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women during  
eclectic cabaret  
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# The Source

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## Artists with disabilities ignite new practices, attitudes

by **KERRY HALL**

Advancing disability culture in Canada and challenging people's old assumptions are the goals of a local arts festival happening now in the city.

The Kickstart Festival 2010 runs until March 27 in Vancouver at various venues as part of the Paralympics and Cultural Olympiad. The event includes two major visual arts exhibitions as well as dance performances and a comedy show.

Geoff McMurchy is the artistic director for Kickstart, the non-profit society that organizes the festival, and also an artist with a disability.

"We offer the mainstream community a whole new palette of ways of being, moving, and interacting with faces and bodies," he said, adding artists with disabilities are offering new ways to collaborate with others by providing new source material. In turn, artists and the public have new territory to explore.

"The arts have a powerful way of reaching people—we're realizing that as a community," he said. They are also aware of the educational role the arts have in helping to strengthen the community and engendering disability pride. "We're providing role models so people with a disability will think, 'Maybe I can do that, too.'"

McMurchy said that full inclu-

sion is a cultural task as much as a political one. Disability culture aims to have people with disabilities tell their own stories and take control of their images and their subsequent portrayals. Artists have a powerful role to play in converging advocacy messages on deeper emotional levels to bypass the intellectual and make people realize that people with disabilities are human beings first.

"Historically, people with disabilities have been portrayed as incredibly heroic or pathetic and needy, often evil," he said. "They haven't been portrayed as whole human beings in their complexity."

Two major exhibitions are on display during the festival—*Out From Under: Disability, History & Things to Remember* and *Heroes*. At UBC's Robson Square until

March 21, the former takes a historical look at the resilience, creativity and cultural contributions of Canadians with disabilities. At the HSBC's Pendulum Gallery until March 27, the latter explores the meaning of "heroism" from a disability perspective through the work of 20 artists from across the country.

Bernadine Fox is the co-curator of *Heroes*. She is a Vancouver-based visual artist and writer who has chronic fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia.

"People with disabilities are often told how courageous they are," said Fox, adding that they have no choice in it and it's not really a matter of courage. She said so often the disability takes over and the person isn't seen just like anyone else. When the artist call

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Persimmon Blackbridge's sculptures are a metaphor for living with a disability.

Photo courtesy of Kickstart Festival

## Verbatim

### On the other side of Olympia

by **SAFFRON LEE**

During the Winter Games, many people criticized citizens in Vancouver for expressing themselves through various actions, such as demonstrations in the streets, or for stating opinions contrary to mainstream Olympic fanaticism. They were called "troublemakers", "cowards", and "naysayers", to cite just a few disparaging comments. Rather than examining the issues surrounding the Games that might make people take those positions in the first place, it is much easier to denounce them and dismiss their concerns.

Many people were not in favour of hosting the Olympics—from local politicians to homeless people—for a variety of reasons. Some disliked the cost to taxpayers with a production

tab of at least \$6 billion, with much of it not being spent in the province or even in the country. Some objected to VANOC's secrecy, such as accounting for how it's spending taxpayer's money, and outright misinformation, like security budgets of \$175 million suddenly overrunning to \$1 billion. Many people felt the continuing homelessness situation, high rate of drug addiction, and increasing HIV rates in the city were more important issues to focus on. Chris Shaw, a UBC professor, said, "what kind of society spends money on a party when it needs to deal with other urgent issues of somewhat more import than how many of our athletes are standing on the podium getting their trinkets?"

Others thought cutting down trees and paving over wildlife

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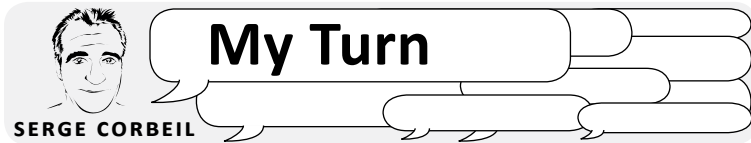
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## Between ambition and hope

In the throne speech read by the Governor General, our minority government (one that could see a reversal at any time) seems assured of its long-term office.

In fact, the government's budget has the official opposition's approval. We won't have to worry about general elections anytime soon. Stephen Harper's sixth parliamentary program in four years is one on his most ambitious yet. We all know that generally speaking throne speeches have to be taken with a grain of salt. These documents are closer to an exercise in exaggeration than a precise rendering of government plans. They cover a general proposal and present the government's main line of action. For details, we must wait for precise budget measures and future bills that will crystallize the government's intentions.

