



livingcolours

2010 SPIRIT SPECTACULAR

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

Poi Pixies' "Fyre and Lyte"

This thrilling and talented group of artists have been entertaining and training in Victoria and beyond for many years. Poi is a form of dance, where balls on the ends of ropes are swung through rhythmical patterns. It is rooted in the history of the Maori people of New Zealand. It began as a physical exercise, used by the women to develop grace and flexibility, and by the men to develop strength and coordination. Poi was popularized throughout the world largely by fire spinning, spawned when the ancient art of poi met modern day dance parties. In time, many poi enthusiasts began taking up flag poi, LED poi, and other tools that also express the beauty of poi. The "Fyre and Lyte" troupe features a talented group of men and women who will create visually stunning atmosphere throughout the evening and an exciting live finale to the **livingcolours** opening celebration. www.poipixies.com

Bučan Bučan

Bučan Bučan (pronounced *booCHAN booCHAN*), is the brain-child of Chris Logan and Natasha Enquist, who together, had wanted to start their dream band, so they did! Bučan Bučan is a gypsy fabulous ensemble of musicians, playing loosely off eastern European gypsy brass band traditions. Neither a Klezmer nor "Oom-Pah" band, Bučan Bučan captures the ethnic essence of this traditional Romani music and transforms it into a crazy, loud and boisterous party, filled with many instruments, theatrics, moustaches, fishnets and fur! Made up of over a dozen circulating musicians, each having their own unique musical performance background, ensembles and projects, together they bring a wonderful spirit to the group! Bučan Bučan's instrumentation includes percussion, vocals, accordion, violin, clarinet, tuba, baritones and several trumpets. Except battery-powered amplification for vocals and violin, no electrical amplification is used. Bučan Bučan often moves around a venue while performing, making use of the different features and situations of any given performance space. www.bucanbucan.com

Mr. Erwin's Artful Variety Act

Jason Erwin, the fairly accurate knife and fire juggler, is mainly self-taught. He has attended the Cirque de Soleil Circus School in Montreal where classes included juggling tight rope, unicycle, clowning and dance; and has studied clown with Richard Pachinko and physical theatre with Mime Unlimited in Toronto. Jason has been performing since 1983 and plays guitar, banjo, harmonica and bass ukulele. Phyllis Pacheco has trained for ten years at the Academy of Ballet in corporal mime, mime acting and dance. She has studied Richard Pachinko's clown techniques, penny whistle and vocal training. Phyllis also has 20 years of studying various styles of acting and improvisation and has been performing since 1991. They have performed at Royal BC Museum's Circus Magicus, Commonwealth Games, Luminara Festival, Victoria Tall Ship Festival, Kelowna Mardi Gras, Penticton Iron Man Street Festival, Penticton Sun Fest Cabaret, Tofino's Tales from Home and Far Away Festival, Great Canadian Casino, Royal Roads Mother's Day Paint-In, Gyro Park Sunfest, Sidney Days, Nanaimo Kids Fest, Victoria Juggle Fest, Victoria Buskers Festival, Great Canadian Picnic, and countless other festivals in Victoria and throughout the province.

Outlaw Social

Outlaw Social was born out of friendship and tempered by a mutual passion for traditional string music. Three talented and uniquely emotive lead vocalists are carried by equally spectacular playing on traditional string instruments and electric guitar, making for a sound that is vibrant and original. Their repertoire includes powerful original song writing, thoughtful interpretations of traditional music, and a few truly inspired covers of contemporary songs. Outlaw Social is Catherine Black, Danielle Lebeau Petersen, Jeremy Penner, Oliver Swain and Dan Wise.

In 2006, the release of their seven song e.p. met with high critical acclaim as "*creating a new voice in Canadian acoustic music*" (*Penguin Eggs, Winter 2006*). Enthusiastic audience response has followed everywhere they go.

