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## EDITORIAL

## THE OPPOSITION

BY KEVIN WOOLRIDGE



JUST SAYIN'

# FESTIVAL

## A DECADE OF DEDICATION

NICKEL FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES INDEPENDENT FILM

BY DEBBY WINTERS

Ten years ago this June, the inspiration came to create a film festival for filmmakers by filmmakers to gain an appreciation and an audience for their work. That is how the Nickel Independent Film Festival, named after the Nickel Theatre - the first theatre in Newfoundland to show talking pictures, was born.

Since 2001 the Nickel Independent Film Festival has grown from local content to local, national and international content. With a growing amount of film and video submissions from Newfoundland and Labrador's thriving film community and a surprising amount of entries from abroad, the festival has developed into a much-anticipated annual event.

This year there were 200 submissions for the programming committee to review and narrow down to the films you will enjoy during the festival. Films range from experimental to narrative drama, documentary, animation and music video.

There are many showings of local filmmaker's works including; Roger Maunder's, *Sketchy Jerome*, which tells of a young woman looking to score a joint, and has no choice but to approach Sketchy Jerome.

An unusual request forces Delph the barber to come to terms with possible loss in *Down to The Wood* by Kelly Davis. Bruce Alcock is the director of *Vive La Rose* that tells the tale of a tragic love story set in

Newfoundland. When illness takes the woman he loves, a simple man raises his voice in melancholy song as a last farewell.

Rob Blackie directs *Quiet at Dawn* where a World War I soldier has to look after another soldier whom he falsely accused of desertion and whom will be executed at dawn for cowardice.

The unique mockumentary *Weather People* resulted when Justin Simms was approached in 2009 by the College of the North Atlantic to visit Stephenville and make a short film. Justin wrote the script and used CONA's film students as his crew. Another presentation from CNA Media Arts Centre in Stephenville is *Nan vs. Nature* in which reality intrudes on a perfect "tourism moment" as Nan attempts to put a load of wash out on the line.

The Rooms Animation Afterschool Club presents *Alice in Wonderland* directed by Jason Sellers.

Other local filmmakers include, Lois Brown, Deanne Foley, Monica Kidd, Lynn Kristmanson, Stephen Dunn, Jeremy Rice, Christian Sparkes, Jordan Canning, Darcy Fitzpatrick, Darryl Couch, Blair Downey, Brad Gover, and Ed Tanasychuk.

There will be five early evening screenings showcase ninety minutes of films followed by life entertainment from some of the local areas best musicians. The

late evening screenings include shorts with exciting feature films. Wednesday evenings highlight is the presentation of a feature film debut by Canadian and returning Nickel filmmakers Kristen Booth and Bryce Mitchell. *At Home by Myself...with You* stars Canadian favourites Kristin Booth (*Crackie*) and Rosemary Dunsmore, as well as an engaging narration from the great Gordon Pinsent.

Two popular features of the festival – Friday Fright Night and the Children's Saturday Matinee return again this year. The Nickel Film Festival continues their mandate to support the continued growth of our artists with a series of workshop throughout the festival. These will include *Portrature*; A Master Class in Documentary filmmaking led by acclaimed filmmaker and BAFTA award-winner Molly Dineen (*The Lie of the Land*). There will also be a workshop on animation with Bruce Alcock as well as many other interesting workshops.

The Filmmakers Panel and Luncheon returns this year and provides an opportunity to listen to local and visiting filmmakers such as Stephen Dunn, Rick Saulnier and Roger Maunder.

A full film schedule and details on workshops and special events are available at <http://www.nickelfestival.com>. To book tickets call the box office at 753-4531 or book online at <http://www.rca.nf.ca>.

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## SOUNDS

# TEARGARDEN BY KALEIDYSCOPE, VOL. 1

PUMPKINS' POP, PRETENSION, AND PSYCHEDELIA COME IN SMALL PACKAGES

BY JONNY HODDER



In 2000, Jack Black played the role of Barry in *High Fidelity*. Barry's an overly-passionate record store employee with zero tolerance for douchebags and people with no music taste. Barry chastises a well-meaning father looking for a copy of Stevie Wonder's *I Just Called to Say I Love You*, who storms out and the store owner throws a fit for blowing the sale. Barry defends himself saying *I Just Called to Say I Love You* is one of Wonder's "...top five musical crimes," and asks: "Is it in fact unfair to criticize a formerly great artist for his latter day sins, is it better to burn out or fade away?"

This may seem like a roundabout way of reviewing a new 4-song EP from The Smashing Pumpkins, but Black's question perfectly illustrates the dilemma faced by music fans each time a new Smashing Pumpkins project is announced. Yes, the band was at the forefront of the 90s grunge movement; yes, 1995's double-album *Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness* should be on everybody's 'Must Own' list as one of the best, most beautifully diverse rock albums; and, the decision to dissolve the band's original core line-up in the late 90s was met with great sadness.

Beginning in 1998 with *Adore*, and continuing with *Machina I and II* (2000), and 2007's *Zeitgeist*, Pumpkins fans have had to deal with a stream of disappointing releases, all tainted by the increasing influence of Corgan's own ego. The frontman, lead songwriter, and lone original Pumpkin spends the majority of his press time alternately bitching about

the state of music as an industry and art form, whining because he feels he's been shunned by that same industry, or claiming that his newest musical projects will turn the industry upon it's head and have record executives shaking in their Armani suits.

Enter *Teargarden by Kaleidyscope, Vol. 1: Songs for a Sailor*, the first of a proposed 11 four-track EP set to be released online, one song at a time, over the next 2-3 years, eventually composing a 44-track box set. Moving past the delusion that this is revolutionary (everyone from Trent Reznor to Hawksley Workman have released online singles culminating in an album), and Corgan's self-aggrandizing belief that his actions will single-handedly free artists from corporate shackles, may be a difficult task. But, this breakdown should cut through the intricate layers of ego and fake hype, revealing what really matters: the music.

*A Song for a Son* – A piano-driven ballad, it takes on the life of a Led Zeppelin homage with the introduction of acoustic guitars and a series of slow-burning riffs. The slow-burn eventually ignites into a wild-fire solo straight out of Jimmy Page's playbook. The song is unlike anything the Pumpkins have released before and while Corgan's singing is uncharacteristically flat, the song is undeniably ambitious.

*Astral Planes* – Three and a half minutes of instrumental guitar riffs featuring Corgan who steps back into the Psychedelic era, works his way towards a classic rock fill, and even mixes in a taste of his own

90s grunge riffs for good measure. The song is varied and technically sound, at least enough to warrant a second listen, but it lacks any serious staying power.

*Widow Wake My Mind* – A catchy alt-rock track with a dense production using upwards of 10 instruments creating a wall of sound, at times seeming crowded.

*A Stitch in Time* – This could be the first truly pop-oriented song Corgan's ever write. The acoustic guitar is unstoppable and keyboards fill the song with a surreal quality. Meanwhile, Corgan's is vibrant and energetic. Compared to the other songs, it's decidedly simple, but that's actually a refreshing contrast.

So, back to the question, Smashing Pumpkins fans have been forced to bite the bullet with each new album released for over a decade. But, the Pumpkins still hold a special place in many hearts because of past success. With the release of *Teargarden... Vol.1*, Corgan's taking the Pumpkins' sound in a new direction. While it may not hold a candle to their early 90s releases, it shows enough promise to ensure that Corgan and Co., aren't quite ready to fade away into musical obscurity.

## YOUTH

# SHAD VALLEY PROGRAM

SIX LOCAL YOUTH ARE SELECTED FOR A MONTH LONG EXPERIENCE

BY GARY MOORE

There's an elite group of high school students selected from the St. John's area, to head to Shad Valley, a month-long program for high potential high school students both nationwide and internationally. The participants of Shad Valley are chosen based on academics (most averages are over 90%). Students must also be well-rounded emerging leaders; leaders in school, volunteers in the community, and many are gifted musicians, artists and athletes.

The main objective is to get each participant thinking about the future, while challenging them to take advantage of the advantage they already have. The ultimate goal is to encourage and motivate each student to make a difference with their life and career path. This is done by surrounding the students in a dynamic learning environment, exposing them to interesting topics. One of the main projects, within the month, is a national entrepreneurship competition which requires a startup venture, and all the steps needed to follow through, right from patent searches to business plans and designs and prototypes.

