

VANDALISM OR VAN GOGH?

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EXPLORED

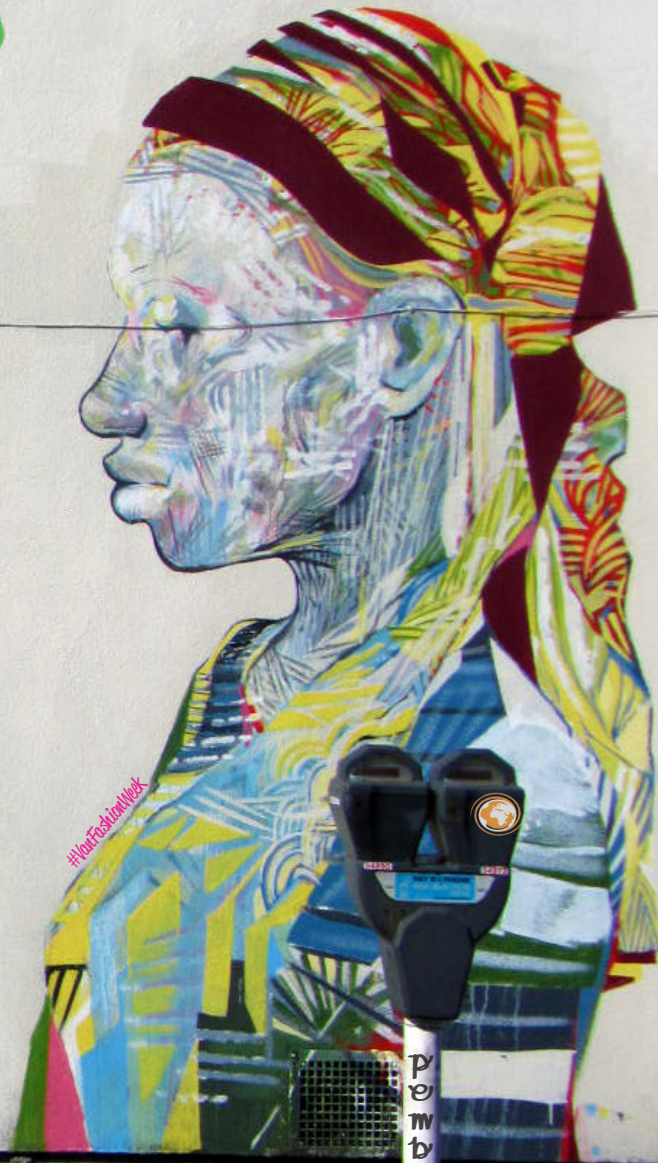
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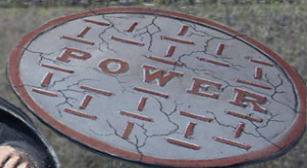
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#VanGoghInk



PERMISSION 2014





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# // Letters From The Editors

IT'S NOT "GOODBYE," IT'S "I'LL SEE YA LATER"

Within a month of moving to the lower mainland from the Okanagan Valley to attend BCIT, I was hired at what was then called *The Link* newspaper. My whole BCIT life has consisted of much of my spare time being spent writing articles, talking to students in various faculties on campus, sharing their stories, hearing them out when there were issues and reporting on many cool things they were up to.

Now that I'm in the homestretch of my time at both BCIT and, in turn, *Link* Magazine, I want to take this opportunity to thank the entire BCIT community for taking an interest in the student press, supporting and giving us feedback and for always being up to really cool things for us to write about! This is a unique institution; my experience has been much different than that at University (I went to UBC Okanagan), but what I take most

from this place is that: if you put your mind to something, you can do it. In just two years, you can push your limits academically, time management-wise, and socially, and come out with a solid path for your career having made life-long friendships along the way. Keep an eye on *Link* Magazine; if you think you've seen a transition this year, just watch where it will go moving forward. Even better... get involved!

Much love BCIT,

— Neetu Garcha

Change is an inconvenience. Whether the change is pleasant or not depends completely on how willing you are to accept it, and how long it takes adapt to the new circumstances.

We've probably all seen the variations of the Venn diagram between comfort zones and things that make life worthwhile and interesting (for those who haven't, you can guess: only a small portion of the two circles intersect). Learning, and venturing

into uncharted territory to explore these new things, are often precursors to change. Since you've never been there before, the path is often rocky and you're bound to take a few spills along the way. But this makes arriving at your destination, whatever it may be, that much more rewarding. And after you stay there for a while... move on to another unexplored area.

