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forum of diversity

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Photo courtesy of ExplorAsian

An eventful Asian Heritage Month

by XI CHEN

Celebrating North America's Asian Heritage, a plethora of Asia-related events are on offer this month ranging from art, music, literature, to talks and workshops.

ExplorASIAN Festival, being the main festival in town, alone is presenting a program of more than 60 virtual and in-person events for the public.

"We are really happy to see so many of the community partners getting right back at it as soon as we are organizing this year," says Jasper Yip, Executive Direc-

tor of Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society. Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society (VAHMS) is the main organizer behind the ExplorASIAN Festival.

The festival hosted a memorable opening ceremony on April 30 at SFU Harbour Centre, with speakers including the Mayor of Vancouver, the Vancouver Consulate General of the United States, the Philippines and the Republic of Indonesia. It also showcased a number of cultural performances such as Japanese Taiko and Indonesian Gamelan.

"A celebration today comes at a pivotal moment, given a significant rise in hate crimes in

both our countries. The attacks, harassment, blaming and scapegoating of our Asian friends and neighbours must stop and the U.S. Canadian governments will continue to work together under the roadmap for a renewal of U.S. Canada partnership, to advance diversity inclusion by supporting Asian American and Asian cultural revitalization, and by condemning systemic racism and discrimination," says Consul General D. Brent Hardt in his speech at the opening ceremony.

Some festival highlights

There will be an online artist showcase on May 28, which is

a collaboration effort between VAHMS Vancouver and Asian Heritage organizations in Edmonton and Manitoba.

"It is a cool project where each city produces a 15-minute video of artists and Vancouver artists are presented to a national audience," Yip explains. "And we also do a zoom interview with the artists and play their works and then the audience gets to interact with them."

VAHMS will also host a Community Awards Celebration on May 21 at PAL Studio Theatre. The event is to honour individuals and organizations who have made a contribution to Pan-

Asian Canadian communities. The celebratory evening will also include art exhibitions, auctions and musical performances.

The festival also coincides and includes another major festival in the city – the LiterAsian Festival, where Asian Canadian writers share and discuss their work in a series of talks and workshops with a focus this year on transforming their works from paper to screen.

For those who are interested in picking up a new hobby or skill from a different culture, there are a number of workshops to choose from, ranging

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Gender diversity added to data in Canada

by STAFF WRITER

In 2017, the Canadian government amended the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Canadian Criminal Code to protect individuals from discrimination and hate crimes based on gender identity and expression.



▲ The acceptance and understanding of gender and sexual diversity has evolved in Canada in recent times.

Prior to the 2021 Census, some individuals indicated that they were not able to see themselves in the two responses of male or female on the existing sex question in the census.

Since 2021, the specificity of “at birth” was added to the sex question on the census questionnaire, and a new question on gender was included. As a result, the historical continuity of information on sex was maintained while allowing all cisgender, transgender and non-binary individuals to report their gender, therefore addressing an important information gap on gender diversity.

For many people, their gender corresponds to their sex at birth (cisgender men and cisgender women). For some, these do not align (transgender men and transgender women) or their gender is not exclusively ‘man’ or ‘woman’ (non-binary people).

The role of the census is to provide reliable data for local communities throughout the

country and for smaller populations such as the transgender and non-binary populations.

These modifications are designed to reflect current reality regarding the evolving acceptance and understanding of gender and sexual diversity as well as an emerging social and legislative recognition of transgender, non-binary and LGBTQ2+ people in this country, including people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, Two-Spirit or who use other terms related to gender or sexual diversity.

These data can be used by public decision makers, employers and providers of health care, education, justice and other services to better meet the needs of all men and women – including transgender men and women – and non-binary people in their communities.

Of the nearly 30.5 million people in Canada aged 15 and older living in a private household in May 2021, 100,815 were transgender (59,460) or non-binary (41,355), accounting for 0.33% of the population in this age group.

