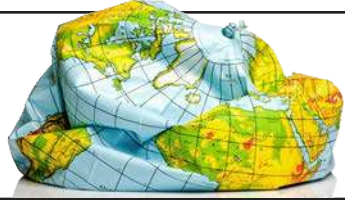


THE GRIND

PG.9 NEW MAYOR,
SAME OL' CITY



CLIMATE
ACTION! **PG.12**

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023, ISSUE 6, VOL 1

FREE



WHO IS LOUIE SANCHEZ?

PG 14

+ EVENT LISTINGS

CROSSWORD
SUDOKU & COMICS

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The Ontario government stripped protections from the Greenbelt to give a gift worth over \$8 billion to its developer friends.

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LETTERS

I'm a visitor from Bangalore, India. I chanced upon a copy of *The Grind* (Issue 5) in the TTC. I found the articles absorbing. The write-up on mayoral candidates, "The Mayoral Race," was good. The efforts of Ben Lines and Arif Ansari in preserving the fabric of music from the past, in "Connective Tissue," are commendable. I wish *The Grind* a bright future.

AMEI CHANDRASHEKAR, BY EMAIL

I was happy to see a new city print paper on the street. Congrats. I will make one observation (re: Issue 5). As a person in their 70s, I am yet again disappointed to view a well-intentioned popular media publication that has a (perhaps unconscious or maybe systemic) bias that is essentially ageist. The visual aesthetic (photos) skews young. Late teens, early 20s, 30s. For a leaning left publication in particular this is disheartening; there are lots of potential readers from my generation that might be interested in the general political slant of *The Grind*, but why is it not more populist in its look? By populist I mean "supporters of the rights and power of the people." Not some people but all people in a community, and that would include elders. And while we are at it, how about younger people?

DAVID FERRY, BY EMAIL

Makes me so happy to walk into my local coffee shop and be able to grab *The Grind* for my morning reading. Hope this city can help keep our new alt weekly alive.

BRETT STORY, @BRETTSTORY ON TWITTER

Congratulations to *The Grind* for its Summer issue. Very informative.

ISABEL INCLAN, @INCLAN2 ON TWITTER

Editors' note: in July, we published an online-only article, "OPINION: Olivia Chow's Troubling Start as Toronto's Mayor," by our editorial director, David Gray-Donald. It brought out strong reactions from readers. Here are a few:

I was expecting certain leftists to be even more insufferable after Chow won, but I didn't expect them to be insufferable towards her.

RAMSEY KILANI, @RAMSEY_KILANI ON TWITTER

They're playing their position. Pressure Chow from the left. That's the only way things work.

DAN, @DANFMTO ON TWITTER

This is some real glass cliff stuff right here. Maybe we give her a year on the job at least? Better yet, how about one full term. Not sure why some on the left think Chow can undo 12 years of austerity in a single night, this isn't a hallmark movie.

GIULIO CESCATO, @GIULIOCESCATO ON TWITTER

🔥 "Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie and Councillor Shelley Carroll announced that the city would ban asylum seekers from accessing the city's shelter services due to a funding squabble with the federal government. That was not Chow's doing – but it is a decision she has stuck with."

CATHY CROWE, @CATHYACROWE, ON TWITTER

Really appreciate David Gray-Donald's opinion piece on Olivia Chow's first few days as mayor. We need more critical leftist voices like this in town.

BRYANT THOMPSON, BY EMAIL



LAURA PROCTOR

ABOVE: TTCriders organized an unofficial fare-well ceremony for the Scarborough RT on Aug. 23, outside Ellesmere Station.

COVER PHOTO BY FELICE TRINIDAD

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 READ MORE
ONLINE

Olivia Chow before heading into City Hall on her first day as mayor.



DAVID GRAY-DONALD

Editors' Letter — A Rare Opportunity

The switch from summer to fall is underway, and that means the city is *buzzing*. School is back in, and event calendars are absolutely packed.

For example, Venus Fest is back this year for the weekend of September 21 to 23. Saturday's headliner Louie Sanchez is on this issue's cover. Eirene Cloma, a.k.a. Louie Sanchez, is a multi-instrumentalist singer/songwriter who is queering harana songs (Filipino-style serenades).

This is *The Grind's* sixth issue, and in addition to our news section, we've been steadily beefing up our event listings as well. There were zero events in our inaugural issue in October 2022, 10 in our second, then 46, then 70, then 195 last issue. There are over 300 September and October events listed in this issue, including music, theatre, literary, visual art and more. Head to pages 18 to 21 to check it out!

There is also a lot happening politically.

The summer, of course, started off with a mayoral election. In a crowded field, two candidates pulled away from the pack. Buoyed by backing from the NDP establishment and a strong showing in advance voting — and despite a weaker day at the polls — Olivia Chow narrowly won out over Ana Bailão. Bailão had the backing of much of the Liberal Party, and endorsements from the *Toronto Star* editorial board and conservative ex-mayor John Tory.

The Grind was maybe the only city-wide print publication to endorse Chow. We warned that Bailão would only continue Tory's legacy of helping the rich pay low taxes while city services such as transit, waste collection and parks keep getting worse.

But our endorsement of Chow came with

a caveat: people shouldn't sit back and wait for positive changes to arrive, but should instead take this opportunity with a receptive mayor in office to push even harder. We should be even louder and bolder in our demands to fix the problems in this city.

Without that, it is too easy for a well-intentioned mayor to be pulled in the opposite direction by, for example, the city's powerful business lobby and by senior city staff determined to keep carrying out Tory's agenda.

Early credit is due, though. Many of Mayor Chow's new appointments of councillors to the city's various committees and boards look promising. For example, see TTCriders's positive assessment of the new TTC board on page 9. And after years of campaigning from many groups, the new mayor and council are pursuing new revenue-generating tools, including a parking levy, a vacant home tax, and more, though it looks like implementation will take a while.

Chow also announced the extension of service of public pools later into September, and improvements to TTC bus service frequency on a number of routes. She stepped in to delay Artscape from going into receivership and possibly ceasing to exist. That would be a huge loss, given the organization's importance in the arts community.

These changes came about not just because of a compassionate mayor, but because people organized and made demands about these issues for years — and because this mayor is more willing to listen and act in those directions than Tory ever was.

But now is not a time to let our guards down.

We were troubled to see Chow appoint former cop Jon Burnside to the police services

board, and by the lack of outcry. The city's finances are dire, and in recent years nearly every city service has faced cuts. That is, except the police, who have been showered in cash, getting a \$48-million budget increase this past winter. Appointing Burnside to the board is likely a guaranteed vote for whatever the cops want.

Chow has been critical of the police in the past, and the police association made ridiculous accusations this summer about how the new mayor didn't express her condolences when a police dog was killed while searching for a suspect. (The cops shut down busy downtown streets during a weekday to hold a memorial for the dog, because they can do whatever they want.)

So, maybe she was trying to make some peace with the police by appointing Burnside. But we should be critical of these kinds of decisions. If we want this administration to rein in spending on police, and redirect funds to services that better assist people in this city, we have to call this out and demand better.

For instance, on page 9, Jacob Pesaruk analyzes Chow's handling of the asylum seeker crisis at the beginning of her term, which saw many of them sleeping on downtown streets for weeks while the three levels of government argued over funding. But, as Pesaruk writes, the solutions lie in *how communities themselves* respond to those disputes in the future.

The not-so-hidden secret this summer was that many people have been taking matters into their own hands.

In our last issue, we took you inside the rent strikes in York South-Weston and Thorncliffe Park, with tenants unwilling to succumb to their landlords' huge rent hikes and renoeviction attempts. Since then, not only have some of these tenants emerged from the biased Ontario Landlord and Tenant Board victorious (page 11), but even more tenants joined them either in solidarity or by starting their own strikes.

And it's not just tenants.

Over 3,000 Metro grocery store workers at 27 stores went on strike this summer for a month, rejecting the insulting wages the employer offered (after eliminating the "hero pay" from the start of the pandemic). After rejecting an initial offer recommended by their union, Unifor, earlier in the summer, they won more substantial raises by the end of August.

This showed that workers are not willing to accept the poor conditions and low pay they've been told they have to live with for so long. Similarly, as of writing, TVO workers have been on strike, demanding wage increases after years lagging below the inflation rate.

And provincially, Housing Minister Steve Clark resigned after intense, unrelenting public pressure for his role in opening the Greenbelt to development, after investigative journalists and governmental watchdogs blew the lid off the story. (We have to acknowledge, though, that the new minister, Paul Calandra, who oversaw horrific suffering, neglect and death as minister of long-term care during the pandemic, may be even worse.)

This moment feels like one of growing consciousness, that while the rich keep stacking up dough (Metro's profits were way up, and TVO keeps adding high-paid executives), workers deserve better. More than that, we can demand better together, and we can win it together.

This issue marks one full year of publishing *The Grind*. It hasn't always been easy, but we're excited to keep at it, and to be with you for the city's next chapters.

#6

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
2023

THE GRIND MAGAZINE

 Issue #6
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
2023

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Before (above),
and Therme's proposed after (below).

ONTARIO PLACE DEVELOPER RE-PITCHES, TIFF PAUSES SPONSORSHIP DEAL

After widespread condemnation in Toronto, the Therme spa company and its architects at Diamond Schmitt presented a scaled back proposal in August for redeveloping Ontario Place. Therme is trying to win over people outraged about the scheme to bulldoze mature trees and privatize much of the area for an upscale spa. The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), also under pressure, said it was pausing its relationship with Therme as a sponsor of the festival, an arrangement first announced in 2021.

GREENBELT SCANDAL KEEPS UNRAVELLING

More evidence has come to light showing how upper levels of PC Premier Doug Ford's provincial government, including Ford himself, acted to remove Greenbelt lands at the request of housing developers, several of whom donated to the PC party. The RCMP has opened an investigation, and Housing Minister Steve Clark resigned in disgrace on Sept. 4.

The Ontario auditor general noted that "the owners of the 15 land sites removed from the Greenbelt could ultimately see more than an \$8.3 billion increase to the value of their properties."

Ford and then-housing minister Steve Clark apologized in August for a flawed process and put some lands back under protection, but Ford remains determined to open up large tracts of protected lands. Urban planning experts and the auditor general have stated that meeting the government's housing increase targets does not require removing lands from Greenbelt protection, as there are already enough other sites designated for housing in existing towns and cities in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

ARTSCAPE IN LIMBO

After the non-profit arts organization announced they were on the verge of financial collapse in late August, Artscape may live on after all. Artscape works with real estate developers and other interests to provide below-market studio space and apartments for artists in Toronto, so it was a big deal when they announced in August they couldn't make their loan payments and that one of their lenders was taking steps to put them into receivership. Receivership would effectively end the organization and put their assets up for sale so the lender could recover their money. Reporting by the *Globe & Mail* suggested TD Bank was likely the lender taking this action.

After public outcry from the arts community and beyond, Mayor Olivia Chow announced on Sept. 2 that, "With support from TD and the City of Toronto, @Artscape's receivership has been delayed for at least 30 days. We've also convened a working group that includes City staff and philanthropic, business and community leaders to develop a sustainable solution."

PHILLIP DWIGHT MORGAN



The view from the beach at Hanlan's Point, historically a safe place for the queer community.

Hanlan's Under Threat

BY CASS KISLENKO

This summer saw a drastic and concerning escalation of anti-LGBTQ+ hate at the historic queer space of Hanlan's Point Beach on the Toronto Islands. One video circulating on social media shows a pair of white men harassing beachgoers, with one threatening to "set you on fire while you're sleeping," as well as openly selling alcohol and cocaine.

Travis Meyers, co-founder of advocacy group Friends of Hanlan's, says this is part of a "disturbing trend of increased slurs and hateful attacks towards queer people" at the beach that has been worsening for several years.

These incidents are part of a serious surge in anti-queer hate nationwide: Reported hate crimes against LGBTQ+ people in Canada have more than doubled since 2020, figures that are believed to represent only 22 per cent of the actual number.

Earlier this summer a man targeted a University of Waterloo gender studies class in a knife attack that left one professor and three students injured. And now Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre, who polls suggest could secure a majority government in

the next federal election, has promised to "debate" the criminalization of gender-affirming care if elected. This echoes the rhetoric of far-right movements in the U.S. that have rapidly escalated what Toronto-based queer organizer Luna Chen calls "a genocide" against queer and trans people.

In response, Friends of Hanlan's hosted the first Hanlan's Homecoming on August 19. The event invited queer people of all generations to celebrate the iconic LGBTQ+ history of Hanlan's Point. Meyers says the estimated turnout was 1,400 people, and called the event "something really special." He said the group is working with new Mayor Olivia Chow in the hopes of putting up plaques officially marking Hanlan's as a queer space.

"She's a great ally," says Meyers. "She took the time to hear a century-long queer history lesson and has committed to working on solutions to keep the queer community safe and represented ... I'm looking forward to what we can accomplish together."

However, Chen says that the queer community can't rely on police or the city for long-term protection and advocates for building mutual aid and self-defence networks instead. "We need queer liberation to actually be safe," says Chen.

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ASSOCIATIONS



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NORTHERN FIRST NATIONS LEAD MARCH AGAINST UNWANTED MINING ON SEPT 27

Five First Nations from Northern Ontario, working together under the banner of the Land Alliance, are coming to Toronto for a march on Sept. 27. They have been calling on Premier Doug Ford to stop mining activities which are happening on their lands without their consent. Members of one of the Nations, Grassy Narrows (Asubpeeschoseewagong Anishinabek), have also been visiting Toronto for years for the Grassy Narrows River Run march, calling on colonial governments to clean up the tonnes of mercury that were dumped into their river decades ago and help the community deal with the toxic effects.

CANADA STALLING ON CAGE-FREE EGG SHIFT

Cages, which animal rights groups have long called out as inhumane, are still the norm for hens laying eggs in Canada and the U.S.

While a few corporations in Canada, such as Whole Foods, report they have gone cage-free for their eggs, Loblaws and several other retailers have backed away from their past cage-free commitments. These moves are entirely voluntary for the companies.

"Unfortunately, there's not yet a single law in Canada either federally or provincially that regulates welfare conditions on farms, including housing systems for hens," says Camille Labchuk, executive director of Animal Justice Canada. "We're working on this."

The European Union (E.U.) banned battery cages in 2012, one of the worst types of confined spaces for the chickens. "This led to most of the industry transitioning to cage-free housing systems," says Labchuk, citing it as a major win. But some of the industry shifted to "enriched cages," which aren't much different from the battery cages. There is now new legislation proposed for the E.U. to ban all cages from farming.

"The industry in Canada is moving away from battery cages," Labchuk tells *The Grind*, "but [nearly] all of the transition is going into enriched cages."

Some U.S. states are getting it right, she says. "Massachusetts and California both ban keeping hens in cages, as well as the sale of eggs within those states from hens housed in cages (i.e., from out-of-state farmers). They did this via ballot initiative, as these types of laws are deeply popular with voters."

Egg costs in Canada have been going up recently due to ballooning grocery store profits and oil industry profits (which affect every part of the supply chain), among other factors. Egg prices are slightly lower in Canada than in most E.U. countries which are subject to the battery cage ban, though egg prices are on average cheaper in Germany than in Canada, according to GlobalProductPrices.com.

COVID, RSV, AND THE FLU COULD SPREAD QUICKLY THIS FALL IN SCHOOLS AND WORKPLACES

Parents and children likely remember last fall for the awful triple-whammy of illnesses affecting communities. This fall, with people gathering indoors in larger numbers, could bring a repeat, health experts warn. COVID-19 is still a very serious illness (especially for immunocompromised individuals) and is circulating widely. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is as well, and of course, colder weather in the fall brings a rise in influenza, "the flu."

"We are expecting this fall to see a heavy respiratory virus season," says Toronto Public Health's associate medical officer of health Dr. Vinita Dubey. Findings are based on what's been happening in the southern hemisphere, as they've just gone through their fall and winter. Hospitals and doctors are bracing for the next wave, while also dealing with health-care underfunding.

People can protect themselves by following hygiene measures such as masking in crowded indoor spaces. Masking is especially crucial in places where immunocompromised people have to go, such as public transit, grocery stores and pharmacies. Hand-washing is also important, especially for avoiding the flu.

