

The Source

forum of diversity

The Source – www.thelasource.com – Since 1999

The Chutzpah! Festival returns with new sounds and rediscovered history

by LUC MVONO

Be transported through time and space when the Chutzpah! Festival (Nov. 1–10) offers a chance for their audience to say what they think without hurting any feelings.

Since 2001, the Chutzpah! Festival has showcased Jewish communities' creative work – dance,

2. As part of its multi-country tour, spanning North America and Europe, Kommuna Lux brings to the Chutzpah! Festival the unique sounds and rhythms of Odesa. This multicultural, coastal city is Ukraine's third most populous city.

Since their inception in 2014, Kommuna Lux has sought to formalize a new sound specific to their city, which they dub 'Odesa

“ This music was created on the street; it's about the street life of our city.

Viktor Lykhodko, manager of Kommuna Lux

music, theatre, and comedy – in every form. This celebration allows people in the Lower Mainland to get silly while delving into the cultural richness and realities of the Jewish communities, past and present.

Two performers featured among the various acts this year, include Ukrainian band Kommuna Lux and New York Times best-selling Canadian Yiddishist Michael Wex's *The Last Night at the Cabaret Yitesh*.

From the streets of Odesa to the world stage

Kicking off the festival, Kommuna Lux takes the stage at The Pearl on Granville Street on Nov.

Gangsta Folk' – an ode to their city of origin.

“Like every port city, Odesa is a melting pot of different groups: Jewish, Russian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Romanian, [and more],” explains Viktor Lykhodko, the band's manager. “This music was created on the street; it's about the street life of our city: how people live, how they behave, how they trade with each other, and make relations.”

For Kommuna Lux, celebrating togetherness and the beauty of community is more than implied through their genre: it is the band's *raison d'être*, which

See “Chutzpah!” page 5 ▶ ▲ Kommuna Lux.



Photo courtesy of Kommuna Lux



A vibrant Downtown Eastside
Page 5



Flowing through music
Page 6



Unpredictable green swans
Page 7

EUFF

2024

NOVEMBER
14–28

Europe without the jet lag!

Join us for an eclectic showcase of 27 contemporary films as we celebrate the European Union Film Festival's 27th edition at The Cinematheque this fall.

thecinematheque.ca/euff2024

Celebrating Hindu Heritage Month

A new museum on the horizon

by RILEY BRADY

With the third annual return of Hindu Heritage Month in November, Neeraj Kumar, founder and president of the India Cultural Association of Vancouver (ICA) is looking forward to sharing the cultural values of Hinduism to those within the community and beyond. Part of this work involves developing the first South Asian cultural museum or centre in Canada.

“The idea is to reach out to the community and through this humble start, give a platform [for] the non-Hindu community to come and experience what we celebrate,” says Kumar, noting the opportunities for mutual learning. “With that learning experience, we can develop mutual respect for each other.”

Finding home

After immigrating with his family from India to Vancouver in 2007, Kumar experienced difficulties adjusting to life in Canada. To address these challenges, he connected with other members of the Indian expatriate in the Vancouver South Asian community, which eventually inspired the creation of the ICA.

“It almost took me a decade to settle here,” he adds, noting the psychological effects of immigration. “We bought our first

home here...life was good, but still I was missing a lot of things.”

A non-profit organization, the ICA now stands as a bridge between the Vancouver Indian

community and other communities. To celebrate Hindu Heritage Month, they are preparing an education and awareness event in the middle of November. While the event date is yet to be confirmed, Kumar envisions having four to six speakers, each touching on an aspect of Hinduism.

possible topics. “The *Gita* is the most sacred book in Hinduism, and the most popular one too.”

For Kumar, celebrating Hinduism involves more than just

“The BC Museum Association is collecting feedback from grassroots organizations like ICA Vancouver,” he adds. “And as far as I know, they are going

“The idea is to reach out to the community and through this humble start, give a platform [for] the non-Hindu community to come and experience what we celebrate.

Neeraj Kumar, founder and president of the India Cultural Association of Vancouver

community and other communities. To celebrate Hindu Heritage Month, they are preparing an education and awareness event in the middle of November.

“We can talk about our scriptures, *Vedas*, [and] maybe one person can talk about *Bhagavad Gita*,” he explains, noting how meditation and yoga are other

commemorating the culture – it also includes recognizing the significance of family within the culture. To build upon the celebrations, he notes that the ICA plans to outsource other events to smaller organizations involved with Hindu culture and identity.

Building an inclusive future

The ICA, led by Kumar, is in the process of developing a South Asian Museum in collaboration with the provincial government. With a recently held public feedback session on Sept. 29, ICA is considering accessibility, diversity and local history in the development of the museum. While the project is still in the initial planning stages, Kumar notes that Surrey and Vancouver are currently the top two sites under consideration.

to announce a few key things in the beginning of 2025, but personally, I think it may take a few more years before we can see it in reality.”

