

## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### Sky Glabush Gallery

Ximena Rossello Gallery  
5-23 September  
FAB Building

Two new galleries are being presented by U of A Masters students. The Sky Glabush Gallery provides a plethora of paintings for your viewing pleasure, entitled *Provisional Structures*, while the Rossello Gallery presents a design for a U of A orientation system, which is accessible for users with low vision.

### Tupelo Honey

With Drive By Punch, Radioforhelp and The Line Atlantic  
Friday, 8 September at 8pm  
Dinwoodie Lounge  
\$13 Advance at Megatunes, Powerplant or SU Info Booths

Edmonton-based Tupelo Honey headlines this Friday, bringing home the hard-rock style that made them a fan-favorite across Alberta.

### Bedouin Soundclash

With Radio Vacana  
Sunday, 10 September at 7pm  
Dinwoodie Lounge  
\$20 Advance at Powerplant or SU Info Booths

Does anybody remember Snow? You know, that guy who sang “Everybody Wants To Be Like You”? Okay, never mind. Still, Bedouin Soundclash is another reggae-influenced band heralding from Ontario and riding up the charts. Fortunately, they’re more on the rockin’, talented side than on the Canadian-version-of-Vanilla-Ice side.



### Who Killed the Electric Car?

Directed by Chris Paine  
Opens 8 September  
Princess Theatre

Directed by Chris Paine, this documentary chronicles the rise and fall of the General Motors’ EV1, one of the first commercially available electric cars on the road before they were all recalled in 2003, only to be compacted and dumped in secret locations.

### Hear’s To Your Health

With Jacques Despres, featuring members of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra  
Monday, 11 September at 5pm  
Bernard Snell Auditorium, Walter Mackenzie Health Sciences Center  
Free and open to the public

U of A faculty member Jacques Despres joins three members of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra to perform an all-Mozart concert. So, if all the rock shows are a little too wild for you, or you want to prove to a date that you’re cultured, enjoy a night of classical music that doesn’t cut into your lunchmeat fund, either.

JOHN KMECH  
A&E Godfather

# A Fillion and one reasons

The *Gateway* caught up with *Serenity* star Nathan Fillion when he returned home for the Fringe Festival, and we got the scoop on why Edmonton—and the U of A—are the best places to be

MEGHAN POTKINS  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

“Put this in your article: I dropped school and was four months away from graduating. Put a bug in the ear of the administration saying that I sure would like my degree.”

Nathan Fillion once wanted to be a teacher. Then he wanted to be an actor. Then, his starring role as Captain Malcolm Reynolds in the short-lived but critically acclaimed series *Firefly*, which was followed up on the big screen with last fall’s *Serenity*, ensured Fillion’s success—at least in the acting respect. But, despite all of his big-screen accomplishments, Fillion still has another goal he hasn’t yet conquered: he wants his teaching degree from the University of Alberta.

“I’m not going to go teach or anything, but they could give me an honorary degree of some kind,” Fillion laughs. “I was going to be a high school teacher. I was doing a drama major and an art minor.”

Four months before he was set to graduate, Fillion went to New York to audition for the soap *One Life to Live*, leaving his teaching practicum incomplete. He was just shy of completing his requirements for his Bachelor of Education.

“[The University Administration] was really cool,” Fillion recalls when he approached faculty and administration to ask permission for a leave of absence. “I asked, ‘Can I put a hold on my spot? I’m going to New York to try this soap opera, but it might not pan out and I might be coming back and picking up where I left off.’ They said, ‘Yeah, go ahead, knock yourself out,’ and they held my spot ... they were very cool to me.”

As it turns out, things ended up just dandy for Fillion on *One Life*, and before long, he was auditioning in Los Angeles, landing plump roles on television programs like *Two Guys*, a *Girl* and a *Pizza Place*, Joss Whedon’s *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and later on, of course, the lead in another Whedon project, *Firefly*.

Despite his success in LA, though, Fillion hasn’t left Edmonton entirely behind him. Since moving to the US, Fillion has returned several times to his hometown in order to join the cast of the improvised soap opera *Die-Nasty*, a hobby he’d spent a good chunk of time on during University years, and this past August, he came back, once again, for the 25th anniversary of the Fringe theatre festival.

“I’m very happy to be back doing improv, doing *Die-Nasty*. Getting back up there with those guys was very, very important to me,” Fillion says. “They’re always so welcoming and supportive, and they’re always just so willing to embrace me whenever I come home. It makes me feel great.”

In recent years, Fillion has been one of several homegrown Edmonton improvisers/performers to make the trek south to North America’s entertainment Mecca. Another fame-gaining performer hailing from our fair city is Rapid Fire Alumni Josh Dean, better known for his work on the Fox sitcom *Free Ride*. And, aside from having similar roots, Fillion also considers Dean to be a close friend.

“We hang out all the time,” Fillion says. “[Right now], he’s house-sitting for me and feeding my cat.”

While Fillion may have fellow Canadians like Dean to keep him company, he admits that there are some things about Canada that he misses. Fillion describes how surprised Americans are at what he considers the common courtesy all Canadians extend to strangers.

“If I’ve got a giant shopping cart full of groceries and someone comes behind me with only three items and I let them go ahead rather than wait for me, people are so taken aback. It makes me feel great, but it also kind of disheartens me to know

that someone would be so taken aback when you just [show] common courtesy,” Fillion explains. “Canadians aren’t afraid to be kind. They’re not afraid to be polite. They’re not offended by everything. It just seems to be more relaxed and easygoing.”

Still, Fillion will probably remain in LA for the time being while he pursues new projects. He has just completed work on an independent film called *Waitress* with actress Keri Russell, and *White Noise: The Light*, which will be released sometime in January.

Although Fillion enjoys the challenge of taking on new roles, he hasn’t forgotten the project that first introduced him to wider audiences, and most importantly, he hasn’t forgotten where he got his start. With a few films under his belt and no end to acting in sight, Fillion will always find the time to return home to Edmonton at least twice a year, whether it means reacquainting himself with the Fringe stage, or dropping in to local classrooms to speak about his achievements.

“My best friend from school teaches [in Edmonton]. I go talk to his drama classes all the time when I come back during the school year. My family brings me back. This is where I’m from.”

