

# BC Scene

## THE COMPLETE EVENT AND ARTIST LINEUP

*600 artists 90 events 30 venues 13 days*

**OTTAWA (Canada)** — Canada's National Arts Centre today unveiled the entire lineup of artists and events for BC Scene, a dazzling multi-disciplinary arts festival that will take place in Ottawa-Gatineau from April 21 to May 3, 2009.

Tickets are now on sale for what will be the largest gathering of British Columbia artists ever presented outside the province. BC Scene will feature 600 artists from disciplines as varied as music, theatre, dance, visual and media arts, literature and culinary arts in more than 30 venues around the National Capital Region.

See below for an overview of the complete BC Scene lineup or, for more detailed information about events, including time and ticket information, please visit [bcscene.ca](http://bcscene.ca).

### CLASSICAL/CHAMBER MUSIC

*22 B.C. composers, a world-class symphony orchestra, virtuoso brothers, a singing Jack Pine, and a vocal chamber ensemble without a conductor*

BC Scene is proud to be showcasing the work of some of British Columbia's – and indeed this country's – brightest performing stars, as well as its most respected and emerging composers.

These include **22 talented B.C. composers** whose works will be featured in classical and chamber music events during the festival. Among these works, are two world premieres of pieces by **Jocelyn Morlock** and **Douglas Smith**, which were commissioned by the NAC Orchestra and CBC Radio. Other composers whose works will be performed are: **Murray Adaskin, Dorothy Chang, Stephen Chatman, Jean Coulthard, Iman Habibi, Ed Henderson, Veda Hille, François Houle, John Korsrud, Alexina Louie, David MacIntyre, Phil Nimmons, Jordan Nobles, Imant Raminsh, Bill Runge, Jeffrey Ryan, Rodney Sharman, Tobin Stokes, Brian Tate, Brad Turner and Leslie Uyeda.**

The Grammy and Juno Award-winning Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of internationally acclaimed **Maestro Bramwell Tovey**, performs at the National Arts Centre for the first time since 1976 (May 1, NAC Southam Hall, 20:00). This is a rare opportunity to enjoy Debussy's lovely, melodic *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* and Stravinsky's electrifying music for the ballet *Petrouchka*. Also on the program is B.C. composer and former VSO composer-in-residence **Jeffrey Ryan's** *The Linearity of Light*. A musician of striking versatility, Grammy Award winner Bramwell Tovey is acknowledged around the world for his artistic depth and his warm, charismatic personality on the podium. Joining him on stage will be young virtuoso pianist **Avan Yu**, who will perform Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. At the age of fourteen, this remarkable artist made his debut with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in a performance of the same piece, earning the praise and admiration of critics and his musical peers alike. Avan is an alumnus of the NAC's Young Artist Program and now, at 20, he will tour eastern Canada with the VSO. There will be pre-concert chat at 19:00 (in English) which will provide concert-goers with an opportunity to learn more about the programme from Maestro Tovey himself. Presented in collaboration with the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

BC Scene is delighted to offer programming for the entire family. **Jack Pine**, a lovely opera for children, is a superb way to introduce the young people in your life to a very special art form (April 26, NAC Fourth Stage, 13:30 & 15:30). Vancouver Opera in Schools presents the wonderful story of Jack Pine, the gnarly and misunderstood tree who lives in the Canadian Rockies and tries to find his place among the other trees. Come meet the tenacious Jack Pine and his friends as they explore some of the myths and facts of Canada's vast forests. An engaging 45-minute opera for young audiences (kindergarten to Grade 7), *Jack Pine* is based on the children's book of the same name by Christopher Patton, with music and libretto by **Veda Hille**. **Hiather Darnel-Kadonaga** (soprano), **Rose-Ellen Nichols** (mezzo-soprano), **Adam Fisher** (tenor), and **Michael MacKinnon** (bass) are the talented cast, accompanied by pianist **Andrea Wood**. Both child-friendly and environmentally-friendly, this musical romp through the forests of western Canada is a delightful family outing. *Jack Pine* will also be performed from April 21 to 24 in local schools.

Brotherly love sparks incredible music when two talented siblings combine their skills on the piano. Vancouver's hometown heroes **Jon Kimura Parker** and **James Parker** (April 29, NAC, Southam Hall, 20:00) studied their craft at the Vancouver Academy of Music and the University of British Columbia, and have played with every major orchestra in Canada. A highly charismatic performer, Jon Kimura has been lavishly praised by critics for his superior technique and expressive passion, as well as his sense of humour and natural showmanship. James is a two-time Juno Award winner and is acclaimed for his work with the Gryphon Trio. With a recital program that includes Rachmaninov's *Symphonic Dances* and works by Mozart and B.C. composer **Alexina Louie**, these extraordinary pianists are guaranteed to arouse your curiosity, amaze you with their artistry, and, of course, entertain you. This season, the National Arts Centre Orchestra celebrates the many talents of acclaimed B.C. pianist Jon Kimura Parker as its first artist-in-residence. He will play an integral role in the orchestra's performances, education outreach, and BC Scene. This concert will be broadcast on *Tempo* and *Sunday Afternoon in Concert* on CBC Radio 2 (103.3 FM in Ottawa; [cbc.ca/Ottawa](http://cbc.ca/Ottawa)).

The **Borealis String Quartet** (April 24, National Gallery of Canada, Rideau Chapel, Noon) is a young, energetic ensemble made up of **Patricia Shih**, violin; **Yuel Yawney**, violin; **Nikita Pogrebnoy**, viola; **Shi-Lin Chen**, cello. Acclaimed for its dynamic performances, passion, and

refined musical interpretations, the group, which makes its performance home at the University of British Columbia as Quartet-in-Residence, has delighted audiences and critics alike with the clarity and attack of its playing. This program will feature Beethoven's *String Quartet No. 11 in F minor, Op. 95*, Grieg's *String Quartet in G minor, Op. 27*, and *String Quartet No. 1* by Okanagan-based composer **Imant Raminsh**. Since they first came together in Vancouver in 2000, the Borealis String Quartet has been featured in numerous CBC broadcasts and has delighted audiences in sold out concert halls across the country. The robust skill of these four musicians brings a fresh and vibrant perspective to the chamber music repertoire and makes them a must-see.

**musica intima** (April 28, National Gallery of Canada, Rideau Chapel, Noon) has earned a reputation as one of North America's most exciting vocal chamber ensembles. Given its small size – 12 professional singers – *musica intima* will amaze you with its flexibility, enchant you with the power of its performances, and dazzle you with its fascinating interpretations. But what makes this ensemble truly unique is that the singers rehearse and perform without a conductor. In rehearsal, they exchange ideas freely while exploring their own musical creativity; in performance, they engage the audience with a spontaneity and freshness all their own. Joined by guest cellist **Ari Barnes**, *musica intima's* program will include works by B.C. composers **Jordan Nobles, Stephen Chatman, Leslie Uyeda, Jeffrey Ryan, Jocelyn Morlock, Ed Henderson, Tobin Stokes, Brian Tate, and David MacIntyre**.

Considered by many to be Canada's leading exponent of the clarinet, **François Houle's** (April 27, National Gallery of Canada, Rideau Chapel, Noon) performances and recordings transcend the stylistic borders associated with his instrument in all of the diverse musical spheres he embraces: classical, jazz, new music, improvised music, and world music. As an improviser, he has developed a unique language, virtuosic and rich. As a soloist and chamber musician, he has actively expanded the clarinet's repertoire by commissioning some of today's leading Canadian and international composers and premiering over one hundred new works. François is a musician who consistently imbues each genre he masters with a conspicuous creativity, thrilling audiences with his unique tone and surprising interpretations. Accompanied by pianist **Jane Hayes**, François's recital program artfully moves from works by Milhaud and Piazzolla to the world premiere of his own composition ***Aerials XIX***.

**Simone Osborne** (May 1, National Gallery of Canada, Rideau Chapel, Noon) sounds and looks as if she was born to be a diva. The 22-year old made a stunning debut last year when she was the youngest recipient of a Grand Winner award at the Metropolitan Opera's prestigious National Council Auditions held in New York City. New York Times music critic Anthony Tommasini lauded her "sweet and clear sound, sensitive phrasing and gleaming sustained high notes." A few months later, she was a co-winner at the internationally recognized Marilyn Horne Foundation Vocal Competition in Santa Barbara. Simone is set to become the next great buzz of the international opera world with invitations to sing pouring in from across the globe. Pianist **Andrea Grant** will accompany Simone in a recital program that includes Richard Strauss's *Brentano Lieder*, a selection of French songs by Liszt, and the world premiere of a new work by young B.C. composer Iman Habibi.

The **National Arts Centre Orchestra** celebrates West Coast creativity in **Music from Sea to Sky**, part of the third edition of the NAC's annual **eXpressions festival** (April 30, NAC, Southam Hall, 20:00). This program of works by B.C. composers with violinists **Jonathan**

**Crow** and **Karl Stobbe**. Alain Trudel, principal conductor of the Vancouver-based National Broadcast Orchestra, leads the NAC Orchestra in a concert that includes the world premieres of works by **Jocelyn Morlock** and **Douglas Smith**, which were commissioned by the NAC Orchestra and CBC Radio, along with works by **Rodney Sharman** and Benjamin Britten. This free concert, presented by the National Arts Centre Orchestra, is being recorded by CBC Radio 2.

