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Pamphinette Buisa

From second-generation immigrant to top-notch Olympian

by XI CHEN

Pamphinette Buisa is a force to be reckoned with, both as a top-performing Rugby player and as a young female leader who is passionate about social justice.

Born in Canada to immigrant parents from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Buisa made her Olympic debut in Tokyo 2020 after joining the Canadian national team in 2014.

Currently, she is getting ready for the Paris 2024 Olympic games while expecting a jam-packed Rugby summer with two world cup games coming up among others.

She helped Team Canada win silver at the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing in 2014 and made her World Cup Sevens debut in 2018 in San Francisco. At the Lima 2019 Pan Am Games, she was part of the team that won Canada a gold medal.



Photo courtesy of Pamphinette Buisa

Determined to excel

Buisa got into Rugby almost by accident. She first started playing basketball and volleyball competitively when she was in middle school, but she was always considered a little too aggressive and got fouled out in the game. But a Rugby coach who was watching her play suggested she try out for the sport that allowed her to hit people without getting penalized. So, she went for it.

As the youngest person in her school's rugby team, she had to

overcome significant challenges in order to be part of the national team, including recovering from a shoulder dislocation injury.

"It was a tough journey to get on in the sevens program particularly. I had to convince not only my family but also my community to believe in the dream that I had that wasn't necessarily outlined for someone like me. Especially in our community, a lot of women don't really leave home until they're married, let alone playing competitive sport, or make a career out of the sport," she adds.

Buisa says what keeps her motivated is remembering the "why" of doing something particularly when she is going through physically and mentally taxing training. She cites her parents as huge inspirations for her.

"I'd say definitely my parents motivated me. Always. When they came to Canada, all their credentials were not recognized. I think just seeing what my parents had to navigate and how much grace they had. Also, they knew their whys, they knew that interacting with someone who was disrespectful is never a rea-

son why they came, they came here for a better life, and their presence in itself is a form of resistance," she says.

A passionate community leader

Outside of sports, she is also busy making waves as a community leader. Having a disabled mom and experiencing things through the lens of her parents, Buisa says she is also committed to ensure there is less discrimination in society and that there are more voices for people who face disadvantages or oppression in life.

"I study political science and social justice. I aspire to use those insights on power dynamics, on structures, on culture, to allow me to understand how it works. I think what I appreciate about social justice is that it requires interaction, and intentional engagement with community," she says.

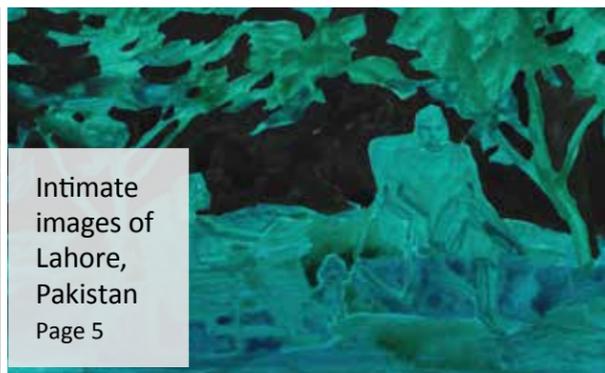
As a woman of colour in a male-dominated sport, Buisa says she has to fight for equality on multiple fronts.

"You are already dealing with how people understand what

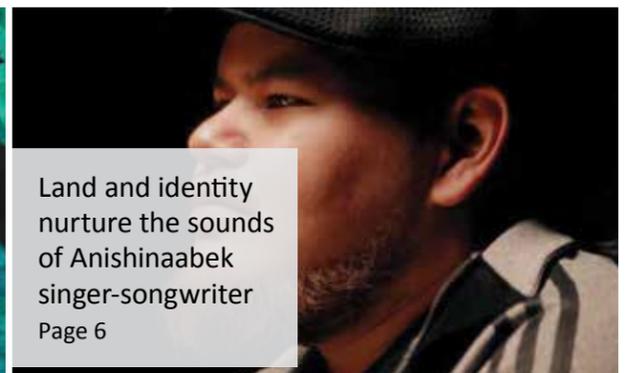
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200 Afghan refugees now call Vancouver home
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Canada welcomes over 200 Afghan refugees to Vancouver

STAFF WRITER

Canada is responding as quickly as possible to the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan by helping bring Afghan citizens and their families safely to their new home. We remain firm in our commitment to resettle 40,000 Afghan nationals, and our partnerships with provinces, territories and settlement service providers across the country are key to achieving this goal.