We at *Link* Magazine tried a lot of new things this year, whether it be format changes or writing about topics that

fascinated us, we all learned a lot by virtue of being at BCIT, and having one of the most intense learning schedules a post-secondary institution could offer. I hope that we have also contributed to your learning. I know my two years at the *Link*, newspaper and magazine, taught me an incredible amount.

Whether you're staying at BCIT to learn more, or venturing out into the job market, or to another program – best of luck, and best of change to you.

— Olsy Sorokina

# Link

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# It's a Beautiful World

by Neetu Garcha

What happens when a group of people from around the world comes together with a single vision? In my case, it initiated the creation of the **Beautiful World Foundation** (BWF). As the name suggests, the foundation endeavours to showcase beauty in the world, in areas that have traditionally been thought of as opposite.



*(clockwise from top left: Sharon Salmon, Gary Carr, Jane Stevenson, Neetu Garcha, Cortney Van Jahnke, Israa Siddiq, Gareth Amui and Lani Tao. photo by Daniel Sutka)*

Famine, poverty, environmental disasters and political unrest *do* exist in many regions of the world, and as a journalist, I especially understand the importance of broadcasting such events — illuminating the facts, shedding light on the truth, letting stakeholders have a voice to share their side of the story. However, the BWF team seeks to also find beauty in these same places.

The first place we decided to focus on was the stunning country of Sierra Leone. Through the power of film, photography and journalism we will produce a short film or documentary showcasing beautiful stories of locals in Sierra Leone.

There is a unique touch to our BWF team which consists of: Lani Tao, a Marketing Specialist based in Hong Kong,

Gary Carr, a UK-based actor you might recognize as Jack Ross on season four of the show *Downton Abbey*, photographer extraordinaire Cortney Van Jahnke, who is based in New York City, Israa Siddiq, a doctor in London, our accountant Sharon Salmon, our specialist nurse practitioner and clinical educator Jane Stevenson, and Gareth Amui, an emergency services worker in London most of the year, who also spends a lot of time working on projects in Sierra Leone.

Before ever meeting in person, for more than two years we worked via Gmail, Skype, WhatsApp, Facebook, and phone calls, until this past spring when I, Lani and Cortney boarded jets from Vancouver, Hong Kong and New York, and headed to London to meet the rest of our team; together for the first time in the same place. We got right to work.

In the week we were there, we filmed promo videos, had photo shoots and organized as much marketing and promotional material as we could, because we were not sure when all of us would be in the same place all at once again. We got to know each other so much better and formed what feels like a BWF family.

From here, we'll continue working to formally establish ourselves in the UK, refine each person's roles and duties on the team, find ways to get funding for our first project in Sierra Leone and work on marketing materials so we can most effectively get the word out about what we're doing.

We're back now to communicating through our phones and laptops, but the BWF momentum has definitely picked up since we united in London, and we're more excited than ever to keep our project going.

If you're interested in learning more, shoot us an email! Just go to the contact page on our website: [www.beautifulworldfoundation.org](http://www.beautifulworldfoundation.org) and check out the hashtag #bwflondon2014 to see some of the coverage from our trip.



[www.beautifulworldfoundation.org](http://www.beautifulworldfoundation.org)



# WHO'S watching our WATER?



BCIT **rivers** institute

by Chantal Coschizza

A study conducted by The Real Estate Foundation of BC and the Vancouver Foundation found that 95% of British Columbians see the quality and abundance of fresh water as vitally important to their health and well-being. However, while 89% of those surveyed favour strict province wide standards for water protection, Ken Ashley believes the government is not doing enough.

Ashley is the director of the BCIT Rivers Institute and an instructor in BCIT's Ecological Restoration program. The Ecological Restoration program teaches students how to best protect the environment, something Ashley believes the federal government is not doing enough of.

Ashley quickly points to how the economy is often put before the environment. "People always argue that when the economy gets tough, they've got to do jobs, jobs, jobs. Its old school to think that it's either environment or economy and you can't have both. The reality is you need a healthy environment to have a healthy economy."

Ashley believes education is key, that's why he hopes the Ecological Restoration can help students prepare for a cleaner environmental future. He says he wants students to know what is right and wrong for the environment.