Shad Valley has 10 host campuses and the students chosen to attend will be dispersed throughout Canada, and into the participating host campuses. Six students were chosen from the St. John's and Logy Bay area. John Hanchar, a grade 10 student from Holy Heart of Mary, was selected to attend Shad

Valley this summer. John is a volunteer improvisation coach for students at St. Paul's Junior High. "The big change I hope to bring back to St. John's with me are the skills required for group activity. You can never be too good at working with others, and I hope to have that skill set improved," says John.

James Flynn, a grade 11 student at Holy Heart of Mary, will be attending Shad Valley at the University of New Brunswick this summer and hopes to learn skill sets that will not only help him in Grade 12, but for the rest of his life; "I hope to improve leadership and teamwork skills, develop a greater interest in the sciences, learn how to live away from home in a university setting, about other cultures and get the opportunity to meet people from around the world."

Mary Dever, Shad Valley's National Director of Development, says Alumni from the program have become leaders and success stories, "experiencing high degrees of success in their education, their lives and their work. Whether achieving financial success for clients on Bay Street in Toronto; securing patents for employers at companies like Research in Motion; founding social enterprises such as Engineers Without Borders; or fusing technical and business skills to create new innovation as early-stage entrepreneurs; they're leaders, stewards, mentors, and contributors to economic and social vibrancy."

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## WORD UP

# SOCCER - NOT JUST FOR EUROPEANS ANYMORE

NEWFOUNDLANDER RETURNS HOME FROM MONTREAL FOR AN EXHIBIT

BY GINA GILL

Soccer, everyone has heard of it, seen or played it or cheered. But is it just really a sport? In *The World is a Ball*, John Doyle describes soccer as so much more - a history, a cultural impacting theatrical poem, an ongoing act and a means of expression for so many countries. "It's global game, not just one country's," said Doyle. "It's involved in different cultures in different ways."

Not only is the sport attached to all countries, it always becomes a part of its tradition, its identity. "Soccer is rooted, it's a part of DNA of that area- its culture, its city," said Doyle. Canadians veer towards hockey, recognizing it as a national sport. Soccer may not be seen as part of Canadian heritage. However, Doyle reminds that soccer is an international sport and it has always been in Canada, but mostly "under the radar," as he describes it. Doyle adds television allows so much more access to soccer and Canada is now offered live feeds from Europe, allowing viewers to see nine to ten games per day. There's also a team in Toronto and Vancouver, which have been successful and have many followers, with Montreal to soon follow suit.

"There are a lot of teens and kids playing soccer and they can deem a career within Canada," said Doyle.

Although a lot of Canadians follow teams their parents have chanted for all their lives, or for wherever their ancestors may come from, they've been able to jump ship and see the passion within their own country.

Doyle's day job is with the *Globe and Mail* as a television critic and got the opportunity to follow the World Cup as a secondary position. Doyle not only writes about soccer, he brings the game to his audience. He describes each movement dramatically and dabbles with the action in the streets, previous to the game. You can hear the chants through his words, feel the fans arms linked within your own - if you can't make it to the World Cup, Doyle's the best option. "Everybody experiences the game one on one with their screen, not everybody gets to go to a World Cup or European city," said Doyle.

Doyle brings the culture and its people to his pages, reminding readers how much social impact one culture contains. Doyle doesn't just give readers the pitch but all the fans that surround it. Everyone has heard of passionate soccer fans, Doyle helps you understand why they do what they do. "There are very few vehicles for people to express nationalism in a benign way, in an innocent way," said Doyle, "it's so embedded to everything that matters to the

community." An interesting factor of soccer is the people dress up in their own country's stereotypes.

Doyle describes French fans carrying a baguette, wearing a beret with a drawn on moustache to boot.

Doyle mentions that soccer is one of the only games that is relatable to most of its fans. You can get as big as you want, but a smaller player could beat you in soccer. It's realistic to most and applicable to the average human. You don't need to be rich to play, or invest in any fancy equipment, it's the skill you develop that will make you a player.

*The World is a Ball* proves soccer is so much more than a game, stereotypes aside, neat facts and chanting - it's a huge part of culture. Soccer is found everywhere. It's the one constant we all have in common. To get more info on the World Cup - there is a complete guide and schedule at the end of *The World is a Ball*.

the world  
is a ball



THE JOY, MADNESS AND MEANING OF SOCCER

John Doyle

## WINE

# BURGUNDY - HEATBREAK AND HEAVEN

A SPOTLIGHT THROUGH THE FRENCH WINE REGION

BY JENNIFER MURRAY

If Bordeaux is the glitzy, high end, marble floored supermarket of wine then Burgundy is the cozy, a bit difficult to navigate general store. In Bordeaux many of the chateaux are owned by multinationals, banks, industrialists and so on, whereas Burgundy is afoot with small, family owned properties. This is not at all implying that the wines are any less than world class! Some of the most expensive wines in the world hail from Burgundy, namely the wines of Domaine de la Romanée Conti.

Burgundy is all about Pinot Noir and Chardonnay and the area is notorious for playing havoc weather wise - not an easy thing if dealing with the "Heartbreak Grape" as Pinot Noir is sometimes referred to. Pinot is difficult to grow, but the soil structure in Burgundy makes it one of the best - if not the best the grape.

Burgundy wines have been awe inspiring for centuries and the area has been well documented by the monastic orders in the area for centuries as well, and therefore the individual vineyards have been charted and rated according to the quality of the fruit they yield. The classification is based on the quality of the grapes produced as opposed to the Bordeaux system where the price fetched and the renown of the Chateau influenced the 1855 classification.

The area that for many epitomizes Burgundy is the Côte D'Or, which is comprised of the Côte de Nuits and the Côte de Beaune; this is where most of the

great Burgundy wines come from. South of this is the Mâconnais and a bit further down the Beaujolais area (which rightfully is part of Burgundy). Around 120KM to the North West is Chablis, which is strictly Chardonnay territory. It's not an easy task becoming a Burgundy lover and to become a true Burgundy connoisseur is an undertaking of a lifetime!

The area is a patchwork of, sometimes, very small vineyards and even some of the larger ones have been broken up into small parcels through inheritances and sales. For instance the famous Clos de Vougeot vineyard, which with 125 acres is the largest single vineyard in the Côte de Nuits, is owned by about 80 different owners!

What makes Burgundy both difficult and interesting at the same time is the fact that the quality can differ quite substantially from vintage to vintage because of climate. The abundant small, medium and large wineries seeking out the perfect burgundy have a challenge, but one that can be a lot of fun! Many connoisseurs will declare that no other red wine has the complexity, fullness and style as does a great Pinot Noir from the Côte de Nuits, but finding that wine can be a true treasure hunt.

The Chardonnays can be anywhere from buttery and full, to steely crisp and lean even if they come from adjacent vineyards. Chardonnay has been likened to a canvas for a winemaker, as the wine from this



variety can be made in different styles by employing different methods in the wine making process.

Aside from the prevalent Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes there are also smaller amounts of Aligoté and Pinot Blanc and a tiny bit of Sauvignon Blanc. The Beaujolais area is where the Gamay grape is king.

Expect to pay quite a bit for a good Burgundy, but in most cases it is money well spent as the complexity of a good red Burgundy is an experience not to be missed. Some of the Chardonnay based wines are wonders of complexity as well and a nice, buttery Meursault makes a great accompaniment to lobster. The Chardonnay wines from Chablis are known for their "flinty," mineral, taste and are great with seafood.

Some wine lovers don't like to count the Beaujolais area to Burgundy, as the wines there are from the high yielding Gamay grape, usually not considered in the same league as the Pinots from the Côte D'Or. The vinification method is quite different as well (called carbonic maceration) and this imparts flavours of bubble gum to the easy drinking, lighter bodied wines. Its fun experimenting with the wines of Burgundy and if you ever open a bottle of Domaine de Romanée Conti - give me call!

# 5 FAVES

## DANIELLE EVANS

NEWFOUNDLAND ARTIST RETURNS HOME FROM MONTREAL

BY ALLISON MURRAY



Danielle Evans

Since 1987, the Emma Butler Gallery has housed a wide range of work from a number of established and emerging artists from around the world.

This month the gallery will be opening an exhibit which looks at the works of John McDonald, April Norman and Danielle Evans. With the

anticipation of the shows opening in early June, *Current* asked Newfoundland born, Montreal based, visual artist Danielle Evans what her five favourite elements of her art are, and what the public should know about the upcoming exhibit in St. John's.