The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced that over 200 Afghan refugees landed in Vancouver last night. This marks the largest flight to date of Afghan nationals arriving in BC. Approximately 161 of them will start their new lives in Vancouver, while the other 48 will settle elsewhere in the country, where



▲ 7000 Afghan refugees have arrived in Canada so far.

they have family ties. This brings the total number of Afghan refugees who have arrived in Canada to over 7,000.

“Now more than ever, we are committed to welcoming vulnerable Afghan refugees in communities across the country. I am proud to welcome over 200

Afghan refugees to Vancouver, and heartened by the dedication and collaboration I witnessed as we help them settle into their new home. This milestone is one of many more to come in the months ahead, and I’m filled with joy to see how Canadians from coast to coast have opened their hearts and homes to their new Afghan neighbours,” says the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship.

Passengers on the charter flight, which departed from Islamabad, Pakistan, are primarily individuals whose employment involved a significant or enduring relationship with the Government of Canada, as well as their families.

Throughout this major venture, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has relied on the tremendous support of IRCC-funded Resettlement Assistance Program service provider organizations (RAP SPOs), which have delivered essential services for newcomers and refugees.

The new arrivals were greeted at the Vancouver International Airport by Community Airport Newcomers Network, a RAP SPO program provided by



▲ B.C. announced a \$2 million Refugee Readiness Fund last fall to help Afghans.



▲ It takes time for people to resettle and support is at the ready says Queenie Choo, chief executive officer of S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

S.U.C.C.E.S.S, a non-profit organization. This program provides winter clothing, arranges transportation and offers initial orientation to newcomers and their families.

“These Afghan refugees have gone through so much emotionally, physically and mentally before arriving in Canada. Our role at S.U.C.C.E.S.S. is to make sure they are physically healthy and mentally well and to support them to get settled in their new home. We do this by providing

settlement support, language training, affordable housing, job skills training, career services, and social services and community programs for vulnerable families, youth and seniors. It takes time for people to transition, and we are here to support the belonging, wellness and independence of people in all stages of their Canadian journey,” says Queenie Choo, chief executive officer of S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

Over the next few weeks, these refugees will receive support from the Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia (ISSofBC), a RAP SPO whose work is essential to helping refugees adjust to life in Canada. ISSofBC helps refugees find housing and provides information about finding a job, improving their language skills and living in Canada.

“The whole staff and volunteer team here at ISSofBC is proud and humbled to be working alongside IRCC, the BC government and our sector colleagues to welcome and support these newest Afghan arrivals and future Canadians as they start their settlement journey. I want to thank everyone involved for

their commitment, hard work and compassion,” says Jonathan Oldman, chief executive officer of ISSofBC.

In November 2021, the BC government announced the Refugee Readiness Fund, a \$2 million fund to help boost local services and supports for families resettling in BC due to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. The fund will ensure that communities in the province are ready to welcome and respond to the needs of Afghan refugees.

Since Afghan refugees first started arriving in Canada in August 2021, IRCC has been helping them connect with communities where settlement supports are already in place, giving consideration to whether they have family members in Canada, as well as the availability of schools, housing and language training.

The outpouring of support from Canadians for Afghan refugees to date has been incredible. Individuals and businesses looking to get involved through volunteering, donating, sponsoring or supporting the wider resettlement efforts