It is without great surprise that we see the government reiterate favorite themes such as the economy, the fight against crime, crime victims' support. And, once again, support for all things military. In this respect, the throne speech can only

comfort the government's traditional base supporters. Many of the promises aren't novel. Many measures have already been put forth, like the ones regarding crime for example.

Nevertheless, this time around, the government has managed to groom its image. A number of initiatives are, I think, a way to demonstrate that the Harper government has a social consciousness after all, as revealed by his intent to reduce the number of unsolved cases of native women's disappearance or murder. Same goes for his proposal of a Seniors' Day. It's hard to be against such things.

Without wasting a minute, the government has presented its budget. Its finance minister announced his intention to work hard on eradicating the debt. Quite a turn about for a government that spent the last four years spending freely. It's true the deficit is partly due to the world's economic recession and the government had no other choice than to borrow in order to boost the economy. However, the deficit preceded the crisis.

I wouldn't blame you if you felt

somewhat skeptical upon hearing the finance minister's statement about frugality. He promises a review of government programs and services in order to fulfill this pledge, finding ways to save, and building a more productive federal government. Well, I can only wish him good luck. He'll sorely need it.

Harper is not the first one to try this. Government archives abound with special studies and analyses, aiming at doing more with less. Unfortunately, politics being what they are, it seems to me highly improbable for a minority government to achieve what the best intentioned majority governments were never able to produce. At any rate, we must admit that the objective as set by the government around its spending is modest.

The government is aiming at some \$152 million in savings for 2010-2011 and a maximum of \$288 million for 2014-2015. This is but a drop in the ocean when we consider that federal government programs spending are upward of \$120 billion annually. Unarguably, the federal government is relying on a strong economic upswing in order to absorb its deficit.

All this is to say that the government presents us with a budget vacillating between being greatly ambitious and perhaps hopelessly overblown. ✂

Translation Monique Kroeger

### ► "Kickstart" from page 1

went out, it asked people with disabilities to respond to the notion of heroism and what that means for them. The exhibition is meant to really challenge people to think about what it means to be a hero.

Persimmon Blackbridge is a local visual artist whose work appears in the exhibit. Fox said her mixed media sculptures of five acrobats are perfect metaphors for people with disabilities living their lives. Acrobats on a trapeze or doing a somersault show how it takes feats of agility, concentration, and ability to get through the day or how sometimes they might succeed or fail.

Fox said another preconceived notion the exhibition tries to dispel is that artists with disabilities aren't producing professional work. Their art is seen as healing therapy or rehabilitation—they are being ghettoized or therapized—and they are not viewed as professionals advancing their practice in the same way as others. "Many viewers are blown away by the calibre of the art," she said.

Jan Derbyshire has been a professional actor, writer, director and teacher for 22 years. At the festival, she will be performing her one-woman comedy show *Funny in the Head* on March 12 at UBC's Chan Centre. The act came about after she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder a few years ago and her friends encouraged her to tell the story. Stage Left Productions, a professional multi- and interdisciplinary performance company in Calgary, commissioned the show.

Derbyshire wants to get more stories out there, especially

ones that are different to the mainstream. "There's such a stigma around mental health," she said, adding people are often frightened because they don't know much about it. She said on television, for example, it's always the bipolar person that snaps and kills someone or burns the house down. "It's a narrow representation." She also hopes that telling her own story will encourage others to tell their story, if not publicly, then at least to themselves and to their family.

"Mental health disorders can knock us out of life for awhile but we can get back in," she said, noting she didn't work at all for four years. "It's a great feeling when you can overcome it." ✂

For more information about venues, show times and tickets, check out the website, [www.kickstart-arts.ca](http://www.kickstart-arts.ca).



Acclaimed artist Bill Shannon to perform.



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## Spencie's View



### ► "Verbatim" from page 1

habitat at Eagleridge Bluffs, as well as logging the Callaghan Valley, was environmentally irresponsible, especially in an age of shrinking ozone and climate change. Some opposed the Games for the increase in human trafficking of prostituted women and children it would bring to Vancouver. A minority opposed holding it here because land treaties have never been made with local indigenous peoples. A few were concerned about journalists being prevented from doing their jobs, and artists being harassed by police and security forces.

Fans of the Games were unhappy the Olympic torch relay race had to detour a few blocks out of its original path in East Vancouver when people blocked streets to demonstrate their opposition. Those boosters seem to forget that Adolf Hitler and the Nazis invented the torch relay for the 1936 Berlin Games to promote their belief in an Aryan master race.

