

Out in the City

Xtra West's day-by-day guide for Wed Nov 7 to Fri Nov 23

WED NOV 7

Nostalgic Dreams

Local artist and DJ Diane Reyes presents her first solo collection of paintings which portray a tribute to art in many forms. Reyes' portraiture series sur-

rounds the theme of musicians, illustrating her passion for music and people. Show runs until Nov 30, Zebra Club, 3101 Granville at 15th, opens at 11 am each day.

Singles Night

Laughter and mingling from the Tops and Bottoms

Queer Comedy Troupe. 7:30-9:30 pm, Jupiter Café, 1216 Bute St. Tickets \$8 at the door.

Border Riders

Monthly meet and greet for the Border Riders Motorcycle Club which provides social and educational opportunities for members and other gay men inter-

ested in recreational motorcycle touring. 6-8 pm, PumpJack Pub, 1167 Davie. www.pumpjackpub.com

Bent

Martin Sherman's powerful play depicting the plight of homosexuals in Nazi Germany and their fight for survival. Runs until Nov 17 at Performance Works, 1218 Cartwright, Granville Island. Tickets \$21-26. 604 666.5784 or www.ticketstonight.ca

His Greatness

Inspired by Tennessee Williams' 1981 visit to Vancouver, playwright Daniel MacIvor ponders what happens when greatness slips away. Witty and affecting, this imaginary story compliments Williams' first masterpiece The Glass Menagerie. Tickets \$28-\$41. Runs to Nov 10, Arts Club Granville Island, 1585 Johnston. 604 687.1644.

Paint Her

Patricia Atchison captures urban lesbian life on canvas. Revealing the unabashed elegance of the female form, this collection of works features queer and queer-friendly women captured in Patricia's signature seductive style. Art + Soul Gallery, 1277 Robson St. Exhibit runs until Nov 11. Info at www.aydengallery.com

The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?

Edward Albee attempts to challenge our beliefs by forcing us to look inside ourselves and evaluate our boundaries. The story focuses on a man who risks his idyllic family life and professional career by falling in love with a goat. Runs until Nov 10, Presentation House Theatre, 333 Chesterfield Ave, North Van. www.phttheatre.org

Vancouver Dungeon Special General Meeting

Members vote on bylaws, group name and other issues. 7:30-9:30 pm, Meeting Room, 909 Maitland at Smithie. www.vancouverdungeon.com

THU NOV 8

BC Bears Coffee Social

Join the bears every Thu for coffee, a chat, a bite to eat, or just to have some good fun! Meet some new people, and have a great time doing it. Davie Village Café, 1141 Davie St, 8 pm.

FRI NOV 9

Chronicling Lesbian Lives

A BOLD writing retreat with Claire Robson, who recently won Writer of the Year at the Xtra West Community Achievement Awards. A weekend designed to motivate you to continue writing, with the support of a community of women. No previous writing experience needed. Nov 9-11, Vancouver School of Theology, UBC Campus, 6000 Iona Dr. Register at www.soundandfuries.com/workshops

Loungezilla Returns

Gay Fringe Fest favourite returns as part of the Here Be Monsters Collective's Carnival of the Arts II Theatre Festival. Featuring twisted music, naughty comedy and an outrageous x-rated 3D finale that must be seen to be believed. 10 pm, Dollhouse Studios, 42 W 8th Ave. Tickets \$15 at 778.371.4731.

Vancouver Men in Leather

VML monthly social, Leather Loft, is the second Fri of the month. Leather dress code is in effect. Socialize with others interested in leather, 50/50 draw, door prizes and lots of testosterone. Numbers, 9 pm, 1042 Davie St. Followed by Leather night at M2M Playspace 1210 Granville St (at Davie).

SAT NOV 10

Book Signing

Get your copy of the newest Russell Quant mystery, Sundowner Ubuntu, featuring gay Canadian sleuth, Russell Quant, signed by author Anthony Bidulka. 2-4 pm, Little Sister's, 1238 Davie St.

The Glass Menagerie

Tennessee Williams' semi-autobiographical masterpiece, The Glass Menagerie, is an astonishingly intimate and moving portrait of the Wingfield family. Runs until Nov 25. Stanley Theatre, 2750 Granville St. Tickets \$30-57. 604.687.1644

SUN NOV 11

Singing Can be a Drag

Featuring members of the Vancouver Men's Chorus as you've never seen them before: live music à la drag. A fundraiser for their 2008 tour and hosted by Mr Bill Munroe. Tickets \$10 at www.vancouvermenschorus.org

Chicklets

For girls who like girls who like... Crema Productions brings you DJs Tracey D, Patricious and revoked for a long weekend party. Tickets \$10 advance at Little Sister's, 1238 Davie, Tech Direct, 888 Commercial or www.cremaproductions.com

Chicks With Picks

If you haven't checked out one of these concerts then this is the one not to miss. Brought to you by girly production Sam Lohs and Mel Watson (FRUIT) are sure to entertain. Everyone welcome. Railway Club, 579 Dunsmuir, doors 7 pm, show 8 pm. Admission \$10 at door.

