



**Southeast Vancouver  
Seniors' Arts & Cultural Society**

*Presents:*

# The 2008 Gala of International Music & Dance

*Featuring:*

Eire Born Irish Dancers

Kathak dancer Koyali Burman

Centro Flamenco Dancers

singer/songwriter David Campbell

musicians Rene Hugo y sus Amigos

Chinese fan dancers, emcee Renu Bakshi

buffet supper, free shuttle service

and much, much more!

**Wednesday, November 5**

**5-9 pm, Fraserview Hall**

**8240 Fraser Street, Vancouver**



Flamenco Dancers, Photo: David Cooper



## Acknowledgements

The Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Arts and Cultural Society would like to thank the following sponsors and organizations for their generous support:

BC 150 Celebration, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Government of British Columbia; Community Visions Program, Planning Department, City of Vancouver; Sunset CityPlan Committee; Victoria-Fraserview/Killarney CityPlan Committee; BCTV; Champlain Heights Community Centre; Killarney Community Centre; Killarney Secondary School; MLA Wally Oppal and the Vancouver-Fraserview Constituency Office; Rotary Club of Vancouver-Fraserview; Seniors as Leaders Project; South Vancouver Neighbourhood House; South Vancouver Seniors Council; and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.

We would also like to thank all the volunteers whose contributions made this event possible, including:

Renu Bakshi, Ashley Beattie, Rachna Bhagi, Purita Chin, Tom Chin, Keith Frew, Lorna Gibbs, Harj Gill, George Grant, Manfred Hagen, Yrsa Jensen, Margaret Kocuiba, Surjit Lalli, Eric Lau, Jimmy Lee, Jacky Leung, Joyce Leung, Sandy Lim, Maggie Levine, Raymond Louie, Art Lum, Nick Lum, Philip Mah, Bert Massiah, Conor McCarten, Jazmin Miranda, Wally Oppal, Guss Rattan, Barinder Saul, Kamlesh Sethi, Mohinder Sidhu, Wei Wei Siew, Christine Siu, Fran Smith, Brian Swartz, Leslie Thomas, Sharon Tong, Steve Weiss, Joan Wright, and Carmen Yuen.

Thank you also to all the performers who are participating.

# The 2008 Gala of International Music & Dance

## **Schedule of Entertainment**

Emcee: CTV personality Renu Bakshi

Opening ceremony begins at 6 pm.

(NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER DURING OPENING CEREMONY.)

5 pm Buffet supper

Opening Ceremony

6:00 National Anthem by Shanise Brown  
Blessing on the land by Monica Howard  
(ABSOLUTELY NO CAMERAS DURING THE PRAYER.)  
Speeches by Honourable Wally Oppal  
and City Councillor Raymond Louie

Performances

6:20 Singer-songwriter David Campbell  
6:40 Eire Borne Irish Dancers, Nora Pickett  
Irish Dance Academy  
7:00 Buffet  
7:40 Burnaby Chinese fan dancers  
7:50 Classical Kathak dancer Koyali Burman  
8:00 INTERMISSION  
8:20 Centro Flamenco dancers  
8:40 Rene Hugo y sus Amigos

## About the Entertainers

### Renu Bakshi

This familiar face on CTV British Columbia is now the regular late-night news anchor. Bakshi has been a prominent journalist for years, working in both print and broadcast media. Bakshi worked for YTV Vancouver, “The Shirley Show” before being hired at CTV. Renu is not afraid to tackle the tough issues and received a lot of attention for her article about gang violence in the Indo-Canadian community, “The Roots of Gang Warfare,” published in *Maclean’s Magazine* in December 2002.



### Shanise Brown

Shanise is a grade seven student from Maple Ridge, BC. She was a semi-finalist in the 2008 Red Robinson Talent Showdown at the PNE. She has also sung the National Anthem for the Vancouver Whitecaps and at the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Women’s Canada Cup.



### Monica Howard

Monica Howard, a First Nations Elder from the *Nuu-chah-nulth* Nation on Vancouver Island, has lived in Vancouver’s East side for 33 years. Monica devotes herself to her work with First Nations families, as a family support worker with Aboriginal Child and Family Support Services, Vancouver. Monica is also a single mother of three and a grandmother. She also volunteers for other organizations, and sits on the board of directors of the Vancouver Recovery Club.

### Councillor Raymond Louie

Raymond Louie was he was born and raised in East Vancouver where he and his wife, Tonya, live with their three young children. Councillor Louie was first elected to the Vancouver City Council in 2002.

## The Honorable Wally Oppal

Wally Oppal, MLA for Vancouver South, was born in the Vancouver-Fraserview neighbourhood. Wally practised law in the area for 14 years before being appointed to the British Columbia court system.

## David Campbell

David Campbell is a self-taught songwriter, singer, poet, painter, writer and guitarist.

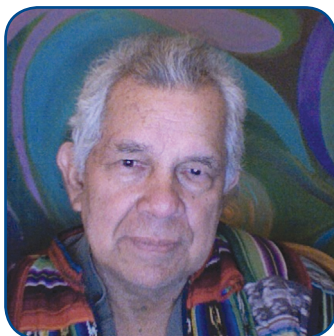
He was born and raised in Guyana, South America and now resides in Vancouver. He has appeared on CBC Television's

"Mr. Dressup," at children's festivals and at hundreds of elementary schools in Canada.

