

MISSISSAUGA ARTS COUNCIL WINTER NEWSLETTER '12



MISSISSAUGA *arts*



MAC'S 30th Anniversary
CELEBRATION SQUARE FESTIVITIES
GET INVOLVED NOW

New Year, fresh start
ADVICE FROM LEADING EXPERTS

2012 MARTYS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
DEADLINE MARCH 9, 2012

Gabriela Rodgers, Limelight Block Party

President's Message

MISSISSAUGA ARTS COUNCIL
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THE MISSISSAUGA ARTS COUNCIL IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT, REGISTERED CHARITY THAT EXISTS TO FOSTER AND DEVELOP, SUPPORT AND CHAMPION A VIBRANT, DYNAMIC ARTS COMMUNITY IN THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA THROUGH SERVICES TO ENRICH THE LIVES OF ITS CITIZENS. THE ARTS COUNCIL RELIES ON MEMBERSHIPS, PUBLIC FUNDING, PRIVATE AND CORPORATE DONATIONS FOR SURVIVAL. PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING.

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DATES & DEADLINES:
NEXT ISSUE IS VOLUME 4 ISSUE #2
COVERING APRIL TO JULY 2012.

FREE MEMBER CALENDAR LISTINGS
DEADLINE
FEB 15, MAY 15, AUG 15 & NOV 15
905-615-4212
MEDIA@MISSISSAUGAARTSCOUNCIL.COM

BLACK & WHITE AD DEADLINE
MAR 1, JUN 1, SEP 1 & DEC 1
905-615-4278
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CIRCULATION:
THE MISSISSAUGA ARTS COUNCIL'S NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED 4 TIMES A YEAR IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY AND OCTOBER AND DISTRIBUTED TO MORE THAN 6,000 ARTS-FRIENDLY HOUSEHOLDS

We trust that everyone had a wonderful year and has recovered from the various carbohydrate induced lethargy during the holiday season.

The Mississauga Arts Council will be celebrating its 30th anniversary and the theme for this year will be New year, New opportunities, and a fresh New start!

To usher in the New Year, we organized the New Year's Eve Limelight Block Party which welcomed 30,000 attendees.

The 2012 MARTY Awards will take place on May 31, 2012 and the call for nominations is now open. We urge everyone to contact the Mississauga Arts Council in order to get their tickets to this incredible event.

Furthermore, we will be introducing the Limelight Association of Young Artists to the Mississauga Arts Council. In keeping with our 30th anniversary, we have booked August 24, 2012 as our time to help celebrate this wonderful occasion.

Throughout the year in light of our 30th anniversary, we shall be holding various special events. This included our helping to bring the National Gallery of Jamaica's art collection to celebrate Jamaica's 50th anniversary of independence to the Art Gallery of Mississauga.

In addition, the Board of Directors has commissioned a study to revamp and provide new and fresh ideas to the Mississauga Arts Council, both at the administrative and directorial level, to bring us into the 21st century so that we may move forward as an organization. We hope that this will help future generations of artists and patrons in the City.

In light of our growth as an organization in recent years, we have come to recognize the importance of providing advice and teaching artists how to network using the power of social media to promote their careers.



President Bohdan Shulakewych at the MARTYS

The arts are under fire everywhere, witness what is happening in the City of Toronto, with the cutting of arts funding and the closing down of departments at Queens. Unfortunately, the arts are targeted because it is sometimes the easiest cut to make. Artists and patrons must provide a reason for society not to do this and to integrate the arts as being a functional and necessary component of everyday life. We will hope to highlight some of these features in the upcoming year.

This will be an exciting year for us and we hope that you can be part of the 30th anniversary celebration as the leading arts organization in the City of Mississauga. ⚡

Bohdan A. Shulakewych
President

MAC Board of Directors

Bohdan Shulakewych - *President*
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Executive Director's Report



Executive Director Linda Thomas

"That the purpose of the Mississauga Arts Council is to understand and promote the artistic expression and appreciation of the arts within the City of Mississauga and to provide in depth planning recommendations concerning the city core of the City of Mississauga so that it becomes the cultural centre of the city."

December 9, 1982 was the date of receipt of MAC's charitable incorporation statutes.

These dates actually cover almost 18 months but in the end we decided to hold our celebration during 2012.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The kick-off will be at MAC's Annual Meeting to be held on March 28, 2012 in the Art Gallery of Mississauga.

We will have a brief meeting followed by a reception (with food and wine) and stories shared by you, our members, on what MAC has meant to you over the years.....an Open Mic concept. I invite you to join us and help celebrate 30 years of serving the Mississauga Community. ♪

Happy new year to all!!! 2012 will be an amazing year as MAC celebrates its 30th anniversary. Our celebration incorporates two significant dates.

June 22, 1981 was the date Councillor Margaret Marland moved and Steve Mahoney seconded the creation of the Mississauga Arts Council through a resolution at City Council. The resolution started by stating that:

"... the Corporation of the City of Mississauga recognizes the basic human need of its citizens to fulfill their lives through artistic expression and appreciation of the arts within the municipality".