Hershe Bar

Popular women's dance party returns to Shine with delicious drinks, hot beats and two rooms full of eye candy! Room one: DJs Betti Forde and Rhiannon. Room two: DJs De Lux and Cho Cha. 9 pm, Shine, 364 Water St. Advance Tickets \$10 at Little Sister's or www.fly-girlproductions.com

CLOSEUP

FATHERHOOD DREAMS

Most Canadians may support same-sex marriage, but many are still uncomfortable with the idea of openly gay men raising children.

Vancouver filmmaker Julia Ivanova wants to change that with her new film Fatherhood Dreams.

Inspired by the real-life experiences of several close friends who struggled to cross the gay barrier to fatherhood, Ivanova offers mainstream audiences the chance to get used to the idea that gay men can parent too.

"I was always thinking about how to make straight people continue watching and not to turn it off," she reveals.

"Randy and Drew are so likeable," she continues, "and I hope that straight people like them no matter what."

Randy and Drew are a Vancouver gay couple who privately adopted a baby boy named Jack from his teenage mother.

They present an image of family that will likely resonate with Ivanova's target audience. They have a house with a lawn, a dog that kisses the cat, and they take Jack to visit the pumpkin patch and Santa.

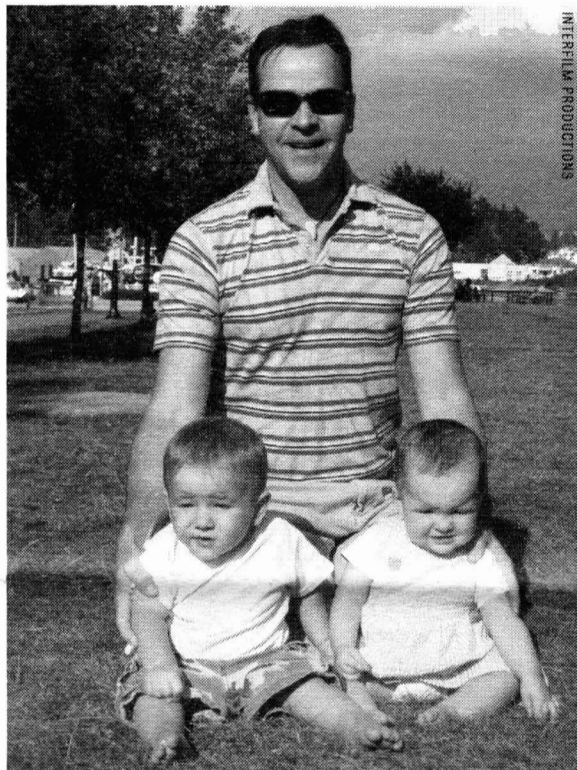
The film also offers viewers the chance to meet Jack's biological relatives and hear their rationale for choosing a gay male couple. "Two men as parents were more appealing to me," explains Jack's grandmother, "because Corey [Jack's biological mother] would always be mom."

Scott's path to fatherhood was a bit more difficult.

Scott is a single gay man in his 40s who has always wanted children. He says he soon discovered that private adoption agencies rarely, if ever, place children with single gay men.

So he opted for surrogacy, and found a woman willing to carry his child. But it wasn't easy. Though they can be compensated for lost wages, surrogate mothers in Canada cannot be paid to bear children, which forces many surrogacy arrangements underground. The reluctance of many clinics to inseminate non-traditional couples doesn't help either, the film shows.

Then there is Stephen, who devotes his weekends to co-parenting his two daughters with his ex-wife Wendy and her new partner Coreen.



Stephen and Wendy had their first daughter Jazz, now in her teens, when they were married. The family had their second daughter, Kazea, four years ago, after Stephen artificially inseminated Coreen.

The idea of two moms and one dad is not confusing for Kazea. "I'm the luckiest ever," she tells viewers, "because I have the most parents."

—Nathaniel Christopher

Fatherhood Dreams.
Nov 17, 10 pm.
On Global TV's Global Currents.
Check local listings.

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Vancouver Men's Chorus

presents

Willi Zwozdesky, Conductor

MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

Dec. 8, 9, 10 at 8pm ✕ Dec. 8 at 3pm

St. Paul's Anglican Church ✕ 1130 Jervis St. (at Pendrell St.)

\$26 Adults ✕ \$21 Students & Seniors* ✕ VIP Patron Tickets

VancouverMensChorus.org ✕ 604-669-7464 ✕ Little Sister's Bookstore

*Student and Senior Tickets are limited

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