See “Afghan Refugees” page 7 ►



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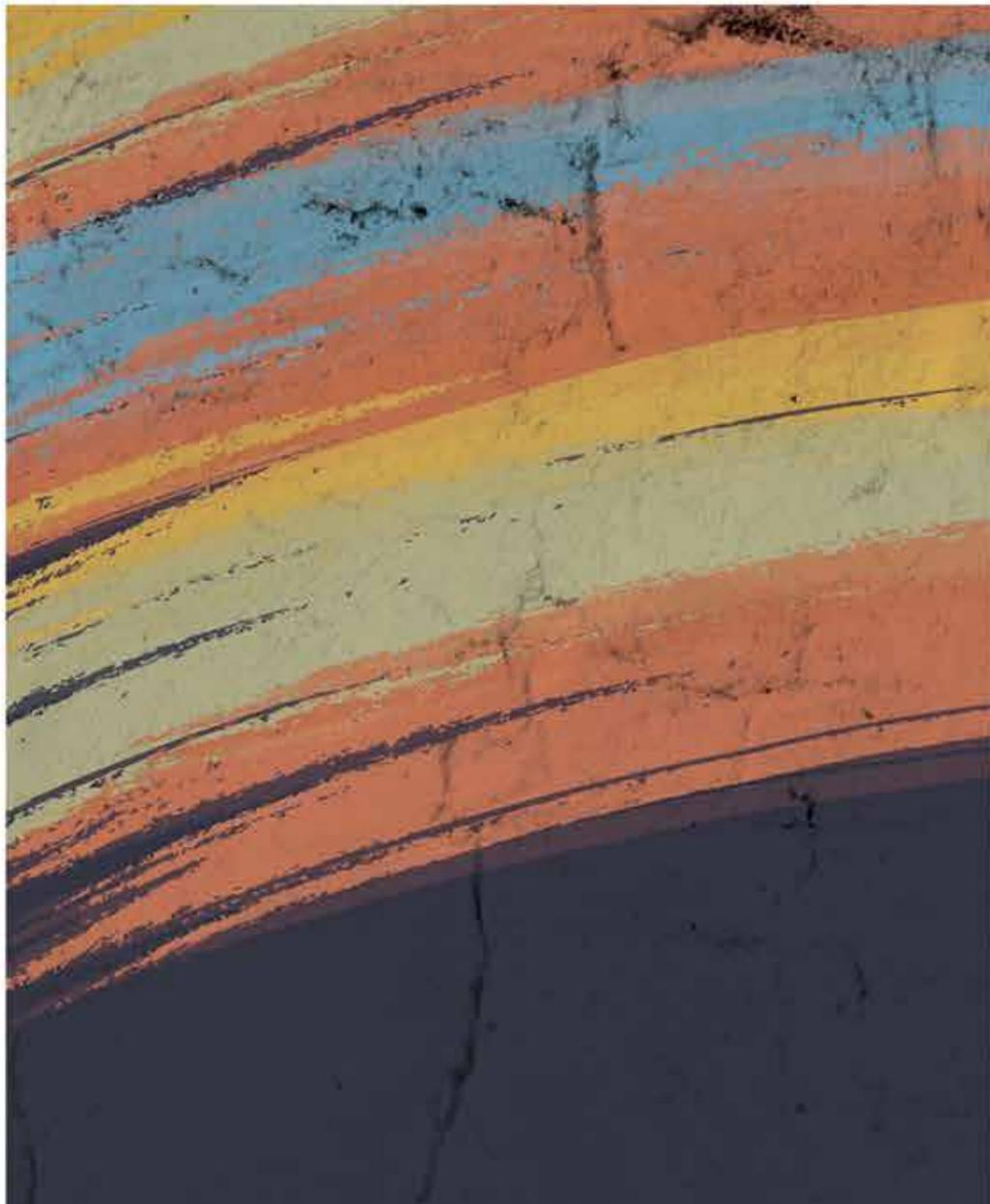
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BRITISH
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Opinion

Microlending to support skilled immigrants

The Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC) – Canada’s leading citizenship organization and the world’s foremost voice on citizenship and inclusion – has made a \$500,000 investment in Windmill Microlending’s innovative and highly-effective Community Bond program, helping 50 skilled immigrants build successful professional lives in Canada thanks to Windmill’s accreditation and upskilling loans.

“New immigrants don’t need more rhetoric about what a welcoming country we are. They need resources to carve out successful careers and lives here,” said ICC CEO Daniel Bernhard. “That’s why the ICC is proud to invest in Windmill Microlending’s proven loans that

to make this investment possible.”

“Canadians think of ourselves as a welcoming country – and we are – but in the global competition for talent and energy, we need to do more than talk a good game,” says Bernhard. “As economics, geopolitics and climate change drive increased migration worldwide, we call on individuals, business, government, and civil society organizations to join us as active participants in Canada’s welcome network. It’s time to step up to the plate.”

About the Institute for Canadian Citizenship

The Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC) is a national non-profit organization co-founded by The Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clark-

“Canadians think of ourselves as a welcoming country – and we are – but in the global competition for talent and energy, we need to do more than talk a good game.

Leonard Sumner, musician

ensure qualified new Canadians can be recognized for their talents and get off to a flying start in Canada.”

The partnership is a natural one. Through its Canoo mobile app, the ICC has helped over 425,000 immigrants establish their Canadian lives by providing free admission to over 1400 museums, science centres, art galleries, parks, and historic sites across Canada. As Canada’s largest and most successful microlending charity for skilled immigrants and refugees, Windmill converts potential into prosperity by offering low-interest loans to help skilled newcomers obtain the credentials they need.

“Windmill Microlending is thrilled for the support of the Institute for Canadian Citizen-

son and John Ralston Saul. The ICC works to inspire Canadians to be inclusive, create opportunities to connect, and encourage active citizenship. Since 2005, the ICC has also supported more than 425,000 new Canadian citizens with programming to encourage a sense of belonging and build a more inclusive Canada.

