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The Chutzpah! Festival back for a 22nd year in the Lower Mainland A new invitation to laugh and to dwell

by LUC MVONO

Back for the 22nd year since its launch in 2001, the Lisa Nemetz Festival of International Jewish Performing Arts – better known as the Chutzpah! Festival – will return to Vancouver from Nov. 2–23 this year.

Like every year, the Chutzpah! Festival will gather storytellers, dancers, musicians, actors and comedians together to engage audiences across the Lower Mainland in a rich diversity of cultural events inspired by the Jewish heritage.

In their organizers' own words, the festival seeks to "enhance

the cultural life of both the Jewish and general communities". Their website outlines the multi-faceted intent of the decades-old community-focused initiative.

"Our commitment is to presenting, producing, and promoting professional and innovative community-based programming that: (1) Supports both estab-

lished and emerging artists; (2) Entertains, inspires, educates, and enriches its audiences; and (3) Promotes communication and understanding between Jewish and non-Jewish communities."

The promise of laughter

This year's festival will begin with a CBC Radio-style 'com-

edy debate' between award-winning Canadian comics Jacob Samuel and Charles Demers, moderated by fellow humorist Kate Davis. In front of a live audience – who will ultimately select a winner – Samuel and Demers will debate on the night's topic: The Ten Com-

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Friendly robots tackle seniors' loneliness
Page 3



A celebration of light
Page 5



Temporality, materiality and flowers
Page 6



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Overcoming adversity: The Courage To Come Back Awards open nominations for 2024

by STAFF WRITER

For those that manage to persevere against the odds, it can be enough of a reward to affirm oneself in the face of adversity. However, it's also nice to be recognized every once in a while, and a story of perseverance can often demonstrate to others a greater perspective on what's possible. Since 2017, the Courage To Come Back Awards have aimed to do just that, highlighting persevering community members that can inspire others, and nominations have just opened for their 2024 awards.



▲ Jodi Gray.

inclusive and supportive for transgender people. She won the 2023 award in the Mental Health category, and currently works as a manager for a trans, two-spirit and gender-diverse housing program, in addition to volunteering with Coast Mental Health.

Another Courage To Come Back recipient some might recognize is Corey Hirsch, former Vancouver Canucks goaltender and Olympic silver medalist for the 1994 Canadian national hockey team. Hirsch also won the Mental Health award, in 2020, after sharing his journey grappling with undiagnosed OCD.



▲ Corey Hirsch.

Presented by Wheaton Precious Metals and the Coast Mental Health Foundation, the awards are meant to showcase individuals tied to British Columbia who have demonstrated substantial perseverance in the face of adversity, and gone on to give back to their community or create change in meaningful ways. As of this week, nominations are now open for the next set of recipients until Jan. 19, 2024, with the awards ceremony taking place on May 23, 2024. Categories for the awards include Addiction, Medical, Mental Health, Physical Rehabilitation, and Youth.

A history of perseverance

Previous award winners have included people such as Jodi Gray. Gray had faced abuse and extreme poverty as a child, as well as anxiety, depression and other mental health disorders that affected her more and more as time went on. But after years of pain and trauma, Gray found a two-fold turning point: realizing and accepting that she was transgender, and finding a kind psychiatrist who was affirming and understanding of that fact when helping Gray turn a new leaf.

Since then, Gray has gone on to complete the Coast Mental Health Peer Support Training program and has succeeded in obtaining a grant on researching how to make mental health more

At the peak of his career in the 90's, Hirsch was playing alongside other Canadian greats such as Paul Kariya and Trevor Linden, but struggling deeply with his mental health due to undiagnosed and untreated OCD. Hirsch wrote a deeply poignant full-length editorial for The Players' Tribune in 2016 detailing the enormous challenges he faced during that time. The editorial was widely read and widely discussed, and went on to encourage greater discussion about the importance of mental health within the industry.

This year, the awards look to showcase more of that courage. For Lorne Segal O.B.C., chair of the Courage To Come Back Awards, it's a great opportunity to show appreciation for those who have been through so much, but whose story or perseverance is worthy of sharing in order to inspire others.

"As chair of the Courage To Come Back Awards, reading through the hundreds of nominations we receive every year is a moment I look forward to with great anticipation," says Segal. "All of them are true journeys of bravery, resilience and strength in the face of adversity. I am grateful to those that have the courage to share their stories with us." ✍

Le plaisir of the words

by Le Stylo à mots

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Horizontally

1. Literary expression – long weapon
2. Metal container – chemical element
3. Foundation – to exist – comparison
4. Distance – easy to understand – period of time
5. Topics of discussion – text
6. Along the water – prefix
7. Insect – article – unit of energy
8. The supply of water
9. Electric atom – to call forth
10. Inspect – negation
11. Necessity – brown nut
12. Tool – greeting – affirmative answer (pl)

Vertically

- A) ouvrages littéraires
- B) prière – ornement décoratif
- C) établissement scolaire – douces
- D) anciennes monnaies – Allemagne
- E) a exprimé sa joie – briques de mot
- F) embarcations – cicatrice végétale
- G) cri des charretiers – direction d'un film
- H) pelage – actinium – constante mathématique
- I) équidé – allonge
- J) éclos – spectre – démonstratif
- K) perroquet – mot de départ – flûte
- L) tenta - lumières

