

WINTER IN THE CITY

by Ricky Boudreau



You either love the winter or you hate it.

For those of us who love it, get your sex wax on, polish your goggles and pull out the long johns. For those of us who are not so into winter, start getting your playlists together for your cardio routines and your holiday get-togethers. Either way, it comes and goes and we always get through it. Remember, it's how you react to things. I think it's easier to deal with the chilly season once a plan is in place. Start organizing your events on a calendar: parties, dinners, outdoor activities, work-out schedule and goals, whatever you feel is going to make the months enjoyable for you. We are Canadians and we can't let a little snow and cold stop us in our tracks. We just need to be dressed properly and have a something to look forward to. I personally enjoy the après ski, even though I'm not actually skiing! It definitely helps warm you from the inside out. Or, it's a great time to watch that television series you haven't had a chance to see yet. Whatever it is that you choose to do this winter, I hope it's a great one for you!

This will be my last "In the City" and I would like to thank our editor, Jeff, for all of his encouragement and wisdom, and our publisher, Antoine, for giving our community an entertaining quarterly magazine that is so easy to carry around. It's been a great ride serving as your City Hostess. Cheers to a great Holiday season y'all!

Burlesque

Great Canadian Burlesque – Girlsque 7

January 27th

9:30 pm

Tickets \$35 advance – \$40 door

The Comedy Bar

945 Bloor St. W

416.551.6540

greatcanadianburlesque.com

In keeping with the theme of this *winterplay!* issue, don't miss the Burlesque show at the Comedy Bar. Girlsque 7 will feature performances by Coco Letric, Minnie Tonka, Fionna Flaunt and many others. Definitely a night to remember! Ladies, you may wanna check this out—there are even going to be performances from some Canadian Burlesque Hall of Famers.

TIP: You may want to have a “Booty Call” lined up for after the show! Just sayin’...

Shevisions

www.shevisions.net

Here's a production company that you can contact if you are going to host a grand event and want it to be something different. They have pre-made shows that you can hire as well as quite an array of talent to choose from, including burlesque. They are local, in Markham, and would love to help you out.

TIP: Producer/Creative Director *Suzi Horton* has an amazing line-up of talent ready to wow you and your guests.



Burlesque Party

Your place

Date – To Be Determined

If you are hosting a holiday party this year, why not go for a Burlesque theme? If your budget allows, you can hire Drag Queens to come in and do a number or two, as well as have all of your guests come in costume. Parties are normal at this time of year and have yours be the one that all of your friends will be talking about, until the next holiday season. You can play burlesque music and have great names for cocktails like “booty punch” and give out pasties as your guests leave.

TIP: Costume parties are always a hit and you can play Burlesque starring *Cher* and *Christina Aguilera*, or *Moulin Rouge* starring *Nicole Kidman* and *Ewan McGregor*, and have your guests dress as their fave characters.

Theatre & Live Performance

Miss Conception's Bon Voyage to Mexico

January 1st

6 – 8 pm

FREE

Woody's/Sailor

465 – 467 Church St.

416.972.0887

www.woodystoronto.com

So our dear, beloved Miss Conception is moving on up in the world. She has booked an amazing gig in Mexico where she will be performing her brand new, live, Broadway-style show! It's at The Palm in Puerto Vallarta (www.thepalmpv.com). Miss C will be there from January until April, 2012. So come on out and help make her bon voyage show a raucous one! You can always check out www.missconception.ca for more details of her shows.

TIP: Bring some extra cash to show your love and support through tipping Toronto's most amazing talent...I hear that there may be a bit of a “roast” element with *Lena Over*.

Cabaret

Hart House Theatre

January 13th to 28th

Tickets \$15 – \$25

7 Hart House Circle

Wellesley & Queens' Park

Gay icon Liza Minnelli starred in the movie version of this show with Joel Gray. It was directed by world renowned choreographer, Bob Fosse, and has some of the most recognizable songs and choreography in musical history.

TIP: In the history of Hart House productions, this is the first time the young artists are tackling Cabaret—should be great!



Chicago

Tuesday January 31st – 8 pm

Saturday February 4th – 8 pm

Tickets \$59.50 – \$99.50

Massey Hall

178 Victoria St.

416.872.4522

www.masseyhall.com

Chicago has had more than 50 hits—pretty amazing and perhaps I'm showing my age with this one. They've got 18 gold records, a Grammy and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. They also still have 4 founding members performing with them. Take a walk back in time and check out these boyz and galz.

TIP: *This is a great show to take Mom and Dad to for the holidays!*

Food

Winterlicious 2012

January 27th – February 9th

Prix fixe menus of approximately \$35

Various Restaurants around the city

toronto.foodontario.com/event.php?event=toronto-winterlicious

This year marks the 10th anniversary of this amazing, culinary event. If you love food, like I do, then you absolutely need to take advantage of the Winterlicious food festival. There are over 100 participating restaurants that offer a great sampling of their menus.

