

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Rebecca Higgs

With Hot Panda and Meligrove Band
Friday, 13 July at 8pm
Victory Lounge
\$10 at the door

Hailing from Halifax, this chanteuse describes her genre as "indie shoegaze pop," which seems to be an accurate description her ethereal, jazz-like voice sung over a bed of electronica and/or acoustic guitar. The themes of her music cover unrequited love, lost loves and romance. Yet she definitely displays her talent and originality, somewhat reminiscent of a folkier Bjork. In addition to this show, Higgs is also performing on 12 July, at SNAP gallery.

Jay and the Lovebirds

With Minutia Conspiracy
Friday, 13 July at 9pm
Blackspot Café

It's not often that I get to give props to a band from my own town in this column, so I must take the opportunity when it comes. Jay and his Lovebirds are bringing their alt-rock assault all the way from Brooks, Alberta. They are currently preparing their debut album, entitled *Sounds of Hope*, and fans of Underoath or Thrice should enjoy these dove-themed rockers.

Canadian Air Guitar Championships: Alberta Finals

Sunday, 15 July at 9pm
\$5 cover, 18+
Velvet Underground
www.airguitar.ca

Do you have the energy and stamina to play guitar, but lack any actual talent? Are you even deprived of the primordial motor skills necessary to excel at the five-button jammings of *Guitar Hero*? Can you jump around, headbang, and move your fingers, all at the same time? If you answered yes to any of those questions, you're in luck.

This weekend, the Velvet Underground is hosting the province-wide Air Guitar Championships. You can be assured that the amps on the backing recordings will be cranked to eleven. This bedroom pseudo-sport has even gained enough of a following to have its own documentary. The winner of this weekend's championship will advance to the National Championships in Toronto, where the victor will pick up a priceless, to-scale clay diorama of Valhalla.

You Kill Me

Starring Ben Kingsley and Tea Leoni
Directed by John Dahl
Princess Theatre
Opens 20 July

Ben Kingsley has, in recent years, had a fairly rough ride. The Oscar winner, who has portrayed such significant figures as Gandhi, Moses, and Lenin and who was nominated for an Oscar as recently as 2004, also starred in such winners as Uwe Boll's *Bloodrayne* and the bizarre live-action remake of *Thunderbirds*. Well, you win some, you lose some, and Kingsley looks like he replaced his agent, as *You Kill Me* has been generating some positive press. Kingsley stars in this comedy as an alcoholic mob hitman who begins attending AA meetings.

Sacra Privata

Works on paper by Blair Brennan
SNAP gallery
On Display until July 21

Sacra Privata, a Latin term meaning the religious rites of a house, family or tribe, is invoked by artist Blair Brennan to describe his current SNAP gallery exhibit. Autobiographical in nature, Brennan uses his drawings to form a "visual diary" of a rough period in his life, one where he shares his secret, possibly sacred, ideas and personal, possibly private, trials. So actually, the title isn't all that cryptic.

JOHN KMECH
The Judge Dread of A&E



MIKEOTTO

TATOOINE YOU Shane Turgeon's new book has revealed legions of people willing to be the Emperor's right arm, even right here in Edmonton.

May the force be (permanently) with you

The Force in the Flesh: Star Wars Inspired Body Art

By Shane Turgeon
Design by Jeff Correll
SFT Productions
www.theforceintheflesh.com

TYSON DURST
Arts & Entertainment Writer

After 30 years, there's no question that the *Star Wars* saga has left its mark on millions of people throughout the world, but a new book from local author Shane Turgeon proves this in the most literal sense. *The Force in the Flesh*, his self-published photo collection, casts the familiar movies in a new light—as a surprisingly popular tattoo choice.

Officially released at *Star Wars Celebration IV* in Los Angeles in May, the coffee-table book shows how many people have made *Star Wars* a permanent part of their lives.

"After running tattoosandtoys.com for over five years, we just met so many awesome people with amazing tattoos and amazing stories, and I kind of wanted to illustrate to the readers the people

behind the tattoos that they're not just people who live in their parents' basement and whatever else," Turgeon explains.

"They're straight-up, honest, normal people who just have a passion for *Star Wars* and tattoos and have combined it," he continues. "I really enjoy big art books, and a lot of tattoo aficionados love big art books, so we've got subject matter that we thought would make a perfect art book."