Flu shots will be available this fall, as will a new COVID-19 vaccine that protects against newer variants. Check with your local health authority, such as Toronto Public Health, for more info.

People can also protect themselves by advocating for better ventilation in indoor settings, as all three viruses can be transmitted by airborne droplets, and better ventilation can reduce the risk of getting infected.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF FACING EXTREME VIOLENCE IN CLASSROOMS, SAYS UNION

Ninety-five per cent of education support staff in Local 527 of the Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union (COPE 527) report experiencing violence while working at schools in the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board. The union reports that the number of violent incidents has been increasing, and that workers have taken to "wearing kevlar jackets, bite guards, and shin guards." In a survey, workers also told the union they are often discouraged from submitting incident reports. "Lack of provincial funding, critical staffing shortages, and limited access to mental health supports are all contributing to the crisis in our schools," the union writes in a statement posted to its website.

[Note: The Grind arts & culture editor's day job is with COPE Ontario. He was not involved in the writing or editing of this article.]

ELEMENTARY AND CATHOLIC TEACHERS IN POSITION TO STRIKE THIS FALL

Teachers in Ontario's elementary schools and in Catholic schools are going to be taking votes on whether to go on strike, as bargaining for new contracts with the province stalls. The Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) will take strike votes from mid-September to mid-October, and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) on October 18 and 19, according to their websites. "No progress has been achieved at this table on any key issue including salary, supports for special education, violence in schools, hybrid learning, benefits, or addressing the crisis of retention and recruitment in the education system," reads a statement from ETFO.

WHAT WE'RE READING ONLINE:

This summer, under pressure from corporate legacy media, the federal government introduced legislation to make tech companies such as Meta and Google pay fees for sharing news links. The tech giants responded by blocking news links and deactivating Canadian news publishers' accounts on a number of their platforms, including Facebook and Instagram. This means you're probably seeing a lot less news on your feeds. There's still lots of quality journalism being published online, so here we're sharing recent articles we've learned a lot from, focusing on smaller online publications. Check them out, sign up for newsletters, and bookmark some sites. We're going old school!

Tenant organizing played crucial role in stopping renovation at 1570 Lawrence Ave W

BY FERNANDO ARCE, MEDIA CO-OP

LTB sides with landlord to expedite AGI hearings, blindsides tenants

BY FERNANDO ARCE, THE HOSER

Energy Corps Reaping Super-Profits While Canadians Suffer

BY ADAM D.K. KING, THE MAPLE

Why Should We Care About The Political Leanings Of Hospital Board Members?

BY TERRA LOIRE GILLESPIE, THE MAPLE

Amazon donation to UofT follows 'greenmail' strategy of media companies

BY MARC EDGE, CANADIAN DIMENSION

Wages did not cause Canada's inflation crisis

BY MITCHELL THOMPSON, CANADIAN DIMENSION

I've Tracked Canadian Strikes For The Last Two Years. Here's What I've Learned About Strike News Coverage

BY EMILY LEEDHAM, PRESSPROGRESS

Precarious work took over the economy—but workers are fighting back

BY JASON FOSTER, THE BREACH

What needs to change in Canadian crime reporting (interview with Desmond Cole)

BY MATTHEW DIMERA, THE RESOLVE

Toronto Media's Uncomfortable Coziness with Police

BY JEREMY APPEL, THE ORCHARD

'This is our church': Why Indigenous fire-keepers want to spread their sacred flame across Toronto

BY CAMILLA FARAGALLI, THE GREEN LINE

First 100 Days (of Mayor Olivia Chow's Time in Office)

ONGOING COLUMN BY NEVILLE PARK, THE LOCAL



HOSPITAL PRIVATIZATION FIGHT CONTINUES WITH SEPT 25 RALLY

The Ontario Health Coalition, with 500 member organizations, is organizing a major rally to call attention to the ongoing privatization of hospital services in Ontario by Doug Ford's PC government. Ford underspent the health budget by \$1.7 billion last year, according to Ontario's Financial Accountability Office. This is happening, the Health Coalition notes, while nurses, doctors, and other professionals leave the public system and hospital emergency rooms close. At the same time, the province is signing long-term contracts with private service providers. The rally begins at Queen's Park at noon.

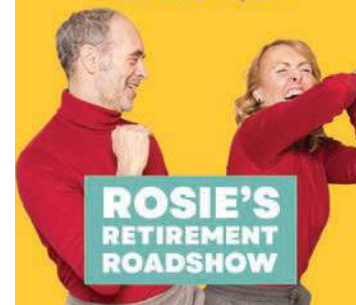
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The Grind covers the issues we're facing, and it's a window into Toronto's vibrant arts and culture scene.

In a city that isn't working for transit users, renters, wage workers, those in and out of the shelter system, and so many more, The Grind reminds us that a better city is possible and worth fighting for

We raised over \$11,000 from readers and signed up 25 new monthly donors this summer. Thank you! We need 25 more people to sign up as monthly donors in September, so we have stable funding through the many ups and downs of publishing.

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New TTC Board, Old Challenges

What can we expect from the new faces on the TTC board? We asked TTCriders executive director Shelagh Pizey-Allen what's up. Here's what she had to say:

The previous TTC board typically rubber-stamped directives from former mayor John Tory, and was generally unwilling to ask hard questions of TTC management.

But things could now change with members like Josh Matlow, who gained notoriety for criticizing city staff, and new Board chair Jamaal Myers saying a top priority is holding TTC management accountable for service reliability.

Myers was an activist before his election, worked for the TTC as a young person, and is a regular transit user in Scarborough. He will retain his role on the Toronto accessibility advisory committee, where he has lent his support to Wheel-Trans users who are fighting a change known as the "Family of Services," which could force some people with disabilities onto conventional TTC buses, streetcars, and subways for parts of their trips.

New Mayor Olivia Chow is not on the TTC board but appointed the members. She campaigned on reversing service cuts, and in August announced service improvements coming into effect this fall, including the restoration of bus service levels to 99 per cent of pre-pandemic levels by November.

The biggest obstacle remains the transit funding crisis and the TTC's reliance on fares. Mayor Chow appears to be making good on her pre-election promise to advance a commercial parking levy on big malls and box stores to create a long-term revenue source for the TTC. The city is also considering refusing to operate Eglinton Crosstown and Finch West LRTs (when they are finally ready to open), or negotiating on other provincial priority projects as bargaining chips with the provincial government in order to get adequate funding from the province.

LAURA PROCTOR



Jamaal Myers, councillor for Scarborough North and new chair of the TTC, attends farewell to the Scarborough RT, August 23.

FIVE INSPIRING TENANT ORGANIZING EFFORTS ACROSS THE CITY

All over the GTA, landlords keep raising rents, adding fees without improving services, and trying to push long-time renters out so they can jack up the rent. But many tenants are refusing to be pushed around for these investors' profits. Here are five of those stories that are giving us life!

Tenants Defeat Renovation Attempt at 1570 Lawrence Ave. W.

CORPORATE LANDLORD:

Lankin Investments (formerly Pulis)

Nearly 30 long-time tenants, many of whom cook and spend their holidays together, managed to stay in their homes after winning at the very landlord-friendly Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB)!

READ MORE in the Media Co-op: *Tenant organizing played crucial role in stopping renovation*

Ongoing Rent Strikes at 71, 75 and 79 Thorncliffe Park Dr.

CORPORATE LANDLORDS:

Starlight Investments, PSP Investments

Since May, more than 100 tenants have been on a rent strike to protest various proposed above-guideline rent increases (AGIs) ranging from 4.2 per cent to 5.5 per cent. The LTB sided with the landlord but tenants are not backing down.

READ MORE in The Hoser: *LTB Sides With Landlord To Expedite AGI Hearings, Blindsides Tenants*

Ongoing Rent Strikes in York South-Weston at 33 King St. and 22 John St.

CORPORATE LANDLORD:

Dream Unlimited

Facing high AGIs for about a decade, sometimes reaching over 20 per cent increases in rent, these tenants have been on rent strike all summer.

READ OUR coverage from the summer issue: *Rent Strikes!*

Tenants fight rent increases of \$300 at 3561 Eglinton Ave. W.

CORPORATE LANDLORD:

New Spadina Garment Industry

After the landlord issued rent increases of \$300, tenants at New Spadina have been meeting and upping their fight.

READ MORE from ACORN: *Tenant Speak-out at 3561 Eglinton Ave W — Stand Up to Slumlord New Spadina Garment Industry Corporation*

Rejecting new A/C fees at 140 Elm Ridge Dr. (Eglinton & Allen)

CORPORATE LANDLORD:

Sterling Karamar (Property management); Nubury Properties Limited (Building owner)

The landlord is trying to charge an additional \$150/month to use their existing air conditioners — which tenants have never had to pay before. Tenants are saying no way.

READ MORE about it in the Toronto Star: *A Toronto landlord is charging extra for A/C. Here's why these tenants are pushing back*


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ONLINE

Asylum seekers, mostly from African countries, were living for weeks this summer on the streets downtown, outside the shelter intake at 129 Peter St (corner Richmond St)



Crisis Averted?

The new mayor secured (some) federal funding for asylum seekers, but will the city repeat its old, bad habits with the shelter system?

BY JACOB PESARUK

When Olivia Chow took office as mayor on July 12, newly arrived asylum seekers were being forced to sleep on city streets as city council had stopped shelters from allowing them in as of May 31, as part of a funding conflict between the city and – primarily – the federal government.

After weeks spent living on concrete, and through numerous thunderstorms, the group living outside of the 129 Peter St. intake office and shelter received national attention. Administrators struggled to maintain composure under media scrutiny, and Mayor Chow publicly called for assistance from provincial and federal bodies.

On July 18, the federal government announced it would move \$97 million to Toronto, which it had previously committed to giving but hadn't actually transferred, to fund the shelter services for newcomers.

This had followed several weeks of government officials playing chicken with each other, seeing who would flinch first and pay out.

Almost immediately, after these funds were locked in, over 100 new shelter spaces were opened by order of the mayor, and city officials declared victory.

About a month later, Chow announced \$13 million in total funding from the province and city towards the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit, with the stated intention of helping people find homes. During the announcement, Chow called on the federal government to contribute an additional \$26 million to the province, as the city had already exhausted the federal contribution by May.

Housing advocates note that the program is difficult to access, as it operates on a case-by-case basis when securing subsidized housing for those who are unhoused or seeking asylum.

Community-based organizations have been managing the needs of the unhoused, including asylum-seekers and refugees, for years in Toronto, and have conducted themselves with the hope that assistance may become available, but never on the assumption that it will.

Francesca Allodi-Ross is the executive director of Romero House, a refugee assistance facility that helps administer transitional housing for refugee claimants in the city, and she has witnessed firsthand how fast the well of funding can dry up.

"That \$13 million is going to go very quickly given the current demand, and it's frustrating trying to deal with the urgency of the current situation surrounding these claimants, especially as it is going to start getting colder. These are problems that have been decades in the making," says Allodi-Ross, "and they require long-term solutions."

According to Allodi-Ross, the current state of the housing crisis has deadlocked potential refugee renters, as without any credit history or job experience, they are faced with little to no options in a harsh rental market.

As a result, representatives from Romero House made correspondence with Chow a top priority – before and immediately after she was sworn in as mayor.

"We've appreciated the city's collaborative approach to putting referrals to different organizations on their website to help people who are looking to donate," they said, adding that city council has also passed a motion endorsing a refugee reception centre, which would operate as a temporary intake centre while the city works on securing permanent housing for those it accommodates.

"So, we're hoping to continue conversations with the city about that and secure funding from the federal and provincial governments."

However, even with a direct line to city hall, Allodi-Ross remains concerned about how this refugee centre would be implemented – if at all – as the city's track record with large-scale housing facilities, such as COVID hotels, remains spotty at best.

"Our primary focus in terms of the larger picture, is a continued dialogue with the city for the refugee reception centre, in order to make sure that there is appropriate consultation with other organizations and other impacted groups," says Allodi-Ross.

Lorraine Lam, a community outreach worker, has been following the bouncing ball of municipal attitudes toward housing incentives, and justifiably, is concerned

about another "set-it-and-forget-it" approach to temporary housing.

"They're coming up with a quick fix solution to open up another big space, but haven't addressed what happens after. It's a part of the big question that I haven't heard more of. If the idea is to have centralized resources in one place, that's great, but where are these people going to go after?" says Lam.

So how can Torontonians make sure city officials address these pressing community needs, regardless of what's accessible in government coffers today?

For Lam, it's ensuring that the city does not revert to its old habits of focusing on the visibility of the issue, rather than on long-term remedies. "The city has prioritized visibility as opposed to upstream solutions, and I think we've seen that play out in many different ways," Lam says in reference to encampment clearings and rapid shelter programs.

Additionally, if bringing attention to bad habits isn't enough, Lam also believes the best way the community can keep the city focused on the task at hand is by striking their wallets, as opposed to their sense of duty.

"The fact of the matter is the economy, as it is more expensive to have people in shelters," says Lam. "The argument that I would put towards all levels of government, is that even if the official position is to not advocate for the unhoused, it's still more economically viable to build affordable housing."

Even with the steady relationship between organizations like the Romero House and the municipal government, the lingering fear that money can run dry remains a perpetual concern for Allodi-Ross and community institutions in Toronto.

"It's really draining work, to be on the frontline every day, talking to people who have nowhere to sleep. They're sleeping under bridges and in parks, and it's difficult to keep up morale in the face of that kind of hopelessness."

To see big changes, community workers and all Torontonians will have to make sure that the fire remains stoked underneath the feet of government powers, and ensure it never comes close to mere coals.

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Riot police outside 14 Division
on July 21, 2021.



NO CONVICTIONS FOR ENCAMPMENT DEFENDERS

Two years after Toronto police brutally evicted the encampment at Lamport Stadium, the six civilians facing charges related to the day's events were given "absolute discharges," meaning no convictions were entered and no conditions are required. Twenty-five trespass tickets were also withdrawn. Jazy Keiser gives her account of the drawn-out ordeal.

BY JAZY KEISER

Tuesday July 27, 2021, was the day I was assaulted by the police while I was peacefully protesting the eviction of homeless people from a public park. Thursday, Sept. 23 was the day I was arrested for my defence of the encampment.

My history with the Lamport Stadium encampment was fairly simple. I was part of a group called ALAB ("All Lawyers Are Bad"). One of the many branches of ALAB connected people experiencing housing insecurity with food banks. This is so they wouldn't have to carry their whole life across the city with them just to access food. We used our spare time to make that trip for them, allowing them to use their capacity elsewhere.

Over the harsh winter of 2021, I took it upon myself to make hot meals to deliver with our food bank deliveries. I also delivered hot meals to folks who weren't in our food bank program, but were in neighbouring tents or encampments. This is how I became aware of the Lamport Stadium encampment. It became somewhere I would regularly bring between 15 to 20 hot meals.

On July 27, at around 3 a.m., I got a text from folks who were concerned that police

were coming to the encampment. And like at Trinity Bellwoods and Alexandra parks previously, they were showing up with the intent to smash people's homes, and evict people with nowhere to go. So I got out of bed and arrived as soon as I could, approximately 4:20 a.m.

I let my boss know that I might be late for work and I braced myself for a stressful morning with a cup of tea. Around noon the police barrier had been established. Water and supplies were being passed over wherever nearby supporters were. Inside the fence area I was just trying to contain my anxiety. I imagine everyone felt the same.

The police were clearly mobilizing, and so in that moment we formed a human wall with a line of artfully decorated pallets we had painted at an art day a week earlier. These art pallets we stood behind were soon ripped out from our grasp by police officers. Behind them more officers brandishing police batons moved in to "dispense of the crowd." In my case I was shoved off of my feet and onto my back, picked up, then shoved again repeatedly. At one point when I was picked back up, I was hit in the face so hard that my N95 mask ripped.

We were being shoved into the tents and the belongings we were there to protect. The

police were using our bodies to destroy the encampment. We were assaulted and arrested until we had been moved all the way out of the park. At that point the police secured the park and set up a fence. People were evicted from their homes and their belongings trashed.

The protest moved to Toronto Police 14 Division to protest the arrest and charging of people who had been defending the encampment. People were being held at the police division. While we protested, the police assaulted us and pepper sprayed us there as well.

