

september 2015

LINK

MAGAZINE

BCIT & BEYOND



FLAVIA CHAN

The ZOLAS

SYLVESTER SIN

The BIG vote

PLUS

- Adobe CC mobile apps
- Suicide Prevention Day
- Blue Jays & Canucks
- VIFF
- and more...



No, I don't want to dance with you. (flavia chan)

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cargocollective.com/flaviahyc
(photo by steph brosky)

LINK

MAGAZINE

LINK magazine is a free monthly publication of ideas and culture produced by the students of BCIT and distributed across all 5 campuses in the Lower Mainland.

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ASTTBC
TECHNOLOGY
PROFESSIONALS

To everything, there is a season — turn, turn, turn.

If you had to explain a season to somebody who's never experienced one, how would you do it? How do you explain that abrupt drop in temperature, or how greedily the night starts gobbling up the hours of the day? How do you explain why people seem to look older overnight? Where does the youthful glow of summer go so quickly?

This fall issue marks exactly 50 years since the inception of a student press at BCIT, and we're asking ourselves the same questions: how did we get here and where did all the time go? Just two short years ago (and the 48 years prior), this publication was a newspaper. *The Link* launched in 1965 as a self-proclaimed voice for students, with a mandate to not only keep students abreast

of campus developments, but also challenge the institution and hold the powers that be accountable. From year to year, editor to editor, the content ebbed and flowed; one minute political, the next innocuous. The only constant has been students' desire to connect with their peers and feel like a part of a real student culture.

BCIT is unlike most post-secondaries in that, student culture can be a lot harder to find. The course load is immense and your peers' determination to launch a career can really override the party atmosphere. But just because you can't find a beer pong table around here, doesn't mean your fellow classmates aren't some of the most interesting people you know.

That's where we come in. We talk to students when you're too busy and we find out some amazing things. We discover that they are accomplished artists, photographers and musicians. We learn about the hardships they have faced to get here. We hear about the issues that are affecting them, and we do our very best to unpack current events, to make sure nobody gets left behind in the ever-changing seasons of human existence.

So join us (every month in print, and every day online) and be a part of the fabric of BCIT. Some people say we have no culture. I say you just have to know where to look.

— Dan Post,
Publisher



ESTEFANIA
DURAN
Senior Editor

Broadcast
Journalism
(2nd year)

I can't wait to see what this new school year will bring. I am looking forward to using LINK as a platform where students can talk about their concerns and connect with the community. I'm hoping to create a medium through which students can connect and find a place to speak their minds. So if you have something on your mind or know of a great story, get in touch with us and help the community grow! If you ever see me around campus running around chasing a story, please stop and say hi. One can never be too busy for a nice cup of tea.

See you around BCIT!



CALVIN
A JAY
Associate Editor

Broadcast
Journalism
(2nd year)

Welcome back, BCIT students. As for all you first year's, welcome home to your beautifully moody and crow-ly populated campus. This year, I will be taking the reigns as Associate Editor for LINK magazine. If you were to bump into me outside of BCIT, and the broadcast building where I'm studying my 2nd year of Journalism, you'd find me somewhere between Prado Café on the Drive, reading and writing, and the Rio theatre, catching a film. Or perhaps at Café Deux Soleils, drinking (the best) coffee while watching a poetry slam, or maybe just catching a Canucks game at Jimmy's on Homer. Needless to say, I spend a lot of time reporting in, and immersing myself in the arts and culture of Vancouver. And that's because I do a lot of these arts myself. Just ask me, and I'd love to make conversation on one of the many projects I have going on.

Cheers, to a great 2015/2016 at BCIT and beyond.



JASMINE
NIJJAR
Web Editor

Business
Administration
(3rd year)

It's been a while since I've seen my byline in LINK magazine. If you aren't acquainted with my witty fashion posts that have graced these pages, then it's very nice to meet you!

We've been making some big changes to our website, to help you keep up with all things BCIT and Beyond. Not just an extension of the printed mag, you can expect consistent, daily posts on news, politics, fashion, music, movies, art, film, games, and tons more, written by a great bunch of student contributors.

And although we've made some changes, we are turning 50 this year, so you know we'll have lots old-school stuff we dig up from the archives. See you in the digi-space!

(I've always wanted to sign off on something like gossip girl. Should I do it?)

XO — (just kidding)
Your pal,
Jazzy Jaz



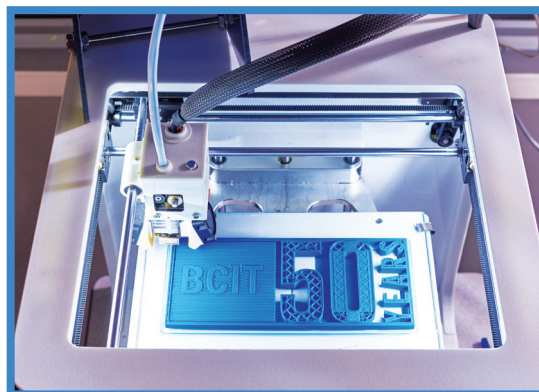
BACK TO SCHOOL : SURVIVAL GUIDE

Jasmine Nijjar and her team of busy bloggers take you through everything you need to know about heading back to BCIT. Look your best on campus this fall with fashion tips for you and your frugal friends; senior student secrets on food and fun you might otherwise have missed. Plus: a special spotlight on all the great clubs on campus, you know, in case you're wondering where to find all the other: gamers / toastmasters / engineers around here.