Critics of all political stripes heaped scorn upon citizens who participated in anti-Olympic actions, like the February 13 Heart Attack action which used a diversity of direct action tactics, not all reported by the

mainstream media. Moreover, while some commentators condemned the "black bloc" for destroying property, they seemed to overlook the actions of the "red and white bloc" involved in similar activity.

Many people and organizations in the Downtown Eastside say that the only way they have ever gotten anything for the people in their neighbourhood is by fighting for it. Some DTES supporters feel that fight needs to take place by any means necessary—referencing both Jean-Paul Sartre on breaking the class system and Malcolm X in abolishing racist oppression.

People in the DTES have had to rally, march, and demonstrate in the streets, long and loud, to defend their rights and make any gains (however small). Some feel that despite marching in the streets issues like the disappearance of thousands of aboriginal women across Canada have led to no action by the police or justice system.

Canada is a free society. Political protest takes many forms. If we truly believe in that freedom, let's not denounce others for methods that are not our own. Let's stick to the issues that brought about those demonstrations to start with. ✂

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# Dance inspired by mountains

by **OLGA LIVSHIN**

"Choreography is a fabulous profession. It's the way I understand the world."

These are the words of renowned Vancouver choreographer and dance teacher Jennifer Mascall. As part of the Vancouver Cultural Olympiad and the Vancouver International Dance Festival, she and her company, Mascall Dance, will be presenting their latest show, *The White Spider*, on March 12 and 13 at the Roundhouse Community Centre.

The show is based on Heinrich Harrer's book by the same name. Harrer, a famous Austrian mountain climber and author, became the first to ascend the northern face of Mountain Eiger in Switzerland in 1938. *The White Spider* is his chronicle of that experience, and it had a tremendous impact on Mascall.

Mascall has always been an intelligent and innovative choreographer, interested in investigating various aspects of modern dance. "The shows I create reflect my research," she confessed. "Every dance is like an article."

See "White Spider" Page 4 ➤



Photo courtesy of Chris Randle

Mountain climbing and dance fuse during new ballet performance.

# Women stage diverse cabaret

by **KERRY HALL**

An all-female variety show to celebrate feminine creativity rolls out soon at Centennial Theatre in North Vancouver. A benefit for the North Shore Women's Centre on March 20, the event is produced by and for women to raise money to provide services for women throughout the year.

Supriya Ryan is the development and outreach co-ordinator for the women's centre who has worked on organizing the Crimson Cabaret since it started three years ago.

"The event started because we wanted something more than a fundraiser," Ryan said. "We wanted to support and exhibit women's diversity and artistic abilities in Vancouver." She said it's an eclectic program every year and it involves many women, including producers, technicians, entrepreneurs, advertisers, singers, dancers and more. There will be 13 performances with each one coming from a different art and experiential background as well as different age groups.

"[It's] exciting because of what women bring to it," said Ryan. The performances include come-



Photo courtesy of North Shore Women's Centre

Dancer Katy Harris-McLeod to perform.

dy, mime, drumming, opera, First Nations dance, belly dancing, and Filipino folk funk music. Some of the performers are well-known artists like singer/songwriter Veda Hille, West African dancer Jackie Essombe, and singer/songwriter MJ Cyr from Toronto. The Hot Flash Hoofers are a tap dance group of about 30 women, all 55 years and more, who regularly tour around the world. Dancers, including women from The Tomorrow Collective and First

See "Crimson Cabaret" Page 5 ➤



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# Famous Ship from Russia Sails Around World

by **KERRY HALL**

The majestic era of sailing was recalled recently as a Russian tall ship sat moored in North Vancouver during the Olympic Games in February.

The *Kruzenshtern*, a four-mast ship also called a barque, is the second largest traditional sailing vessel still in operation. It also one of the world's last wind-jammers—a type of large merchant sailing ship with an iron or steel hull used for carrying cargo in the late 19th and early 20th century.

With its home port in Kaliningrad, the Russian exclave between Poland and Lithuania on the Baltic Sea, the ship took about six months to arrive in Vancouver, visiting Belgium, Spain, the Canary Islands, Peru, Venezuela, Panama and a few other countries. It was here to promote the 2014 Games in Sochi, Russia. On daily tours of the decks, sailors gave visitors an opportunity to see the vintage ship up close.

Currently, the ship is used mainly as a training vessel for 120 cadets from St. Petersburg, Kaliningrad and the Caspian Sea. Mostly in their late teens, the cadets are male post-secondary students from the Baltic State Academy and Kaliningrad Maritime College, which train officers for fishing, commercial and river fleets. They are chosen to serve on the ship based on high academic grades. Additionally, there are about 100 other crew members aboard.