About Windmill Microlending

As Canada’s largest microlending not-for-profit for skilled immigrants and refugees, Windmill addresses underemployment of internationally trained professionals across Canada. By offering affordable loans up to \$15,000 to pay for launching or advancing their career, our clients are able to



▲ Newcomers need resources to carve out successful careers and lives in Canada here, says ICC CEO Daniel Bernhard.

ship, another great Canadian charity supporting the integration of immigrants,” said Claudia Hepburn, Windmill’s CEO. “ICC’s substantial investment comes at a time when Canada is experiencing a severe shortage of skilled labour. This loan capital will empower 50 skilled immigrants to acquire the accreditation they need to fill the skilled jobs. We are grateful to former Windmill and ICC board member Andreas Souvaliotis for his vision and role in bringing our organizations together

achieve career success and convert potential into prosperity for themselves and for Canada.

Founded in 2005, Windmill Microlending is a registered charity supported by donors, government, sponsors and granting agencies. ☎

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Source: The Institute for Canadian Citizenship

Photo courtesy of the City of Surrey



Seeing through adversity

by ELAHA AMANI

With humour, wit and a talent for storytelling, Canadian multidisciplinary artist Stéphanie Morin-Robert highlights her struggles of growing up with a disability in her award-winning one-woman show *Blindside*.

The show will be held in the evening of March 3 on Centre Stage at Surrey City Hall where audience members will be able to laugh along with Morin-Robert as she recounts her memorable third year in elementary school with a bit of a magical twist.

With a little help from a cat

When Morin-Robert was two years old, she was diagnosed with retinoblastoma, a type of cancer that soon took her left eye. She has been living with a glass eye ever since and retells her experiences with bullying, managing insecurity and building resilience in her various works, including *Blindside*.

Blindside tells the story of a little girl with a prosthetic eye who is forced to change schools because of her prospector father's diamond discovery. The protagonist struggles to adapt to her new life, and, as her family becomes distracted by their now lavish lifestyle, the hardships she faces at school go unnoticed. She is bullied for her disability by her classmates and cannot seem to stand up to them on her

own. Fortunately, her cat and her discovery of her superpower allows the protagonist to gather the courage, confidence and strength needed to ward off the bullies once and for all. Above all, she learns to come to terms with her disability and accept herself for who she is, a lesson Morin-Robert has carried with her throughout her entire life.

Blindside has received a handful of distinguished awards, such as 'Most Outstanding Production' from the London Fringe Festival and 'Best of Fest' from the Ottawa Fringe Festival. It has also received countless glowing reviews and recommendations, similar to her past works. Other performances of hers have won awards such as 'Best Cast' in London, 'Best Choreography' in Montreal and 'Best Physical Theatre' in Victoria.

Forging a multidisciplinary craft

Morin-Robert graduated from Concordia University with a degree in performance and contemporary dance. She was acknowledged for her clever methods of combining comedy with the art of dance, her innovative perspectives on choreography and her overall natural charm when it came to entertaining and moving an audience.

Morin-Robert was recognized for her considerable artistic talent during her high school years,

when she went on a four-year tour with Tout Feu Tout Flame, a Canadian musical theatre company. As a young adult, she played numerous leading roles for more than 24,000 audience members, a time which she now looks back upon fondly.

Since then, Morin-Robert has taken part in many well-reputed festivals, directed various five-star works and performed for Canadian audiences all across the country. Her vibrant and creative performance styles are praised by many, and she has everyone on the edge of their seat in anticipation for her upcoming show, *Blindside*.

Audiences can expect the same level of comedy, authenticity and warmth in Morin-Robert's future works, as well as look forward to watching her broaden her horizons with international shows. She recently received an American 0-1 visa, a nonimmigrant visa for individuals with remarkable ability in certain fields, one among them being the arts.

Audiences can also anticipate Morin-Robert diving deeper into serious themes in the future and creating a safe environment for them to be discussed in, as demonstrated by *Blindside* with themes of bullying and the at-times difficult path to self-acceptance. ✂

For more information visit:
www.surrey.ca/news-events/events/blindside
www.stephaniemorinrobert.com/blindside

► "Olympian" from page 1

femininity is, so having to just navigate that is already difficult. And you have things like equal pay and visibility. It's always an issue just being a woman in the sport, I think I like to see cultural competency within leadership. I think when there aren't a lot of people of colour in spaces of leadership, oftentimes it's difficult to make policies that are for people that you're intending to influence without them actually being in the room," she says.

Currently she is a member of Rugby Canada's BIPOC working group, assisting in the development of policies, training, and education to make rugby in Canada a diverse place free of racism.

Buisa helped to create Vancouver Island Steps Up to raise relief funds for people in the pandemic after seeing gaps between governmental financial aids and what disadvantaged people actually needed.