BCIT50: SPECIAL EDITION

Celebrate 50 years of BCIT with this Special Edition of *LINK* magazine. We dig deep into the archives for some of the best stories and vintage images from our past including: **the case of the missing time capsule**, the **man who cracked the dress code** and the **birth of World Rivers Day**. We then turn our attention to present-day BCIT, highlighting some of the remarkable people, projects and issues that define our times: from **Aboriginals on campus**, to **3D printers** and **drones**, to **online dating** and **selfies**.



#BCSTORM

Like a scene out of a horror movie — uprooted trees, crashed cars, crushed houses. People were left without refrigeration or power, gas stations unable to operate, and many stores forced to close. It was a frightening scene for many, but more frightening was the thought of a bigger catastrophe hitting home. What would you do in a natural disaster? Are you ready? This recent windstorm in Metro Vancouver left many wondering: are we really ready for “The Big One?”

Find out more about what you and your family can do to prepare in our special Disaster Preparedness post, online now.



RT

@tratnayake

I think I'm ready for school. Also very happy with this year's agenda design.
#bcit #compass #backtoschool

@brandondixon86

Up and ready to wrench.
#bcit #automotive

@bcitsa

Best part of international orientation day, free hotdogs!!! #bcit #bcitsa

LINK

MAGAZINE

BORED OF THE
BOARD? YOU KNOW
WHERE TO FIND US.



@LINKBCIT



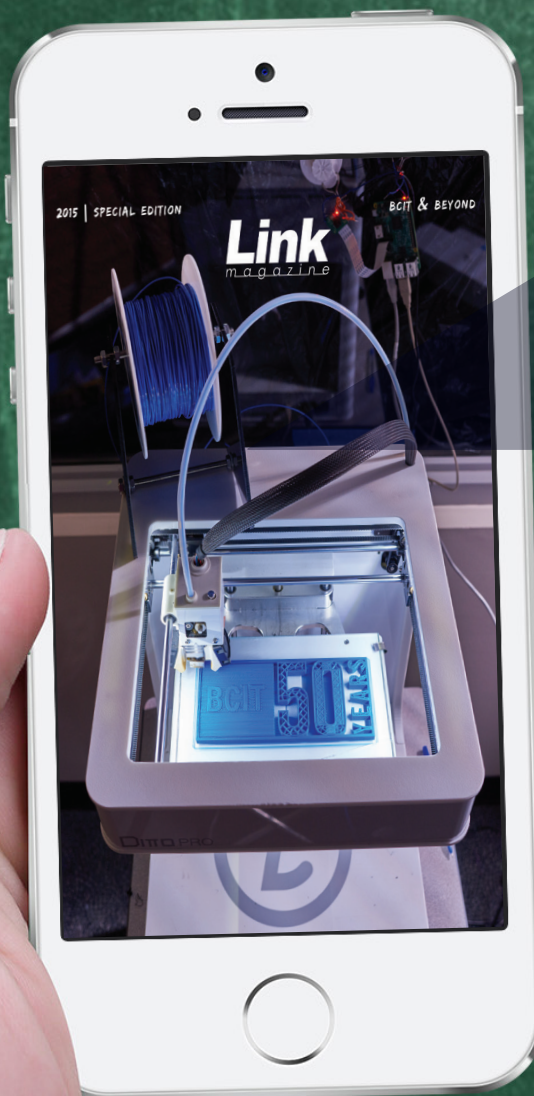
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BITTER SWEETNESS

words **calvin a jay**

photos **steph brosky**

With a multitude of output and combination pertaining towards creative articulation, the product of idiosyncrasy is an art that reveals just as much about the interpreting one, as it does about the creator. BCIT Marketing student Flavia Chan is an artist that has a unique perception of sadness—an emotion or experience that her work describes as ‘bittersweet.’

I had the chance to talk to the New York born/Burnaby resident about her artwork, and how she’s applying her marketing studies towards her creative existence.



Were you drawing as early as four years old in NY?

Oh, I was drawing way before that. In New York, my mom would film me drawing earlier than that. It was so boring there, I just stayed home because we lived in Brooklyn.

How would you classify your art?

Really illustrative, nothing abstract. My main goal doing artwork is storytelling, but I don’t really know how to ‘classify’ it though.

There’s something magical about your artwork, it reminds me of Asian cartoons and animation dramas.

Oh yeah, definitely. I spent so much time just vegetating in front of the TV. All I did in New York was draw, read books, and just sit in front of the TV.

Where did you learn how to create your art? What has influenced you to become the artist you are?

