



**B**eginning on January 15, 2010 the historic Woodward's "W" will once again light up the Vancouver skyline, seventeen years to the day from when it was extinguished.

The illumination of the iconic "W" will also signal the public's first look at SFU Woodward's, a visionary arts facility and the new home of the Simon Fraser University School for the Contemporary Arts.

Over the coming months, SFU Woodward's will present a series of high-profile arts presentations as a preview of how this dynamic, progressive new facility will add its own light to the city's arts community.

The Inaugural Program series will unfold on the main and lower levels of the complex. The main level includes the Belzberg Atrium and the Audain Gallery for visual art, with a wall of display windows at street level. The lower floor contains the state-of-the-art Fej and Milton Wong Experimental Theatre, where Robert Lepage's *The Blue Dragon/Le Dragon Bleu* will be staged.

By September 2010, the rest of the facility

will be ready for Contemporary Arts occupancy and a host of new multipurpose spaces will be filled with remarkable artistic creativity and learning.

The second floor will feature a glass-walled World Art Studio and a cinema/lecture hall seating 350, both made possible by a generous donation from Djavad Mowafaghian. Also included are two large teaching/performance studios and a variety of multimedia teaching spaces. The third floor's heart will be the Rix Family Multimedia Commons, surrounded by twenty small studios equipped with computation and media systems. The top level will contain a professional film sound stage, screening rooms, studios and student gathering spaces.

SFU's involvement in the Woodward's site reflects the university's deep engagement in the community and its partnership with provincial and local governments, and business and community leaders in the creation and expansion of its Vancouver campus. SFU is proud to offer a visionary new facility in the new Woodward's - where its unique strengths will enrich the artistic life of the Downtown Eastside and beyond.



*The Blue Dragon / Le Dragon Bleu*

Photo by Erick Labbe

**SFU**

It's a banner year for Simon Fraser University as its School for the Contemporary Arts moves to SFU Woodward's in 2010 | [www.sfuwoodwards.ca](http://www.sfuwoodwards.ca)

# SFU WOODWARD'S

## School for the Contemporary Arts



→ **This coming September marks the first time all the SCA's activities will coalesce in the heart of the city.**

**S**imon Fraser University's School for the Contemporary Arts (SCA) is a uniquely interdisciplinary program focused on contemporary art creation and theory.

SCA's faculty includes creators, performers and scholars in dance, film, music, theatre performance/design, visual art and multidisciplinary practice.

For more than 30 years its faculty and alumni have played an integral role in Canadian culture while contributing to art and scholarship throughout the world.

In addition to creating an impressive catalogue of individual works, they have often collaborated on multidisciplinary projects that are emblematic of the school's interdisciplinary teaching.

This multidisciplinary approach to teaching and research is reflected in our graduates' work in professional dance, theatre, music, film, and galleries and media companies from around the world.

Previously lodged in a variety of temporary structures and makeshift facilities on SFU's

Burnaby campus and in Vancouver, the school is finally moving to a suitable home.

This dynamic interplay of artistic practices is embodied throughout the complex, which features a number of impressive studios and theatres to be used for both teaching and public events.

SFU Contemporary Arts has been offering its visual arts program in the Downtown Eastside since 1979, and its internationally recognized Praxis Centre for Screenwriters has been operating there since 1986. This coming September, however, marks the first time all of SCA's activities will coalesce in the heart of the city.

There will be greatly expanded opportunities to share its work, to bring visitors to its classrooms and studios, and to collaborate with artists, performers, galleries and companies from the neighbourhood and beyond. The move to 149 West Hastings is the beginning of an exciting new chapter for this vibrant program, for the community around it, and for the active and creative students who will fill it.



## 2010 Inaugural Program

**W**hen Simon Fraser University's School for the Contemporary Arts moves into a brand new facility, it will herald both an exciting new era and a return to SFU's traditional roots.

Thirty years ago, SFU was a leader in presenting innovative works that were a fundamental part of Vancouver's arts scene. Economic imperatives put an end to those inspirational times, but not to the vision. SFU Woodward's Inaugural Program is the revitalization of that dream.

The story of the Inaugural Program began when SFU President Michael Stevenson decided that this new facility should bring some of Canada's most notable interdisciplinary artists together, to pave the way for the official

Contemporary Arts opening in September 2010.