Among other achievements, she also co-organized a Peace Rally for Black Lives in Victoria in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd, where 9,000 people showed up to protest against racism and police violence.

Buisa also worked as a hotel outreach worker to provide cri-



▲ Pamphinette Buisa leading a Peace Rally for Black Lives in Victoria.

sis support for local residents and took on the role of a consultant for Decolonize Together.

"I was fully immersed in elite spaces, I was only around high-performance athletes, people with the same drive towards a certain lifestyle and goal. That was radically shifted when I worked at the hotel. I was working to transform it into a temporary housing shelter and got exposed to folks who are excluded from these experiences," Buisa tells of her personal journey in search of social justice.

Looking beyond oneself

Having had to travel extensively all over the world for Rugby games also allowed Buisa to develop a more profound under-

standing of the world beyond borders.

"I've met my cousin for the first time when I was on a rugby tour. I think the opportunity to meet some family and just get the insight into some of their realities has really humbled me and also pushed me to stay responsible with the privilege that I have," she says. "It made me see beyond borders that we may come from very different walks of life and understand life completely differently, but we are all humans existing on scarce resources".

Last Buisa adds that as we celebrate Black History Month in February, it is important to remember that black liberation and excellence should be paired with elevating indigenous sovereignty.

"It is important to remember that it's linked, that you can't have one without the other. Especially within the North American context, there was a lot of black slaves that were brought over but that was also at the expense of Indigenous land. While we elevate black excellence and all the amazing things that come out of this month and beyond, we should remember that we have to also keep elevating our Indigenous kins." ✂

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RACISM AND HATE HURT US ALL



Sara Khan: a new type of artist

by ISHA ORHI

Emerging visual artist Sara Khan is currently pursuing her residency at the Burrard Arts Foundation where she has been able to create new types of material strategies, perspectives and creations. Khan's exhibition, *Sanda Rd Key Dhund*, which translates to 'Mists of Sanda Rd,' referring to an area in Lahore, Pakistan, is currently on display at the Burrard Arts Foundation from Jan. 13 to March 19.

Khan was born in Birmingham, England but grew up in Lahore, Pakistan, which she says has had a huge influence on her artwork and is evident in her current exhibition. Her dedication and talent have been recognized by international organizations as she was one of 13 selected for a residency in Norway just four years after her graduation from the National College of Arts. In recent years, Khan was one of 23 artists selected for the 2018 Vancouver Mural Festival.

Sanda Rd Key Dhund

The exhibition shows the progression of different types of shadows, scenery and intense imagery, such as a woman with a rabbit in her womb. The strategies used to paint these types of images are new to Khan as she pursued wax crayon, oil pastels and cycling paints as opposed to just watercolor to capture the viewer's attention.

"These enigmatic scenes are accompanied and contrasted by sincere portraiture of friends and loved ones – both children and adults, their faces specific and conveying human expressions. Some images read like old



▲ Sanda Rd Key Dhund is an enigmatic and mysterious rendering of life in Lahore, Pakistan.

photographs, conveying an instant, inelegantly cropped and with faded contrast," states The Burrard Arts Foundation of her current exhibition.

According to Khan's website, Andrienne Fast, curator of Art & Visual Culture at the Reach Gallery Museum in Abbotsford, is very appreciative of this new exhibition.

"The co-existence of absence and presence provides a conceptual and aesthetic foundation throughout the exhibition. Khan makes strategic use of negative space to maintain this dynamic, using the edges of dense patterns of colour to demark silhouettes of human figures, trees and other shapes. In effect, she conjures the presence of these forms by rendering their absence, making the eye and mind

see what is actually missing," Fast says.

Past works

Khan has had numerous features in several exhibitions. Her first exhibition Suraj Kinare was featured in the Surrey Art Gallery in 2018.

At the time, curator Rhys Edwards stated the following regarding Suraj Kinare:

"Many of the works on display in Suraj Kinare, an Urdu phrase meaning 'at the edge of the sun,' feature a rich symbolism, alluding to the artist's efforts to navigate between the past and the future, or tradition and experimentation. Silhouettes, for example, feature throughout. These shapes are often vacant, but, in their outline, they tell us of what is missing: perhaps an



▲ Ghostlike, dreamy characters haunt Sara Khan's works.

architectural feature, or a person. In their absence, the memory of these entities touches upon and shapes everything they connect with. On other occasions, balconies, windows and doors open out upon distant vistas, suggesting the dream of escape – or, alternatively, a longing for home..."