When I was little, in kindergarten my teacher told my mother that I have a talent for art. Ever since then my mom has tried to enroll me in courses and summer camps for arts. It was mostly those I guess, in terms of learning new mediums.

When it comes to art, can a creative person be born talented, or is it something that the artist must work to achieve?

I think you can be born with the capacity to be really creative. But in terms of the actual physical talent of

it, that’s something you have to practice. My stuff now compared to high school has grown so much, it’s so much more different. When I was at art school, I saw a lot of people who were hard working but they had less creativity in them. On the other hand, I saw people who were really creative, but they weren’t as hard working. It was interesting.

What’s your creative process? It looks as if your artwork has been hand drawn, and then filled in on Photoshop.

What I usually do is sketch out the character first, like, the basic building of its body. As I’m doing it, I conjure up a story for the character, and that helps develop the environment for it. Then I do all of the blind work by hand—a good ol’ pen and ink kind of thing. Then I scan it and colour it (on Photoshop).

Do each of your pieces have a story behind it? Are they inspired by other experiences or people that you know?

They definitely all have names, and they all have their own personality and story. Most of them are influenced by the sad and bittersweet stories that I hear from people around me. The things I see people go through around me, makes me want to capture their experiences in my artwork. Like when people withdraw themselves from friends, and they start to get lonely, so you wonder what’s going on in their head.

“I conjure up a story for the character, and that helps develop the environment for it.”

To keep it on the lighter side, you seem to choose a fictitious character or an animal of some sort.

I never really draw people. I feel like when you add people into the subject matter of really sad stories, it's a different feeling. With my artwork, you can look at it and recognize its mood, but you won't feel that internal sadness. Sometimes, when you see feelings projected onto another human being, for some reason, it can seem a little distant. That's at least how I think when I look at other artwork that deals with sadness.

So how does an artist like yourself end up in marketing at BCIT?

It's been something that's really interested me, and I think it'll go really well with my art practice, in terms of how to market myself. I really want to have my own gallery someday, so event planning and marketing will be super useful.



Inspired by graffiti culture, Flavia creates these 'slap bunnies' for slapping up in random locations. Spotted any around?



“When you see feelings projected onto another human being, for some reason, it can seem a little distant.”

Flavia will be showing her work at the *Autumn Shift Bazaar* on Main St. (September 13th) and will also be a part of the *'Robots & Monsters Art Show'* at the Ayden Gallery come October.



Check out www.linkbcit.ca for a photo gallery featuring even more of Flavia's beautiful art.





PHOTO
FEATURE

SYLVESTER SIN









Canada's Federal elections are coming up on **October 19th**, and as students, it is important to understand the basics of the election process and the power of your vote. This election is one of the closest races in Canada's history and your vote could make the difference, which is why it is important to make an informed decision.

by estefanía duran

2015 FEDERAL ELECTION



• This will be Canada's 42nd general election

• PM Stephen Harper called for an election on August 2th, making it the longest campaign in modern Canadian history at 78 days long.

• A longer campaign means parties are allowed to spend more than \$50 million rather than the maximum \$25 million allowed during a typical 37-day election period

01

HOW IT WORKS

Canada is divided into 338 ridings, which are each represented in the House of Commons by a Member of Parliament (also known as an MP) who have a say in either passing or rejecting laws.

- ALBERTA: 34 seats
- BRITISH COLUMBIA: 42 seats
- MANITOBA: 14 seats
- NEW BRUNSWICK: 10 seats
- NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR: 7 seats
- NORTHWEST TERRITORIES: 1 seat
- NOVA SCOTIA: 11 seats
- NUNAVUT: 1 seat
- ONTARIO: 121 seats
- PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND: 4 seats
- QUEBEC: 78 seats
- SASKATCHEWAN: 14 seats
- YUKON: 1 seat

Elections use a **plurality** voting system, which is a single-winner system. Here the person with the most votes (plurality) wins; so it is not necessary to win an absolute majority but rather a simple majority.

Plurality voting however has been criticized for encouraging tactical voting, where voters feel pressured to vote for candidates they predict are more likely to win, instead of their preferred candidate. They are said to do this in order to avoid “wasting their vote” on a candidate that might not make it to the end.

After all the members have been elected, the political party with the most seats in the House of Commons is most likely to form government. If a political party has at least 170 seats, they form a majority government. A majority government does not need to rely on the support of other political parties to enact its legislation. Generally, the leader of the party with the most seats becomes the Prime Minister.

02

WHO CAN VOTE

In Canada, you can vote when you are a Canadian citizen over 18 years old. If you are not a registered voter yet or if you're unsure whether or not you are registered (most people automatically registered when they file their income tax returns), you can go to: www.ereg.elections.ca. Once you are a registered voter you will receive a voter information card in the mail by Oct 1st. The card tells you when, where and the ways to vote.

If you are a student and live in two places—one while at school and another while on break—you can choose the address you consider your home and register to vote at that address. You must be able to prove residency at that address (for example with government-issued ID showing that address, or a utility bill).