Prepare for daring, unpredictable music when the **Hard Rubber Orchestra** takes the stage (May 2, Dominion-Chalmers United Church, 20:00). The National Arts Centre's **eXpressions festival** features a performance by B.C.'s vibrant and energetic musical troupe that has been referred to as the "Godzilla of the Vancouver jazz scene." This 18-piece orchestra, consisting of Vancouver's funkier musicians, is a highly active jazz/new music ensemble that has toured to Europe and across Canada, released two CDs, and is the recipient of Canada's largest arts prize, the Alcan Performing Arts Award. Composer, conductor, and trumpeter **John Korsrud** leads this acclaimed postmodern ensemble in a wild, eclectic musical ride. The program includes three of John's own works, plus compositions by fellow B.C. composers **Bill Runge** and **Brad Turner**. Free concert presented in collaboration with the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

This season, the National Arts Centre's popular **Music for a Sunday Afternoon** chamber music concert has a distinctly B.C. flavour (April 26, National Gallery of Canada, Auditorium, 14:00). Prince George native **Jonathan Crow** (violin) and renowned chamber musician **James Parker** (piano) collaborate with a number of National Arts Centre Orchestra musicians with roots in British Columbia. **Joanna G'froerer** (flute), **Camille Churchfield** (flute), **Kimball Sykes** (clarinet), **Christopher Millard** (bassoon) and **Jethro Marks** (viola) will be featured in works by B.C. composers **Jean Coulthard**, **Stephen Chatman**, **Murray Adaskin**, **Alexina Louie**, **Phil Nimmons** and **Dorothy Chang**. This concert is being recorded by CBC Radio 2.

## **BLUES, FOLK/ROOTS, JAZZ, ROCK/POP, WORLD**

*Contemporary music at BC Scene offers a world of possibility, from blues to jazz to rock... and everything in between*

Anything's possible in the world of B.C. contemporary music. Whether you seek legendary folk performers like **Valdy** and **Shari Ulrich**, the metal riffs of **BISON b.c.**, the sultry voice of **Diana Krall**, the blues of **Ndidi Onukwulu** or the spoken-word poetry of **Tons of Fun University** a.k.a T.O.F.U., it's all waiting for you at BC Scene!

### **BLUES**

Two wonderful blues performers will take the stage at BC Scene. **Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne**'s high energy boogie-woogie sound pays tribute to the greats of rock n' roll and blues (May 2, The Rainbow, 21:30). Think Fats Waller and Johnnie Johnson and you have an idea of what's in store when you spend an evening with Canada's premier purveyor of red-hot contemporary blues piano.

Nominated for a Juno award for Solo Roots and Traditional Album of the Year for "The Contradictor," Vancouver's **Ndidi Onukwulu** (April 23, Library and Archives Canada, 20:00) can wrap her silky voice around anything from country blues to her own rootsy salon sound.

## FOLK/ROOTS

For folk music lovers it's a treat to see **Veda Hille** and **Penny Lang** on one bill (April 26, Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre, 20:00). Hille has been touted as "one of the most genuinely innovative musicians in Canada" and her music blends jazz, pop and classical piano with vibrant, intelligent lyrics conceived by a natural storyteller. Lang has evolved in her four-decade career from being a coffeehouse draw in her Montreal hometown to becoming one of Canada's leading roots-based artists. Get acquainted with these two compelling performers in an intimate evening of acoustic song, presented in collaboration with the Ottawa Folk Festival's Acoustic Waves series.

Some of British Columbia's most beloved musicians come together at **B.C. Music Legends** (May 1, CentrepoinTE Theatre, 20:00). Hosted by Canadian folk music icon **Valdy**, the evening will feature singer-songwriter **Barney Bentall**, the remarkable 87-year old blues singer **Leon Bibb**, folk legend **Ferron**, singer-songwriter **Roy Forbes**, **Will Millar**, formerly the lead singer of the Irish Rovers, and **Shari Ulrich** of celebrated 70s band Pied Pumkin.

Or, if a bluegrass fix is what you're after, the **Bluegrass Spectacular** features **John Reischman & the Jaybirds** and **Hungry Hill** (May 2, Library and Archives Canada, 20:00). After years of European and North American tours, four critically acclaimed albums, two Juno nominations and two Canadian Folk Music Award nominations, it's no wonder the buzz around John Reischman & The Jaybirds continues to grow. Hungry Hill is a contemporary, acoustic bluegrass group with a fresh sound that stays true to the roots of bluegrass and old-time music. The band will perform songs by the acclaimed songwriting team of **Jenny Lester**, **Bob Hamilton** and **Mark Thibeault**.

Alternative country meets rockabilly when **Carolyn Mark** and **Cousin Harley** hit the stage (April 24, Blacksheep, 20:00). Hailing from Sicamous, B.C., singer-songwriter Mark is famous for her onstage antics and powerful voice. Sharing the bill is Cousin Harley, Western Canada's premier rockabilly and roots band. Led by guitar/vocalist **Paul Pigat** (a.k.a. Cousin Harley), the band is known for its inexhaustible energy and modern hotrod twist style, described by *Monday Magazine's* Ron Forbes Roberts as "hot enough to raise sweat on a chunk of granite!" This concert will be broadcast on Canada Live on *CBC Radio 2 (103.3 FM in Ottawa)*.

The **Gospel and Blues Revue** offers the chance to see **Jim Byrnes**, **Steve Dawson** and **The Sojourners** (April 24, Library and Archives Canada, 20:00). Since his first professional gig in 1964, Jim Byrnes has appeared with Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Robert Cray and Ray Charles. Multi-instrumentalist, producer and multi-award winner Steve Dawson is constantly striving for unique sounds and approaches to acoustic music and has played with artists as diverse as Gil Scott-Heron, Long John Baldry, Justin Rutledge and Oh Susannah, to name a few. Byrnes hosts this special evening, which also includes the talents of up-and-coming gospel trio, The Sojourners (vocalists **Will Sanders**, **Ron Small** and **Marcus Mosely**).

According to CBC Radio's *Vinyl Café* host Stuart McLean, B.C. native **James Hill** (May 3, Canadian Museum of Civilization, 16:00) is the "Wayne Gretzky of the ukulele." The instrument might have earned its reputation as that plucky little four-stringed guitar from Hawaii, but Hill's contributions to the folk music scene have made the ukulele one of the hottest instruments in Canada. Performing in concert with cellist **Anne Davison**, the concert is presented in collaboration with the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Ottawa Folk Festival. Hill will also participate in a weekend of fun and educational activities, including a workshop for teachers and a ukulele building workshop, presented in collaboration with the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Ottawa Folk Festival (workshops May 2, 14:00, May 3, 14:00 and 13:00-16:00, and concert May 3, 16:00, all at the Canadian Museum of Civilization).

**Les Vendredis de la chanson francophone** is a series of original Friday night concerts that introduces Ottawa audiences to Francophone artists from across Canada, and the BC Scene edition (April 24, MIFO, 20:00) features a multi-talented song circle comprised of B.C.'s most vibrant singers and songwriters from the Francophone arts community. Guitarist-singer **Josée Allard** is a breath of fresh air with a vibrant pop-folk style. She will be joined onstage by bilingual artist **Danielle Hébert**, who effortlessly blends French song, improvisatory music, jazz and techno beats, and acclaimed eclectic folk, jazz and electronic singer-songwriter Saint-Pierre.

**Sandy Scofield** and **Fara Palmer**, two of B.C.'s top contemporary aboriginal musicians, share the stage at BC Scene (April 22, NAC Fourth Stage, 19:30). Scofield is a Métis (of Saulteaux and Cree descent) singer-songwriter who's been described as a transforming trickster for her ability to move effortlessly between musical styles. From delicate pop to powerhouse blues and rock, Scofield's music carries important messages for audiences of all cultures. Palmer is an equally eclectic performer, singing pop-based music that branches into soul, R&B, rock, roots and dance. With a Juno nomination and two Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards in 2008, Palmer is a star on the rise.

Prepare to be shocked, amazed and delighted when Victoria's global roots extravaganza group, **The Bills**, hits the stage (April 25, Library and Archives Canada, 20:00). Whether it's blistering Brazilian mandolin melodies and the hilarious use of random objects (such as a mandolin solo with candelabra); breathtaking, virtuosic two-fiddle playoffs; outrageously exotic bowed banjo solos; or soulful vocal renderings of the world's most hummable melodies, The Bills – **Marc Atkinson, Adrian Dolan, Chris Frye, Scott White, and Jeremy Penner** – are a musical and visual joy to behold. Joining them is Vancouver's own folk star, **T. Nile**, a Canadian Folk Music Award winner whose work John P. McLaughlin has called "the biggest roots noise out of these very rootsy parts."

**Tons of Fun University** a.k.a. T.O.F.U. is a trio unlike any other (April 23, NAC Fourth Stage, 20:00). T.O.F.U.'s **Shane Koyczan, C.R. Avery** and **Mike McGee** achieve performance poetry magic, yet still rock the slam stage when touring solo. Fast-paced rhymes, upbeat tunes and infectious enthusiasm define this all-out-fun group that is putting the hip-factor back into poetry. MC-singer-poet-actress-beatnik-music-maker **Kinnie Starr**, whose blend of hip hop, alternative rock and spoken-word poetry can be described as "hip hop agro groove," will share the stage. Kinnie has been recorded rapping in English, Spanish and French, has performed with Cirque du Soleil, was on the roster of the Lilith Fair tour in 1997, and her songs have been included on the soundtracks for the TV series *The L Word* and the movie *Thirteen*.

## JAZZ

Since her breakout album "Stepping Out" was released in 1993, **Diana Krall's** name has been synonymous with musical excellence (May 2-3, NAC Southam Hall, 20:00). The B.C. native's sultry, imaginative interpretations of jazz standards have made her one of the world's most admired and recognized musicians, and her collaborations with jazz superstars such as Ray Charles and Tony Bennett, have bridged the gap to create new generations of jazz lovers around the world. With her smooth, sexy style and lush arrangements, Diana Krall has seduced both audiences devoted to jazz, and those with other musical preferences. Along with her luscious delivery and fresh interpretations of traditional jazz favourites, Krall brings new life to more contemporary classics. Whether singing to her own remarkable piano accompaniment, or backed by a full orchestra, Diana Krall's talent and engaging performance style are undeniable, and audiences lucky enough to spend an evening under her musically hypnotic thrall don't quickly forget the experience.