I remember waking up incredibly sore the next day, the pepper spray still burning like a sunburn on the back of my neck. I was covered in bruises.

You can imagine my surprise in September when I received a phone call from a friend informing me the police had blasted wanted posters across the city and that I was "wanted" for two counts of assaulting a police officer during the protest at 14 Division.

The authorities clearly wanted to pretend the eviction of the Lamport encampment never happened. But they thought they could intimidate the folks who were working with the encampment by charging us for the peaceful protest that followed the eviction at 14 Division.

They dragged us to jail and tried to impose inhumane bail conditions that would restrict our rights to attend peaceful protests. We fought those conditions in bail court from jail and won.

Then after years of dragging us through the legal system, walking the charges down to obstruction of "justice," Crown attorney Tania Monteiro and Judge Lucia Favret made an absolute mockery of justice during our plea deal proceedings.

When I requested to plead before a new judge, Judge Favret, who had been incapable of grasping the concept of pronouns versus honorifics, had a tantrum, in my opinion, but eventually had to let it happen. Judge Favret chastised our lawyers in public court and advised us that we may want to seek "better" legal representation. Monteiro yelled at me during this process as well.

When we finally were heard in front of a different judge, Judge Enzo Rondinelli, we pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice. Crown attorney Monteiro had no substantive or legal argument to support her conditions that I required "anger management" and probation supervision, and Judge Rondinelli threw out the sentence and conditions, adding that the Crown might count themselves lucky that this didn't go to court, and that the defendants were "outstanding community members."

We all left with absolute discharges. That felt like a major win, and vindication.

But ultimately what was the cost? Encampments went away for a while. The community built there was shattered, scattered to the wind and had to struggle to maintain itself.

I haven't gone back to volunteering. I felt quite defeated and, for quite a while the threat of a prison sentence was floating over our heads.

It's worth noting that other folks are keeping up the fight, because the issue of people being kept in poverty and having to live outside isn't going away. Groups like the Encampment Support Network Parkdale (which ALAB essentially joined), The Bike Brigade, and the legal team that defended us at the Community Justice Collective are worth supporting. I still hope that something good can come of all we went through.

KEVIN TAGHABON

Jazy Keiser



READ AND SHARE THE FULL ARTICLE IN THE BREACH

MIGRANT RIGHTS NETWORK



Stop blaming immigrants for the housing crisis

Instead of halting immigration, we should regulate the investors and developers driving and profiting from sky-high housing prices

BY SYED HUSSAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MIGRANT WORKERS ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE

Conservative Premier Doug Ford and a slew of pundits are saying a rise in immigration is causing skyrocketing home and rent prices.

But this isn't true.

The truth is that we need more affordable, social and public housing, and freezes on rental profits and rental increases. The massive price increase for housing is simply not proportional to the rise in demand nor to the increase in immigration. It's about the fact that investors and developers are able to set any price that they want and they are doing so unchecked.

While immigration and housing are connected, one is not causing the crisis in the other. Here's why.

1 There hasn't been a massive increase in permanent residents

Many politicians and pundits point to an increase in immigrants by pointing to the 431,645 permanent residents that were approved in 2022. But why this number? In 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Canada brought in 156,000 fewer permanent residents than it intended. To cover for that shortfall, approximately 50,000 more immigrants are being admitted in 2021, 2022 and 2023 than initially intended. This skews the data.

2 Many 'new' permanent residents already live here

Last year, about 45 per cent of new permanent residents were people who transitioned from temporary status. In other words, they were already living here. Their change in status would not affect overall housing demand.

3 Most newcomers are migrant workers, students and refugee claimants

Canada has seen a steep rise in the number of people who come as temporary migrants, however. There were almost 460,000 more temporary permits issued in 2022 as compared to 2018, an increase of nearly 63 per cent. This number includes migrant workers, students and new refugee claimants. New permits do not necessarily mean that there has been a net increase in population. While new people come, others leave, and some renew their permits in the same year they were first issued, meaning they get double counted.

4 Migrants are poor and are not buying homes

According to the 2021 census, 41.8 per cent of non-permanent residents live in poverty, as do 16.1 per cent of recent immigrants. That's far higher than the national average. Many of these workers — those in agriculture, fisheries, care work and more — live in employer-controlled and incredibly inhumane housing. Many of these workers are not even competing for rental housing, let alone buying a home.

5 Housing prices are rising far more quickly than population

Even if all new population growth is caused by immigration, the argument that immigration is causing housing prices to rise still doesn't make sense. The population increase in the last two years was 3.9 per cent, but rental prices shot up an astronomical 20 per cent. The benchmark price to purchase a home has also increased more sharply than the population has, shooting up 6.3 per cent in just the last year.

Real housing solutions would benefit everyone

Calling for a stop to immigration is not the solution to the housing crisis. Repressing immigration doesn't stop newcomers from entering Canada, it just means that those who do come have even fewer rights.

Real solutions, like freezing rental increases and ramping up production of public housing, would benefit everyone struggling with astronomical housing costs. They would also allow immigrants and migrants who do vital work like building and cleaning homes; growing, packing and delivering foods; and taking care of children, the sick and the elderly, the security to stay in the country with dignity.

Migrants in the country need more rights, not fewer, and that means permanent resident status for all. At actions across the country on Sept. 17, migrants and their allies will be calling for just that.

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TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

BY DAVID GRAY-DONALD

We already knew the climate was changing, but this summer of widespread wildfires, droughts and storms have really confirmed it on a gut level.

Whether you're doomscrolling or avoiding the news altogether, many of us feel stuck, and find ourselves uncertain about what to do.

Unpacking that dilemma is something my co-authors and I tried to do in the book *The End of This World: Climate Justice in So-called Canada*.

This article summarizes some of the key lessons we drew from long-time climate activists and from personal experience.

The book starts, though, by looking at how the story of Indigenous dispossession and climate inaction are deeply entwined in this place called Canada. After all, much of the oil and gas produced and consumed here is taken from Indigenous lands that were neither surrendered nor ceded by Indigenous peoples during the treaty-making process or in non-treaty lands.

The suppression of Indigenous sovereignty and rights has long been a strategy of the fossil fuel industry, enforced by their allies in government, to keep making money while polluting the lands, waters, and air.

Attempts to address the climate crisis in Canada need to centre this reality, as we build a better future. As we write in the book:

Attempting an energy transition without asserting Indigenous rights is simply greening theft, and it is doomed to fail. Indigenous knowledges and culture have invaluable lessons for how to live on these lands, knowledges that we need to move from economies of destruction to economies that repair lands and life.

We can diminish the power of the fossil fuel industry and move to renewable energies, while reducing inefficient and wasteful uses of energy.

Delay and Deny: The Fossil Fuel Industry's Playbook

The single biggest impediment to climate action both here and abroad is the fossil fuel industry.

It is no secret that the industry has known for decades about the devastating impacts of a rapidly warming climate, spending endless cash and using every trick in the book to direct attention away from their culpability and from the simple truth that we need to rapidly reduce fossil fuels production and consumption.

The industry has adapted its strategy over the years, first outright denying climate change and funding climate denial groups, then admitting it is real and putting forward bullshit proposals that will change hardly anything.

The Pathways Alliance, a new branding of the same old tar sands companies, plastered ads promising net-zero emissions all over TTC vehicles and sporting events, and is now under investigation for greenwashing by the Competition Bureau.

More recently, companies like Suncor and Shell have been walking back their earlier climate pledges, saying they are primarily in to produce more oil and gas and maximize profits.

Through it all, the industry tells us that it is our fault that we consume fossil fuels, despite the fact that with every decision we make, we are just about forced to consume them.

Politicians, by-and-large, take initiative to do the industry's bidding.

I remember attending a lecture Chrystia Freeland (then a Member of Parliament, now the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance) gave at the University of Toronto in 2015 before that year's federal election. She argued she would do a better job at getting the Keystone XL oil sands pipeline built than Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who had styled himself as a champion of the oil industry.

THE CLIMATE IS CHANGING, AND WE PLAY A ROLE IN HOW EXTREME IT WILL GET. SO, WHAT DO WE DO?



Soon-to-be Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was saying the same thing around then, telling Calgary's Petroleum Club in 2013 that his government would get pipelines such as Keystone XL built by introducing environmental policies, like a price on carbon, to secure social acceptance.

Since then, we have seen this strategy play out, with the federal and provincial governments (including the NDP in Alberta and B.C.) giving the industry billions of dollars in subsidies, hardly introducing any tough regulations, and trampling Indigenous sovereignty and rights. That includes police forces overseeing pipeline construction and crushing dissent through intimidation, arrests, and by repeatedly aiming guns at land defenders, as is the case with the Trans Mountain expansion and the Coastal GasLink pipelines to the west coast.

In Ontario, Doug Ford's Conservative government is expanding fossil gas consumption for electricity (see next page). He has also made it a lot harder to build renewable energy infrastructure like wind and solar.

The automotive industry and suburban real estate developers are also major forces pushing emissions up in Ontario. Expanding highways, building sprawling municipalities, and underfunding transit options are all ways they keep us car-dependent (even when we really don't want to be) and burning lots of fossil fuels.

And municipalities keep approving new fossil gas hook-ups to new buildings, when we should be moving towards electrification, both for respiratory health (fossil gas burned indoors is bad for you) and to reduce emissions.

At the same time that many of us are trying to reduce our emissions, those in power are keeping us stuck in highly-polluting ways of life that increase profits for oil and gas investors and drive up our cost of living.

WE CAN DIMINISH THE POWER OF THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY AND MOVE TO RENEWABLE ENERGIES, WHILE REDUCING INEFFICIENT AND WASTEFUL USES OF ENERGY.

Taking on the Climate Crisis

The point, however, is not to wallow in how bad things are, but rather to say that we can't wait on politicians, even those making nice-sounding promises, to deliver meaningful action. We need to apply pressure to make it impossible for politicians not to act, and to stop the industry from always getting what it wants.

How do we do that?

Thankfully, there are many people with years of experience trying to do exactly this, and a network of groups that we might call the "climate justice movement" chipping away at it. And that's where the potential lies.

Given where we are now and the need to build our movements, we were inspired while writing the book by the question posed by educator and organizer Paulo Freire: "What can we do today, so that tomorrow we can do what we were unable to do today?"

CLIMATE



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nearby so you aren't so car-dependent. You can join transit advocacy groups like TTCriders or neighbourhood associations and together push back against the sprawl agenda of real estate developers.

Maybe you are a parent whose community is under-served but over-policed. You can join efforts to defund the police and fund better services, including transit, with groups like Jane Finch Action Against Poverty and Showing Up for Racial Justice Toronto.

Or maybe you live in housing with bad cooling and heating and you know your neighbours are also fed up. You can together demand building improvements while also stopping rent increases, as tenant groups like the York-South Weston Tenant Union are doing, with support from climate group Climate Justice Toronto and anti-poverty organizers at ACORN.

Admittedly, there are some gaps in social movement infrastructure, especially in suburban areas and places where English isn't the first language. (Though there are some notable exceptions to this – like the Naujawan Support Network, which is organizing the Punjabi community in Peel to stop wage theft, among other issues.) There is a lot of potential for organizing in these areas.

3 This work is prefigurative

Building a healthy movement culture is ultimately also vital prefigurative work: we want the ways we work now to reflect, in miniature, the kind of relations in the world we are trying to create. Building the organizations and networks we need right now will involve sharing power, practicing collective healing, and navigating conflict together. These are all skills we will need on an even larger scale if we are going to live in a good way, in balance with each other and the Earth.

4 Seek out opportunities for training, mentorship, and developing strategy

Social movement work is hard, and it is worth seeking out ways to learn more and improve our skills. We can read articles and books, and attend (and bring people along to) trainings. Part of this puzzle is about building relationships between generations and between movements, including learning from elders who have been doing the work for decades.

THE STRUGGLE IS COLLECTIVE. WE NEED OTHERS TO INSPIRE US, CHALLENGE US AND CHANGE US.

5 Solidarity is a verb. Our liberation is tied up together

We're not going to win these changes just by having the right facts and analysis. Knowing the brutal history of colonialism is good, but holding that knowledge doesn't necessarily change anything. It is in the *doing*, in showing up and supporting various efforts, and not giving up when there are challenges.

The people of Asubpeeschoseewagong (or Grassy Narrows) First Nation have been demanding justice after a corporation poisoned their river with mercury, blocking logging on their territory in Northern Ontario for years, and now are saying no to mining without their consent in the Ring of Fire. People in Toronto and elsewhere have been supporting them, helping put on events, spread the word, and apply pressure on governments. Doing that work — and supporting it as we are able — is solidarity, and builds a path to our collective liberation.

David Gray-Donald will be hosting discussions around Toronto about the book The End of This World: Climate Justice in So-called Canada, with co-authors occasionally joining. The first will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 21 at Danu Social House, 1237 Queen St. W. Visit the Events page at btlbooks.com for updated info.

1 Join organizations, because you can't struggle alone

Syed Hussan, a long-time community organizer who directs the Migrant Workers Alliance for Change in Toronto, explained this principle in 2016, when many people in Toronto were being newly politicized around racial justice and other issues:

I see so many new faces, bright, powerful, fierce minds at public actions and I know that many of you aren't in organizations. I am writing today as someone who's been around barely a minute longer than you, to say that you must.

The struggle is collective. We need others to inspire us, challenge us and change us. Join existing organizations or collectives, change them if you hate them, or start new ones. Organizing [people towards collective action] is a skill set, it's not just a set of ideals, and those skills must be honed. There are no schools, and few mentors.

In my experience, individuals in organizations, affinity groups, and collectives remain politicized for longer, because we need a counter-balance to the rest of society's imposition of a very different truth. Part of what neoliberal capitalism and colonialism have done is individuated us. At best, we might have our nuclear family's support, or have a partner, but we are told we always have to look out for #1. ... At the same time, we are told, no one person can change anything, and so we find ourselves in a bind.

Here's the thing, one person can't change anything. But a few people, working together, in comradeship certainly can. If there is a hope in hell of us transforming our society, and building the kinds of worlds we want to live in, we need masses of people organized, disciplined and militant.

2 There are thousands of ways to get involved. What roles are you best positioned to play?

With all of the work that is needed, it can be hard to figure out where to focus your efforts. Think about your skills and interests, and what relationships and power structures you already encounter. Finding those intersections will help inform what you can do and where you can best use your power.

Maybe you live near major fossil fuel infrastructure and can connect with others in your community who are figuring out how to build alternatives. There are campaigns opposing gas plants, and there is a campaign to stop Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline from being replaced, which would continue bringing oil to Ontario despite objections from Indigenous Peoples on both sides of the border.

Maybe you bike and notice dangers to cyclists, like inadequate bike lanes and reckless drivers. You can join your local cycling association, or get involved in city-wide organizations like Cycle Toronto.

Maybe you live in the suburbs and see that you and your neighbours want better transit options and better services

MIKE MARRAH



ONTARIO INCREASING RELIANCE ON FOSSIL GAS FOR ELECTRICITY, EXPANDING TORONTO PORTLANDS FACILITY

BY DAVID GRAY-DONALD

Thirty-four municipalities in Ontario, including Toronto, have passed motions opposing the expansion of fossil gas-fired electricity in the province.

That isn't stopping the PC government from trying to override them.

In the midst of the climate crisis, many energy experts in Ontario are encouraging investments in energy efficiency, peak electricity demand management, and phasing out fossil fuel use. Experts are in favour of wind and solar (which are less costly than gas) paired with storage options such as hydro and, increasingly, batteries.

However, the Ford government's plan is to increase fossil fuel use and prolong the use of nuclear power.

They are planning to build new gas-fired power plants in Windsor and St. Clair Township, and to expand existing gas-fired facilities in several places, including on Toronto's eastern waterfront at the Portlands plant.

Around 400 health professionals signed a letter written by the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment this spring. The letter opposes the plan for heightened reliance on gas plants, saying it risks "accelerating the climate crisis and contributing to deadly air pollution."

In May, Toronto City Council approved a motion opposing the Portlands facility expansion. In June, council asked the Government of Canada to intervene by issuing Clean Electricity Regulations to stop the project.