The proportions of transgender and non-binary people were three to seven times higher for Generation Z (born between 1997 and 2006, 0.79%) and millennials (born between 1981 and 1996, 0.51%) than for Generation X (born between 1966 and 1980, 0.19%), baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1965, 0.15%) and the Interwar and Greatest Generations (born in 1945 or earlier, 0.12%).

Over time, the acceptance and understanding of gender and sexual diversity has evolved. Further, there has been social and legislative recognition of transgender, non-binary and LGBTQ2+ people in general. Younger generations may be more comfortable reporting their gender identity than older generations.

Canada is the first country to collect and publish data on gender diversity from a national census. ✨

Source: www150.statcan.gc.ca

In May 2021, the Canadian population aged 15 and older had an average age of 48.0 years. In comparison, the transgender population had an average age of 39.4 years, while the non-binary population had an average age of 30.4 years.

Just under 1 in 100 young adults aged 20 to 24 were non-binary or transgender (0.85%).

Nova Scotia (0.48%), Yukon (0.47%) and British Columbia (0.44%) had the highest proportions of transgender and non-binary people aged 15 and older among provinces and territories.

Victoria (0.75%), Halifax (0.66%) and Fredericton (0.60%) had the most gender diversity among Canadian large urban centres.

Just over half of non-binary people aged 15 and older (52.7%) lived in one of Canada’s six largest urban centres: Toronto (15.3%), Montréal (11.0%), Vancouver (10.8%), Ottawa-Gatineau (5.6%) and Edmonton (5.4%).

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Now is the time for Canada's feminist foreign policy

When Ukrainian and Russian representatives meet to attempt to negotiate a way out of the crisis, the absence of women from those tables is glaring. Yet research shows that peace accords are more likely to last when there is meaningful engagement by women.

This is exactly the moment a strong feminist foreign policy is needed most.

A feminist foreign policy outlines key principles about who needs to be at the negotiating table, like women peacebuilders who have deep community connections and a vested interest in building peace that is durable. And it would ensure our international actions are grounded in commitments to human rights, equality and human security.

In Canada, we still face a severe gap between promises and clear policy. For many years, we have heard that Canada has a feminist foreign policy. Four Foreign Affairs ministers have framed Canada's foreign policy in this way. Yet we have no guiding document or policy paper that outlines what this means and why this is important in a global crisis like the one we are facing right now.

Where is Canada's feminist foreign policy?

Budget 2022 provoked more questions with \$8 billion dollars in new defence spending along-

side silence on the promised feminist foreign policy.

New research shows us how much is at stake if we don't bridge the gender gap. Gender inequality correlates with instability and armed conflict. Autonomous feminist movements are key drivers of democracy. Understanding gender roles, relations and inequalities ensures a fuller picture of violent extremism.

Clearly a particular definition of masculinity informs Putin's self-image and his vision of the world.

This is all strong evidence that bringing feminist analysis into the heart of our understanding of global affairs is not merely 'value signalling' or woke-speak. It can make the difference between life and death.

In February 2020, the then Canadian Minister for Foreign Affairs, François-Philippe Champagne, committed to the development of a paper outlining Canada's feminist foreign policy commitments. Since then, there have been discussions but no paper.

With a lack of clarity comes a lack of action.

There are many definitions of feminist foreign policy. Sweden, the pioneer in this area, centres its policy around representation, resources and rights. Analysts push for a nuanced analysis that goes beyond just focusing on "women and girls," arguing that a "gender analysis" must includ-



▲ Canada lags in its promises to increase feminist foreign policy say Beth Woroniuk.

ing include men, boys and non-binary understandings of gender. Many activists put demilitarization front and centre.

With these differences, it is clear why the federal government needs to step up and outline what it sees as the priorities of Canada's feminist foreign policy, the actions it is committed to and the resources it will invest.

The world's response to the invasion in Ukraine is only the latest example that "old school" approaches to conflict resolution are not working.

It is time to bring anti-racist and decolonial analysis to international relations. It is time to bring more diverse perspectives to the table. It is time to ask questions about whose voices matter. This

includes going beyond the warriors and including people who have a vested interest in stopping the guns for good, including women building peace at local, national and international levels.