For answers, see page 8

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Left: Frank Morikawa in Canadian Army uniform, ca. 1945, courtesy of Frank Morikawa

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A new UBC study investigates how social robots might improve the quality of life at Canadian long-term care homes

by KATRIANNA DESANTE

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, as Canada's long-term care homes became hotspots for the pandemic-inducing virus, the physical and mental well-being of Canada's elderly demographic was thrust into the spotlight. And as lockdown mandates led to feelings of social isolation, Canada's already-struggling seniors were some of the hardest hit with feelings of intense loneliness.

For Dr. Lillian Hung, UBC's lead researcher at the Innovation in Dementia & Aging (IDEA) Lab, it was time to take action. So in 2020, Hung and her IDEA lab team set out on the 18-month project Overcoming Loneliness, to study loneliness facing those working and living in Canadian long-term care homes.

"A lot of people lost a lot of their friends, and spoke about what they wanted. They wanted to have joy," says Hung.

This led to an opportunity to think outside the box. After attending a conference in Japan, Hung came across a new type of robot named Lovots, or "love bots," and observed their potential to connect with humans. Two years later, Hung returned to Japan and secured a deal with the manufacturer to bring two of

Lovot's robots, Kiwi and Mango, to the IDEA lab. Today the Lovot Robots project aims to study the impact Kiwi and Mango could have on elderly Canadians' sense of "ikigai" ("what makes life worth living").

After receiving the robots in September 2023, Hung and her team have collaborated with various local partners, including Amica Senior Lifestyles retirement homes, to study how Kiwi and Mango might fare as social companions. These two colorful, cuddly, and coo-ing robots have since made their way into 15 different long-term care homes and centers in the Lower Mainland. The preliminary results have been hopeful with the majority of patients excited to play with the robots, and already forming deep bonds.

"They find them like a cat that you don't have to feed, take out, clean up. It's like a friend to you, and it's a companion," says Hung. "Not only do [the residents] talk about it amongst themselves, they [make] jewelry for the robots and clothing [...] that is the piece that gives them meaning in old age."

Human-generated emotions

Hung says the Lovot robots even appear to feel things deeply too.

"It is far more advanced than [earlier forms of robots]. One time we were in a loud setting, and the robot retreated under



▲ Dr. Lillian Hung and her team are using social robots to help seniors

a table. It reacts and backs off when some people talk to them in a harmful way," says Hung. "And they have these ways to develop your love. Kiwi looked up at me once when I was giving a lecture, and it really looked like it was listening."

Earlier this month, says Hung, the robots were brought to Vancouver General Hospital's Willow Bean Cafe, or what has been termed "the robot cafe." There patients suffering from mental health diseases could grab a coffee or tea and interact with Kiwi

and Mango, who wore Halloween costumes.

"There is no doubt that the robot brought joy and happiness to people during the time they were with them," says Hung. "But, of course, there are some people who are worried about the fact that robots would replace human love. Some people are just angry at the robots. It makes them really worry about existential issues."

But with the beginning of the study currently underway, Hung and her team are optimistic about what is to come. For the remainder of the year, the IDEA lab will spend four week increments introducing Kiwi and Mango in long-term care homes, and conducting focus groups and one-to-one interviews with elderly adults and their families. Lovots will simultaneously be studied in Singapore and Hong Kong, as part of the agreement with its manufacturers to facilitate a three-country cross-cultural study.

"It is a way for us to see how social robots will be in their life. Now, it is Lovots, but who knows what the future holds. There may be other robots," says Hung.

While Lovot's robots are currently only available for permanent use in Japan and Denmark, with the help of Hung and her team, Kiwi and Mango could make Canada their third nest. ☺



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BCStats

Chinatown-based non-profit organization integrates seniors into society

by PRISCA TANG

There are often many barriers that prevent seniors from living their best lives. Health complications are one part of the picture, but loneliness, advocating for one's needs, and a lack of agency are challenges as well. For immigrant seniors who might face a language barrier, that can make all of those things even trickier to handle.

Enter the Yarrow Intergenerational Society for Justice, a Vancouver non-profit organization that is open to helping all, but specializes in advocating for the Chinese-Canadian residents of the city's Chinatown and Downtown Eastside. Established in 2015 as an outreach service for Chinese seniors, the Society has since grown their mandate to include workshops, healthcare talks and more.

For Beverly Ho, operations manager at Yarrow, one of the most important things for happy and engaged seniors is helping them keep themselves healthy.

"Our flagship program or what we're most known for [...] is the



▲ The Yarrow Intergenerational Society for Justice is helping Chinese-Canadian seniors live their fullest lives.

Medical Accompaniment program that started before Yarrow was even a nonprofit," says Ho. "[We] pair volunteers who speak Chinese languages with Chinese seniors in the neighbourhood who need interpretation for medical appointments, specialist or hospital appointments."