However, those federal regulations won't go into effect until 2025 and will apply only to new projects, meaning they would not apply to the Portlands expansion and other gas plants infrastructure that will be built by then.

Alongside city council, environmental groups such as the Ontario Clean Air Alliance are encouraging people to push the federal government to enact regulations immediately, not in two years.

MEET LOUIE SANCHEZ

Get to know the artist
queering harana songs




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ONLINE

BY ROSIE LONG DECTER

If you're looking at the lineup for Toronto's Venus Fest, you might notice an unfamiliar name. Louie Sanchez is one of three performers on Saturday, Sept. 23, alongside CJ Wiley and Shannon and the Clams at this year's edition of the feminist music festival. Yet they have little public presence. There's no music on Bandcamp or Spotify, no videos on YouTube or TikTok. There is an Instagram account with just nine posts, and a link to a website that leads nowhere.

So, who is Louie Sanchez? Eirene Cloma is asking herself this same question. Cloma is a member of the Toronto-based Filipina music collective Pantayo. In Pantayo, Cloma plays guitar, bass and keys, and sings, as well as helping with composition and arrangements. As Louie Sanchez, the multi-instrumentalist is stepping out on their own, with a new style and a new name to go with it.

"I've been a solo artist since 2007, 2006, but I've never published a solo work," Cloma tells me. The plan for the project came during the early days of the pandemic, when Cloma was finishing a degree in horticulture. "Great, I know how to look at butter under a microscope and I know how not to kill my house plants," they joke.

They had a handful of old songs, written a decade ago, that they wanted to finally release into the world. Between 2020 and 2023, Cloma recruited a host of collaborators and recorded a four-song country EP. They are planning to release the EP in 2024 and a full-length album is in the works. Venus Fest will be their first performance as their alter ego. "I'm still figuring out who Louie is in terms of personality, even sound," says Cloma.

The name came after the idea for an EP. "So much has changed for me as a solo artist, especially now with the profile of Pantayo," Cloma explains. "I wanted some separation — so I wanted to create a persona." Their chosen persona is ultimately not so far removed from their real identity. Sanchez is their mother's maiden name, and Cloma's sister Elysse releases music under the name Clara Sanchez. "I obviously copied her," Cloma laughs. "Like Martha and Rufus Wainwright. She hated it, but it's fine."

Cloma grew up in North Vancouver, in a house near a forest, their surroundings a mix of metropolis and bush. Their parents immigrated to Canada in the '80s and imparted to them a love of singer-songwriters and Canadian heavy-hitters: Blue Rodeo, Neil Young, k.d. lang's *Ingénue*. "Filipinos love James Taylor," Cloma adds. The Louie Sanchez EP is informed by this tradition, a singer-songwriter record with roots in folk storytelling and country instrumentals, highlighting Cloma's specialty in fingerstyle guitar.

Trained in classical music and jazz, Cloma stresses that they played in every possible band in high school. "At school, outside of school, choral music, concert band, jazz band, praise and worship band." You name it, they were in it. They were a serious mallet percussionist, too, skilled in the xylophone, marimba, bells and chimes. After high school, they dove into writing their own material, performing around Vancouver at open mics, activist events, and women's music shows. They also hosted a women's music show on *Vancouver Co-op Radio* that connected them to music communities across the country and inspired a move to Toronto in 2014, where they met their future bandmates in Pantayo.

The queer Filipina collective has been very active since Cloma joined, with a busy touring schedule, a debut record that landed on the Polaris Prize short list, and a followup, *Ang Pagdaloy*, released this summer. The group has received acclaim for their unique take on Filipino kulintang music, using traditional metallophone instruments and compositions and combining them with electronic, R&B and punk elements.

Cloma's work in Pantayo has helped inform this new project, particularly the song "Mali" on *Ang Pagdaloy*, which features a pop structure and tells a story about a love that can never be. "I want us to win," Cloma sings in their tender alto, over a strummed guitar and rock beat. "It's hinting at what Louie could sound like," Cloma says of the song.

A collaborative and affirming space, Pantayo allows Cloma to not only test out styles but also build the confidence that they need to step out as a solo artist.

"I've been with Pantayo for eight years and now that this second album is out, it just feels good to be taking more time to think about myself as an artist," Cloma reflects. "When I first started playing solo I felt like I didn't really know myself, and it feels different now," they say. "It feels less scary." Cloma hopes to pay tribute to their work in the collective at the Venus Fest show by performing a Pantayo number.

For the most part, though, Pantayo's sonic world is very different from Louie Sanchez. With Louie, Cloma is less interested in experimentation and more in storytelling. Cloma envisions Louie as being at home in the world of easy, breezy adult contemporary. "It's softer music," with a wider appeal, they explain. "I welcome a duet with k.d. lang in the future."

Though Cloma describes Louie Sanchez as less explicitly about Filipina identity than Pantayo, their songwriting also takes cues from another Filipino tradition: harana songs, which are typically sung by a man seeking to win a woman's heart. The courtship genre is connected to Spanish folk music and manifests in Cloma's sensibility for longing.

**"Is Louie gonna be a bit more campy?
Is Louie gonna be a stone butch?
Louie can be both."**

"Louie is definitely queering, Louie will always be queering," Cloma responds playfully, when I ask if the EP is a way of queering harana music. Rather than singing to a specific lover, though, Cloma suggests that they are queering harana songs by taking that sense of longing and applying it to feelings of not being seen, or feelings that have no possibility of reciprocation. One song on the EP expresses a desire for social recognition; another sings to a cis, straight, white person who is now married with children.

Cloma's writing is also shaped by a love of "new country" music. As a teenager, they would drive around listening to country radio. When university didn't work out, Cloma went into the army, often living in small towns in Alberta for months at a time, where country music dominated. Cloma quickly rattles off their country favourites: Brad Paisley, Meghan Patrick, Crystal Shawanda, JoJo Mason, amongst many others.

They muse that Louie might be a mode of expression for their rural experiences, more of a rough-and-tumble kind of guy. The EP has a beautiful song about a sailor at sea, who works paycheque to paycheque and can't hear a daughter calling him home. Cloma's father works as a captain for BC Ferries. They played the EP for him during a long drive on Vancouver Island.

"He wouldn't tell me, he had sunglasses on, but I could see the tears rolling down his cheek," Cloma describes.

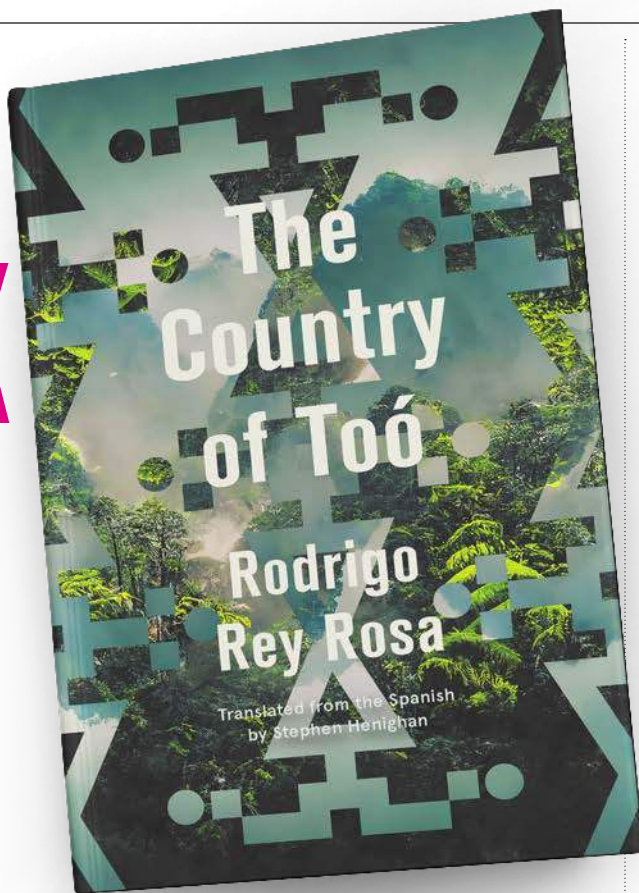
The name Louie actually comes from Cloma's middle name, Louise. "Louie felt a bit more masculine," Cloma says. "Whatever masculine means." So, is Louie Sanchez a masc country king? Cloma isn't sure yet. "Is Louie gonna be a bit more campy? Is Louie gonna be a stone butch?" they ask themselves. "Louie can be both." For Louie Sanchez, there's no rush to define anything — just a road ahead, full of possibility.



READ MORE ONLINE

BOOK RECS

Staff at Queen Books (914 Queen St. E.) in Leslieville recommend some of the best new books on the shelves.



THE COUNTRY OF TOÓ by Rodrigo Rey Rosa, translated by Stephen Henighan (*Biblioasis*, 2023)
The Country of Toó is a story of violence and corruption by individuals, families, governments, and corporations. The book opens on a new year's party, attendees drunk and happy on the lush Pacific coast of Guatemala. From there, we follow a loose cast of characters as they navigate the country's complex political environment. We follow Cobra, our main actor, through his ambivalence and self preservation to his commitment to Mayan activism in his adopted country. From Indigenous ritual to political assassinations, the reader will appreciate the journey of the characters and the satirical streak that runs throughout the story. — RACHEL P. (STORE MANAGER)

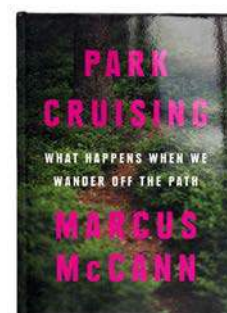
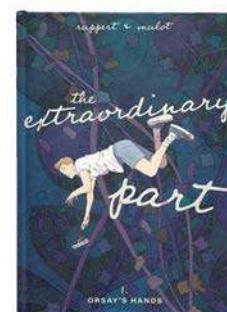
THE GUEST
 by Emma Cline (*Penguin Random House*, 2023)
 Drama-filled from the first page, *The Guest* follows a shockingly self-aware unnamed narrator as she tries to survive the last dregs of summer on Long Island with no money, no friends, and nowhere to go. While she is seemingly unphased by scamming person after person, the tension keeps amping up, propelling the story forward. You will fly through this novel at break-neck pace and finish wanting more. — RP

THE NATURAL HUSTLE
 by Eva H. D. (*McLelland & Stewart*, 2023)
The Natural Hustle is a city book, a summer book, where you can smell the hot garbage and hear the neighbours. It holds poems about experiencing life as it is, about loving people and places including — not in spite of — their flaws, about hustle as a condition of survival rather than a way to climb the ladder. I discovered Eva H. D., who is formerly of Toronto, through her poetry collections *Shiner* and *Rotten Perfect Mouth*. As these titles suggest, her work embraces the physicality and suffering keeping us real, which is refreshing in a literary landscape preoccupied with disaster, immortality and robots. Sexy, musical, mean and funny, this book is accessible to readers and non-readers of poetry alike. — LEE S.

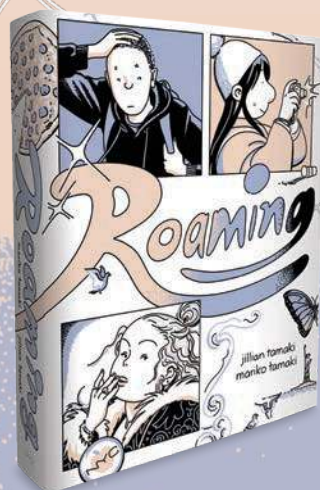
OUR SHARE OF NIGHT
 by Marina Enriquez, translated by Megan McDowell (*Hogarth/Penguin Random House*, 2023)
 Enriquez's first translated novel, *Our Share of Night*, revolves around the affluent and influential founding families of the Cult of the Shadow, who summon the lord of darkness through bloody rituals. In pursuit of immortality, they have inflicted monstrous and grotesque actions (massacre, murder, torture, kidnapping, etc.) upon society and their kin. Using horror tropes and political allegory, Enriquez pictures the dark moments and the atrocities of Argentina's contemporary history, from years of military dictatorship in the '70s to the global epidemic of HIV in the '90s. — RAHELEH A.

THE EXTRAORDINARY PART: BOOK ONE: ORSAY'S HANDS by Florent Ruppert and Jérôme Mulot, translated by M. B. Valente (*Fantagraphics*, 2023)
 As an avid sci-fi reader, it's exciting to see Ruppert and Mulot break the mould and deliver a unique story. *Book One of The Extraordinary Part* explores a near future in which "Whols" — strange, beautiful, and gentle blob-shaped creatures — inhabit our world. When Orsay touches the Whols and acquires new abilities, his safety from the state is immediately called into question. It's an imaginative exploration of how to find compassion for that which we don't understand. — JEREMIE W.

PARK CRUISING: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE WANDER OFF THE PATH
 by Marcus McCann (*House of Anansi*, 2023)
Park Cruising is a beautiful exploration of one of society's most taboo activities. Using personal memoir as a through-line, McCann's strong prose explores sex and sex laws in Canada. *Park Cruising* shows how those laws shape our behaviours and contribute to our urban fabric, but most importantly how they demonize an act that he argues should be joyous and full of pleasure. — JW



THE TORONTO LAUNCH OF ROAMING!



JILLIAN TAMAKI & MARIKO TAMAKI

OCAD University Great Hall
 Thursday, September 14, 7PM

In conversation with ZOE WHITTALL
 with Another Story Bookshop



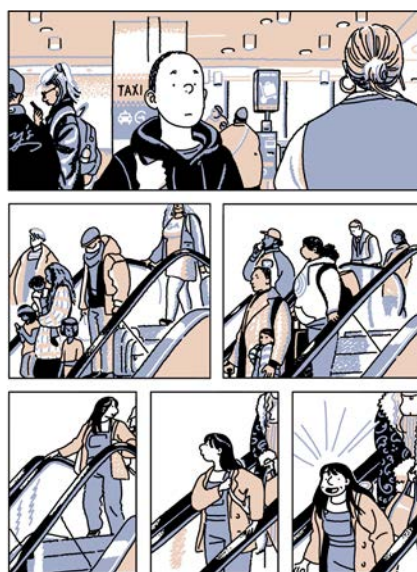
"Utterly brilliant. *Roaming* perfectly captures so much of what it feels like to be both fully grown and still becoming who you are."

—EMMA STRAUB



drawnandquarterly.com
 Free event. Masks requested.

Pages from early in the graphic novel *Roaming*.



THE GRIND'S
COMICS EDITOR OLEA KIM
RECOMMENDS:

ROAMING

By Jillian Tamaki, Mariko Tamaki
Sept 2023, Drawn & Quarterly

In 2019, I was a young, queer, Asian-Canadian protagonist. My personal version of *Roaming* played out during reading week, when I had the chance to be part of Comic Arts Brooklyn. I travelled with comic-headed peers from my classes at OCAD University. It would be three years until I visited New York again. Yet, during those lockdown days, the memory of that liberating experience acted as a source of pleasure.

Our activities during the trip were seemingly simple: we explored art galleries, went thrift shopping, navigated the intricate subway system, indulged in drinks, called each other mean, and witnessed our meticulously crafted plans take unexpected turns. On the surface, these activities mirrored what we often did in our hometown of Toronto. However, something inexplicably shifted when transplanted to the backdrop of New York. The mundane gained a sense of grandeur. The events of *Roaming* are similar. Why had everything suddenly become so cinematic in New York?

This new graphic novel answers this question with, "you had to be there." The story benefits from this answer by making you feel as if you really were there. I found myself fascinated by the inner workings of the protagonists' relationships. Jillian skillfully illustrates these mechanics through meaningful exchanges of expression and gesture, complementing Mariko's essential and conversational dialogue. The story's settings and streets acted as more than mere backdrops; they echoed and amplified the emotions and themes of the characters' conversations. Moments of stylish flair in the form of full spread splash pages contrast with depictions of the ordinary in order to underscore the depth of their journey.