Kumar adds that the museum will serve as an important and needed representation for the South Asian community in B.C. He hopes that it can be used as a site for celebrating Hindu Heritage Month in the future, while noting how the project could also generate revenue for Vancouver.

“These events...highlight [the multiculturalism of the] city we live in, and these months give an opportunity to learn about other cultures,” he says. “It fosters bonding and mutual respect about other cultures.”

For more details on the India Cultural Association of Vancouver, see www.icavancouver.ca.



▲ Neeraj Kumar.

Al Mozaico Flamenco Dance Academy presents

iCuadro!

Presentation House Theatre
333 Chesterfield Ave
North Vancouver, BC
Box Office: Eventbrite

Saturday Nov 2
7:00pm 2024

Tickets: \$25 adult
\$20 senior/student/child

mozaicoflamenco.com

THE SOURCE – LA SOURCE MEDIA INC.

THE SOURCE NEWSPAPER

Mailing Address
Denman Place PO Box 47020
Vancouver, BC V6G 3E1

Office
204-825 Granville St., Vancouver, BC

Telephone (604) 682-5545
Email info@thelastsource.com

www.thelastsource.com

Founding Publisher and Editor-in-Chief
Mamadou Gangué
Deputy Editor (English section) Lillian Liao
French Local Journalism Initiative Coordinator
Paul T. Tshilolo
Art Director Laura R. Copes
Copy Editors (English) Frank Abbott, Deanna Choi,
Melodie Wendel-Cook
Senior Copy Editor (French) Louise T. Dawson
Executive Assistant Kevin Paré
Website Coordinator Pavle Culajevic
Website Sepand Dyanatkar, Vitor Libardi,
Silvia Pascale
Social Media Nathalie Astruc, Sava Rozsnyai
Editorial Content Advisors Denis Bouvier,
Alexandre Gangué, Monique Kroeger
Contributing Editor Simon Yee
IT Helper Amir Karimian

Illustrator Joseph Laquerre
Writers Marc Béliveau, Riley Brady, Apsara
Cordonnier, Alois Gallet, Ashley Kim, Hassan
Laghcha, Amélie Lebrun, Luc Mvono, Xiao Qing
Wan, Helen Wu, Simon Yee, Elif Zaimler, Robert
Zajtmann

Translation Barry Brisebois, Louise Dawson
Distribution Joseph Laquerre, Kevin Paré

Photo credits for front cover
Page 5: David Cooper
Page 6: Diane Smithers
Page 7: Ramona Ramlochand

LEGALITIES

The Source shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The Source's liability for other errors or omissions in connection to any published advertisement is strictly limited to the repeat of the advertisement in future publications or for the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement. We welcome appropriate, unsolicited editorial submissions if accompanied by the author's real name, address and telephone number. The author should retain the original as we cannot return submissions without prior agreement, nor does submission guarantee publication.

For advertising call: (604) 682-5545



VANCOUVER
Vinyl Record Show
 EST. 2017

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24TH
2024

Heritage Hall

**3102 Main Street
 Vancouver**

11am-4pm

\$5 Admission

Contact

tyler@vancouvervinyl.com

LP'S • 45'S • CD'S

POSTERS • MUSIC MEMORABILIA

21st Annual Downtown Eastside
Heart of the City Festival
OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 10

www.metrotheatre.com
OCTOBER 11 - NOVEMBER 2, 2024

THE WOMAN IN BLACK
 BY STEPHEN MALATRATT
 BASED ON THE NOVEL BY SUSAN HILL
 DIRECTED BY BERNARD CUFFLING

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

Caring for caregivers at North Shore Community Resources

by LILLIAN LIAO

The United Nations International Day of Support and Care returns on Oct. 29 recognizing the ongoing need for both paid and unpaid care work. For Vic Gailiunas, coordinator of North Shore Community Resources (NSCR)'s caregiver support program, family caregivers face many challenges when seeking support – a key one being the difficulty in recognizing their role as caregivers.

“They’re still working, still raising their kids, and helping out mom a little more than they did before,” he says, noting that denial is another major barrier to accessing support. “It’s not always just this light that turns on and says, ‘You are now a caregiver.’”

Building communities

Gailiunas joined NSCR in early October of 2021 and now runs their various family-caregiver support groups, including one just for men. He notes that the insidious and slow progress of certain illnesses, particularly dementia, often prevent people from recognizing that they have become caregivers.

“At some point, it gets to where the person can’t do their activities of daily life, like dressing and feeding themselves and cooking, then it’s pretty obvious,” he says. “But for a lot of people, there can be a really long time and a slow decline before they get to that point.”

