

Arts

Blueprints from Space,
an in-and-out-of-this-world adventure about a teenage inventor who dreams of reaching the stars, is now showing at the Waterfront Theatre. See listing page 10.

Dance and theatre under the Umbrella

Arts Umbrella on Granville Island celebrates the graduation of its junior and senior dance companies this weekend with a program of dances choreographed by Grante Strate, Wen Wei Wang, Joe Laughlin, David Earle, Mary-Louise Albert, Lynn Sheppard and Chanz Perry. Members of Arts Umbrella's junior and senior theatre troupes are also hard at work this weekend. In a unique double bill, the juniors present an adaptation of the beloved C.S. Lewis children's classic *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* while the seniors tackle *The Maenads* by William Roxborough, an adaptation of the classic Greek tragedy *Orpheus and Eurydice*. See listing this page.

Intro to Armstrong

Jazz trumpet virtuoso **Byron Stripling** and conductor **Jeff Tyzik** pay a tribute to Louis Armstrong with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra Friday and Saturday at the Orpheum. Stripling, whose playing has kayoed audiences from Broadway to Basin Street to London's West End, is passionate about going into the schools to get children into jazz.

He's said, "They're getting their information mostly from television, and they never see anybody play brushes or trumpet when they watch TV." Of course, government cutbacks are further reducing exposure to classical music and jazz. "That's why this kind of music is gonna get lost. I don't think government should pay for it all. I don't dig paying taxes. But I think the government can take a little bit out of the \$2 trillion it spends to build bombers."

Artistic convergence

LEAPS Live Electronic Arts Performance Series brings together virtually ever medium together in a show featuring work by Greg Corness and dancer Susan Perkins, Doug Cross on guitar with computer-generated audio and video, 67 min, a film by Jamie Kilfiak and Toni-Lynn Frederick with soundtrack performed live by Jay Lind, *A Bucket Full of Sound* for bucket, speaker, microphones and computer presented by Martin Gofrit, *Waves of Kokoro*, electro-acoustic soundscape by Sylvi MacCormac and *Happy New Year* by animator Hsi-Wen Lee with soundtrack by Rita Ueda. At Performance Works on Tuesday.



One night every spring, Vancouver's dance community comes together in the face of HIV and AIDS to present **DANCERS FOR LIFE**, an event to raise money and to

remember friends and colleagues who have fallen to the disease. In its first four years, the charity event has raised \$200,000 for Friends for Life and other HIV/AIDS-related services.

This year the programme features a discerning mixture of local dancers and out-of-town stars. Royal Winnipeg Ballet legend Evelyn Hart (pictured above) will once again headline the performance with *pas de deux* from *Sleeping Beauty* and *Manon*, and the National Ballet's Alex Antonijevic as a partner. Jose Navas brings a solo entitled *Sterile Fields*. Ballet British Columbia dancer Emily Molnar will premiere a new work made in conjunction with National Ballet dancer Dominique Dumais, and local clogger Connie Myers contributes *What About Me?*

The Saturday night programme, hosted by dance impresario David Y.H. Lui, also features a pair of dancers from Ballet B.C. in *The Fall*, Joe Laughlin in his own solo, *Flick*, the Lower Mainland's Tropak Ukrainian Dance Theatre, and the transcendent Margie Gillis and Paola Styron in *Nothing Clings to You*.

Tickets to the performance, which begins at 7:30 at the Vancouver Playhouse and includes a post-performance reception, are \$65 and are available through Ticketmaster. A handful of premium gala tickets, including a pre-performance reception, are available for \$125 from the Diamon Centre for Living at 682-5992.

— Michael Scott



QUEUE

THEATRE

OPENING

Wake! A man wakes from a fitful sleep to encounter stories of Christmas in Wales as told by his two family dogs. Barry Opera's movement and vocal piece challenges boundaries of dance and theatre. *Vancouver East Cultural Centre, 1855 Vondrales, Thurs. to June 5, 8 pm, \$18/\$12, 280-3311*

You Still Can't Ron Reed's sequel to the classic comedy *You Can't Take it With You*, by Moss Hart and George Kaufman. Sixty years have passed since Dmy Kirby married into the eccentric Vanderhorf family; now he presides over two more generations in the family's New York City brownstone. *Pacific Theatre, 1420 W. 12th, Thurs. to June 26, Thurs. to Sat., 8 pm, matinees Sat. 2 pm, \$12.50/\$10/\$5, 731-5518.*

The Wake Electric Company's play set in early Vancouver, traces the lives of three generations of women and a terrible tragedy that changes their lives. Follow the action along the boardwalk on False Creek. *The outdoor event will be launched each show night from False Creek Community Centre, 1318 Carrwright, Fri. to Sun. and June 4 to 6 and June 11 to 13, 9 pm, \$14/\$10, 257-8195.*

Breathing Together/Kids' Writes '99 Vancouver Youth Theatre's musical play *Breathing Together* dealing with prejudice. *Firehall Arts Centre, 280 East Cordova, Fri. and Sat., 8 pm, Sun., 2 pm, \$12/\$10, 689-0926.*

The Maenads/The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe. Arts Umbrella Theatre Company Senior Troupe presents William Roxborough's love story double-billed with the Junior Theatre Troupe's presentation of Joseph Robinette's adaptation of C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*. *Frederick Wood Theatre, UBC, Sat. to Mon., 7:30 pm, admission by donation.*

Clean Dirt Ah Um Theatre pre original short plays, theatre pieces and dramatic readings of writing by Kris Elgstrand. *Havanna Gallery, 122 Commercial, Sun., 7 and 9 pm, \$5, info and reservations 464-0299*

Sylvia A.R. Gurney's man-wife-dog love triangle by Stage 43 Theatrical

CRITICS' PICKS

Events recommended by Sun entertainment staff are indicated by a ★