BC Scene will also feature the **Brad Turner Quartet**, **Phil Dwyer** and the **Jodi Proznick Quartet** in one great evening called **B.C. Jazz All-Stars** (April 30, Library and Archives Canada, 20:00). Hailed by *The Globe and Mail* as "a kind of Miles Davis, Herbie Hancock and Keith Jarrett all rolled into one," two-time Juno Award winner Brad Turner's phenomenal talents as a trumpeter, pianist, drummer and composer make him one of Canada's most-in-demand musicians. Joining Turner's quartet will be critically acclaimed composer, arranger and musical director Phil Dwyer. A gifted, intuitive performer on both saxophone and piano and a force on the international jazz scene for over two decades, Dwyer has performed with everyone from Aretha Franklin to jazz greats like Ingrid Jensen and many others. Kicking off this exciting evening of B.C. jazz is the Jodi Proznick Quartet, a fresh, swinging and highly interactive group led by Proznick on bass, who was recently named Canada's top bassist at the 2008 National Jazz Awards.

Things keep swinging with **John Geggie** and special musical guest **Seamus Blake**, performing as part of the eighth consecutive season of the John Geggie Concert Series (April 25, NAC Fourth Stage, 20:00). Vancouver-raised tenor saxophonist and composer Blake is making headlines as one of the finest and most creative young players in the contemporary jazz world. Few artists are capable of delivering near-perfection every time, but Blake is one of them, with a consistent ability to create a clear narrative with every solo. Blake is joined by Geggie on bass, B.C.'s **Chris Gestrin** on the piano and **Nick Fraser** on drums.

Two of the West Coast's finest jazz artists, vocalist **Kate Hammett-Vaughan** and guitarist **Bill Coon** (who have collaborated on an album), will appear together at BC Scene (May 1, Café Paradiso, 21:30). A three-time Juno Award nominee, Hammett-Vaughan has a highly personal and expressive vocal style that incorporates the breadth of her musical interests, from straight-ahead soulful ballads to hard-swinging grooves and improvisational adventures. Coon, also a Juno nominee, is one of the nation's great jazz guitarists, a swinging and sensitive accompanist with an arranger's ear and the history of jazz guitar running through his fingers.

Described by *The Globe and Mail* as "a supremely melodic improviser," B.C. saxophonist/pianist **Mike Allen** has become an important name on the Canadian jazz scene (May 2, Café Paradiso, 20:00). His album "Love One Another" was hailed as the #1 Canadian Jazz Album of 2005" by the *Ottawa Citizen*. Steeped in the tradition of the great saxophone-led groups of Sonny Rollins,

John Coltrane and Ornette Coleman, this quartet, featuring **Miles Black** (piano), **Adam Thomas** (bass), and **Julian MacDonough** (drums), performs original material and standard repertoire that features lyrical tunes and swinging blues, played with true intensity.

## ROCK/POP

Don't miss psychedelic tunes from **Black Mountain**, the haunting sounds of indie quartet **Ladyhawk**, and the blues-rock dynamic duo **The Pack A.D.** (April 24, Capital Music Hall, 20:00). All three have achieved fame and good fortune on the road to stardom: they opened for Coldplay, were finalists in the prestigious 2008 Polaris Music Prize and their song *Stay Free* played everywhere as part of the soundtrack for the smash hit movie *Spider-Man 3*. Ladyhawk's international reputation has been solidified with their latest album described as "a party for the last house standing in a sea of strip malls and condos." And with influences as diverse as Cat Stevens, Leadbelly and Peter Greenaway, The Pack A.D. is a guitar and drum-howling blues duo holding the torch high in today's garage rock revival, striking with a raw hell-torn swagger that is equally contemplative and unflinching. This concert is being recorded by CBC Radio 3.

BC Scene joins forces with CBC Radio to present an intimate concert featuring **Dan Mangan** and **Danny Michel**, two artists who are skyrocketing on the Canadian music scene (April 22, First Baptist Church Ottawa, 20:00). Noted for his powerful, weather-beaten vocals that hint at something epic lurking in the undertones, Mangan is influenced both by songsmiths of old (Nick Drake, Woody Guthrie) and sonic innovators of late (Neutral Milk Hotel, Sigur Rós). Juno-nominated Michel is a talented guitarist/songwriter universally lauded for his unique lyrics. *EYE Magazine* writes "Danny Michel has reached a point where his musical vocabulary is so broad, his songwriting/arranging chops so sharp, his guitar playing so distinctive and his taste for the right sonic touch so impeccable that he can do whatever he wants and make it compelling." This concert will be recorded for broadcast on CBC Radio 2's Canada Live.

If you've got a thing for beer and hockey, you'll feel right at home with Vancouver punk rockers **The Hanson Brothers** (April 24, Maverick's, 22:00). Heavily influenced by the Ramones and hockey, the band's name refers to characters in the cult ice hockey film *Slap Shot*. Musicians **John Wright**, **Rob Wright** and **Tom Holliston** belong to another legendary punk group, **NoMeansNo**, also performing at BC Scene.

Often described as one of Canada's best up-and-coming acts, **Hey Ocean!** is a young band with an extraordinary talent for blending various musical styles into a brand of infectious pop that is all their own (with **Said the Whale**, April 25, Zaphod Beeblebrox, 20:30). Superb vocals, remarkable musicianship, and thoughtful lyrics are all showcased by the group's collective songwriting approach. Said the Whale is as much a product of Vancouver's tremendous natural beauty as it is of the city's budding independent music scene. Their unique blend of eclectic indie rock captures the essence of what it means to be young, free and occasionally heartbroken in your early 20s.

Based in Victoria, **Jon and Roy** consists of members **Jon Middleton**, **Roy Vizer** and, most recently, **Ryan Tonelli** (April 29, NAC Fourth Stage, 20:00). Centered on the songwriting of Middleton, Vizer adds the percussive boom that turns folk tunes into groovy ones while bassist Tonelli adds a depth of sound with sweet and low tones. The band's warm, laid-back, inviting

acoustic roots music has earned raves from audiences in the U.K. and Canada where they have toured with many top artists, including Buck 65.

Indie darlings **Mother Mother** are generating a lot of attention for their original approach to modern pop/rock music (with **Miss Emily Brown**, May 1, The Black Sheep, 21:00). Their sophomore album "O My Heart" was the #3 Canadian album on the iTunes 2008 chart listing, and their track *Body of Years* was singled out by CBC Radio 3 listeners as the year's best vocal. Miss Emily Brown's background in folk and jazz, combined with her enthusiasm for electronic music and improvisation, give her performances a notably innovative quality. Music boxes, autoharp, guitar, and Pianet provide the accompaniment to her riveting vocals.

Time to get down and dirty with some Vancouver punk (**NoMeansNo**) and, yes, some metal (**BISON b.c.**). (April 21, babylon, 20:30). Originally from Victoria, NoMeansNo has a devoted underground following across the continent and its members tour frequently to reach them. Influenced by jazz, punk, and progressive rock in its early years, the band demonstrates impressive instrumental technique and has a sound unlike any other. Joining them onstage is BISON b.c., the heavy metal band infamous for their intense live shows. Blending traditional heavy metal with undertones of hardcore punk and thrash metal they have built a strong fan base around North America.

With a reputation for high-energy live shows, **Sweatshop Union** is a powerful antidote for vacant pop-rap (April 25, babylon, 21:30). What began as a collective of Vancouver-based artists pooling resources to release an album transformed into a group that performs hip hop in its old-school form, with intelligent lyrics delivered by multiple MCs over simple-yet inventive beats. With numerous awards and a busy tour schedule performing with groups like The Black Eyed Peas, Sweatshop Union remains driven to deliver a deeper, more meaningful sound to the masses. **DJ Timothy Wisdom** is the most sought-after powerhouse behind Vancouver's exploding intentional dance community. With appearances at some of today's largest festivals, Timothy's music unifies, intensifies, uplifts and penetrates the senses.

Vancouver's resident dance-punk savants **You Say Party! We Say Die!** take on the world on their own terms with a frenzied, clever collision of synth, beats and singer Becky Ninkovic's "ululating shriek of a voice" (with **Immaculate Machine** and **Japandroids**, May 2, babylon, 21:00). With a strong international following built on songs that engage the audience through hyperactive danceability and a giddy sense of fun, YSP! WSD! is a high-octane punk-dance band for the new millennium. They share the stage with Immaculate Machine, the acclaimed indie-rock trio from Victoria that sings in three-part harmonies and strangled shouts above crashing drums, catchy keyboards and electric guitar. The evening kicks off with Japandroids, a two-piece band from Vancouver who crank out distortion-laden garage-rock anthems about fleeting youth.

## WORLD

Winner of the 2008 Juno Award for Best World Music Album, singer-songwriter **Alex Cuba's** trademark sweetheart melodies, pop-soul hooks and rock chords subtly subvert commonly held notions of what Cuban music is all about, and still deliver plenty of Latin rhythm and mellow sun-drenched sensuality (May 2, Harold Shenkman Hall, 20:00). Not tied to tradition, this Cuban-Canadian prefers his vintage Gibson over el sencerro (cowbell) anytime. Now living in

Smithers, B.C., Alex is crafting a cross-cultural sound that mirrors his geographical journey and is earning him ever-increasing audiences across the country. Presented by the Shenkman Arts Centre.

Master of ritmos brasileiros, virtuoso guitarist, and an incredible percussionist, **Celso Machado** brings joy to his audiences with his subtle mixture of musical inspiration, irresistible rhythm and inspired lunacy (April 26, Blacksheep, 16:00). Celso will be joined by master percussionist **Sal Ferreras**. Sal works in many facets of the Canadian music scene and in numerous genres, including classical, world, jazz, pop and Latin. Rounding out this talented trio is the remarkable **John Reischman**, one of the world's top mandolin players and composers, bringing his impeccable musicianship, tone and taste to an afternoon of great world music.

Whether it is the sultry beauty of Imperial Court classics, or cutting edge contemporary creations, **Mei Han and Red Chamber's** fiery passion embodies every note (April 29, Library and Archives Canada, 20:00). This Vancouver ensemble straddles the traditional and the contemporary, from ancient Chinese string band music seldom heard in the West, to bluegrass, folk, and jazz fusion. Led by Mei Han, a groundbreaking virtuoso renowned for taking the Chinese zheng in radical new directions of musical expression, Red Chamber takes its inspiration from the traditional Chinese "Plucked String" repertoire and creates an exciting new sound. East meets West as these virtuosic performers are joined onstage by special guest mandolin player **John Reischman** (The Jaybirds) renowned for his exquisite taste, tone and impeccable musicianship. Presented in association with the Ottawa Asian Heritage Month Society.