Opened to all family caregivers, the organization’s general caregiver support group meets

unas notes that those who don’t want to share but would like to listen are also welcomed.

“Ultimately, what we want to do with all our support groups is have people leave feeling a little lighter than when they showed up,” he says.

Filling a recognized need

Serving only those caring for partners, the men’s support group was formed shortly before Gailiunas’ time with NSCR. Through the organization’s promotional efforts, including with long term care homes, the first meeting consisted of Gailiunas, the group leader, and two other participants. The group has since grown to around 19 people with approximately a dozen showing up at each meeting.

“Something that happens especially with men and the way [they] are socialized is to not talk about how they feel,” Gailiunas says, noting how men often share the activities of their day when asked about their experiences.

For him, this group provides the empathetic space necessary for men to share their feelings without facing judgement. He further notes that the group leader created a men-only group after experiencing first-hand the need for it.

“He said he had been a member at regular caregiver groups when his wife got ill for a number of years,” Gailiunas recounts. “One day [he] walked into a meeting and there was a bunch of women talking...and the moment [he] walked in, all the women stopped talking.”

Like the general group, it also provides education with speak-



▲ Vic Gailiunas.

monthly and offers a space for sharing personal caregiving experiences. The meetings also feature speakers providing caregiving-related information and resources, such as tax implications, burnout, and emotion-focused therapy.

“They can be pretty heavy conversations, as you can imagine, there’s a lot of emotions that come with family caregiving: frustration, resentment, anger, sibling issues... guilt, sadness, depression,” he says, adding that a happy or humorous story is also shared from time to time.

To facilitate a safe space, participants are asked to keep conversations confidential and respectful. Instead of providing advice, the idea is to speak from personal experience and leave room for open discussion. Gaili-

ers on general caregiving topics, but also those specific to men’s experiences. Alongside these support groups, NSCR also offers *The Grapevine*, a newsletter for caregivers. Gailiunas highlights NSCR’s bereavement group and two multicultural groups – for Korean and Persian communities – as other resources for caregivers.

“It’s a bold move for people to take that first step and say, ‘I actually need to go and sit and talk to people in a group,’” adds Gailiunas. “Once they’ve made that step, they often start to self-recognize as a caregiver and that’s when they can ease into our programming.”

For more information, see <https://seniors.nscr.ca/caregiver-support-program>.

Photo by Paul McGrath

Indigenous Veterans Day

A day of remembrance and reflection

by ASHLEY KIM

Learn about the history of Indigenous veterans and participate in local Indigenous community events, encourages Randi Gage, a Vietnam-era veteran and the founder of Indigenous Veterans Day. This Nov. 8 marks the 30th anniversary since the day's first commemoration.

"Don't be shy. Go there and find out what it's all about," she says. "It's like a big family gathering."

Although Indigenous Veterans Day is now celebrated across Canada, Gage states that the day has not developed in the way that the veterans originally wanted.

Not another Remembrance Day

In 1992, the National Aboriginal Veterans Association gave Gage a mandate to designate a day of recognition for Indigenous veterans. In 1994, the government of Manitoba became the first province to officially recognize and celebrate Indigenous Veterans Day.

"The biggest problem is that everybody has the mindset that it's a second Remembrance Day, but it's not," she says. "It is not under the Royal Canadian Legion. It's our way for our people, and that's the way it's supposed to be. But it has evolved into a very regimented thing."

Gage stresses that Indigenous Veterans Day is for veterans to

ing veterans in the way that they want.

"I think it's really important for the younger generations, and future generations, to learn about our forefathers and ancestors who have contributed to Canada," she says.

Archiving Indigenous veterans' stories

Gage and Edwards emphasize that more work needs to be done to document the experiences of Indigenous veterans. However, the process will be long and complicated, as many veterans after WWI used a different name when enlisting. Thus, the history of many Indigenous veterans has been lost.

"When an Indigenous person would leave the reserve, they had to give up their treaty rights to become a soldier," says Gage. "They would lose their Indian status."

As for Indigenous women veterans, Gage and Edwards explain that in Indigenous culture, women are raised to be protectors of children and creators of life. As an Indigenous veteran herself, Gage conveys the internal sacrifice that Indigenous women must make to join the military.

"In the military, your job is to kill that other woman's child, and that's a very hard thing to come to terms with," she says.

Maria Trujillo, project coordinator for the Last Post Fund, has overseen the Indigenous Veterans Initiative since 2019: placing military markers for unmarked graves of Indigenous veterans and inscribing their traditional names on tombstones. Although over 250 markers have been placed, with over 40 from B.C., only four were for Indigenous women veterans. The three of them agree that there is much more



▲ Randi Gage.

teach the younger generation and share their experiences in their communities. There is no prescribed way of celebration, as each Indigenous community commemorates their veterans differently.

