

arts

The Art of Living

news



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Fall 2024



Hawks fly free over Rigaud and environs thanks to Brigitte McKinnon and her husband Robert who practice the Art of Falconry. See story on page 1

arts hudson

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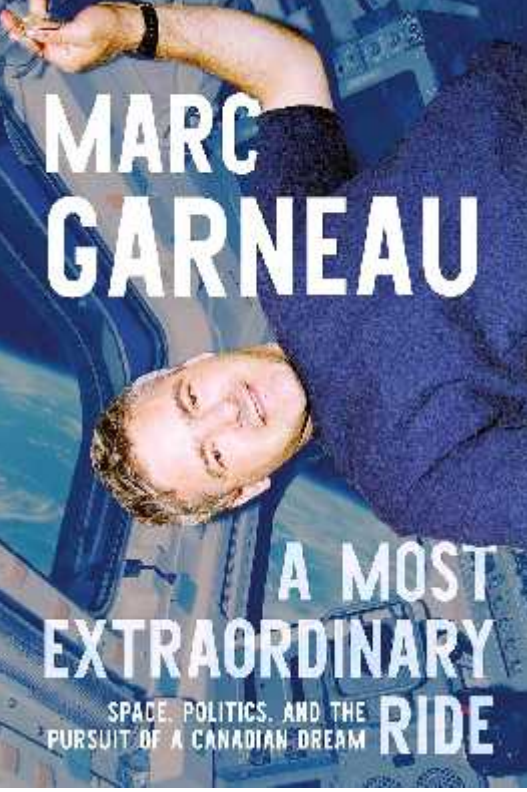
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Marc Garneau will be at StoryFest on Thursday, November 14th, 2024

StoryFest 2024 an impressive array of authors coming this fall

After a sold-out crowd for Nahlah Ayed and her book about the heroic World War II exploits of former Hudson residents Sonia and Guy d'Artois in early June, the Greenwood Centre for Living History continues StoryFest 2024 by welcoming six other inspiring writers this fall.

"We are so fortunate to have this high calibre of authors visit Hudson to share their writing," Sandy Racicot, Greenwood's executive director, says. "The range of topics this autumn from suspenseful novels to essential political and cultural insights to a gripping memoir is exciting."

It all starts when StoryFest welcomes award-winning author and broadcast journalist **Carol Off** who is familiar to many as the former host of CBC Radio's *As It Happens*. Her new book,

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Fall at HVT

For the Fall Season, Village Theatre is bringing in a number of shows and presenting the last of the 2024 VT-produced professional shows: "Shirley Valentine," by Willy Russel, directed by Heather Markgraf.

On Saturday, September 21st at 8:00 pm the theatre presents "Persuasion," a Carlos Santana Tribute band. This live concert features Santana hits including Black Magic Woman, Oye Como Va, Samba Pa Ti, Smooth et Maria, Maria and many, many more.

"Shirley Valentine" follows for a two-week run starting on October 23rd. Long-time Hudson resident, Village Theatre founder and professional actor/director Heather Markgraf directs Montreal actor Lisa Bronwyn Moore as Shirley. Heather played Shirley twice at Village Theatre about 20 years ago and toured one of the shows in the Eastern Townships and eastern Ontario. She brings the insights gained then to this production.

On November 9th at 7:30 and November 10th at 2:00 pm, Tom Allen returns to Village Theatre with J.S. Bach's "Long Walk in the Snow." Expect a Music-filled show of romance, action and adventure.

Finally, Seb and Jess present "Rock N Blues" on Friday November 15th at 8:00 pm.

Get your tickets on line at the VT website, villagetheatre.ca, or direct from the box office, 450-458-5361.

Fabulous Falcons and Hovering Hawks

Robert & Brigitte McKinnon carry on the timeless tradition of the 'Art' of Falconry by James Parry

Having long held a fascination with what they describe as the Art of Falconry and the 'elegant' spirit of birds of prey, also known as raptors, Rigaud residents Robert & Brigitte McKinnon - the co-founders of the Hudson Pure Art Boutique back in 2013 and the Pure Art Foundation in 2009 - are passionate practitioners of a custom believed to date back to the 7th Century B.C., long before the Middle Ages with which it has now become synonymous. Caught up with the couple recently to learn why, and

how, it all came about. And what a fascinating story it is.

Q: So how long have you and Brigitte been involved with birds of prey and when did it start?

A: It has always carried a fascination for us and we have owned banded birds, all of which have been registered with the Ministry of Natural Resources for over 15 years. We were first

(continued on page 6)



Parrydise - Hudson

by James Parry, Photos courtesy of the McKinnon family

For some 25 years at last count, it has been my privilege to write about hundreds people both young and old in the local media. First of all in the Hudson Gazette, then The Journal - both now sadly gone - and since the Fall of 2018 in Arts Hudson magazine now in its 7th year of publication and still going strong. People who do not necessarily make page one news but who, through their creativity and achievements, are a vibrant part of our little town with a population still just over 5,100. People who unquestionably make our community such a wonderful place for us in which to live and call home.

That being said, never have I written about an entire family in this regard. Until now. Permit me to introduce you, if you don't already know them, to the multi-faceted McKinnons. Parents Robert & Brigitte and sons Sebastian, Liam, Sam, Renault, and Ben who, each in their own way, is a creative and artistic dynamo that simply boggles the mind. And let's first turn the spotlight on Sebastian.



Sebastian on location in his beloved Newfoundland.

MOVIE MAGIC : THE STOLEN CHILD

Sebastian is the visionary behind KIN Fables, a trilogy project 10 years in

the making and previously screened by the Hudson Film Society at the Village Theatre to critical acclaim. He has directed and produced them through his company Five Knights Productions, a slow but steady build-up towards his first ever full-length feature film titled *The Stolen Child*, co-written by himself and his brother Liam and scheduled to start shooting this October in the rain forests of British Columbia, Newfoundland, and Mont St. Michel in Normandy, France.

As an accomplished musician under the name CLANN, he has also composed the music for the film and, as a fan-favourite illustrator for *Magic:the Gathering*, one of the most popular card games in the world, his passion, understanding and appreciation of the fantasy genre has allowed him to build a loyal, dedicated and supportive fan base. In this exclusive interview with Arts Hudson magazine, he elaborates on this new, bold, exciting venture and how it all began.