Since then, Khan's work has been shown at Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre in 2018. She

also had the opportunity to feature her work in Lahore, Pakistan at the Gandhara Art Space with her piece *What is Seen and Not Seen, With or Without Seeing*. Her artwork has been seen in Danielle Krysa's book, *A Big Important Artist*.

Khan prides herself in scrutinizing the mundane activities of the world and their beauty or repulsion. She wants to attack these societal structures using different strategies such as watercolor.

Khan wants to communicate through her website the very common message: you didn't belong, but now you do or you did belong and now you don't. ✉

To learn more, please visit www.burrardarts.org/exhibit/sara-khan-sanda-rd-key-dhund

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Carving a bold musical space

by CURTIS SEUFERT

Music is engaging storytelling for Anishinaabek MC and singer-songwriter Leonard Sumner, who performs a mix of roots, country, and hip-hop. Sumner brings to the Chan Centre on March 5 his people's tradition of storytelling by speaking truth to his experience, and encouraging others to do the same.

"A lot of the storytelling time was done in winter. That was a time when you did all your work to ensure that you could survive through another winter and... keep yourself entertained," he says. "That's where people shared their stories, and that was obviously disrupted by colonialism."

When he first started making music, Sumner says there was a kind of responsibility placed on

of them never see the light a day," he says.

For his next album, Sumner is looking forward to a sonic mix of hip-hop and country, a bit like some of his older material. But for now, he's taking it one day at a time, moving through life, processing and making sense of it all before translating it into the musical form.

"I never know what to call it. I used to call it Rez Poetry, but

“My wife always says we're the experts in our experience, and so that's who should be telling the stories. It shouldn't be somebody else.

Leonard Sumner, musician

"It's super important to see Anishinaabek people telling their experience. My wife always says we're the experts in our experience, and so that's who should be telling the stories. It shouldn't be somebody else," says Sumner.

Navigating experience through music

Music has a deep and multifaceted importance in Sumner's life. To start, it's been a means of expressing himself and growing as a human being: whether that involves processing grief and moving forward, reflecting on the experience of love, or speaking truth to power.

But Sumner is equally as concerned with how his music reso-

his shoulders to carve out a bold space, speaking intently about his identity and experience. While Sumner insists that it's never felt like a burden, he's excited to see a bit more room for Indigenous artists nowadays.

"Now that there's a lot of new Anishinaabek or Indigenous artists that are coming up [and] maybe they don't feel like they have to have that weight. They can just make a song about whatever they want to sing about, which is very beautiful," he says.

A musical blend

Sumner says hip-hop, the genre that first got him into making music, has also seen a kind of transformation in the

I'm not really up from the rez anymore," says Sumner. "So it's kind of like a little bit of a new journey, even in the past couple years of fatherhood and the pandemic, and trying to figure out how to write music that isn't about sitting at home." ✉

For more information visit:
www.chancentre.com



Photo by Darcey Finley

▲ Music has a deep, multifaceted importance in Leonard Sumner's life.

nates and is received by others. It's not that he is trying to be a crowd-pleaser. Rather, he hopes his work and his art can shine a light on his culture and encourage others, whether it's his audience or his own family, to be able to engage with their identity wholeheartedly.

"It's super important for me to show my daughter that her dad is out there sharing our culture and my experience. She's gonna grow up, I hope, with a stronger identity from the start," he says.

For Sumner, given the historical and ongoing repression of Indigenous identity, culture, and experience, there's a unique meaning to be found in carrying forward the tradition of storytelling.

last few years: moving from an insistence on intricate bars and lyricism to a greater focus on emotion.

Sumner's latest album, *Thunderbird*, sees him return to a more hip-hop-focused sound as he processes his own emotions, including love and grief. And while *Thunderbird* represents a return to where he started, he notes that the spirit and vibe of hip-hop has been with him throughout his musical career, even for his more roots – and country – influenced albums.

"I [would] write to hip-hop beats and then I'll put it onto my guitar with some chords. So there's a lot of times where, for a lot of my rap stuff, there's two versions of each song and some

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MARCH 31, 2022
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ADMIT ONE MRG LIVE



Cà phê sữa đá

by JEN DELA LUNA

It's still rainy, windy, dark and cold out there and this recipe is a very simple one, one that will warm up any cold hands and spirit. If you've never tried it before, it's sure to become a staple for you this season (and, frankly, all year round).

The French introduced coffee to Vietnam in the mid-19th century, and the country's climate made it an ideal grower for the plant. By that time, milk was a common addition to the beverage in Europe, where fresh milk was easily acquired, but the lack of accessible fresh milk at the time meant that many resorted to using sweetened, condensed milk in their drink instead. The rich sweetness of the milk paired with bitter dark roast coffee creates the perfect contrast in flavours, which is why this way to take coffee, while originally born out of necessity has since become a preferred taste by many.