03

HOW TO VOTE

Voting is open on Oct, 19th for 12 hours at over 400 offices in the Lower Mainland. Visit www.elections.ca to find an office in your neighbourhood.

BCIT is one of the 39 college and university campuses that will have advanced polling offices where students can vote from October 5 to 8. Any student can vote at these offices, regardless of where they live. Voting will be held at Burnaby Campus in Town Square C/D (SE2).

•If Stephen Harper is re-elected as Prime Minister, this would be his fourth consecutive mandate

•From the 338 seats in the House of Commons, the PM would need 170 seats for a majority

•Manitoba became the first province to grant women the right to vote in provincial elections in 1916

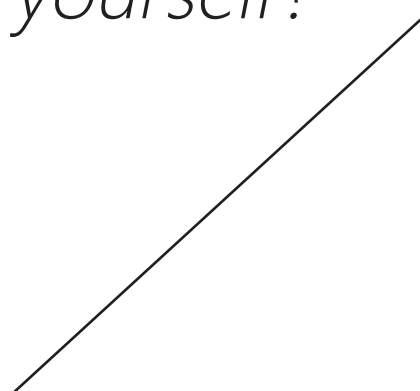


THE MOST DIFFICULT QUESTION

Y O U W I L L E V E R H A V E
T O A S K

by sally barber

*"Are you
thinking
about killing
yourself?"*



That is one question I never asked but wish I had. I can't help but wonder, had I addressed this sensitive issue, might I have saved my friend's life? But I can't change the past.

It has been about 10 years since I lost my friend Simone to suicide. To this day, I still miss her dearly. I remember her energetic personality, her contagious laugh, and the fun we had together. She had her whole life ahead of her.

Underneath all the positive however, was a hidden sadness that couldn't be shaken. When she was just 16, she lost her mother to cancer. She never accepted her loss.

Losing Simone to suicide had an impact on everyone who knew her. Having to deal with a death by suicide is very different from dealing with a death due to other causes. There is shock, sadness, and anger. You wonder if there were any

signs that you may have missed that would have told you your friend or loved one was in trouble. You wish you had known more about how to help.

But it is not too late to reach out to those who may need your help.

September 10th is World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD), and the theme for this year is "Preventing Suicide: Reaching Out and Saving Lives."

If you are ever in need of advice or are confused about how to help a loved one in need, the International Association for Suicide Prevention says the following:

"The act of showing care and concern to someone who may be vulnerable to suicide can be a game-changer. Asking them whether they are okay, listening to what they have to say in a non-judgemental way, and letting them know you care, can all have a significant impact."

Help is here.

ADVOCACY

The BCIT Student Association provides unbiased and confidential services to current, former or prospective BCIT students. The Advocacy office seeks to empower students to resolve their own issues with support. Advocacy also offers an opportunity to post anonymous questions and comments online to provide a safe-zone for students dealing with personal issues. Book an appointment to meet the Advocate:

604.456.1161
advocate@bcitsa.ca

www.bcitsa.ca/student-services/advocacy

MYTH BUSTED

Talking about suicide may give someone the idea.

Talking about suicide doesn't increase the risk of suicide. In fact, the best way to identify someone contemplating suicide is to ask the person directly. Talking openly about suicide and showing genuine concern is one of the key elements in preventing the immediate risk of suicide.

A person who attempts suicide is only looking for attention.

For some people, suicidal thoughts are pleas for others to help them live, but if they think help is not available; they may feel it will never come. Therefore ignoring suicidal thoughts or actions can be dangerous.

Suicide only strikes people of a certain age, gender or financial status.

Anyone can experience suicidal thoughts.

When people who are suicidal feel better, they are no longer suicidal.

Sometimes suicidal people feel better, because they have made a final decision to die and may have a sense of relief that soon the pain will be over.

BCIT COUNSELLING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

All enrolled full-time and part-time students at BCIT can make an appointment for free, confidential, and professional counselling. Call 604-432-8608 or drop by SE16-128 on the Burnaby campus to make an appointment. Students with urgent needs will be seen at the first available time. Counselling for enrolled full-time and part-time students is now available at the Downtown campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Candian Association for Suicide Prevention
www.suicideprevention.ca

QPR Institute for Suicide Prevention
www.qprinstitute.com

Suicide Prevention Resource Centre
www.sprc.org

Centre for Suicide Prevention
www.suicideinfo.ca

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

1-800-SUICIDE
www.crisislines.bc.ca

Crisis Intervention & Suicide Prevention Centre Of BC

(VANCOUVER, NORTH VAN, WEST VAN,
BOWEN ISLAND, BURNABY)

24hrs: 604-872-3311
Online chat (noon to 1am)
www.CrisisCentreChat.ca

(POWELL RIVER, SUNSHINE COAST,
SQUAMISH, WHISTLER, PEMBERTON, HOWE
SOUND, SEA-TO-SKY)

24hrs: 1-866-661-3311

CHIMO Crisis Line

(RICHMOND, SOUTH DELTA, LADNER,
TSAWASSEN)

8am - midnight
604-279-7070

Fraser Health Crisis Line

(SURREY, WHITE ROCK, LANGLEY, DELTA)
24hrs: 1-877-820-7444

S.U.C.C.E.S.S Chinese Help

Cantonese: 604-270-8233
Mandarin: 604-270-8222

SOCIAL MEDIA

friend & foe

by **estefania duran**

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter... all things that younger generations know all too well. Students all around the world take pictures of their trips, their friends, hobbies and even their lunch. However with more power comes more responsibility.