Ho says seniors really enjoy the program and interacting

with staff and young people, and that volunteers and facilitators themselves get a lot out of the relationships that build as a result. "Seniors are really funny, [and] a lot of them are brutally honest, [...] I feel very lucky to get to work with them and learn about them. A lot of them, their grandparents paid the [Chinese] Head Tax. Or they had different

kinds of trauma whether from the Cultural Revolution or from poverty, or growing up as girls and women who do not have access to education or certain resources, says Ho.

"I learn a lot from them and I get to learn about my culture and my language. Not everyone has that privilege to access their own culture in a safe environment," she added.

Continuous support since COVID-19

The society also launched a string of programs for their members during the pandemic to help both with feelings of isolation and to mitigate the risk of contracting COVID-19. Those included a culturally appropriate grocery delivery program called Nourishing Heart, and a program pairing younger adults with seniors for regular phone conversations.

And almost three years after the start of the pandemic, both programs are still in full swing.

"[The aim] was to reduce senior isolation during the pandemic, and encourage more intergenerational relationships," said Ho of the phone pairing

program. "We still have some folks who are still calling three years later. And a lot of them have met in person now... It's great to hear updates from those folks," Ho said.

But perhaps the seniors' most loved program is the morning exercise session every Monday and Friday. The volunteers put in a tape on the radio that plays exercise instructions in Mandarin, and about 50 seniors come out consistently to participate.

"It's been great to see seniors feel a sense of ownership with the program. They will come early, help set up, [and] help clean up. They tell us if someone is sick or that someone is going to China for a bit. [...] It is also really easy for us to give announcements or have surveys to give out."

Speaking of surveys, Ho pointed out that the seniors take them very seriously. A lot of seniors wrote several pages and treated it like homework that they needed to hand in in less than a week.

"I think they just feel a sense of ownership. [They think] 'my feedback and my voice matters', so they would want to do this," says Ho. ✍

► "Chutzpah" from page 1 mandments. Holy Moses is it time for some new ones?

On November 23, the Chutzpah! Festival will leave its audiences laughing with its final event, 'The Best of Israeli Comedy'. The closing night special will be curated by Israeli comic Benji Lovitt and hosted by Vancouver-



▲ Israeli comic Benji Lovitt.

native, Kyle Berger. It will also feature Israeli comics including Yossi Tarablus, Dana Perry Segal, and Deborah Kay.

But that's not all.

The Chutzpah! Festival promises more than just humor and welcomes all to join local and international artists in their artistic exploration of topics pertinent in the Jewish community, and society at large.

Music

To open the musical events, the Chutzpah! Festival brings Michael Winograd and The Honorable Mentshn to the Norman & Annette Rothstein Theatre on November 4. The renowned clarinetist and band will be bringing tunes that will resonate with audiences of all ages with a set embracing music "from the 1950s Borsht Belt to 2020s nightclubs and back again" according to the festival's website. Michael Winograd and The Honorable Mentshn will return the following day, this time at Wosk Auditorium accompanied by dancer Avia Moore to present the Chutzpah! Festival's all-ages dance party. There, participants will explore and engage in Klezmer and Yiddish dance.

Back at the Norman & Annette Rothstein Theatre, musical artist Nani Noam Vazana will take the stage on November 11th to

share her unique blending of contemporary music styles with the endangered language, Ladino (Judeo-Spanish; a blend of pre-16th century Spanish and Hebrew). Vazana joins the Chutzpah! Festival after a year of performances across the world: In 2023, Vazana brought her music to cities including Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Kansas City, Tapei, and soon, Vancouver.

DWELL

On November 19 at Wosk Auditorium, the Chutzpah! Festival will host DWELL – a new production by Vancouver's All Body Dance Project.

Produced in collaboration with the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver's Inclusion Program, DWELL is a dance-focused exploration on the meanings of 'home' from its most intimate definitions to its broadest ones.

"[It's] a big theme that many people have made art about" explains Naomi Brand, co-founder and Artistic Director of the ABDP.

"The sticky key in the front door, the floor that creaks, or the saggy sofa. And, of course, zooming out to other themes

going on in the world right now about where is home and where is safety, where we belong, and whose land are we on... like any good piece of art, it can be both universal and specific at the same time."

Though at the core of their newest piece, the question of belonging is neither new to Brand, nor to the All Bodies Dance Project.

Created in 2014, ABDP is an inclusive dance company with a mission "to create opportunities for people of all abilities, genders, sizes, and backgrounds to practice, research, and cre-



▲ Writer and dancer Adam Grant Warren.

ate innovative, inclusive dance", according to their website. To date, the dance company has produced six full-length productions and various dance films. Across all aspects of their work – be it their classes, productions and films – the ABDP is a space for all dancers of all abilities to call home.

"I went to my first [ABDP] class eight years ago, and it was the first time I had ever been in a room that was truly inclusive, professional dancers, community dancers, wheelchair users, non-wheelchair users, folks with cognitive disabilities, neurotypical folks... everybody in the same space" says writer and dancer Adam Grant Warren, who now serves as an Artistic Associate at ABDP.

