

2013 Interesting Vancouver speakers

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Steve Fisher

Steve is the Founder and Experience Architect at The Republic of Quality, an experience design firm in Vancouver, where he coordinates research, strategy, visual and interaction design, and content strategy. Prior to this role, he tried many different career paths that ranged the gamut from knife salesman, to pastor, to running his own business (twice!) and freelance designer for various agency and studio settings. With over 18 years of experience in research, business strategy, experience strategy, visual and interaction design, and content strategy for the web, Steve's a creative powerhouse with a bent for finding ways to mess things up. He's basically a way less successful Steve Jobs.



Steve will share his story about his journey of faith, science, love, leaving religion, and the repercussions that followed.

Lynn Hill

Lynn has curated a wide range of exhibitions of Contemporary First Nations art for public galleries and artist run centres both here in Vancouver and Toronto. After spending ten years working in Toronto, she returned to Vancouver and spent two years in Curatorial Residency at the UBC Museum of Anthropology where she curated the show "Ravens Reprise. No longer enveloped in "gallery politics" and artist cliques, Lynn currently lives and works in Vancouver with her roommate and their shih tzus. Lynn grew up on the Six Nations Reserve, near Brantford, Ontario and received a degree in Art History from the University of Victoria.



Lynn will share her story about her career and change: from first climbing the ladder of success to later on questioning how high she wanted climb, at what price, and what would happen if she took time off to reflect on her past and where she wanted to move to.

Stephane Mouttet

Stéphane is the Chef Concierge of the Shangri-La Hotel and the Director of the Regional Board of the BC Region of Les Clefs d'Or Canada. He has also worked as a Concierge at the Four Seasons Hotel in Vancouver and Toronto and as a Senior Concierge at the Pan Pacific Hotel. Born in Montreal, Canada, Stéphane was adopted and raised by a French family from Grenoble when he was only one years old. He went on to graduate from the prestigious International



Concierge Institute in Paris and then decided to move back to Canada after spending a year in the French army. Being raised in France but working as an adult in Canada, Stéphane is the perfect embodiment of the “old world meets the new world.” He possesses both the easy charm and warmth of North American hospitality as well as training in the true traditional European sensibilities.

Stéphane will share his story about being reunited with his biological parents and his love for travel infused by having two families.

Yared Nigussu

Yared is an acclaimed Ethiopian artist who now lives in Vancouver, BC. He is best known for his large-scale paintings and colourful pallet. His work has been featured in many exhibitions in France, Austria, Spain and Canada and is widely collected internationally. Yared’s first paintings reflected his fascination with faces: he would spend days observing them, inspired by the beauty of their shapes and their gazes which to him, hide a lot of stories. His most emblematic piece is that of a child soldier: this painting shows the sadness and desperation of child whose childhood has been stolen. After travelling extensively in Europe and living in Canada, Yared became inspired by the urban perspective and went on to create dynamic cityscapes that reflected the fast motion of urban world and the speed of our hectic lives. Yared studied art in Ethiopia at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design and in France on a scholarship.



Yared will share his story about the risks of first impressions and how a person whom at first he didn't like or trust played the most important role in his career and became a close friend.

Meaghan Kennedy

Meaghan has a rather unusual occupation – a Piñata Artist. What began as a hobby, has now turned into a full-time couture crafting business that has garnered her acclaim and clients from around the world. In just two years, she has honed the art of sculpting these unique and colourful papier-mâché creations into the likeness of loved ones, celebrities, animals, and just about anything else you can imagine - even the late Korean dictator Kim Jong Il. She has made piñatas for the cast of the Vampire Diaries, actor Jason Priestley’s birthday, a Perez Hilton likeness for hip hop star Wil.I.Am, Lush Cosmetics stores across North America, the Discovery Channel’s Shark Week wrap party, and The Galloping Goose Restaurant in Victoria, B.C. Meaghan worked at luxury clothing outlet L2 Leone before she took a leap of faith to pursue her dreams and so far it has definitely worked out for her.

