

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Wieslaw Haladaj Prints

SNAP gallery exhibition
Running Until 24 February
Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 12-5 pm

Using the printmaking technique called linocut, Polish artist Wieslaw Haladaj creates stunning portraits of facial expressions in his new art exhibit now on at the SNAP gallery. Repetitive black and white images portray Haladaj's artistic vision about the creation of the human psyche, or in his own words, "the situation in which a human being for the first time realized, deprived of all ideas and delusions about himself, even before religion was made, his existence and the place he lives in."

The Last King of Scotland

Starring Forest Whitaker, James McAvoy and Kerry Washington
Directed by Kevin Macdonald
Opens Friday, 19 January
Princess Theatre

Beneath his admirable qualities, such as the butchering of thousands and his rampant militarism, historians have speculated that there was a darker side to the long-time ruler of Uganda, Idi Amin. Though history can never be certain, it was suggested that he may have been a bit nutsy as well, exemplified by the fact that he actually believed he was the King of Scotland, as well as the fact that he ate human flesh. Forest Whitaker stars in this highly acclaimed film adapted from a novel of the same name. Told from the perspective of Amin's former doctor, the movie sends a strict message to deceased African dictators on the importance of geopolitical boundaries, and features a cameo by Mel Gibson in a heartbreaking, yet uplifting scene as he cries out for freedom while being disemboweled and served with red wine.



Deliver Us From Evil

Starring Oliver O'Grady and Thomas Doyle
Directed by Amy Berg
Opens Friday, 19 January
Princess Theatre

Shot as a documentary-style film, *Deliver Us From Evil* tells the story of Oliver O'Grady. O'Grady was a Catholic Priest in the 1970s who, unknown to all he preached to, molested hundreds of children over the years in the Golden State, all the while maintaining the support of the Catholic Church, who was aware of his actions. The subject has been in ten-foot-pole territory for the media ever since the Church was exposed, but additional criticism was awarded after director Amy Berg filmed a scene at a schoolyard with the children's name tags clearly visible, bringing O'Grady—who remains a reformed, yet convicted pedophile—by the schoolyard to see them.

Twenty One Red

With Amaranth
Wednesday, 24 January at 9pm
Sidetrack Café
\$5 at door

Having lost much of their money and all of their pride after errantly doubling down on a straight-up bet, the members of Edmonton's Twenty One Red left their professional roulette careers behind to focus their efforts on the pursuit of hard rock stardom. Alas, their betting faux pas would leave an indelible mark on their band and their psyche, causing them to drown their sorrows in power chords and baccarat.

JOHN KMECH
My newest Facebook friend

Super Mario meets Beethoven

Video Games Live strives to incorporate non-gamers, fans into the digital world through music

Video Games Live

Hosted by Tommy Tallarico
Conducted by Jack Wall
Runs 22-23 January at 7:30pm
Jubilee Auditorium

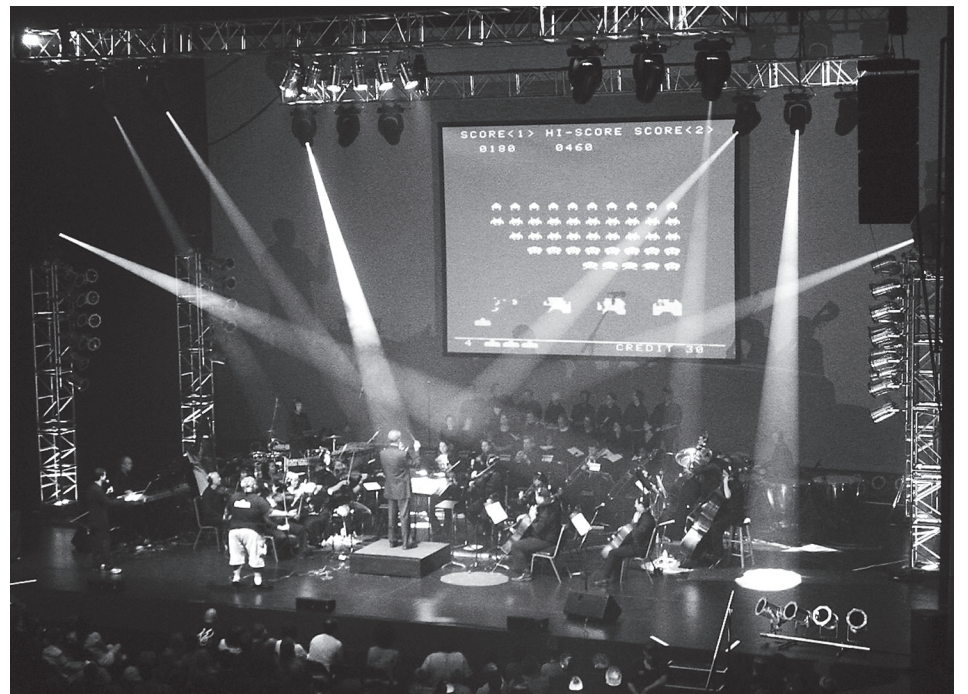
RAMIN OSTAD
Arts & Entertainment Staff

For most non-gamers, the idea of video game music arouses memories of the simple bleeps and bleeps made famous by games like *Super Mario Bros*. But for composers Tommy Tallarico and Jack Wall, video game music is much more than that, and they plan to prove it with their part symphony/part video concert entitled *Video Games Live*.