Through DWELL, Warren hopes to expand participants' perspectives on the art in themselves and the things around them. ✍

For more information on the DWELL, please visit: www.chutzpahfestival.com/2023/dwell

For more on the Chutzpah! Festival, please visit: www.chutzpahfestival.com



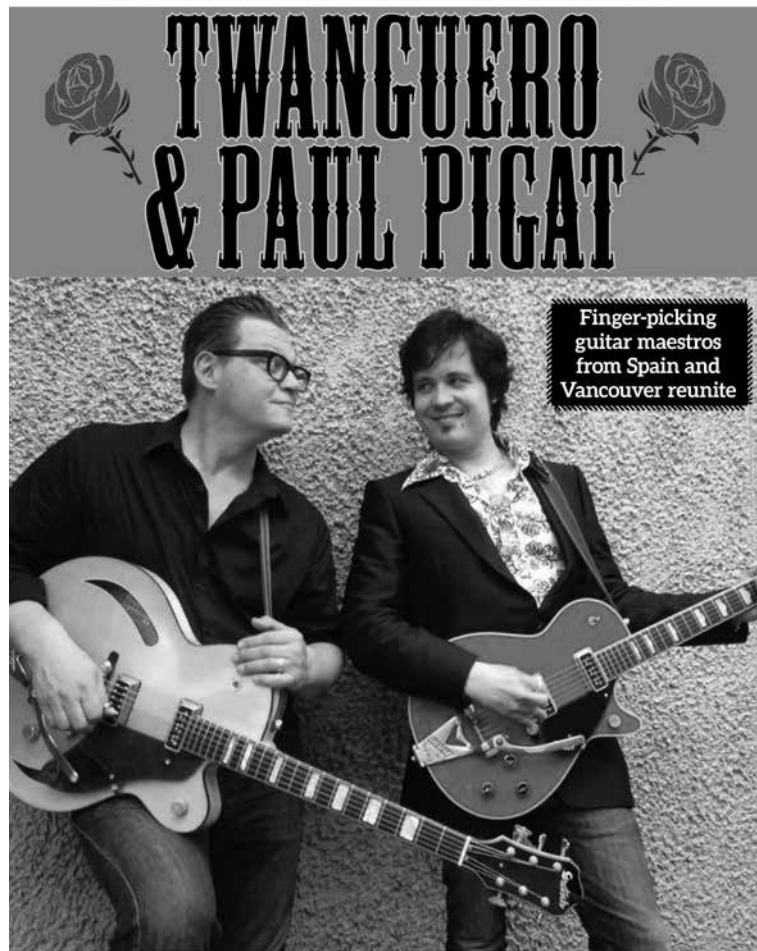
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Photo courtesy of Diwali Fest

Lower Mainland celebrates Diwali with Diwali Fest's 2023 Indian Wedding theme

by SANDRINE JACQUOT

Diwali is a time filled with light, joy, and family gatherings. Often referred to as the festival of lights, Diwali is one of the most festive holidays on the Indian calendar, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.

Over five days, starting in mid-October and ending in mid-November, families and friends will come together to celebrate the beginning of the new year for the Indian community.

Traditionally a religious Hindu holiday, Diwali is also celebrated by Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists. Whether it's lighting *diyas* (clay oil lamps), enjoying delicious food, or thoroughly cleaning the home, the many diverse rituals and festivities are an opportunity for loved ones to gather and embark on prosperous new beginnings.

But Diwali is not just a religious holiday. It is an important cultural celebration for Indians and South Asian diaspora around the world, including here in British Columbia.

For many in the Lower Mainland, Diwali Fest has been at the heart of Diwali celebrations for two decades. Founded by a group of volunteers in 2003/2004, Diwali Fest has become one of the largest Diwali-themed events in the area with 100+ volunteers and a changing lineup of talented performers.

"There's a lot of people here with a South Asian background, who have either lived here forever – but didn't really have a central place to celebrate – or people who are newcomers, who are looking for that kind of connection to festivities back home," says Kriti Dewan, creative director for Diwali Fest.

"It's an inclusive event for anyone who wants to come and experience the joy of Diwali," she says.

Diwali Fest events

While Diwali officially takes place on Nov. 12 this year, Di-

wali will be the next wedding-related event on Nov. 3 in Coquitlam at the Evergreen Cultural Centre. Haldi, also called *maiyyan* in Punjabi, is a pre-wedding ceremony that involves applying turmeric paste to the bride and groom, with the chance of an occasional water fight afterwards.

At the Coquitlam event, Diwali Fest will demonstrate the Haldi ceremony – along with music, dance, and artist talks with Sandeep Johal and Sara Khan about their latest exhibit at the Evergreen Cultural Centre, Rise. Attendees are en-

“It's an inclusive event for anyone who wants to come and experience the joy of Diwali.

Kriti Dewan, creative director for Diwali Fest



re: Naissance

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November 17–26

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wali Fest is hosting a lead-up of South Asian wedding-themed events to mark its 20th anniversary.