Evans begins her five favourites saying her "goal was to create a cohesive series of floral landscapes. Comprised of eight paintings, the series, entitled *Fields*, explores both wild and industrialized flowers ranging from the wild Lupines of Newfoundland, to the vast skyline of the Prairie Canola fields."

She explains, "these are not floral landscapes in the traditional sense. They're dark - there is a lot of raw emotion, especially coming from the skies. I like

how a neutral subject like this can really come alive with edgy palette knife strokes and dramatic color choices."

Evans adds, "even though these paintings are quite dark in places, I wanted them to pop with bright colors. I like how light plays a huge factor in how they are perceived; depending upon the lighting, the paintings change - this is ultimately a consequence of their relief-like quality."

Following the colour scheme of her pieces, Evans notes, "I very rarely paint using a brush; this entire series was painted mostly with palette knives. Coming from a background in sculpture, my work tends to be very textured. This creates a lot of depth and I enjoy their tactile quality."

Lastly, visual artist Danielle Evans concludes by stating; "This series was a real labour of love - my process is very repetitive and the details can be so complex, you really get a sense of how much attention was given to each piece."

With use of her unique techniques and contrasting light with dark, Danielle Evans' work creates a visually stunning collection. Evans' work, along with those of John McDonald and April Norman, can be seen at the Emma Butler Gallery located at 111 George Street



Poppies

West. The show opens on June 19, from 2-5pm, with the artists in attendance. For more information, visit the Emma Butler Gallery website at <http://www.emmabutler.com>.

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COVER

TORONTOW AND MADDIGAN STAR IN THE LAST 5 YEARS

MUSICAL HAS UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP APPROACH  
BY DEBBY WINTERS



International star Michael Torontow and Newfoundland's own Tina Maddigan are the stars of Theatre St. John's latest production of *The Last 5 Years*, a one-act musical written by Jason Robert Brown. It premiered in Chicago back in 2001 and was produced off-Broadway in March 2002. Since then it has had numerous productions both in the United States and internationally.

Maddigan also recently debuted her first album *Inside Voice* which is a compilation of her renditions of a variety of Broadway songs. Tracks include *Here I Am (Dirty Rotten Scoundrels)*, *Gimme Gimme (Thoroughly Modern Millie)*, as well as the title track from *Variations on a Nervous Breakdown*. Maddigan was a host, writer and producer for Sprint TV. She has interviewed Hugh Jackman, Matt Damon, Ben Stiller, Christian Bale and Denzel Washington just to name a few. She also hosted *Road Trip* on the Discovery Channel.

initiative, the company provides free workshops for secondary students within the Avalon region.

*The Last 5 Years* is produced by Keith Pike of Theatre St. John's with musical direction by Wade Tarling. Theatre St. John's produces professional theatre and workshops new Canadian and Newfoundland works, fostering young actors/performers. As an educational

*The Last 5 Years* will be at the LSPU Hall from June 16 to 20 at 8pm. There will be a 2pm matinee on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the box office or on line at <http://www.rca.nf.ca>.

The story explores a five-year relationship between Jamie Wellerstein (Torontow), a rising novelist, and Cathy Hyatt (Maddigan), a struggling actress. The Musical tells their story in a very fresh and contemporary way. Cathy's version begins at the end of their relationship and travels back to the beginning. Oppositely Jamie's version begins when they first meet and travels forward. The two have contact with each other only in the middle of the relationship with a duet when their timelines meet.

The musical was inspired by Brown's failed marriage to Theresa O'Neill. In fact, O'Neill threatened legal action because the story of the musical represented her relationship with Brown too closely, leading Brown to change the song *I Could Be in Love with Someone like You* to *Shiksa Goddess* in order to reduce the similarity between the character Cathy and O'Neill.

Torontow is well known in musical theatre, his various credits include Mirvish Productions' *Dirty Dancing: The Classic Story On Stage*, *Hairspray*, *Forever Plaid*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and the US National tour of *Mamma Mia!* Torontow is originally from Ottawa, where he trained in classical voice and earned a degree in theatre from the University of Ottawa. Christopher Hoile, Principal Reviewer for *Stage Door* said; "Michael Torontow is a find as Link, good-looking, rich voiced, who makes the most of his big ballad *It Takes Two* of Torontow's performance in *Hairspray*."

*The Last 5 Years* is Maddigan's second stage appearance in her home province in less than a year. In November of last year she starred in Theatre St. John's production of *Little Women - The Musical* as Jo March. Maddigan appeared on Broadway as Julia Gulia in *The Wedding Singer*, opposite Tony nominated comedian, Stephen Lynch. She is best known for originating the role of Sophie, in the Broadway production of *Mamma Mia!* Maddigan also originated the role in the first Toronto production, and North American Touring Company. She was nominated for a National Star Award, RoBBY Award and Audience Award.

Of her role as Cathy in *The Last 5 Years* Maddigan said; "Like every other female my age, I have been dying to play this part since I first saw the show in New York. I only pray I will find my diaphragm in time."

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# SPORT

## CLIMBING FOR SUCCESS

YOUNG ATHLETES BRING 4 FIRST-PLACE MEDALS HOME TO NEWFOUNDLAND  
BY DEBBY WINTERS



Alexe Hanlon, 17, placed second in her age category at the 2010 Canadian Bouldering Championships

Everyone has heard of climbing the ladder of success! The sport of bouldering takes that to the extreme and there is a team of young Newfoundlanders bringing the sport to the forefront lead by coach Leo van Ulden of WallNuts. Bouldering is a style of rock climbing that is done without a rope and normally limited to short climbs over a crash pad so that a fall will not result in serious injuries.

The sport focuses on the problem solving aspect presented when manoeuvring over rocky areas more than how high a person can climb. Bouldering focuses on the technique of climbing instead of undertaking a full-bodied climb.



Lewis Loader, 13, placed first in his age category at the 2010 Canadian Bouldering Championships

Six members of the Newfoundland Junior Climbing Team competed in the 2010 Canadian Bouldering Championships, held in Toronto on Victoria Day weekend. The athletes brought home four firsts, a second place and a sixth place in their respective age categories.

Lewis Loader achieved 1st place in boys aged 12-13. Nick Brown was the 1st place winner in the boys aged 14-15 and Matthew Bouzane achieved 6th place the same category.

Jane Cuff placed first in girls 14 and 15. Alexe Hanlon was second for girls 16 and 17 and Susan Redmond won first place in the 18 and 19 year old category.

"I'm proud of everyone on the team for earning such great results at a national competition," said team coach Leo van Ulden.

"Bouldering requires strength and discipline, and I'm inspired by the commitment of everyone on the team. It's rewarding to see how hard they push themselves to excel as climbers."

The championship event is the grand finale in a five-month series of local and regional bouldering competitions, called Tour de Bloc. Established in 2003 with the aim of promoting competitive climbing in Canada, Tour de Bloc has grown from its early years in

Ontario and Quebec into a full national circuit, with stops across the country.

In April a larger contingent of the Newfoundland Junior Team travelled to Quebec City for the Eastern Canadian regional qualifier.

In addition to the six individuals who advanced to compete in Toronto, Jessica McElean, Sandy McGruer and David Bruneau helped the team win five medals at the Quebec event.

The Newfoundland Junior Climbing Team trains at Wallnuts Climbing Centre in St. John's as well as outside at well-known climbing areas on the island's Avalon Peninsula and beyond.

Current would like to make sure all readers stay safe and check out <http://www.wallnutsclimbing.com> or <http://tourdebloc.com> for more information before giving bouldering a shot!

Rawlins Cross  
124 Military Road  
754-4454

Fairmont Newfoundland  
115 Cavendish Square  
754-7707

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ART

READING A GARDEN

THE LEYTON GALLERY WELCOMES MARGARET RYALL'S FLOWERS  
BY CHARISSA REEVES



Preserved

Margaret Ryall's interest in gardens led her to Birr Castle Demesne where she gathered the information she needed to create her latest work, *Reading a Garden* currently on display at The Leyton Gallery, running until June 20. Interested in gardens as a topic, Ryall said she's also very interested in thinking process and how people remember things, forget bits and how the mind changes

what you see. "I try to reproduce that same kind of effect or process in the way I create a painting, so I have a topic but it's also very process oriented."

A former teacher, Ryall's thought about how different people collect and process information in different ways a lot. "The whole idea of how we make sense of the world, visually, or through print, or through language definitely led me to my take on some of this, thus, *Reading a Garden*."

