



THE-LIST

GREAT THINGS TO DO
TODAY
Dana Gee

TELEVISION

Party Mamas

Where/when: 11 a.m. on Slice (repeats at 5 and 8 p.m.)

Why: Vancouver's Charie Van Dyke, president of New Image College of Fine Arts, will be the first "party mama" from B.C. to be featured in the show about, well mamas who throw parties for their children. However, these aren't your usual pin-the-tail on the donkey parties. More like everyone gets a miniature donkey in their gift bags kind of parties. Yup, these moms like to go really big when it comes to their kids. In one episode, there was a bouncy castle that was a life-size replica of Versailles ballroom. Oh wait maybe it was Versace's bathroom. Anyway you get the picture. In this episode, Van Dyke, a former actress and model, has promised to throw daughter Shyann an exclusive graduation party. The hook, however, is that in the 11th hour, the guest of honour wants a venue change. Or, more accurately, a whole city change. And if this modern mum isn't stressed enough, she has to also deal with the fact it is also an important day for her business.



Vancouver's Charie Van Dyke will be the first 'party mama.' — SUBMITTED PHOTO

stars like Sweelinck, Storace, Pasquini, Byrd and Bieber. OK, kidding about the last one, but these composers were the Beebs of their time.

When: 8 p.m.

Tickets and info: \$25, 604-732-1610, earlymusic.bc.ca

LITERARY

Michelle A. Demers: An Intro to Self-Publishing

Why: Don't you know self-publishing is the new black? But the publishing waters can be hard to navigate if you don't have a clue as to what you are doing. That said, why not take a page from indie writer Michelle A. Demers and learn the pros and cons of do-it-yourself publishing. Demers is a successful freelance writer, editor and creative consultant who focuses on film and television. Her self-published mystery novel *Baby Jane* got strong reviews from Amazon's Kindle types.

Where: Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch

Tickets: Free, 604-331-4044
dgee@theprovince.com
twitter.com/dana_gee

While The Province does its best to provide accurate event information, please be sure to reconfirm. Thank you.

More on the web

For more events happening this week around town, search through our online database at theprovince.com/events

From Craigslist to cabaret

MUSICAL: Production featured at PuSh inspired by online classifieds

BY STUART DERDEYN
THE PROVINCE

Craig Newmark began his online community of free classified advertisements in 1995 as an email service for people to trade or sell or give away stuff. Today, Craigslist exists in 50 countries and counting and has become a go-to site for just about everything.

The day that Vancouver indie rock queen Veda Hille and *CBC Saturday Afternoon at the Opera* broadcaster and author Bill Richardson sat down to discuss the Arts Club Theatre's production of *Do You Want What I Have Got? A Craigslist Cantata*, an ad from a restaurant seeking musicians to perform for free to promote their CD and a musician's response looking for a restaurant to feed people for free was going viral.

It was this very kind of thing that inspired the two artists to first delve into Craigslist as an inspiration and source for material in an earlier version of the show that played at the PuSh Festival under the Twenty Minute Musicals moniker in 2009.

Now fleshed out into an 85-minute-long work, the show includes a six-member cast musical, complete with a live quartet, singing, dancing and plenty of witty lyricism. Both Hille and Richardson are cagey about what audiences can expect at the performance which is also part of this year's PuSh Festival. Suffice to say that there will be moments that will send you straight to your smart phone to find the original advert that may have spawned the song's subject matter. Richardson notes that the static nature of the very website — with things being added and deleted every second — makes it a very unique thing to use as source material.

However, the initial inspiration for the work was an \$11 rip-off.

"The idea came from getting scammed on Craigslist, when I was between gigs and went on looking for job ideas," says Richardson. "I paid \$11 on PayPal for how to make money typing from home and all I got was something telling me how to scam money off of people; one of the oldest plays in the book. But I started looking further into the whole phenomenon and found a lot of good stuff."

"We met to discuss it when I was curating the 20 Minute Musicals and I instantly hit on the title "Do You Want What I Have Got?," says Hille. "And at that moment, it happened. It's a real mix of Bill's serious labour of spending a lot of time on Craigslist and sending me some of the straight ads and some extrapolated/philosophical lyrics from them and me composing to it."



Rare items on Craigslist inspired a new musical at PuSh. — SUBMITTED PHOTO

On stage

Do You Want What I Have Got? A Craigslist Cantata at the PuSh festival

Where: Arts Club Revue Stage, 1585 Johnston St., Granville Island

When: Thursday-Feb. 11 at 8 p.m. Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.; Matinees Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m. No show Sunday.

Tickets: \$25 and up at artsclub.com

A good deal of the material is verbatim, which opens up the whole issue of "ownership" of the source material. Now that people who pen viral Craigslist entries are getting jobs writing comedy and such, does the public domain concept suddenly become something else and if it does who decides? Hille says that is one of the things considered in the whole experiment and what her, Richardson and director Amiel Gladstone have been working on.

"Many of the ads we've used are from two or three years ago and have lost their currency in terms of goods," says Richardson. "But they also remain the same, as the thing that is inherent in all of those ads is that they are all about longing and something deeply human and moving that is more than just selling something."

"It wasn't like that as much when we started," says Hille. "Now you have people trying hard to get into the "Best of" section because it has spawned high-paying jobs. This also means that now we see people interacting with the show on Craigslist, where we've seen people posting about going to see the show and so on."

With original songs such as "Children's Guillotine," "Free Man's Tou-

pee" and others, it's assured that Richardson's renowned wit and Hille's acclaimed art rock are a fine fit. As late as two weeks before the premiere, new ads/songs are being added to the score. Richardson says it could become episodic but works very well as a fixed show, too.

"I'd kind of forgotten how much I love musical theatre having invested so much into the whole indie rock thing," says Hille. "But in researching this, I went back and started watching all of the old musicals like *Cabaret* and reminded myself of how great they are."

"I'm obviously of a different generation in terms of musicals because I see *Cabaret* as modern," laughs Richardson.

For a show birthed in the digital world, the final production favours the "less-is-more" approach of unamplified voices, minimal sets and none of the multimedia accoutrement common everywhere. Heading back to minimalist staging, silent film and such is so cutting-edge at the moment. You probably couldn't find a more appropriate stage design concept for sale on Craigslist.

sderdeyn@theprovince.com
twitter.com/stuartderdeyn

TOMORROW
ENTERTAINMENT

**Save-On-Meats gets its
closeup in Gastown Gamble**