Q: When did your love affair with filmmaking first begin and why?

A: I grew up the oldest of five brothers. The second oldest, Benjamin, and I shared a passion for filmmaking from a very young age and we spent our childhood summers making home videos in the backyard. Sticks became swords. Boulders became fortresses. *The Lord of the Rings*, particularly *The Fellowship of the Ring*, by Peter Jackson cemented our aspiration to become filmmakers.

As we grew into adulthood, we dreamt of contributing new visions to cinema. We founded Five Knights Productions and, in 2012, took a back-packing trip to Scotland seeking inspiration. There in the highlands, the vision of the KIN Fables cinematic universe revealed itself to me, and alongside Benjamin as a co-director and cinematographer, we created three short films: *Kin*, *Salvage*, and *Requiem*. These served as the stepping stones towards our ultimate goal, the debut feature film, *The Stolen Child*. The three-year journey to produce these short films relied on our personal funds and successfully executed crowdfunding campaigns. Benjamin's recognition with a Best Cinematography award at the 2012 Fantasia Film Festival illuminated a promising future.

In the summer of 2016, however, a year after the trilogy's release, I experienced the profound loss of my brother Ben and my best friend, to suicide. His last words to me were to continue to create magic with film. His motto 'Dream, Rise, Ignite' has become my guiding force and the mission to complete this cinematic journey has been my dedication ever since.

This film is both for me and for him in honour of our brotherhood and our profound love for the stories that shaped our childhood. Truly, it is my deepest wish to create the best fantasy film since *The Lord of the Rings*. Indeed, it is more than a film to me. It is a heartfelt dedication to the magic we created together and a commitment to the realization of dreams by telling stories that aim to awe and inspire.

Q: And how would describe this particular story destined for the big screen and why the title *The Stolen Child*?

A: The title actually comes from a poem by W.B. Yeats which is about a Faery taking a child into their world in order to escape pain and suffering. And this is a fantasy film with a minimalist approach. It is a fable drawing from Celtic, Irish and Scottish folklore, the threads deep, ancient, and intertwining. It tells of the loss of innocence and the passage from childhood into adulthood. About embracing vulnerability, protecting the Sacred, and facing our shadow-selves. I want to tell a story where these ideas run through the mind of a child. In this case, a young prince set to inherit a kingdom he does not feel ready for.

For although it is a very personal film, the message is universal. Namely that although we all grow up, we must protect the child within. For this to resonate, I'm using the language of myth. That of knights, faeries, and the Wilderness. I present a world where fallen angels wear masks, horses speak, enchanted swords sing, and Death is kept at bay with dance. The aims of our film are to create a visceral and atmospheric experience. Something daring, enthralling, and truly never before seen. Those kind of films that make you cry, without you ever knowing why.

Q: Without necessarily giving too much away, how would you summarize the story of *The Stolen Child*?

A: In an age where Humans and Fairies coexist, tragedy strikes the Human Realm when its King and Queen meet an untimely death. Their young son, now the sole heir, faces the daunting task of ruling a kingdom teetering on the edge of collapse. Overwhelmed by grief and fear, the child's plight moves the Faerie Queen, who compassionately spirits him away to the Faerie State, to preserve his innocence. Yet, this well-meaning act unwittingly deepens the crisis in the Human Realm.

And as the balance between the two worlds crumbles, a unique band of heroes emerges. The Poet, The Knight, The Horse and The Fae Princess who, united by a common cause, embark on a journey to locate the lost Prince and restore him to his rightful throne in hopes of rekindling the equilibrium between the Human and Faerie worlds.

Q: In which 'worlds' will you be filming and why?

A: The story will take us across Canada's diverse landscapes literally from coast to coast and always with a reverence for nature. From the stark, limestone barrens of Newfoundland - backdrop to humanity's environmental recklessness as 'The Wastelands' - to the lush and vibrant rainforests of Vancouver Island, depicting the last bastion of Nature in the Faerie State. It is a narrative juxtaposition that underlines one of our film's central themes. Namely, the urgent need for environmental stewardship to restore humanity's morality and spirituality.

We will then be flying to France where the fabulous Mont St. Michel serves as the castle home of the young prince who is at the heart of this tale and who ultimately travels from the Faerie State to the Human Realm, carrying saplings symbolizing hope and the potential for ecological restoration and a chance for humanity to rekindle its lost connection with nature.

Q: In this regard, when filming on Vancouver Island, will you be involving the local indigenous peoples?

A: Most definitely and, in what we would like to call Partnership and Alliance, we will work closely with the Tla-o-qui-aht and Ahousaht First Nations there. It is a collaboration that will extend beyond mere consultation,

however, as we aim to actively involve these communities in our production process, including casting and art department, while offering workshops and mentorship opportunities, particularly to the youth. The Warrior Program Fund, part of Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, is a good example of a program we are interested in partnering with as, in essence, our aim is to ensure a meaningful cultural exchange and empowering the next generation of indigenous artists and environmental stewards.

Q: As a celebrated painter and illustrator, how does this impact upon your actual filmmaking?

A: My love for the visual arts runs deep and I envision every frame as a canvas. For I firmly believe that within the singular frame of a film lies the power to transcend the viewer's intellect and resonate within the recesses of the unconscious mind. This truth is particularly poignant in the Fantasy genre, where tales of Good and Evil, light and darkness, beauty and horror intertwine, echoing the timeless narratives we've grown up with. Fairytales, myths, and legends that form the cornerstone of our collective human experiences.

I am also thrilled to have such a distinguished and most talented Canadian cinematographer as Kristo Brandl as part of our creative team. He is most noted for his latest work with Denis Villeneuve on *Dune 2* (second unit), as well as the feature film *Falcon Lake* directed by Charlotte Le Bon which premiered in Cannes 2022.

Q: How long will shooting take, what follows that, and how do you feel about the coming months?

A: We envisage three months starting in October and ending in December with two weeks in studio in Montreal. Post production will take about a year and much of it will be done at Cineworld with me editing most of the film myself.