It continued with providing a clear direction for MAC:



Linda Thomas,
Executive Director,
Mississauga Arts Council

IN THIS ISSUE



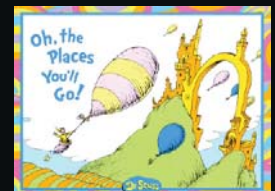
4 2012 MARTYS



8 Formula for Success



12 Spotlight on Peter Jallal



14 Networking Advice



The Mississauga Arts Council is thrilled to announce it is now accepting nominations for the 2012 MARTY Awards. Talented artists are encouraged to submit nominations for the chance to win a MARTY and be recognized by the community. Now into its 18th year, the MARTY Awards celebrate the artistic accomplishments of established artists while encouraging and supporting rising artistic talent.

Each category will honour an emerging artist and an established artist. Winners will receive a cash prize, press coverage, and recognition at the MARTYS, the Arts Award ceremony. Every year the MARTYS stands as the pinnacle arts event in Mississauga, complete with extensive media coverage and a red carpet kick-off. This year's MARTY Awards



2011 MARTY Award winners, sponsors & MAC board members

Below: Sylvia Bartosik & Gerry Thompson



celebration will be held on Thursday May 31, 2012 at Mississauga's Living Arts Centre.

MAC is delighted to include the **Creative Community Award** for the second year in the running. Mississauga Arts Council Executive Director Linda Thomas explains, "We are opening the doors to other art forms that have not been traditionally recognized. It's an award open to any other form of artistic expression including fibre arts, spinning and weaving, jewellery, fashion arts etc. We are encouraging artists in the community to share their work and submit an application."

The council also invites the community to nominate deserving individuals for the **Volunteer of the Year Award** and the **Laurie Pallett Patron of the Arts Award**. These special Awards are presented to individuals who have nurtured the development of the arts in the City of Mississauga.



Left: Noni Kaur, Right: I Rock with the One

Lastly, the **People's Choice Award** will continue in 2012. Once all of the nominations for the Awards have been collected, the general public will be invited to vote for their favourite artist in the running through the Mississauga Art Council's website.

Emily Dickinson once said that, "hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul, and sings the tune without words, and never stops at all."

We have added another personal touch to this year's 2012 MARTY Awards. Last year, each category's nominees were accentuated with their own coloured feather. This year, we will build on the idea by encircling the Living Arts Centre venue with some stunning multicoloured feathers, exemplifying the positive energy and hope instilled by the vast number of diverse categories.

Don't hesitate! Nominate yourself or a deserving artist today! Nomination forms are available at www.mississaugaartscouncil.com. Please call 905-615-4278 for additional information. Deadline is March 9, 2012 at 4pm. ☺

Below: Naria



Winter 2012

THE MARTY

MISSISSAUGA ARTS AWARDS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
Deadline: March 9, 2012

Award Categories Include:

- *Creative Community
- * Laurie Pallett Patron of the Arts
- * Literary Arts
- *Media Arts
- * People's Choice
- * Performing Arts
- * Performing Arts Group
- * Visual Arts
- * Volunteer of the Year

2012

Download application forms @
www.mississaugaartscouncil.com

Introducing Luiza

MAC welcomes new Communications Coordinator!

I am honoured to be welcomed by the Mississauga Arts Council as the new Communications Coordinator! I have an extensive repertoire in Media, Fashion, and the Arts. I had the privilege of working for a number of reputable television networks, including CHIN TV International, MTV Canada, and most recently, Rogers TV in the Peel Region, where I hosted over five different shows, including Access Peel and Daytime. As the new Communications Coordinator, I am extremely excited to make my mark with the Mississauga Arts Council and work on assisting all the talented artists in our city with the media recognition they deserve! An avid ballroom dancer and pianist, I have an insatiable appetite for all forms of art and I am incredibly passionate about promoting the arts in my city!

I couldn't have asked for a better year to start my journey with the Mississauga Arts Council, celebrating their 30th anniversary, a milestone that will be marked by music, dance, poetry, visual arts and everything else beautiful that the arts in Mississauga encompass.

In this 2012 Winter edition of the newsletter, I will be focusing on providing some expert advice for networking, using television to promote your career as an artist, the power of social media and advice from a leading entrepreneur and website whiz. My goal is to motivate YOU to stick to your new year's resolutions and get involved and support MAC as a way to build your own personal growth. It's time to get inspired, are you ready? δ

Follow me on Twitter @LuizaSadowski!



Luiza Sadowski

Around the Office

Gearing up for MAC's 30th Anniversary Celebrations!



Above from left: Sandra Cina, Robin Hollingdrake & Heather Brissenden

Association, this will be a promising year for the inaugural committee.

The new year also brought some fresh and exciting changes around the MAC office. With the help of visual artist, Robin Hollingdrake, we were able to completely revamp the whole look of the office, decorating the walls with her beautiful art. The new exhibit is called "Life in Lines."

We also said our warm goodbye to our ambitious and talented Development and Events Coordinator Sonya Poweska, who has accepted the role as the new Executive Director for the Guelph Arts Council. For all those that crossed paths with Sonya, she is passionate about the arts. Her innovative work garnered MAC generous grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Ontario Arts Council, and many more! We will miss Sonya and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

MAC is excited to welcome the vibrant personality of our new Communications Coordinator, Luiza Sadowski! Luiza looks forward to hosting the monthly Media Arts Mash-Up networking events and encourages all the members to pop in and say hi as she would love to put a face to all the names!

