

MOREONMAIN

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LIVE:BIENNIAL OF PERFORMANCE ART

So much performance art,
so little time.

We didn't have a lot of extra room in this issue, so in the stead of a teeny little feature article, we thought it would be apropos to lend this space to the huge & fascinating coordination of live art that is taking place on Main Street in the next few weeks. Many kudos to Glenn Alteen, Morgan McGuigan & all of the curators, performers, volunteers (& of course to Sniffy the Rat in his rumoured return from the crypt) for putting on this wonderfully diverse explosion of art & culture.

LIVE Biennial of Performance Art in Vancouver
October 13 to November 30, 2001
www.livevancouver.bc.ca
604-875-9516
Tickets available at event

Video In
1965 Main St 604-872-8337 10:30 pm (Doors open at 10:00 pm)
Launch After party - The Return of Talent Hut
Talent Hut, established in 1989, is rearing its ugly head once more after an extended run in hell. Mainstays include MC Jimmi Schmoos, Orlan Fortrel, Big Glory (guitar) Hole, Ina Pavlovina, Jean Poole, Boofka Putz, Countess Turnoff and new recruits take you on a seedy tour of the bottom end of show biz. With Special Guests the funny, sexy and visually flamboyant *Draggin' Angels*.

grunt gallery
116-350 East 2nd Ave 604-875-9516 www.grunt.bc.ca

Saturday October 20
8:00 pm
reservoir -Rebecca Belmore
reservoir is a new durational work by Rebecca Belmore. In it she will use recycled jars to collect water and stockpile it in the space. The reservoir will remain in the gallery as an installation for the following week.

Sunday November 11
8:00 pm
La morue (Cod)= Diane Landry
"Using two record players in a DJ-like manner, Diane Landry conducts a true circle of casual objects: various kitchen tools, toys, shoes, skates, for example, randomly take their turn on the plates, one after another. Caught in a kind of merry-go-round, their daily routine is "unsettled"; lit by different light sources and spinning around, the objects assume unreal proportions, almost gigantic, and project a whole universe of moving shadows on the wall." (Marie Fraser) Accompanied by an installation from November 9 until December 1.

ARTISTS ON STAGE

grunt gallery

Wednesday November 28 8:00 pm
Taking in Stranger-Louise Moyes
Taking in Strangers is a show that explores through oral history, physical theatre, video and projected images the similarities and connections between the people of Newfoundland and Québec. With text taken verbatim from conversations, this show plays with senses of humour and place and looks at how language - each uniquely distinctive reveals the identity of both.

A Mile in My Moccasins=Kerriann Cardinal
A chance for the audience to experience with Cardinal the tender relationship that she had with her grandmother who taught her about her Metis heritage.

Folly Gallery, England

At grunt gallery 116-350 East 2nd Ave
Wednesday October 31 6:30 pm
2001 a space odyssey - an excavation of truth (work in progress)
Hester Reeve (UK)
A live performance piece (durational - about 5 hours and carried out in isolation) performed by Hester Reeve in England but projected into a prepared location in Vancouver for LIVE 2001. The projected performance will present the spectator with the virtual artist's body interacting with concrete physical space but from a different dimension and location.

Thundering Word Heard and Conundrum Press
at Café Montmartre 4362 Main St (Main & 28th)
604-708-5021 www.thunderingwordheard.com/
Sunday November 25 9:00 pm
Vancouver book launch of Impure: Reinventing the Word in Montreal Writers: Vincent Tinguely and Victoria Stanton
Thundering Word Heard, the weekly spoken word/music fusion open mic series, presents the Vancouver launch of Impure. Word-sters include JenLam, T. Paul Ste. Marie, Kedrick James, Justin McGrail, Tanya Evanson, Steve Duncan, Louise Dubreuil, Vincent Tinguely, Nathalie Derome, and Victoria Stanton. Hosted by T. Paul Ste Marie.
NO COVER - hat will be passed

FA3
at grunt gallery 116 - 350 East 2nd Ave
Thursday November 29 8:00 pm
A series of short works from the Montreal performance festival FA3.

Same line =Josée Tremblay
An artist, curator and arts organizer since 1989, Tremblay's curiosity has drawn her to experiment with a diversity of artistic forms (dance, theater, video and visual arts) through performance and media arts.

Girouette-Weathercock = Nathalie Derome
They say that women have problems with geography (direction). In my case it is true. I guess it is because we have also problems with history (direction). So: little stories, little songs, little doubts from the St-Lawrence Valley. A low-tech performance.

EYEIN' HAND, FEELIN' BEAT= Louise Dubreuil
Thinking feelings & feeling thoughts/ Bridging minds to heartlands/ Together in darkness/ We mind the gap.

(If) not for me (If) not for you Victoria Stanton
a romp through the having and then not having of something someone wanted and then couldn't have anymore, and then decided didn't need it in the first place .maybe.

Western Front
303 East 8th Ave
604-876-9343 www.front.bc.ca

November 9 and 10 9:00 pm
Catwalk Envy: A Subverted Runway Show
Lorena Wolfner
Mark your calendar for a performance art fashion show of local artists curated by Mexican performance artist Lorena Wolfner. As well as creating a unique group show, Wolfner will be performing her own piece which critiques the effect of the North American Free Trade Agreement on the women of Mexico.