The benefits would be felt abroad and right here at home.

Advocates are quick to point out that a feminist policy encompasses more than armed conflict. It is about exploring "what makes us safe" in an increasingly fragile and interconnected world. It is about understanding the threats of climate change, pandemics and global inequality – and the many ways these threats intersect.

It is about asking what values we stand for as Canadians.

It is about re-examining power and structures in the

global system. It is about ensuring that we do not talk principles and peace at the United Nations and then support arms sales and companies guilty of environmental destruction.

A feminist foreign policy is not a luxury that Canada turns to when times are good. It is precisely in this moment of crisis that a clear statement of guiding principles is needed. We have evidence of the relevance and potential impact. We have calls from activists. Now is the time for a clear roadmap with concrete steps for implementation. ✍️

BETH WORONIUK is Policy Lead at the Equality Fund.

Source : QUOI MEDIA GROUP

Photo courtesy of QUOI Media



HERE FOR NOW vol. 3

HERE FOR NOW vol. 3

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Photo courtesy of the United Nations



Making bees matter

by STAFF WRITER

Cities are increasingly important refuges for critical pollinators, including bees. May 20 has been designated World Bee Day and home gardeners have their part to play in their survival.

According to the Nature Conservancy, Canada has over 800 bee species (450 species in British Columbia alone) from carpenter bees to sweat bees. Climate change, pesticide usage, habitat loss and parasitic diseases have contributed to an ongoing decline in both wild and managed pollinators.

Worldwide, 35 per cent of crop production depends on pollination. Bees and other pollinating insects play a crucial role in populations' overall quality of life, yet urbanization has come at a cost to many insects, including bees. A rapid shift away from rural life has disturbed their habitat, making it more difficult

for them to find enough food to survive. With the decline of pollinators and bees in particular, follows the decline of plants that depend on them for reproduction.

However, new research contradicts the belief that urban areas are inherently bad for biodiversity, especially when it comes to pollinators and cities must step in, in order to improve the livability of all pollinators.

In a large-scale study of 360 sites over two years – published in Nature Ecology and Evolution – U.K. researchers found that urban land can contribute to strong pollinator populations when done purposefully and in a correct manner: by putting pollinator conservation at the heart of urban planning.

Urban pollen hunting

U.K. research has demonstrated that home and community gardens are among bees' favourite places to collect pollen, as they offer a wide range of fruit, flow-

ers and vegetable flowers. The study also found urban gardens often attract up to 10 times more bees than places that would be typically considered bee havens: nature reserves, parks, cemeteries and other public green spaces. But bees are unable to thrive in environments consisting mostly of trees and turf.

Gardens in more affluent neighbourhoods also tend to have a greater number of pollinators due to a more varied assortment of plant life, especially flowers.

Knowing just what type of plants and flowers attract bees can help city dwellers get the formula just right and ensure successful pollinator-friendly gardens.

Plants that are usually considered weeds, such as dandelion and clover, can, in fact, help support bees. Dandelions are often the first flowers bees feed on in the early spring.

Better garden management, such as planting native flowers

adapted to the local climate and ensuring pollinators can access a wide variety of flowers from spring through fall, can have a major impact on pollinators' survival.

What's happening closer to home?

According to the David Suzuki Foundation, Canada's pollinators' situation has been made more complicated by the presence of the European honeybee, an introduced species managed like livestock. Although they are good pollinators, many of Canada's native bees have proven more effective but are often ignored.

In the Vancouver area, there are many bee lovers and a few organizations were founded in order to help urban bees survive. Hives for Humanity (H4H), a non-profit organization in the Downtown Eastside, is one of them. Through inclusive and supportive programming, their mission is to connect communi-

ty through nature, bees and the culture of the hive.

On Vancouver Island, Plan Bee Now is also on a mission to save the bees. Their aim is to create 'bee pastures' by restoring large areas, lost to past development, assuring a foundation of food security and ecosystem health.