Renowned West Coast desi **DJ Tspoon** and internationally-acclaimed fusion band **Delhi 2 Dublin** team up to bring a taste of B.C.'s red-hot South Asian scene to the capital (May 2, NAC Fourth Stage, 20:00). Tspoon is known for his mash-ups, seamlessly blending funk, hip hop, electro, bollywood and bhangra beats into a spicy cocktail of dance floor-friendly beats. Delhi 2 Dublin is one of the hottest global music acts in the country right now, with a jam-packed tour schedule taking them throughout North America. Their signature blend of Celtic-Punjabi electronica, blending live fiddle, dhol, tabla, punjabi vocals and sitar, has created buzz on radio waves and in nightclubs worldwide. Presented in association with the Ottawa Asian Heritage Month Society.

The acclaimed musicians of the **Orchid Ensemble** join forces with choreographer/dancers **Chengxin Wei** and **Jessica Jone** of **Moving Dragon** to perform an exquisite blend of dance, music and multimedia (April 28, NAC Studio, 20:00). Inspired by real-life stories collected from personal interviews and archives, **Triaspora** uses gorgeous choreography, eclectic virtuoso instrumentalism and stunning multimedia to explore the Chinese Canadian immigrant experience. Melding Asian traditions with contemporary expression, these remarkable artists create an exhilarating mix of style, movement and sound. Moving Dragon punctuates contemporary dance with Chinese thought and movement; the Orchid Ensemble combines Chinese traditional musical instruments with western percussion, performing original scores by B.C. composers **Jin Zhang**, **Mark Armanini** and **Ya-wen Wang**; and leading media artists **Kenneth Newby** and **Aleksandra Dulic** animate the space with an interactive multimedia exhibit. Chengxin Wei is the recipient of the 2009 David Leighton Arts Fellowship. Presented in association with the Ottawa Asian Heritage Month Society.

## VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS

### *Queen Victoria, Nomads and a Little Distillery all come together at BC Scene*

BC Scene has collaborated with galleries in British Columbia and in Ottawa to bring art-lovers a virtual banquet of visual and media arts. From the gorgeous totem carving of Jim Hart to the investigative merging of literary and visual arts in Centre A's *A Little Distillery in Nowgong*, these artists and installations shed fascinating light on the impact of the landscape and culture on the creation of art. BC Scene is proud to include installations from or at the following galleries locally and on the West Coast: AXENÉO7, Canada Council Art Bank, Canadian Museum of Civilization, Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, Carleton University Art Gallery, City Hall Art Gallery, Club SAW, DAÏMŌN, Firestone Gallery, Gallery 101, grunt gallery, National Film Board of Canada, National Gallery of Canada, The Ottawa Art Gallery, PAARC – Pacific Association of Artist Run Centres, SAW Gallery, SAW Video, Vancouver Art Gallery and Vancouver International Film Festival.

**Marianne Nicolson**, a member of the Dzawada'enuxw Tribe of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation, first came to prominence in 1998 when she scaled a vertical rock face in Kingcome Inlet to paint a 28 x 38-foot pictograph – the first in the inlet for over sixty years – to mark the continued vitality of her ancestral village of Gwa'yi. In a similarly monumental gesture, Nicolson's site-specific project imaginatively transforms the West façade of the Government Conference Centre into a Northwest Coast ceremonial house. Using high-powered lighting, Nicolson will project the vision of a house front and totem poles on the Government Conference Centre façade from dusk to 11:00 pm every night. By altering the façade in this way, the building itself becomes a site of cultural exchange emphasizing its importance as a transformative space while wryly commenting on its historic role as the site for the failed First Ministers Conferences on Aboriginal Self Government held in the 1980's. Nicolson sees this work as a positive and symbolic reassertion of a culture that was once outlawed by the Canadian government. It is a gesture that speaks to the vibrancy of Aboriginal cultures and their relationship to the landscape as well as the struggle for their sustainability. First commissioned and presented by the Vancouver Art Gallery, 2008. Presented in collaboration with the National Capital Commission

Always on the move, the experience of new lands, and travel as a state of being – can an industrial society truly understand the lives of nomads? The National Gallery of Canada's thematic exhibition, **Nomads**, focuses on works by Vancouver-based artists whose practices manifest different interpretations of nomadism, a way of life that involves moving from one place to another without settling down in a particular location. Featuring the work of **Gareth Moore, Geoffrey Farmer, Myfanwy MacLeod, Hadley + Maxwell, and Althea Thauberger**, the show shifts our expectations of the art object and questions preconceived notions of authorship, authenticity and museum display.

Also on display during BC Scene will be a selection of works by other prominent British Columbia artists, such as **Rodney Graham, Ian Wallace, Vikky Alexander** and **Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun**, drawn from the National Gallery of Canada's collection.

Photographer **Scott McFarland** creates exacting images that depict nature crafted to human will and desire. Subtle and thought-provoking, his work has been featured in numerous prominent galleries, including the Monte Clark Gallery in Vancouver, as well as the Union Gallery in London, England and Regen Projects in Los Angeles. Always keen on investigating unusual subject matter, McFarland has produced a major body of work that focuses on the intricacies of Vancouver gardens. On one level, the photographs indicate a state of harmony and tranquility, while on the other the overall effect appears artificial. McFarland's works emphasize the precarious balance between human and natural worlds, and furthermore how photography's link to reality is both true and fabricated.

*\*Due to major construction all Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography exhibitions are taking place at the National Gallery of Canada until further notice.*

Mixing mediums and surpassing expectations, **Centre A – the Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art** – brings to Ottawa's City Hall Art Gallery a unique exhibit that melds literary and visual arts. This multi-media interdisciplinary artistic venture based on **Ashok Mathur's** novel, **A Little Distillery in Nowgong**, explores the politics and migratory history of a fictionalized Parsi family emigrating from India to North America. In addition to a performance piece created by **David H. Bateman**, the installation features inimitable pieces from two Vancouver artists: ceramic vessels created by **Brendan Tang**, and large-scale digital prints from **Diyan Achjadi**. The various elements of the installation create a virtual reality space through which audience members will inhabit this narrative by moving between the powerful words and images of a postcolonial world.

**The Office of the Secretary to the Governor General**, in association with the **Emily Carr University of Art and Design (ECUAD)**, is proud to present, at Rideau Hall, the work of 15 young artists from across British Columbia in an installation titled **Spirit of Place**. The art work executed by the young artists celebrates their visions and their creativity. Under the mentorship of senior artists and alumni of ECUAD, the youths – aged 6 to 16 – have created works that reflect the characteristics, spaces and spirits of their region, along with the pillar themes of the Olympic Games: culture, sport and sustainability. Through imagination and art, this project has fostered links between young people from across Canada and around the world, and the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. Established in 1925, Emily Carr University of Art and Design ([ecuad.ca](http://ecuad.ca)) is one of Canada's premier universities and the only one in British Columbia that is solely dedicated to professional education and learning in the arts, media, and design. Visit [gg.ca](http://gg.ca) for more information.

**Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas** is interested in the way cultures – both colonizing and colonized – are defined by collections. This is one of the ideas that led to the creation of **Pedal to the Meddle**, which originally mounted a Bill Reid 1985 canoe upside down on the roof of a reclaimed and reworked Pontiac Firefly covered in a mixture of black paint and argillite dust. Yahgulanaas likes to create opportunities for his audience to connect with the familiar and yet to challenge prevailing stereotypes. The original Pontiac was an 18th-century leader of the Ottawa people, famous for opposing the British occupation of the Great Lakes region. Pontiac's War (1763-1766) was the most successful First Nations resistance to the European invasion.

Pedal to the Meddle is embellished with Haida Manga, the pop-graphic style which has become the distinctive art form for which Yahgulanaas is most widely known. Haida Manga mixes Haida narratives and graphic forms with Asian comic-book style known as Manga. Haida Manga stories

are totem pole-like imagery morphed into undulating panels filled with contemporary references.

**The Canadian Museum of Civilization's** permanent exhibitions include the majestic Grand Hall. Presenting the Aboriginal history and culture of Canada's Northwest Coast, it features six Pacific Coast Indian house façades and a number of totem poles. Among the exhibit's beautiful works of art are the gold-on-bronze sculpture by **Robert Davidson**, Raven Bringing Light to the World, and the plaster pattern for The Spirit of Haida Gwaii, the sculpture by renowned Haida artist **Bill Reid** that is shown on the back of Canada's twenty dollar bill. Exhibits in the Grand Hall also include works by B.C. artists **Ron Hamilton, Glenn Tallio, Jim Hart, Beau Dick** and **Richard Hunt**. The Museum also features the First Peoples Hall, dedicated to the history and achievements of Canada's Aboriginal peoples, and the highly popular Canada Hall, which takes visitors on a cross-Canada journey through 1,000 years of history.

**Blue like an Orange** is a group exhibition featuring the work of B.C. artists working in sculpture and installation. Inspired by a well-known poem by surrealist poet Paul Éluard (The world is blue like an orange), the featured artists explore the transformation of everyday objects and materials in ways that reference surrealist and post-minimalist strategies, including juxtaposition, assisted ready-mades, and accumulations. This exhibition includes the talents of **Samuel Roy-Bois, Brendan Tang, Sonny Assu, Lucy Pullen, Rhonda Wepler**, and **Trevor Mahovsky**. Visit the Ottawa Art Gallery to experience the work of this amazing group of artists!

Following the rise of modernist architecture in Vancouver, western Canadian painters embraced painterly abstraction in the 1950s and 1960s. Like the Abstract Expressionists in American art, they sought to express the subjective unconscious, but differed in that they based their abstractions on either the surrounding landscape or figurative subject matter. **Dynamic Rhythm** features the work of select artists who formed part of this regional school: **Peter Aspell, B.C. Binning, Lawren S. Harris, Don Jarvis, Toni Onley, Jack Shadbolt, Gordon Smith**, and **Takao Tanabe**. Don't miss this stunning exhibition from the Firestone Collection of Canadian Art as part of BC Scene!