The main part of this exhibit has a very cool, moist dark and earthy feel, with suggestions of brambles in the undergrowth and the possibility of some unseen creature watching from the shadows, exactly what you would expect out of a garden in an Irish castle.

Reoccurring in some of her pieces is a web-like or mosaic style in the undergrowth or dark shadows of many scenes. She said she often uses this patterning because it reminds her of growth and cellular structure. Parting from it's usual darker setting Ryall used the same patterning in a bright scene and says it is the first time she's done this with bright colours. *Daybreak* portrays daylilies, a bright orange flower with a very short life, blooming and dying within a day. Ryall said there is a lot of symbolism in plants and she was trying to create a sense of "what daybreak meant to the daylilies, positive and negative."

The cell-like patterning appears in the bright blue summer sky above these glorious flowers. She said she was trying to figure out a way to almost fracture the plane and stop the daylily from growing into their own demise, or "break this" in her own mind.

Her work in this exhibit is more detailed than anything she has ever done, Ryall says. "I like combining highly realistic with highly abstract to see how much I can get away with."

Ryall is a mixed media artist and so she did not create these pieces on site but instead gathered the information she needed by photographing, sketching and writing. Depending a lot on her photos her paintings start with image transfer in gel skins, which she tears and rearranges to create compositions. "My process is a very tactile one." After the base of transfers is laid she uses a series of manipulations using paint, mediums and paper until little is left of the

original layer. "My hands are in the work a lot and I do think that is an important part of the creative process for me and I've always been that way."

Out of style with the rest of the show are eight pieces entitled *Reflections*, (one through eight) featuring different benches set throughout the garden laid behind encaustic, a whitish transparent bees wax mixture. Bits of writing top the wax, Ryall's notes she gathered while sitting on these benches. She sat on every bench in the garden, writing, or just sitting. "I saw the benches as the markers in the garden, if I wasn't there they replaced me."

Wanting these pieces to "reflect" the process she went through to create the other works she made them at the end and said, "it tied it all up for her."



Daybreak

CITY

ST. JOHN'S PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE ON ITS BIRTHDAY

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT 10 YEARS (AND THEN SOME!)  
BY GARY MOORE

The City of St. John's is celebrating its birthday and there's a road map for economic development, for the next ten years, in place.

Ward 4 Councillor, Debbie Hanlon, understands the importance of taking time and celebrating St. John's Day; "When you live in St. John's sometimes you tend to forget how great it is, usually you have to be away a while and then come back to fully appreciate all it has to offer. St. John's Day celebration is a reminder to all of us, of what an amazing City we live in and we are truly blessed not just on St. John's Day but every day," Hanlon exclaims.

The birthday festivities starts Friday, June 18, at the Visitor's Information Centre, 348 Water Street, with birthday cupcakes and a rundown of the weekend party plans.

Throughout the weekend there will be events taking place in honor of the celebration, at various venues throughout St. John's. Starting Saturday morning there will be races at Quidi Vidi, for the annual Discovery Day Regatta.

Windows On The West End, is a scavenger hunt held on Saturday, consisting of historic buildings in the west end of downtown. Participants are encouraged to collect clues by visiting each venue, gathering stickers and entering their completed map for some great prize draws.

There will be demonstrations in printmaking, held at St. Michael's Printshop, featuring various artists from St. John's and Art Walk 3 will take place both Saturday and Sunday at The Eastern Edge Gallery. This is a special window display of artwork with local businesses throughout the downtown.

The Nickel Independent Film Festival begins right after the holiday celebration, so it's only fitting they do something as a celebration for St. John's birthday.

On Sunday, June 20 The Rooms will be used as a backdrop for a short stop-motion film using people (both children and adults) as the pieces through which the images are formed on the screen. The images will be inspired by a birthday theme and will be chosen in collaboration with the workshop leaders and the participants.

But planning a birthday celebration isn't the only planning the City has been doing; the City has been busy preparing the announcement of it's Strategic Economic Roadmap which will help guide the City's economy for the next ten years. Although the plan will not be rolled out until March of 2011, there's already a buzz going around.

Debbie Hanlon is Chair of the Committee; "St. John's is a vibrant city with a dynamic business community and a rich cultural life."

Hanlon also adds, "We recognize that it's important to take stock of our many assets and, with input from our community, lay down a plan that will help us take advantage of new opportunities and create a more robust economy."

For a full schedule of events for St. John's Days and more information on the Economic Plan visit <http://www.stjohns.ca>.



FILM

PRINCE OF PERSIA

STARRING JAKE GYLLENHAAL, GEMMA ARTERTON AND BEN KINGSLEY  
BY TIM CONWAY



Gemma Arterton

Runtime: 116 minutes  
★ ★ ★

Set some 1500 years ago, in the Persian Empire, young Dastan risks his own life to save a boy from punishment. He's captured and about to lose his head, when King Sharaman intervenes. The ruler is moved by the boy's courage and upon discovering that he's an orphan, he adopts him.

Fifteen years later, Dastan and his brothers, Tus and Garsiv, go with an army to Alamut, responding to reports that the holy city's been supplying Persia's enemies with weapons. Although the mission's diplomatic, their spies show evidence Alamut is producing and distributing weaponry, so, the brothers to invade.

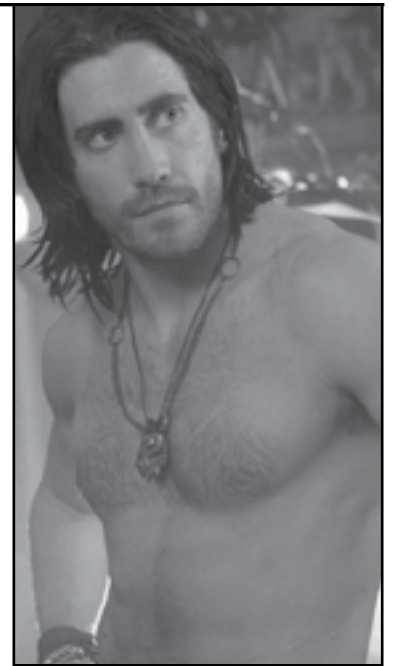
Contrary to the plan that Garsiv lead the charge, Dastan takes matters into his own hands, sneaking a party of soldiers behind the walls. His actions ensure success, preventing what would have been numerous casualties. He becomes known as The Lion of Persia, and along with this new moniker, he's come to possess a rather

ornate dagger. His brother Tus, has his eyes on another prize, Princess Tamina. Fearing King Sharaman may disapprove of Tus' marital plans, he asks Dastan to help him sell the notion to their father. The scheme works, except Sharaman meets a ghastly fate made to look like Dastan is culpable. Suddenly The Lion of Persia is forced to flee, with unlikely ally Princess Tamina.

Word has it that Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time takes most of its narrative cues from the video game. Unlike many of its peers, however, and even some motion pictures produced with aspirations of launching a successful video game, this one plays more like a movie. Although there's no shortage of computer-generated effects, there is a fair bit of stunt work, to thrilling effect. Sure, all kinds of electronic gimmickry is applied to exaggerate the leaps and bounds, but that doesn't matter. The results are believable enough to keep caught up in the excitement, and the pacing of the story hardly slows enough to provide the time to ruminate on the mechanics of visuals.

The occasional speed-bump does occur during interludes devoted to romantic development between Dastan and Tamina. The Lion of Persia's puppy-dog countenance during these scenes is unintentionally amusing and one tender encounter, near the end, seems to be totally out of synch with the reality of the

moment, but it's a fantasy. A little more troubling, though, is the whole mythology regarding the dagger. Perhaps this is clearer to readers of fantasy novels, or experienced gamers, but there's something not quite right about how all of this supernatural stuff works.



Jake Gyllenhaal

Still, these are minor quibbles. Prince of Persia: Sands of Time is an entertaining film providing a couple of hours of Arabian Night style adventure. It isn't a Raiders of the Lost Ark and perhaps to the studio's disappointment, not even a Pirates of the Caribbean, but it's a solid diversion from the rain, drizzle and fog that constitute our seasonal climate. Moreover, as an adaptation of a video game, it successfully makes the transition to the big screen; no small feat, considering the numerous films that bear no connection with the medium, yet play out like two hours of Pong.