They also apply bee-friendly technology to lawns, gardens, parks, boulevards and rooftops including integrated city block and apartment planting projects. In rural areas, they apply pollinator-friendly technology to farm hedgerows, field borders, intercrop, rotations and cover crops.

Through small, simple acts to better manage urban yards and green spaces, people can help sustain the pollinators that sustain them. 

For more information please visit: www.davidsuzuki.org/action/canada-must-ban-neonics-now www.hivesforhumanity.com www.planbeenow.ca

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DOXA Festival

Hello World presents new questions on what it means to be queer within the schooling system

by RAFAEL ZEN

“When I was young, not even Elton John was openly gay. Today there are many gay celebrities in the media. So why are kids and young gay teenagers still afraid of telling others who they are, I ask myself in the beginning of this project,” says Norwegian film director Kenneth Elvebakk about his documentary *Hello World*.

Based on four queer characters between the ages of 12 and 16 that go to the same secondary school in Norway, *Hello World*, featured at the 2022 DOXA Documentary Festival, questions: what is it really like to be the only open queer person in the whole school?

In the production, streaming at the 2022 Doxa Documentary Film Festival, an online film marathon presented between May 5–15 by The Documentary Media Society of Vancouver, viewers follow the lives of four teenagers through secondary school, experiencing nuances of what it is like to grow up queer in Norway today.

To Elvebakk, what is special about this film is that his interviewees are as young as 12 and 13 years old when the film starts, and the viewer is invited to observe how the world around them reacts when you – at such a young age – want to be open about who

veal my secret,” he says “When I moved to Oslo to study, it became easier to be myself. It was also here that I met my first boyfriend, made queer friendships and participated in my first Pride parade. In *Hello World*, it became important to capture the feeling of happiness in the faces of young people participating in Pride. In those pictures I can recognize my own feeling of happiness.”

New nuances to queer politics

According to Elvebakk, feeling left out is something folks may all have felt at one time or more in their lives. That is why, for him, this film is an invitation to viewers to show themselves, to express themselves, to dress the way they want without prejudice, and without even thinking about gender. Queer, then, becomes a synonym of liberation, humanity, and happiness.

Analyzing social and political events such as the “Do not say Gay” bill in Florida, or the negative development of right wing policies in Russia, Hungary, and Poland, the director warns: political leaders do not always want the best for all citizens – and historically not for LGBTIQ+ populations.

“Even though we are experiencing more and more acceptance globally, it is also more and more clear that some people are fighting for the opposite, and some are willing to



Photos courtesy of Nils Peter Lotherington and Euglene

▲ “Being able to give kids positive queer role models at the same age is important,” says director Kenneth Elvebakk about *Hello World*.



Photos by Lars Erlend Tuboas Øyving

▲ 12 years old Runa at the Pride parade in Oslo, 2017

you are and how you manage to express yourself.

“Being able to give kids positive queer role models at the same age is important,” says the director. “If we start working on diversity already in kindergarten, it can create children who become more confident about who they are. Then we can get rid of the concept of ‘coming out of the closet’. It is a long way to go, but I think it is important to show kids that it can be ok to be young and queer,” he adds.

In 1972, as a child, Elvebakk knew already that his sexuality was an issue in his country. One year before starting in elementary school, it became legal to be gay in Norway. However, legal did not mean that it felt normal to be queer.

“I spent my teenage years in fear that someone would re-

use violence” he argues. “I’m also getting threats because of this film. Fortunately, none of the young people have received threats. But we train them and prepare them, even though no one should experience threats because they are themselves.”

For those who watch *Hello World*, the stories of Dina, Runa, Viktor and Joachim make clear how these individuals have come a long way in their process of daring to be openly queer – and therefore themselves.

“It was important to find characters who were confident. Although it is noticeable that they are so much more informed than I ever was as a 13-year-old kid, they still find it difficult to be openly queer,” says Elvebakk. “The world around them may not be ready to receive them with open arms. That is why we still need to defend diversity, and create an environment at all schools that feels safe for everyone.”