As to how I feel, let us just say it is very daunting but a privilege and great opportunity to bring a new and bold vision to cinema. And I am so lucky to be well surrounded by a great team of over 100 people and have the support of so many faithful fans. And yes, we will be organizing a very special screening in Hudson. That's for sure!



Liam takes time out of 3D to smell the flowers.

LIAM THE WRITER

Mentioned above in the role of co-writer of the script and plot development of *The Stolen Child*, Liam is also a multi-faceted wordsmith, painter, greeting card creator, law student, and passionate gardener. And this is not his first joint creative endeavour with his brother Sebastian. For he is the author of his recently-published first ever children's book. Exquisitely illustrated by Seb and coffee-table size, it is titled *The Moon's Daughter* and its raison d'être is to raise funds for the Pure Art Foundation's One School for All program that sponsors the education of children in Pucallpa, Peru. And I have to tell you, it is truly a work of art for an excellent cause.

Q: So how did this all come about?

A: The vision behind this collection emerged in 2013 as a series of six illustrations accompanied by a short story. But in light of its success and the community's appreciation for the project, it became an annual launch with a new story and illustrations every year. All conveying messages of love, unity, perseverance and hope.

In 2018, the collection culminated with its final chapter, and the plan to compile all five together began and we are so pleased that the book will continue to support the Foundation's initiatives which have since expanded to encompass health, women's empowerment, education, sustainability and shelter. And one day, I hope to give voice to the cast of characters

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Greenwood StoryFest

2024

www.greenwoodstoryfest.com



CAROL OFF

At a Loss for Words

mar | oct | Tues., Oct. 1 | 19:30

Théâtre Hudson Village Theatre



DAVID O'MEARA

Chandelier

Mar 8 oct | Tues., Oct. 8 | 19:30

Théâtre Hudson Village Theatre



RICK MOFINA

Someone Saw Something

mar 15 oct | Tues., Oct. 15 | 19:30

Centre créatif Hudson Creative Hub



WHIT FRASER

True North Rising

mar 22 oct | Tues., Oct. 22 | 19:30

Centre créatif Hudson Creative Hub



ELIZABETH RENZETTI

What She Said

jeu 7 nov | Thurs., Nov. 7 | 19:30

Centre créatif Hudson Creative Hub



MARC GARNEAU

A Most Extraordinary Ride

jeu 14 nov | Thurs., Nov. 14 | 19:30

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Where You Are by Kristen Da Silva

reviewed by Kathryn Lamb

Walking to my seat for the Village theatre's production of "Where You Are", I was suddenly face-to-face with the summer cottage of my dreams! Buttercup yellow with white trim, red geraniums in the flower box, a lovely verandah and even a lighthouse on a distant point! I was already in heaven. And the quiet entrance of one of the actors, to tweak the décor before the action began, just added to my anticipation.

Where You Are, is written by Kristen Da Silva (author of *Beyond the Sea*- HVT summer 2023) and directed by Ellen David, winner of many accolades as both an actor and director, at the Segal Centre, the Centaur, Theatre Lac Brome and Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre.

The setting is Manitoulin Island, an idyllic island on Lake Huron, close to where the lake joins Lake Michigan and Lake Superior, and the play is a story about the relationship between two sisters in mid-life, who live together, not always idyllically, on a family property.

Glenda (Nadia Verucci), a widow and a church-goer, is the quieter sister, who makes and sells jam to supplement their income. Suzanne (Jane Wheeler) is the wilder one, a party girl and drinker, who threatens the farmyard poultry that insist on waking her up earlier than she would like.

Both sisters are fond of Patrick (Matthew Fletcher), their younger neighbour, a "good guy" and a vet. His endearing mix of bravado, obsessive-compulsive mannerisms and clumsy vet-jokes creates excitement and

laughter whenever he comes by. A gift box from Patrick that the sisters believe to be chocolates turns out (after they have eaten a few) to be bath beads.

Next to arrive is the fourth player in this family drama. Beth, Suzanne's daughter, arrives to spend some (hopefully) quality time with her mother, but Beth and Suzanne's relationship has always been fractious.

There is a local wedding to attend, and for Beth, a hilariously miniscule black dress to be squirmed into, along with a pair of 3-inch black stilettos. The stage is now set for some fireworks. In addition, there is a secret that the sisters are keeping from Beth, which of course must eventually come out.

This play explores the complicated issues that can surface in family relationships, even in the presence of love. Sister to sister, mother to daughter, this play is a sensitive

investigation into the havoc we can inflict upon each other, when we are insecure, unfulfilled or fearful. The acting was skillful, very believable and I confess here to attending the play with my own sister. Although our story is not their story, we both agreed that the scenarios rang true. The dialogue is clever but very human, and the jokes, although sometimes a bit corny, were nevertheless profound.

The lighting (Timothy Rodrigues with Kevin Conforti, technical director) enhanced the gorgeous set by Jonathan Brooks, and costumes, (including the aforementioned black dress) were the creation of Louise Bourret. The music (Ian Klempan) wafted through the story, subtle but familiar at the same time, and the play ends to the strains of "Make Your Own Kind of Music" accompanied by with a cameo appearance by Sparky the terrier, whose paw I was lucky enough to shake at the reception following the show.



(Fabulous Falcons, continued from page 1)

introduced to falconry when we came across a wounded Broad-Winged Hawk in the wild and called Carl Millier, President of the Quebec Falconry Association at the time, who explained we could not keep it, but could take the necessary courses to learn the art of flying captive birds. Which we both did and became falconers.

Q: How many birds do you currently have?

A: We have had many raptors over the years comprising Gyr and Peregrine Falcons as well as Red-Tailed and Harris Hawks and right now we currently have two male Red-Tail Hawks and two females.

Q: I believe that they all have their custom designed summer and winter residences. Why is this so important? You also mentioned you landscaped your extensive property in part to accommodate them. Why and how?

A: The aviary that the birds rest in during the off season is an important structure for care through the winter months. For while they are adapted for our cold winters, they must be protected from the wind and have enough space to fly freely within the structure for exercise. What we call the weathering stations are screened in outdoor areas where they can rest in good weather - Summer and Fall - tethered to bow-perches and ready to fly. The back yard has a large circular area where the birds can train and fly freely to the glove on our arm for exercise. We can also walk with them in our forest through a technique that we call Follow-ing-on where the birds travel with you through the trees, once fully trained and confident.