"It's to be celebrated how a community wants to do it – with a powwow, a feast, a square dance, whatever the community wants," she says.

In B.C., there are more than 200 different Indigenous communities. Gena Edwards, president of the B.C. Native Women's Association, shares that each group has their own ceremony and way of commemoration in B.C.; and each First Nation also has a wall dedicated to the veterans of their community.

"B.C. is such a vast province where each First Nation has their unique culture and values that they follow," Edwards says.

She also highlights the importance of honouring and respect-



▲ Gena Edwards.

to be done in honouring and memorializing all Indigenous veterans.

"There could always be more information sought and gathered. Especially for the Indigenous women veterans," says Edwards. "Because they not only lost their status rights, but they were also disenfranchised for serving a country to make this country better." ✍️

For more information about Indigenous Veterans Day, visit: www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/people-and-stories/indigenous-veterans



European Union Film Festival 2024

Europe without the jet lag!

Sample the latest in Europe's cinematic achievements at the annual European Union Film Festival, celebrating its 27th edition at The Cinematheque this fall. Proudly presented in partnership with the Canadian Film Institute (Ottawa) and the European Union Film Festival – Toronto, along with the member states of the European Union and the Delegation of the European Union to Canada, this year's festival features in-theatre offerings from all 27 EU members. A selection of films will also be available to rent online at euffonline.ca following the conclusion of our in-person festival.

Since the 2022 escalation of war in Ukraine, EUFF has concluded with a fundraiser screening organized in partnership with the Embassy of Ukraine to Canada. Proceeds from this year's film, the crowdsourced documentary *The Hardest Hour*, will benefit the Ukraine Harmony Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about Ukraine both in Canada and globally.

Be it your first or, heck, 27th EUFF, this eclectic showcase of contemporary European cinema promises a movie or two (or many) suited to your personal cinephilic palate. Enjoy.

Film notes written by Tom McSorley

Acknowledgments

For assistance in making Vancouver's European Union Film Festival possible, The Cinematheque is grateful to Diodora Bucur, press officer, Delegation of the European Union to Canada (Ottawa); Tom McSorley, executive director, Canadian Film Institute (Ottawa); Jérémie Abessira, executive director, European Union Film Festival – Toronto; and the embassies and consulates of all European Union member states.

Media Partners



Upcoming Screenings



Some Birds



Boléro



Un Amor



Fathers & Sons



Scarborn



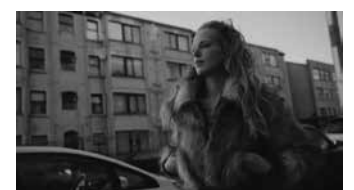
A Blue Flower



Cats of Malta



Freedom



Verdigrisvv

Heart of the City Festival

Honouring communities, sharing stories

by XIAO QING WAN

Amplifying the community stories of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES), the Heart of the City Festival returns (Oct. 30–Nov. 10) with over 100 events reflecting the theme, Threads of Connection. For founders, Terry Hunter and Savannah Walling, this

what we would like to do at the festival," says Hunter, adding that attention is given to both founding and new communities of the DTES.

Walling further notes that after each festival, they reflect on whether they are losing touch with a particular community, and how to rebalance those connections. For them, it is im-

“...our role is to help support and raise awareness of this amazing work that’s going on.

Terry Hunter, co-founder of the Heart of the City Festival

year’s festival – as they celebrate their last year leading Heart of the City – is a chance to reflect on its community engagement and honour the diversity of the DTES.

“When the modern city of Vancouver was first founded on this land, it was inhabited by the host First Nations,” says Walling. “But among the early immigrants in the new city of Vancouver were people of Chinese, Black, and Hispanic ancestry.”

Illuminating pathways

For twenty-one years, Hunter and Walling have worked with the DTES community to highlight the diversity of stories, the cultural traditions and the lived experiences. By providing both financial support and a platform for artists to showcase their works, the festival enables diverse communities to celebrate their culture. For the founders, engaging each cultural community of the DTES is key to ensuring the festival’s inclusivity.

“It’s important that the cultural groups in the neighbourhood themselves are stepping forward and saying, ‘This is

important to ensure the diasporic communities, that have been part of the DTES, continue to connect with the area.

Reimagining death

Heart of the City is also a way for Latin Americans in Vancouver to come together and share their culture with other communities.

“One of the reasons why we specifically put the date of the festival in the last week of October, and the first week of November each year is so we could embrace the Day of the Dead,” Hunter says.



▲ Terry Hunter and Savannah Walling.



▲ La Llorona.

“It’s an important event that takes place in our community, and so our role is to help support and raise awareness of this amazing work that’s going on.”