Watch films at the DOXA Festival

Films to be streamed at the DOXA Festival will be available from May 5 to May 16 through the website: www.doxafestival.ca. To purchase tickets for *Hello World*, click here: <https://doxa22.eventive.org/films/6247453eb0f84a0095c54122>

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Hip-hop in the digital age

by STAFF WRITER

Curated by Mark V. Campbell, *Still Tho: Aesthetic Survival in Hip-Hop's Visual Art*, an exhibition presented by the Canada Council for the Arts features artwork by 13 cross-disciplinary artists from across the country, including from First Nations, Métis, and racialized communities.

Still Tho features the work of visual artists from across Canada and beyond whose creativity speaks to the impact of hip-hop's visual art on both Canadian culture and visual aesthetics in a digital age.

Although held at the Ajagemô art space in Ottawa, art lovers across the country can access the curated tour of the exhibition online until May 23, 2022.

A bit of hip-hop culture

In his curatorial statement Campbell describes *Still Tho* as “an ode to the visual artists in Canada who shaped hip-hop culture and its aesthetics. Through their art, they have placed justice front and centre to inspire social change at home and around the world”.

“Still tho”, he says, refers to a common expression in hip-hop culture highlighting the hip-hop artists' perseverance, overcoming numerous barriers to make art and build community.

Aside from the four foundational elements of hip-hop culture (bboying, djing, emceeing, and aerosol art), says Campbell knowledge of self is for many the fifth foundational element. Knowledge of self as a heightened

awareness of self in relation to the oppressive and discriminatory power of social institutions and processes, vibrate throughout the exhibition. Several works explore and take inspiration

In *Still Tho*, mixed media works are used to explore how hip-hop's visual artists have stitched together historical, nostalgic, and archival elements in order to leave a tangible legacy.

whom justice unequivocally remains central, says Campbell.

About the curator

Mark V. Campbell is the founder of Northside Hip-Hop Archive. A

of archival items and artistic works related to Canadian hip-hop, such as *The T-Dot Pioneers Trilogy* 2010–2013, *Mixtapes: Hip-Hop's Lost Archive*, ...*Everything Remains Raw: Photo-*

“ Through their art, they have placed justice front and centre to inspire social change at home and around the world.

Mark V. Campbell, curator

from the height of knowledge of self in hip-hop from the late-1980s to the mid-1990s.

While some aspects of hip-hop's early years in the late-1970s and early-1980s have been well archived, says the curator, visual works from that period were mostly temporary. Artists will often overwrite one another's graffiti, leaving the natural elements to destroy outdoor murals.

These works represent a diversity of visual arts practices and media, including graffiti murals, mixed media, and dance videos. Last but not least, the exhibition highlights the lasting impact of hip-hop's visual art on both Canadian culture and visual aesthetics in our digital age.

Altogether, these works exemplify how hip-hop's socially conscious past continues to animate today's generation of artists for

living archive, it is a digital collection of hip-hop history and culture. For two decades in the Toronto hip-hop scene Campbell has been operating from a community engaged praxis as both a DJ and a curator. From 1998 to 2015, he DJ'd on the *Bigger Than Hip-Hop* radio show, and in 2010 he launched the Northside Hip-Hop Archive, opening the way to several curatorial jobs, including curating several exhibitions

graphing Toronto Hip-Hop Culture from Analogue to Digital.

The exhibition *Still Tho: Aesthetic Survival in Hip-Hop's Visual Art* is inspired by Northside Hip Hop, a digital collection of Canadian



▲ EGR Art on Vintage Spray Cans by EGR, 2007, acrylic paint, metal.



▲ Spray Can Carving by Corey Bulpitt, 2020, sprayed paint on wood.

hip-hop history and culture. After more than ten years in operation, Northside is turning its focus to the visual aspects of hip-hop culture whose ephemeral and temporary nature often make them difficult to archive. For more information please visit: www.canadacouncil.ca/about/ajagemo/still-tho#gallery

► “Asian Heritage Month” from page 1 from Japanese Taiko, Japanese flower arrangement, Indonesian gamelan to Indonesian Batik making.