Q: Why do you also keep the males and females separate year round?

A: Because they can be competitive for food and it is best to keep them alone. But always within eyesight of each other for companionship if possible. Each bird is registered and banded and tracked by the Ministry of Natural Resources. In fact, they can visit your aviaries at any time and annually certify your birds in ownership.

Q: On average, what is the life span of birds of prey such as yours?

A: They can live up to 25 years in captivity. Free from other predators, environmental changes

and disease, they are long-term companions. That being said, they can, sometimes escape which has happened in the past since they are not pets and do not return home if lost.

Q: What are their specific traits, needs, and characteristics?

A: Birds of prey overcome their natural instinctive fear of man for only one reason. For food. They are trained at an early age to 'fly-to-the-glove' for this through a lengthy and gradual process called 'manning'. They learn to fly on a creance which is a long light rope tied to their leather anklets called jesses until they consistently return to you. Again for food. Once trained, and the falconer is confident, they can be set free to fly.

Q: Apart from the obvious - because they do have wings - how do they actually fly?

A: Falcons tend to fly vertically, up and down from the sky. Hawks tend to fly horizontally through the trees. But both require large open spaces and lengthy flights to stay healthy and assume their natural need to fly! However, we chose not to hunt with our birds. Instead, we feed them everyday with chicks and quails on a regular basis and clean their aviaries constantly to keep them healthy. We believe you can, through time, develop a special bond with the birds. Hard to explain. But it is a very humbling experience to spend calming time in their presence. For us, it is like a meditation with hawks!

Q: What are their favourite foods or snacks and is there a natural abundance on Rigaud Mountain and environs?

A: I would like to stress that we do not fly our birds for the purpose of hunting. We are not hunters. However, when flying free, they can also surprise you and catch a small rodent, squirrel or snake and the like if they see one in the forest.

Q: How do you train them to fly free and then return, what does this involve, and how often do you actually release them?

A: You can release your bird when you have re-trained it, and they are a quick study after the initial manning period, each spring. Once you are certain they are ready to fly, you lower the weight by a few grams, to ensure their return to the glove during the Fall flying season. When flying, you weigh your bird every day. For example, while males are smaller, it may weigh 900-1000 grams. You can fly your bird several times before you notice it is hesitant to return and then you tether it on the next flight. If by chance, it is too full and flies away then you can track it with the antenna it wears on its anklet for up to 7 kms. An interesting experience, if need be, but hopefully not often!

Q: Is there an Association of fellow enthusiasts in our neck of the woods and, if so, what is it, what is their membership, their mandate, and do they meet occasionally or on a regular basis and for what purpose?

A: Yes, the Quebec Falconry Association, a wonderful group of enthusiasts which has a solid

membership here in the area and they can be reached at: <https://aqfa.org> You can learn to be a falconer and do not even need to own your bird. Highly recommended if you are serious about learning more about the art of falconry!

Q: Flying trained birds of prey dates back centuries, not only to Medieval England, but in many cultures around the globe. Correct?

A: Indeed. There are references to falconry throughout the world dating back to the 7th Century B.C.. It was in the Middle Ages, however, that supplementing their diet transformed the relationship between man and bird with symbiotic cooperation leading to the dramatic applications of today's principle of falconry. Which, by the way, and knowing that you personally experienced Dupuytren's Contracture because of Viking genes in your DNA from long ago but now successfully corrected, was also an art shared by Vikings!

Q: Falconry aside, you, Brigitte, all your five sons, and supported by so many local volunteer residents over the years, are obviously synonymous with Pure Art here in Hudson and in Peru. A: Thank you for the opportunity to explain the humanitarian journey that our family has taken on over the past 15 years. We have spent these many years visiting the Amazon jungle town of Pucallpa Peru, where we have built what is known as the Pure Art Hub of Hope, through the help of many local volunteers here in Hudson and surrounds. A community here, building a community there!

Our latest initiative is the building of a new community centre, 'La Cancha', providing a safe, secure, multi-functional structure for such uses as promoting recreational activities for children, health campaigns, as well as women's empowerment programs. And it is our largest funded project yet!

The www.pureartfoundation.org is a registered Canadian Charity, designed to help reduce poverty via real-world, durable goals. Namely education, Health, and sustainable programming. Through the efforts of our local donors here and profits of the Pure Art Fair Trade Boutique, which covers operating expenses of the foundation, we maintain an enduring 100% giving model whereby all of the donations go directly to the families in need since all administrative costs are picked up by the boutique. It's a model that works and we have been blessed to have had inspiring support from our friends of Pure Art at both the original location in the heart of Hudson at the Legg's building for 10 years and more recently at our new location at 132 Chemin de l'Anse, where our clients can also enjoy a fair trade coffee and scones from Norah Café on the front lawn overlooking the Lake of the Two Mountains. The café, incidentally, is owned and operated by our good friends Carl and Lise Millier and family. The very same Carl who introduced us to falconry all those years ago. What's more, the café name and logo 'Norah' is that of Lise's kestrel, the smallest of all falcons!

Story...full circle!



Monday at the Movies, Season 19

by Clint Ward

It doesn't seem like all those years have gone by since the Hudson Film Society filled the screen with Deepa Mehta's wonderful film *Water*. Of that film, the late Roger Ebert said, "The film is lovely in the way, Satyajit Ray's films are lovely and the best elements of *Water* involve the young girl and the experiences seen through her eyes."

It was the kind of 'special' film the Society strived to present over the intervening years on the Hudson Village Theatre screen. 2024/25 will be no different and the selection of the first three films seems like a good start for the challenge of matching the Film Society members strong acceptance of last season's cinema adventure.

Just a reminder that the Film Society features the best of Canadian and International films. So what better source would be the 5 Oscar nominated International Films. The new season begins with 2 of them. First up is an entry from Japan which strangely was written and directed by the famous German filmmaker Wim Wenders and he titled his wonderful film, *Perfect Days*.