David has written over 1,600 songs and

has produced 29 CDs and 140 videos of his creative work (available on YouTube.com), and has published five books. David will be singing and

telling stories about "People of the Salmon," his songs about First Nations people of the Pacific Northwest.



## Eire Born Irish Dancers

Members of the Eire Born Irish Dancers are the top dancers from the Nora Pickett Irish Dance Academy in Richmond and North Vancouver. They range in age from five to 23. Membership into the troupe is invitation-only, and prospects must be trained for local, national and international performances. Every Eire Born dancer travelling internationally has achieved a championship level of Irish dance.

Dance styles range from traditional to a more modern "Riverdance" and "Lord of the Dance" style. Eire Born dancers work together to produce an energetic, awe-inspiring and professional show guaranteed to set the stage on fire!



## Burnaby Chinese Fan Dancers

Archeologists have found evidence of Chinese dance that dates back 6,000 years. Dancing has always been part of everyday life in China. The Burnaby Chinese Fan Dancers started in a Burnaby Library courtyard over ten years ago, and they've been practising together ever since. Mrs. Amy Wong leads this seven-member group of fan dancers, aged 60 to 80. The group likes to stay fit by dancing regularly. They are performing to music entitled "Jasmine Flower."

## Koyali Burman

From the age of three, Koyali Burman has been fascinated by the North Indian classical dance, Kathak. Koyali trained in Kathak under the disciple of Guru Acchhan Maharaj. She was honoured with the *Sangeet Ratna* (Jewel of Dance) Award by the University of Ravindra Bharathi in Calcutta, and has been featured in numerous television and stage performances in India and Vancouver. She has directed and choreographed many innovative dance pieces which reflect both her technical expertise and creativity. Koyali is a graduate of the University of British Columbia and works as a community developer at the South Vancouver Neighbourhood House.



## Centro Flamenco Dancers

Centro Flamenco was founded in 1989 by artistic director, Rosario Ancer and musical director, Victor Kolstee. Centro Flamenco organizes the Vancouver Flamenco Festival which showcases local, national and international artists. The centre also organizes the popular "Cuadro Flamenco" series which features traditional Tablao dance style. Centro Flamenco dancers are known for their creative, spirited and fiery original performances, and have delivered professional Flamenco dance to sold-





out shows for the last 18 years. Rosario honours the rich tradition of the art of Flamenco, and takes pride in providing a place where budding Flamenco dancers flourish in Vancouver.

## Rene Hugo y sus Amigos

Rene Hugo y sus Amigos (Rene Hugo and his Friends) love to play lively Latin folk music from the Pacific Coast of South America, including songs from Chile, Peru, Colombia, and Mexico.

The group first met and recorded together in 2003 at Vancouver Community College. Since then, the group has recorded two CDs: *Fiesta en Vancouver* (2004) and *Elishka* (2006). Rene Hugo y sus Amigos have performed live on City TV's "Breakfast Television" and the BBC's "Destination Music," as well as many high-profile events such as Vancouver's CityFest, the 2003 World Weightlifting Championships Opening Ceremonies and the Nanning International Folksong Arts Music Festival in Guangxi, China.

Rene Hugo was born in Oropeza, a village high in the Peruvian Andes. He learned the mandolin and quena from his father who also encouraged his interest in poetry. At 16, Rene moved to Cusco, the cultural centre of Peru, where he composed speeches and formal toasts, and played in several traditional Andean groups.

Rene moved to Canada in the early 1990s and in 1996 was recognized by the Peruvian Consulate for his efforts to promote and preserve Peruvian culture.



## **What is Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Arts and Cultural Society?**

Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Arts and Cultural Society (SVSACS) is a group of dedicated individuals working to have a seniors' centre built in Southeast Vancouver. The centre would house various arts and cultural activities for seniors, serving as a meeting and gathering place for older adults of all ethnic backgrounds. The society developed out of the Victoria-Fraserview/Killarney and Sunset CityPlan Vision Implementation Seniors' Centre Subcommittee.

## **What does SVSACS do?**

Our mandate is to:

- increase government awareness of the inequity in amenities for the Victoria, Fraserview, Killarney and Sunset communities
- create a feasible and sustainable business plan for a new centre
- work with federal, provincial and municipal governments to ensure a seniors' centre is created in Southeast Vancouver

## **Why is there a need for a new seniors' centre?**

There are no dedicated centres for seniors' in all of East Vancouver! Southeast Vancouver's senior population reached over 16,000 in 2005, and that number is growing fast. Currently, there is no place for seniors to call our own in Southeast Vancouver. Seniors need a place to meet, socialize, share a meal and most importantly, engage in stimulating programs of interest to our mature tastes.

## **How can you get involved?**

More voices and more ideas will help us to be heard.

Join SVSACS by writing: Joan Wright

6470 Victoria Drive, Vancouver, BC V5P 3X7

website: <http://svsacs.org>