The festival is also doing a collaboration with a podcast called Filipino Fridays according to Yip.

“They are hosting a series of Tiny-Desk-concert style performances that are going to be recorded. So there will be a dozen artists that are performing and being interviewed for this series,” he adds.

Yip, also a musician and podcast host himself, says he was first drawn to the festival because of his interest in engaging with community art.

“During my time as an artist, it's been entirely self-taught. I taught myself how to play music, record music and play on stage. And I relied on community support for just doing so. Working at the radio station, it's kind of

the same, we're really interested in the whole purpose of the place to provide opportunities for people to engage with media and radio publishing” says Yip. “So I was interested in the festival because it aligned with that interest. I am also half-Chinese and I was raised in Vancouver. I also thought it would be a really good opportunity to connect more deeply with the Chinese side of my heritage that I have not had a lot of opportunities to.”

Exploring Asian heritage

The festival, aligning with its heritage purpose, also has a number of events in store that shed light on Asian Canadian history and culture.

British Columbia: An Untold Story, made by Canadian filmmaker Kevin Eastwood will be screened in its entirety at Hon Hsing Athletic Club of Vancouver on May 29. Through intimate

interviews and valuable historical footage, the four-part documentary explores the lives of migrants shaping B.C. including Chinese, Japanese and Punjabis, among others.

The screening will be preceded by a virtual talk on May

27 where the filmmaker discusses with Japanese interviewees in the documentary the hardships that migrants endured and the resilience they demonstrated in the not-so-distant past in B.C.

The U.S. Consulate will also host a panel discussion

with VAHMS about the shared Asian heritage between the U.S. and Canada on May 13 in a virtual talk.

There are also four cross-cultural walking tours this month exploring the rich and layered history of Vancouver's oldest neighbourhoods such as Chinatown. The in-person tours are already sold out but the public can still join a virtual tour with a guide on May 11.

“There are so many great organizations that are just doing amazing things. We are just trying to give all of them a platform and put them all in one place. I would really like to encourage people to spend some time with the program and get to know what's in there because there's so much on offer,” Yip concludes.

For more information, please visit: www.explorasian.org



▲ Jasper Yip, Executive Director of Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society.



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ISLAMOPHOBIA

Onstage Conversations 2022

Ethics of Citizenship and Identity



Host: Dr. Aryn B. Sajoo
Scholar-in-Residence,
International Studies
Simon Fraser University

How do we belong in common spaces – as individuals and communities – with diverse secular and religious traditions?

Amid an “irrational fear of Islam” (Islamophobia), what does pluralism entail for civil society and the state?



Dr. Ulrike al-Khamis
CEO & Director,
Aga Khan Museum
Ismaili Centre Vancouver,
March 26, 11:00 am



Dr. Anver Emon
Professor of Law
and History, University
of Toronto
SFU Harbour Centre,
May 14, 11:30 am



Dr. Mohammad Fadel
Professor of Law &
Religion, University
of Toronto
Ismaili Centre Toronto,
June 18, 11:00 am



Dr. Jasmin Zine
Professor of Sociology
& Muslim Studies, Wilfred
Laurier University
Ismaili Centre Toronto,
September 17, 11:00 am



Dr. Kamal Al-Solaylee
Director, UBC School
of Journalism, Writing
& Media
Ismaili Centre Vancouver,
October 22, 11:00 am

iicanada.org/2022conversations

Special thanks to:
Simon Fraser University's
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External Relations;
School for International
Studies;
Centre for Comparative
Muslim Studies;
Dr. Catherine Dauvergne.

Recipe



Weekday Okonomiyaki

by SELMA VAN HALDER

The word okonomiyaki can be translated as: grilled ‘whatever you like’. Japanese comfort food at it’s best, these savoury pancakes can be whipped up easily for a nice weekday meal with the do-it-yourself component of adding the toppings at the table. There are several versions of Okonomiyaki, originating in different areas of Japan. Most famous are the Kansai (Osaka region) and Hiroshima variations of the dish. My version is easy and leaves lots of room for creativity. The possibilities are endless. As long as you hold on to the cabbage, the batter and the basic condiments, you can switch the other ingredients up and add filling and toppings as you like.