CAUSES

2010 MOTORCYCLE RIDE FOR DAD

ST. JOHN'S PREMIERE FEATRES RUTH LAWRENCE & SARA TILLEY  
BY JOSHUA JAMIESON

Motorcyclists with a cause, St. John's is one of a baker's dozen of cities across the country that will participate in a ride to raise awareness for prostate cancer on June 19. The national organization's Atlantic chapter is based in the capitol city and over the years, they've attracted more than 200 riders to this annual event. They start from Newfoundland Power on Kenmount Road and registration is open now via their website.

The organization organizes the largest event dedicated to fighting prostate cancer through research and education, with the first Ride for Dad in Ottawa getting the wheels rolling back in 2000. It was February 2007 before the local chapter was opened,

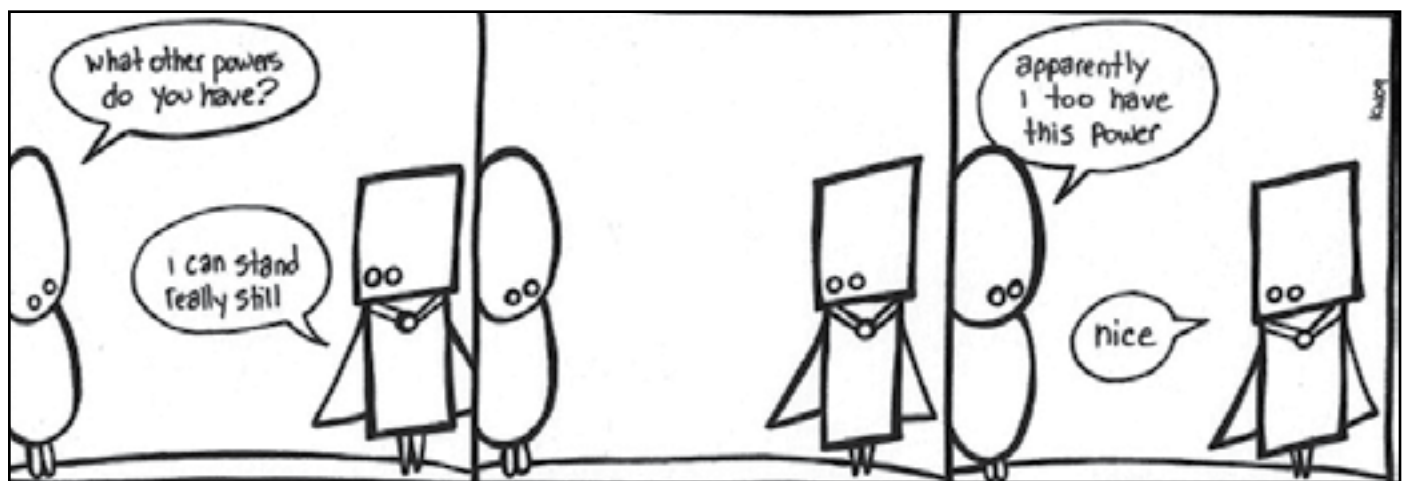
and it has been promoting the message ever since. The group has a number of informational videos on its website at <http://www.motorcyclridefordad.org> and they engage in fundraisers throughout the year as well, showing off their rides for donations.

The summer ride each June is seen as an unofficial but treasured start to the summer riding season. The group of volunteers is deeply thankful for everyone that continues to attend and support the Ride, also looking forward to seeing some new faces. A lot of work goes into the planning of these motorcycle rides and it takes a lot of dedicated people to make it happen. Each chapter has it own team that works tirelessly in order to have a successful and safe run.



COMICS

*the little world  
by Kevin Woolidge*



[www.thelittleworld.net/blog](http://www.thelittleworld.net/blog)

## DATING

### MANIPULATIVE CONVERSATION

BEING A PICK UP ARTIST ISN'T SUCH A BAD THING

BY TARA LEHMAN



Is hitting on someone a form of manipulation? Absolutely. That's not necessarily negative though. Next time someone approaches you, take a moment to ask yourself why they're trying to manipulate you. Is it with good or bad intentions? Are you falling for it?

Surely you're smart enough to know you can't be completely convinced of anything since it takes two to give the green or red light. With an odd yellow light when you just aren't sure and it's a night you just don't care!

Some people can hit on most anybody and never seem to strike out. If you aren't one of those people, never doubt it's conceivable to break out of your shell. It's

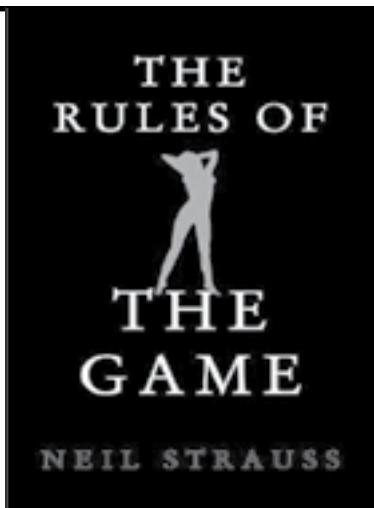
about self confidence, which in turn ensures people perceive you correctly, and mastering the art of simple conversation. This is imperative because pick-up lines often go catastrophically wrong.

Approaching (manipulating) someone poorly can make you look like a bull in a china shop. Have good timing, look the person in the eyes and create interesting, relevant conversation. Need a hand? Some of the best pick-up conversation comes from author Neil Strauss., a.k.a. the World's Best Pick-up Artist. Although its unclear how someone wins this coveted title, his books seem to be the man's Bible to finding the relationships they desire whether it's marriage or a one night stand.

Ladies will learn plenty from him. You'll all be equally enlightened and eager to deliver the same conversation, even if you're already a great conversationalist. Honestly, you won't be able to resist. Grab two books in particular: *The Game* and *The Rules of the Game*.

Every person you try to pick up will have different circumstances, so rely heavily on your intuition. Also, if you feel desperate or nervous, keep those feelings at bay because they will ruin what could be a new, great relationship before it even has a chance to start. One last note: Don't let the word pick-up artist throw you off. That's exactly what you are when you're hitting on someone, just do so tastefully. An artist simply implies you're good at it, and if you follow this simple guideline, yes, you can be!

Tara runs D8 Night, arranging speed dating events, blind dates, online dating consultations and more. Dial 740-3733, Facebook Group: D8 Night or [www.lovediva.ca](http://www.lovediva.ca)



## SOUNDS

### PETER VAN HUFFEL QUARTET

CANADIAN QUARTET TOURS THE WORLD AND COMES TO ST. JOHN'S

BY GARY MOORE



Canadian born saxophonist and composer, Peter Van Huffel is having his music heard all over the world, especially since releasing his latest album *Like The Rusted Key*, released on Fresh Sound New Talent label, based out of Barcelona, Spain.

Peter spent six years in Toronto, to study at Humber College, and credits his time there to helping him grow tremendously as a musician. During his time in Toronto he caught the big city bug and decided to head to New York, where he spent six years getting inspiration from fellow musicians and grew his musical direction. Feeling burned out from the big city pace, Peter was looking for another place to live.

Performing in New York and attending workshops in Banff led him to talking to other musicians who insisted that Berlin was a great place to live. Berlin had easy access to touring within Europe, and many dates could be done on a quick weekend trip, and traveling by train.

The decision, to relocate to Berlin, has paid off. Since January, Peter and his quartet have traveled to Prague, through four cities in Germany, and ending with two concerts in Belgium. The second tour was in April and consisted of five concerts throughout Spain. Finally last month Peter and the quartet did a short weekend with two concerts – one in Geneva, Switzerland and the other in Dublin, Ireland.

All of this travel was in promotion of Peter's latest release *Like The Rusted Key*, released in February of

this year. "The response so far to this disc has been amazing" exclaims Peter, who also says they generally play the written form of the songs while performing live, but they also like to have fun with it; "However, we are playful with it, we like to interact as much as possible on stage, and we often put more emphasis on the group sound and interplay than on the individual soloist."

The touring doesn't end there. Peter will have a homecoming Canadian tour this summer which will land him and the quartet in festivals throughout Canada; Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Ottawa, Toronto, Kingston, Montreal, Halifax and St. John's.

In St. John's, Peter and the quartet will be a part of the Wreckhouse International Jazz and Blues Festival.

Without revealing too much, of what can be expected from their live shows, Peter says "I can tell you that we've never disappointed any open-minded audiences."