Traditionally observed Nov. 1 and 2 in Mexico, the Day of the Dead is a celebratory holiday to remember those who have passed. *La Llorona*, directed by physical comedian Gerardo Avila, is one of the Latin American events featured at this year’s festival. Taking the stage on Nov. 1 at Carnegie Community Centre Theatre, *La Llorona* celebrates the Day of the Dead by telling the story of Mexican icon *La Malinche*, who translated for Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés, through shadow puppets and traditional dance.

“For [Mexicans], Day of the Dead is a very magical time of the year,” Avila explains, noting how those from Guatemala and Salvador also observe the holiday. “So this year, I’m work-

ing with [Vancouver musical and choreograph troupe] Calle Verde, and we will tell [the story of *La Malinche*] with shadow puppetry, like the old style of telling stories.”

While some may view death as a sombre event, Day of the Dead honours it by celebrating the living. This is done by creating colourful decorations, painting beautiful flowers on Catrina dolls, and leaving food at altars.

“We are explaining that there is a culture that [doesn’t see death as something scary],” says Avila. “And [the festival] is our chance to show that, and influence [others] to see death in a [different] perspective.”

Find out more about Heart of the City here: www.heartofthecityfestival.com

► “Chutzpah!” from page 1

they have reaffirmed in light of recent events.

Since Russia’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine, the band has leveraged its performances to raise awareness and advocate for the Ukrainians whose homes have been turned into trenches. In doing so, the group hopes to foster continued attention and support for the Ukrainian cause.

“People should not forget about what’s going on,” says Lykhodko. “Of course, life goes on, [it] continues. But, we should do our best, every one of us, to help people as quickly as possible and [in a way that] will save the most lives.”

At the festival, Kommuna Lux will collect donations in support of the victims of the invasion.

“We have a project with the Rotary Club: about a bench for burn victims in a hospital in Kramatorsk – a city about 50 kilometers from the front line,” says Lykhodko. “Every donation will go directly to support these victims.”

Reliving the cosmopolitan

For the last two nights of Chutzpah! (Nov. 9 and 10), an international cast will perform *The Last Night at the Cabaret Yitesh* (*di letste nakht baym yitesh*).

The performance offers a glimpse into the joy, sorrow, and courage of the 1930s performers – after being informed by the local censor’s office that their next show would be their last – moments before they depart from pre-war Poland. In an act of resistance, the performers

seize their last night at the cabaret to assert their artistic liberty by performing a variety of hits, including censored material.

The play – rooted in its historical context and interwoven with its playwright’s unique style – was originally commissioned by the Yiddish Summer Festival.

“About six years ago I got a call saying, ‘2019 is going to be the 100th anniversary of the Weimar Republic in Germany. Could you put together a Weimar-era Yiddish Kaveri for us?’” Wex recalls.

As a champion of the Yiddish culture, he took on the challenge: sifting through what remaining material was available from the era.

The material demanded the finesse – more than historical

accuracy – to transport the relatable wit, Wex explains, of the 1930s cabaret to an audience over half a century later.



▲ Michael Wex.

“I started looking into the surviving material. Some of it is very good, but much of it... would be like watching Saturday Night Live,” Wex points out, “or a show like that, 60 years from now, without knowing anything about contemporary politics.”

Through the piece, Wex reveals the vibrance of the Yiddish culture that is often forgotten, and challenges the narratives he encountered in his youth.

“Yiddish culture was a lot more cosmopolitan than people realize. When I was young, and certainly the generation before me, Yiddish had a very bad reputation,” he recalls. “[Yiddish] marked you out as an outsider.”

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

Music without borders: Itamar Erez's multicultural jazz journey

by HELEN WU

"My song *Migrant Voices* came to me a few years ago as if it was whispering in the wind. Its unique melody seemed to migrate through the air, carried by the flow of immigrants across our world, laden with their hopes, fears and dreams," notes composer and instrumentalist Itamar Erez, describing his creative process.

Performing *Migrant Voices* and other songs at Coquitlam's Place des Arts on Nov. 2, Erez will be joined by Dan Howard on bass and, for the first time, Karl DeJong on drums, infusing emotion-inspired tunes with a fresh perspective. DeJong is replacing the trio's former drummer, Kevin Romain.

"The music changes when you play with other people," says Erez. "New partners always bring something new to the music because we interpret the music a little bit differently."

Feeling home in a jazz ensemble

With rehearsals scheduled in the coming days, Erez notes that the trio will improvise on the spot during the concert, a hallmark of jazz performances with flexibility and freedom. For him, written music is only a framework, within which musicians are free to elaborate.



Photo by Diane Smithers

▲ Itamar Erez.

"I like to think about my music as a journey," he says, "What the audience needs to do is just to be there, to be on the ride with us."

He adds that the same tune can be explored and transformed in multiple ways, such as shifting

an octave or playing with timing. Piano, bass and drums form the classic jazz trio, which Erez sees as a "beautiful vehicle" that is complete in itself.