Ultimately, *Roaming* is a story that focuses on themes of vulnerability and growth. It portrays awkward tenderness, the growing pains of adolescent friendship, and the sensations of being swept away by emotion. Through its carefully crafted narrative and evocative imagery, *Roaming* effectively illustrates the transience of youth, a transience that oftentimes persists into adulthood. — OLEA KIM

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ads@thegrindmag.ca

In 75 years Commemoration of the Nakba

FREE PALESTINE FILM FESTIVAL

16th Annual Toronto Palestine Film Festival
Sep 27 - Oct 1, 2023 | Theatre & Online

SCAN FOR PROGRAM

"An exhilarating ride through the revolutionary life and times of Nestor Makhno"—Tauno Biltsted

NO HARMLESS POWER
The Life and Times of the Ukrainian Anarchist Nestor Makhno
Charles Allison
with illustrations from Jill Bence and Evan Bellows

bilbooks.com

THE INSTANT #1 NATIONAL BESTSELLER

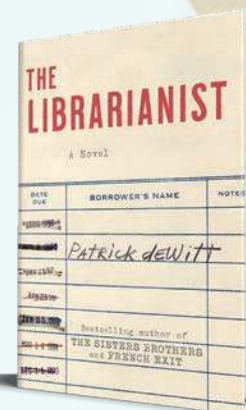
From bestselling and award-winning author of *The Sisters Brothers* and *French Exit*, Patrick deWitt



"A bittersweet tale of a retired librarian ... This one gradually takes hold until it won't let go."
— PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

"One of this country's most distinct voices in fiction."
— GLOBE AND MAIL

★ "Totally alive."
— BOOKLIST, STARRED REVIEW



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LITERARY

Art Bar Poetry Series Mondays, 7:00 PM, Free Times Cafe, 320 College St, Free

Fatimah Asghar in conversation with Sana Wani September 9, 7:00–9:00 PM, Another Story Bookshop, 315 Roncesvalles, Free

Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio: Reuniting with Strangers + readings from Pluma, a collective of Filipino Writers September 9, 6:00 PM–8:30 PM, Centre for Social Innovation–Annex, 720 Bathurst St, Free

Free People Read Freely? If They're Allowed w/ Tracie D. Hall and Omar El Akkad September 11, 7:00–8:00 PM, Toronto Reference Library–Bram & Bluma Appel Salon, 789 Yonge St, Free

Possible Sources of Conan Doyle's story, "The Adventure of the Dancing Men" September 11, 7:00–8:15 PM, Toronto Reference Library–Beeton Hall, 789 Yonge St, Free

Phyllis Webstad "Every Child Matters" September 12, 5:00–7:00 PM, Young People's Theatre, 165 Front St, Free

Book Exchange September 12, 5:00 PM–11:59 PM, Famous Last Words, 392 Pacific Ave, Free

Allison McCabe: Why Sinéad O'Connor Matters September 12, 7:00–8:00 PM, Online, Free

Cory Doctorow "Internet Con" September 12, 7:00–9:00 PM, Another Story Bookshop, 315 Roncesvalles Ave, Free

Jillian Tamaki & Mariko Tamaki in Toronto with Zoe Whittall September 14, 7:00–9:00 PM, OCAD University Great Hall, 100 McCaul St, Free

andrea bennett "the berry takes the shape of the bloom" September 14, 7:00–9:00 PM, Another Story Bookshop, 315 Roncesvalles Ave, Free

Silence to Strength: A Conversation with Christine Miskonoodinkwe Smith September 14, 6:30–8:00 PM, Online, Free

Habiba Cooper Diallo "#blackinschool": a conversation with Habiba Cooper Diallo and Claudette Rutherford September 15, 7:00–9:00 PM, Another Story Bookshop, 315 Roncesvalles Ave, Free

Writing Change in the Annex with Katherine Govier September 16, 1:00–2:00 PM, Toronto Public Library–Spadina Road, 10 Spadina Rd, Free

RISE Open Mic Monday: Dear Summer September 18, 7:00–8:00 PM, CEE Centre For Young Black Professionals, 75 Thermos Rd, \$5 or PWYC

Writer's Trust: Robert Macfarlane on Why Nonfiction Matters September 18, 8:00 PM, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queens Park, \$25

M.G. Vassanji: Everything There Is September 19, 7:00–8:00 PM, North York Central Library–Concourse Event Space, 5120 Yonge St, Free

Paola Ferrante "Her Body Among Animals" September 19, 7:00–9:00 PM, Another Story Bookshop, 315 Roncesvalles Ave, Free

Book Trivia September 19, 8:30 PM, Famous Last Words, 392 Pacific Ave, Free

Kitchen Party Poetry, hosted by Black Sails Publications September 20, 7:00–10:00 PM, Tranzac–Living Room, 292 Brunswick Ave, PWYC

Narwhal & Jelly's Tricks and Treats w/ Ben Clanton (TIFA Kids) September 23, 12:00–1:00 PM, Harbourfront Centre–Wordlab, 235 Queens Quay W, Free

The BFFs Club with Maria Scrivan (TIFA Kids) September 23, 2:30–3:30 PM, Harbourfront Centre–Wordlab, 235 Queens Quay W, Free

The Many Adventures of Leilong, with Bei Lynn (TIFA Kids) September 23, 4:00–5:00 PM, Harbourfront Centre–Wordlab, 235 Queens Quay W, Free

RAISING OUR VOICES: 2023 PEN Canada Awards & Readings in Solidarity with Persecuted Writers September 23, 4:30 PM, Harbourfront Centre Theatre, \$39.99 Single Day Pass | \$69.99 Weekend Pass | \$199.99 Full Festival Pass

Skipping Down Memory Lane, with Carley Sookocheff (TIFA Kids) September 24, 12:30–1:30 PM, Harbourfront Centre–Wordlab, 235 Queens Quay W, Free

P.S. Tell "Everyone" with Vikki VanSickle (TIFA Kids) September 24, 12:30–1:30 PM, Main Loft, 787 Warden Ave, Unit 9A, Scarborough, Free

Carnival Queens & Dearest Dreams, with Nadia L. Hohn & Irene Luxbacher (TIFA Kids) September 24, 2:00–3:00 PM, Harbourfront Centre–Wordlab, 235 Queens Quay W, Free

EVENTS

Emma Donoghue: Learned By Heart in conversation with Claire Cameron September 25, 7:00–8:00 PM, North York Central Library–Concourse Event Space, 5120 Yonge St, Free

Laura Pratt: Heartbroken September 26, 7:00–8:00 PM, Queen/Saultter–Program Room–Ralph Thornton Centre, 765 Queen St E, Free

Drop-in Book Club: The School for Good Mothers by Jessamine Chan September 26, 8:00 PM, Famous Last Words, 392 Pacific Ave

2023 Toronto Book Awards: Short-listed Author Readings September 27, 7:00–8:00 PM, Toronto Reference Library–Atrium, 789 Yonge St, Free

Matthew Legge "Are We Done Fighting?" September 27, 3:30–5:00 PM, Toronto Public Library–Parliament Street, 269 Gerrard St E, Free

James Chaarani: Between the Head and the Hands September 28, 7:00–8:00 PM, Toronto Reference Library–Hinton Learning Theatre, 789 Yonge St, Free

Michael Crummey "The Adversary" September 28, 7:00–9:00 PM, Supermarket Toronto, 268 Augusta Ave, Free

Isabella Hammad: Enter Ghost September 30, 5:00 PM, TIFF Bell Light Box, 350 King St W, Free

Naomi Klein on Doppelgänger October 2, 7:00 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$18–\$21, Free for members

Claudia Dey: Daughter in conversation with Leslie Feist October 3, 7:00–8:00 PM, Toronto Reference Library–Atrium, 789 Yonge St, Free

Alicia Elliott "And Then She Fell" in conversation with Carianne Leung October 3, 7:00–9:00 PM, Native Canadian Centre, 16 Spadina Road, Free

Sean Morley Dixon: The Abduction of Seven Forgers October 4, 6:00 PM, Tranzac, 292 Brunswick Ave, Free

Dierdre Kelly: Fashioning the Beatles October 4, 6:30–7:30 PM, Toronto Public Library–Don Mills, 888 Lawrence Ave E, Free

Kitchen Party Poetry, hosted by Black Sails Publications October 4, 7:00–10:00 PM, Tranzac, 289 Brunswick Ave, PWYC

Moez Surani "The Legend of Baraffo" in conversation with Mark Medley October 5, Doors at 6:30 PM, Another Story Bookshop, 315 Roncesvalles Ave, Free

Chloe Gong on Foul Heart Huntsman October 7, 6:30 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15

Vincent Bevins: "If We Burn" in conversation with Camila Escalante October 10, 12:00–1:00 PM, Online, Free

Book Exchange October 10, 5:00–11:59 PM, Famous Last Words, 392 Pacific Ave, Free

Toronto Women's Bookstore 50th Anniversary Party October 10, Doors at 5:30 PM, Event begins at 6:30 PM, Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St. W,

Toronto Book Awards: Prize Ceremony October 10, 7:00–8:00 PM, North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St, Free

Never Whistle at Night: Indigenous Dark Fiction (Mona Susan Power, Richard Van Camp, David Heska Wanbli Weiden, Theodore C. Van Alst Jr.) October 11, 7:00–8:00 PM, Online via Toronto Public Library, Free

Jon Klassen: Omission and Connection in Picture Books October 12, 6:30–7:30 PM, Lillian H. Smith Library, 239 College St, Free



MUSIC

AVEY TARE W/ KATIE MCBRIDE September 19, 8:00 PM, Drake Underground, 1150 Queen St W, \$20, 19+

Wistful, serene and ethereal are just a few words that come to mind when describing David Portner (a.k.a. Avey Tare). Best known for his work with Animal Collective, Avey Tare's solo work fuses psychedelic sounds with pop riffs to give listeners an experimental sound that is both familiar and intriguing.

Home of Her Heart: A Novel About Finding Family and a Place to Call Home October 12, 7:00–8:30 PM, Toronto Public Library–Brentwood, 36 Brentwood Rd N, Free

Culinary Icon: An Evening with Eric Ripert October 13, 6:30 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15, Members from \$10

Robert Priest and Friends October 15, 5:00–7:00 PM, Tranzac, 289 Brunswick Ave, PWYC

RISE Open Mic Monday: Give Thanks October 16, 7:00–8:00 PM, CEE Centre For Young Black Professionals, 75 Thermos Road, \$5 or PWYC

Who Does That Witch Think She Is? October 16, 12:00 PM–1:00 PM, Online, Free

Dionne Irving: The Islands October 16, 7:00–8:00 PM, Toronto Public Library–Northern District–Program Room, 40 Orchard View Boulevard, Free

Book Trivia October 17, 8:30 PM, Famous Last Words, 392 Pacific Ave, Free

Waubgeshig Rice: Moon of the Turning Leaves October 18, 7:00 PM, Toronto Reference Library–Bram & Bluma Appel Salon, 789 Yonge St, Free

Melissa Broder: Death Valley October 19, 7:00 PM, online via Toronto Public Library, Free

Jean Kwok: The Leftover Woman October 24, 7:00–8:00 PM, North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St, Free

Drop-in Book Club: Famous Last Words by Timothy Findlay October 24, 8:00 PM, Famous Last Words, 392 Pacific Ave, Free

Danielle Daniel: Rocks and Trees and Lakes, Oh My! October 26, 6:30–7:30 PM, Lillian H. Smith Library, 239 College St., Free

Helen Knott: Becoming a Matriarch October 26, 7:00–8:00 PM, Toronto Reference Library–Jack Rabinovitch Reading Room, 789 Yonge St, Free

The &ND Festival 2023 November 3–4, 11:30 AM (Nov 3)–8:00 PM (Nov 4), Sheridan College Hazel McCallion Campus, 4180 Duke of York Boulevard, Mississauga, \$25 before Sept 25, \$30 after

The Slaps w/ The Converts, Super Genius September 13, 8:00 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$15, 19+

BOYSCOTT w/ HEAVEN FOR REAL September 13, 8:00 PM, The Garrison, 1197 Dundas St W, \$15 adv

Music by Harry and Furlong September 13, 9:30–11:30 PM, Tranzac–Southern Cross Lounge, 292 Brunswick Ave., PWYC

New Friends September 14, Doors at 7:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$28, 19+

Oracle Sisters September 14, 7:00 PM, Garrison, 1197 Dundas St W, \$22 adv

PULSE Presents: Stories from the Front Lines of Music and Medicine September 14, 7:30–11:00 PM, 918 Bathurst St, \$20–30

Joel Haynes Quartet September 14, 8:00–10:00 PM, Hirut Cafe and Restaurant, 2050 Danforth Ave, \$15 cash

Zeus September 14, 9:00 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$25, 19+

An Evening with François Houle September 14, 9:30–11:30 PM, Tranzac–Southern Cross Lounge, 292 Brunswick Ave, PWYC

Fame on Fire w/ Kingdom Collapse September 15, Doors at 7:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$29, All ages

Joel Haynes Quartet September 15, 8:00–10:00 PM, Hirut Cafe and Restaurant, 2050 Danforth Ave, \$20 cash

Tomb Mold, Undeath & Outer Heaven September 15, 8:30 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St. W, \$25, 19+

Cosmic Country for Communists September 15, 9:30–11:30 PM, Tranzac–Southern Cross Lounge, 292 Brunswick Ave, PWYC

Daniel Barnes & Girma Woldemichael Ethio Jazz September 16, all day, Hirut Cafe and Restaurant, 2050 Danforth Ave, \$20 cash

THE M.A.S. PROJECT W/ CINZIA & THE ECLIPSE & MADHOUSE September 16, 7:00 PM, Drake Underground, 1150 Queen St W, \$17

Heavy Head w/ Big Things, Julien Kelland September 16, 8:00 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$14, 19+

Heilig/St-Laurent Duo September 17, 4:00–6:00 PM, Hirut Cafe and Restaurant, 2050 Danforth Ave, \$15 cash

Canadian Snare Drum Project Presents: Ryan Scott: 15 New Works September 17, 7:00–11:00 PM, 918 Bathurst St., PWYC

Coroak September 17, 7:00 PM, The Great Hall–Longboat Hall, 1087 Queen St W, \$20, 19+

Rebecca Hennessy's Makeshift Island September 17, 7:30–9:30 PM, Tranzac–Southern Cross Lounge, 292 Brunswick Ave, PWYC, 19+

NPNP Trio "Eejungmi (live) Record Release September 17, 8:00 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$15

Madison Cunningham September 18, 7:00 PM, The Great Hall–Main Hall, 1087 Queen St W, \$30 19+

Jalen Ngonda September 18, 8:00 PM, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$20, 19+

Polaris Music Prize Gala (presented by CBC Music) September 19, 8:00 PM, Massey Hall, 178 Victoria St, \$51.90

John Craigie w/ special guest Taylor Rae September 19, 7:00 PM, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$24, 19+

Bully September 19, 7:00 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St. W., \$23, 19+

Cloud w/ special guest Lutalo September 19, Doors at 7:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$32, All Ages

Sierra September 19, 7:00 PM, Garrison, 1197 Dundas St W, \$20 adv

AVEY TARE W/ KATIE MCBRIDE September 19, 8:00 PM, Drake Underground, 1150 Queen St W, \$20, 19+

Djunah September 19, 8:00 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$17, 19+

Marilyn Lerner Presents Special Appearances September 19, 9:30–11:30 PM, Tranzac–Southern Cross Lounge, 292 Brunswick Ave

Toronto Klezmer Society Epic Klezmer Jam September 20, 9:30–11:30 PM, Tranzac–Southern Cross Lounge, 292 Brunswick Ave, PWYC

MAY ERLEWINE September 20, 7:00 PM, Drake Underground, 1150 Queen St W, \$20, 19+

VENUS FEST September 21–23, 7:00 PM, IT'S OK* STUDIOS, 468 Queen St W, 3 Day wristband: \$40 adv/ \$45 door, 19+

GODFLESH September 21, 8:30 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$33, 19+

Icon for Hire September 22, 7:30 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$20, 19+

The Big Sound September 22, 10:00 PM, The Great Hall–Main Hall, 1087 Queen St W, \$25

Nightmares on Wax September 22, Doors at 10:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$47, 19+

Chat Pile September 23, 7:00 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$25, 19+

Kid Quill September 23, 8:00 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$23, 19+

Twin Parks: A Celebration of Thorncliffe and Flemingdon September 23, 8:00–11:00 PM, Tancac–Main Hall, \$25

Beverly Taft Trio September 24, 4:00–6:00 PM, Hirut Cafe and Restaurant, 2050 Danforth Ave, \$15 Cash Cover