The film premiered on 23 May 2023 at the 76th Cannes Film Festival, where it competed for the Palme d'Or and won the Prize of the Ecumenical Jury and the Best Actor Award for Koji Yakusho. It was nominated for the Best International Feature Film at the 96th Academy Awards, becoming the first film directed by a non-Japanese filmmaker to be nominated as the Japanese entry.

Right after the COVID precautions eased, Wenders was invited to Tokyo to observe The Tokyo Toilet, a project in which Japanese public toilets were redesigned in 17 locations throughout Shibuya with the help of 16 creators invited from around the world. Wenders was invited to see the uniqueness of each of these facilities. At first, the producers envisioned him making a short film or series of short films about the toilets, but he opted for a feature film, explaining that the conception of the film's character Hirayama felt like new territory for him. The film was shot over 17 days in Tokyo.

Perfect Days takes inspiration from the style of Japanese director Yasujiro Ozu. The minimalist approach to

storytelling, the focus on ordinary life, and the 4:3 aspect ratio of the film are all nods to Ozu. Also, the name Hirayama comes from a common character name in Ozu's films (*Tokyo Story*, *An Autumn Afternoon*).

Hirayama works as a public toilet cleaner in Tokyo's upscale Shibuya ward, across town from his modest home in an ungentrified neighborhood east of the Sumida River. He repeats his structured, ritualized lifestyle every day, starting at dawn. He dedicates his free time to his passion for music cassettes, which he listens to in his van to and from work, and to his books, which he reads every night

before going to sleep. Hirayama is also very fond of trees and spends time gardening and photographing them.

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 96% based on 179 reviews. The critics consensus reads, "An absorbing slice-of-life drama led by a remarkable Kôji Yakusho performance, *Perfect Days* adds a quietly soaring gem to director Wim Wenders' estimable filmography. A critic described the film as Wim Wenders' lifetime masterpiece. Another wrote, "With furious ease, Wenders succeeds in making a rather perfect film. The Guardian called *Perfect Days* "Wim Wenders's best film in years," praising the film for being "as much a manifesto as a movie...advocating not just a new way of looking, but of a new way of living." Kôji Yakusho's performance drew acclaim for his ability to "convey an extraordinarily rich interior life, almost entirely without leaning on dialogue." September 16 on the Village Theatre screen.

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Monday at the Movies,

Continued from page 7

Another top 5 Oscar nominated film, **The Teachers' Lounge** will be the October 21 entry for **Monday at the Movies**. It was nominated to compete for the Panorama Audience Award at the 73rd Berlin International Film Festival, where it had its world premiere on 18 February 2023.

Released to critical acclaim, the National Board of Review named *The Teachers' Lounge* one of the top five international films of 2023. The film was created in three years, beginning from when the idea was made and was shot in 27 days at a disused school in Hamburg that was scheduled to be razed.

Carla Nowak, a dedicated sports and math teacher, starts her first job at a high school. She stands out among the new staff because of her idealism. When a series of thefts occur at the school and one of her students is suspected, she decides to get to the bottom of the matter on her own. Carla tries to mediate between outraged parents,

opinionated colleagues and aggressive students, but is relentlessly confronted with the structures of the school system. The more desperately she tries to do everything right, the more the young teacher threatens to break.

A smart and provocative modern parable with the heart of a thriller, *The Teachers' Lounge* brilliantly uses its setting as the backdrop for a look at how quickly even tight-knit communities can be destabilized. October 21 at the Hudson Village Theatre.

November is the month of remembrance, and the selected film is **The Great Escaper**. As well as remembrance for world conflicts and sacrifices it is also an opportunity to celebrate the end of the careers of two British acting icons.

The film is a 2023 biographical comedy-drama starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson. It is based on the true story of 90-year-old British World War II Royal Navy veteran Bernard Jordan who "broke out" of his nursing home to attend the 70th anniversary D-Day commemorations

in France in June 2014. It was a story we all tell ourselves to make war and old age bearable.

The bitter-sweet script explores reality with wit and a very big heart. Bernie's adventure, spanning a mere 48 hours, also marked the culmination of his 60-year marriage to Irene and it celebrates their love without sentimentality and with an eye to the lessons we can all learn from the Greatest Generation.

The Great Escaper gains added resonance thanks to a pair of stellar and career final performances from Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson.

Look forward to more thoughtful and exciting films in the remaining months of the Hudson Film Societies'



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The Diaries of Adam and Eve, by Mark Twain

Adapted, edited and directed by Steve Walters

Reviewed by Kathryn Lamb

A beautiful breezy afternoon on the lawn at Greenwood, blue skies, drifts of flowers.

Possibly not the original Garden of Eden, but close enough. It was a perfect backdrop for The Diaries of Adam and Eve, created by the great humorist Mark Twain (1835-1910). This tale, the Hudson Players Club's annual presentation of Theatre on the Lawn at Greenwood, was adapted, edited and directed by the very talented and dedicated Steve Walters.

Twain's version of the creation myth, ostensibly a "translation" of ancient writings, is a quirky re-imagining of how it might have been for the first couple as they gradually gain consciousness about who they are, where they are, and how things might actually work in this new and amazing place.

God may be present somewhere, but he doesn't make an appearance here. Adam is a quiet, noncommunicative type. Eve, on the other hand, is curious. She questions everything, gives names to things she observes, and tries to figure out how things work. Her explanation for the moon moving through the night sky is "The moon got loose - it should have been

fastened better." You can see she is struggling with concepts, trying to make sense of what she sees and feels. And she talks about it, talks non-stop, which drives Adam, who is used to solitude, a little nuts.

As Eve discovers new concepts - distance, thorns, flame, it is truly delightful to watch. She tries to talk to the animals, but only the snake talks back. Despite Adam's warning, she is persuaded to eat the apple, and, of course, bad things happen. The animals attack each other, and suddenly the concepts of fear and death are present. It is paradise no more, but has become the world that we know. And yet there still may be an up-side. Adam and Eve become closer, become a team, even find love.

This rather fantastical retelling of an ancient story is part hilarious spoof, part deep wisdom, part a re-asking of dangerous questions such as "what if", "how come" and "why not". Mark Twain is known for having deep respect for the intelligence and strength of women as well as general disdain for conventional religion. We see both in this script.