Social media outlets are not that old. Instagram for example is less than five years old, while Facebook—even though it seems like it's been around forever—is only 11. So with these new online mediums, it has been a learn-as-you-go process when it comes to the consequences of posting your life on a global platform.

Start this school year with **FREE BANKING AND BONUS CASH**

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- No annual fee Student Visa card with free mobile device insurance.

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drop into a branch or
call 604 517 0100.



*Some restrictions apply. Visit wscu.com/join for details.



Many young people have had to learn the hard way, when something they posted online hunts them forever. Now days it is more common for potential employers to use Google to search for an employee's online presence. So it is vital for younger generations to use these communication platforms wisely.

"The key is to really be mindful of what you put out on social media. As a student who will be looking for professional work in the near future, you don't want to put anything out there that would hinder your online footprint," says Sara Kandathil, a career specialist from BCIT's Student Association.

Before posting anything online, think of the following:

- Is this something that might hurt your reputation?
- Is this something you wouldn't want everyone to know?
- Can this picture be interpreted as irresponsible?
- Would my grandma be ok if she saw/read this?

"Before posting a tweet or a Facebook update, step into the shoes of your future potential employer and ask yourself if this is how you would want to be perceived," says Kandathil.

Of course not all social media attention is necessarily bad. Many students use social media to start building their brand or portfolio. Because many employers check potential candidates online, sometimes it can be detrimental not to have an online presence.

So think about how you would like to be perceived, what your dream job is, and what you can do to portray your goals and talents.

"We really emphasize having a strong professional and personal brand," explains Kandathil, "because it can be a really effective way to stand out in a positive way. By focusing on your positive online brand, you're taking control of the content that employers find when they Google you."

ADOBE MOBILE APPS

THAT EVERY DESIGNER SHOULD BE USING

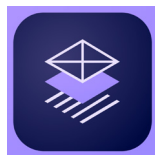
WITH THE RELEASE OF ADOBE'S CREATIVE CLOUD, THE GAME WAS FOREVER CHANGED. NEW SEAMLESS TRANSITIONS FROM ONE MACHINE TO THE NEXT THANKS TO CLOUD TECHNOLOGY. NOW, A WHOLE NEW WAVE OF MOBILE APPS IS TRANSFORMING THE WAY WE WORK, GIVING MORE FLEXIBILITY TO THE CREATIVE WANDERER, AND OPENING NEW WORLDS FOR DESIGNERS.



DRAW

And just like that, a new era of digital art is born. Sure, there have been mobile drawing apps around for years, but nothing comes close to how easy it is now to create illustrations on your iPad that you can then send to your desktop as fully scalable, vector artwork. Try adding a photo layer to your project and then tracing over it with one of the six brush shapes available. Once you turn off the photo layer, you'll be so impressed with what you created you'll want to share it with the world.

Check out Adobe's 'Behance' community to see what some people have been able to create with this app; it's truly mind-blowing.



COMP

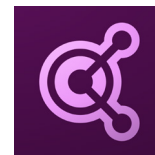
Build a magazine or a website template in a matter of seconds. This app uses intuitive gesture technology to let you place frames, text and shapes in a variety of styling options. When you start dabbling in the the TypeKit fonts is when you really start to see things come together.

Just think how impressed your client will be when you sit down beside them to begin planning their new website, posters and/or brochures, and you're able to whip up a mock right in front of their eyes. They'll be so dazzled watching you bring something to life with a pinch here, a swipe there and a tap of your stylus, they'll be signing the contract over to you in a heartbeat.



SHAPE

Think: Live Trace. Save yourself tons of time trying to design a vector hammer by shooting a photo of a real hammer with your iPad and letting this app do the rest. Of course, like any shortcut in life, it's not perfect, but it gets you most of the way there, and since it's ridiculously easy to save the file to your Libraries panel, you can open your new vector shape in Illustrator and finish fine-tuning it to perfection. Now this doesn't mean you can just go around stealing other people's art, but do have an eye out for random anonymous graffiti, old catalogues of clip art, or other doodles, patterns and structures that are just begging to be dragged into the digital world.