The Ecological Restoration program began in 2009. Here students are assigned a full-term project working with the environment. Ashley gave us an example of two projects, where students are working on both Guichon and Eagle creeks in Burnaby. Students look at the entire stream, identify what is wrong through surveys, and then make a plan based on how to restore the stream in the coming years. Ashley says the plan is then given to city council members to look over.

In the future, Ashley hopes that more young adults will become interested in protecting the environment. "The Environmental Restoration program is relatively new," he explains. "We are making a name for ourselves and trying to get students out there who have the combination of education and practical hands-on experience... and who want to make a difference and want to become future leaders of the environment."

Currently, Ashley is working on a Restoration project in the Burrard Inlet, protecting streams that are at risk from industrial pollution.

*"It's **old school** to think that it's either environment or economy and you can't have both."*

*The **reality** is, you need a healthy environment to have a healthy economy."*



# Student THE RESULTS ARE IN! Elections

by Rhianna Schmunk

"Students don't think that it influences their lives as much as it does. We're going to show them what we're capable of."

— Alexander Clarke

It's all over: the 2014/15 BCITSA student elections came to an end on Friday, April 4th after what's been referred to as an uphill battle for candidates looking to encourage student engagement.

Of the roughly 18,000 full-time students and nearly 30,000 part-time students enrolled at BCIT, less than 1000 took the time to vote in this year's election – that's less than 2% of the entire student body.

Several theories have been tossed around campus in an effort to try and diagnose why students seem so disinterested in having their say here at BCIT. Some say the timing of the electoral process is poor, given that many students are more focused on passing their final exams and reaching the academic finish line later this month; some students are already out in industry completing their last rotations, completely unaware that there's an election occurring at all.

Others argue that students simply don't know why they ought to vote for the student executives, as they haven't been properly educated about what the association itself stands for.

"You know what the problem is? If you don't bring the vote to [students], like on an iPad or something, they won't vote because they don't care enough."

— Alexander Clarke  
Chair of Computing and Academic

For students who are still wondering why the SA matters, a quick Google search shows that the SA is in charge of student affairs such as the U-Pass program, the health and dental plan, and Professor Mugs. What's noteworthy about the SA's involvement with projects like these is that the board works solely for students; in essence, the group exists in an effort to create the best student experience possible by simply listening to what students are asking for.

That objective applies to all full-time students and part-time students across BCIT's five campuses – the same group of students who have no trouble utilizing the services the SA provides to improve student life, but who can't seem to muster the motivation to actually help the SA do so.

Regardless of the rationale behind the lackluster electoral enthusiasm from the student body, the elected board members still believe there's reason to be excited about their upcoming reign at BCIT. The eleven student executives will assume their new roles on June 1st.

"I really want to try and drive student engagement more... bring the satellite campuses closer together. One of the big things from me is to have as much as an open door policy as I can. I want to have a finger on the pulse so I know what's going on and what the current issues are for students."

— Dylan Smith, President

*Left: Rhianna Schmunk one-on-one with Dylan Smith; the new execs are ready to get to work together. photos by Yinan Shi*







# VANCOUVER CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

---

by Laura Shortt

Spring is here and so is one of Vancouver's brightest seasonal celebrations - the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival.

The festival officially launched on April 3 with Cherry Jam, a downtown concert at Burrard SkyTrain station. Thousands of Vancouverites have already participated in April celebrations, and even as the pink blossoms give way to green foliage, there are many ways to continue celebrating the awakening of nature.

One of the festival's traditions is an international Japanese poetry contest called the Haiku Invitational. Haikus are traditionally composed around the theme of human existence in nature, and what better time to ponder on one's place in nature than in full bloom of sakura trees?

The Festival's founder and executive director, Linda Poole, says that every year the contest receives hundreds of submissions of poems from all over the world.

"It was the very first program I conceived as I felt the cherry tree really inspired poetry, and the powerful tight concise haiku was the perfect form, being Japanese, as it captures that 'ah ha' moment of intense feeling," Poole says. "I love the Haiku Invitational as it captures so much in so few words."

For those who need a haiku refresher, in Japan the haiku poem is traditionally written in a single vertical line with sound symbols arranged in a 5-7-5 rhythm. But Japanese words tend to be longer than their English counterparts, so literal translations end up as English poems with fewer than 17 syllables. While some haiku poets writing in English follow the pattern, most view the haiku as a poem in three lines of 17 or fewer syllables.