The roles of Adam and Eve, played



beautifully by James Berryman and Vickie Kuchlein, follow the pair through first encounter, initial irritation (on his part), gradual acceptance then finally to love. She is always the stonger, more positive partner, but Adam, to his credit is won over.

The highlight turns out to be the miracle of birth as young Cain and Abel (Derryk and Oliver Berryman) arrive to complete the family and steal the show! Even the rain gods cooperated, and it was a very special evening.

Greenwood StoryFest 2024, continued from page 1

At a Loss for Words: Conversation in the Age of Rage, delves into the altered meanings of six words – freedom, democracy, truth, woke, choice and taxes – along with the consequences of society losing a shared political vocabulary. (Tuesday, Oct. 1, Hudson Village Theatre, 19:30)

David O'Meara has published five collections of poetry and has won the Archibald Lampman Award four times. He is the director of the Plan 99 Reading Series, which has been inviting the best in Canadian literary talent to Ottawa for 20 years with many of the events held at the Manx Pub that he owns. He visits StoryFest with his debut novel, *Chandelier*, about a young woman and her divorced parents when all three are facing critical junctures in their lives. (Tuesday, Oct. 8, Hudson Village Theatre, 19:30)

StoryFest next welcomes **Rick Mofina**, the award-winning, best-selling author of more than 30 crime fiction and thriller novels with upwards of two million copies sold in 30-plus countries. His new thriller, *Someone Saw Something*, has a news

anchor desperately searching for her missing young son in a real page-turner. (Tuesday, Oct. 15, Hudson Creative Hub, 19:30)

Journalist and broadcaster **Whit Fraser**, who is also the spouse of Mary Simon, Canada's first Indigenous governor general, will share from his book, *True North Rising*. It details his 50-year journey with the Inuit and Dene leaders who transformed Canada's North. (Tuesday, Oct. 22, Hudson Creative Hub, 19:30)

Elizabeth Renzetti's award-winning journalism reflects her passionate advocacy for gender equality. In *What She Said*, the former *Globe & Mail* columnist explores the most pressing issues facing women in Canada. As in her book, she will share keen insights at StoryFest with her signature humour and heart. (Thursday, Nov. 7, Hudson Creative Hub, 19:30)

StoryFest 2024 concludes by welcoming **Marc Garneau** with his résumé as a retired Canadian Navy officer, former astronaut, former federal cabinet minister, as well as Canada's former minister of Foreign Affairs. He will be at StoryFest to

discuss his memoir, *A Most Extraordinary Ride: Space, Politics, and the Pursuit of a Canadian Dream*. (Thursday, Nov. 14, Stephen F. Shaar Community Centre, 19:30)

Elizabeth Renzetti
Photo by Stephanie Cameron



Parrydise, continued from page 3

who live in my head, each with a story to tell.

Q: Meanwhile, and with all these artistic arrows in your quiver, you have been pursuing professional studies as a budding lawyer at McGill University for your upcoming Quebec Bar exam in September. Could you please elaborate?

A: I graduated from McGill Law with a joint degree in Civil and Common law in December 2023 and, since January this year, I have been studying for the Quebec Bar. During my studies, I have worked as an assistant to a Montreal immigration lawyer who practices solely in refugee law and I still help her with cases here and there while I study for the Bar. In fact, we have an appeal to the Federal court I will be helping with in the coming month.

Q: Why did you decide to perhaps become a lawyer?

A: I applied to McGill because of a long-standing interest in human rights and the belief that the rule of law can help protect people, communities, and the environment from abuses of power. This is why I was so grateful for an opportunity to work with a refugee lawyer after my first year at McGill, and have continued working with her ever since.

Q: You are actively involved in the Pure Art Foundation writing the Foundation e-newsletters and Annual Impact Reports. Why is this also so important to you?

A: It is also for these same reasons that I so admire my parents' work with the Foundation and help wherever I can. For its work is about helping less privileged people empower themselves and that was the same push factor that propelled me into the study of law. I make greeting cards from my watercolours that I currently sell at Pure Art and on my Etsy shop. This summer, I have also been collaborating with my aunt Dominique Larocque who is a 'butterfly ranger' for the David Suzuki Foundation's Butterfly Way project. I have been creating watercolours depicting the monarch and the milkweed plant it so crucially depends on for survival and these illustrations will be part of an outdoor exhibit during les Journées de la Culture in Val-des-Monts, Quebec, later this Fall.



Renault creating new worlds on his computer.

RENAULT THE ANIMATOR

A graduate from the 3D Animation and CGI program at Dawson College in 2019, Renault has since carved out a strong track record for himself in the video game sphere, VFX also known as visual effects, prop modeling, as well as feature animation and is making a vital and significant contribution to *The Stolen Child*.

Q: For the uninitiated such as myself, and in a nutshell, what does 3D and all this entail?

A: 3D art, often called CGI, Computer Generated Imagery, refers to the use of computer software to create visual content such as images, animations, and special effects. It is widely used in movies, video games, advertising, and virtual reality. In essence, CGI involves generating images or sequences that are entirely made with computers.

In film and VFX, it's used to create realistic characters, creatures, environments, and effects that would be difficult, expensive, or impossible to film in real life. For example, CGI is used to create dinosaurs in movies, epic space battles, or even entire virtual worlds. Character and prop modeling are also specific aspects of the CGI workflow, focused on creating detailed 3D models of characters and objects to be used in digital media.

Q: In addition to *The Stolen Child*, I believe you have also worked for some internationally-renowned studios and video game producers.

A: Yes, I worked for Warner Brothers Games on the video game *Gotham*

Knights and I was also part of the VFX team working on *Dune* and *Fast and Furious 9*. Besides that, I also worked as a character modeler for the animated film *Ladybug & Cat Noir: The Movie*.

Q: How excited are you to be working with your brothers on this new film and what is your specific role?

A: It's been an absolute pleasure working with Seb on *The Stolen Child* for over two years now and I was in charge of the previsualisation of the film. Often called Previs, previsualisation is the process of creating 3D animations to plan and visualize complex scenes in films before production begins. It helps directors and teams explore different creative ideas, camera angles, and scene compositions efficiently. Beyond this I also modeled various props, such as weapons and armour, to be 3D printed and used in the film.

