

Island Arts Centre Society

ARTSPRING news



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April 14, 1912

DOOM, GLORIOUS DOOM

by George Sipos

It has been a long time since Aristotle posed the question of why it is that when we go to the theatre we get the deepest satisfaction from watching tragedy.

His answer was that we see human suffering planted firmly in a universal context which allows us to understand it as being bigger than mere pain and partaking in something noble. We leave invigorated rather than downcast.

He had more to say of course, but that's the gist.

The echoes of Aristotle's insights reverberate to this day, and we have two opportunities to hear them in a modern context as ArtSpring presents two evenings of superb theatre over the next few weeks by some of Canada's finest young theatre companies.

The first production (March 31, April 1 & 2) is an evening of two one-act plays by a rising star Canadian playwright, Hannah Moscovitch. The evening is presented by 2b theatre, an exciting company from Halifax. The highlight of the show is *The Russian Play*, a brilliantly acted tragedy of misplaced love seen through the filter of the dark fate we have come to associate with the classics of Russian literature. It is a brilliantly staged and acted performance that Aristotle would surely have approved.

The Russian Play is paired with *Mexico City*, an earlier script by Moscovitch. This play is in a much lighter and much funnier vein, featuring a bickering Canadian couple on holiday in Mexico.

Later in the spring (April 20 & 21) we present tragedy in a different guise. The play *April 14, 1912*, presented by Toronto's Theatre Rusticle, transports us to the fateful night the Titanic hit its iceberg.

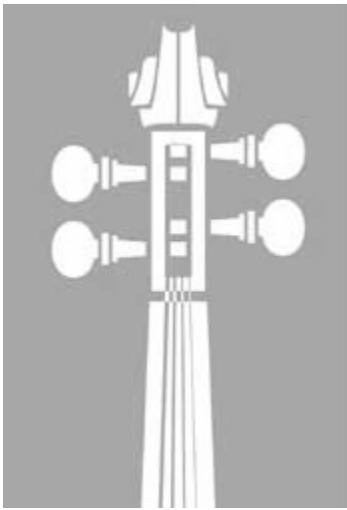
Two male actor/dancers play the telegraph operators on the ship, while a female dancer dances the role of the ship itself. With an icy and ethereal set, and lighting effects that won the company a Dora Award for best lighting design of any Canadian play in 2008, we are transported to the eerie north Atlantic. The combination of dramatic narrative, dance, and beautiful music creates an unforgettable experience.

I highly recommend both these evenings to you. They are classical theatre at its best tempered by a modern sensibility. All the emotional and moral power of the greatest theatrical tradition is here intact.

Tickets to the three performances of *Mexico City* and *The Russian Play* and the two performances of *April 14, 1912* are available now from the ArtSpring Ticket Centre – 537-2102.



The Russian Play



Thank you George

We have just wound up the fourth year of George Ehring's famous music appreciation course, and it was a big success once again.

Exactly 101 people (just like the Dalmatians) attended the seven-week long course

spanning a wide range of classical music styles in their cultural, historic and human context.

For many years, George offered this course in his home for a small circle of friends before bringing it to ArtSpring for a wider audience. Throughout these four years George has offered his time and expertise completely free of charge, for which we are most grateful. The modest tuition fees have all (except for the cost of cookies and juice) gone to support ArtSpring's programming.

Barring the unforeseen, we plan to offer George's next variation on the course again in early 2011.

Masterpiece Weekend

For the second year in a row, ArtSpring is working in cooperation with the Salt Spring Fine Art group of galleries to present a visual arts extravaganza on the weekend of June 18-20.

Each of the commercial galleries in Ganges selects the most extraordinary work from among the Salt Spring artists they represent to create a three day exhibition in our galleries.

Last year the Vancouver Sun ran a competition with a weekend on Salt Spring (including tea with Robert and Birgit Bateman) as the main prize, resulting in art lovers coming from Vancouver, Victoria and farther afield. They used the Masterpiece Weekend exhibition as a springboard for exploring the diversity of art produced here.

Watch for publicity for this year's event and check the website (www.saltspringfineart.com) as we get closer to the date. It's like visiting the Tate Modern without having to go through customs.

Salt Spring Chamber Music Festival



This July marks the third year of our Chamber Music Festival, bringing together a distinguished international faculty with a dozen or so young musicians from BC and farther afield.