Inertia Presents: Igorrr, Melt Banana, Otto Von Schirach September 24, 7:00 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$32, 19+

Jesse Jo Stark September 24, 7:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$20, 19+

Mick Flannery September 24, 7:00 PM, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, 19+

Terry Jones September 24, 7:30–9:30 PM, Tranzac–Southern Cross Lounge, 292 Brunswick Ave, PWYC, 19+

Four 30 Quartet September 24, 8:00–10:00 PM, Hirut Cafe and Restaurant, 2050 Danforth Ave, \$20 Cash Cover

Beverly Taft Trio September 25, 4:00–6:00 PM, Hirut Cafe and Restaurant, 2050 Danforth Ave, \$15 Cash Cover

Tom the Mail Man September 26, 7:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$26, All Ages

Nick Fraser Presents September 26, 9:30–11:30 PM, Tranzac–Southern Cross Lounge, 292 Brunswick Ave, PWYC

Joshua Radin September 27, 8:00 PM, The Great Hall–Main Hall, 1087 Queen St W, \$30–\$100

Shoreline 3 / Bear Bell – double album release September 27, 8:00–11:00 PM, Tranzac–Main Hall, 292 Brunswick Ave

Quincy Bullen: Family Affair September 27, 8:00 PM, Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St W, \$20–\$35

Alessandro Cortini September 27, 7:30 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St. W., \$25, 19+

Shabazz Palaces September 28, 7:00 PM, The Great Hall–Main Hall, 1087 Queen St W, \$25, 19+

Steve Koven Trio September 28, 8:00–10:00 PM, Hirut Cafe and Restaurant, 2050 Danforth Ave, \$15 Cash Cover

Son Rompe Pera Live in Toronto September 28, 8:00 PM, Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St W, \$44

Islands September 28, 8:00 PM, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$20, 19+

Christian French September 29, 6:30 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$35, All Ages

NODISCO. September 29, 7:00 PM, Drake Underground, 1150 Queen St W, \$29, 19+

Union Duke September 29, 8:00 PM, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$20, 19+

The Press September 29, 8:00 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$17, 19+

The Ryan Driver Sextet September 29, 9:30–11:30 PM, Tancac–Southern Cross Lounge, 292 Brunswick Ave, PWYC

AMI 8 September 30, 6:30 PM, Drake Underground, 1150 Queen St W, 19+

Don Naduriak Quintet September 30, 8:00–10:00 PM, Hirut Cafe and Restaurant, 2050 Danforth Ave, \$20 Cash Cover

Ratboys September 30, 8:00 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$23, 19+

Toronto Funk, Soul & RnB Music Festival September 30, 8:00 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$23

Rival Consoles September 30, 8:30 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$35, 19+

Sour Guts Listening Party & Dance Night September 30, 9:30 PM, Dance Cave, \$20, 19+

Fiddlehead w/ Restraining Order, Gumm, & Best Wishes October 1, 1:30 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$25, 19+

Bill Wood & Burke Carroll October 1, 5:00–7:00 PM, Tranzac – Southern Cross Lounge, 292 Brunswick Ave, PWYC

Phabo October 1, 7:00 PM, Drake Underground, 1150 Queen St W, \$20

Activity w/ Praises, Silks October 1, 7:30 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$14 19+

Kneecap October 1, 7:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$29, All Ages

BECCA MANCARI W/ SUPPORT FROM WILBY October 1, 7:00 PM, Drake Underground, 1150 Queen St W, \$18

MIYA FOLICK, BABEBEE October 2, 7:00 PM, The Great Hall – Main Hall, 1087 Queen St W, \$30, All ages

Sam Tompkins October 3, 7:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$35, 19+

Mapache October 3, 8:00 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$18, 19+

Peripheral Vision October 3, 9:30–11:30 PM, Tranzac – Southern Cross Lounge, 292 Brunswick Ave, PWYC

Cam Cole October 3, 7:00 PM, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$20, 19+

CHAI October 4, 8:00 PM, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$30, 19+

Omega Mighty October 4, 7:00 PM, Drake Underground, 1150 Queen St W, \$11, 19+

SCOWL October 4, 7:30 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$22, 19+

Zulu & Soul Glo October 5, 7:30 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$23, All ages

Jean Smith & the Jane Does 'Do Me Some Harm' Album Release Party October 5, 8:00 PM, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$17, 19+

Project Nowhere presents MOTHER TONGUES 'Love In A Vicious Way' Record Release Party w/ JANE INC., ROACH; Visuals by CARSON TEAL; LATE NIGHT AFTERPARTY w/ DJ OGQ October 5, 7:30 PM, The Garrison, 1197 Dundas St W, \$15 adv/ \$50 early bird festival pass

Orson Wilds – EP Release w/ Sean Watson Graham, Rikashay October 5, 8:00 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$14

Hemlocke Springs October 5, 8:00 PM, Drake Underground, 1150 Queen St W, \$25, 19+

The Pharcyde October 5, 7:00 PM, Phoenix Concert Theatre, 410 Sherbourne St, \$50–\$70, 19+

Ralph w/ Tedy October 6, 7:00 PM, Longboat Hall, 1087 Queen St W, \$33, 19+

Two Lanes October 6, 7:00 PM, Longboat Hall, 1087 Queen St W, \$27, 19+

Cuban Friday with Marta Elena + DJ Suave + Sarita Leyva! October 6, 7:00 PM, Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St W, \$28, 19+

Neon Bloom with The Black Void, The Converts and Fighting Chance October 6, 8:00 PM, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$15, 19+

MYST MILANO 'Beyond The Uncanny Valley' Record Release Party w/ SLASH NEED, QUARTERBACK; Visuals by DRIFTNOTE; LATE NIGHT AFTERPARTY w/ DJ CLUB SO October 6, 7:30 PM, Garrison, 1197 Dundas St W, \$15 adv/ \$50 early bird festival pass

Sorry Girls w/ Essie Watts, Meagan Aversa October 6, 8:00 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$15, 19+

Aluna October 6, 10:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$33 19+

BassKase CHI->TO Throwdown October 6, 9:30–11:30 PM, Tranzac – Southern Cross Lounge, 289 Brunswick Ave, PWYC

Clela Errington and Barbara Lynch October 7, 5:00–7:00 PM, Tranzac – Southern Cross Lounge, 289 Brunswick Ave, PWYC

Salsa Saturday: Lula All Stars + DJ Van Gogh + Shum de Salsa! October 7, 7:00 PM, Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St W, \$33 19+

Kirk Diamond & Finn "DREAD" Album Release Concert October 7, 7:00 PM, Drake Underground, 1150 Queen St W, \$23

Project Nowhere presents WEIRD NIGHTMARE w/ BREEZE, SHAM FAMILY LATE NIGHT AFTERPARTY w/ DOWNWARD SPIRAL DJ October 7, 7:30 PM, Garrison, 1197 Dundas St W, \$15 adv/ \$50 early bird festival pass

Wasagas, Jukeez & JCI October 7, 7:30 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$10

YAM HAUS X SAWYER October 8, 7:00 PM, Drake Underground, 1150 Queen St W., \$29

mssv (mike baggetta + stephen hedges + mike watt) October 8, 7:00 PM, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$20

Geese w/ PACKS October 8, 7:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$31, All ages

The Nilan Perera Trio + guests October 8, 10:00 PM, Tranzac – Southern Cross Lounge, 289 Brunswick Ave, PWYC

Maude Latour, Devon Again October 10, 7:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$36, All ages

MURPHY'S LAW, THE RUMJACKS, THE BAR STOOL PREACHERS October 10, 7:00 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$33 19+

Prep October 11, 7:00 PM, The Great Hall – Main Hall, 1087 Queen St W, \$29.20

Shawn James October 11, 7:00 PM, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$25

Cal Scruby October 11, 7:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$35, All ages

The Brodie West Quintet October 11, 7:00 PM, Tranzac – Southern Cross Lounge, 289 Brunswick Ave

Shiadanni October 11, 8:00 PM, Garrison, 1197 Dundas St W, \$15 adv

Tep No October 12, 8:00 PM, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$23

Chris Farren October 12, 8:00 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$27, 19+

Liam St. John "Stripped Back" Fall Tour '23 October 12, 8:00 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$15, 19+

Cece Coakley October 13, 8:00 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$18, 19+

Dom Louis October 13, 8:00 PM, The Great Hall – Main Hall, 1087 Queen St W, \$20

Blue Hawaii, Izzy Camina October 13, 8:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$18, 19+

Matt Holubowski October 13, 8:30 PM, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$20

Yes No Wave Canadian Tour, curated by Aki Onda and Wok the Rock October 13, 918 Bathurst St

Fucked Up October 14, 8:30 PM, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$23

The Brook & The Bluff with Bendigo Fletcher October 14, 8:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$29, 19+

DRAAG ME w/ Chanel Beads October 14, 6:30 PM, The Garrison, 1197 Dundas St W, \$15 adv

Fergus Hambleton October 15, 2:30 PM, Tranzac – Southern Cross Lounge, 289 Brunswick Ave, PWYC

Superheaven October 15, 7:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$36, 19+

GAIDAA October 15, 8:00 PM, Garrison, 1197 Dundas St W, \$20

Sextile October 15, 8:00 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$23, 19+

Eric Nam w/ alexander stewart October 16, 7:00 PM, History, from \$80.95

Margo Cilker October 17, 7:00 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$20, 19+

Gord Bamford October 17, 7:00 PM, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$45

Genesis Owusu October 17, 7:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$35, All ages

Soft Machine October 17, 8:00 PM, Garrison, 1197 Dundas St W, \$37 adv

The Mary Wallopers October 18, 6:30 PM, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$26

Tré Burt October 18, 7:00 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$20, 19+

MODO-LIVE & STAY LATE Present: demxntia – Whatever Happens, Happens Tour October 18, 7:30 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$20, 19+

MK.GEE October 18, 8:00 PM, The Great Hall – Main Hall, 1087 Queen St W, \$22

SMAL Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St W

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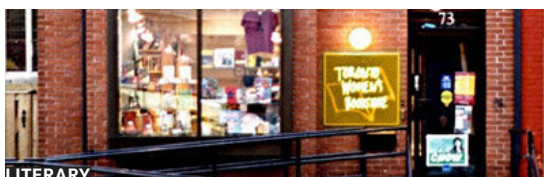
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LITERARY

Alicia Elliott "And Then She Fell" in conversation with Carrienne Leung October 3, 7:00–9:00 PM, Native Canadian Centre, 16 Spadina Rd, Free

After releasing her incisive and heartbreaking collection of essays *A Mind Spread Out on the Ground* in 2019, Tuscarora writer Alicia Elliott returns with her highly anticipated second book (and debut novel) *And Then She Fell*.



LITERARY

Toronto Women's Bookstore 50th Anniversary Party October 10, Doors at 5:30 PM, Event begins at 6:30 PM, Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St W, Free

The impact of the Women's Bookstore on Toronto's literary and feminist scenes was and remains immense. It operated from 1973 until 2012, and for some of that time was underneath the often-targeted Morgentaler abortion clinic. A powerhouse lineup of speakers will be at this 50th anniversary party (Lillian Allen, Elizabeth Ruth, Souvankham Thammavongsa, eloise burke, Beverly Bain, and more) carrying on the spirit of the store and what it stood for.



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BLACK: 10 YEARS OF LIMITS OF DESIRE-SUPPORT CLAIRE GEORGE October 18, 8:00 PM, The Great Hall - Main Hall, 1087 Queen St W, \$20

MODEL/ACTRIZ October 18, 8:00 PM, The Garrison, 1197 Dundas St W, \$16 adv

PONY GOLD with Sleepy Jean October 19, 6:30 PM, Dakota Tavern, 249 Ossington Ave, Advance \$10, Doors \$15

Cat Clyde October 19, 7:00 PM, Rivoli, \$27, 19+

The Ocean Blue October 19, 8:00 PM, Horse-shoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$25, 19+

Will Butler + Sister Squares October 19, 8:00 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$25, 19+

Duff Thompson w/ Steph Green, Big Thyme October 20, 8:00 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$12, 19+

Chalk Circle October 20, 8:30 PM, Horse-shoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$25

Sam Gellaity October 20, 10:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$40, 19+

Gilla Band w/ Bambara October 21, 7:00 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$25, 19+

Squirrel Flower w/ Truth Club, Merce Lem-on October 21, 8:00 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$20, 19+

French 79 w/ Terror Jr October 21, 8:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$35, 19+

Vagabon October 22, 7:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$22, 19+

SKINNY LISTER with Bandida Brigade and Pet Needs October 24, 6:00 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$21, 19+

Harms Way October 25, 6:30 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$25, 19+

Planet Giza October 25, 7:00 PM, Drake Underground, 1150 Queen St W, \$29

ASZEWO October 25, 7:00 PM, Longboat Hall, 1087 Queen St W, \$27

Chris Luno + DJ Poolboi October 25, 8:00 PM, The Garrison, 1197 Dundas St W, \$20 adv

Whale and the Wolf October 26, 7:00 PM, Rivoli, 334 Queen St W, \$20 Adv / \$25 Door

ASZEWO October 26, 7:00 PM, Drake Underground, 1150 Queen St W, \$54

Vinyl Williams w/ Zones October 26, 8:00 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$15

Krooked Kings w/ Toldeo October 26, 8:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$31, 19+

Cuban Friday with Latin Swing + DJ Trambo + Afro-Latino Dance! October 27, 7:00 PM, Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St W, \$28, 19+

Sam Jr. + The John Denver Airport Conspiracy October 27, 8:00 PM, Garrison, 1197 Dundas St W, \$15 adv

Salsa Saturday: Salseros With Attitude October 28, 7:00 PM, Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St W, \$33

Aidan Bissett, Anna Shoemaker October 29, 7:00 PM, Velvet, General Admission: \$35 | VIP Meet & Greet: \$135, All Ages

Rubblebucket with Dante Elephante October 30, 7:00 PM, Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$37 19+

Spencer Krug October 30, 8:00 PM, Horse-shoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, \$18

Mary Lattimore October 31, 7:00 PM, The Great Hall - Longboat Hall, 1087 Queen St W, \$25

FILM

Robbie Robertson Tribute: The Last Waltz September 8-9, various, The Fox, 2236 Queen St E, Non-Member \$13.51

ANIME AT THE REVUE: RAMAYANA THE LEGEND OF PRINCE RAMA (4K RE-MAS-TER) September 9, 3:30 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$15 General Admission; \$12 Loyalty Members, Students & Seniors; Free for Individual/Family memberships

(NOT-SO) TERRIBLE TWOS: F/X2 September 9, 6:45 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$15 General Admission; \$12 Loyalty Members, Students & Seniors; Free for Individual/Family memberships

Exhibition on Screen: Vermeer: The Greatest Exhibition September 10, 11:00 AM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15, Members from \$10

Relaxed Screening: The YouTube Effect - Open to everyone, this screening offers a sensory friendly environment for those in the neuro-diverse community or for anyone who may benefit from a more informal viewing atmosphere. September 10, 1:30 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15, Members from \$10



MUSIC

The Pharcyde October 5, 7:00 PM, Phoenix Concert Theatre, 410 Sherbourne St, \$50 - \$70, 19+

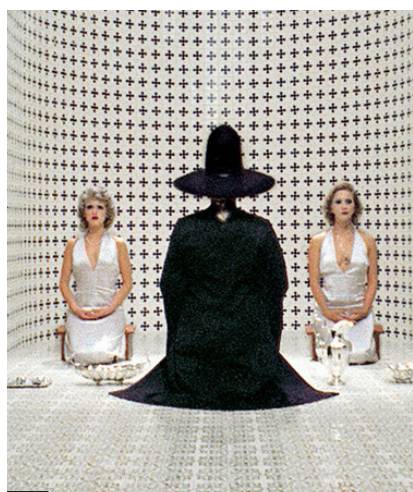
If you find all the gamin' and famin' from entertain' is hella strainin', run away to The Pharcyde show ASAP. Whether you're an oldhead or nu-school, the funkiness of The Pharcyde is undeniable. Don't let this chance to catch the long-running L.A. hip-hop group pass you by.