The ship also participates in modern sailing regattas every year, with many silver trophies and other awards to attest to its winning status. For example, sailing from Boston to Liverpool, it won the grand Columbus '92 regatta, held for the 500th anniversary



The *Kruzenshtern* docked in North Vancouver during the Olympic Games.

sary of the discovery of America. In 2000, it won the transatlantic Millennium race. In 2009, the ship and its crew travelled to St. John's, Newfoundland, for a diplomatic visit with Canadian veterans and to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the allied victory in the Second World War.

Originally built in 1926 in Germany, with the name *Padua*, the ship was given to Russia after the Second World War in 1946 as war reparations. It was used to ship bulk cargo and was eventually refit in 1961 for the Russian Navy. By 1971, it was refit again with state of the art equipment including a satellite navigation system. In 1991, the ship was transferred to the Baltic State Academy.

The ship was renamed the *Kruzenshtern* after Admiral Ivan Fedorovich Kruzenshtern, who led the first Russian circumnavigation of the globe in the early 1800s as part of a trade mission. The admiral's detailed report of the expedition was published in six languages. He also produced an atlas of the Pacific Ocean.

The ship retraced this historic journey in 1995-1996 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Russian Navy. In 2005-2006, the ship made its third trip around the world to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the original circumnavigation. It sailed around the world in 408 days, with 329 days at sea and 79 days in ports of 22 foreign countries.

The ship measures 376 feet (114.4 metres) in overall length and 46 ft (14.02 m) in width. The four masts carry 31 square sails, which give it an area of 36,600 square feet (3,400 square metres), and many of its original winches and capstans. The main mast is 168.3 ft (51.3 m). The ship is so tall it had to be sailed into Vancouver's inner harbour at low tide, clearing the Lion's Gate Bridge by less than 33 ft (10 m).

When under sail, the ship can reach speeds of 17 knots (about 20 miles per hour or 32 kilometres per hour). It also has two diesel engines, each 1,000 hp, which can propel it at 11 knots (about 13 m.p.h. or 20 km/h). ☞



Russian cadets (above left and right) live and learn aboard the tall ship *Kruzenshtern* as it sails around the world.

► "White Spider" from page 3

In the case of *The White Spider*, Mascall's investigation turned to the parallels between dance and mountain climbing. According to her research, one of the similarities involves ensemble co-operation, tantamount for both a dance performance and mountain climbing. Another similarity is that for centuries, experience in both dancing and mountain climbing had been passed on exclusively by oral means.

"You can read a book or a piece of music a hundred years after it was written," she explained. "You can see a painting. But before the invention of video, you couldn't see a dance unless it was performed on stage. The same goes for mountain climbing."

There is a deeper connection as well, visible only to professionals. Every dance leaves an imprint, a movement trace recognizable only by other dancers. Every mountain also leaves its stamp on a climber, manifested in outer scars and inner joy. That's why *The White*

*Spider* was so attractive to Mascall—she recognized the importance of the book for the theory of modern dance. She even refused to choose another name for her ballet, although there was resistance among the ticket sellers.

"One presenter insisted we changed the name," she recalled. "He said he wouldn't be able to sell tickets because people are afraid of spiders."

Mascall wouldn't change the name, however, and she found like-minded collaborators. The new ballet is a fusion of modern dance, mountain acrobatics, light projections, music enhanced by sound effects, and a fantastic set design.

Five dancers move in 3-D, challenged by the complicated choreography as well as the shifting scenery. The set constantly transforms. Created by the sculptor Alan Storey, the set brings to mind mountainous terrain—the ropes hanging from the ceiling, the adjustable aluminum ladder, and the kinetic installation of a tilted circle are all representa-

tive of the thrill and hazard of the mountains. It is almost alive, an active participant of the show. Enriching and multilevelled, it dares the dancers to persevere in their quest for perfection and beauty. And they triumph.

Wearing climbing harnesses, they dance on stage, climb the ladder, balance on the edge of a precipice, and perform unbelievable feats in the air; graceful in their breathtaking aerial ballet even in the heart of danger. Their spirits and bodies fly, defying the relentless tug of gravity. Jeff Corness' brooding music, reminiscent of whistling winds and echoes at high altitudes, adds tension and enhances the performance.

Like mountain climbers, the dancers rely on their colleagues, playing off one another. Interpreting the choreographer's unique vision, together they take the audience on a journey to the summit of modern dance. ☞

See [www.mascalldance.ca](http://www.mascalldance.ca) for ticket information.