Wrapping up the 2011 year was the success of the Cranberry Breakfast. Held in December, it welcomed the new CEO of the Living Arts Centre, Ron Lenyk! We're now in a new year, and we all have new opportunities waiting for us to embrace. A new year gives us the prospect of a fresh new start, full of exciting new ideas and creative and artistic ventures! Much of which was evident at the New Year's Eve Limelight Block Party, welcoming over 30,000 attendees to Celebration Square. Organized by the talented young artists of the Limelight

Heather has stepped into a new role as the Youth Program Coordinator. "It's a fabulous opportunity to bring youth together from all across Mississauga. The involvement of the youth so far has been outstanding!"

MAC is excited to celebrate its 30 years this year! Celebration Square has been booked for August 24, 2012 and we are asking you, our loyal members to come forward with your ingenious ideas! δ

Applause Please!

Give a round of applause to MAC members who are making dreams come true!



"A Star is Born" by Dorothy Weiss

The Mississauga arts scene proudly welcomes back returning member, **Dorothy Weiss**. As a multi-media specialist, Dorothy Weiss depicts life through a kaleidoscope of characters and contrast. This scope is displayed through her work behind the camera. Dorothy also expresses her passion for life through her artwork. Her love for nature is depicted in painting landscapes. She also loves the use of bold colours that add life to the more abstract images of her collection. Please visit www.dorothyweiss.com for more on this passionate artist.

Michael Ciuffo's career is gaining momentum. After releasing his second album "Momento" in October, he's joined a list of Canadian artists who are represented by Paquin Entertainment Group. The tenor has developed a recognizable stage presence in Mississauga, performing at Celebration Square in the summer, at the ART-BEATS Gala in the fall and even

landing an opportunity to travel to China for a performance with Hong Kong's renowned singer, Manting Chan. Be on the lookout for Michael as he takes his Momento tour all throughout the GTA, with a performance at the Living Arts Centre on March 9, 2012. For more information on his performances, please go to www.michaelciuffo.com.

Mississauga Emcee and Community Worker, **Nehemiah Flow** is proud to release his latest track "Old School." A multi-talented artist and Limelight committee member, Nehemiah Flow unites hip-hop and soul to create a unique hip-soul/soul-hop sound. He administers soothing yet vibrant music that opens the mind while providing listeners with a head boppin' exercise routine. This young artist is ready to take his show to the next level. Please visit www.facebook.com/flowneezzy for more details.

Congratulations to 2011 MARTY Award winner, **Peter Jailall**, who was recognized by Canada's Governor General, Da-

vid Johnston on December 5, 2012.

Congratulations also goes out to 2011 MARTY Award winner in Literary Arts, **Zohra Zoberi**. Zohra was amongst the authors invited to present their creative writing at an exclusive Literary Gala of Pakistani Writers in Washington D.C. The ceremony was hosted by The Pakistan Embassy for United States Ambassador Haqqani, along with the Literary Board of South Asian Review. The Ambassador lauded the efforts of the authors and emphasized upon how writers can influence the thinking of the masses through their creative expression to bring about social changes. Zohra Zoberi's work has previously been published in this literary journal.

Exciting opportunities await for singers of a diverse range of genres! This February 2012, **Haze FM** will be launching nine new online radio stations, opening the doors to local talent. The stations will range from classic oldies and classic rock to country music, blues and roots and indie music.

MAC extends its congratulations to local member, **Darren Flower** who recently got a new radio show promoting local rock and indie bands. "Rock It Up" airs Saturdays at 1 p.m. on CFRE 91.9FM, University of Toronto Mississauga's radio station. Darren Flower, who co-hosts with Matt Roberts, says the focus is mostly on rock 'n' roll music, with their goal of providing a spotlight for local talent and bands that don't typically get to be heard.

Mississauga born **James Faulkner** has recently released his debut album, "The Facts Of Life" through FM Records. This will be James' first solo record after a long history of being a seasoned musician, playing with a variety of different and unique bands in the past. "The

Facts Of Life" incorporates the warm melodies and simplicities of a 70s and 80s alternative contemporary album that truly showcases all of James' emotions and influences. Please visit www.jamesfaulkner.ca for more information on this artist.

We are so proud of **Liberty Silver** who has launched the official music pilot project in the West Credit Secondary School in Mississauga! The Liberty Silver Music Program is now accepting schools and youth centres for immediate enrolment, to train and teach music education to youth from ages 7-17 in the Peel Region. All children are welcomed from schools, foster care homes, youth centres and all youth justice institutions. For more information, please call 647-985-1880 or go to www.libertysilvermusic.com.