FILM

Toronto Palestine Film Festival September 27 - October 1, various showings, TIFF, 350 King St W, 6-film pass \$43.21 before Sept. 14 and \$52.51 after

First conceived in 2008 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Al-Nakba (the catastrophe), the TPDF has become a dearly beloved Toronto film festival, offering Torontonians access to the best of contemporary Arab cinema. This year's program is rich with live music, author talks, and, of course, films. Be sure to check out the full listings online including the North American debut of the award-winning 2022 documentary *The Promise*.



FILM

The Holy Mountain (1973) September 15 - 16, 9:15 PM, The Fox, 2236 Queen St E, \$17.52

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Alejandro Jodorowsky's surreal *The Holy Mountain*, a visual spectacular that is frame after frame of art.

ANIME AT THE REVUE: RAMAYANA THE LEGEND OF PRINCE RAMA (4K RE-MAS-TER) September 10, 3:30 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$15 General Admission; \$12 Loyalty Members, Students & Seniors; Free for Individual/Family memberships

PARADISE presents MODEL SHOP September 11, 6:00 PM, Paradise Theatre, 1006 Bloor St W, \$16.54, Seniors and students \$13.54

PARADISE presents LIONS LOVE (...AND LIES) September 11, 8:30 PM, Paradise Theatre, 1006 Bloor St W, \$16.54, Seniors and students \$13.54

DIALOGUES The Dead Don't Hurt with Viggo Mortensen, Regina Solórzano, and Jeremy Thomas (TIFF) September 11, 4:00 PM, Canadian Broadcasting Centre, 250 Front St W, Tickets required

In the Company of Rose September 15, 1:00 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15, Members from \$10

Special Event: GLOW: The Story of the Gorgeous Ladies of Wrestling w/ special guests NOVA (Andrea Benoit) and Jody Threat September 15, 9:15 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15, Members from \$10

The Holy Mountain (1973) September 15 - 16, 9:15 PM, The Fox, 2236 Queen St E, \$17.52

The Last Rider September 16 & 20, 1:00 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15, Members from \$10

Milan Kundera: From The Joke to Insignificance - Milan Kundera Tribute September 16, 3:45 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15, Members free

Cat Video Fest 2023 September 16, 17, 20, various, The Fox, 2236 Queen St E, Child \$14.52, Non-Member \$17.52

Without Precedent: The Supreme Life of Rosalie Abella September 21, 6:30 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15, Members from \$10

Bring Min'yo Back! September 21, 7:00 PM, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Ct, General \$12, JCCC Members \$10

Bad Press September 22, 4:00 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15

Radical Wolfe September 22, 7:00 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15

Charlotte's Castle September 22, 6:45 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15

299 Queen Street West (MuchMusic documentary) September 22, 8:00 PM, Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St, \$50 and up

Unarchived September 25, National Film Board, Online

Bad Press September 25, 4:15 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15

Radical Wolfe September 25, 7:00 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15

Charlotte's Castle September 26, 4:00 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15

Bad Press September 26, 6:30 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15

Shorts In Conversation - Curated by Images Festival Works by Alize Zorlutuna September 27, 7:00 - 9:30 PM, Interspace | Ace Hotel Toronto, 51 Camden St, Free

Toronto Palestine Film Festival September 27 - October 1, various showings, TIFF, 350 King St W, 6-film pass \$43.21 before Sept 14 and \$52.51 after

Stop Making Sense September 29, 3:45 & 9:15 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W,

Rohan at the Louvre October 5, 7:00 PM, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Ct, General \$12, JCCC Members \$10

aluCine Latin Film + Media Arts Festival October 5-7, various showings, Spadina Theatre, 24 Spadina Rd

Special Event: The South October 5, 7:15 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15

Joan Baez: I Am a Noise October 6, 3:15 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15

Joan Baez: I Am a Noise October 7, 3:30 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15

Doc Soup: Breaking Social October 11, 6:30 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$15

Piranha II: The Spawning October 13, 9:30 PM, Cinecycle, 129 Spadina Ave, \$10

Planet in Focus: International Environmental Film Festival October 13-23, various showings, Paradise Theatre, 1006c Bloor St W

ImagineNATIVE Film Festival Toronto: October 12-22, 2023, Online: October 23-29, 2023, various showings

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PERFORMANCE

Fall for Dance North: 9th Annual Festival September 26 – October 7, 2023, various showings, multiple locations

For dance lovers who find the cost of attending performances prohibitive, Fall For Dance is a breath of fresh air. For nine years, FFDN has offered access to world-class dance performances, showcasing mixed bills that include large-scale international companies, all for \$15. It's an unbeatable price for an event that all-but-guarantees breathtaking moments.

VISUAL ART

The Wedge Collection: Dancing in the Light September 7, 2023 – February 4, 2024, MOCA, 158 Sterling Rd #100, 18 and under free, Adults \$14, Seniors (65+) \$10, Students (19+) \$10

The Children Have to Hear Another Story (works by Alanis Obomsawin) September 7 – November 25, The Art Museum at the University of Toronto, 15 King's College Circle, Free

Façade: A series of public art commissions September 10, 2023 – March 2024, Launch: September 10, 1:00 – 4:00 PM, Markham PanAM Centre, 16 Main St Unionville, Free

Stories from the Picture Press: Black Star Publishing Co. & The Canadian Press September 13, 2023 – April 6, 2024, Oakville Centre, 33 Gould Street, Free

한숨 | breath of han by mihyun maria kim September 14 – November 30, John B. Aird Gallery, 906 Queen St W, B05, Free

IMPÁVIDO September 15 – November 12, 2023, Cardinal Gallery, 1231 Davenport Rd, Free

Tim Whiten: Elemental Fire (solo exhibition) September 15 – December 2, Opening Reception: Thursday, September 14, 6:00 – 9:00 PM, Art Gallery of York University, 4700 Keele St, Accolade East Building, Room 116, Free

Geary Art Crawl September 23 & 24, starting 1:00 PM, Geary Ave

[Scotiabank] Nuit Blanche (all night) September 23 at 7:00 PM – September 24 at 7:00 AM, Multiple locations, Free

Alexa Kumiko Hatanaka: Unchanging and Changing and Changing (solo exhibition) September 23 – November 25, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Ct, Free

Elif Saydam: Eviction Notice (solo exhibition of new commissioned works) September 29, 2023 – January 6, 2024, Oakville Galleries, 1306 Lakeshore Rd E, Oakville, Free

How to Cook a Wolf – Group exhibition: Kristi Chen, Chiedza Pasipanodya, Alison Postma, Sriwhana Spong, and Charlott Weise Until September 30, Two Seven Two, 272 Avenue Rd, Free

To Be In This Place Until September 30, Clark Centre for the Arts, 191 Guildwood Pkwy, Free

Wolfgang Tillmans: To Look Without Fear (retrospective) Until October 1, AGO, 317 Dundas St W, 25 and under free, Adults \$30, One-year pass \$35

Traces of Abstraction: 1958–2020 Until October 14, 2023, Corkin Gallery, 7 Tank House Lane, Free

Her Blood Spoke: Joscelyn Gardner, Kara Springer, Alberta Whittle Until October 29, Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), 317 Dundas St W, 25 and under free, Adults \$30, One-year pass \$35

Cities in Flux Until December 3, AGO, 317 Dundas St W, 25 and under free, Adults \$30, One-year pass \$35

Sarindar Dhaliwal: When I grow up I want to be a name of paint colours Until January 7, 2024, AGO, 317 Dundas St W, 25 and under free, Adults \$30, One-year pass \$35

Re-Mixing African Photography: Kelani Abass, Mallory Lowe Mpoka and Abraham Oghobase Until January 7, 2024, AGO, 317 Dundas St W, 25 and under free, Adults \$30, One-year pass \$35

PERFORMANCE

The Master Plan (adaptation of the book Sideways: The City Google Couldn't Buy) September 5 – October 1, various showings, Streetcar Crowsnest – Guloien Theatre, 345 Carlaw Ave, \$50

The Waltz September 6 – 17, various showings, Factory Theatre – Mainspace Theatre, 125 Bathurst St, Pick Your Price: \$0, \$20, \$40, \$60, \$80

She the Company Presents: The Sole Her Experience September 13 & 15, 8:00 – 11:00 PM, 918 Bathurst: Culture, Arts, Media & Education Centre, 918 Bathurst St, \$40

speaking of sneaking September 19 – October 1, various showings, Buddies in Bad Times, 12 Alexander St, \$10

The Last Epistle of Tightrope Time September 19 – October 15, 2023, various showings, Tarragon Theatre, 30 Bridgman Ave

asses.masses September 22 – September 26, various showings, The Theatre Centre, 1115 Queen St W, Pick Your Price: \$15, \$30, \$45, \$60

Topdog/Underdog September 22 – October 8, various showings, Berkeley Street Theatre, 26 Berkeley St, \$29 – \$99

Fall for Dance North: 9th Annual Festival September 26 – October 7, 2023, various showings, multiple locations

work.txt September 27 – September 29, 8:00 PM, The Theatre Centre, 1115 Queen St W, Pick Your Price: \$15, \$30, \$45, \$60

Wildwoman October 5 – October 29, various showings, Soulpepper Theatre, 50 Tank House Lane, \$25 – \$65

A Poem for Rabia October 17 – November 12, various showings, Tarragon Theatre, 30 Bridgman Ave, General \$35 – \$65, Arts Workers \$25, Students \$15

The Next Stage Festival (presented by Toronto Fringe) October 18 – 29, various showings, Buddies in Bad Times, 12 Alexander Street

The Guide to Being Fabulous October 24 – November 12, various showings, Soulpepper Theatre, 50 Tank House Lane, \$25 – \$65

COMEDY

Just For Laughs Toronto 2023 September 23 – 30, 2023, various locations and times, \$40 – \$220 (see website for pass options)

Crimson Wave Sundays, 9:30 PM, Comedy Bar, 945 Bloor St W, \$15 Online, \$20 at door

Andrew Packer "On Guard" Comedy Special Release Show September 22, 9:00 PM, Comedy Bar Danforth – Main Stage, 2800 Danforth Ave, \$25

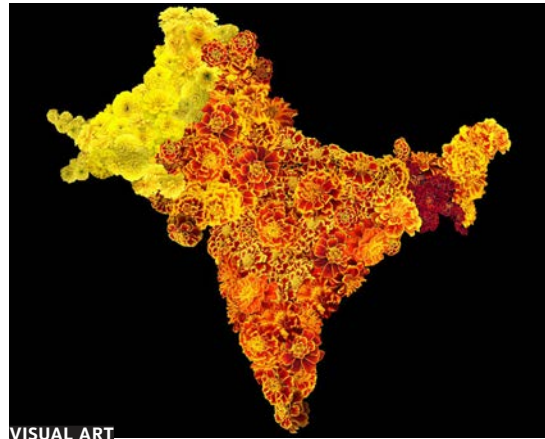
Nubian Show September 24, 8:30 PM, Yuk Yuk's, 224 Richmond St W, \$29

Serotonin: A Feel Good Comedy Show September 28, 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM, Tranzac – Living Room, 289 Brunswick Ave, PWYC

Hirut Hoot Comedy Night September 29, 9:00 – 11:00 PM, Hirut Cafe and Restaurant, 2050 Danforth Ave, \$15 Cash Cover

Junction Comedy Show September 29, 9:00 PM, The Alpine, 2872 Dundas St W, \$22 online

Serotonin: A Feel Good Comedy Show October 12, 7:30 – 9:30 PM, Tranzac – Living



VISUAL ART

Sarindar Dhaliwal: When I grow up I want to be a name of paint colours Until January 7, 2024, AGO, 317 Dundas St W, 25 and under free, Adults \$30, One-year pass \$35

In this multimedia exhibition showcasing works from Dhaliwal's 40-year career, viewers are granted access to Dhaliwal's memories of migration from India to England and Canada. Equal parts playful and stirring, Dhaliwal's first AGO solo exhibition is a must see.



VISUAL ART

The Children Have to Hear Another Story (works by Alanis Obomsawin) September 7 – November 25, The Art Museum at the University of Toronto, 15 King's College Circle, Free

Alanis Obomsawin is one of the most talented, powerful documentarians in the land. Her films have brought countless Indigenous stories to the world, from the 1990 Kanehsatake resistance or "Oka Crisis," to Cree children sharing their stories in *Christmas at Moose Factory*, to heated conflicts over fishing on the east coast. This celebration of Obomsawin's lifework is not to be missed. Catch a tour with Obomsawin and curator Richard Hill on Sept. 9 (2–4 p.m., U of T Art Centre), an Art Crawl with ImagineNATIVE on October 18 (4–10 p.m., various locations), and a lecture on Nov. 16. (4:30–6 p.m., University College).

POLITICAL TALKS, RALLIES, ETC

TVO Workers' Strike Picket ongoing until a deal is reached, 2180 Yonge Street

Will the USA and Canada accept Guatemala's return to democracy? With Graham Russell of Rights Action September 12, 7:00 PM, Friends (Quaker) House, 60 Lowther Ave (at Bedford), Free

Marcela Rios Tobar: The Struggle for Democracy and Memory in Chile September 14, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, Toronto Reference Library – Bram & Bluma Appel Salon, 789 Yonge St, Free

Rally: Global March to End Fossil Fuels September 16, 11:00 AM, Queen's Park

Rally: Regularize Everyone! (Migrant Rights Network) September 17, 2:00 PM, Yonge & Bloor

Dais Talks on Anti-Racism: Schooling of Ontario's Black Youth September 19, 6:00 PM, 1 Nelson Street West, Brampton, Free

Ontario Liberal Leadership Debate September 20, 12:00 PM, 341 Yonge St, Free

Rally: Stop the Ford Government's Privatization of Public Hospitals September 25, 12:00 PM, Queen's Park

Politics in the Park (Richmond Hill) September 26, 2:30 PM, 321 Mill St, Richmond Hill, Free

Rally: March For The Land (First Nations Land Alliance) September 27, 12:00 PM, Grange Park (south of the AGO)

Native Child and Family Services of Toronto Community Powwow September 30, TBA, Dufferin Grove Park, Free

Ajamu Baraka: Black Radical Internationalism in the Current Global Crisis October 2, 7:00 PM, Appel Salon, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St, Free

Dais Talks on Anti-Racism: Antisemitism Online and Offline in Canada October 3, 6:00 PM, 20 Dundas St W, Free

Red October: A Conference of Socialist Ideas in Action (Spring Magazine) October 13–14, Wildseed Centre, 24 Cecil St, General \$25, Solidarity \$54.58, Supporter \$107.83, or PYWC

Dais Talks on Anti-Racism: Governing Islamophobic Hate Speech Online October 17, 6:00 PM, 74 Queen St W, Brampton, Free

Cihan Tugal: The Route to Autocracy in Turkey October 26, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, Toronto Reference Library – Bram & Bluma Appel Salon, 789 Yonge St, Free

Sex and Ethics Symposium October 27, 2:00 PM, Paul Cadario Conference Centre, 15 King's College Circle, Free

Mexican Monsters: Narco Vampires, Werewolves, Avenging Gods, and Spooky Castles October 30, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Toronto Reference Library – Beeton Hall, 789 Yonge St, Free

Tim O'Brien: AMerica Fantastica October 30, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, Toronto Reference Library – Atrium, 789 Yonge St, Free

Developed with support from the National Arts Centre's National Creation Fund

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The donkeys want their jobs back. Work as a herd.

Lead their revolution.

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from The Guardian & The Scotsman. Winner of a Red Theatre International Award for Innovation

★★★★★

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CANWNT 2021



DOUGLAS O'BRIEN

DOWN BUT NOT OUT

After a disappointing World Cup performance that saw the seventh-ranked Canadian women's national soccer team booted from the tournament in the first round, the team is turning its sights to the Olympic qualifier against Jamaica. The defending Olympic champions made headlines earlier this year when they protested significant funding cuts to their program from Canada Soccer. The cuts, which several players have publicly attributed to Canada Soccer's financial mismanagement and sexism, have resulted in shorter camps, fewer full day training days, and fewer players and staff being invited to camps. Canada plays Jamaica on Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. at BMO Field in Toronto.