The Haiku Invitational has six categories: Best Youth Haiku, Best International Haiku, Best United States Haiku, Best Canada Haiku, Best BC Haiku and a new Best Vancouver category.

Canadian haiku poet Marco Fraticelli is judging this year's contest. with the theme of, "Meet your Neighbours." Poets young and old are invited to share the many ways cherry blossoms bring them closer to their family, friends, co-workers and community.

Winning haiku will be published next year in several publications. The poems will also be read by a Vancouver actor Christopher Gaze at next year's Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's "Tea and Trumpets" concert in March.

waiting for the blossoms  
the birds are still  
up the magician's sleeve

(2103 Winner - Marco Fraticelli/  
Pointe-Claire, Quebec)

*If you're interested in participating in the Haiku Invitational, up to two haiku submissions can be submitted online at the festival's website until June 2.*

[www.vcbf.ca](http://www.vcbf.ca)





# WRITING ON THE WALLS

## A PRIMER FOR VANCOUVER STREET ART

by Olsy Sorokina

I asked a few friends what comes to my mind when I say “street art.” One said, “Banksy,” one talked about the \$500 minimum fine that the City of Vancouver hands out for graffiti in a public space, and another responded with, “Do you mean graffiti, or like, commissioned murals?”

This is a fairly realistic representation of the average Vancouverite’s knowledge of street art. Aside from the fleeting notice of a tag on a bus shelter ad, or brief moment of admiration for a street mural, most of us pay little attention to the art that constitutes a lifestyle to many.

One piece by a Vancouver-based street artist, known to the world as iHeart, recently went viral after being shared on Banksy’s official Facebook page, though the artist’s blog dates his activity around Vancouver as far back as May 2012. Perhaps what finally caught Banksy’s attention was how every piece of iHeart’s work is accompanied with commentary and exploration of a relevant social issue.

Concurrently, a very different kind of “street art” is making headlines recently: the infamous “No Pipelines” tag. Now found on several buildings and bus shelters along the Broadway corridor, the tag has brought grief to local business owners and artists. iHeart has also contributed to the discussion, tweeting: “The ‘No Pipelines’ guy is going to piss off so many people that those stupid pipelines will be built just to spite him.”

It seems that the only thing shared by both iHeart and the individual(s) responsible for the ‘No Pipelines’ tag is the recent media coverage. Otherwise, they represent the opposite end of the spectrum: artists whose work presents a degree of calculation and insight, versus those who deliver their message bluntly, with questionable success.

There seems to be a pattern for grabbing attention when it comes to street art: populate the walls of the city until someone is upset or fascinated enough to start a discussion. But what if we were to explore Vancouver’s street art world with reserved judgment, and without the witch hunt? Here is a brief guide for arranging an exciting – and free! – art adventure around the city.





photo courtesy the Cooper Bros  
[www.thecooperbros.ca](http://www.thecooperbros.ca)

## WHERE TO LOOK

For an artist without a permit, finding a perfect canvas is a struggle between visibility and sneakiness. Good places to explore local artwork are: pedestrian bridge underpasses, alleyways on Main Street and Commercial Drive, rooftops of old commercial buildings, construction sites, train yards and public transit bridges and tunnels.

## HOW TO FOLLOW ARTISTS

While street artists try to leave as few traces as possible, the internet allows them to share their work anonymously. Most artists will use a recognizable handle at the corner of their work, which can be found on a Flickr or a Twitter account, or even a blog dedicated to their work.

## DIFFERENT STYLES

As with any art medium, there are many unique styles of street art. Some make a point to distinguish between graffiti and street art, emphasizing the vandalism element in the former. Some of the common styles seen around Vancouver are *cartoon*, *stencil*, and *wildstyle*.

Artists specializing in cartoon styles draw upon existing animated

films and series, or create their own distinct characters. Have an eye for “br00d” who has populated many Vancouver alleyways and rooftops with their quirky toons.

iHeart, like the world-famous Banksy, makes use of stencils. Prepared cut-outs make it easier for the artist to complete the work in a short amount of time, then make their swift escape.

Wildstyle is the style most commonly associated with graffiti artists, characterized by bold, often overlapping letters, bright colours and the use of arrows and jagged lines. Many artists have left their wildstyle signatures on the walls around the city, among them are “Shift” and “Sueme.”