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March 9 - Edmonton, AB, First Presbyterian Church  
March 11 - Regina, SK, Christ Lutheran Church  
March 14 - Calgary, AB, Christ Church Elbow Park

Tickets are available in advance and at the door for all performances.

The Vancouver Chamber Choir appreciates the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts. The BC component of the tour is presented in part with the assistance of the Windsor Plywood Spectacular Music BC concert series, a project of MusicFest Vancouver.

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Larry Nickel	<i>O Sacrum Convivium</i>
Rob Teehan	<i>Hear my prayer, O Lord</i>
Iain Quinn	<i>O esca viatorum</i>
David von Kampen	<i>Before this autumn wind</i>
Stephen Chatman	<i>Clocks</i>
Antonín Dvořák	<i>Three Biblical Songs</i>
Bob Chilcott	<i>My Prayer</i>
Charles Villiers Stanford	<i>The Blue Bird</i>
Sydney Hodkinson	<i>Menagerie</i>
Ysaye Barnwell	<i>Wanting Memories</i>
Jon Washburn	<i>Bonny Portmore</i>
Scott Macmillan	<i>The Beagle and the Beluga...</i>

#### About the Vancouver Chamber Choir

In addition to touring, the Vancouver Chamber Choir presents a full concert season, broadcasts and recordings, and offers highly acclaimed educational programs including the *National Conductors' Symposium* for advanced choral conductors, *Focus!* for college and university music students, *Interplay* workshops for choral composers, *OnSite* for elementary and secondary schools, the biennial *Young Composers' Competition*, and residencies such as the Banff Choral Workshop at The Banff Centre in the Rockies.



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**Drink Outside the Box**  
JEFFREY BROWN

# Better Than Sex?

Chocolate: is there anything else in this world that gives us so much pleasure? As children it was a regular part of our diet, in the form of Mars, Kit Kat, O'Henry, Snickers, Hershey's, Crunchie, and Caramilk; the list goes on and on. Once we became health conscious adults, we reluctantly turned our backs on this hedonistic indulgence. However, chocolate never abandoned us. Instead it waits until we're sad, or we just want to be bad. Then chocolate is there, comforting and delectable, no questions asked.

I wondered if there was more to my favourite snack than the bars I grew up with. I drove down to Seattle and visited Chocopolis, a wonderful retailer on Queen Anne Blvd. They sell chocolate from all over the world. I learned that the quality of premium chocolate, dark in particular, is scrutinized with the same vigor as wine. Instead of an appellation or vineyard, chocolate can be designated by a single geographic origin, and sometimes the exact plantation the beans were grown on. One producer, Michel Cluizel, has even begun assuring the quality of plantations with a growth classification system, just like Bordeaux and Burgundy.

Last night I tasted a Michel Cluizel, Premier Cru dark chocolate bar from the Los Ancones plantation in Santo Domingo. The plantation is deemed to be of the highest quality and all the beans were handpicked from that soil. What's even more interesting is how the chocolate took on aromas and flavours from the terroir, just like wine. The Los Ancones had a smokey bouquet with liquorice, cranberry, and green olive notes. The palate was

rich and creamy with pure cocoa, current, and apricot flavours that seemed to go on forever.

I even think single origin chocolate can take on flavours from crops that are grown nearby. For example, the Dole Waialua Estate chocolate from North Shore Oahu, Hawaii, has an easily identifiable flavour of the coffee beans grown on the same plantation.

If you like to match food and wine, attempting to pair the nuances of complex chocolate with the appropriate bottle is fascinating and fun. One of my favourites is from the Sambirano Valley in Madagascar, made by Madécasse. This 70 per cent pure cacao bar has a rich chocolate texture, but the secondary flavours of raspberry, cherry, and cranberry are subtle and elegant.

I decided to pair it with a red wine of depth, but balanced enough to allow all the elements of the chocolate to shine through. I chose a 2007 Chateau Thenac. This fabulous Merlot blend from Cotes de Bergerac in Bordeaux is a steal at \$29 from Marquis Wine Cellar on Davie St. in Vancouver. Delicious on their own, the wine and chocolate merged into something much more profound than their individual parts.

Vancouver is dragging a bit behind in bringing these wonderful chocolates to our attention. However, check out Xoxolat on Burrard and West Broadway. They have a small, but interesting selection, including some Michel Cluizel.

So the question remains: is chocolate better than sex? Well, of course not, silly. That's ludicrous.