Scottie Barnes, Wizards vs Raptors on October 12, 2021



ALL PRO REELS

40 WINS? HOODOO

The Raptors begin the 2023-24 NBA season at home on Oct. 25 against the Minnesota Timberwolves. With the departure of longstanding point guard Fred Van Vleet and, with him, the Poeltl-Van Vleet pick-and-roll connection, Doric Sam of *The Athletic* has joined many other NBA insiders in projecting a losing season (40-42) for the Raps. After a season marred by a lack of team chemistry and a disastrous half-court offence, new head coach Darko Rajakovic has his work cut out for him. Will defensive stalwart O.G. Anunoby assume a larger offensive role? Will Scottie Barnes play more minutes as a point guard? Will new Raptor Grady Dick be the three-point shooting threat that the Raptors have so desperately needed? This year, the Raptors enter the regular season with far more questions than answers.

READ MORE SPORTS ONLINE



Shai Gilgeous-Alexander

SANDRO HALANK

PARIS JE T'AIME!

The Canadian men's national basketball team defeated Spain on Sept. 3 in a nail biting 88-85 victory during the 2023 FIBA World Cup. Led by Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Dillon Brooks, the win secured a berth for Canada in the 2024 Paris Olympics. The feat marks the first time since 2000 that the Canadian men's basketball team will be going to the Olympics.

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Bo Bichette
ERIK DROST

Injured Jays seek playoff berth

The Jays entered September fighting for the final wild card spot in the American League. The team is, however, plagued by a long list of injuries: all-star shortstop Bo Bichette (right quad strain), catcher Danny Jansen (fractured right middle finger) and third baseman Matt Chapman (right middle finger sprain). While these injuries, paired with the Jays' offensive struggles, are concerning, the Jays have one of the easiest remaining schedules in the league. They aren't out of the woods yet, but there are a few reasons for cautious optimism.

PWHL: ORIGINAL 6 ANNOUNCED

After much negotiation, the Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL) is finally a reality. The PWHL announced six franchises in August, with Canadian teams in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, and three in the U.S. The league will feature 150 of the world's best players competing for a championship cup. While the league schedule has not yet been announced, several high profile players, including Mikyla Grant-Mentis, have announced that they will be declaring for the PWHL draft. The first-ever draft will take place on Sept. 18 in Toronto. The puck for the inaugural season will drop in January 2024.

HOROSCOPES

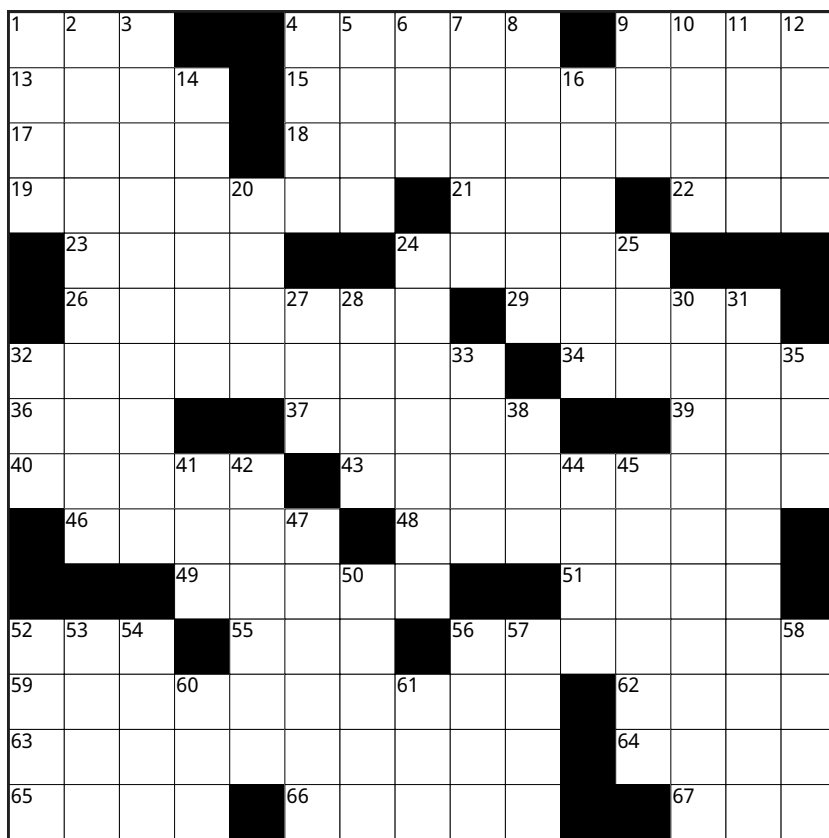
BY LEE SUKSI

ACROSS

- 1 Mornings, in brief
- 4 Bottomless pit
- 9 "Now!!"
- 13 Stare
- 15 Honey farmers
- 17 Oboe part
- 18 Obstacles to climb over, under, and around during a heist, say
- 19 Laura Secord or Paul Revere
- 21 Nintendo console
- 22 Winter hrs. in Alberta
- 23 Sky light
- 24 Tennis champ Naomi
- 26 1994 Jean-Claude Van Damme film (ACAB)
- 29 Restraint for a dog
- 32 "Good luck!"
- 34 Remove fleece from sheep
- 36 Bottom's partner
- 37 Horseshoe Tavern or Danforth Music Hall
- 39 Anderson Cooper's channel
- 40 Smug smile
- 43 Norms
- 46 "Try to ___ my way..."
- 48 Halloween month
- 49 Have a cigarette
- 51 ., sometimes
- 52 Making out in public, e.g.
- 55 ___-Magnon
- 56 "The Golden Girls" actress Getty
- 59 Anti-capitalist slogan
- 62 "The Lion King" lioness
- 63 Importance or celebrity
- 64 Level
- 65 Big truck
- 66 Tuesday meals, for some
- 67 GPS options

DOWN

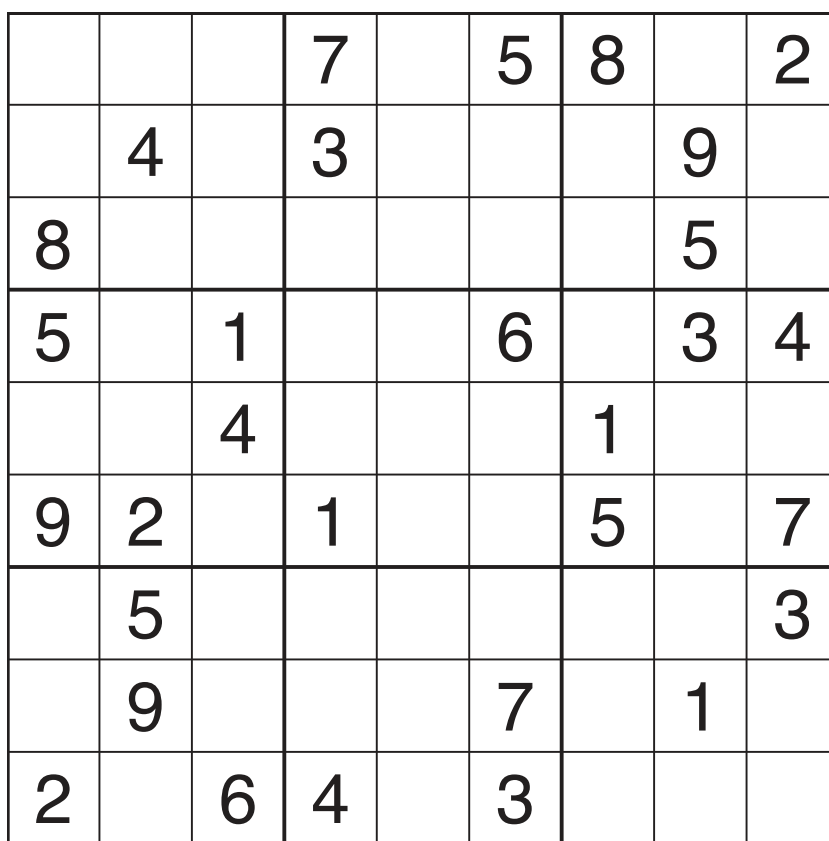
- 1 Taj Mahal location
- 2 Violent whirlpools
- 3 Honeybunch
- 4 Up to the task
- 5 Classic Canadian novel by Marian Engel about a woman and her titular lover
- 6 "Absolutely!"
- 7 Alters
- 8 Story told in installments
- 9 Great primate
- 10 Sewn line
- 11 They might be bare in hot weather
- 12 "Hey you!"
- 14 "Crash Landing on You" or "Extraordinary Attorney Woo"
- 16 Motor cycles?
- 20 Journey
- 24 Sandal feature
- 25 "Now I'm relaxed"
- 27 Cleveland player, briefly
- 28 Soccer stadium cheers
- 30 Where a villain might hang out
- 31 Like some cigars
- 32 "Butter" band
- 33 App that comes with chips
- 35 Hosp. workers
- 38 Treebeard, e.g.
- 41 Hi- or low- follower
- 42 Fermented cabbage dish
- 44 "Stop procrastinating!"
- 45 Not present
- 47 Sign in an apartment window
- 50 Where you might eat 42D and watch a 14D
- 52 Revs (up)
- 53 "Truth or ___?"
- 54 Small matter
- 56 Danish shoe brand with a store in the Eaton Centre
- 57 "___ So High" (Tal Bachman song)
- 58 Corn units
- 60 "Ew, I didn't need to know that!"
- 61 "Monsters, ___"



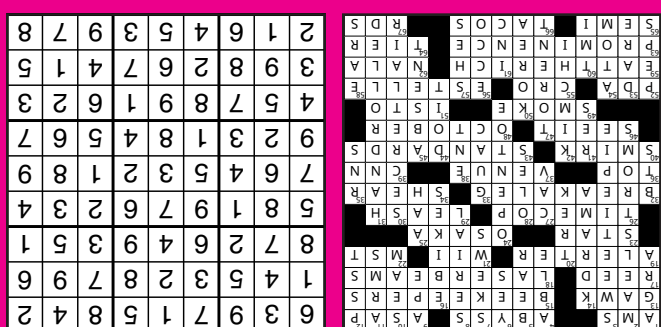
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BY EMMA LAWSON

SUDOKU PUZZLE
BY WEBSUDOKU.COM



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ARIES

(MARCH 20 — APRIL 20)

You don't always have to make a choice. Two things can exist at once. Many ways, with modifications. Compromise is exciting. It's necessary, and nourishing. Some choice feels impossible for you right now. You don't have to make a choice.

TAURUS

(APRIL 21 — MAY 21)

You are good at protecting yourself, and now is a good time to do that. Wear your armour. Protect your nest. Cushion your fall. If nothing risky comes, you'll be prepared and comfortable. If something does, you'll be in the halo of your own responsibility.

GEMINI

(MAY 22 — JUNE 21)

This autumn, I want you to be led by the pleasure of others. We're all very inclined to our own tastes, whims, and sometimes forgo our power to give other people pleasure. Notice what brings strangers and loved ones joy. Try what they enjoy, or help it happen for them. Watch what generosity does to you.

CANCER

(JUNE 22 — JULY 22)

When someone is not being fair, your own fairness won't be compromised if you explain to them what you need. There's a difference between self-advocacy and bulldozing. You deserve to confront those who are unkind or unreasonable. Beyond the fact that you are enough, you should have enough, as you firmly believe everybody else should.

LEO

(JULY 23 — AUGUST 22)

Keep secrets, but not from yourself. Having special, unshared knowledge will not incinerate you. It can be a treat. Allowing private knowledge to hover while you decide for yourself how you feel can be like the spaciousness of meditation, a double consciousness that is protective rather than destructive.

VIRGO

(AUGUST 23 — SEPTEMBER 22)

You're a worrier, and a carer. You tend to comfort yourself by soothing and preparing. What if, this year, in your most anxious moments, you did something that reminds you of your vitality? Your face in a bucket of ice, your body attempting to leap up a wall, a big huge gulp of the evening air in your lungs? Living can be the best solution to concern.

LIBRA

(SEPTEMBER 23 — OCTOBER 23)

This year, I want you to succumb to a meaningless obsession. There are two rules: nothing intimate and nothing destructive. But otherwise, I want you to spend time preoccupied with identifying birds, redesigning the toothbrush, listening to ancient music. Make it yours. The Libra wants to please everyone, and can lose sight of the pleasure in strong tastes and pastimes. Enjoy the world.

SCORPIO

(OCTOBER 23 — NOVEMBER 22)

The beginning of a friendship, a job, a relationship is its experimental stage. You are not quite sure yet. There's the excitement of mystery and a learning curve that challenges you, but also the irritations of personal threat and opacity, the worrying over what somebody means. In those moments, remember that you, too, are someone's experiment.

SAGITTARIUS

(NOVEMBER 23 — DECEMBER 22)

How does it feel to make an effort, rather than pretending you can do more than is humanly possible or giving yourself a hard time for not completing more than you're able? Experiment with scaling your ambition. Notice when you get just a bit further on a given goal, and be kind.

CAPRICORN

(DECEMBER 23 — JANUARY 20)

If you were to make a cabinet of wonders, what would go in it? Or rather, what are the objects in your possession that would go in it? They don't need to be expensive, but they must be meaningful objects you can hold in one or both hands. Could you order the objects to tell a story? Think about the story as you move around your space.

AQUARIUS

(JANUARY 21 — FEBRUARY 20)

Your guiding principle this autumn is peace. Not as in avoiding all confrontation, but as in what brings you stillness when you're alone. In moments of anxiety, bring this word back to mind and consider what brings you there. There is always much suffering, and we always deserve peace.

PISCES

(FEBRUARY 21 — MARCH 20)

This fall, go to a place where something bad happened, a physical location that makes you, a loved one or a late loved one uncomfortable, and give it your blessing. Your blessing is simply observation. Notice the material details, the present reality. Witness what caused harm, and what is incidental. Detangle the past from the future by being a bridge in the present moment. Take pictures if you must.

BY SYD MADIA SYDNEYMADIA.COM



BY SID SHARP SIDSHARP.COM



READ MORE ONLINE

RANDOM ADVICE

Introducing Random Advice, a slightly unconventional advice column where we bring your questions to the people who work at bars, wait at bus stops, or pave roads, to see what they have to say.

For this issue, we heard from a reader whose dilemma, er...straddles the uncomfortable line between work and relationships:

I'm one of three managers at a mid-sized restaurant. We're all on salary and make the same amount of money. Anyone who's worked in the industry knows that there's a kind of "party culture" where your boss turns into a drinking buddy outside of work hours. This wouldn't be an issue, except that my boss has had multiple sexual relationships with current and former managers. I'm expected to cover for them when they go away on "business trips" together. Those managers get preferential treatment too: easier workload, days off approved when they want, etc. What should I do?



Shayan, Saif, Esah and Hamza
SPIKEBALL PLAYERS AT QUEEN'S PARK

"I'd just sleep with him."
"I'd talk to the boss' boss. I'd say it's not fair they're all sleeping with him. Give me better rights, I'm working harder than they are. Or there should be some sort of system where you track how much vacation someone's taking, how many shifts someone's picking up on behalf of other people. Just so that there's some meritocracy to how that works. I don't know who you'd speak to about that. The owner? I guess that would be the only person who's above the boss, right?"
"Blackmail them. Casually record them on your phone...like, have a conversation, get them to confess, then send it to HR."

Gemma
BARTENDER AT THE ARTFUL DODGER PUB



"Honestly, move on. Find another job. Like, especially if you're at the managerial level, then you're probably talking about the owner of the business. Even if you're in a corporation, you can go to somebody above that person's head, but there's absolutely no point because—why would you even want to stay in your job afterwards? It's gonna be miserable because you've gone against somebody who's above you. I think talking to the other employees isn't gonna do anything at all, other than just cause rifts between everybody. For me? I would just be...I'm out. I have two owners at this place and I'm actually management here. I've been here 12 years now and I've got staff that have been here 15 to 20 years. These owners would never treat their staff that way. When you've seen the other side, you realize that this industry's so transient, there's a million jobs available and a million people constantly looking for new management or whatever. In my experience, management doesn't stay for very long. They don't necessarily get treated very well. It's a bit of a ladder that you're trying to climb and unfortunately it doesn't really work for most people."

Are you dealing with a complicated work situation? Is your landlord being shady? Do you have a relationship question you can't ask your friends about? We're here for you. Email us at info@the grindmag.ca and you might find the answer you're looking for in the next issue.