



powell street festival society

パウエル祭協会

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## THE POWELL STREET FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR 38<sup>TH</sup> YEAR WITH ECLECTIC PROGRAM OF ARTISTS AND ACTIVITIES

*Kytami, Tomo Nakayama and Spring among dozens of artists set to perform;  
Full line-up including set times and schedule announced*

Vancouver, B.C. ... The Powell Street Festival, the lower mainland's longest running community arts festival and largest event of its kind in Canada, has revealed its full program of artists and activities for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual festival running **August 1 – 3, 2014**. On Saturday, August 2 and Sunday, August 3, the annual celebration of Japanese Canadian arts, culture and heritage takes place at **Oppenheimer Park** (400 Powell St), **Firehall Arts Centre** (280 E. Cordova St), **Vancouver Japanese Language School and Hall** (475 Alexander St), **Vancouver Buddhist Temple** (220 Jackson Ave) and **Centre A** (229 E. Georgia St), with the festival launching the evening prior, Friday, August 1, at **Electric Owl** (926 Main St).

This year's festival theme is "Roots" and the programming features an eclectic lineup of local and international musicians, dancers, authors, filmmakers, actors and visual artists. These varied artists of Japanese descent span the spectrum between those grounded in strong traditions to innovators laying the foundations of a new vision.

The lineup of contemporary and traditional live music acts ranges from **Tomo Nakayama** (of Seattle alt-rock band Grand Hallway), taiko drumming groups including the all-female wadaiko ensemble **JODAIKO**, the psych-rock experience that is Vancouver's **Spring**, and "violinextremist" **Kytami**. Delhi 2 Dublin co-founder turned solo artist, Kytami, fuses classic fiddle styles with bass-heavy dubstep and hip-hop.

This year's range of musical performances extends to folk act **Cosmic Wink**, jazz singer **Carol Oya**, choral group **Sakura Singers**, soprano **Stephanie Nakagawa** and four-piece string band **Shout!WhiteDragon**, whose performance of Appalachian-inspired roots music will include participatory audience square dancing.

Dance at the festival includes traditional Japanese performances from **Nishikawa ryu-Satsuki kai** and the **Otowa Ryu Japanese Dance Group**, while **Double Ropes Caravan** will bring their international multi-award winning double dutch team to the stage and emerging dancer and choreographer **Erika Mitsuhashi** will premiere a solo work entitled *this room has curved edges*.

The Japanese documentary **Hafu**, which looks at the experience of mixed-race people in Japan, will screen at the festival.

Theatre events include anime cosplay acts, the comedy sketches of **Assaulted Fish**, poetry readings accompanied by live music from **Poemroids Only** and special presentations of The City of Surrey's theatrical presentation '**The Re-Enactors – WWI Veteran Zennosuke Inouye**'. In this remarkable true story, Kevin Takahide Lee reenacts excerpts from the life of Inouye, the only Japanese Canadian War Veteran to have his land returned after the Japanese Canadian WWII internment.

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Multi-disciplinary artist **Leanne Dunic** curates new works by writers **Lydia Kwa**, **Marie Mutsuki Mockett** and **Sally Ito** in '*Shishoesetsu Literary Readings*', with a limited edition chapbook available at the festival.

Martial arts, historic walking tours, Bonsai and Ikebana demonstrations, a special historical Speakers' Series, the ever-popular Sumo tournament and the Children's Tent, with activities like Suika Wari, Kiai Contest and Origami, return to The Powell Street Festival. Visitors can also enjoy a variety of delicious Japanese food from over 15 vendors and take in one the 23 craft booths, displays and demonstrations.

The complete schedule is available at <http://www.powellstreetfestival.com/festival2014/schedule/>

All daytime events at The Powell Street Festival are FREE!

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