Q: You obviously have a very busy schedule with the film but any new projects in the works?

A: Absolutely. Sam, Liam and I are working on creating a 3-5 player medieval strategy board game in which each player must attempt to build the most influential kingdom, either through war, politics, or economy. It's still in very early stages but we hope to launch a crowdfunding campaign sometime in early 2026.

(continued on page 12)



Sam considering his next move on his Camelot Kingdom chess board.

SAM THE CHESS MAN

(continued on page 12)

"Twelfth Night"

Hudson Players Club Shakespeare by the Lake in Jack Layton Park

reviewed by Kathryn Lamb

If music be the food of life, play on!

Good advice from William Shakespeare himself, as "Twelfth Night", his 1602 romantic comedy, took over the amphitheatre at Jack Layton Park for several performances last July.

This production, by the Hudson Players, was ably directed by Raymond Yust. The evening was lovely, a good temperature, and despite the expected periodic interference from boat launchings, overhead planes and ghetto blasters, this tale succeeded in transporting us from the banks of the Lake of Two Mountains to Illyria, on the coast of the Aegean Sea.

The story begins with a shipwreck. Twins Sebastian (Konstantine Malakos) and Viola (Samantha Cicchino), are separated during the wreck, each thinking the other has perished. Bill Fletcher, a seasoned actor, plays Orsino, the local duke, and Fiona Chandler is the Countess Olivia, whom he is courting.

Viola, in order to survive, has disguised herself as a boy named Cesario and finds work with the duke. He proceeds to use her to try to woo Olivia, but she is not interested, in the duke at least. At this point, in true Shakespearean form, the plot goes sideways. The story proceeds through situations of mistaken identity,

miscommunication, unrequited love, real love and a certain amount of malicious high jinks to an eventual entirely satisfactory conclusion.

In a side plot, Malvolio (Steve Walters), Olivia's steward, suffers intensely from love fantasies towards his mistress, thereby becoming a defenseless target for other servants who delight in making fun of him. Feste (Simon Cote), Maria (Jennifer Wade) and Fabian (Genevieve Grenier) taunt and harass him, make him wear ridiculous clothing and even get him imprisoned.

The costumes and music were fairly current- including a rather drunken version of "Never Going to Give You Up" which was hilarious. And the plot, although very much of its time (1600's), and male-dominated, did have a few intelligent women. Viola, as Cesario, manages her survival quite skillfully, and Olivia is no pushover. The Duke's views on women, however, are pretty naïve, and he can't understand that any woman could withstand his love and passion.

His rather lightweight courtiers, Sir Toby Belch (David Fisher) and Sir Andrew Aguecheek (Jean-Frederic Samson), were well played, and added to the general mood of a rather riotous Twelfth Night party, which maybe was exactly the point.

The younger actors, Ash Samson, Gabriel Grenier McDemott, Louis Friedland Yust and McKenna Hayden, were all good in their roles, and it is very satisfying to see a younger generation developing skills within the ranks of the Hudson Players Club. Kudos as well to Peter Garbacz, Stage Manager and James Berryman, Technical Director.

It was a great evening, and a lovely locale. I felt fortunate to be there.

Ash Samson as Antonio thanks Konstantin Malakos as Sebastian for saving him from drowning and tells him he loves him deeply.



Dave Fisher as Sir Toby Belch, Jean-Frédéric Samson as Sir Andrew Aguecheek, Genevieve Grenier as Fabian and Jennifer Wade as Maria discuss how they can trick their victim, Malvolio.



Parrydisse, continued from page 10

In addition to being an extremely talented graphic designer, illustrator and card creator, since the summer of 2023, Sam has set his sights on becoming a chess master having just returned from competing in the 3rd Annual Vankleek Hill Open U1600 section where he tied for first place. And his next big goal is to play in the next Canadian Open in the U2000 section.

Q: When, at what age, and why did you first become interested in chess?

A: I first became interested in the game when my father taught me when I was around seven years old. Growing up, I would often play with him and also my four brothers, especially Seb. It was always a fun side hobby for me. However, about two and a half years ago, I wanted to learn more about the game and study it more seriously. I began playing online, watched educational videos, and started to play more competitively, slowly growing my skill and knowledge of the game.

Q: What fascination, does it hold for you?

A: There are many aspects of chess that inspire me. I love how the game is a battle of ideas between two minds. How it is a turn-based game with no luck component that combines logic, space and time. How even the smallest decision can drastically alter the game and change the story you and your opponent are writing together on the board.

Q: As an occasional chess player myself, I know that the board and pieces reflect a battlefield of two opposing armies fighting to capture their respective kings. As one of the 5 Knights in your family did this play any part in your initial interest in the game?

A: Haha, yes of course! I have always been interested in medieval history, so I definitely think that has influenced my passion for the game. Chess has many similarities to actual medieval military tactics such as prioritizing control of the center of the battlefield and defending the flanks of your army so as to not allow your opponent's pieces to infiltrate your back ranks.

Q: How often do you practice and against whom?

A: If I am preparing for a tournament, I try to practice for at least a few hours a day. I also play against other players on chess.com or in person at The Montreal Chess Players Club.

Q: In addition to Vankleek Hill, what are some of the other tournaments you have competed in to date and with what success?

A: I only started playing in OTB (over the board) tournaments last summer and I first competed in the 2023 Quebec Open in the U1400 section and tied for third place. I then just recently played in the 2024 Canadian Open U1600 section where I performed decently with a score of 4.5 out of nine games. But winning a tournament like Vankleek Hill really encourages me to continue my chess journey and see where it takes me next.

Q: It has been reported in the media recently that there is growing interest in chess among youngsters of all ages throughout Canada. Any thoughts on why this is?

A: I think the Netflix series The Queen's Gambit played a major role in this. I also think there has been an interesting crossover with people who enjoy video games, since online chess has become more widespread. The skill ceiling in chess is so incredibly high, and I think that aspect of the game draws in people who like to challenge themselves by continuously growing their skills and knowledge of the game.

