances and local artists – a complete list of events will be on their website. Follow them on social media to hear the latest updates.



▲ Nikkei Matsuri returns on Labour Day week-end.

* * *

Vancouver Fringe Festival
Sept. 9–19
www.vancouverfringe.com

This year, the Vancouver Fringe Festival runs from Sept. 9 – 19, and the opening night is on Sept. 8. The theme is renewal, working

to translate ideas into artwork. This year's festival is a hybrid festival: 15 in-person shows, two live stream shows and more than a dozen pre-recorded digital shows. Four venues on Granville Island are ready for this year's festival, including the Revue Stage, Ron Basford Park, Picnic Pavilion and Performance Works where a bar will be available for your enjoyment. For tickets and a list of show performances, check out the festival's website.

* * *

Light Up Chinatown!
Sept. 11–12
www.chinatownfoundation.org/light-up-chinatown

Light Up Chinatown! is a community event presented by the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation and the Vancouver Chinatown Business Improvement Area Society that kickstarts the return of friends and visitors back to Vancouver's beloved Chinatown, featuring live entertainment, food trucks, lights, decorations and more! The Light Up China-



▲ Celebrate Light Up Chinatown! with lanterns, food, entertainment and more.

town! lights and lanterns will act as beacons by creating vibrancy in the neighbourhood and a picturesque reminder of the unique and cultural history Chinatown holds. Check out the Foundation's website for more information.

* * *

F-O-R-M 2021
Sept. 13–18
www.f-o-r-m.ca

The Festival of Recorded Movement will be sharing movement-based films by youth and emerging artists for a sixth year. At F-O-R-M 2021, expect to see more exciting expressions and intersections of movement and film that embody community and culture. The festival will be sharing 20 short films from around the world, screening nine world premiere short films from the 2021 Commissioned Artists over two days (Sept. 17–18), and offering artist talks, workshops, technology and interaction and the signature FORMations filmmaking jam. Check out their website for more information.

* * *

Jody Wilson-Raybould in Conversation with Dana Gee
Sept. 15, 7 p.m.
www.writersfest.bc.ca

As one of the most high-profile political figures in Canada, Jody Wilson-Raybould's experience in Trudeau's Cabinet revealed important lessons about how we must continue to strengthen our political institutions and culture, and the changes we must make to meet challenges such as racial justice and climate change. Inspirational and full of integrity, Wilson-Raybould stood on principle at a critical juncture and resigned when the government failed to uphold its promises. Hear a riveting and timely conversation of this Fall's Festival on the power of change, and our capacity to implement it, as Wilson-Raybould is joined by journalist Dana Gee online to discuss her latest book.

* * *

We're Back! Gala Performance
Sept. 18, 8 p.m.
www.vancouversymphony.ca

Maestro Otto Tausk and the full Vancouver Symphony Orchestra will take you on an emotional journey of return to the historic Orpheum Theatre. With celebration, meditation, an eye to the future and nod to the past, the VSO will open a season like no other with this very special gala performance. Featuring Beethoven's Fidelio Overture, excerpts from Massenet and Berlioz, compelling new Canadian voices Dinuk Wijeratne and Barbara Assiginaak and closing with Tchaikovsky's powerful 5th Symphony, do not miss this once-in-a-lifetime season-opening gala performance.



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