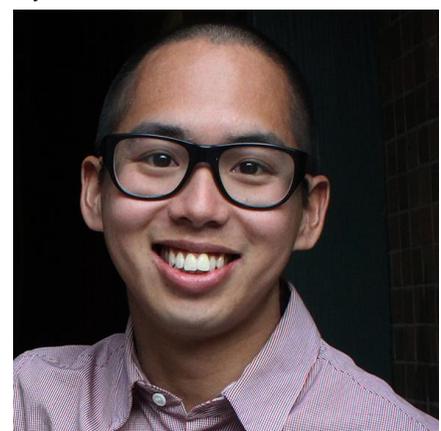


Meaghan will talk about how piñatas have changed her life. She will end with a live piñata smashing with members of the audience.

Ken Tsui

Ken Tsui is a filmmaker and pop-up event organizer. This year, he led the cultural rejuvenation of the Vancouver Chinatown Night Market as its program director. He is fascinated with cultural collaboration and how it can revitalize unexpected spaces.

Ken will share his story about how Wu-Tang Clan's debut album Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers) inadvertently informed his



understanding of the personal voice in a collaborative and fast changing environment of pop-up events.

Dave “Peach Cobblah” Deveau

Dave is an award-winning playwright (best known for his plays *My Funny Valentine*, *Tiny Replicas* and *Nelly Boy*), drag queen, and event organizer. His work has been prominently featured through such companies as Zee Zee and Green Thumb Theatres where he is in Playwright in Residence. Six of his plays will be produced this year through Zee Zee and Green Thumb Theatres, the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, and Theatre la Seizieme. He is also half the brainpower behind the Cobalt’s queer nightlife programming: *Hustla: Homo Hip Hop*, *Apocalypstick: East Van’s Drag Show*, *The Mr./Miss Cobalt Drag Competition*, *Queer Bash* and *Shindig*. These events have helped foster a queer hub in East Vancouver.



Dave will share his story about how necessity is the root of creativity and how cuts to arts funding have created an East Vancouver drag queen empire and inspired the events and theatre productions that he and his husband manage.

Robert Rietveld

Robert has been an executive in the Army, Navy and Air Force B.C. Command Colour Guard for 12 years and their leader for the past four years. He is also President of the East Vancouver Army, Navy and Air Force Unit # 68 and has been re-elected President for six consecutive years. Before retiring, he also managed his own construction business in the lower mainland with 23 employees. Robert has been married for 41 years and has three children and six grandchildren.



In honour of Remembrance Day, Rietveld will share a few stories about Canadian war heroes, including that of Charlie Lee, a 90 year old World War II Chinese Canadian veteran, who was one of the first Chinese Canadians allowed into the army.

CR Avery

C.R. Avery is a musicians’ musician, a songwriter, playwright, and poet. Whether playing in front of thousands on the folk festival circuit or in a small cafe in Berlin or Edinburgh, C.R. Avery is a unique and electrifying performer. He simultaneously beatboxes, sings, plays harmonica and a Herbie Hancock 80’s style red rocket keytar. Having drawn from a well of influences, C.R. is to hip-hop what Jimmy Reed was to Chicago blues; a one man traveling troubadour - but he is one for these modern times. He is admired by, and has performed with, Tom Waits, Ani DiFranco, Utah Phillips, Sage Francis and others. His lyrical skills led him to be a past winner of the CBC national Poetry Face-Off and brought him to the forefront of the international spoken word scene. His lyrics came from his slam poetry pieces - honed by the merciless, sudden death, competitive nature of the slam poetry world. As



such, having performed in front of an audience that demands both intellectual clarity and visceral honesty, competing against the very best work of the very best poets, his pieces are crafted to a necessary perfection.

C.R. will be discussing what it's like to be a true East Vander. He will end with a live musical performance.

Other links:

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