KULER

Stop and smell the roses... or capture their perfect shade of red on your phone. Kuler is like taking the eyedropper tool out into the real world, allowing you to sample colours simply by holding your phone up to anything you want, and capturing a 5-shade swatch that you can then use immediately in any project. When taking a walk around a client's workspace, or pouring over their existing materials, sample their existing brand colour scheme and apply it directly to your work when designing pitch material. They'll be impressed that you took the time to understand their existing style. Be sure to label your themes in such a way that you can easily find them in the Libraries panel of your favourite desktop apps.



by / calvin a jay

The upward tilt of widespread musical success is a feeling that can be both exciting and exhausting for a band. It's a feeling that Vancouver locals The Zolas may be feeling while their new album release sits on the horizon. The band has been in a sort of 'production hibernation' since their previous album, *Ancient Mars* (2012) blew up across Canada, with the exception of an impromptu release of *Invisible EP*, and their new single. The album itself was a break-up from their piano tiptoe sound found on their debut record, *Tic Toc Tic* (2009), and a love letter towards a new electric, suppressed Brian Eno space jam. But after their latest single "Molotov Girls" was released this year, the band's entire music soundscape did a backflip once more.

"Molotov Girls" is a feminist driven letter bomb with an obnoxious synth hook, and a killer drum step. It's clear that the band is striding to find their own place between the boundaries of musical genres—somewhere between indie

rock, and electro dance pop. Two genres that have been merging as one in both the local scenes, as well as the pop charts—think of Ohio's Walk the Moon, or Toronto/Vancouver's Tegan and Sarah. However, regardless of the band's genre switch, the genius minds of musicians Gray and Dobrazanski remain prominent. The Zolas are always looking to put a hooky spin on something new, while sticking true to their roots as Vancouver indie rock. A common theme for writing on *Ancient Mars* for front man Zach Gray was to create each song as if it were a single. Therefore, the album is shaped to incorporate a maximum amount of independent tracks—with each track having the potential to be a single, but in the end, still string together like a concept album. Gray also helped produce "LA Hallucinations," a track found on Carly Rae Jepsen's new album. There's a good chance that we will see this theme appear on The Zolas upcoming album, as the forecast seems to call for catchier electro synth hooks, and less glorious weirdo indie.

The hooks have gotten hookier, the beats have gotten shiftier, the synth tickles are irresistible.

After their recent free shows at Surrey Canada Day and the PNE after dark, The Zolas' new songs have proved that their new songs have potential. A massive pop charting album is awaiting North America. The hooks have gotten hookier, the beats have gotten shiftier, the synth tickles are irresistible, and Zach Gray's dance moves are sexier than ever. This band is a must watch for 2015/16. Expect to see their album drop at the end of the year, followed by a cross Canada tour.

The Zolas are going to have a big year. As of early September, the album still doesn't have a release date. However, the band's recent live shows have demonstrated some screaming potential in their new songs. The Zolas are the band to know now. If you like them, then better (hypothetically) see them at the Commodore now, before they sell out the Vogue next time around.

MUSIC



Universal Themes
Sun Kil Moon
 (caldo verde)

Sun Kil Moon, the musical project of veteran slow-rocker Mark Kozelek, has released a follow-up album to 2014's critically lauded *Benji*. It's called *Universal Themes*, issued after a break of only 16 months. *Benji* was the first major success for Sun Kil Moon and for many it was also an introduction to the intense acoustic-

driven music Kozelek had been making since the early '90s. After several months of bad-mouthing journalists, attacking other bands, and creating outrage in town after town, this follow-up could not have been released at a more interesting time. Kozelek's prickly nature is present in this new album like never before. There is a rawness to *Themes* that hasn't been showcased on any of his other albums. Instead of muted, intricate folk, we get more howling guitars and the odd crashing chaos of ex-Sonic Youth drummer, Steve Shelley. We get Kozelek belting out coarse vocals about his everyday life—or rather, what he wants us to think is his average life. Lyrically, the album is dense and detailed to a fault. Kozelek indulges in lines like, "Went to see a band tonight, and they wouldn't play my favorite tunes. It's 2012 but I like the ones from 1992" that come off as decadent instead of profound. Despite his best attempts to self-destruct, Kozelek has not been able to shake his ear for a haunting melody. *Themes* is packed with elaborate songs that weave from trippy acoustic visions to romping electric bedlam. His songs are long and challenging, with melodies that are hypnotizing and somber. Kozelek's production just manages to keep these journalistic songs stoked and burning. *Universal Themes'* small handful of inspired songs will probably only appeal to the Kozelek cult. Despite the title, it seems that Kozelek has buried what meaningful themes he might have had under a mountain of bad press, lyrical venom, and hedonistic musical tomes.

— jakob schmidt

FILM



The Man from U.N.C.L.E.
 dir. Guy Ritchie
 (warner bros.)

Witty, funny, classic, and packed with action, *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* is unexpectedly enjoyable. I normally have very little patience for action movies because they are usually walking clichés of poor acting, cheesy lines and bad plots. However, *U.N.C.L.E.* had punch. It may not be an Oscar-worthy movie, but its clever humour and

charismatic characters definitely fill-in some of the gaps. Action-humour can definitely be tiresome and usually falls flat, but *U.N.C.L.E.* delivers its action with style. Even though the movie deals with the complicated relationship between Russia and the U.S. during the Cold War, you forget all about the end of the world when you get lost in the funny competitiveness between the main characters, Solo and Hammer. So although *U.N.C.L.E.* may not be the best action movie out there, it's definitely unique.