So far, that theme has included a Mehendi (a ceremony to apply henna) and a Sangeet (a musical pre-wedding ceremony) at the Roundhouse Community Centre. The event featured food, henna stations, rangoli (traditional Indian decoration and pattern) and *diya* painting, as well as South Asian music and dance performances.

couraged to dress in yellow or orange, the bright colours of turmeric.

The last wedding-themed event is the big day, the Bharat (wedding procession) and Shaadi (a wedding ceremony) at the Surrey City Hall on Nov. 5 set to feature plenty of singing, dancing, arts and crafts, food, and a garland exchange.

For Dewan, the events are a great chance to engage with culture and celebrate the vibrancy and talent of the community.

"Our artists have been practicing for over six months," says Dewan. "We have such a vibrant and talented South Asian art community, and just seeing them get on stage, there's so much enthusiasm."

With plenty of ways to get involved, attendees will have no shortage of opportunities to learn about the different ways Diwali is celebrated in B.C. and beyond.

"This year, with the special theme, it's sure to be a lot of fun," says Dewan.



Photo courtesy of Diwali Fest

▲ Diwali Fest attendees participate in the art of rangoli, creating patterns from various materials.

For more information about the events, visit www.diwalifest.ca

Marchand's Florescence

Art that holds time

by LILLIAN LIAO

Art is alive with Mount Pleasant's poppies. From now until December 12, North Van Arts is showcasing Métis, Franco-Ontarian artist, Nathaniel Marchand's *Florescence*, an exhibit with living mediums at Lynn Valley's District Library Gallery.

Featuring foraged petals and leaves, the pieces of *Florescence* highlight Marchand's use of pressed materials from BC's coastal landscape – which are then vulnerable to changes

More than a change of perspective, Marchand's time in BC has also been significant in terms of developing a new technique for pressing plants. In fact, he sees *Florescence* as a visual representation of his time exploring and honing this new method, which involves using a dry iron on top of a paper towel as opposed to the traditional method of pressing with books.

"A lot of those pieces were some of my first in this technique I've been developing – realizing which pressing methods worked for which type of petals



▲ A piece of the *Florescence* exhibit

through time. Inspired by the natural world, Marchand's interest in ethnobotanical histories and materiality is rooted in everyday experiences, including the enjoyment of nature's ephemeral beauty both on and off the canvas.

Rethinking materiality and process

"The admiration for plants and the natural world came first," says Marchand about his desire to bridge art with ecology. "After I attended art school, it slowly started to inform my practice more and more whether it was making natural pigments or eventually leading to these series of botanical collages."

Originally from Midland, ON, Marchand attended art school in Yukon – a change of scenery, he remarks, as having reignited his curiosity for plant life. The pieces showcased in *Florescence* were created after his move to BC in 2018. First residing in Victoria then relocating to Vancouver in March 2020, Marchand notes that his time on the Canadian West Coast has marked a shift from a general interest in plants to a focus on their artistic quality.



▲ Nathaniel Marchand.

"I've been seeking out plants that are readily available, so I can forage sustainably," says Marchand. "And with more so a mind for what pigment I might get out of them, how they might press and be arranged compositionally and colour-wise."

and leaves, and how to preserve their colour," said Marchand.

A temporal surprise

Even though Marchand's intentions were not to permanently preserve the materials, he remarks that it is interesting to see how the colours of pieces created in 2018 and 2019 have altered or remained static. Like the dynamic nature of his materials, much of Marchand's process happens through trial and error, making it intensely experimental.

"As I always tell people in my ink making workshops, the experimentation is part of it," says Marchand. "It's not always going to work out, but, every now and then, you might be pleasantly surprised by what it does – and it adds to the fun."

The works that form *Florescence* are indeed rooted in an experimental temporality as Marchand describes how his foraging, pressing and, finally, application of these materials is meticulous and time-consuming. The temporality of this process is visible to viewers if they, too, take their time at the exhibit.

"Start with whichever one you are drawn to and spend time with it from afar, up close," says Marchand. "There's a lot of detail going on, and, as you approach, you can see the movement and the time that goes into them."

One of the pieces through which viewers can practice this slow observation is a circular work of approximately 40 by 40 inches that is composed of poppies Marchand foraged near his neighbourhood in Mount Pleasant. While Marchand does not see his art as directly making statements about climate change, the closeness through which he interacts with his surrounding environment opens space to appreciate nature and consider sustainable practices.

"I think if we can have an appreciation and understanding of the variety of living things that make up our ecosystems, that's when we'll start to care and protect these things," says Marchand. ✂

For more information, please see <https://northvanarts.ca/events-exhibitions/nathaniel-marchand>



COAST MENTAL HEALTH'S
Courage
TO COME BACK AWARDS 2024
PRESENTED BY WHEATON PRECIOUS METALS

Nominations are open for the 2024 Courage To Come Back Awards

Nominations are open for the 2024 Courage To Come Back Awards, presented by Wheaton Precious Metals.

The purpose of the Courage To Come Back Awards is to pay tribute to those who have overcome overwhelming challenges and now selflessly give back to their community. They are the hidden everyday heroes that deserve to be recognized and be celebrated for their contributions to our communities.