Within the generations of First Nations artists is a gap between established artists using traditional and contemporary imagery and younger artists influenced by hip hop culture. Rap, graffiti and comics have fuelled a new generation of artists who collide youth culture with aboriginal identity in ways that are startling and new. This project reflects the growing influence of urban cultures on traditional communities. The exhibition and its accompanying website focus on the music, art and culture coming out of these communities – a fusion between the traditional and the postmodern. The website documents the development of **Beat Nation – Hip Hop as an Indigenous Culture** over the last dozen years, and focuses on the artists, media producers and musicians who have brought this work to the forefront. The exhibition is organized and circulated by Vancouver's grunt gallery and presented by SAW Gallery and BC Scene.

SAW Video is proud to welcome **Paul Wong**, one of Canada's pioneer and leading video artists. An engaged witness driven by voracious curiosity, uncompromised integrity and refusal of convention, Wong creates works characterized by their raw energy and frequent shock value. Dealing with themes of identity, memory and death, he questions contemporary ideals of

beauty and sexuality, shining light on subjects usually kept in the dark. Paul Wong will present an artist talk, a masterclass and a screening of his recent portrait-oriented videos. This selection of startling videos includes a look at the transformation of a neighbourhood (Set Fire), a tryst between three men (Chelsea Hotel), a frantic self-portrait created in 24 hours (Perfect Day) and, as the centrepiece, the poignant documentary of a brilliant crack addict whose state of life is matched by the state of the burnt home he recently sold for a half million dollars (EASTVAN John).

**Neighbours** is a collaborative installation, the point of departure for which is the artists' shared interest in the disappearance of the animal into the "undead" realm of cinema (extending to the digitized image and its use in advertising). Animals have become extinct or have adapted to new environmental circumstances, oftentimes hybridizing, adapting to an ever-changing environment and economy (conquest of lands, etc.) **Marina Roy** is working on a new video work that combines early film images of animals with new footage of animals (in domestic spaces and in zoos) shot on black-and-white Super-8 film. **Abbas Akhavan** is working on a series of audio works of various animal sounds installed inside the gallery space and outdoors. The audio works are in dialogue with Roy's silent films – here sound becomes a digital allegory. **Neighbours** is a two person exhibition by Marina Roy and Abbas Akhavan, worked on in dialogue (rather than collaboratively) at VIVO Media Arts Centre in October 2008. The exhibition reflects their shared interest in issues around domestic life, urban space, property rights, and the ever-changing relationship between the human and natural worlds. In collaboration with VIVO MEDIA ARTS CENTRE (Vancouver)

**Transcontinental Divide** is a collaboration between two artist run centres, **Gallery 101** in Ottawa, and the **Helen Pitt Gallery** in Vancouver. The exhibition is conceptually based with five B.C. artists – **Raymond Boisjoly, Steven Hubert, Sara Mameni, Isabelle Pauwels** and **Ron Tran** – and five Ottawa artists – **Karina Bergmans, Jen Cook, Roy Lu, Minh Nguyen, and Stephan Thompson** – exchanging ideas and collaborating to realize an exhibition in each other's gallery space. The exhibition fits into the idea of an artist run centre as a place of experimentation with the ability to support emerging and disparate practice. The exhibition is co-curated by Paul Kajander and Leanne L'Hirondelle.

It's a strange, strange world – at least according to painter **Sandra Meigs**. As part of BC Scene, the **Carleton University Art Gallery** features brand-new work by this stunning Victoria artist. Her grand-scale paintings of architectural interiors explore the relationship between consciousness and matter. The title of the exhibition refers to the idea that the world outside the mind and the subjective world of the "I" are joined, coming together as a "strange loop" in what we understand as consciousness. Meigs approaches this subject with the signature comic gestalt that has been at the core of her painting throughout her impressive career.

## CANADA COUNCIL ART BANK –

### The Celebration of B.C. Art on the Mezzanine

- **Klatle-Bhi** is an artist of Squamish and Kwakwaka'wakw ancestry. He is currently working on the Legacy Sea to Sky totem pole, commissioned for the Vancouver Olympics in 2010.

Klatle-Bhi was born in Alert Bay and lives on the Capilano Reserve in Vancouver.

- Originally from Alert Bay, and of Kwakwaka'wakw ancestry, **Liz Carter** now resides in Campbell River. Her work explores how materials like cedar bark, wood, copper, buttons, skins and photographs can be the symbolic subject of her story. Liz Carter is currently working on her BA at the Emily Carr Institute.
- **Jim Hart**, a Haida artist who carries the Edenshaw family name, splits his time between his home in Vancouver and his home in Old Masset on Haida Gwaii. His work with well-known Haida artist Bill Reid in the 1980's influences his concern for aesthetic and cultural accuracy. He has carved many totem poles and is an accomplished jeweler.
- **Fred Herzog** only recently began to exhibit the photographs he has been taking for the last 60 years. Their immediacy and historical significance have positioned him within the context of the best of West Coast photographers.
- **Sandra Meigs'** increasingly experimental exhibitions since the mid 80's have positioned her as a preeminent Canadian artist. The playfulness of the form and content of her work belies an emotional and aesthetic maturity and an association with the unconscious.
- **Jayce Salloum** is an internationally renowned multi-media artist engaged in the representation of the manifestation of cultural identities. The storefront image is a virtual cabinet des curiosités.
- **Stephen Waddell** photographs not just what he sees but how he sees. A solitary figure in an urban landscape is presented with the lighting and formal composition of an historical painting. His work captures the unique individual as a distilled presence in a moment in time.
- **Chinese Golfers** by **Gu Xiong** is an enigmatic consideration of globalization and how it is impossible to tell where the game is actually taking place: Chongqing, Beijing, Shanghai or British Columbia's Lower Mainland.
- At first glance, **Jeremy Stanbridge's** work appears to belong to the Vancouver school of photo-based artwork. Instead this is a carefully and delicately painted abstract surface with soft blurring and subtle colouring.

## **FILM**

### ***Independent works offer a wildly eclectic – and green – snapshot of contemporary B.C. media artists***

In partnership with the National Film Board of Canada, BC Scene is pleased to present **NFB GREEN SCREENS**, two thought-provoking B.C. films shot in Vancouver (April 23, Club SAW, 20:00). The first, a short film by **Kamala Todd** called **Indigenous Plant Diva**, follows Cease Wyss as she reveals the remarkable healing powers of plants growing among the sprawling urban streets of downtown Vancouver. It will be followed by the Ottawa première of **Carts of Darkness**, a feature-length documentary directed by **Murray Siple** that focuses on men who

have turned bottle-picking, their primary source of income, into the extreme sport of shopping cart racing. Shot in high-definition and featuring tracks from Black Mountain, Ladyhawk and others, **Carts of Darkness** borrows the cinematic language of extreme sports films to capture the risk and intensity of life lived on the very edge.

And don't miss the **B.C. Shorts Film Event**, an evening of eight independent films and videos curated by **Terry McEvoy**, Canadian Images Programmer at the Vancouver International Film Festival (April 28, Library and Archives Canada Auditorium, 20:00).

The program includes:

***Windfisherman*, Anna McRoberts**

In the windiest town in the world there lives a man who 'fishes' for things that have blown away. Even though it is in his blood, it is not in his heart, until he learns one of life's most valuable lessons. (12 min.)

**The Sparkle Lite Motel, Cory Kinney**

Newlyweds George and Anna plan bliss at the Sparkle Lite Motel, but their honeymoon suite has other plans for them. (16 min.)

**Regarding Sarah, Michelle Porter**

An elderly woman desperately tries to record her life before she forgets it. (14 min.)

**Headshot, Dennis Heaton**

What Todd thinks is an ordinary audition is actually for the lead in a snuff film. Then he finds out he's not getting the part. (7 min.)

**M.O.O.D., Ann Marie Fleming**

Ann Marie Fleming animates desire with whimsy and wit. (2 min.)

**No Bikini, Claudia Morgado Escanilla**

Robin takes us back to that glorious summer when she was seven and reveals how it defined her spirit for the rest of her life. (9 min.)

**Power Lunch, Ben Ratner**

An American and a Canadian walk into a bar – but who will pay the bill in this spicy socio-political comedy? (9 min.)

**Paul Pontius, Jesse McKeown**

20 years sober, 'born-again' Christian Paul Pontius attempts to reconnect with God by intentionally falling off the wagon. (21 min.)

## THEATRE

### ***Theatre in a box (or two), theatre in French, and even theatre that's not really theatre at all!***

British Columbia is a hotbed of innovation and creation for the stage. BC Scene presents a snapshot of the current theatre culture on the West Coast.

#### ***THE ECSTASY OF RITA JOE***

April 29 - May 16; 19:30 (May 2, 9, 16 at 14:00 and 19:30)

National Arts Centre, Theatre

By George Ryga

Directed by Yvette Nolan

Starring August Schellenberg as David Joe

With **Pierre Brault, Layne Coleman, Ryan Cunningham, Todd Duckworth, Telly James, Darcey Johnson, Falen Johnson, Kevin Loring, Renae Morriseau, Jeremy Proulx, Michelle St. John,** and **Lisa C. Ravensbergen** as Rita Joe.

In 1967, Canadian playwright George Ryga paved the way for a fledgling Canadian drama with *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*. Ryga's seminal work opened the National Arts Centre Theatre in 1969 and focused a spotlight on First Nations people and First Nations issues. The glare was direct, unsentimental and powerful, and Canadian theatre would never be the same again. Rita Joe, a young First Nations woman, goes to the city to find work and make a life for herself off the reserve. What she finds is racism, poverty, obstacles and a world that she is neither able nor equipped to navigate. She cannot go home and she cannot stay; ultimately, she becomes the victim of a no-man's-land for the invisible. In 1969, a white woman, the remarkable Frances Hyland, played the part of Rita Joe. Today, First Nations artist Lisa C. Ravensbergen interprets the role. That much has changed; but revisiting the play asks us to question what else has changed in the decades since it first shocked audiences with its political candor. The NAC English Theatre Company is delighted that August Schellenberg, who played the role of Jaimie Paul in the original production almost 40 years ago, will join the company as David Joe. A National Arts Centre English Theatre Company /Western Canada Theatre (Kamloops, B.C.) coproduction.