JULY 18-20 2014

PEMBERTON BC

# PEMBERTON MUSIC FESTIVAL

by Thomas Molander

People were ecstatic when Pemberton Music Festival announced it would be returning in 2014, and understandably so. In 2008, the festival's first and only year before this, acts like Jay-Z, Coldplay, and The Flaming Lips visited the little mountain community near Whistler and put on a show that most people who attended talk about to this day.

While the festival was an all-out success musically, it was a nightmare in other ways. The environmental impact of 40,000 music lovers camping in a field was substantial, and there were horror stories around traffic and parking. For a few years after the inaugural run, Pemberton considered hosting the festival again, but the plans would invariably fall through, with the village of around 2,000 people saying they would need to work out all the kinks before they could put on that kind of production again.

This year's Pemberton Fest is sure to look very different from the one we saw in 2008. For starters, it's being hosted by Louisiana-based Huka Entertainment, instead of Live Nation. Huka puts on shows and festivals all over the US, but their PR strategy is hard to figure out. For example, they don't have a working media line, and they don't respond to emails.

So Pemberton announced the festival, and sold "founder" passes where, for a considerable discount, people got tickets without knowing the lineup. Then, nothing concrete was announced for half a year. The organizers tweeted cryptically and sporadically from the festival's account, and told people to "stay tuned." Months passed, and all of the other major North American festivals announced their line-ups. Sasquatch rolled out its acts, featuring names like The National, Queens of the Stone Age, and Outkast. The rapidly-growing Squamish Festival (which takes place well after Pemberton) countered with heavyweights like Eminem, Arcade Fire, and Arctic Monkeys. Pemberton didn't give in to the pressure and held out as the months passed, answering the growing questions they faced on social media with cheeky winkface emojis.

In late March, Pemberton Festival tweeted "one zero," and the countdown finally began. They counted down

the days from 10 on Facebook and Twitter, tweeting "one more day" on the final day, April 8.

BC held its breath. The reporters were ready to report and the bloggers were ready to blog and then... nothing. There was a day of silence as reports came out in the media that the announcement had been delayed because the organizers were trying to book one last major artist. Finally, the next day, the line-up came out, and it was easy to see why Pemberton had felt they were under no obligation to rush the announcement. They obviously weren't competing with Squamish – they blew the rival BC festival's line-up out of the water.

The big four headliners are Canadian house music producer Deadmau5, '90s nostalgia hounds Soundgarden, revived Atlanta hip-hop duo Outkast, and industrial rock act Nine Inch Nails, who return after playing the festival in 2008. The festival also features some of the brightest stars in hip-hop and R&B, like Kendrick Lamar, Frank Ocean, Tyler the Creator, Schoolboy Q, and Earl Sweatshirt. There are bands from the '80s and '90s who have been rocking the festival circuit for years – Dinosaur Jr, Modest Mouse, Blondie, and The Flaming Lips (another 2008 returnee). There's no shortage of Canadian artists on the list either, including Metric, Grimes, and Fucked Up. There are a lot of BC bands too, like The New Pornographers and Yukon Blonde. Finally, there's even an impressive line-up of comedians who'll be doing sets, like Bob Saget, Hannibal Buress, and Norm Macdonald.

Pemberton has the line-up, a beautiful location, and has proven (once) the ability to put on a festival that could honestly be considered legendary. Still, 2008 was a long time ago, and if Huka Entertainment are capable of completely botching something as straightforward as a line-up announcement, can they be trusted to pull off an entire festival with tens of thousands of attendees? Not to mention that there are plenty of more reliable options in the Pacific Northwestern festival scene, with one festival even taking place the very same weekend in Vancouver.

What are you going to do? I, for one, need some time to think about this.





# VANCOUVER fashion week

## MEN

by cory correia

## WOMEN

by michelle morton

The warm sunshine that we have all been anticipating has finally arrived, inviting the return of flowing dresses and t-shirts. However, the fashion world sees this time of year in a different light.

At the beginning of a new season, the fashion industry showcases trends for the following months. Vancouver Fashion Week introduced the looks of Fall/Winter 2014. Women's fashion next season is heavily influenced by a gothic feel that will take the looks from day to night, which is important to us Vancouverites; in a fast-paced city, who has time to constantly make outfit changes?