Violist David Visentin, no stranger to Salt Spring, will again be Artistic Director. Other faculty will include violinists Hiroko Kagawa and Kai Gleusteen, cellist Paula Kiffner, and pianist Catherine Ordreaneau.



We anticipate drawing students from Victoria, Vancouver, Ontario, the US, and of course Salt Spring. Which leads to an important request:

We need billeters for our students for seven days, between Sunday, July 18 and Saturday, July 24. In addition to providing one or two young musicians with a bed to sleep in, billeters ideally provide some transportation to and from the music venues, as well as breakfast and a few evening meals. This year ArtSpring is able to provide a \$50 honorarium to billeters to help defray costs, plus of course complimentary tickets to the concerts.

Please contact George at 537-2125 or george@artspring.ca if you can help with this important component of our festival.



10TH ANNUAL
ARTSPRING
**TREASURE
FAIR**

Take it Away!

It's that time of the year again! Time to donate to the ArtSpring Treasure Fair! Help us celebrate a decade of donations. Yes, this is the 10th anniversary of the Treasure Fair.

This year's theme is "Up, Up and Away, Take it Away": lighten your load by letting us take away any items you no longer need or want.

Even if you don't have a work of art or an item of furniture to offer, you may be able to donate your time and expertise. Perhaps you could donate a free piano lesson, dog obedience class, a sailing lesson, gourmet cooking class... or teach a fellow islander to milk a goat or shear a sheep. Or, maybe you can help us illustrate our theme by offering a scenic flight around our island? There are countless ways you can help the ArtSpring Treasure Fair meet its fundraising goal this year.

To make a donation, please call Nighean Anderson at 250-931-0931.

Mark July 15-17, 2010 in your calendar and come out to this special event. In addition to the Live and Silent Auctions there will be a Cash 'n Carry room for immediate sale of items under \$50.

Help make our 10th anniversary "A Perfect 10"!

Victoria Collegium 2010

The first year the bright young musicians from the enrichment programme of the Victoria Conservatory of Music set off to play a concert for us at ArtSpring, they were driven back by snow. Last year they made it and gave us a lovely afternoon of chamber music. Now we're bringing them back again for more of the same.

On Sunday, March 28 at 2:30 pm Victoria's pick of the crop will present another great concert of music for piano solo, for string quartet, and trios and duets of various instruments. One thing that will be a constant is the very high level of musicianship in these fine young players.

You will again get to hear the Divertente Quartet, who have become familiar to us from their participation in the last two July Salt Spring Chamber Music Festivals. And there will be a feature appearance by our own wonderful cellist Rylan Gajek.

Tickets are only \$ 12 for adults and \$5 for youth.

Improvements All Around

You know the old story about the European tourist who's asked what he thinks about Canada and replies: "I think it will be very nice when it's finished."

Sometimes ArtSpring feels like that. We keep adding improvements, only to find yet more that could be done to make everyone's experiences here happier.

We hope you have now noticed the new lighting by the path from the lower parking lot so that it's no longer an obstacle course to enter the building at

night. And a new gravel pathway along Seaview Ave leading down from the upper parking.

We have also just installed new ceiling lighting in the multi-purpose gallery, changing from low-wattage spheres to high-output metal halide lights to give the painters and weavers and others better visibility as they create art. Goodbye Rembrandt, hello Matisse.

The theatre too has acquired three new ceiling house lights courtesy of Marv

Coulthard who donated all the student fees from a 12-week long technical course he has been teaching to this project.

And thanks to a generous grant from the Salt Spring Foundation we have now replaced all our worn-out microphone stands and mic cables (so there should be no more marine radio signals picked up by our sound system).

Yes, it's getting nicer all the time. What next?

We love Canada Post, but . . .



You have no doubt noticed that the cost of mailing a letter has gone up again.

Well, it's like death and taxes. However, this is perhaps a good time to remind you that if you give us your e-mail address you can help ArtSpring save quite a bit on printing and postage if we can get our messages to you electronically.

We promise never to give your e-mail address to anyone, and to use it ourselves only to send messages to you that pertain to ArtSpring activities we think you will be interested in knowing about.

If you would like to ensure that we have your current e-mail on file, please send a short message to Elizabeth in the Ticket Centre (Elizabeth@artspring.ca) and she will verify that our records are up to date.

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