TIP: *I would recommend making reservations and early on, so you don't miss out. Also a great date thing to do.*

A Taste of Niagara on the Lake – 2012

January 28th; March 10th; April 14th

\$145/person (includes of tax & gratuity)

1.877.342.4374

www.atasteofniagara.ca

This 3 day adventure allows guests to take part in eating delicious meals in various restaurants in Niagara on the Lake. It showcases the area's top culinary talents paired with some of the best wines of the Escarpment. Everyone meets on Friday

evening with a wine and cheese get-together, a chance to meet your fellow Progressive Dinner buddies. The main event takes place on Saturday evening where you get to experience a five course gourmet dining and wine pairing. Five of the region's top restaurants participate to excite and stimulate your palate. Your amazing culinary evening begins at the Pillar & Post Inn and from there you will be transported to your first dinner stop, courtesy of Niagara Classic Cabs. You will then complete 4 more journeys until you reach the finale of the evening. The adventure will conclude on Sunday, where you will have the opportunity to visit 5 participating wineries to taste complimentary samples of Niagara wines. If you've been looking for that perfect, romantic get-away with your honey—this is it! Accommodations must be made separately but there is an extensive list on the web site.

TIP: *There are only 130 tickets per date so get your tickets sooner than later. Bring along some friends and make it a double date.*

Educational

Leonardo da Vinci's Workshop: Inventor, Artist, Dreamer

Until March 18th

Tickets \$20 – \$29

Ontario Science Centre

770 Don Mills Road

416.696.1000

www.ontariosciencecentre.ca

Leonardo da Vinci is history's most famous artist and scientist. The Ontario Science Centre has an incredible exhibit on right now that is fantastic. It's very interactive and allows guests to not only check out some scale models of his ideas but also a rare chance to look into his "Codices" where he first sketched out his inventions.

TIP: *You can purchase tickets online and this exhibition is excellent for all ages.*





Free Concert Series – Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre

Until June 6th

FREE

Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts

145 Queen St. West

416.363.8231

www.coc.ca

Open your mind and let yourself experience this amazing series of six concerts: vocal, piano, jazz, dance, chamber and world music. This is a FREE concert series that takes place in the gorgeous Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre that you can see into from University Avenue. It's in that stunning building that is home to the Canadian Opera Company and the National Ballet of Canada. They have put together this wonderful program for everyone to come in and enjoy. It started in late September and goes until early June and happens on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12pm to 1pm or 5:30pm to 6:30pm. This program will allow you to enjoy both established artists as well as emerging ones.

TIP: *This is an amazing and peaceful way to enjoy a break from work over lunch, or to end your work day. Let all your worries and troubles melt away.*

Tradition

The Nutcracker

The National Ballet of Canada

December 10th to January 3rd

Tickets \$38 – \$133.50

Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts

145 Queen St. West

416.345.9595

www.national.ballet.ca

A holiday season just wouldn't be complete without a visit to the ballet. Perhaps this is a family tradition of yours as well. Sugar Plum fairies dancing around the mouse king and all of

the wonderful costumes—who can forget those handsome men in tights! This show is a feast for the eyes and the imagination.

TIP: *Get tickets that are close to the stage. I love it when you can hear the pointe shoes tapping on the floor, it adds another layer.*

Les Coquettes Toast 2012 with the Sanderson Centre

December 31st

10:00 pm

Tickets \$53.50 and \$63 (ADULTS ONLY)

The Sanderson Centre

88 Dalhousie Street, Brantford, Ontario

519-758-8090 or 1-800-265-0710

www.lescoquettes.com

Les Coquettes host their first-ever New Year's Eve celebration as special guests of the Sanderson Centre, a former Vaudeville house in Brantford, Ontario. The unique, Toronto-based cabaret theatre company showcases a bevy of beautiful male and female performers in a sizzling evening of Cabaret Burlesque that incorporates traditional striptease with dance, cirque and live music. The majesty of the fully restored theatre offers a perfect venue for this sophisticated and playful adults-only event.

TIP: *Wear something naughty under your glamorous evening attire.*

Ricky Boudreau blossomed as a true social butterfly while traveling the world as a professional figure skater for 15 years. He loves the gift of the gab and discovering great parties in the city. With a love for culture, great food and beauty, Ricky spends his time very creatively as a professional makeup artist for MAC Pro cosmetics. He has helped artists like Deborah Cox and Dame Shirley Bassey look gorgeous. Heard of a new hot spot? Email him at inthecity@pinkpages.com

Photos by Karel Matkovic