The runway showed a mix of gothic tones and lace consisting of charcoal, navy, and black shades; as well as traditional earthy tones such as deep green, beige, camel and white. A unique palette introduced for the colder months demonstrated lighter tones mixed with graphics and textures, not ordinarily worn in fall/winter. These lighter tones will make the transitional period between summer and fall a great opportunity to experiment with fabrics.

New seasons are my favourite because I mostly look forward to seeing the "architecture" of the garment, and next season definitely promised unique designs through shape and original style through fit. High waist, flare and peplum styles are being brought to a new level with dramatic edge to match the light and dark tones.

The city streets will be a unique canvas of eye-pleasing tones and eclectic structured textures. With such a variable blend of colours and structure, it would be best to layer different designs. Don't be afraid to mix and match colours and graphics – not only will your wardrobe expand with new pieces, but also offer endless outfit options available from new pairings.

Most of the year a pair of jeans and a t-shirt is all I need in my closet. Like many of my male comrades, I do not consider myself among the fashion forward. Call me apathetic, but keeping up with what's fashionable is exhausting. Don't get me wrong, I'm not walking out of the house in a potato sack, (my clothes will match and I'm not wearing socks with sandals), but I'm not about to sacrifice substance for style.

The average guy doesn't care about the latest trends; function and comfort often trump style and design. However, I have always been fascinated by the fixation many have on designer dress and the urge to stay current. So without a sense of fashion, I travelled to the Mecca of local style: Vancouver Fashion Week (VFW), a bi-annual fashion showcase featuring local and international designers.

After a few shows at VFW, it was staggering how many outfits looked unfit for human consumption. I expected art deco with bold colours, symmetry and lavish ornamentation, but instead black, rigid structures were piecemealed together around undernourished models. But, there were also some highlights. Now bear in mind the mitigating circumstances of partial nudity, but one show I took in by Thunder Bay's Lisa Loveday was a revelation. The cloth spun off the model canvasses like colour in Van Gogh's "The Starry Night." It became clear to me that most of the stuff on display was going to be hit or miss. What surprised me was that the audience was as critical as this skeptic. I could see and hear the crowd commenting and critiquing the clothing as I was. What goes on display on the catwalk isn't gospel to the fashion crowd. What the designers from Lisbon to Langara preach isn't the definitive word on style for the season, but an artistic offering.

I spoke with the organizer of Vancouver Fashion Week, Jamal Abdourahman, and he assured me that from Main Street to 4th Avenue it doesn't matter where you get your clothes from because, "fashion is one person's own unique identity," and "you don't have to be in fashion to truly appreciate art and design."

After my acute immersion into the fashion world, I've come to the conclusion that fashion is in the eye of the beholder. If Lady Gaga wants to drape slabs of meat over top of her and call it art, be my guest, and if glasses without corrective lenses or jeans skinny enough to cause a hernia make you happy, more power to you.

# 17%

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# Y2PLAY

We all know that being a student isn't easy. With everyday costs to consider such as rent, tuition and food in a city as expensive as Vancouver, sometimes the fun activities get dropped.

But not to worry, skiers and snowboarders! Grouse Mountain's brand-new Y2Play Student Pass is here to make hitting the slopes easy on your wallet. At \$279, the pass pays for itself in just five visits and is valid for the rest of this snow season and all of next! With fresh snow and spectacular spring conditions at the Peak of Vancouver, get yours before it's too late – Y2Play Passes sell out every year!

As the most accessible mountain on the North Shore, you can get to Grouse Mountain via transit or a quick drive up Capilano Road, making a few runs after a long study session an easy option.



What's more, ask around and you'll learn that Grouse Mountain has some of the top-rated terrain parks on the North Shore. With features that are constantly changing, an experienced park crew and weekly Park Jams, Grouse Mountain's terrain park environment is one you don't want to miss.

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The numbers don't lie: Grouse Mountain's Y2Play Student Pass is the best deal around on a season snowpass, whether you're a first-timer or avid enthusiast.

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**"Beers so good, you'd ask for them even if they were prohibited."**

When it comes to craft beer you've got to get it just right, and Prohibition Brewery has been making away like bandits with their own selection of personally crafted, law-breaking brews. Their flagship location opened up this past March in Yaletown and has been gaining quick attention from locals.