"You have the harmony in the piano. You have the rhythm in

the drums. The bass lays the foundation of the tonality, which connects the drums with the piano," he says. "Sometimes the bass doubles what's in my left hand, and sometimes the drums will play melody as well."

Erez notes that although the instruments fit together naturally, musicians still need great sensitivity to play into each other.

"Musicians listen to all that's happening and respond [through music] in real time," he adds. "We create a balance as we play."

No stranger to group performances, Erez has collaborated with musicians around the world. Back from a tour with his quartet recently, he reflected on how their friendship is just as important as the making of music.

"When a group has nice energy, you feel comfortable with each other, and you can experiment with new ideas," he says. "You feel at home."

Multicultural music with a natural flow

Born and raised in Israel, Erez describes his hometown as a place with many cultures. He was exposed to diverse music at home and later studied abroad in Europe and Canada. Along the way, he learnt flamenco, Brazilian music and Turkish music, which can be heard in his later works.

"Sometimes the music is influenced by a scale or rhythm from,

for example, the Middle East, but it's more about my personal interpretation of the music and my own expression," he says.

Instead of consciously picking and blending different music styles, he realized that finding his own voice was the key, as the music from different cultures already existed within him. For Erez, this is the most natural and convincing way to express oneself, as if the composer is a medium, absorbing, digesting and internalizing the cultural differences to present a unique composition.

"[My music is] a canvas where the full spectrum of human emotions finds expression – from profound sorrow to ecstatic joy, from quiet contemplation to passionate intensity," he notes.

Erez is keen on recreating the emotional landscape of human beings through his music. He hopes that these indescribable feelings will have their voices.

"The beauty that emerges through music dissolves boundaries between people, languages, and nationalities, resonating in an ancient, clear space within our hearts," he says. "It invites listeners to explore their own emotional depths, fostering empathy and understanding."

For more information on the concert, see <https://placedesarts.ca/events/concert-with-itamar-erez-trio>.

THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB PRESENTS

Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas

"(These two are) a positive joy." - *The Scotsman*

The Henry Girls

"It's time for America to discover the Henry Girls." - *Huffington Post.*

Saturday, November 9 at 8pm

Live in the Hall and Livestreamed

Mel Lehan Hall at St. James - 3214 West 10th Ave

www.roguefolk.com

THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB PRESENTS

Ensemble Sangineto

An eclectic band from Italy which blends skilfully ancient harmonies and sonorities with modern rhythms. Fresh arrangements of traditional Irish, Scottish, Breton and Italian tunes fit in with originals that display influences from classical and folk to pop and Celtic music.

Thursday, November 28 at 8pm

Live in the Hall and Livestreamed

Mel Lehan Hall at St. James - 3214 West 10th Ave

www.roguefolk.com



Canada



Canada



RMCS RICHMOND MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Diwali Celebration

Monday November 4 2024
5:30pm-7:30pm

Join us for celebration and learn about Diwali!
Enter for Door Prizes, and participate in the
Kids Painting and Best Dressed competitions!
For registration, email info@rmcs.bc.ca, or call us
at 604-279-7160

Caring place
210-7000
Minoru Boulevard
Richmond, BC
V6Y3Z5

For more information about
RMCS, visit
www.rmcs.bc.ca

Imaginarie, Nippon, and Community Centre | Imaginarie, Nippon, and Community Centre | BRITISH COLUMBIA

BRET KISSEL

THE SIDE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN TOUR

ON SALE NOW
BRETTKISSEL.COM

WEDNESDAY NOV 06 HUB INTERNATIONAL THEATRE
CHILLIWACK, BC

INVICTUS

Exploring environmental destruction and optimism in Ramlochand's *Green Swans*

by LILLIAN LIAO & ELIF ZAIMLER

“When you live something, it becomes a part of you,” says Montreal-based artist Ramona Ramlochand, of how her travels inspired her work. Focused on exploring the unpredictable effects of climate change, her exhibit *Green Swans: Wildfires and Rising Seas*, is on display at Centre A: Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, until Nov. 16.

“We are linked to the planet, our well-being depends on the well-being of the planet, but our focus was always on us, and maybe it shouldn't be,” says Ramlochand.

A contrast of (un)predictability

Curated by Alice Ming Wai Jim, professor of contemporary art history at Concordia University,

According to Ramlochand, she produced the video in black and white rather than in colour for a distinctive and intense effect.

The artist also notes how the white plastic at the bottom of the projector was a “happy accident.” Put there initially to protect the piece, she decided to leave it as part of the installation, allowing the swan in the video to dive into the water and symbolically become a piece of plastic.

Voyeurism and imperfections

Ramlochand sees the covid-19 pandemic, which increased reliance on single-use plastics, as a step backwards for the environment. She states that people took “a voyeuristic approach,” meaning they understood the environmental concern, but ultimately decided to sit back and watch.