Gracing stages at the *Victoria ICA Folk Festival*, *Wintergrass* (Tacoma, Washington), *Vancouver Island Music Festival*, *Mission Folk Music Festival*, and many other premier west coast venues, Outlaw Social has won over fans and critics alike. Whether wowing audiences in concert halls or ripping it up at festivals, Outlaw Social brings contagious passion and energy to the stage. www.outlawsocial.com

Rock Island Ramblers

Great playing, great singing and good old southern music is what you can expect every time you see the Rock Island Ramblers. Featuring a star studded line-up of South Island musicians, the Rock Island Ramblers are Phil Shaver (guitar and vocals), James Whittall (mandolin and vocals), Mike Craft (banjo), Oliver Swain (bass and vocals) and Tania Elizabeth (fiddle and vocals).

The Rock Island Ramblers have been thrilling bluegrass audiences around BC since they formed in 2005. From Banjo breakdowns and fiddle tunes to high lonesome three-part harmonies and railroad songs, the Rock Island Ramblers are Victoria's busiest bluegrass band for good reason.

Paul Kilshaw

This local magic man has been wowing audiences in Victoria for the past 30 years. After catching the magic bug at the tender age of eight, he has spent many years and countless hours learning and honing the craft, even travelling far and wide to study with the masters in this art. He plies his trade in the Victoria area at such venues as the Royal BC Museum, the BC Ferries Corp and Butchart Gardens and countless festivals and community events. www.paulkilshaw.com

livingcolours interactives

Livingcolours interactives are colourful and creative creatures designed by artist Jeani Reynolds. Jeani has brought her beauty and magic to thousands of people as the Artistic Director of Luminara Victoria. Her iconic costume and puppet creations are unforgettable – oversized flowers, exotic birds, edible treats and so many others. Her fantastical costume designs have also been enjoyed at the DVBA World of Winter festival, the Olympic Torch Relay celebration and many other celebrations around the region. Jeani has created some unique and exciting characters for this year's livingcolours festival. Bring your camera!

Caliente Dance Company

Caliente Dance Company is home to the internationally touring dance group **¡SALSA CALIENTE!** The group, known for its professionalism, dedication, and positive attitude, is made up of dancers of different nationalities and levels of experience that come together because of their love of dance and Latin music. The group was originally formed in Victoria, BC in 1999 to give local dancers with no performance experience a chance to show off what they had been learning in class. In the winter of 2001, Christina, the director and choreographer of the group, moved to Vancouver and **¡SALSA CALIENTE!** began traveling between the two cities for shows. After performing at the 1st Annual *East Coast Salsa Congress* in New York with Seattle's *Rumba Brava Girls*, Christina was asked to bring **¡SALSA CALIENTE!** to perform the next year. The group was reformed with some of Vancouver's best salsa dancers and they traveled to New York to perform at the *2nd Annual East Coast Salsa Congress*. **¡SALSA CALIENTE!** has been receiving an overwhelming response to the show that they put on. <http://calientedance.com>

Ocean Rain Chinese Dancers

Ocean Rain Chinese Dancers, formerly the Chinese Folk Dance team, was founded in November of 2002 with great support from the Chinese Scholars and Students Association in Victoria (CSSAVC). Most of the first members were students at the University of Victoria. Ocean Rain Chinese Dancers has welcomed the wonderful Lotus Dancers, who have been actively promoting Chinese Cultures for over twenty years to join the dance Troupe in 2008. As Chinese, they take great pride in our origin and culture, and would like to take advantage of our being in Canada to introduce the culture, promote Chinese-Canadian cultural exchanges, and enrich the life of and strengthen the bonding among the Victoria Chinese community. Chinese folk dance has a long history of more than 5,000 years. The Chinese people are composed of 56 ethnic groups in total, and the unique ethnic culture of each is an integral part of the Chinese culture; every ethnic group has their expressive singing and dancing arts. Ocean Rain hopes to introduce folk and classical dance to people all over Canada and the world. www.oceanrain.ca