(Pssst, if you happen to have a bar that is better, please send me one!) ☞  
DOTB.

# Alternative media given voice at Olympics

by SÉBASTIEN PIERROZ

Engulfing your building in flames is an effective way to get noticed.

Walking down Hastings St. in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, you couldn't help but see that the Perel Building, temporary home to W2, was seemingly on fire. Projected on the front facade was the video installation, *Fire with Fire*, courtesy of the Cultural Olympiad and Quebec video artist Isabelle Hayeur.

While the flames behind the window caught the eyes of pedestrians, the w2 community media arts centre was bustling inside, providing support for independent journalists and bloggers from around the world wishing to cover the Olympic Winter Games.

During the Games, w2 hosted daily press conferences and had 25 videographers who went out to support the bloggers and independent journalists who worked out of the space. Journalists from around the world were able to go to the building, have a coffee, and a rest. Among these journalists, some well-known media outlets like CNN, Fox, and CBC were also seen there. w2 estimates that between 500-700 individuals, among them representatives of 35 news groups, visited the centre daily during the run of the Olympics.

Complete with a computer lab, a legal observer station, and a combination gallery space/conference room, w2 has been a means of influence and information. Every day there were screenings set up in its main floor living room, and 15 or 20 people usually attended.

"We do give importance to art," said operating manager Mark Smith, who was in Vancouver from Toronto to experience the Olympics. "It's really important and that's a message of peace".

For example, until March 14 visitors can take in Karilynn Ming Ho's installation *Versions 1,2,3*, which explores the complexities of representation and the



In addition to supporting media production, W2 also exhibits art installations.

Photo courtesy of Mark Smith

role of the lens in the staging and reframing of mediated events. Two characters improvise for the camera. Eight of these moments are then collected, theatrically restaged, and reframed in video.

One of w2's goals is to help the media connect with the people in the troubled Downtown Eastside neighbourhood. "It's often really difficult," said Smith. "The media doesn't know these people and homeless people don't trust the media. Each one has his or her own reality, so we have to operate the connection."

Results have been good. The media centre has provided background information about the neighbourhood, notorious for its homeless and addiction issues.

"People are introduced in a better way like that," said Smith.

w2 is largely volunteer-run, with 175 volunteers participating in several working groups. With a strong foundation of community interest, and without public

subsidy, the centre relies on private sector sponsorships and a high volume of participants to be sustainable.

"Our days are quite busy," said Smith. "Our journey starts at 9 a.m. with a press conference. After, we have to care about work, cleaning, helping people to understand arts." A bright smile betrayed his satisfaction, however. "Actually, I'm really tired, I just slept 4 hours a night for 3 weeks, but I'm quite happy."

Soon, w2 will move across the street to its permanent home in the new Woodward's building. Until then, there are no big innovations planned, but there's definitely a desire to grow. "It should be nice to double our capacity, in particular with modern devices like new televisions," said Smith.

For the 2012 Olympics in London, he hopes to continue the experience. "It will be more difficult, because it won't take place in Vancouver." ☞

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CONSEIL SCOLAIRE FRANCOPHONE DE LA COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE  
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Kathak dancer Trisha Rampersad.

Photo courtesy of North Shore Women's Centre

► "Crimson Caberet" from page 3 Nations group Full Circle, will also stage performances.

Additionally, there will be a silent auction for the audience to bid on. It includes 25 baskets with items donated by various individuals and businesses from across the Lower Mainland, including trips for two to Hollyhock or Whistler.

Ryan said the upcoming benefit show is also very important because it raises money to fill in the gaps that don't receive fund-

ing from other sources. "We can spend it where we see fit," she said. Many of the grants the centre now receives target particular programs and as a result they are restricted to specific expenses. As a result some costs are not covered, like fixed overhead expenses that keep the centre open on a daily basis. Five years ago, the provincial government cut funding 100 per cent of its funding to 37 women's centres across British Columbia.