“The crime is happening, and

“I hope that the audience sees the beauty of the swans and the destruction at the same time.

Ramona Ramlochand, artist

this exhibit is Ramlochand's first solo one in Vancouver. Its name, *Green Swans*, refers to unpredictable environmental events brought upon by climate change. Featuring video and photographic installations, including those involving swans, the artist confronts the effects of climate change.

“I hope that the audience sees the beauty of the swans and the destruction at the same time,” she says.

Ramlochand attached garbage bags repurposed from her neighbourhood to the swans' tails, highlighting how single-use plastics pollute the environment. Although the exhibit does not include an image of a green swan, the artist draws on the figure as a metaphor to represent a different perspective towards environmental destruc-

we are not necessarily all participating and stopping it,” she says. “That's what I mean by the voyeuristic approach.”

According to the artist, adopting sustainable practices is the solution, as represented by the metaphor of the green swan. It was also important for Ramlochand that *Green Swans* maintains a tactile quality. This is done through the inclusion of imperfections, particularly in her braiding of images.

“The braiding for the most part [is] the same images braided together to give the work more depth and to also make it not perfect,” she adds.

The artist has previously worked with braiding images, particularly when reimagining the places of her travels. While she has travelled extensively, it was her trips to Africa and Southeast Asia that had the biggest influence on her work. After returning to Montreal in her early thirties, she started playing with the photographs she took of her travels and began an art career.

“I started braiding because I spent a lot of time on the computer, and I wanted to do something tactile,” the artist says. “I think of [*Green Swans*] as being an installation work using photography and video.”

Ramlochand notes that working with the curator, Jim, provided an opportunity to see a different perspective of her work. The artist and the curator met 20 years ago when Jim was curating an art show that included Ramlochand.

“[Jim] is a very hands-on curator, which I really like, and has a lot of input which made me see the work through her eyes,” the artist says of their recent collaboration. ✍️

For more information on the exhibit, see <https://centrea.org/2024/09/green-swans-wildfires-and-rising-seas>.



Photo by Ramona Ramlochand

▲ Artwork by Ramona Ramlochand.

tion. One that is progressive and optimistic about sustainability as a solution.

“For example, when you think [of] green swans as an event, the electric car is good for the environment, and it is going to be the wave of the future,” she explains. “It is a sustainable way of looking at the problem, [and] the green swan is the event of the electrification of the cars.”

Her exhibit also features an installation with a video showing the sea flowing and rising,

October 29–November 12, 2024

Cultural Calendar

by SIMON YEE
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

As October winds down, our city shifts from Halloween season into a period of quiet reflection leading up to Remembrance Day. Whether laying wreaths at memorials or attending services, it's a time to reflect while still checking out the festivals and events that make Vancouver a vibrant place to live.

* * *

The Haunted Sea

Now until Nov. 3

www.gulfofgeorgiacannery.org/events/haunted-sea

Discover what lies beneath the waves in The Haunted Sea! Visit the seasonally spooky installation inside the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site happening now until Nov. 3. From the sandy shores to the deep sea, the coastal waters are full of life. The creatures that live in our waters are beautiful, but they can also be strange, unusual and unsettling before you get to know them. Suitable for families and children. Check out the Cannery's website for more information.

* * *

Ridge

Oct. 26–Nov. 3

www.firehallartscentre.ca/event/the-ridge

Often called the "battle that made Canada," Vimy Ridge resulted in over 10,000 Canadian casualties. Through direct storytelling, verbatim theatre and live music, The Fugitives examine misconceptions and varying perspectives around the battle, while drawing parallels to other formative events in our nation's past. A Globe and Mail Top ten arts event of 2020, the show features inventive musical interpretations of WWI soldier songs, which were nominated for the 2022 JUNO for Best Traditional Roots Album. A vivid, kinetic ride through history, as well as an intimate, personal examination of our connection to the past, *Ridge* is a visceral work that passionately argues against the exploitation of young lives.

* * *

A Conversation on Racial Literacy, Identity and Belonging

Oct. 30, 4–6 p.m.

<https://events.sfu.ca/event/41789-a-conversation-on-racial-literacy-identity-and>

Join SFU for a dynamic and thought-provoking discussion with renowned scholars Jabari Mahiri and Yabome Gilpin-Jackson as they explore the complex themes of racial literacy, identity



Photo courtesy of Ballet BC

▲ Heart Drive by Imre and Marne van Opstal.

and belonging. This conversation will highlight the synergies within their groundbreaking work and offer new perspectives on how racial identity is formed and understood. Both scholars are deeply influenced by storytelling and literature. Mahiri weaves the works of Joseph Conrad and Toni Morrison into his research, while Gilpin-Jackson uses her fiction to foster dialogue. Together, they will engage in a lively conversation hosted by Pooja Dharamshi and Robyn Ilten-Gee from the Faculty of Education. This interactive event promises to provide fresh insights into the theory and lived experiences surrounding racial belonging and identity.