As a result, SFU was delighted to engage Canada's preeminent multidisciplinary artist, Robert Lepage. Lepage was enthralled with the opportunity - along with the entire Woodward's proposition - having recently gone through a similar revitalization project when his own company, Ex Machina, relocated to the impoverished side of Québec City.

The Blue Dragon/Le Dragon Bleu is the work Lepage specifically targeted to open the Fei and Milton Wong Experimental Theatre. It showcases his gift for powerful storytelling along with his internationally acclaimed high-tech genius and is a fitting headline for the Inaugural Program.

The Inaugural Program also highlights the visual arts and the work of some of SFU's most distinguished alumni.

First Nations/Second Nature, is a thought-provoking exhibition that considers Native North Americans' ideas of place and nationhood, and includes works by outstanding local, national and international artists.

The Inaugural Program will also incorporate many contemporary arts disciplines in its presentations of The Show Must Go On, SPINE, Mechanical and IMPRINT. There are creative and production partnerships with notable SFU alumni and faculty contributors: Norman Armour (Director-PuSh Festival), James Sanders (Actor/Writer-Realwheels-SPINE), and SFU faculty Henry Daniel, Steven Hill and Owen Underhill.



Robert Lepage Photo by Sophie Grimmer

→ **The Blue Dragon/Le Dragon Bleu is specifically chosen to inaugurate the Fei and Milton Wong Experimental Theatre.**



Photo by Gorman Lee

## Art, Architecture & Community

On January 15, The Fei and Milton Wong Experimental Theatre will open its doors for the first time to host a special ticketed event called City Salon: Art, Architecture and Community. Some of the city's most prominent artists, architects, developers, planners and community activists will come together to discuss the history of the Woodward's development and its potential to influence and animate both social and cultural communities in the city.

The City Salon event will be preceded by a public outdoor program. Highlights include the official inauguration of a site-specific photographic installation by prominent Vancouver multimedia artist Stan Douglas, the official launch of Trevor Boddy's world-travelled Vancouverism exhibition (housed in the complex's atrium) and a pivotal moment just after 6pm when the iconic Woodward's "W" will be re-lit.

City Salon presented by Westbank-Peterson.

Visit [sfuwoodwards.ca](http://sfuwoodwards.ca) for details and tickets to all the Inaugural Program presentations

**SFU** WOODWARD'S

**Audain Gallery: Art in the public sphere**

The Audain Gallery is a cornerstone of the new Contemporary Arts complex and an exciting new venue where artistic expression and social and political commentary will come together in the form of innovative, provocative exhibitions, events and collaborative programs.



Sam Durant, You Are on Indian Land Show Some Respect, 2008  
Courtesy Blum and Poe

**FIRST NATIONS / SECOND NATURE**  
February 6 - March 20

First Nations / Second Nature is the Audain Gallery's inaugural presentation. With its roots in the local history of Vancouver, this powerful exhibition is built of works that address the politics of site. Local, national and international artists will offer a variety of engagements with the understanding of place and history in North America, as it is defined by First Nations' conceptions of territory.

Artists include Rebecca Belmore, Matthew Buckingham, Greg Curnoe, Sam Durant, Jimmie Durham, Andrea Geyer, Cheryl L'Hirondelle, Brian Jungen and Patricia Reed.

The exhibition's curator is Candice Hopkins, the Sobeys Curatorial Resident of Indigenous Art at the National Gallery of Canada. First Nations/Second Nature is part of the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad.



The cast of *The Show Must Go On*.

Photo by Tim Matheson

**FEI AND MILTON WONG EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE**  
Inaugural Productions

A part of SFU Woodward's Inaugural Program, the PuSh Festival kicks off with *The Show Must Go On* by French choreographer Jérôme Bel, known for his provocative, ironic and anti-theatrical productions.

A cult figure on the international dance scene, Bel brings us this delightfully

subversive game of anticipation and expectation that blurs the line between spectator and spectacle.

With an illustrious group of 20 local individuals including Jim Green and Max Wyman and accompanied by a DJ, audiences will experience an evening that combines

humour, nostalgia and human frailty with the intimacy of live performance.

Presented with PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, SFU Contemporary Arts and The Dance Centre, and with the support of the Consulat Général de France à Vancouver.

**WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD!**

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Ken Lum, I Said No, 2010, part of the public art project Coming Soon.

**COMING SOON**  
Beginning January 2010

As the initial public art project for the Audain Gallery, four gifted visual artists have been commissioned to create new site-specific public art works. Coming Soon will address the qualities of the neighbourhood and the context of the new Contemporary Arts facility's location. The first work, by internationally renowned artist Ken Lum, has already been installed in the Hastings Street window. Coming Soon will also include internet projects specifically designed for the Audain Gallery's website.



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**ROBERT LEPAGE'S  
THE BLUE DRAGON/  
LE DRAGON BLEU**

February 2 - 27

The headliner in the SFU Woodward's Inaugural Program is a theatrical tour-de-force that has already thrilled critics and audiences in Europe, the United States and Eastern Canada and now makes a much-anticipated stop in Vancouver.

The Blue Dragon/Le Dragon Bleu is the creation of Québec playwright, actor and director Robert Lepage, who has been praised as a "master sculptor of light, space and sound" (Variety, 2009) and one of the most imaginative, boundary-bending theatrical artists in the world.

Lepage and co-writer Marie Michaud have crafted a story that resurrects Pierre Lamontagne, the central figure in Lepage's 1985 breakthrough masterpiece, The Dragons' Trilogy. The Blue Dragon picks up Pierre's story more than two decades



Photo by Erick Lemaire

later, with the ex-pat Québécois (played by Lepage) now running an art gallery in Shanghai.

Claire Forêt (Marie Michaud) is a former art-school classmate turned advertising executive who is lured to China by its economic promise, and by the possibility of restoring meaning to her life by adopting a Chinese baby. Her reunion with Pierre in Shanghai is complicated by the presence of Xiao Ling

(Tai Wei Foo), a Chinese dancer and artist whom Pierre represents and who is also his lover.

The dramatic collision of these three characters becomes a catalyst for profound change in the lives of all three. The Blue Dragon is part of the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad and is co-presented by SFU Contemporary Arts and Théâtre la Seizième.

**SPINE  
March 10 - 20**

SFU Woodward's presents the world premiere of SPINE, a riveting trip into the world of virtual reality.

SPINE is the creation of the University of Alberta's Kevin Kerr, Simon Fraser University alumnus James Sanders and award-winning Vancouver actor Bob Frazer, the creative trio that produced the wildly popular action-adventure-comedy Skydive.

SPINE takes audiences into a virtual universe where avatars provide a seductive opportunity to reinvent both body and soul, free from the boundaries of human physicality and conventional morality. It explores our notions of physical and spiritual identity, truth and love in an increasingly mediated world.

The play also pushes the boundaries of technology, making imaginative use of video screens and three-dimensional projections. James Sanders is the central character

in SPINE. The real-life Sanders became a quadriplegic following a spinal cord injury in 1990. He's now the director of Realwheels, the Vancouver-based theatre company co-producing SPINE in partnership with the University of Alberta. SPINE coincides with the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games and has been co-commissioned by the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad.

**MACHINAL  
April 7 - 17**

Machinal is a modern age tragedy of isolation turned to murder. The 1928 Broadway hit is loosely based on the true story of stenographer Ruth Snyder, trapped in a machine-like existence until a passionate encounter led her to murder - and the electric chair.

Machinal explores themes of alienation, personal choice and mechanization - themes that remain compelling in our modern world, making the play a provocative contemporary commentary on how we live and what we believe. Machinal is directed by Steven Hill,

a writer, performer, teacher and co-artistic director of the acclaimed Leaky Heaven Circus.

**IMPRINT  
June 17 - 20**

Imprint includes three extraordinary premieres and explores music, dance, theatre and technology by leading Canadian composers, choreographers and directors. One of Canada's most original voices, Rudolf Komorous, has composed The Ruse, his first major new work in many years, for the Turning Point Ensemble. Cut Flowers, a monodrama by composer Linda Catlin Smith, features soprano Phoebe MacRae and stage director Penelope Stella in a meditation inspired by Victorian poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Imprint is a daring, site-specific work for dancers, large music ensemble and telepresence technology, with SFU professors Owen Underhill's music and Henry Danie's synthesis of modern technology and movement. Presented by the Turning Point Ensemble in partnership with SFU Contemporary Arts.

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Looking forward to opening night.