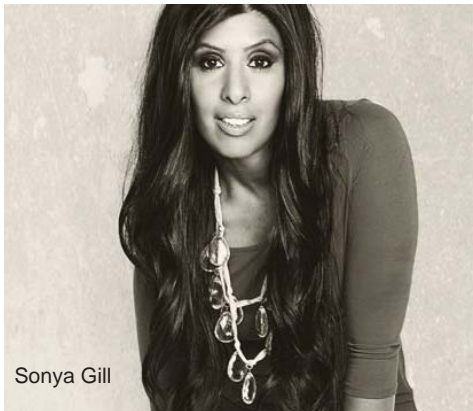
Big applause go out to **Josette Luyckx** and **Marie Payne** who made it to the 2012 NICHE Awards finals in the Fine Craft Competition for their piece "Ring of Fire" cape. The NICHE Awards competition annually recognizes excellence and innovation in North American craft. In the professional division, judging is based on three main criteria: technical excellence in surface design and form; market viability; and a distinct quality of unique, original and creative thought. Check out the website for more information on the Awards: www.NICHEAwards.com.

Congratulations to **Theatre Unlimited** who is also celebrating their 30th anniversary this year! Joining the celebrations are the **Art Gallery of Mississauga**, celebrating their 25th, and the **Living Arts Centre**, celebrating their 15th anniversaries! ♪

Let us know if you are celebrating! Email us at media@mississaugaartscouncil.com

Youzus

Entrepreneur & Creator of Youzus Media, Sonya Gill shares her formula for success!



They say that when you begin a business venture, “just go with it.” Yes, it’s great to have a plan and an idea, but things never go according to plan, especially in business, where ideas get transformed all the time. The little idea you first began with gets revamped into this incredibly beautiful monster...as it happened with me. In 2010, I was living in New York and during my time there, I realized how many brilliant people there were in the city, and how many of those brilliant people weren’t connected to one another. So I came up with this idea to have a gathering, once a month, where I would set up a night on the town via Facebook and Twitter invites with a group of fabulous women, who were all known to be movers and shakers in their own careers. Soon this night out came to be called ‘meeting of the minds’ and the circle just became bigger and bigger. As you can imagine, those connections led them to create even larger connections, and for some even new business ventures with one another. This is where Youzus was created.

Youzus means ‘Use Us.’ The name came to me sporadically during a drive back home in rush hour (I always tell people it’s wise to use rush hour to put your brightest ideas together). Now, I’d consider myself to be a fairly well connected person, particularly when it comes to music, but these con-

nections mean nothing to me if I can’t personally use them myself. So why not help someone else and connect them; maybe it will take them places?

So here it is, my formula for SUCCESS, please feel free to share and/or make it your own:

1) PASSION: Whatever you are passionate about will flourish into something bigger and greater than you could ever have imagined. Don’t follow the \$ signs, follow your passion. The money will always follow.

2) WORK: Without work ethic, you probably won’t get very far. Ask yourself, and be honest with yourself too, on a scale of 1-10, how much do you get done in a day? How hard are you willing to work to succeed?

3) FOCUS: I have met many people in my life who tend to spread themselves too thin by chasing after too many goals and dreams they want to achieve. Problem is, if you’re chasing after all of them, you’ll never get anywhere. Choose one, focus on it, dwell on it, and allow it to grow...watch your focus succeed.

4) PUSH: Even when you’ve been turned down, or say if you’ve fallen off the bandwagon and just lack motivation, or just don’t think you’re going to get anywhere –

push. I can probably guarantee you that success is waiting around the corner.

5) IDEAS: People love new ideas, and new ideas breed success. Don’t shut down an idea because you don’t think there is a market for it, or you don’t think anyone will go for it, do it because YOU believe in it. Too often we are worried about what other people think. Let me fill you in on something: everyone is too occupied worrying about themselves to be worried about you.

6) IMPROVE: I have a coaching business in which I teach students in the field of entertainment (acting/social media/branding) and I always tell them: Whatever you do today, you can do 10% better tomorrow. ALWAYS make sure you are improving your craft. Whether it is by writing, reading, studying, whatever, just make sure that you are continuously challenging yourself to become a better version of you than the day before.

7) SERVE: This one is very important to me. I believe that if you are not serving those around you, there is only so much that will happen for you. So spread your knowledge, spread your wealth, spread your talent. Just serve those around you. Whether they need it or not, just DO without thinking WHY. ∞

Getting your word out!

Exploring multifaceted mediums with Daytime's Brigitte Truong



Brigitte Truong

I recently caught up with my friend, Brigitte Truong, who is the current Host of Daytime on Rogers TV. She had a lot of valuable insight on the power of self-promotion for up and coming artists in the community, which I believe are worth exploring. "The more avenues you can take as a new artist, the better it is for the future of your career. Exposing your name, face and more importantly your work and artistic skill set can go a long way. If you have a voice, someone will listen and you never know what opportunity may arise." Finding your niche and a creating an edge are just some of the ways you can distinguish yourself from your competition. People are intrigued by diversity and a fresh perspective on things. Brigitte suggests social media as a powerful tool to expose your work and perhaps separate yourself from others. Plugging yourself and putting your work onto a social networking site like Twitter can result in a following and get you noticed. She also recommends branching out and exhausting all other means like she's done in her own pursuit of success, like creating your own YouTube page, Facebook fan page and even an up to date blog to showcase your individuality. Moreover, in order to create a certain level of hype and build any level of fanfare, she suggests the following strategies:

- *Stay current*
- *Make yourself heard in the community*
- *Be patient, it takes time to hone your craft*
- *Aim for happiness in your drive to success*

I was also very interested in gaining Brigitte's perspective on some of the MAC members she's interviewed in the past. "Mississauga is a very eclectic community in terms of the arts. We don't just have singers or painters. It really transcends all categories, we cover all bases and we get incredible talent across the spectrum." A spectrum including talented filmmakers, glass blowers, sculptors and poets, just to name a few. From her experience, she feels they are very hardworking and exude passion. She usually learns about the inception of their art to who they are as an individual and as an artist today. So what's her advice when appearing on TV?