Executive Director for Wreckhouse Jazz and Blues, Kirk Newhook explains his excitement for having the Peter Van Huffel Quartet performing at this summers festival; "His music is highly creative and energetic, yet intimate and his band consists of world class improvisers." Kirk also adds, "They'll treat us to a great night of superb creativity, interaction and improvisation."

For a full tour schedule and more information visit <http://www.petervanhuffel.com>, tickets for the St. John's performance are available through <http://www.wreckhousejazzandblues.com>



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# LISTINGS

## WHAT'S ON!

CHECK OUR LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

### FRIDAY, June 11

Club One: The Insiders  
Distortion: Gore Puppy, Endometrium, The Sketch  
Dusk: Dana Parsons Project  
Greensleeves: Greg Bolger  
Liquid: Dr. Drake  
The Fat Cat: One Power  
The Majestic: Shawn Majumder  
The Martini Bar: Alex Dinn Band  
The Rock House: Rumble in the Jungle  
The Ship: Bonavista Chain Locker, AE Bridger, Steve Maloney  
RE/MAX Centre: NL Pet Expo  
Spin: Funktastic Friday w/Leo van Ulden & Kid Cue  
Stanley's: Karaoke  
Turkey Joe's: Filthy Fridays w/DJ JayCee  
Yuk Yuk's: Kevin Pollack (That Thing You Do, Dr. Dolittle, Entourage)

### SATURDAY, June 12

CBTGs: Maggie Meyer, Frayed Knots, Catmanduah, Col Craze and The Hunch, Local Tough  
Club One: The Insiders  
Dusk: Dana Parsons Project  
Greensleeves: Greg Bolger  
Lottie's Place: Jeff Lewis  
The Fat Cat: The Monday Nights  
The Martini Bar: Alex Dinn Band  
The Rock House: Shanneyganock  
The Ship: Dust Radio, The Need, The Wolves  
RE/MAX Centre: NL Pet Expo  
Shamrock City Pub: Harrington Brothers (Dublin)  
Sheraton: Mike Bullard  
Spin: Mike the Tailor  
Stanley's: Karaoke  
Turkey Joe's: Sexual Saturdays with DJ JayCee  
Yuk Yuk's: Kevin Pollack (That Thing You Do, Dr. Dolittle, Entourage)

### SUNDAY, June 13

Greensleeves: Damian Follett  
Grumpy Stump: Karaoke  
Kelly's Pub: Fred Jorgenson  
O'Reilly's: Traditional Open Session w/ Alan Byrne  
Mile One: Comedy Fest Gala  
RE/MAX Centre: NL Pet Expo  
Shamrock City Pub: Arthur & Con O'Brien  
Turkey Joe's: Old School Sunday Ladies Night with DJ Lex

### MONDAY, June 14

Greensleeves: Damian Follett  
Grumpy Stump: Open Mic  
Loft 709: Martini Monday's w/DJ Diamond  
O'Reilly's: Larry Foley and Patrick Moran

Shamrock City Pub: Anthony MacDonald & Ronnie Power  
Turkey Joe's: Manic Mondays: Happy Hour All Night

### TUESDAY, June 15

Auntie Crae's: (Noon, free) Auntie Crae's Band  
Bella Vista: (8:30PM, \$5) Sizzlin Salsa Tuesdays  
Grumpy Stump: Karaoke  
The Ship: This Ramshackle Tabernacle Launch by Samuel Thomas Martin  
Shamrock City Pub: Connemara  
Turkey Joe's: Two for Tuesdays w/Carl Peters & Dave White

### WEDNESDAY, June 16

Grumpy Stump: Karaoke  
Junctions: Wild Wednesdays w/Dr Drake, DJ Fox  
The Fat Cat: Chris Kriby (acoustic)  
The Rock House: (8:30PM, \$5) Salsa On the Rock weekly salsa dancing  
The Ship: Folk Night  
Stanley's: Karaoke  
Turkey Joe's: Wacky Wednesday's w/ Dave White

### THURSDAY, June 17

Kelly's Pub: Fred Jorgenson & Arthur O'Brien  
O'Reilly's: Acoustic Punters  
Shamrock City Pub: Middle Tickle  
Turkey Joe's: Thirsty Thursdays with DJ JayCee  
Yuk Yuk's: Pro/Am Comedy Slam  
FRIDAY, June 18  
Stanley's: Karaoke  
Turkey Joe's: Filthy Fridays with DJ JayCee  
Yuk Yuk's: Tracy Smith (Wayne Brady Show & HBO's Best of the Fest)

### SATURDAY, June 19

Loft 709: Dance League Saturday w/ DJ NuRock  
Spin: Seamless Saturday w/Mike the Tailor  
Stanley's: (10PM) Karaoke  
Turkey Joe's: Sexual Saturdays with DJ JayCee  
Yuk Yuk's: Tracy Smith (Wayne Brady Show & HBO's Best of the Fest)

### SUNDAY, June 20

Grumpy Stump: Karaoke  
Kelly's Pub: Fred Jorgenson  
O'Reilly's: Traditional Open Session w/ Alan Byrne  
Shamrock City Pub: Arthur & Con O'Brien  
Turkey Joe's: Old School Sunday Ladies Night with DJ Lex

### MONDAY, June 21

Grumpy Stump: Open Mic  
Greensleeves: Damian Follett  
O'Reilly's: Larry Foley & Patrick Moran  
Shamrock City Pub: Anthony MacDonald & Ronnie Power  
Turkey Joe's: Manic Mondays - Happy Hour All Night

### TUESDAY, June 22

Auntie Crae's: (Noon, free) Auntie Crae's Band  
Bella Vista: (8:30PM, \$5) Sizzlin Salsa Tuesdays  
Grumpy Stump: Karaoke  
Greensleeves: Damian Follett  
Shamrock City Pub: Connemara  
Turkey Joe's: Two for Tuesdays - "2 for 1" w/Carl Peters & Dave White

### WEDNESDAY, June 23

Grumpy Stump: Karaoke  
Junctions: Wild Wednesdays w/Dr Drake, DJ Fox  
The Martini Bar: Acoustic Trio Wednesday with Stixx and Stones  
The Ship: Folk Night  
Shamrock City Pub: The Navigators  
Stanley's: Karaoke  
Turkey Joe's: (10PM) Wacky Wednesdays w/ Dave White

### THURSDAY, June 24

Greensleeves: Unlisted  
O'Reilly's: Acoustic Punters  
Shamrock City Pub: Middle Tickle  
Turkey Joe's: Thirsty Thursdays with DJ JayCee  
Yuk Yuk's: Pro/Am Comedy Slam followed by Kevin Pollack

### What To Do? (For Artists)

Short Sighted - Call for Submissions: The Rooms, 1 min. video shorts, deadline: Aug 6, 4pm  
Workshop for Musicians about Rights & Royalties (June 19, Gower Street United Church, 1pm) Free, hosted by NLMA, email nlmusicians@hotmail.com or call 722-8005 for info.  
Anna Templeton Centre (Duckworth) contact for info re: adult and youth classes, workshops  
Clay Cafe (39 Commonwealth Ave, Mount Pearl 745-2345): open til 9PM  
Devon House Clay Studio - open studio times, contact for info  
Call For Submissions: 24 Hour Art Marathon Festival (August 13-22, 2010) Deadline: June 15. Looking for exciting, engaging contemporary artists! Email easternedgegallery@gmail.com or call 739-1882 for info. Artists are encouraged to propose a variety of contemporary art actions which could be: performances (site-specific or staged), local community

collaboration (interactive works), video/sound/off-site installation, workshops (for all ages or specific).