This recognition goes a long way to encouraging these individuals to continue their efforts to inspire those around them. It also gives them a platform to further promote the causes or issues that are important to them.

They are our role models.

People like Dr Barney Jr Williams. A residential school survivor & person recovering from alcoholism, Dr Barney has made it his life's mission to help others overcome alcoholism & addiction.

Like Casey Wright, who was diagnosed with a brain tumour at six months old. Casey is now a champion for children battling illness and puts his energy into raising awareness and funds for families.

Like Alex Sangha, who is gay, lives with a mental illness, and is from a South Asian community where stigma persists. Today he has become an inspirational creator of safe spaces for the LGBTQ+ community.

Or Jodi Gray, a trans woman who overcame poverty, abuse, suicidal ideation, and depression. She changed the narrative to create better solutions and systems of care.

Recipients will be recognized in person in front of over 1,400 people at the Vancouver Convention Centre on 23rd May 2024. They will receive media coverage and their stories will be shared on social media.

The Courage To Come Back Awards are given in five categories:

- Addiction
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Physical Rehabilitation
- Youth

"As chair of the Courage To Come Back Awards, reading through the hundreds of nominations we receive every year is a moment I look forward to with great anticipation. All of them are true journeys of bravery, resilience and strength in the face of adversity. I am grateful to those that have the courage to share their stories with us." Lorne R. Segal, O.B.C., D.Litt. (Hon.), LLD. (Hon.), Chair of the Courage to Come Back Awards, and President of Kingswood Properties Ltd.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, Jan 19th, 2024
To nominate and find out more about the process visit:
www.couragetocomeback.ca/Nominations

Important details:

- Nominations open on Wednesday, October 25th, 2023
- Nominations close on Friday, Jan 19th, 2024
- Award categories: Addiction, Medical, Mental Health, Physical Rehabilitation, Youth
- Past recipients are available for interviews on request, as well as Keir Macdonald, CEO of Coast Mental Health.
- The 2024 Courage To Come Back Awards will be on 23rd May 2024.

The Courage To Come Back Awards (www.couragetocomeback.ca) – Rising above adversity in life often means overcoming the challenge of maintaining mental health despite unfathomably difficult circumstances. The Courage To Come Back Awards, presented by Wheaton Precious Metals, recognize the lives of five remarkable individuals whose stories inspire acts of courage and compassion, and ensure that Coast Mental Health can continue to provide compassionate, meaningful support for anyone with the courage to come back from mental illness.

Coast Mental Health – Coast Mental Health is one of the largest providers of community-based services for people living with mental illness in British Columbia. We are an established leader in our field, known for high quality, innovative programs and research. As a critical link between hospital services and our communities, Coast Mental Health provides housing, support, and employment programs and services for individuals affected by mental illness, making lasting recovery possible. Each year, we provide essential services to 5,000 clients living with mental illness so they can find their meaningful place in our communities – a place to live, a place to connect, and a place to work. Coast Mental Health Foundation raises funds exclusively for Coast Mental Health. To find out more about the life-changing programs and services offered by Coast Mental Health, visit coastmentalhealth.com.

Hopeful Monster at Modulus Festival

An experience in experimentation

by ANABELLA KLANN
HARRINGTON

This year marks the 12th iteration of Music on Main's Modulus Festival, a four-day event filled with music, conversation and a closing night pizza party. One such performance at Modulus features a collaboration between Costa Rican-born composer Mauricio Pauly and Armenian-Canadian pianist Eve Egoyan. Pauly and Egoyan are one of the headlining acts at the Nov. 3–6 event, closing out the Saturday (Nov. 4) night with a performance at the Roundhouse Centre.

"We wish our audience to be embraced within our sound worlds," says Egoyan about her album collaboration with Pauly, *Hopeful Monster*, which the duo are set to debut at the Festival.

Musical experimentation with strangers

Egoyan and Pauly met in 2018 through a mutual friend in To-

ronto who set them up on what Egoyan calls "a musical blind date." Though they had never played together before, they immediately clicked, planning to collaborate in the future.

University where Pauly is an associate professor. It combines acoustic piano with technology and software that manipulates the sounds, creating an album that aims to mix unique sounds

"The ways in which we can work with [each other's] outputs and reactions is a process of navigation, of discovery. This ensemble that we are working with is itself a navigation device

The duo will perform in the round, which is a circular stage surrounded by the audience. Egoyan and Pauly worked with Music on Main artistic director David Pay and his team to deter-

"I also felt a profound sense of musical trust and an open curiosity to the mix of our sound worlds, our otherness.

Eve Egoyan, pianist

"In a musical space, we could recontextualize and build on each other's propositions in very exciting ways," Pauly says.

Egoyan felt similarly, adding that meeting Pauly gave her an immediate sense of ecstatic joy.

"I also felt a profound sense of musical trust and an open curiosity to the mix of our sound worlds, our otherness," says Egoyan.

Hopeful Monster is an album born from online communication before finally coming together in studio at Simon Fraser

into something completely different.