The author's tattoo exhibits and competitions held at the past two Los Angeles *Star Wars* Celebrations have been eye-openers for the public, both inside and outside of the *Star Wars* fan community. They've exposed a subculture within a subculture, one that was waiting for its time in the spotlight.

"If you're coming from the mainstream world, you're like, 'What the hell? *Star Wars* tattoos?' They don't understand that a culture like that even exists. Within the *Star Wars* community, everybody is really into it, really supportive, even if they're not into tattoos themselves," Turgeon points out.

"They're something that sprung from the underground, and I don't think anybody realized how big it actually was until it was somewhat

upon us," he elaborates. "It's something that's kind of underground, but it's exploded within the last few years to become fairly mainstream and an accepted part of the *Star Wars* community."

Almost as popular as the movies themselves are the stereotypes of its fans, typically the image of obsessive male nerd. But *The Force in the Flesh* effectively destroys such images by examining tattoo subjects and artists from both genders and various walks of life. Despite the general stereotypes, Turgeon—who has *Star Wars* tattoos himself—notes that tattoos are becoming increasingly mainstream for various reasons.

"There's a lot of people that have always had that [idea]: that they're for sailors, whores and bikers," Turgeon explains. "But with professionals like doctors or lawyers or bankers who have a love of tattoo art—and especially with the art becoming so exceptional in the last ten or 15 years—it's generated a lot more mainstream acceptance."

This newfound acceptance means that promoting tattoo artistry based on a galaxy far, far away has taken off, as Turgeon continues a busy summer with stops at *Star Wars Celebration Europe* and the San Diego Comic Con this month.

Second time's the charm for local theatre show

theatrepreview

The Exquisite Hour

Runs 12-28 July
Varscona Theatre
Directed by Stuart Lemoine
Starring Jeff Haslem and Kate Ryan

NICOLE CARGILL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It's a rare occasion when a locally written and produced show gets a second shot at the limelight, but since *The Exquisite Hour's* debut at the 2002 Edmonton Fringe, audiences and critics alike have been begging for its return. Now, five years later, the Teatro la Quindicina theatre company is bringing a repeat showcase of *The Exquisite Hour* to the Varscona Theatre.

Directed by Stewart Lemoine and showcasing the same cast, audiences of the original run will be pleased to know that little tinkering has been done to the show.

The play is based on the poem *L'Heure Esquise* by 19th-century poet Paul Verlaine and by music from French composer Renaldo Hahn. According to Lemoine, such music set the perfect mood for a play about magic, everyday moments that seem to block out the surrounding world.

"When I reflected on [Hahn's music], it has a really nice little suspended quality. [The play's] about a special moment in time where two people come together romantically, and everything else around them seems to stop. The music sort of described that to me perfectly," Lemoine explains.



MIKEOTTO

TEALE ME ABOUT IT Jeff Haslem and Kate Ryan seem content to reprise their *Exquisite Hour* roles.

Jeff Haslem plays Mr Teale, a 30-something bachelor who finds his quaint life forever skewed one summer evening when a stranger arrives in his backyard. Mrs Darimont, played by Kate Ryan, engages Mr Teale to reflect on the quintessential essence that is his life. Her sales pitch? Encyclopedias.

"Through the course of that hour, they get to know quite a lot about each other, and she has a little agenda, but I don't want to give it away," Lemoine chuckles. "[The play's] about how much can actually happen in an hour."

"It's about meeting new people and about loneliness or the value of having someone in your life at the end of the day," he continues. "People often look for little moments of quiet and think that there

is that exquisite hour at the end of the day as the sun goes down, and I think people always have that moment of reflection and say 'Well, that's it.' It's about the little moments that you wish could last."

The Exquisite Hour also carries with it an air of finality for Lemoine, as the show is his final production as the artistic director of Teatro La Quindicina. He's remaining with the company as a playwright, however, and despite this passing of the torch, seems just as radiant as a summer night.

For those who didn't catch the previous Fringe run of *The Exquisite Hour*, Lemoine promises a light-hearted time, demanding little from our sun-stroked, sandal-calloused summer schedule. All he asks is an hour of your time.