### GALLERY LISTINGS

The Craft Council Gallery (Devon House, Duckworth Street; www.craftcouncil.nl.ca)  
Leyton Gallery, Clift-Baird's Lane Call 722-7177 or www.theleytongallery.com for info.  
Monday's Company (MUN Botanical Gardens, June 11- July 18) Showing art from a dozen inspiring friends.  
The Rooms: (www.therooms.ca Wednesdays 6pm-9pm are Free, 9 Bonaventure Ave. 757-8000)

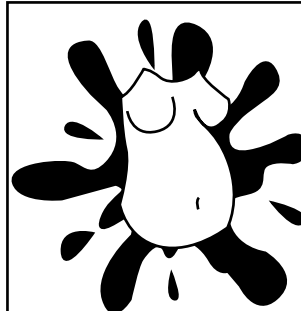
### SPECIAL EVENTS LISTINGS

Jimmy Pratt Memorial Soup Kitchen Flea Market (George St. United Church, June 12, 8:30am)  
Trial Run (59 Duckworth St., June 5 - 18, 10-5pm) First year student exhibition textiles: Craft and Apparel design College of the North Atlantic, Craft Council, Devon House call 757-8178  
10th Annual Seniors' Day (MUN Botanical Garden, June 17, 10am) Free, refreshments and tours, bgprograms@mun.ca, call: 737-8590 or www.mun.ca/botgarden.  
St. John's Day at the Anna Templeton Centre (June 20, 12pm) Former British Bank of North America, Commercial Bank, Newfoundland Savings Bank, Bank of Montreal, tours & family fun around the theme of our the banking heritage. Create your own money! Call 739-7623.  
Iceberg Alley Launch (MUN Engineering Bldg, June 23, 7pm) by Stephen Bruneau and Kevin Redmond. call 709-739-44  
NLBIA Walk for Brain Wellness (Quidi Vidi Lake, June 27, 2-5pm) Visit www.nlbica.ca for info.  
Business Start-up Session for Women (June 30, 9am) Presented by NLOWE, a growth session follows. Pre-registration is required. www.nlowe.org or call 1.888.NLOWE.11  
Early Bird Watch (MUN Botanical Garden, every 2nd Sunday, 8am) Meet in the parking lot, free, call 737-8590  
Comic Jam (Hava Java, last Monday of every month, 7PM, free)  
St. John's Farmers' Market (Saturdays, 10AM-2PM, June - Nov.), Lion's Club Chalet, Bonaventure Avenue  
Free Internet: Love of Learning offers free internet and computer use for resilient youth between 15 & 35,  
noon to 6pm, weekdays, Gower Street United Church. For info, www.fortheloveoflearning.org or call Darcy at 722-8848.  
Hurling Training on-going weekly. Contact Brendan Toland at: Yellowbellies\_SJ\_GAA\_Club@yahoo.ca  
For The Love of Learning (weekdays, 12pm-6pm, Free to youth 15-35): 99 Gower Street. Classes in world religion, philosophy, folklore, art, theatre, resume-building. Free lunch at 1PM (722-4846)  
Mall Walkers' Club: (Avalon Mall, Thursdays, 8:45am) (737-2333)  
The Pottle Centre: (323 Hamilton Avenue, social and recreational programs for users of mental health services) 753-2143  
Seniors Bridging Culture: (Seniors Resource Centre, Thursdays, 2pm) Tea, guest speakers, and conversation (737-2333)  
Seniors Friendship Club: (Seniors Resource Centre, Fridays, 2pm 737-2333)  
Shambhala Meditation Group: (Billy Rahal Fieldhouse, rear Elizabeth Towers) Free meditation practice. Call 576-4727 or visit http://stjohns.shambhala.org  
Traditional Latin Mass: The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin) celebrated on Sundays, 5:15PM at St. Pius X Church, Latin-English Missals & resources provided. For info or a free Visitor's Guide to the Latin Mass call 722-4842 or unavoce.sopc@gmail.com  
St. John's City Council Meeting: (City Council Chambers, 4th Floor, Mondays, 4:30pm) Public welcome, see agenda www.stjohns.ca, posted Friday afternoons  
Overeaters Anonymous: If your eating habits are making you unhappy and putting you at risk for serious health problems, you can do something about it. Call 738-1742 or www.oa.org  
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## MY MESSY BEDROOM

## FUNNY STUFF

GEORGE WOULD KEEP YOU LAUGHING. THAT'S PARTLY WHY HE'S SO ATTRACTIVE.

BY JOSEY VOGLES

"A guy who can make me laugh can get into my pants," my friend Karen tells me the other day. And here men are wasting all that money buying us drinks and spending all that energy on deep meaningful conversation over expensive, long dinners. Turns out, we just want ya to make us laugh. "I will take a guy who can make you laugh over a good-looking guy any day," my friend Sarah agrees.

Admittedly, dating a guy who didn't make me laugh is impossible. On practically every list of what women want in a man, a sense of humour is number one, or not far from it. A *People* magazine poll claims that of the 47,000 women interviewed, 42% said that a sense of humour was the number one thing they look for in a man. Sensitivity ranked second, followed by intelligence, good looks and money.

True, it's hard to spot sense of humour across the room -- "Wow, look at him, doesn't he look funny?" -- but there's gotta be some reason Woody Allen manages to get laid. Laughter is not only the best medicine, but it makes a fine aphrodisiac as well. As Karen puts it, "If he tickles my funny bone, chances are I'll let him tickle the rest of me."

Oddly, a sense of humour usually ranks further down a man's list of what he's looking for in a gal -- usually somewhere after her looks and "gives good head" or something like that. In my experience, many men are also uncomfortable with women who are funnier than they are.

Maybe guys are simply more honest about what they want. But the lab coats think maybe, just maybe, evolution has

something to do with why women go for guys who elicit a giggle. A group of researchers at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee gathered men and women to sit around and watch funny movies together, then studied their reactions. They found that people use laughter to influence how others feel about them. "Much like eye contact or moving closer to someone," says Jo-Anne Bachorowski an assistant professor of psychology who helped in the study, "we unconsciously use laughter to shape the emotional and behavioural responses of others."

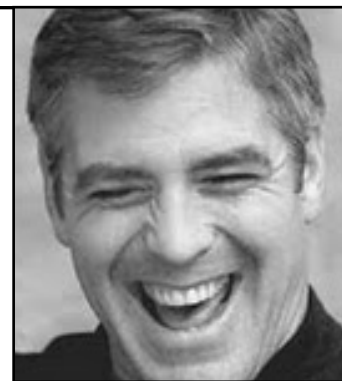
In fact, people laugh differently depending on who they're with. The study found that women in particular laughed more frequently and with a higher pitch when they were in the company of a male stranger. According to the researchers, high-pitched sounds like extreme laughter cause arousal in another person. So if a guy can get a gal laughing it's a good sign he makes her feel relaxed enough to let her guard down and show him that she's into to him. "Laughing can act as a subtle permission to pursue the female," says Bachorowski. When a woman isn't into a guy or sees him as threatening, she'll hold back her girlish giggle, the researchers add.

It works the opposite way with men. Note to guys: Giggling like a maniac in front of us might indeed cause arousal and freak us out. "If a male wants to impress a female, he shouldn't make sounds that would increase her level of arousal or activation," says Bachorowski. "In the presence of a male stranger, the female may interpret her arousal as being negative, potentially making her feel wary and

uncomfortable around this man."

According to the study, it's better for a guy to keep his belly laughs at a minimum early in the game and only expand his laugh repertoire as the relationship develops. Bachorowski and her colleagues found that men produced very few laughs while with women they didn't know. And none of these laughs were of the arousal-inducing, high-pitched variety. Simply put, a guy who makes a gal laugh helps, um, loosen her up. Karen doesn't need a scientific study for proof of that. "I'm not sure why a sense of humour is sexy," she continues, "but I think it has something to do with making us relax and feel comfortable, which allows us to open up."

But before you go trying to "open a gal up" by cracking a few corny jokes, know that women can be as picky about their sense of humour as they are about their men. "Cerebral humour is hot," says Karen. Its preferable to have humour with a heavy dose of wit. Witty sarcasm is one thing, but ruthlessly cutting people down, in the guise of humour (when it's really about propping up your own ego), is a big turn off in my books. We don't need a stand-up comedian on our arm (that would probably be a little annoying) but a guy who can make a girl laugh goes a long way. How far? As Lisa put it, "If someone came to me and said she was thinking of marrying some guy who she didn't share any sense of humour with, I would say don't do it."



## \$3 BILL

## THE PROMISED LAND

SAY ISRAELIS, "IN JERUSALEM WE PRAY, IN TEL AVIV WE PLAY."

BY RICHARD BURNETT

A lifetime ago flying into Cairo from Istanbul, Egyptian authorities took me for a terrorist and searched me. Being hauled away, calling out over my shoulder to my travel buddy Seb, "If I'm not back in 30 minutes call the Canadian embassy!" Then three years ago, before boarding an El Al flight from JFK to Tel Aviv, El Al officials went through my luggage with a fine-tooth comb and, three hours later, body-searched me. The hassle wasn't bad considering El Al -- the safest airline on the planet -- is a preferred target of anti-Israel terrorists. Upon landing, Tel Aviv was snarled in daytime traffic because of a nationwide civilian evacuation plan rehearsal (read: Iran). On the ground, as in the air, Israel has absolutely no margin for error, especially since it is becoming clearer with each passing day that Iran's goal is regional hegemony. As Christopher Hitchens noted, "On May 15, we were subjected to a tirade by Ayatollah Mohammad Bagher Kharrazi, leader of Iran's Hezbollah party and proprietor of the newspaper of the same name, which carried his incendiary article [calling] for a "Greater Iran" that would assume hegemonic control over much of the Middle East and Central Asia."