* * *

Bear Creek Park Lights

Nov. 2–16

www.surrey.ca/news-events/events/bear-creek-lights

Join in on this fall tradition at Bear Creek Park! For over a decade this event has been a



▲ Stunning light displays in Bear Creek Park.

source of lasting memories for its visitors. Bear Creek Park is one of Surrey's most vibrant parks. Hidden within it is one of the Lower Mainland's finest year-round show gardens which sets the stage for Bear Creek Lights. See nature shine with a series of beautiful light displays

that will dazzle you with illuminated natural landscapes, whimsically lit creatures and stunning photo opportunities. Enjoy the safe, accessible, family-friendly light display through the park's one-kilometre garden walking loop. Food trucks will be onsite nightly. For free tickets, check out the City of Surrey's website.

* * *

Firelei Báez

Nov. 3, 2024–March 16, 2025

www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/exhibitions/firelei-baez

Organized by the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, this exhibition is the first mid-career survey of the richly layered work of Firelei Báez. One of the most exciting painters of her generation, Báez delves into the historical narratives of the Atlantic Basin. Over the past twenty years, she has made work that explores the multilayered explorations of the legacy of colonial histories and the African diaspora in the Caribbean and beyond. She

pattern, decoration and saturated colour, often overlaid on maps made during colonial rule in the Americas. Báez's investment in the medium of painting and its capacity for storytelling and mythmaking informs all her work, including her sculptural installations, which bring this quality into three dimensions.

* * *

TRANSFORM Festival

Nov. 6–9

www.transformfestival.ca

TRANSFORM Festival returns for its fifth year, featuring four nights of incredible performances all centrestage at the iconic Vancouver Playhouse! Co-curated by Corey Payette and Heather Redfern, with the support of Protocol Keeper, Quelemia Sparrow, the 2024 festival continues to focus on empowering Indigenous artists and encouraging collaboration with non-Indigenous artists. Featuring local and international Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists in a variety of performance styles including theatre, music, drag, circus, comedy and everything in between.

* * *

DAWN

Nov. 7–9, 8 p.m.

www.balletbc.com/performance/dawn

Opening the 2024/25 season, DAWN introduces a world premiere from a choreographer new to the company alongside the return of a striking piece of repertoire, plus a rarely-seen work from a visionary choreographer reimagined for Ballet BC. Experience a new creation from Pierre Pontvianne, *Heart Drive* from Imre and Marne van Opstal and Crystal Pite's *Frontier*. Check out the Ballet BC's website for tickets and more information.

* * *

Lumière 2024

Nov. 7–10

www.lumierevr.com/lumiere-2024

A series of interactive art installations will light up Vancouver from Nov. 7 to 10 in more than 11 locations from the West End to Gastown! Lumière is an annual event inspired by light and artistic expression, driven by community and connection. This year's Lumière Festival will showcase a variety of artists and their works of art, including international artists from Switzerland, Finland and Spain. Check out the festival's website for more information.

* * *

South African Film Festival Canada

Nov. 7–17

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 14th year, this year's festival will be streaming online across Canada from Nov. 7–17, with in-person screenings in Vancouver. For showtimes and more information about the festival, check out their website.

* * *

Festival of Recorded Movement

Nov. 8–16

www.f-o-r-m.ca

The Ninth Annual Festival of Recorded Movement is happening from Nov. 8 to 16 this year. Immerse yourself in this year's hybrid format of film screenings, events and workshops. Check out the festival's commemorating of artists, community and evolution of movement-on-screen. For more information about the events, see the festival's website.

* * *

Shadows Into Dawn

Nov. 11, 2 & 5 p.m.

www.chorleoni.org/event/shadows-into-dawn

Join Chor Leoni for a cherished annual tradition on Nov. 11, and immerse yourself in a sonic space for the heart and mind to consider the conflicts and violence of the past and present. Take time to contemplate and reflect, as, through song, Chor Leoni transforms this darkness into a better vision of understanding and peace. Their uncanny mix of folk songs, popular songs and choral masterpieces, will guide you into a journey from the shadows of death to the dawn of empathy, understanding, light and love.



Reach the growing FILIPINO COMMUNITY in British Columbia!

Advertise in Dahong Pilipino
THE ONLY FILIPINO CANADIAN
PRINT/ONLINE COMMUNITY DIRECTORY IN BC

604.737.8074 or 778.223.4394


MOBILE


PRINT


WEB

1

1 TIME ADVERTISING
1 YEAR EXPOSURE

www.dahongpilipino.ca