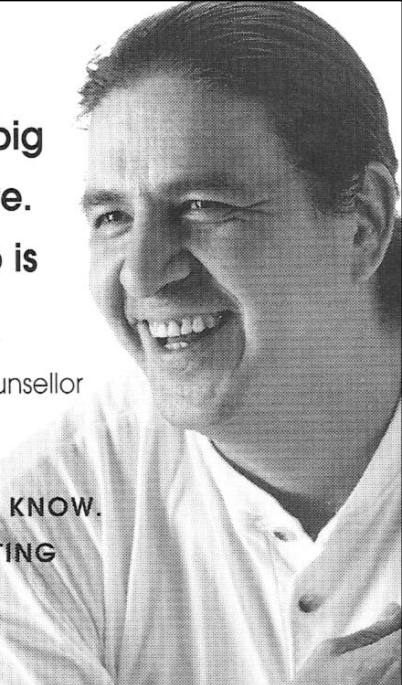
The North Shore Women's Centre has been a drop-in resource centre for 36 years. It focuses on preventative programs to empower women to make informed choices. The centre provides women with access to information, support and referrals in topic areas like housing, employment, health and relationships. As well, it provides a number of programs and services, such as a single mothers' support group, peer counseling, one-to-one computer training, a legal clinic, emergency food and supplies, and a resource library. They also have a girls' group program which includes a two-week summer program. ☞

The North Shore Women's Centre is located at 131 E. 2nd St. in North Vancouver. For more info, see northshorewomen.ca. Cabaret tickets are \$30.00 in advance, available at the centre or via the Centennial Theatre box office.

**"Traditions are a big part of my culture. Unfortunately, so is diabetes."**

Bernie, First Nations counsellor

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# Cultural Calendar

March 9–March 23, 2010

by **KERRY HALL**

Just because the Olympic athletes have left town doesn't mean there isn't still lots to do. Besides these events following, the Cultural Olympiad runs until March 21.

\*\*\*

## The Spirit of Unity

March 9–28  
Tuesday, March 9, 5–8 p.m.,  
opening reception  
Ferry Building Gallery  
1414 Argyle Ave., W. Vancouver  
604-925-7290  
ferrybuildinggallery.com

A mixed media exhibition of art by students of Collingwood, Mulgrave, Rockridge, Sentinel, and West Vancouver Secondary School. To express how the diversity of humanity is, and must be, the cause of unity, just as the different notes in music blend to create harmony. Unity in diversity celebrates co-operation between different groups of people in a single society, and celebrates the beauty and strength of each culture, religion, history, ethnicity, race, colour, cuisine, dress, language and gender. It describes a sense of oneness despite physical or psychological barriers. Also showing at the West Van Memorial Library Art Gallery.

\*\*\*

## W2010

Kootenay School of Writing  
Friday, March 12; Doors at 8 p.m.,  
readings start at 9 p.m.  
w2 Perel Gallery,  
112 W. Hastings St., Vancouver  
www.kswnet.org

Launch party for the new issue of w: w2010. It is published both in a limited edition print run, and as a free PDF downloadable from the ksw website. w2010 features poetry and fiction by Jonathon Wilcke, Nikki Reimer, Tony Power, Tomasz Michalak, Donato Mancini, Heather McDonald, Tiziana La Melia, Reg Johanson, Scott Inniss, Ray Hsu, Emily Fedoruk, Kim Duff, Cris Costa, Stephen Collis, Edward Byrne, Michael Barnholden, Anne Ahmad and Sonnet L'Abbé.

\*\*\*

## Iranian Festival & Norouz Bazaar

Canadian Iranian Foundation  
Saturday, March 13; 11 a.m.–7 p.m.  
Mickey McDougall Gymnasium  
200 block E. 23 St., N. Vancouver  
604-696-1121  
www.cif-bc.com

Celebrate the beauty of a new season and the rebirth of the earth at this event with Persian and Arabian folkdancing, belly dance, Persian food, Kurdish music, door prizes and other fun activities.

\*\*\*

## Flammen og Citronen: Film Viewing

Danish House Society  
Sunday, March 14; 12:30 p.m.  
refreshments; 1 p.m. film  
Scandinavian Cultural Centre  
6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby  
604-526-4722  
scandinaviancentre.org

"Flammen" and "Citronen" were the code names of two of Denmark's most renowned resistance fighters in World War II. The film

depicts their complex characters and moral ambiguity of their exploits. Mads Bunch, from the UBC Department of Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies, will present an introduction as well as commentary, providing context on the film's historic and artistic importance. In Danish with English subtitles. Admission by donation (\$10 suggested).

\*\*\*

**Nourouz: Iranian New Year**  
Tuesday, March 16; 6–10 p.m.  
Ambleside Park, W. Vancouver  
604-726-1650

This 2,500 year old festival brings family and friends together to welcome the Iranian New Year.