Getting your hands on a Vietnamese filter (called a phin) is ideal as it creates a stronger brew, however if you don't have it, a French press will do the trick. As well, getting traditional Vietnamese coffee (such as Trong Nguyen or Café du Monde brands) would be ideal as they have a different flavour all their own. Much like how condensed milk came in to use out of need, Vietnamese coffee often has chicory root blended in. Originally, chicory in coffee was used as a filler during times of shortage (such as during WWII), but now the flavour it adds to the coffee is so unique that it's become an added characteristic to this drink. If you can't find either at your neighbourhood Asian supermarket, a

dark roast coffee of your choice can be substituted.

Whether you have it hot or on ice, this drink is both balanced and very satisfying... and I bet it'll give your Double Double a run for its money. Enjoy!

Ingredients (1 Serving)

- 1 heaping tbsp Vietnamese coffee (already ground)
- 1/3–1/2 cup boiling water
- 2–3 tbsp condensed milk
- Ice (for a summer option)

Method

1. In a heatproof mug or glass, pour the condensed milk in. I would personally start with two tablespoons you can always sweeten it further after.
2. Prepare the coffee either using the phin or a French press. If using the phin, twist the filter in place and pour the coffee grounds in, followed by a few tablespoons of water. This allows the coffee to adjust before you pour the rest of the boiling water in.
3. Adjust the drip flow of your phin so that the full brew takes approximately 3–4 minutes. Any faster and the coffee will not brew properly, and any slower could result in an overly bitter mixture.
4. Allow the coffee to steep and drip directly over the condensed milk. The hot coffee "caramelizes" the condensed milk and adds a nutty flavour to the finished product.
5. Stir the mixture together and adjust the sweetness as desired.
6. Either serve immediately while hot, or pour the mixture over ice. Enjoy!

► "Afghan Refugees" from page 2 can learn more about how Canadians can help.

"British Columbia looks forward to welcoming Afghan refugees to our province. Our government's priority is ensuring every newcomer who arrives in BC has access to the services and supports they need to give them the best chance for success and prosperity. In rec-

ognition of the severity of the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, we announced a \$2 million Refugee Readiness Fund last fall to help Afghan refugees feel welcome and safe, and adjust to their new life in British Columbia," says the Honourable Josie Osborne, British Columbia Minister of Municipal Affairs. ✍

Source: Government of Canada

February 22–March 8, 2022

Cultural Calendar

by SIMON YEE
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Spring is almost here and the omicron wave is receding - hopeful signs as we head into March! The cherry blossoms will be in bloom soon and the longer and hopefully warmer days will encourage more activities outside the home. There are a lot of music, dance and film festivals happening, why not check some of the below out in the next few weeks?

Vancouver International Dance Festival
Jan. 21–March 26
www.vidf.ca

The Vancouver International Dance Festival (VIDF) celebrates its 22nd season with 35 live-streamed and in-person contemporary dance performances happening now until March 26. VIDF will offer unique cinematic experiences with free/by donation live-streamed performances from KW Production Studio. The 2022 VIDF Livestream Series features Marion Landers, Dance//Novella, and Company 605. Registration is required to watch. Check out the festival's website for more information.

The Living Room
Feb. 4–May 2022
www.centrea.org

The Centre A's first experiential project *The Living Room* will transform their gallery into a furnished living room space. Visitors will have the opportunity to sit down in their makeshift living room to watch a series of curated films and videos. By converting the gallery rooms into a (semi-)domestic space, they hope to demystify and challenge the oftentimes inaccessible, highly curatorial nature of a contemporary art gallery. Through this project, they hope to host a space in which visitors can reconnect with each other after

almost two years of isolation. There will be two series of films programmed. The first one, addressing reconnection, lineage and exile, will take place now until March, and the second series will run from April to May 2022. The second series is built upon an examination of Canada's role in the multicultural discourses in terms of inequality, intermediacy and extraction. Bringing together an array of approaches, through documentary or futuristic lens, this program points to the making of a nationhood and its discontents from a sociopolitical perspective.

28th Rendez-Vous French Film Festival
Feb. 18–March 31
www.rendez-vousvancouver.com

The annual Vancouver-based Rendez-Vous French Film Festival is happening now until March 31 and provides an opportunity for the British Columbia community to enjoy a rare slice of the award winning global Francophone film industry. All films are presented in their original languages with English subtitles unless otherwise indicated. Online films are geo-limited to viewers in B.C., Alberta and Yukon, with some limited access from elsewhere in Canada. For a complete list of films, check out the festival's website.