"Definitely be yourself. Showcase your passion, be confident, be bold, and be open to new endeavours."

Appearing on television can be a great prospect not only for exploring new endeavours, but also a good way to network and expand your social circle, which for an artist, can be a great way to make your own opportunities. ∂



Brigitte Truong on The set of Daytime

Slamming in the suburbs

New & Returning MAC Members

4Cats Arts Studio -
Meadowvale
Farij Abbas
Shelby Anceriz
Gail Backus
Barvinok Ukrainian Dance
School
Krista Blondin
Kareem Byfield
Lesley Carlberg
Maria Carosi
Carla Casanova
Glenn Chipkar
Anne Connor
Cow Over Moon Children's
Theatre
Credit Valley Music Ltd.
Beryl Dawson
Myrna D'Souza
Enable Publishing
James Faulkner
Amber Foulkes
Kyle Fraser
Nicole Garbanzos
Nilsson Gonsalves
Haze FM
Carly Hoffman
Darren Hutchings
I Rock With the One
In2walls.com
Emilia Jajus

While not everyone may be familiar with poetry slams, they are an underground phenomenon that is beginning to step into the light. Toronto, Burlington, Guelph and London have had successful monthly slams for quite some time now. In fact, the Toronto Poetry Slam has become so popular that they have added a second slam to each month in order to accommodate the growing audiences.

For those who are new to this concept, a poetry slam is a competition where poets perform original work in order to win a prize. Audience members are encouraged to participate by cheering for poems they like or participating as a judge. 5 judges are chosen at random from the audience and score each poem from 0 to 10. Just as with any competition, there are rules to be followed. Poems must be under 3 minutes and 10 seconds. There is a half-point deduction for every 10 seconds a poet goes over the time limit. Poets can also be disqualified for using props or costumes. Most poets will have their pieces memorized, however there is no penalty if it is read. But after all is said and done the evening is supposed to be a fun-filled event, and you will be reminded at the slam: the points are not the point, the POETRY is the point!

In November 2011, local spoken word poet Matt. "Lip Balm" Miller took it upon himself to start the Mississauga Poetry Slam. The first slam took place on November 21, 2011 at Mondellos Ristorante in Streetsville. The restaurant was packed, leaving standing room only for those who showed up late. Poets came from all over to show off their talents in a new city, but with a total of 24 poets signing up to fill 12 spots, half had to sit this one out. The Mississauga Slam is hosted by Matt, with a different



Matt. "Lip Balm" Miller

poet performing each month. On November 21, 2011, Eytan Crouton featured with his fast rapping and comedic poems. At the second slam on December 12, 2011, Spencer Butt grabbed everyone's attention with his poems based on life experiences and Craigslist Missed Connections. You can see Mississauga Poetry Slam Host Matt. "Lip Balm" Miller as he features on January 30, 2012 at Mondello's Ristorante, located at 127 Queen Street South in Streetsville. Sign up starts at 7pm and performances begin at 8pm. Admission is free and people of all ages are encouraged to attend. You can find the Mississauga Poetry Slam on Facebook and on Twitter @SaugaSlam. ∞

By Stefanie Martin. Follow me on Twitter @stef_anie_

Resolutions of a lazy goat



Anil Paul

This year I will have something to tweet about. I strapped on my thinking cap, glued my hands to my Smartphone and I will begin to tell the world exactly what's on my mind. This year I will show everyone in my social circle, my Facebook friends and my eight Twitter followers, just who I am, what I'm about, and they will know my name is The Beez Neez when I lay my socially literate vengeance upon thee.

First I have to say goodbye to 2011, goodbye and farewell to a year I watched whiz by me. But it was not my fault; last year was just boring. I mean, how full could my pop culture glass be if all I got was a celebrity bad boy putting down his goblet of Tigerblood, to video blog the most outrageous rants ever? Or who was interested in watching a brutal dictator get overthrown? Moreover, did anyone even care that some demonstrations were skillfully promoted and organized through social media? And were International Film Festivals really that spectacular? When the most famous HOLLYWOOD or BOLLYWOOD stars arrived to the GTA I know where I was, at home watching my oversized plasma, avoiding the crowd of fans. And

yes, nearly twenty five percent of my friends either got engaged, married or had a baby in 2011, but they know I'm happy for them. Don't they? And who really cares about a royal wedding anyway? Sorry 2011, you were cool but you were not epic.

2012 is my chance to turn over a new leaf. I will be more in tune with Arts and Entertainment and I will foster more genuine interest in current affairs. For starters, I've heard this year marks the end of the world as we know it! Perfect, just the exciting eruption in history I've been waiting for. But let's not get discouraged or gloomy, another resolution is to be more optimistic about my future. There is much to look forward to in 2012 and many things I am determined to do. This year I'm going to tap into the amazing world around me and blog a masterpiece that will be celebrated and most likely studied for years to come. I will be the Twitter Jedi I aspire to be, the Facebook fanatic I know I can be and share my interests, opinions and dreams with anyone who dares let me in their head space. I will...