— estefania duran

GAMES

THE INDIE BEAT

by / mat paget

The Swindle
 PC, Mac, PS4, PS3, Vita
 (size 5 games)

Playing *The Swindle* is like building IKEA furniture: you know what the end goal is, but figuring out the instructions is the real challenge. With *The Swindle*, the object is to steal as much as possible to pull off "the swindle," but how exactly to pull it off, well that's another story. Some games—like *Spelunky* for example—are great at pulling off discovery through playing, and *The Swindle* would be too if it wasn't for its seemingly unfair deaths, intimidating skill tree, and 100-day time limit.

The good thing about IKEA is that they don't force you to start over if you make too many mistakes building your 'Arkelstorp.' *The Swindle's* 100-day limit however, drives a wedge between the player and the game in a way that prevents you from learning how to master it. It's not impossible to learn the best way to tackle heist situations, but it does take significantly longer than it should. My first time through was littered with mistakes, thanks to the fact that I'd spend cash on the skill tree without knowing exactly what the best route to more money was. By the time I figured it out, I had to start over from square one, and that gets more frustrating the more times it happens.

The Swindle does offer moments of relief though—much like finally finishing the 'Arkelstorp'—and as much as I absolutely can't stand its depressing lows, I quite enjoy its exciting highs. If you enjoy being punished harshly, then *The Swindle* offers some truly exciting moments. Whether those moments are worth it or not will be evident once you have to start over. I personally think it's worth it to at least find out where you stand after those first 100 days.



VIFF

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

September 24th — October 5th

LINK's Top Five Films To See This Year

by calvin a jay

Taxi

A docudrama set inside a cab in Tehran. Director Jafar Panahi shows off the quirky culture and unrest in Tehran, as the filmmaker himself picks up family and friends.

"A beautifully humane fable"
— *The Guardian*

I am Nojoom, Age 10 and Divorced

In 2009, headlines of a teenager who had tried to divorce her husband who married her at age 10, made headlines around the world. Now, the true story has been adapted into a film by former documentarian Khadija Al-Salami.

"A powerful, moving and provocative debut drama..."
— *Screen*

Aferim!

An intriguing early 19th century, eastern European epic filmed entirely on 35mm black and white film. This film's aesthetic seems as if it's shooting for a classic 50's drama sequence, with its trademark framing, witty lines, and offering story line.

"An exceptional, deeply intelligent gaze into a key historical period, done with wit as well as anger."
— *Variety*

600 Miles

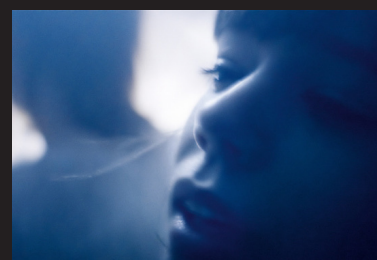
A thrilling debut film about cross-border crime between the U.S. and Mexico. The cinematography in this film appears to be very mature for its gritty and intense presence. It's seemingly, slow-burning story line could remind one of *No Country for Old Men*.

"A lean, careful, clever tale..."
— *Indiewire*

Victoria

Although this film hasn't been nominated for any awards, it stands out to me above all of the other trailers. It's a drama that's been shot in one single take, with a runtime of 2 hours. Judging by the trailer, it seems as if it's got a little flare of 'found footage' style filmmaking (think; Blair Witch Project, Cloverfield). Fast paced, edgy, and raw—this film shows some true potential to be a masterpiece.

"A kinetic, frenetic, sense-swamping rollercoaster ride."
— *Hollywood Reporter*



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OCTOBER BOUND



by jessica fedigan

It has been a very long time since Canada was able to say the Blue Jays are among the best. They have fought for the American League East lead with the New York Yankees, and have had one of the greatest runs in baseball this year.

Many people will thank GM Alex Anthopoulos, who once again at the trade deadline made a series of major blockbuster deals. First he shipped injury-prone shortstop Jose Reyes to the Colorado Rockies for star shortstop Troy Tulowitzki—who is arguably one of the best shortstops in the game right now. Now, while many people praised that deal, some argued that they didn't address the biggest need: Pitching.

Of course, Anthopoulos struck again, landing David Price. Price is one of the greatest pitchers in the game, and immediately gave the Jays the ace they have needed, although he is a free agent at seasons end, a great run could make him consider re-signing.

The team also added outfielder Ben Revere from Philadelphia which gave them speed and a veteran in the outfield. It didn't take long for Blue Jays fans to begin flocking back to the Rogers Centre.

Josh Donaldson has put up MVP numbers as well as performances, all season long. He has played excellent defense in his first season with the Jays. He was acquired from Oakland in the offseason for fellow 3rd baseman, Brett Lawrie who hails from Langley B.C.