25th Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival
Feb. 25–March 27
www.vimff.org

The Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival will celebrate their 25th anniversary with a specially curated program that features both in-person and online options. They've lined up accomplished guest speakers, engaging workshops and panel discussions and over 50 films about climbing, snowsports, adventure, mountain culture, the environment and

more! There will be numerous World, North American and Canadian Premieres, showcasing powerful stories that will inspire your next adventure. For a complete list of films, check out the festival's website.

COM-PLIC-IT
March 1–13
www.jerichoartscentre.com

The Jericho Arts Centre will be presenting a Youtheatre Movement production, *COM-PLIC-IT* by Indigenous playwright Lee Jay Bamberg, from March 1 to 13. A compelling story of how a young Indigenous girl befriends an unsuspecting teenage Prairie boy, and together they explore how and why their paths are crossing even if it's only for 48 hours. This untold tale of identity and hope only skims the surface surrounding the hidden and Complicit Residential School era, circa 1960. For tickets and more information, check out the Jericho Arts Centre website.

Ballet B.C.: Reveal + Tell
March 3–5, 8 p.m.
www.balletbc.com

Ballet B.C. continues their season with an evening featuring three internationally renowned dancemakers. The program begins with the Canadian premiere of virtuosic creator Marco Goecke's intense exploration of love, *Woke Up Blind*. Next, experience *The Statement*, a striking and theatrical masterpiece from Crystal Pite - arguably the most sought-after choreographer in the world. The evening will conclude with an anticipated new creation from Ballet B.C. Artistic Director Medhi Walerski, *just BEFORE right AFTER*. Check out their website for tickets and more information.

Vancouver Jewish Film Festival
March 3–13
www.vjff.org

The Vancouver Jewish Film Centre (VJFC) will be hosting the longest-running Jewish Film Festival in Canada, showcasing the diversity of Jewish culture, heritage and identity through film. Since 1988, with the help of our generous community sponsors, the Centre has presented high quality comedies, dramas, thrillers, hot and timely documentaries and whimsical shorts. The festival is a community-building initiative intended to connect audiences through film and storytelling. As in 2021, the 2022 festival will be hosted online. Please visit their website for a complete list of showings.

Women of Note
March 4, 7:30 p.m.
www.earlymusic.bc.ca

This concert by Early Music Vancouver showcases the music of 18th-century female composers who, though forgotten or ignored by history, in their day shared the stage with and enjoyed the respect and friendship of composers we now regard as musical giants, including Haydn and Mozart. Like their male colleagues, these women were highly acclaimed both as composers and as performing musicians. They include the noted pianist and sought-after teacher Maria Hester Park; the star singer and playwright Amélie-Julie Candeille; the stateswoman, keyboard player, and opera composer Maria Antonia, Electress of Saxony; the master violinist Maddalena Laura Sirmen, who was trained at one of Venice's famous musical orphanages; and the virtuoso singer and pianist Marianne Anna Katharina von Martinez, a frequent duet partner of Mozart's, an influence on his compositional style, and a member of the prestigious Accademia Filarmonica in Bologna. Their music is brimming with the elegance and eloquence of the Classical era.

The Imitation Game: Visual Culture in the Age of Artificial Intelligence
March 5–Oct. 23
www.vanartgallery.bc.ca

The Imitation Game surveys the extraordinary uses (and abuses) of artificial intelligence (AI) in the production of modern and contemporary visual culture around the world. The exhibition follows a chronological narrative that first examines the development of artificial intelligence, from the 1950s to the present, through a precise historical lens. Building on this foundation, it emphasizes the explosive growth of AI across disciplines, including animation, architecture, art, fashion, graphic design, urban design and video games, over the past decade. Revolving around the important roles of machine learning and computer vision in AI research and experimentation, *The Imitation Game* reveals the complex nature of this new tool and demonstrates its importance for cultural production.

Ominous Sounds at the River Crossing
March 6–13
www.touchstonetheatre.com

The Touchstone Theatre will be presenting an adaptation of Canadian playwright's Jason Sherman's *Ominous Sounds at the River Crossing*. Six actors stand in the hot glow of the stage lights. Restless, bewildered, on edge. Another dinner party story is about to begin but something's different - the cultural tectonics are shifting, a new world is emerging, and the stage as usual is under siege. As new stories break ground, old tropes tumble down into the chasm. The real question is: when this surge of change abates, what - and who - will rise from the rubble? Pirandello meets Brecht meets the Twilight Zone. Ethics and art collide in this timely, darkly funny and existential play.

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FEB. 26, 2022 • 7:30 PM
ROGERS ARENA
TICKETMASTER.CA