Egoyan blends the sound of a real piano with software that models the physical instrument, allowing her to shadow the acoustic piano with a virtual one. This extends the expressive and sonic range to allow her to create something experimental that plays with the limits of the instrument. Pauly brings his skills with transforming and sampling sound in real time to the project, creating music that is based in collaboration.

and world calling out for discovery," says Pauly.

Hopeful Monster as a performance

Egoyan and Pauly improvised when making this album. They played off each other, creating *Hopeful Monster* by selecting moments of their recordings they thought could not only

mine what would work best with the layout and acoustics of the space. The stage setup is simple, just a table for Pauly's gear and a grand piano for Egoyan. Egoyan says the staging choice is meant to allow the audience to be focused completely on the sound.

"The blending of what we create is profoundly unique and layered," says Egoyan.



STILL CREEK FESTIVAL
Saturday
November 4, 2023
1:00 - 4:00 pm
Real Canadian Superstore
Grandview Highway
(3185 Grandview Hwy)
North-east section of the Superstore Parking Lot

Join us for a community celebration of Still Creek!

Drop by to learn more about Still Creek, paint a fish for the Stream of Dreams mural, share ideas on Still Moon Arts' Community Vision Quilt and enjoy children's entertainers

ACTIVITIES

• Chris Hamilton,
Children's Entertainer

• Face Painting and
Walking Puppets

• Wooden Fish Painting
with Stream of Dreams

• Beaver Pond(er)ing
Lodging Sculpture Talk
and Still Creek Tour

• Community Vision Quilt
and Needle Felting

• Community
Information Booths

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

shapeyourcity.ca/rupert-renfrew-station-area-plan

rupertrenfrewplan@vancouver.ca

QR code




CITY OF VANCOUVER
STILL MOON ARTS
STREAM OF DREAMS
RUPERT + RENFREW
Station Area Plan



▲ Eve Egoyan and Mauricio Pauly.



▲ Cover of the *Hopeful Monster* album.

Both artists are thrilled to be performing at the Modulus Festival. For Egoyan, who has played at Modulus before, it's a joyful return. For Pauly who moved to Vancouver in 2017, it's a homecoming.

As for what the artists hope audiences take away from their performance Pauly says he is curious. He does not have any specific hopes or expectations, but hopes the "unique expressivity of [their] connection comes through."

stand alone as a singular piece, but which could also work together to create a coherent collection. They believed it was hard to identify inspirations, concluding that there were none in the work. It was all improvisational.

"There was no discussion about what we played; no limits or paths were determined," says Pauly. "The record is a snapshot of how our intuitions were braided together in performance."

For Egoyan, she hopes audiences will feel the emotion she and Pauly did while making *Hopeful Monster*.

"I hope that our audience will feel invested in our sound, taken on a new sound journey and feel the joy in our music making," says Egoyan. ✂

For more info about the show, and about Modulus Festival, visit www.musiconmain.ca/event/modulus-festival-2023



Place your ad
in The Source
newspaper or
on our website
Email info@thelastsource.com

October 31–November 14, 2023

Cultural Calendar

by SIMON YEE
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

While we revel in the vibrant tapestry of events and festivals that grace Vancouver this month, Remembrance Day stands as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by those who came before us. It's a day to pay respects, lay wreaths at memorials and attend commemorative services. In our dynamic city, we find a balance between revelry and reflection, where every event is a testament to the enduring spirit and unity that makes it a truly remarkable place to live and celebrate.

HERE
Nov. 2–4, 8 p.m.
www.balletbc.com

Opening the 2023/24 season, HERE features the return of one of the most popular works in Ballet BC's repertoire by a legendary creator, an anticipated world premiere from a choreographer new to the company, and an epic large ensemble piece. Experience *Enemy in the Figure* from William Forsythe, a new creation from Stephen Shropshire, and Shahar Binyamini's *BOLERO X*. Check out the Ballet BC's website for tickets and more information.

**Etuaptmunk/
Two-Eyed Seeing**
Nov. 2–5
www.firehallartscentre.ca

Etuaptmunk/Two-Eyed Seeing: Ways of Being and Seeing is a cultural gathering regarding the impact of human-made environmental destruction on Mother Earth that invites Knowledge Keepers to share stories as activists and academics to bear witness. Let the community hold us all together as we walk towards what climate justice and action mean to us, and remember the tales we will tell future generations. For tickets and more information, please visit the Firehall Arts Centre website.

Lumière Festival
Nov. 2–6
www.lumiereyvr.com

A series of interactive art installations will light up Vancouver from Nov. 2 to 6 in more than 10 locations from the West End to Gastown! Lumière is an annual event inspired by light and artistic expression, driven by community and connection. The West End, English Bay, Jim Deva Plaza and the Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza will come alive this November with a series of light art installations, performances and community building initiatives. Check out the festival's website for more information.

**How Black Mothers
Say I Love You**
Nov. 2–12
www.thecultch.com/event/how-black-mothers-say-i-love-you



▲ The Lumière Festival will dot Vancouver with light-themed installations and performances from Nov. 2–6.