This "Greater Iran" would stretch from Afghanistan to Palestine. Hitchens adds, "This new [shia] imperialism would, [Kharrazi] urged, possess two very attractive attributes. It would abolish the Jewish state, and it would assist in the arrival of the long-awaited Mahdi, or hidden imam, whose promised reign of perfection has been on hold since his abrupt disappearance in the 9th century." So while in Tel Aviv during Israel's nationwide civilian evacuation plan rehearsal, the seriousness Israelis have

for threatened extermination could be seen. Which is why -- despite Israel's disgraceful May 31 fatal attack on the Gaza Flotilla -- the blockade of Gaza should say. To my eye, Hamas (whose 1988 charter calls for replacing the State of Israel with a Palestinian Islamic state) is a terrorist organization. And Gazans voting them into office in 2006 is like a jury acquitting Charles Manson because they believe Sharon Tate was a blonde floozy. That's also why supporting the preposterously-named "Israel Apartheid Week" won't happen for me (not to mention the British forced my political family into exile from the southern African island nation of Mauritius after my grandfather Felix Laventure introduced legislation that would expropriate and redistribute white-owned plantations to poor Mauritians, so don't talk about "apartheid").

The same goes for supporting the newer "Queers Against Israeli Apartheid" (QuAIA) group, which has deeply divided Toronto and Canada's gay communities leading up T-O's July 4 Gay Pride parade after Pride Toronto's (PT) board voted 4-3 to ban the phrase "Israeli Apartheid" from their parade. PT censored the words because of the risk of losing financial support from the City of Toronto in 2011, which would be tough after the Harper Tories cut \$400,000 to PT last month. Activists can scream about the commercialization and corporatization of Pride, but remember there's no free lunch, especially in affluent gay communities that historically have never coughed up enough cash to support Pride parades, which must pay for insurance and security. For instance, back in 1994 when fledgling Divers/Cité still organized Montreal's Pride

parade, the non-profit group was scrambling to pay bills. The budget was a whopping \$42,000 with \$1,000 on my credit card to buy Divers/Cité hundreds of hotdog buns and soft drinks to sell at Parc Lafontaine. When Divers/Cité got out of the parade business in 2006 -- a year before Paris-based *Tetu* magazine asked, "Is Gay Pride still necessary?" -- they were ahead of the curve. "Pride organizations must redefine themselves or become obsolete," Divers/Cité co-founder Suzanne Girard told me at the time.

All this to say that Israel is the only nation -- not to mention the only functioning democracy -- in the Middle East that supports gay civil rights. Also, Israel does not ban or censor the ultra-conservative rabbis, priests and imams of Jerusalem -- who rarely ever agree or unite over anything -- when they lobby to cancel Jerusalem's Pride parade every June. So why ban and censor the words "Israeli Apartheid," repugnant as they are? It would be preferable that the QuAIA picket the parade rather than participate. But as friend and Toronto playwright Brad Fraser -- affiliated with Toronto's Pride Coalition For Free Speech and (like me) no stranger to being censored or banned -- correctly told me this week, "The QuAIA are a queer group so they are allowed to take part. This controversy breaks my heart because I have a lot of Jewish friends. But this is a free speech issue." As David Ben-Gurion, one of the founding fathers of Israel and that nation's first Prime Minister, once said, "The test of democracy is freedom of criticism."

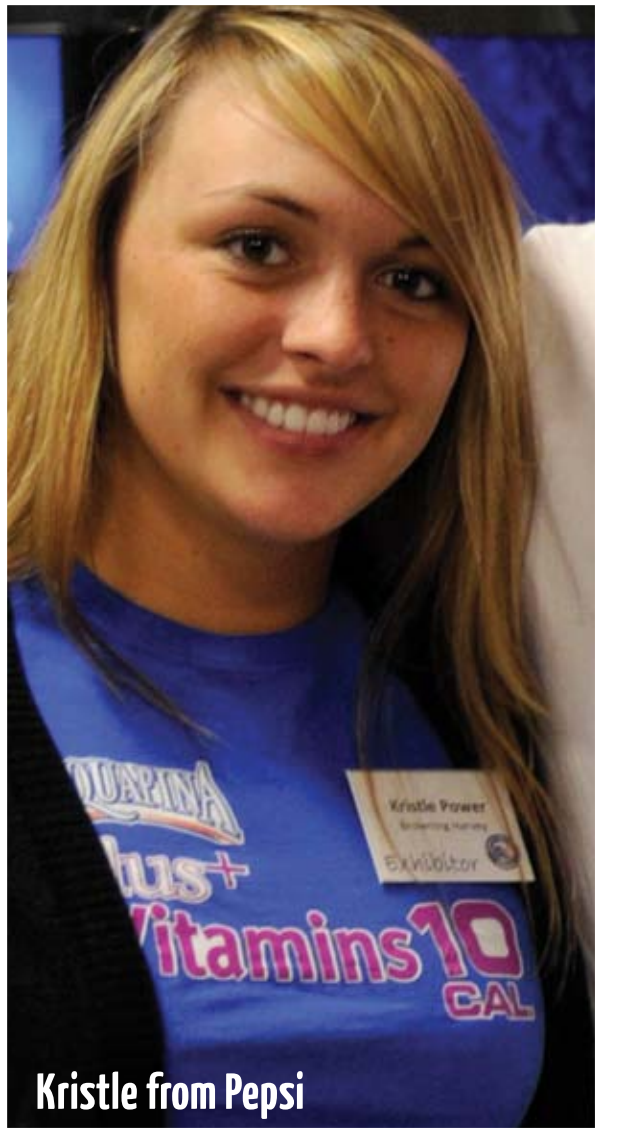
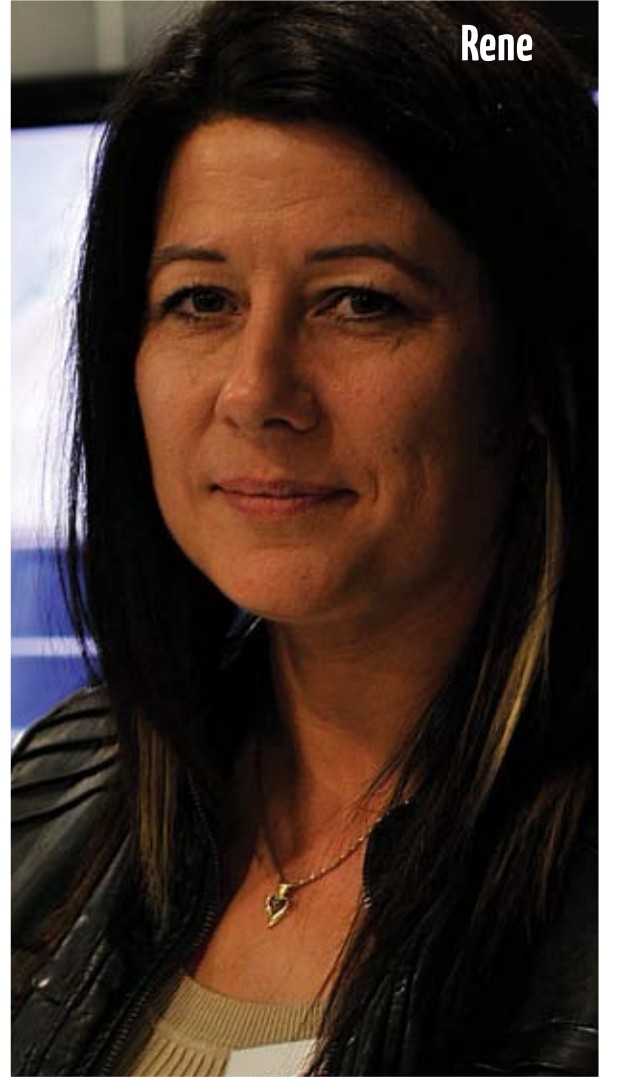


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