War Memorial Library Shop to Stage Multi-faceted Art Sale

Donated works will be on display at the Hudson Community Centre on October 5

By James Parry

The Hudson Community Centre will be transformed into a veritable art gallery this October when the War Memorial Library thrift shop - affectionately known as The Bunker - will host its extremely popular annual Art Sale with original framed paintings and prints by local, national and international artists that will simply amaze you.

All have all been generously donated to The Bunker so as to raise funds not only for the Library itself but also for the many charities that it supports year round.

In addition, there will be an exciting collection of silver and gold jewellery on display. Again, all for sale and with all the proceeds going to the same cause.

So whether you are looking to decorate your new home, apartment, or condo with terrific artwork at unbeatable prices, or just add to your exist-



Ben sparkling as The Lightkeeper

BEN THE LIGHTKEEPER

No story on the McKinnon brothers would be complete without mentioning Ben, a most talented cinematographer, who passed away far too young on August 12, 2016. Known to his family as The Lightkeeper because his art collective enterprise just before he decided to leave was called The Lightkeepers, I had the distinct pleasure of working with him and Sebastian in Newfoundland when I was cast as a fisherman in Salvage, the second of the KIN Fables trilogy. He was a most gentle soul, a great team player, and a good friend. And he is still missed by so many today!

ing collection, the Hudson Community Centre at 394 Main Road is the place to be on Saturday, October 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. And on a personal note, a little tip. Don't leave it too late in the day to make your arrival. These paintings go fast!

Cash and debit cards are accepted and for more information contact (450) 458-4814 or wmlbunkershop@gmail.com.



September 2024 Events

PorchFest Hudson, HUDSONPORCHFEST.CA

Saturday September 14th, 2024 9 am, all through downtown Hudson

Cardinal Microbrewery Events, CARDINALHUDSON.COM

Live music every weekend, plus an ongoing program of comedy nights, trivia and tasting events - see website for details

Special Events

September 20th to 22nd, Hudson Oktoberfest

Hudson Creative Hub, HUDSONCREATIVEHUB.ORG

September 14th, Hub Market 10 am to 3 pm

September 15th, Hub Harvest Event, 1 pm to 3 pm

September 21st, In Conversation with Clint Ward with guest Dick Irvin and George Athans 7 pm to 9 pm

Village Theatre, VILLAGETHEATRE.CA

Friday, September 6th at 7:30 pm and Saturday September 7th at 2 pm, Bowser and Blue

Monday September 15th at 2 pm and 7:30 pm, Hudson Film Society "Perfect Days"

Saturday September 21st at 8 pm, The Santana Experience Persuasion

Hudson Film Society, HUDSONFILMSOCIETY.CA

Monday September 16th, "Perfect Days" at Hudson Village Theatre, 2 pm and 7:30 pm

October 2024 Events

Greenwood Centre for Living History, GREENWOODCENTRE.ORG

2024 StoryFest

Tuesday October 1st, 7:30pm, Carol Off at the Hudson Village Theatre

Tuesday October 8th, 7:30 pm, David O'Meara at the Hudson Village Theatre

Tuesday October 15th, 7:30 pm, Rick Mofina at the Hudson Creative Hub

Tuesday October 22nd, 7:30 pm, Whit Fraser at the Hudson Creative Hub

Hudson's Annual War Memorial Library "Off The Wall" Art Sale

Saturday, October 5th 10am - 4pm

Stephen F. Shaar Community Centre 394 Main Road, Hudson

Hudson Creative Hub, HUDSONCREATIVEHUB.ORG

October 12th, Hub Market 10 am to 3 pm

October 15th, Greenwood StoryFest Rick Mofina at 7:30 pm

October 22nd, Greenwood StoryFest Whit Fraser at 7:30 pm

Hudson Artists, ARTISTESHUDSONARTISTS.COM

Friday October 18th, 7 pm to 9 pm, Saturday October 19th, 10 am to 5 pm and

Sunday October 20th, 10 am to 4:30 pm

Hudson Artists Fall Exhibition at the Community Centre

Village Theatre, VILLAGETHEATRE.CA

October 23rd to November 3rd

Shirley Valentine by Willy Russell, directed by Heather Markgraf

Monday October 28th at 2 pm and 7:30 pm, Hudson Film Society "Teachers Lounge"

Hudson Film Society, HUDSONFILMSOCIETY.CA

Monday October 28th, "Teachers Lounge" at Hudson Village Theatre, 2 pm and 7:30 pm

Cardinal Microbrewery Events, CARDINALHUDSON.COM

Live music every weekend, plus an ongoing program of comedy nights, trivia and tasting events - see website for details

November 2024 Events

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca

October 23rd to November 3rd

Shirley Valentine by Willy Russell, directed by Heather Markgraf

Saturday November 9th at 7:30 am and Sunday November 10th at 2 pm

J.S. Bach's Long Walk in the Snow

Friday November 15th at 8 pm, Seb and Jess, Rock N Blues

Monday November 18th at 2 pm and 7:30 pm, Hudson Film Society "The Great Escaper"

Hudson Creative Hub, hudsoncreativehub.org

November 9th, Hub Market 10 am to 3 pm

Thursday November 7th, Greenwood StoryFest Elizabeth Renzetti at 7:30 pm

Cardinal Microbrewery Events, cardinalhudson.com

Live music every weekend, plus an ongoing program of comedy nights, trivia and tasting events - see website for details

Greenwood Centre for Living History, greenwoodcentre.org

2024 StoryFest, continued

Thursday November 7th, 7:30 pm, Elizabeth Renzetti at the Hudson Creative Hub

Thursday November 14th, 7:30 pm, Marc Garneau at the Hudson Community Centre

Hudson Film Society, hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Monday November 18th, "The Great Escaper" at 2 pm and 7:30 pm at Hudson Village Theatre

Monday at the Movies. Become a member - see website for details

December 2024 Events

Hudson Creative Hub, hudsoncreativehub.org

December 14th, Hub Market 10 am to 3 pm

Hudson Film Society, hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Monday December 18th, "Living"

Monday at the Movies. Become a member - see website for details

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca

Don't Forget the Panto