Ingredients

- 1 cup flour
- salt, to taste
- 1 cup dashi (Japanese broth, homemade or from dashi powder)
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 1 small green cabbage, shredded
- 1 cup raw shrimp, chopped
- 4 slices bacon, cut in half inch strips
- 3 eggs

Toppings

- Spring onion, finely sliced
- Katsuobushi (Bonito flakes)
- Japanese Mayo
- Okonomi sauce (homemade or store bought)
- Shredded nori

Method

1. Mix the ingredients for the batter together: flour, salt, baking powder, and dashi. Place the mixture in the fridge.
2. Then, chop the shrimp and shred the cabbage. Green or Chinese cabbage will work well. Cut the bacon into strips.
3. Mix the cabbage, bacon, eggs and shrimp into the batter.
4. Heat up a lightly oiled non-stick frying pan to medium and scoop about one ladle of the mixture into it, flattening the okonomiyaki a little bit.
5. Cook on one side covered for about 5 minutes, then flip and cook uncovered until golden brown on both sides and cooked through.
6. While the okonomiyaki are cooking (you can fry off several at a time, depending on the size of your pan), prepare the toppings. Chop the spring onion into slices. Let everyone choose their own toppings for their okonomiyaki, place them on the table.
7. Serve warm and top with the ingredients of your choice. Itadakimasu!

RACISM AND HATE HURT US ALL



Cultural Calendar

May 10–24, 2022

by SIMON YEE
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

It's already May and there will be plenty of shows and events to attend this month. Visit exhibits and talks to stimulate your intellect, watch plays and musicals to excite your senses, and check out parades and food festivals to tickle your taste buds! Take a look below for some of the activities happening around town this month.

* * *

Screwball Comedy

May 10–14
www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca

The Evergreen Cultural Centre will be putting on a production of *Screwball Comedy* by the Royal Canadian Theatre Company. Hilarious Hollywood stereotypes, sizzling, super-fast dialogue plus a rather suspect murder mystery colour this affectionate and brilliantly realised spoof, written by one of Canada's own most successful and popular playwrights, Norm Foster. For tickets and more information, please check out the Evergreen website.

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LivePerformance360's VR Salon

May 11–14
www.digibc.org/events/boca-del-lupus-liveperformance360-series-vr-salon

This May, Boca del Lupo will be presenting VR Salon with two suites of work from inspirational creators working within immersive mediums. Curated with an eye to stimulating the imagination of both audiences and local artists, these four projects highlight what VR does best. LivePerformance360 explores the intersection of contemporary performance and immersive technology with VR work from around the world. Check out the DigiBC website for tickets and more information.

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A Sound Like This: Chor Leoni & The Leonids

May 12–13, 7:30 p.m.
www.chorleoni.org

The Leonids – made up of some of the finest singers in North America – are already making a buzz in the choral world. The debut program of this dream team ensemble features phenomenal works, new commissions and collaborations with Chor Leoni, making this a double-feature of the very best of choral music. Check out the Chor Leoni website for tickets and more information.

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Romantic Violins

May 13–14
www.kaymeek.com/events/romantic-violins-live-0514

The Kay Meek Cabaret Series will present Romantic Violins on May 13 and 14. This fabulous evening of romantic music will feature Lache Cercl, a national treasure in his native Romania and virtuoso of Roma Jazz violin, who now makes Vancouver home. His 'Roma Trio' features Stephen Nikleva, guitar and Sam Soichet on bass. To round out the 'Romantic Violins', veteran jazz violinist Kit Eakle will join Cercl in creating a truly 'Romantic' atmosphere to the evening while pro-



▲ Coming to the Vancouver Convention Centre Jurassic Quest is sure to awe visitors of all ages.

viding some distinctive swinging sounds of his own. For tickets and more information, please visit Kay Meek's website.