#### ***MOM'S THE WORD 2: UNHINGED***

April 30 – May 1; 20:00 (May 2 at 14:00 & 20:00)

Arts Court Theatre

Starring **Alison Kelly, Robin Nichol, Jill Daum, Deborah Williams, Barbara Pollard.**

Exuberant, life-affirming fun, **Mom's the Word 2: Unhinged** reunites the creators of the hugely successful international smash *Mom's the Word* – a hilariously funny look at life with baby. Now the babies have grown up and, 'older and wiser,' **Alison Kelly, Robin Nichol, Jill Daum, Barbara Pollard** and **Deborah Williams** have created theatrical magic again. *Mom's the Word 2: Unhinged* is a riotous exposé of the highs and lows of life with a teenager! Combining outrageously funny skits and personal anecdotes with a few brazen musical numbers, this hilarious new play entertains and delights with its mix of side-splitting humour, irreverent home-truths, mid-life madness and some truly poignant vignettes – about breast cancer, or coping with your teen's drug addiction, or taking your daughter to buy her first bra –

that are breathtakingly honest. You don't have to *have* a teenager to relate – you just have to have been one!

### ***BIOBOXES***

Seven-minute interactive performances

April 22, 23, 24 (12:00 – 14:15 and 17:30 – 19:45) April 25 (13:30 – 15:45 and 18:00 – 20:15)

Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre (GCTC), 1233 Wellington West

Directed by **Maiko Bae Yamamoto** and **James Long**

Featuring **Anita Rochon, Marco Soriano, Paul Ternes, Cindy Mochizuki, Donna Soares** and **Una Memisevic**

**Theatre Replacement's *BIOBOXES*** is a collection of six bilingual, one-on-one performances that take place in a most intimate theatre – a box worn on the actor's shoulders. For each seven-minute interactive performance, the lone actor shares a true story about a real person with only one audience member. Speaker and spectator sit face-to-face, close enough to sense one another's heart beat and feel one another's breath. This eclectic series of storytelling performances – created by some of Vancouver's most adventurous, culturally diverse artists – brilliantly demonstrates how interactive and personal live theatre can really be. A Theatre Replacement production, presented in collaboration with the **Great Canadian Theatre Company**.

### ***ASSEMBLY***

April 24 – 25 at 20:00 and (April 25 at 14:00)

National Arts Centre, Panorama Room

Directed by **Paul Ternes**

Featuring **Katy Harris-McLeod, Andrew Laurenson, Billy Marchenski** and **Emelia Symington Fedy**

A hilarious self-improvement seminar that takes you literally into another world, **Radix Theatre's** two-time Jessie Richardson Award winning **Assembly** confronts the desire for unity in an increasingly divided world, sharing the secret to becoming whole as things gradually fall apart. Four seminar leaders intermingle with their spectators, asking peculiar questions and receiving surprisingly honest answers: "Who here prays?" "Who here lies?" Bizarre breakout sessions offer equal parts tongue-in-cheek parody and absurdist drama, as together we unlock our deepest desires and try to remember what human interaction is all about. A Radix Theatre production. (Radix Theatre will also be presenting its 2007 hit **The Performance Art Trap** at **SWARM**, the April 21 opening of BC Scene. See below for more information about SWARM).

**RAGE** (in French)

April 29 – May 2 at 20:00

English surtitles on Thursday, April 30

La Nouvelle Scène, 333 King Edward

By **Michele Riml**Translation **Sarah Migneron**Directed by **Joël Beddows**Featuring **Nathaly Charrette, Victor Andrés** and **Trelles Turgeon**

A teacher-student confrontation flies out of control. What has pushed them to this point? Do we blame the student's parents or the school system? How much fault rests with a society desensitized to violence? Vancouver playwright **Michele Riml** brings us into a school counsellor's office where ideas are exchanged, threats are made, and there seems to be no easy way out. Originally produced in English by British Columbia's hugely acclaimed Green Thumb Theatre for young audiences, **Rage** is the recipient of the 2005 Jessie Richardson Award for Best Production. Multi award-winning director **Joël Beddows** directs this newly adapted French language production. **A Théâtre la Catapulte production** copresented by BC Scene.

**LA VUE D'EN HAUT** (in French)

April 22 – 25; 20:00

English surtitles on Thursday, April 23

La Nouvelle Scène, 333 King Edward

By **James Long**Translation by **Philippe Ducros**Directed by **Craig Holzschuh**Featuring **Joey Lespérance, Rachel Robillard, Allen Morrison** and **Samantha Madely**

Based in the heart of Vancouver, **Théâtre la Seizième** is famous across Canada for its top-quality touring productions. This spring the company arrives in Ottawa with a brand new adaptation of B.C. playwright **James Long's** apocalyptic drama, *La Vue d'en Haut* (The View from Above), translated by **Philippe Ducros** and directed by Ottawa's own **Craig Holzschuh**. Politically and environmentally aware, the story pinpoints two of Vancouver's current preoccupations – its weather and the plight of the homeless – and displays them at an extreme. With an inexorable downpour and a family on the brink of desperation, the scariest thing about this play is how close it comes to the truth. A **Théâtre la Seizième** production copresented by BC Scene and **Théâtre la Catapulte**.

**HEADLINES THEATRE: 2° of fear and desire**

April 22; 20:00

Club SAW, 67 Nicholas

Starring **David Diamond**

The debate about whether or not global warming is real is over. The question is, what do we do? **Headlines Theatre**, acclaimed for creating collaborative theatre that raises awareness

about everyday issues, has created a series of grassroots community events on global warming. These public workshops have been given the title *2° of fear and desire* – a theatrical inquiry into climate change with no play, no actors and no script. This is really theatre without a net. Having already had an acclaimed thirteen-event run in Vancouver in 2007, and a very successful event at the 2009 One Yellow Rabbit High Performance Rodeo in Calgary, this innovative company challenges us to creatively investigate these issues in our own lives. A Headlines Theatre production.

## DANCE

### *A world premiere, Asian fusion and visionary choreography for the “small stage”*

Don't miss the new work by dance sensation **Crystal Pite** and her dance company **Kidd Pivot** (April 24-25, NAC Theatre, 19:30). Pite, an award-winning Vancouver-based dancer-choreographer is smoking hot, creating works for Ballett Frankfurt, Nederlands Dans Theater 1, Les Ballets jazz de Montréal (bjm\_danse), Ballet British Columbia, Alberta Ballet, Dance Victoria, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, and numerous independent dance artists. Her work integrates original music, text, rich visual design, and a keen sense of wit and invention. Pite's distinct style fuses classical elements, the complexity and freedom of structured improvisation and a strong theatrical sensibility. Still, physicality trumps all. Her kinetic manoeuvres make us see entire worlds unfold. The physical evocation she creates is defined by what she calls “intricacy, delicacy, articulation, freedom and an expansive body”. “Hers is a glorious and charged landscape.” (Philip Szporer) Successful and highly acclaimed, Pite's company **Kidd Pivot** produces performance work that is assembled with recklessness and rigour, balancing sharp exactitude with irreverence and risk. An NAC Associate Dance Artist, Crystal Pite's *Lost Action* (seen at the NAC in 2007) was a huge success with audiences and critics across Canada. She stole the show at the May 2008 Governor General's Performing Arts Awards gala, and her performances of *Decembling* and *Fault* were the hit of the 2008 Canada Dance Festival. BC Scene audiences have an opportunity to see Pite's eagerly awaited new work before it is presented at the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad. Crystal Pite is the recipient of the 2008 Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Mentorship Award. Presented by National Arts Centre Dance.

Chinese-Canadian dancer-choreographer **Wen Wei Wang's** precise direction seamlessly meshes classical Chinese dance, traditional ballet, and contemporary choreography. This mélange of styles results in an incredible body of work that is stripped, suggestive, edgy, and full of invention. Wen Wei Wang is the winner of the 2009 Rio Tinto Alcan Award – Dance. **Cock-Pit** (April 30-May 2, NAC Studio 20:00) is a reflection of his own experiences as a student at dance school in China, where he was one of five boys who shared a small room for more than five years. Designed for one female and four male dancers, *Cock-Pit* uses movement, dialogue and song to explore violence, masculine insecurities, and male bonding. Illustrated by the characters' tangled emotional relationships, the simple narrative structure exposes the complexity of physical closeness through movement. The four men are contained in an area without entrances or exits; they remain onstage for the entire piece. They have no way of being alone except in their imaginations. They are psychologically isolated, yet inescapably together. All are vulnerable, oversensitive – and therefore weakened. One female dancer enters and exits as figments of their imaginations – representing a mother figure as well as a symbol of

sexuality. Wen Wei once again collaborates with composer **Giorgio Magnanensi** and lighting designer **James Proudfoot** in this promising new dance creation. Presented by National Arts Centre Dance.

Mix fabulous contemporary dance, an intimate cabaret space and a ridiculously small stage, and find yourself at **Dances for a Small Stage®: Ottawa** (April 30-May 1 NAC Fourth Stage, 21:30). **MovEnt's Day Helesic** and **Julie-anne Saroyan** bring their hot Vancouver series to BC Scene, opening the doors on a fresh, up-close-and-personal view of West Coast dance. Eight visionary choreographers bring their unique interpretations to the "small stage." Artistic Director of **Co. Vision Selective** as well as Co-Artistic Director of celebrated company **The Holy Body Tattoo**, **Noam Gagnon** creates and performs *Unfold me*, a choreography of passion and vulnerability. Co-Artistic Producer and principal choreographer of **MovEnt**, **Day Helesic's Before I Sleep** discovers a woman whose fear keeps her from rest. Artistic Director of the response, **Amber Funk Barton** delivers a solo which fearlessly fuses hip hop, ballet and contemporary dance. **Shay Kuebler**, the hyperkinetic 23-year old who burst onto Vancouver's dance scene three years ago, dances with energy so infectious that audiences want to leap right out of their seats and join him. **Alvin Erasga Tolentino** of **Co. Erasga** is renowned for his dynamic, hybrid performance works exploring Asian culture and contemporary western issues of identity. **Cori Caulfield** of **Coriograph Theatre**, with her trademark precision movement and statuesque form, creates and performs *Aureole*, a new choreography. **Chengxin Wei**, Co-Artistic Director of **Moving Dragon**, creates and performs a new choreography exploring Asian traditions and western contemporary movement. **Tara Cheyenne Friedenberg** of **Tara Cheyenne Performance**, well known for her hilarious, character-driven dance theatre works, presents the fantastically outrageous *Melissa: your new youth leader*. Chengxin Wei is the recipient of the 2009 David Leighton Arts Fellowship.

