

ARTS CORNER: Culture Days are back in Burnaby



During Culture Days, Shadbolt visitors can view an open rehearsal of 2011 artist in residence Daelik Hackenbrook and MachineNoisy's new dance work *Tempus Fugitive*.

Contributed photo

By [Sher Hackwell - Burnaby NewsLeader](#)

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Living on the beautiful west coast at times leads to a disconnect from the rest of the country—though most often, we're not complaining. In the arts world however, this separation can be more apparent. Fortunately, to the rescue is Culture Days, a coast-to-coast celebration of arts and culture in communities across Canada. In its second year in British Columbia, Culture Days showcases free hands-on arts activities and performances the weekend of Sept. 30-Oct. 2.

Culture Days' mandate is simple—"to raise the awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement by all Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities. Every individual, regardless of age, background or experience, has the right to access and participate actively in the arts and cultural life of their community."

After all, not only does Canada's arts and cultural sector contribute to the economic and social development of its communities; it contributes to the overall well-being of its citizens as well.

From culinary arts in Swift Current, Saskatchewan where participants will learn the surprisingly complex art of making speciality coffees to experiencing the art of filmmaking in Kingston, Ontario, by producing a short flick, provinces are enthusiastically on board. Each province has its own volunteer Culture Days Task Force formed of key stakeholders in the local arts community. Arts Umbrella's Lucille Pacey holds the position of B.C.'s chair, and other key B.C. arts figures, including Greater Vancouver Alliance for Arts & Culture's executive director Amir Ali Alibhai and Scott Walker, the Professional Arts Alliance of Greater Victoria's coordinator are also helping out.

Burnaby is pulling together a dynamic weekend of family fun including seven activities in the Deer Lake cultural precinct. Options include experimenting with "horse hair" and "naked" Raku glazing techniques with ceramic artist/instructor Linda Doherty and viewing an open rehearsal of 2011 artist in residence Daelik Hackenbrook and MachineNoisy's new dance work Tempus Fugitive, premiering at the Shadbolt Centre Oct. 12-15.

Visit culturedays.ca and you can search by region, category or even plan an interactive "Brightspots" schedule for the three-day arts and culture extravaganza. Affordable, accessible art activities for all.

- *Sher Hackwell is a marketing coordinator at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, 6344 Deer Lake Ave.*