BING!

Hey cool my pizza pockets are ready. Maybe I'll start my resolutions tomorrow. ☺

By Anil Paul. Follow me on Twitter @ aniljpaull

New & Returning MAC Members

Yitka Karlik
Brittni Kenny
AbdulJabbar Mahamoud
Belle Matthews
Nicole Monteiro
Yasmeen Nematt Allah
Michael Pape
Shanaya Patel
Mara Pinder
Nikki Policelli
Agustina Rabsiun
Aparna Rangnekar
Hed Redme
Gabriela Rodgers
Ann Romeril
Patricia Ruiz
Donita Sabater
Henrick "Shoolie" Sales
Celeste Segal
Martha Sepulveda
Gareth Skipp
Karen & Chelsea Stewart
Jailar Tabugay
Diana Theodorou
Farrell Tremblay
Steffi Tupe
Darlene Watson
Dorothy Weiss
Michelina Williamson
Leszek Wyczokowski

Spotlight on Peter Jailall

MARTY Award- winning Literary Artist shares his experience



Peter Jailall accepting his award at the 2011 MARTYS

Inspiring youth through literature has been the lifelong mission of the MARTY Award winning artist, Peter Jailall, who is also a member of the Writer's Union of Canada. The teacher, poet, storyteller and avid supporter of human rights, education, social justice and environmental protection was the proud recipient of the 2011 Established Literary Arts Award for his outstanding work in literature. But for this humble man, the award was just an affirmation of his passion. "I'm not an awards man, I enjoy what I do," Jailall said of his achievement. Some of his books include: "This Healing Place" (1993); "Yet Another Home" (1997); "When September Comes" (2003); "Sacrifice" (2011) and "Mother Earth" (2011). Peter combines his wisdom as a teacher and his skill as a writer in his literature. His most recent book for children, "Mother Earth" was the result of an amalgamation of poetic pose and powerful messages, making it a rich material for the youthful mind.

Originally from Guyana, Peter has resided in Mississauga for over 35 years, honing his craft as an elementary school teacher and educating children in the Peel District School Board (PDSB). But he didn't stop there. Even after retiring, Peter continued sharing his wisdom by traveling to Guyana every year as part of CUSO (International), an Ottawa-based International development non-profit organization of which he is a significant member. Even Canada's Governor General, David Johnston was impressed, recognizing him for his contributions to the organization at a ceremony on December 5, 2011, also marking CUSO's 50th anniversary. Peter persists to motivate youth and adults alike locally, nationally and internationally and strives to bring about positive change on the local and global frontier.

So what better way to start off the New Year than meet Mr. Jailall at the local coffee shop and get fuelled with inspiration? You could hear Mr. Jailall from across the room, exuding his joyful laughter, ready to captivate you with his rich stories and words of wisdom, not to mention his love for this city! "It's a fair city, people get recognized and the sky is the limit," Peter described of the opportunities available in Mississauga. He has seen many changes in the last three decades in terms of people and landscaping, and stresses the importance of working together to build a community and to preserve the environment, which he is extremely passionate about. With the ever-increasing multicultural population and intergenerational gap, the key environmental issues can sometimes appear vague and people lose sight of what needs to be done to preserve our "Mother Earth." He made a bold statement, emphasizing that

*"to talk about black-white relations is ok,
but the future is green."*

Peter feels that too many people are still focused on prejudice and judgment, when the real task at hand is to work collectively to protect the land we live on, because that is what will ultimately help us and our future generations live a long and prosperous life. In his goal to bring about this change, he regularly attends schools in the Peel Region, reading his poems:

*"Love this planet, our
special spot. Bury peel,
and pick up the trash.
Drink a pop, and re-
cycle the can. Cycle
to school, and walk
when you can. Sow a
seed, and plant a tree.
Keep it clean, and
keep it green. Love our
planet, it's all we've
got."*



We are Thankful

By Peter Jailall

Peter's mission doesn't stop at the local level. Involved with CUSO since 1985, he thrives in travelling to Guyana every year to help those less fortunate. "I go (to Guyana) to give back skills in education and to help them sustain the economy and eradicate poverty," he said, a prelude to his discussion with Governor General David Johnston. The children in Guyana, a developing country, live much differently than the children in North America. Surrounded by rain forests, Peter works with the children there to help them understand the importance of preserving the rainforests and refers to them as the "lungs of the earth." He also volunteered his services in Guyana as a teacher-trainer in subjects like literacy and science, teaching literacy with science in mind.

In his discussion with Johnston, Peter examined Canada's involvement in Guyana in the area of mining, aluminum, bauxite and oil, stating that Canadians have a moral obligation to help out in the countries of their origin and called on corporations to give back and help build communities. "Canadians, especially new ones need to move beyond just living the good life in this multicultural society, and go back and help develop their countries of origin."

Peter described his visits with CUSO to be very refreshing, encouraging us all to come out of our safety zone and reach out to those in need, locally and globally. His passion is evident. "Wake up! This is what needs to be done in our city." Collectively, there's nothing we cannot achieve.