Friday November 16 8:00 pm
Empire and Au pair
Robert Ashley - spoken word opera
Singers: Jacqueline Humbert and Robert Ashley (U.S.)
Live mixing and sound processing: Tom Hamilton
Empire is an allegory about the establishment of one of the largest corporations in the world. Au Pair explores the often hilarious relationships of adventure-seeking childcare workers from Europe with their affluent American employers
Tickets \$15/\$12

Or Gallery
604-683-7395
at The Anza Club, 3 West 8th Ave
Friday November 9 8:00 pm
A Country & Western Jamboree
Larry Krone & Guests (New York)
Rodney Graham, Michael Turner and Judy Radul (Vancouver)

Video In
1965 Main St 604-872-8337
Saturday November 17 8:30 pm
re: live Video Screening
re: live is a two part event combining a video screening and a subsequent panel discussion, both addressing the historical and contemporary relationship between performance and video art. Performance and video find a common legacy somewhere in the confluence of the Happening and Porta-pack in the late sixties. Since then the video and performance arts have been participating in a process of cross-fertilization, as performance works often persist through video documentation, and video - with its persistent affinity for the real -routinely appropriates the aesthetics of documentation.

Thursday November 22
8:00 pm
re: live Panel
Judy Radul, Warren Arcan, Meesoo Lee, Tagny Duff, and facilitator Randy Lee Cutler
curated by Andrew Power and Jen Weih
re:live wants to address the evolving relations of these mediums through a variety of questions: What is the value of the ephemeral? Has the performer's in-situ audience become a spectacle for the remote viewer? Has the camera eclipsed the audience? Are we now privileged to witness the dissolution between mediums as everything becomes 'media'? What is gained through mediation and what is lost?

Continued on next page

ARTISTS ON STAGE

Biennial Listings continued

IMAG
604-871-0173
At grunt gallery 116-350 East 2nd Ave
Friday November 23 8:00 pm
Kyoti Bites = Marie Baker
A new multimedia performance by a Vancouver based writer celebrates the coyotrix - the continuing presence of the coyote in urban life.
Full Circle: First Nations Performance
604-683-0497
At grunt gallery 116-350 East 2nd Ave
Saturday November 24 8:00 pm
November rain and all Marie Clements, Margo Kane, zachery longboy, archer pechawis a time to gather around the burning fire/ to feed the fire and keep the fire burning/ to feed the spirit and keep the fire burning/ to feed the moment and keep the fire burning site specific / site of the performance/ not restricted to the normal

Biennial Closing
Western Front 303 East 8th Avenue
604-876-9343 www.front.bc.ca
Friday November 30th, 2001 10:00 pm sharp
Tinsel & Cream...again?=produced by Shawn Chappelle
The now infamous cabaret makes a reappearance for the festival closing. A parting night that bends, cuts and folds performance. Victoria Singh, Joelle Ciona, Joel Taylor and Tricia Middleton, Andrew Dadson, Lyle Neff, and Anthea Whittaker. Cloud ambience by Elizabeth Zvonar, planes by Rebecca Watt and Onya Hogan-Finlay. Lastly, Dylan Cree's 16mm film "vulgar...incomplete 'n yet whole" and the new Chicago-like sounds of the band "Secret 3".



Freight Train Land: a hip-hop opera

Written & Directed by C.R. Avery
@ The Western Front September 19 - 21
"Preaching Love to the Perverted"
Urban Hip Hop opera delivers themes of understanding and acceptance
When I entered the Western Front's theater on Friday, September 21 I was very interested to discover what exactly a hip-hop opera was. Apparently, I wasn't the only one, as there was a lineup of 20 people thick trying to sneak into a SRO theatre. The stage had a unique arrangement with a funk band on the side, a few large graffiti murals and a large screen with a projection of Vancouver's downtown nighttime skyline. As I soon discovered, the hip-hop opera replaces traditional theatre tools with those of the urban underground. Thus, Arias & librettos have been replaced with rhyming and rapping, the traditional orchestra is now a funk band and DJ whose music plays with the onstage action, operatic singing is replaced with soul and R&B, backgrounds are grainy digital video and stills and the lighting frequently resembles that of an urban rave club.
In the beginning, the funk band sprang to life and the screen changed to George W. Bush's address to the nation following the attack and destruction of the N.Y. World Trade Centre. In the clip, the US president gloated about the equality and freedom that all Americans enjoy. It soon became apparent that C.R. Avery, the production's writer and director, was not only trying to emphasize the fallacy of Bush's statement, which can also be applied to Canada, but to use the satire as a springboard to promote positive change in local communities beginning with understanding and an open minded attitude toward ourselves and each other. Later Avery explained he integrated the events of September 11, both because they were on everyone's mind and that they demonstrated the extreme consequences which will inevitably result when

understanding and communication break down between nations and cultures.

The youthfully urban show consists of eight unrelated vignettes which all demonstrate various lessons and dilemmas relating to the theme. Each of these scenes is broken up by Avery's beat boxing routine (the musical feat of mimicking DJ turn tabling effects and percussion with the human voice) in which he rhymes and beats his messages out with an amazing level of skill that frequently resulted in enthusiastic

cheers from the upbeat crowd. In turn, each scene was aptly introduced by a rhyming T. Paul Ste. Marie, who presented the dilemmas to be discussed in a neo-Shakespearian style while sporting a rockabilly look. Other highlights include the many gifted vocalists onboard the project. Sara Cadeau and Amalia Townsend rocked the space with their honed and soulful vocals while Monica Lee shot forth powerful rhymes. While most of the show is scripted, the players can often ad-lib given the freestyle nature of their rhymes often with fresh and powerful results.

Although Avery isn't sure where his next show will be, he has designs on taking his troop down to Seattle, WA to perform at the New Urican Café. His overall plan is to tour in smaller towns and to not only perform in these places but to actively 'take the town over' for a week by hosting workshops and street performances to start a dialogue of understanding.
Freight Train Land is one of the most eclectic and interesting productions I have had the pleasure to witness. It truly speaks to today's generation and offers relevant and useful solutions. If I were you, I'd keep an eye out for future dates in this and other publications.
C.R. Avery is one to watch.

Sean McDiamond



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