

Arts in Ottawa: A weekend of firsts, lasts and second helpings



Actors do double time, strangers in the night meet for love songs

Sandra Abma · CBC News · Posted: May 26, 2017 7:03 PM ET | Last Updated: May 27, 2017



Maestro playwright Claude Montminy, left, with actors Manon Lafrenière and David Whiteley, who perform the play in both French and English. (Sandra Abma/CBC News)

It's a busy weekend, one that includes the English-language premiere of a Quebec stage hit, opera music for lovers, and a long goodbye from Saw Gallery.

Double dose of drama

The NAC Orchestra's conductor is naked in the shower, the first violinist is plotting a takeover of the podium, and a bewildered husband suspects an affair. Quebec City playwright Claude

Montminy has mined the comic possibilities of this scenario in his play *Maestro*. A hit in Quebec, an English-language version of the play is being staged for the first time at the Gladstone Theatre by local troupe Plosive Productions.

"I imagined a tale of ambition as told by Molière," said Montminy, from the stage at the Gladstone Theatre.

Actors David Whitely and Manon Lafrenière perform in both French and English presentations of *Maestro*.
1:09

Not only is the play being staged in a new English translation, the same cast will also perform the original French-language version on alternating nights.

"Actors have to be very good to perform comedy in both languages," said Montminy.

"The rhythms of comedy are different in English and French, but thankfully, they are very good."

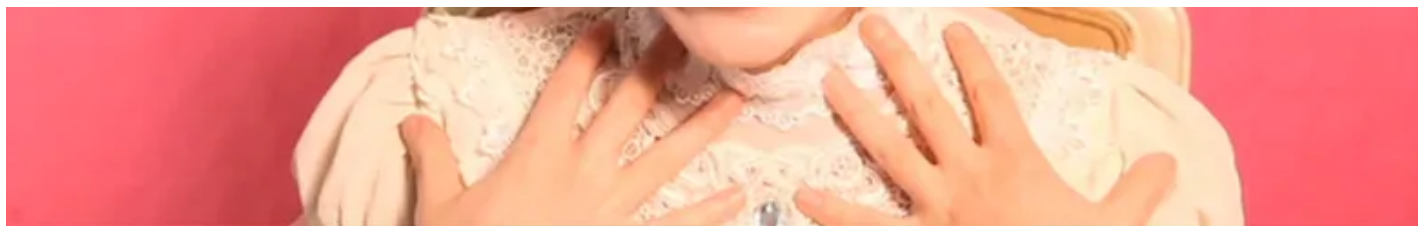
Where: The Gladstone Theatre, 910 Gladstone Ave.

When: Curtain is at 7:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays. The production runs until June 10.

Cost: Tickets are \$22 for students, \$38 for adults and they are available [here](#).

The Last Picture Show





A still from Iranian-Canadian video artist Rah Eleh's work Oreo. (Rah Eleh)

SAW Gallery says good bye to its basement space in Arts Court with the aptly titled The Last Picture Show.

The artist-run gallery has long been an incubator and testing ground for the development of video art, moving it from the fringes to a prominent place in the art world. Decades ago, it started handing out video kits to artists who wanted to experiment and express themselves with the medium.

Banks of video monitors, wall-to-wall screens and a private viewing chamber have been set up to showcase the work of 12 pioneering video artists and documentary makers.

SAW Gallery, the little basement that could, will reopen as a far larger and brighter space when the rejuvenation of Arts Court is complete.

Where: SAW Gallery, 67 Nicholas St.

When: Exhibition runs until June 30

Cost: Admission is free.

Strangers in the Night

Soprano Katherine Whyte and tenor Jean-Philippe Fortier-Lazure have never met, but on Saturday night they'll be gazing into each other's eyes singing sweet love songs.

Fortier-Lazure in rehearsal with pianist Matthew Larkin. 0:54

"It's exciting, a roller coaster experience," said Fortier-Lazure, about performing for the first time together.

"It will either work and be completely convincing or be a train wreck," the singer added with a laugh.

Both are busy, in-demand artists. Whyte, based in New York City, tours extensively, her rich, velvety voice often featured on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera. Fortier-Lazure is currently featured in the Canadian Opera Company's production of *Louis Riel*, which arrives in Ottawa at the NAC on June 15.