When he's not inspiring the youth, travelling the world or meeting with distinguished dignitaries, Peter is your regular, down to earth family man. He has a beautiful wife named Sabi, who like him, is a retired teacher. It just so happens that teaching is contagious in his family because his son Nari also followed in his father's footsteps, whereas his oldest son, Dave is a doctor at the Brampton Civic Hospital. "Surrounding yourself with love and people that support you and care about you" is another message Peter would like to convey, "... because when you have people that stand by you and motivate you, the sky is truly the limit."

Peter is proud to cultivate his art in Mississauga and encircle himself with the abundance of talent and skills of the people who have the capacity of building the city in a dynamic way. ∂

*For the rain in the Spring
Helping seeds to grow
And lilies to show*

*For the sunshine in Summer
Ripening fruits
To make them red and yellow*

*For the coolness of the Autumn
breeze*

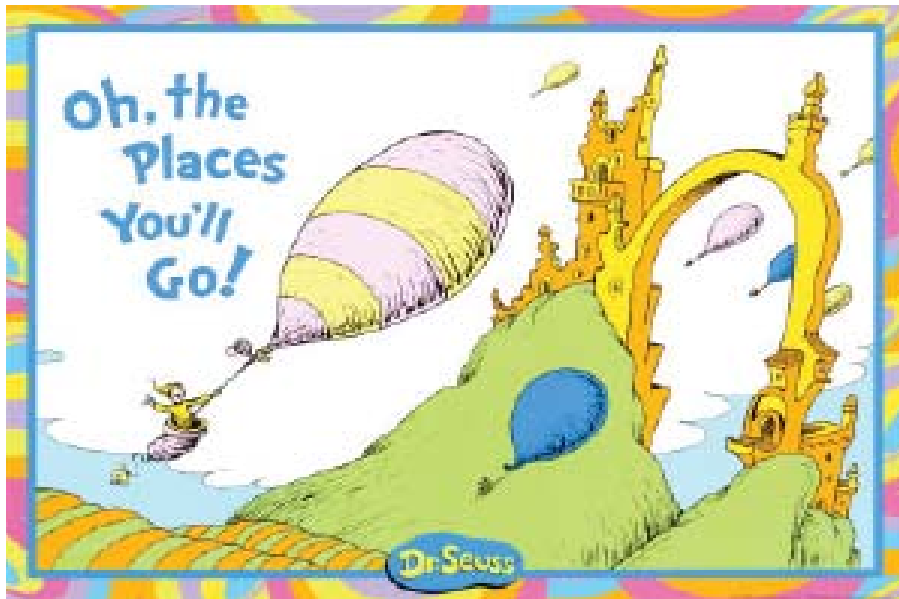
*Enabling farmers
To plough their fields*

*For the whiteness in Winter
Making our country
So calm, so beautiful.*

*For all these blessings
That the seasons bring
We are thankful.*

Networking according to Dr. Seuss

ConnectUs Canada's Donna Messer dishes out top advice for networking



Dr. Seuss knew what he was talking about when he wrote the children's book, "Oh The Places You'll Go." Little did he realize that his words of wisdom would be equally valuable for artists of all kinds. Artists, who are not sure what to expect when they begin a new journey of discovery!

You all have the opportunity to expand your visibility and to tap into today's expansive network – if you are not using all of the social media tools at your disposal you are not as visible as you could be! No matter what your talent, you need to find ways to share it with people who don't know you, but would benefit from knowing who you are and what you do.

- *Be visible*
- *Get nominated for an award*
- *Get your own YouTube Channel*
- *Learn to write media releases*

It's your choice where you want to go. If you care about the environment, children at risk, seniors, pets – make them a part of your strategy. Get involved, donate a piece of art, dedicate a song, use your talent to help others. Givers Get! (a quote from Ivan Misner – BNI)

- *Volunteer*
- *Get involved with a not-for-profit or charitable board*
- *Form strategic alliances with like minded people*

Sometimes you need to expand your horizons and think internationally. In today's world, global opportunities are as close as your computer. People like people who are like themselves – join associations and organizations that have common ground.

- *Be part of LinkedIn*
- *Connect with local government initiatives- use their international connections*
- *Join the Chamber of Commerce*
- *Check out international service clubs – Rotary International is a good start*

When you put a strategy in place you should be able to measure your results. In order to really maximize those results you need to share your success stories. Learn to write, or find a colleague who will write for you. You sell your strengths and buy your weaknesses. Often, strategic alliances are the difference between success and failure.

- *Become aware of publications and organizations that will benefit from your talent*
- *Publish your success story and buy coffee for the editor*
- *Keep a Blog, post it on your Facebook Business Page*
- *Use Twitter and other social media tools*

Oh the places you go! Who knows? Perhaps it's to be nominated and ultimately win a MARTY!

Like Dr. Seuss said, "Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!"

Too often we are not sure which way to go – being part of a strategic action plan is an excellent way to use "the brains in your head, and feet in your shoes," and according to Seuss, "you can go in any direction you choose!" The brains in your head know that ethical, effective networking is the single most effective way to move forward and be able to measure your results. ☺

www.connectuscanada.com

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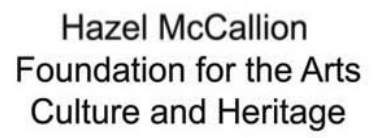
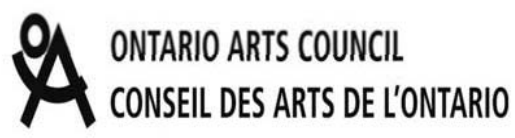
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**Share
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**Join us at the Art
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Admission is free!**



Limelight Association of Young Artists Sparks New Movement!