"It's kind of like the very first time you heard of Cirque De Soleil; you might have been like me where I was like, 'What the hell is this? Is it animals or clowns jumping around on stage, or strange French people in Speedos?'" laughs *Video Games Live* host Tallarico, an industry icon and video game composer for the past 17 years. "It was only until someone saw it and explained it to me or I saw it on TV that it really clicked."

Besides being a symphony based on video game music, the show's creators are aiming to attract both non-gamers and audiences that are generally uninterested in classical music. By synchronizing lighting and in-game videos with live music, the show attempts to modernize the symphony experience and attract people of all ages.

"The reality is that symphonies around the world are kind of dying out now because they aren't appealing to anyone under the age of 40. I mean, I dig this stuff; Beethoven's my boy. But even when I go to symphonies, I get bored—and I'm a composer," Tallarico enthuses. "That's what we're trying to tell the folks out there who aren't into video games. We say, 'Look, you want to



come see this thing because it's never been done before. Symphonies have never been presented like this before."

Despite wanting to appeal to non-gamers, Tallarico and conductor Jack Wall haven't forgotten their key audience—video game fans. The symphony plays music from many fan-favorite games, including *Warcraft*, *Final Fantasy*, *Mario*, *Zelda* and *Halo*, and is constantly updating itself with music from newer games. The orchestra also attempts to customize the show for each city they visit. For example, at their Edmonton stop, they will be honoring Edmonton-based developer Bioware.

Over the last year, the tour has experienced rising success, selling out shows all over North America and across the globe. However, *Video*

Games Live wasn't an automatic hit. In their first year, *Video Games Live* was forced to cancel its tour due to low attendance levels caused in part by poor marketing and public relations. After a small recovery period, though, Tallarico believes the show is stronger than ever.

"We have 60 shows this year; we had 15 last year," Tallarico explains. "It took longer than expected to get there, but here we are. So for anyone out there who ever thought about possibly coming out to see a live performance with so many wonderful musicians on stage, this is the one to do it, because we have the visuals, we have the lights and we have the excitement. This is a groundbreaking thing, so if you ever go to the symphony, this is the one you'll have the most fun at."

Airing her Sexy Laundry in public

Sexy Laundry

Written by Michele Riml
Directed by John Hudson
Starring Coralie Cairns and Glenn Nelson
Runs 18 January-4 February
Varscona Theatre

LACINA DESJARLAIS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Over the phone, actress Coralie Cairns' voice is warm and motherly, not at all what you'd expect from the star of a play entitled *Sexy Laundry*. And while this title may also suggest that the Varscona's latest production is a raunchy sex-fest, Cairns insists that the show is anything but that.

The story unfolds as Alice and Henry, 25-year veterans of marriage, decide that their love life has become a bit stale thanks to time, children and stress. With a copy of *Sex for Dummies* in hand, they check into a fancy hotel to see if they can rediscover their old passion for each other and maybe kick their sex life back into gear. While trying to test the mattress springs and a few new passion props, the pair run into a few snags and ultimately end up finding more than just some new positions: they develop a greater understanding for each other.

"It's a comedy about two people desperately trying to communicate with each other, but who've gotten so out of touch that they keep missing the boat," Cairns says. "It's all about communication and them really finding who they are, not just as a couple, but as individuals as well."

As Alice and Henry learn about sex-toys and role-playing together they ultimately find themselves and learn more about what they really



STEFFI ROSSKOPF

MMM, FLEECY There's nothing more attractive than a guy who smells like fabric softener.

want from life. But Cairns admits that, at times, it was a challenge to bring Alice to life.

"Trying to find the core of [Alice's] frustrations, finding her complexities and what her insecurities are and how she masks them was a challenge," Cairns relates. However, it seems that she may have found a new character niche for herself judging by her enthusiasm for the role.

Although *Sexy Laundry* is both clever and touching with a tender message regarding relationships, the play still contains enough sexually charged scenes to send less-experienced actresses running scared. The fearless Cairns, however, says that taking on her first comedic role in a long time was a nice change of pace from the formerly deep and sometimes-depressing roles she had been playing. And, in a play where rehearsals could easily become awkward, Cairns

explains that playing with the subject matter was made a little easier by her familiarity with co-star Glenn Nelson.

"There was a part where I was like, 'Oh do I have to wear this [revealing outfit]?' But I got past that and I'm having fun with it now," Cairns laughs. "Glenn and I know each other quite well, too, so there's a real comfort level. We had a little bit of an advantage there."

Although the title and the theme of *Sexy Laundry* may sound deliciously dirty, Cairns expresses a hope that the public won't judge a play by its title, or let it deter them from seeing the show.

"This is a fun play," Cairns says. "Hopefully younger audience members will recognize their family in the characters, and older audience members will recognize themselves a little bit, too."