The tasting lounge offers five different beers exclusive to Prohibition including: the 'Lawless' IPA, Bootlegger Ale, Smuggler Scotch Ale, and their Prohibition Lager. If you're in the mood for a snack, they have a range of appetizers such as Pork Sliders, Poutine and more.

The atmosphere inside the location is reminiscent of a 1930s bar—red lounge seats, hardwood finishes, chandeliers and wooden casks for beer. When asked about the décor they said, "It's supposed to pay tribute to the speakeasies and upscale lounges that were forced to be run underground during the American prohibition," which is also the inspiration for their beer names and 'blind pig' logo.

Prohibition is a must try this summer for all foodies, connoisseurs or anyone who has a taste for fine crafted beer. Check them out at 1269 Hamilton Street, a close walk from the Seawall, and be sure to request a seat on their outdoor patio opening up this Spring.



# *SPACES and RESERVATIONS*

Director Brendan Prost contemplates the film school advantage



by Olsy Sorokina

Vancouver has been fighting to keep its “Hollywood North” title, with tax credit cuts and special effects studio closures contributing to the anxieties in the local filmmaking community. Such droughts in the industry normally correspond to a drop in newcomers interested in learning the craft, however, for those who are making their debut in the Vancouver film arts, the situation may not look as bleak.

The Lower Mainland houses many established film schools, with Langara, Simon Fraser, and Emily Carr offering competitive training programs. One student filmmaker has shared the experience of making a feature film without the budget or the manpower of Hollywood giants.

Calgary-born filmmaker Brendan Prost is releasing his final feature project to wrap up his SFU film school training. *Spaces and Reservations* is a poignant study of a romantic relationship devastated by time and change. While *Spaces* is Prost’s third feature-length film, it’s the first project completed with the benefits of a film school education, and he says working with like-minded people presents a clear advantage.

“You’re able to express yourself a lot more clearly because you have the benefit of those people working with you,” Prost told *Link Magazine*. “As you learn more about some vehicle of communication, you start communicating better.”

The young director explained that being a film student allows to bypass some of the issues others face when making movies in Vancouver. While *Spaces* is very much a microbudget production, funded mostly out of pocket, the advantage of a talented and committed crew is priceless.

“All the institutions that exist to facilitate that beast, I get to reap the benefits of in a smaller scale way,” Prost said. “There’s a huge pool of talent and resources here that are ready and eager to work in anticipation of getting onto the larger stuff. I would never have had the opportunity to meet actors like Taylor [Hastings] and Jennifer [Kobelt] unless there was a budding film industry here.”

Lead actress Taylor Hastings echoes Prost’s feelings about the production. While working on her role as Kacie in Prost’s film, Hastings was also involved in a larger-scale commercial production. But she is quick to note her preference lies with a student film crew.

“It’s great to be in that sort of environment, because there is no ego getting in the way, which can happen on bigger sets,” Hastings said. “This was a really constructive collaboration of really creative people that were all working ultimately towards the same goal.”

Judging by the emotional saturation of *Spaces and Reservations*, ego did not have a place in the production. The filming of the two-and-a-half hour feature took place over the course of sixteen days, which left little room for conflicts.

“It was really draining, in a really rewarding kind of way,” Hastings explained. “We were really drained, which kind of put us in the right frame of mind to portray the emotional exhaustion that Jamie and Kacie were going through”

The actress said the intense schedule helped bring the cast closer, which helped with such an emotionally charged project. “It was very inevitable that we were going to share these experiences in order to relate to these people and come from a really honest place, so there is a lot of sharing, and a lot of drawing connections between me and Kacie,” she said.

When asked about the difference between making “passion projects” and making a movie under academic supervision, Prost says there is none. *Spaces* can indeed be described as a passion project in many ways: production crew and actors have gone to great lengths to make it happen, and the result showcases an astonishing range of emotion – and passion – while exploring a common human tragedy.

*Spaces and Reservations* will be screened at The Rio Theatre on May 20 and 27. For information about tickets, visit [spacesfilm.com/screenings](http://spacesfilm.com/screenings).



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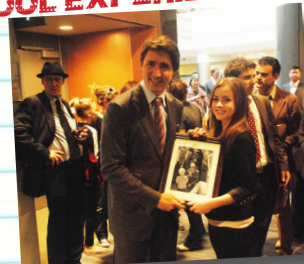
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