\*\*\*

**First Nations Storyteller-in-Residence: Jackie Timothy**  
Wednesday March 17; 7 p.m.  
VPL Mount Pleasant Branch  
1 Kingsway, Vancouver  
www.vpl.ca

From March through June 2010, Jackie Timothy will be the second VPL First Nations Storyteller-in-Residence. Timothy, who shares the ancestral name La-Sah with his brother, is a storyteller, cultural presenter, master carver and residential school survivor from the Sliammon First Nation near Powell River, B.C. He comes from the hereditary Chief lineage of his village and was bestowed with the title Storyteller by his beloved grandparents and the title Master Carver by his peers many years ago. Free admission.

\*\*\*

**Africa To Aberdeen**  
Saturday, March 20; 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
New Westminster  
Christian Reformed Church  
8255 13th Ave., Burnaby  
www.miyanda-drum-dance.blogspot.com

Benefit concert featuring performances by the Miyanda Youth Ensemble, Chibi Taiko, Afro-MuManzi, the NWSS Choir, Tambai Marimba, and Tuedon Ariri. Proceeds will help send the Miyanda Youth Ensemble attend the Aberdeen International Youth Festival in Scotland. Tickets \$15 adults.

\*\*\*

**Viking Feast Hall**  
Reik Felag Norse Culture  
Recreation Group  
Saturday, March 20; 6–11 p.m.  
Scandinavian Cultural Centre  
6540 Thomas St., Burnaby  
604-294-2777  
www.reikfelag.ca

A Viking era feast that comes complete with songs, stories, drama and (mock) violence. Wear a Viking costume or modern-day dress. Tickets \$30, cash bar.

\*\*\*

**World Storytelling Day: Epic Highlights**  
Saturday, March 20; 4–6 p.m.  
5570 Blenheim St., Vancouver  
www.vancouverstorytelling.org

World Storytelling Day is a global celebration of the art of oral storytelling. During the same day and night, as many people as possible tell and listen to stories in as many languages and at as many places as possible. This local event features storytellers Nan Gregory and Jean Pierre Makosso with host Kira Van Deusen and music by Deaf Dogs, there will be highlights from the Finnish *Kalevala* and Malian *Sundiata* epic stories plus Klezmer, African, Finnish, American and contemporary original folk music. Tickets \$15 at the door, limited seating, email for reservations, info@vancouverstorytelling.org. On Sunday, March 21, 4–6 p.m. highlights of the epic stories will

be broadcasted on Co-op Radio (CFRO 102.7 fm) and livestreamed at www.coopradio.org.

\*\*\*

**Up-Rize: A Fundraiser and Celebration**  
Saturday, March 20; 7 p.m.  
Rhizome Cafe  
317 E. Broadway, Vancouver  
604-872-3166  
www.rhizomecafe.ca

The Surrey Urban Youth Project puts on an evening of film and performance celebrating their work. Featuring youth performers from SUYP's current Making Bridges Out of Walls program as well as guests including Khari McLelland, sara kendall, Omari Newton and more. SUYP is an arts-based, youth-driven, empowerment program providing training in anti-oppression, facilitation, peer-support, conflict transformation, nonviolent communication, public speaking, and community organizing. Suggested donation \$5–20, but no one turned away.

\*\*\*

## Nighthawk Aboriginal Arts and Music Festival

Downtown Eastside  
Centre for the Arts  
Sunday, March 21; 2–9 p.m.  
Crab Park, 101 E. Waterfront Rd.,  
Vancouver  
604-689-2787  
bright-light.ca/deca

A fun, free one-day event celebrating traditional and contemporary indigenous art. Presented in a village-like setting, the festival features live music, drum and dance performances, and an artisan village with food and children's activities. Traditional practices such as carving, birch-bark biting and drummaking will be demonstrated.



Présente/presents

## Les 16<sup>e</sup> Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois et francophone

March 1<sup>st</sup> - 12, 2010 - Auditorium Jules-Verne, 5445 Baillie, Vancouver

**JE TE MANGERAIS**  
Mer. 3 mars 9:15 pm

**L'HOMME DE CHEVET**  
Lun. 8 mars 7:00 pm

**Une Soirée lyrique au Cinéma**  
Spectacle Gala avec  
Bruno Laplante et  
France Duval  
Jeudi le 4 mars 2010  
7:30 pm

**EXPOSITION/ EXHIBITION: March 1<sup>st</sup>-12, 2010**

**Photographies de Denis Bouvier:**  
False Creek,  
au cœur de la métamorphose de Vancouver

**Salon du cinéma du 1<sup>er</sup> au 5 mars:**  
films, ateliers et rencontres avec les  
métiers du cinéma, à l'Auditorium  
Jules-Verne et UBC.

**VOP Partners:**



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