

** VOCALEYE COMMUNITY NEWS | NOVEMBER 2024

(UPDATED)

Oops, we made a mistake! We weren't meant to send out info about Shawn Marsolais' birthday, but instead about Blind Beginnings "A Taste of Fall" Fundraiser coming up next weekend! But since we let the cat out of the bag about Shawn's birthday, a great way to celebrate with her would be to attend the event! Details below. We also took the opportunity to include a Holiday Preview and cancellation announcement so please read on...

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** 1) FROM FOLKLORE TO HISTORY: ACCESS NOVEMBER THEATRE

As we step into November, we're excited to bring you two shows that artfully blend history, myth, and cultural insight!

November is a time for reflection and celebration, with significant days like Remembrance Day on November 11, where we honour those who have served and sacrificed. November 8 marks [Indigenous Veterans Day](#), a moment to specifically acknowledge and remember the contributions of Indigenous peoples in the armed forces. Additionally, [Diwali, the Festival of Lights](#), begins on October 31 and runs through November 3. This five-day celebration of light over darkness is observed by millions around the world.

In that spirit, we're proud to present **Yaga** and **1939**, two shows that shine a light on unique stories and perspectives. We hope they resonate with the spirit of the season. Join us this November as we bring these incredible tales to life through audio description, celebrating history, culture, and storytelling together!

Want all the details?

Explore our full event listings and more on the [VocalEye website](#).

Book a Buddy

Our Theatre Buddy sighted guides are available to assist.

Reserve 3 days in advance by emailing buddies@vocaleye.ca—meet up locations are close to transit.

Need a little extra support for tickets?

We've got you covered! Ticket Access rebates are available for those in financial need. Contact donna@vocaleye.ca before purchasing your tickets.

** 2) **VOCAL EYE IN-PERSON**

** 3) **CANCELLED: STANLEY PARK GHOST TRAIN**

Due to the incoming atmospheric river and resulting rain and cold, we have cancelled the Stanley Park Ghost Train event on Sunday, October 20. Stay warm, dry and safe, everyone!

** 4) **[YAGA](#)**

A thrilling celebration of female power.

Described on Saturday, November 2 at 1 pm at the Gateway Theatre, 6500 Gilbert Rd, Richmond. [View Map](#)

The Gateway offers a 50% ticket discount to VocalEye users. [Purchase your tickets online](#) using the discount code “VOC50” or call the Gateway Box Office at [604-270-1812](tel:604-270-1812).

The mysterious disappearance and suspected murder of a college bad boy leads a local small-town sheriff, a young private detective, and an unsettling university professor into a labyrinth of secret lives, ancient magic, and multiple suspects.

Yaga is the reimagining of a legendary folk anti-hero through Sandler’s razor-sharp feminist wit. Part thriller, part comedy, part nightmare fairy-tale, Yaga leads us into an unforgettable world of trickery and revenge.

”Sandler has triumphantly reclaimed the evil-woman myth. Move over, Wicked and Maleficent, and welcome Yaga to the sisterhood.” – *Martin Morrow, The Globe and Mail*

Described by Anika Vervecken.

[Accessibility at the Gateway](#)

** 5) [1939](#)

Shakespeare gets schooled by Indigenous students in Northern Ontario.

Described on Sunday, November 17 at 2 pm at the Belfry Theatre, 1291 Gladstone Avenue in Victoria. [View Map](#)

The Belfry offers Pay-What-You-Can (PWYC) tickets for all performances. Please contact the Box Office to purchase by calling [250-385-6815](tel:250-385-6815).

It's 1939, the year of King George's first Royal Tour of Canada, and rumour has it that a Residential School in Northern Ontario is on the itinerary. As the Welsh English-teacher rehearses her students for a performance of **All's Well That Ends Well** for the King, the Indigenous actors discover surprising parallels between their various cultures and Shakespeare's script—and set out to make his bittersweet comedy their own.

“Jani Lauzon and Kaitlyn Riordan have crafted a play full of empathy and humour. They have found a way of addressing the tragedy of Residential Schools that gives the Indigenous students agency and pride. And I love the surprising way in which Shakespeare—the ultimate colonial icon—is given new vitality and significance.” – *Michael Shamata, Belfry Artistic Director*

Described by Jill Sharpe.

[Accessibility at the Belfry](#)

** 6) HOLIDAY PREVIEW

We have a great selection of holiday shows with live description this year! Here's a sneak peek at December's live described shows - grab your tickets early to secure your seats!

[Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol](#)

The heartwarming holiday musical returns!

Described twice: Sunday, December 8 at 2 pm, and Friday, December 13 at 8 pm at the Arts Club Stanley. Join us for a Notable Social following the December 8 matinee. To purchase tickets, call [604-687-1644](tel:604-687-1644) or [book online](#).

[East Van Panto: Robin Hood](#)

East Van's wackiest all-ages theatre tradition returns with a very merry take on Robin Hood! Described on Sunday, December 15 at 2 pm at The York. To purchase tickets, call [604-251-1363](tel:604-251-1363).

[Miracle on 34th Street](#)

A fresh take on a holiday classic. Described twice: Tuesday,

December 17 at 7:30 pm and Friday, December 20 at 8 pm at the Arts Club Granville Island. To purchase tickets, call [604-687-1644](tel:604-687-1644) or [book online](#).

[Lionel Bart's Oliver](#)

An award-winning musical adaptation of the Charles Dickens novel, "Oliver Twist". Described on Saturday, December 28 at 1 pm at Gateway Theatre. [Purchase your tickets online](#) using the discount code "VOC50" or call the Gateway Box Office at [604-270-1812](tel:604-270-1812).

** 7) COMMUNITY EVENTS

IN PERSON

- **Accessible Community Forum - Disability in the Media: Wednesday, October 23 from 1 to 3 pm at Creekside Community Centre, 1 Athlete's Way, Vancouver.** This forum, hosted by ConnecTra and Disability Foundation, will address the representation of disabilities in the media. The panelists include: Host Amy Amantea (Artist, Actor and Advocate for Persons with Disabilities), Susanna Uchatius (Artistic Director at Theatre Terrific), Katie MacMillan (Founder of Kello Inclusive,

Grant Hardy Producer at Accessible Media Inc.), Tilly Nelson (Photographer and advocate for equal representation), Ladan Sahraei (Iranian-Canadian deaf actress, director and filmmaker). This is a free event. [Get tickets.](#)

- **A Taste of Fall Sensory Event: Saturday, October 26 at 7 pm at Van Dusen Botanical Gardens, 5151 Oak Street, Vancouver.** [Blind Beginnings](#) and co-sponsor PCI

Developments invite you to an exclusive fundraising event, held indoors at the beautiful VanDusen Gardens. The ticket price of \$75 includes light fare and a sensory experience to expand your palate and savour new flavours. There will be a Silent Auction, 50/50 Draw and a Raffle (1st prize is two Economy Class return tickets for travel to any Air Canada scheduled destination in North America!) Tickets support Blind Beginnings's mission of empowering BC children and youth who are blind or partially sighted and their families. [Purchase tickets.](#)

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Special thanks to the generous funders, donors and supporters who help us make the arts more accessible for people who are blind and partially sighted.

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We occupy the unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

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