The Jays have not made the playoffs since 1993 when they won the World Series. Toronto has been itching to make the postseason, each year passing by with higher and higher expectations but no results. This year, the team has something special going, something Toronto has not seen in a very long time.

With the success of the Blue Jays, merchandise has also been flying off the shelves, with many sports stores running out of the important Jays players' jerseys, and a sea of Blue has taken over the Rogers Centre night in and night out. Attendance at the games has also seen a major increase, as well as television ratings skyrocketing.

This was not an easy place for the Blue Jays to get to. They struggled early on in the season before the major trades took place at the deadline. Many people thought Anthopoulos should be fired as well as manager John Gibbons but they stayed course and proved that they would address the needs of the team, and they went out and proved it.

The Blue Jays are capturing Canadian sports fans hearts, and creating a buzz that has been missing from Blue Jays baseball. Usually at this point in the season, the Jays are out of contention and really playing for nothing other than a starting job for next season on the team, or the young guys get to come up and show what they have to show for the team coaches and management, but that is not the case this year. The Jays are right in the thick of things and it will be exciting to see what happens next.

NHL OFFSEASON REPORT CARD

by jessica fedigan

Calgary Flames:

Brad Treliving didn't make many moves in the offseason. They mostly stood pat with the young talent that they have, such as Johnny Gaudreau and Sean Monahan. They did get Michael Frolik and Dougie Hamilton though, which both provide support and an upgrade. The Flames will be looking to advance further into the Playoffs this year with most of the same roster.

Offseason Score: C+

Vancouver Canucks:

It was hoped that the Canucks would do a little more than they did this offseason. They traded for Brandon Sutter and then signed him to a 5-year contract extension. They sent Nick Bonino back to Pittsburgh in exchange for Sutter (Bonino was the return in the Kesler Trade) and also traded away popular defenseman Kevin Bieksa to the Ducks where he will reunite with Kesler. Then came the perhaps most shocking deal the Canucks made, trading away Eddie Lack to Carolina and getting a marginal return.

Offseason Score: C-

Montreal Canadiens:

The Canadiens got some upgrades this summer. The Habs brought in Zack Kassian from the Canucks and also brought in Alexander Semin, who had a rough past season with the Hurricanes, they also brought in Jeff Petry, who previously played for Edmonton. The Habs hope that head coach Michel Therrien can bring some spark back to Semin.

Offseason Score: C+

Toronto Maple Leafs:

The Leafs got perhaps the best coaching mind in hockey in Mike Babcock. Brendan Shanahan addressed the need for stronger leadership behind the bench and also hired GM Lou Lamoriello—who before had spent most of his time with the New Jersey Devils. The Leafs made a few trades to bolster the forward crop as well. They didn't trade Dion Phaneuf but did trade star Phil Kessel to the Penguins.

Offseason Score: B

Winnipeg Jets:

The Winnipeg Jets didn't do much of anything either this past summer. They didn't make a splash in the offseason market and stood pat with what they currently have. GM Kevin Cheyleydayoff must have taken the philosophy "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Offseason Score: C-

Ottawa Senators

The Ottawa Senators had a lot happen off the ice. GM Bryan Murray was diagnosed with cancer, and owner Eugene Melnyk needed a liver transplant turning to the public for help. These events weighed on the minds of everyone in the organization. They did make the playoffs (eventually losing to the Canadiens) and are now working out the details to bring back retired longtime captain Daniel Alfredsson to an office role.

Offseason Score: C-

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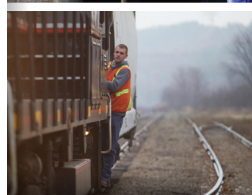
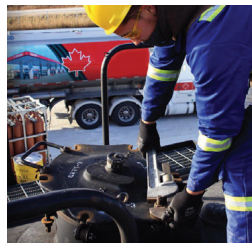
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WORD Vancouver

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This will be the 10th consecutive year that WORD Vancouver comes to the city, uniting book lovers and literacy enthusiasts. Previously known as The Word On The Street, WORD Vancouver is produced by the Vancouver Book and Magazine Fair Society. The aim of the festival is to bring Canadian literature to a bigger audience in an event that is educational and entertaining.

WORD Vancouver is taking place from September 23th to the 27th at Vancouver Public Library. There will be events and workshops, as well as booths and tables that showcase different magazines, publishers, and more.

During the weekend there will also be writing workshops and panel discussions, as well as author readings and presentations. There will be publishing companies selling books at a discount price, as well as some smaller local magazines and publications.

For more information visit:
wordvancouver.ca

By the way... *LINK* magazine will be part of this event! You can find us at table T6b in the Magazine Mews section, so come say hi if you are there.

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Peter Kaye Room

3:00 pm
**Crossing Boundaries:
Writing in Different
Genres w/ Ian Weir**
- **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**
Alma VanDusen Room

12:10 pm
"Pitch Perfect"

12:10 pm
**"The Creative Process:
Tips and Techniques for
Mapping out Stories"**

1:20 pm
**"Life as an Editor: Exploring
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