MAC's Youth Program Coordinator, Heather Brissenden is making a difference



Limelight Committee

They're young, they're gifted and they're ready to make a difference. Armed with passion, drive, determination and creativity, nine of Mississauga's top youth artists have come together to form MAC's Limelight Association of Young Artists. Limelight is an exciting community of artists presented under the umbrella of the Mississauga Arts Council.

All I can say is... "It's going to be big." Limelight has bold plans to use art to make this world a better place. We're planning an official launch, a new Writer's Guild, travelling open mics, a mentorship program, workshops, poetry slams, events for youth week and more.

So why does Limelight matter? Limelight has created a new community for young artists to step out of their shell and explore

their power and talent. By creating new events, Limelight enables artists to find like-minded individuals and practice their art together.

But the real truth is, behind the art, Limelight has a mission to spread positivity, inspiration, humanity and compassion. Art is simply the medium to express the higher consciousness conceived by the committee.

Friends, I kid you not when I tell you I've never been more inspired in my professional career. We put the call out to the community for young leaders to join Limelight and were floored by the strong response from our youth artists. We've got award-winning filmmakers on our committee, singer/songwriters, actors, visual artists, social media

experts, an engineer and poets all under the age of 30. It's our generation's time to step up to the plate and make a difference. It's time for us to raise our voice. So, are you ready to join the movement?

We've already witnessed the power of the committee as our artists performed to thousands of excited fans at the Limelight Block Party held on New Year's Eve at Celebration Square. Our musical artists rocked the mainstage including acts such as SEAM, Sean Pinchin, Arlene Paculan, poet, Matt. Miller and more. In the amphitheatre, Limelight's DJ Zedvantz & Audio-wise got the crowd hyped as they spun live while dance groups Ground illusionsz, I Rock with the One and the Kareem Byfield Dance Crew took to the stage. Graffiti artist Jesse Phade painted a live graffiti piece and local actors from Word Made Flesh entertained the crowds. The event was a total success and built an enormous amount of momentum for the committee. If you missed the event, I encourage you to check out our event photos on our Facebook page.

I also encourage you to join us at our official launch party on January 27, 2012 at the Maja Prentice Theatre. We are fortunate to partner with the Bloor Dixie Neighbourhood Centre for the event. The event will feature hosts from the Limelight Youth Committee and all art mediums. As well, all are welcome to attend the launch of our Youth Writer's Guild on February 13, 2012. The event will feature spoken-word poet Matt. Miller. MAC is thrilled to partner up with the Nexus Youth Centre and the Mississauga Central Library to create the new Guild.

In closing, I encourage you to join us as we make 2012 an unforgettable year. Limelight Association of Young Artist's is open to individuals under the age of 30. To join Mississauga's exciting association of young artists, please call the Mississauga Arts Council at 905-615-4278. For more information, please visit us online at www.mississaugaartscouncil.com or on Facebook and Twitter @MissArtsCouncil and @LimelightYouth. ∩

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New Year's Eve Limelight Block Party

Young artists took centre stage at Celebration Square



Arlene Paculan



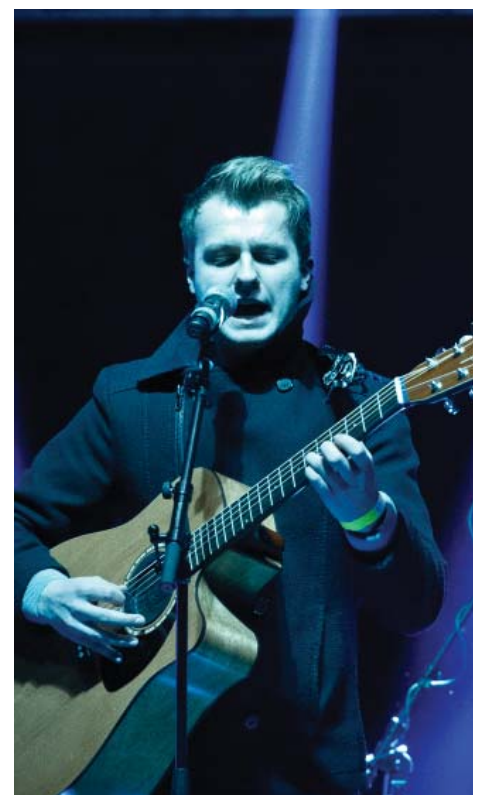
Khadijah Lopez



Patrick Panus



Paul "the identity crisis" Castro



Sean Sroka

Passionate, talented, vivacious & upbeat...

Uniting Mississauga's top artists for an evening of music, dance and poetry...



Kareem Byfield Dance Crew



Selyne Maia Trio



Matt. "Lip Balm" Miller



Rock band SEAM

Magnetic, dynamic, creative, unique & inspiring...



I Rock with the One



DJ Audiowise



Damon Pfaff