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Jurassic Quest

May 13–15
www.jurassicquest.ca

You're gonna need a bigger weekend! Jurassic Quest will be coming to the Vancouver Convention Centre from May 13 to 15, featuring world-famous, life-size dinosaurs that are meticulously painted and animated to be realer-than-real. Whether you're 3 or 103, this is a one-of-a-kind experience you'll never forget. Kids can ride a dino, explore bounce houses, create dino crafts, dig for fossils and more! For tickets and more information, check out their website.

* * *

TJ Fest

May 14–15, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
www.tianjintemple.org

Enjoy a festive weekend with family and friends and young ones. Try some delicious authentic Taiwanese street food, immerse yourself in inspiring multicultural performances and win prizes from family-friendly games! This year will be the 10th annual TJ Fest, a hugely popular free community cultural event that showcases the multiculturalism and diverse backgrounds of Metro Vancouver, experienced through amazing outdoor performances. There will be free carnival-style games and activities for family and children to play and have fun for the entire day.

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Weaving Femininity into Mysticism: Rereading Parvīn I'tiṣāmī's "God's Weaver"

May 14, 4 p.m.
www.asia.ubc.ca/events

The Institute for Asian Research at UBC will be hosting a talk by Monash University Research Fellow Behnam M. Fomeshi, who will be discussing the work of Parvīn I'tiṣāmī (1907–1941), the first important twentieth-century woman poet of Iran. Her knowledge of English language and education at the American school for girls as well as her father's translations from foreign literatures contributed to her appreciation of the modern ideas, including women's rights. Unlike some of her contemporaries in the early 20th century who tried

to revolutionize the form of Persian poetry, she expanded the potentiality of poetic language in its traditional forms. I'tiṣāmī's profound knowledge of mystical Persian literature and her awareness of gender inequalities as well as her familiarity with Western literature, particularly Walt Whitman, contributed to introducing a character in the poem "God's Weaver", a spider who possessed characteristics of a female and those of a mystic. Through this character, I'tiṣāmī formed an association between femininity and mysticism; challenged the patriarchal system, particularly, the patriarchal discourse of Persian mysticism; and the lethargy of the (mostly male) mystics.

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Here for Now vol. 3

May 20–21
www.herefornowperformance.com

Here for Now is a cross-disciplinary art event that hosts boundary-pushing experimental work in unconventional spaces. Now in its third iteration, Here For Now is excited to bring this collection of live performances to Slice Next Door on 1636 Venables St, a new co-producing venue known for their community programming in East Vancouver. For presale tickets and a complete list of performances and performers, check out the Here for Now website.

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Turkish Tunes

May 21, 6 p.m.
www.facebook.com/TurkishCanadianSocietyVancouver

Turkish Tunes is a community music event presented by the Turkish-Canadian Society. The first Turkish Tunes took place in 2009. This is a volunteer effort of the Turkish community in B.C. to showcase the rich musical genres from Turkey. The local musicians who play Turkish music are promoted. The stage program includes examples from classical music, folk music, pop music and more. Dance performances are additional treats and at the end, the floor is left for the DJ and dancers! Alcohol will be served at the cash bar (over 19 years of age) and there will be delicious Turkish food!

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Fort Langley's 100th Annual May Day Parade

May 23, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
www.maydayfortlangley.com

On May 23, Fort Langley will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of May Day. Fort Langley will be planning to have a bigger and better parade which kicks off at 11 a.m. along with their Event in the Park which runs from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Park events will include speeches from the May Queen and dignitaries, May Pole Dancing, various vendors, food, rides for the kids, Mini Golf for Everyone and even a Beer Garden. Check out the May Day website for more information.

UPV UNITED PLAYERS OF VANCOUVER

Vietgone

BY QUI NGUYEN
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY SHANE RETTIG
CO-DIRECTED BY KELTIE FORSYTH & LOUISA PHUNG

JUN 3-26 2022

Vietgone is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. | concordtheatricals.com

INFO: UNITEDPLAYERS.COM