From the author of the blockbuster hit *'Da Kink In My Hair* comes a powerful and moving story of immigration, family and sacrifice playing at The Cultch this November. Hard-working Daphne left her two young daughters in Jamaica for six years to create a better life for them in America. Now thirty years later, proud and private, Daphne relies on church and her nearby dutiful daughter to face a health crisis. But when feisty queer activist Claudette arrives unexpectedly from far away to help out, her arrival stirs up the buried past, family ghosts, and the burning desire for unconditional love before it's too late. The play is a raw, compelling look into family dynamics and strife. But it is also a story alive with humour, love and tenderness as it explores the complicated perceptions of immigrant mothers.

**South African Film
Festival Canada**
Nov. 2–12
www.saffcanada.ca

The South African Film Festival Canada (SAFF Canada) presents feature films and documentaries that entertain and inform as they explore the culture, history and politics of South Africa. Returning for its 13th year, this year's festival will be streaming online across Canada from Nov. 2–12, 2023, with in-person screenings in Vancouver and Toronto. In Vancouver, there will be an in-person opening gala screening of the Canadian premiere of the film *Rise: The Siya Kolisi Story*, about South Africa's inspirational rugby captain. For showtimes and more information about the festival, check out their website.

Bear Creek Park Lights
Nov. 3–17
www.surrey.ca/news-events/events/bear-creek-lights

Bear Creek Park has provided lasting memories to its attendees since the first light display in 2012. For over a decade, the beloved Bear Creek Park Lights event had brought joy and wonder to the community. The new 2023 Bear Creek Park Lights will be a safe, accessible and family friendly light display throughout the park's gardens, offering a series of light displays that will dazzle your senses with illuminated natural landscapes, whimsical light displays and stunning

photo opportunities. Check out the website for free tickets and more information.

F-O-R-M Festival
Nov. 4–18
www.f-o-r-m.ca

The eighth annual F-O-R-M festival – a celebration of movement and the ever-evolving nature of film – is being hosted at SFU Woodward's from Nov. 4 - 18. At F-O-R-M, the process of continuous learning and adaptation is not just a concept; it's an integral part of our identity. Growth often comes hand in hand with the sweet discomfort of change. This year, the festival invites attendees to question the very essence of movement – what it means, who has historically embodied it and how we can continue to challenge and redefine the very concept of movement within the body and beyond. For more information, check out the festival's website.

Superlative Artistry of Japan
Nov. 7, 2023–Jan. 20, 2024
www.centre.nikkeiplace.org

The exhibit, being hosted by the Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre, includes a cohesive collection of work from a variety of art genres that emphasize highly skilled techniques, unique expression, and concepts intended to delight the viewer. Elaborate Meiji era (1868-1912) works are introduced alongside kogeï (traditional arts & crafts) that influenced the Japonism trend in 19th century Europe. Also included in the display are numerous contemporary works of 'superlative artistry' as well as capsule toy figures and food that represent a strong commitment to artistic craftsmanship.

Boundless
Nov. 10–11
www.chorleoni.org

Chor Leoni opens their 32nd season with their annual Re-

membrance Day observance, joined by pianist Tina Chang, cellist Jonathan Lo and organist Angelique Po on St. Andrew's-Wesley's Casavant pipe organ. Through folk, pop and modern choral works, you're invited to listen, reflect on the cost of war and heal through the search and hope for peace. At the heart of the program lies a lyrical and soaring masterwork by Canadian composer, Don Macdonald, now in his final year as the choir's Composer in Residence. Please visit the Chor Leoni website for tickets, showtimes and more information.



**Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch
Stole Christmas! The Musical**
Nov. 14–18
www.grinchmusical.com

Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical* is the record-setting Broadway sensation which features the hit songs "You're A Mean One Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome Christmas" from the original animated television special. Max the Dog narrates as the mean and scheming Grinch, whose heart is "two sizes too small," decides to steal Christmas away from the Holiday loving Whos. Magnificent sets and costumes inspired by Dr. Seuss' original illustrations help transport audiences to the whimsical world of Whoville, as this sparkling production breathes new life into this timeless story of the true meaning of Christmas. The musical will be performed Nov. 14–18 at The Centre.

Witches, Bitches, and Canny Women


An Exhibition of Artworks by
Lynne Taylor Fahnestalk and Melissa Mary Duncan

November 14 - December 2, 2023

Opening Reception: November 18 - 1:00 - 4:00

Rock Family Gallery, Mission Arts Centre
33529 1 Ave, Mission, BC V2V 1H1



Answers:

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|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| POETRY – LANCE | ANT – THE – ERG | PUBLICATIONS | DIA – RÉGIE |
| URN – IODINE | IRRIGATION | Oraison – OVE | LIVRÉE – AC – PI |
| BASE – LIVE- AS | ION – ELICIT | ENS – SATINÉES | NE – ESPRIT – ÇA |
| LI – CLEAR-ERA | OVERSEE – NEGATION | ÉCUS – RDA | ANE – ÉTIRE |
| ISSUES – ESSAY | NEED – PECAN | RI – LETTRES | ARA – GO – NAY |
| COAST – RE | SAW – HI – AYS | YOLES – HILES | ESSAYA – NÉONS |