For **Triaspora** (April 28, NAC Studio, 20:00) the acclaimed musicians of the **Orchid Ensemble** join forces with choreographer/dancers **Chengxin Wei** and **Jessica Jone** of **Moving Dragon** to perform an exquisite blend of dance, music and multimedia. Inspired by real life stories collected from personal interviews and archives, **Triaspora** uses gorgeous choreography, eclectic virtuoso instrumentalism and stunning multimedia to explore the Chinese Canadian immigrant experience. Melding Asian traditions with contemporary expression, these remarkable artists create an exhilarating mix of style, movement and sound. **Moving Dragon** punctuates contemporary dance with Chinese thought and movement; the **Orchid Ensemble** combines Chinese traditional musical instruments with western percussion, performing original scores by B.C. composers **Jin Zhang**, **Mark Armanini** and **Ya-wen Wang**; and leading media artists **Kenneth Newby** and **Aleksandra Dulic** animate the space with an interactive multimedia exhibit. Chengxin Wei is the recipient of the 2009 David Leighton Arts Fellowship. Presented in association with the **Ottawa Asian Heritage Month Society**.

## LITERARY

### *From Generation X to the Cellist of Sarajevo - We grant you poetic license to enjoy it all.*

Highlights include **Douglas Coupland** and **Patrick Lane**, two of British Columbia's most provocative and prized writers, **Shane Koyczan** and **Kinnie Starr**, spoken word artists who

redefine poetry as we know it and best-selling novelist **Steven Galloway**, author of *The Cellist of Sarajevo*.

### **An evening with Douglas Coupland**

Fourth Stage at the NAC, 19:30, April 28, Tickets \$20 at the NAC Box Office, by calling (613)755-1111 or online at bcscene.ca

Don't miss Canadian artist, writer and literary superstar **Douglas Coupland**, in conversation with CBC Radio's **Laurie Brown** (*The Signal*). Coupland hit the worldwide stage with his 1991 novel *Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture*, introducing terms like "McJob" and "Generation X" to the lexicon, earning a reputation as a guru of popular culture. A true polymath, Coupland has written twelve novels, several non-fiction books and has written and performed for the Royal Shakespeare Company in England. He has studied art and design in Canada, Italy and Japan, and in 2001 he resumed his practice as a visual artist, with exhibitions in spaces in North America, Europe and Asia. 2006 marked his first attempt to write for the screen, with the feature film *Everything's Gone Green*. Since then, his visionary take on popular culture has made him fascinating reading in a New York Times blog, and *jPod* made it to the small screen on CBC. His most recent novel is *The Gum Thief*.

### **Kinnie Starr / Tons of Fun University**

Fourth Stage at the NAC, 20 :00, April 23, Tickets \$12 at the NAC Box Office, by calling (613)755-111 or online at bcscene.ca

Blurring the lines between poetry and music, **Shane Koyczan, C.R. Avery, Mike McGee** and **Kinnie Starr** will reveal a whole new take on poetry. Think you really know poetry? Think again! Forget learning verses by rote in elementary school; now it's time for a university education –specifically, **Tons of Fun University a.k.a. T.O.F.U.** A trio unlike any other, members Shane Koyczan, C.R. Avery and Mike McGee achieve performance poetry magic as a collective, yet still rock the slam stage when touring solo. Fast-paced rhythms, upbeat tunes, and infectious enthusiasm define this all-out-fun group that is putting the hip factor back into poetry. Ready to knock down their testosterone infused set is MC-singer-poet-actress-beatnik-music-maker Kinnie Starr. Her blend of hip hop, alternative rock and spoken-word poetry can be described as "hip hop agro groove." The multi-talented Juno Award-winning artist discovered one night in New York City that she could kick it live – an open mic called, she answered, and the crowd showed its approval by urging her on through three blazing encores. Since then, Kinnie has been recorded rapping in English, Spanish and French, has performed with Cirque du Soleil, was on the roster of the Lilith Fair Tour in 1997, and her songs have been included on the soundtracks for the TV series *The L Word* and the movie *Thirteen*. T.O.F.U and Kinnie Starr together = a high-octane evening of fun.

### **Literary Cabaret featuring Steven Galloway, Anosh Irani, Shane Koyczan and Shaena Lambert with music by Sal Ferreras and Poetic License**

Fourth Stage at the NAC, 20:00, April 24th, Tickets \$12 at NAC Box Office, by calling (613) 755-1111 or online at bcscene.ca

Created by Alma Lee, Founder and Inaugural Director of the Vancouver International Writers Festival, **The Literary Cabaret** is a magical blend of great music and great writing. Hosted by **Sal Ferreras** and his band **Poetic License**, the cabaret is an intimate evening set to music with some of B.C.'s greatest writers. On stage are novelist and playwright **Anosh Irani**, novelist and short story writer **Shaena Lambert**, **Steven Galloway** author of *The Cellist of*

*Sarajevo* and **Shane Koyczan**, writer, poet and one of the world's premier spoken word performers. This is an evening of great writers and great music.

**Poetry Evening** with **Robert Bringham**, **Lorna Crozier**, **Patrick Lane** and **Evelyn Lau**, hosted by **Alma Lee**.

St. Brigid's Centre for the Arts and Humanities, 314 St. Patrick, 20:00, April 30, Tickets \$15 at NAC Box Office, by calling (613)755-1111, online at [bcscene.ca](http://bcscene.ca), through the Writers Festival or 1 hour before showtime at the door.

Pure poetry will take centre stage on Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup> during an evening in partnership with the Ottawa International Writers Festival. Join **Alma Lee**, founder of the Vancouver International Writers and Readers Festival for an evening of incredible poetry that will make your heart soar. Four of Canada's best poets - all from B.C. – will take you to places that you never knew words could go. **Patrick Lane**, the author of more than twenty books, has been called, "the best poet of his generation," by many critics and reviewers. His partner, **Lorna Crozier**, won the 1992 Governor General's prize for poetry and is another B.C. literary superstar who has been described as, "a poet to be grateful for," by Margaret Laurence. She is the author of fourteen books of poetry. **Evelyn Lau** hit the headlines for her autobiography *Runaway: Diary of a Street Kid*, published when she was just 18. She has since published eight further books, including numerous poetry collections, and has been nominated for a Governor General's award. **Robert Bringham** has published fifteen books of poetry, twelve books of prose and has translated four works from Haida to English. His work has been nominated for a Governor General's award and the Griffin Poetry Prize. Presented in collaboration with the Ottawa International Writers Festival, [www.writersfestival.org](http://www.writersfestival.org).

## SUSTAINABILITY

*The Artist is the voice of the people.* -- Alice Walker

Highlights include an **Art Matters** forum with **Their Excellencies The Governor General Michaëlle Jean** and **Mr. Jean-Daniel Lafond**, and an interactive theatre piece - *2° of fear and desire*, directed by **David Diamond of the Headlines Theatre Company** - where the audience is the answer to the question, what next for global warming?

Great art of every discipline is the soul of society. No art, no soul, no society. Art and its creators offer us a way to approach life from a different perspective. They can address issues and themes with which we all struggle and give us the opportunity to understand how art and artists can contribute to sparking dialogue and, ultimately, to the development of a better place to live – a sustainable society.

At BC Scene, we've been thinking about this a great deal and we've organized a few get-togethers to make you think too. The impetus for doing is the art itself: themes of cultural diversity, social change, environmental responsibility (or irresponsibility) emerge from the visual and media art, theatre, writing and music of a great number of B.C. artists, many of whom are becoming active in creating public dialogue and debate.

"Arts and Culture is integral to 'sustainable living' in British Columbia," said **Fei and Milton Wong**, honorary chairs of the B.C. Strategy Council. "It embodies the heart and soul of who we

are and BC Scene gives us an opportunity to share the West Coast identity with the rest of Canada.”

### **Art Matters**

Le Salon at the NAC, 19:00 – 21:00, April 20, admission free, RSVP before April 16 to [conference@gg.ca](mailto:conference@gg.ca)

For every ceremony honouring and rewarding the talents of Canadian artists, Rideau Hall, on His Excellency Jean-Daniel Lafond’s initiative, organizes a forum called Art Matters. It’s an opportunity to bring artists, administrators, academics and members of the public together to examine the issues facing culture in society.

**Their Excellencies, The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada and Mr. Jean-Daniel Lafond**, are pleased to invite you to an Art Matters public forum exploring the following theme: How do the Arts sustain our communities?

### **Moderator: Hank Bull**

**Panelists: Robert Clark**, Executive Chef C Restaurant; **David Diamond**, Headlines Theatre Company; **Craig Holzchuh**, General and Artistic Director, Théâtre la Seizième; **Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas**, writer and artist; **Maiko Bae Yamamoto**, Artistic Director, Theatre Replacement.

### **Headlines Theatre: 2° of fear and desire**

Club Saw, 67 Nicholas, 20:00, April 22, Pay-what-you-can

The debate about whether or not global warming is real is over. The question is, what do we do? Headlines Theatre, acclaimed for creating collaborative theatre that raises awareness about everyday issues, has created a series of grassroots community events on global warming. These public workshops have been given the title of 2° of fear and desire – a theatrical inquiry into climate change with no play, no actors and no script. This is really theatre without a net.

### **What’s Left in the Deep Blue Sea?**

Robert Clark / Michael Blackie Cooking Demonstration and Tasting Event

Le Salon at the NAC, 19:00, April 23, Tickets \$60 at NAC Box Office or by calling (613)755-1111

Join renowned B.C. Chef **Robert Clark**, Executive Chef of Vancouver’s award-winning C Restaurant, to hear about his approach to great food, great fish and eating responsibly, especially when it comes to the sea. Chef Clark and NAC Executive Chef **Michael Blackie** will give a live cooking demonstration, followed by tasting plates, accompanied by B.C. wines.

### **La Vue d’en Haut**

La Nouvelle Scène, 333 King Edward, April 22 – 25, tickets \$26.50 + La Nouvelle Scène Box Office

Théâtre la Seizième’s production of James Long’s apocalyptic drama is politically and environmentally aware. It pinpoints two of Vancouver’s current preoccupations – its weather and the plight of the homeless – and displays them at an extreme. With an inexorable downpour and a family on the brink of desperation, the scariest thing about this play is how close it comes to the truth.

### Green Screens

Club SAW, 67 Nicholas, 20:00, April 23, Free

In partnership with the National Film Board of Canada, BC Scene presents **Murray Siples'** *Carts of Darkness*, a feature-length documentary that focuses on men who have turned bottle-picking, their primary source of income, into the extreme sport of shopping cart racing. Also screening, **Kamala Todd's** short film, *Indigenous Plant Diva*, follows Cease Wyss as she reveals the remarkable healing powers of plants growing among the streets of downtown Vancouver.

### Flight of the Hummingbird: A Parable for the Environment

Canterbury High School, 900 Canterbury, 13:00, April 22, for Canterbury students only

**Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas** will be talking to Canterbury students about his beautiful book, *Flight of the Hummingbird*, a touching hymn to mother nature. He will discuss how tiny steps can help to change the world. Yahgulanaas draws from an extensive corpus of Haïda narrative and transforms these stories into contemporary, accessible and socially relevant art. Social and environmental issues continue to play a big role in Yahgulanaas' work and these are blended with his passionate belief in the power of the small.

## SWARM

*Find out what the buzz is all about...*

April 21 – One Night Only

**SWARM** – noun. *1. a body of honeybees that emigrate from a hive and fly off together, accompanied by a queen, to start a new colony. 2. a great number of things or persons, esp. in motion.*

BC Scene launches into action with SWARM, a unique, multimedia moveable feast - part visual art installations, part interactive theatre, part performance art, part wine-tasting, part rave – SWARM takes you on an incredible voyage of up-close discovery of the independent artists of British Columbia, featuring 11 exhibits and the work of 60 artists, on Tuesday, April 21 from 18:00-well after midnight. And it's all FREE.

Inspired by Vancouver's annual gallery-hop, art party extravaganza, SWARM at BC Scene will open the doors of artist run centres, collectives and galleries around the city to showcase the vibrant and diverse practices and practitioners working in Vancouver.

The fun starts at 18:00. Drive (lots of parking available in the NAC underground parking,) walk, bike, run, or take the free SWARM shuttle from the NAC– stop at one of 8 galleries: Axenéo7, Daimōn, Canada Council Art Bank (NAC Mezzanine), City Hall Art Gallery (Ottawa), Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography at the National Gallery, Gallery 101, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa Art Gallery, Galerie Saw – experience the art, meet friends, have a drink, grab a seat on the shuttle and move on to the next installation. The SWARM shuttle runs from 18:00-21:00 ending up at the NAC for the SWARM/BC Scene Opening Night party - one night only of mind-opening interactive theatre from Theatre Replacement and Radix Theatre, DJ Timothy Wisdom spinning the latest in Vancouver's indie music scene, outdoor (and indoor) public art installations by First Nations artists **Marianne Nicolson, Michael Nicoll**

**Yahgulanaas**, and **Jim Hart**; sample B.C. wines, and witness a spectacular live performance art piece by First Nations artist **Rebecca Belmore**.

A new colony of art lovers, forged from the once-in-a-lifetime experience of SWARM, will keep the hive buzzing until the wee hours at the after after hours party at Club SAW. Admission to the NAC SWARM/ opening night party is FREE.

#### **Live performance at the SWARM party:**

Part performance, part parlour game, **Theatre Replacement's** brilliant and acclaimed **WeeTube** uses the publicly posted comments found under popular YouTube videos as performance text in a durational, installation-based and site-responsive performance for an intimate audience. Throughout the performance, the performers bake and serve cookies, microwave popcorn, drink beer and open Christmas presents. The audience is free to come and go during the two-three hour piece.

**Radix Theatre's *The Performance Art Trap*** is a visually startling, completely engaging, unique, intimate theatre experience. The Traps are giant custom-built cardboard boxes, six feet high and eight feet long, propped up with a stick like a rudimentary rabbit trap. The 'bait' is a performer inside, with an empty chair for the 'catch' to sit in. With the victim (audience member) seated, a nearby security guard, pulls the stick and "whump!" the trap is released, instantly creating one-on-one theatre in boxes offering metaphors on the trappings of career, love, fame, and death.

Originally created for *Hive 2* at the Magnetic North Theatre Festival (Vancouver 2008,) **Victorious** was First Nations artist **Rebecca Belmore's** response to Prime Minister Stephen Harper's apology to former students of Indian Residential Schools. Utilizing a video backdrop featuring a mix of bee-related imagery, Belmore sculpts using masking tape, newspaper and honey on a live model seated in a lawn chair. Working from an image of Queen Victoria, Belmore reworks her 'monarch' into a First Nations version of royalty. Like a 'Royal Appointed' artist, Belmore renders an First Nations Queen – regal and powerful - from everyday materials.

Celebrated Haida carver **Jim Hart's** gorgeous totem pole tells the story of **Bear Mother** and her Twins. The pole is made from a red cedar trunk over 400 years old and depicts a mother bear with one twin in human form and the other as a bear cub. There is an opening in the Bear's belly symbolizing the womb.

**Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas's "Pedal to the Meddle"** explores the relationships between Indigenous and Settler cultures by constructing compelling arguments supporting his belief in the "tradition of innovation" and that indigenous peoples in the Canadian experience are not colonial collectables but complex and vibrant forces.

Now a hugely successful event annually in Vancouver, SWARM is organized by **PAARC, the Pacific Association of Artist Run Centres**. Artist-run Centres (ARCs) are non-profit organizations, run by and for artists, supporting new and innovative practices in the arts. Generally, these centres exhibit contemporary art which parallels the larger public institutions and private commercial galleries – offering an alternative to artists in determining how to represent their

work. Most of Canada's best known and internationally recognized contemporary artists, curators and cultural practitioners have come out of the artist-run centre movement.

## CULINARY

### *Food glorious food (and wine too of course)*

Highlights include **Melissa Craig of Bearfoot Bistro in Whistler** and **Robert Clark of C Restaurant**, two of British Columbia's most original and interesting chefs, whose passion for fine food is inspiring and whose cooking with thrill your palate.

#### **What's left in the Deep Blue Sea?**

##### **Robert Clark / Michael Blackie Cooking Demonstration and Tasting Event**

Le Salon at the NAC, 19:00, April 23, Tickets \$60 at the NAC Box Office, by calling (613) 755-1111 or online at bcscene.ca

Join renowned B.C. chef **Robert Clark**, executive Chef of Vancouver's award-winning C Restaurant, to hear about his approach to great food, great fish and eating responsibly, especially when it comes to the sea. Chef Clark's belief in food is pure and simple: "As chefs, our job is not only about serving great tasting food, but encouraging our staff and our guests to learn how to get sustainably produced food to the table." Clark believes firmly that, as a chef, he has to be aware of the food choices he makes. Chef Clark and the NAC's new and renowned **Executive Chef Michael Blackie** will reveal their culinary secrets and food philosophies while giving a live cooking demonstration. The demonstration will be followed by tasting plates inspired by the menu at C Restaurant, and accompanied by B.C. wines.

#### **Melissa Craig: An Evening with Canada's Top Chef**

Panorama Room at the NAC, 18:30, April 29, Tickets \$125 at the NAC Box Office, by calling (613) 755-1111 or online at bcscene.ca

In a profession traditionally dominated by men, **Melissa Craig** (the award-winning Executive Chef of Whistler's Bearfoot Bistro) is a rarity and we're thrilled to welcome her to the NAC for what will be a very special culinary event. Canada's 2008 Gold Medal Plates Culinary Champion will create an extraordinary dinner of five courses, each of which will be paired with fine wines from British Columbia. Chef Craig's menu is described as "modern Canadian cuisine" with a unique blend of West Coast and international ingredients, immaculate presentation and simple, yet passionate artistry. For food and wine enthusiasts, this is an evening not to be missed.

#### **Play with B.C. Wine**

Play Food & Wine, 1 York, 19:00, April 22, Tickets \$60 at Play Food & Wine or by calling (613) 667-9207

Come out to Play! Join BC Scene, **Stephen Beckta** and Vincor for a fabulous wine tasting evening at Beckta's hip new restaurant, **Play Food & Wine**. Hosted by a sommelier, this evening will expand your wine know-how, thrill your palate with many of the best wines that B.C. has to offer and tantalize your taste buds with canapés from the kitchens at Play Food & Wine.

B.C. is a small but fine wine-producing region. There are single vineyards in some parts of the world that produce more wine than all of B.C.'s vineyard combined. But B.C. winemakers believe that wine made on a small scale offers greater access to the strengths of the land. B.C.

is also a young wine-producing region, which means that it can borrow the best practices from around the world and attract skilled winemakers from across the globe. It is at the northernmost point for vine growing and wine making, which many people say enhances the grapes' quality, as the vines' struggle to produce ripe fruit each short season concentrates flavours and sugars. Don't miss this chance to learn about some of the excellent wines now being produced in B.C., from vineyards such as **Osoyoos Larose, Nk'Mip, See Ya Later Ranch** and **Sumac Ridge**.

### **BC Scene Menu at Le Café**

Le Café at the NAC, April 21 to May 3, reservations (613) 594-5127

For the duration of the festival, the National Arts Centre's award-winning restaurant, Le Café, will offer a special menu featuring British Columbia cuisine and award winning wines. The province's most accomplished chefs will reveal the secrets of their favourite recipes, and regional produce will be used to prepare delectable dishes for every palate. Enjoy and gastronomical adventure at the National Arts Centre, and discover the creativity of B.C.'s leading chefs, culinary artisans and wineries.