HOT DATES

Mamma Mia!

August 16 to 21

More than 45 million people have already seen this hit Broadway musical, which just might be **the happiest show ever produced**. Filled with ABBA's hits—everything from "Does Your Mother Know?" to "Dancing Queen" to "Take a Chance on Me"—it gets toes tapping and audiences smiling. Experience it for yourself at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre (page 76), and don't even try not to sing along.—Sheri Radford



David Burdenv To August 31

Beat the heat this summer with a visit to a cool local art house. Jennifer Kostuik Gallery's (page 51) current group show includes local photographer David Burdeny's Ancora series. The handdeveloped chromogenic print "Gondolas, Venice, Italy, 2010" (pictured) was shot with a long exposure and filters to create a sense of surrealism. Dreamy, indeed.—Kristina Urguhart

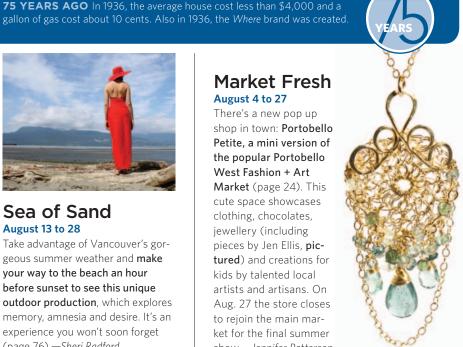


Sea of Sand August 13 to 28

Take advantage of Vancouver's gorgeous summer weather and make your way to the beach an hour before sunset to see this unique outdoor production, which explores memory, amnesia and desire. It's an experience you won't soon forget (page 76).—Sheri Radford

Market Fresh August 4 to 27

There's a new pop up shop in town: Portobello Petite, a mini version of the popular Portobello West Fashion + Art Market (page 24). This cute space showcases clothing, chocolates, jewellery (including pieces by Jen Ellis, pictured) and creations for kids by talented local artists and artisans. On Aug. 27 the store closes to rejoin the main market for the final summer show.—Jennifer Patterson





GOURMET KAYAKING WEEKENDS August 12 to 14 or 26 to 28

If undercooked burgers, burnt marshmallows and stale potato chips are your idea of perfect camping food, then this weekend getaway is not for you. If, on the other hand, you like the thought of fine BC wines paired with locally sourced meals prepared by a chef, then read on. Edible Canada (page 36) welcomes paddlers of all abilities on gourmet kayaking weekends throughout the summer. Participants paddle through the beautiful Gulf Islands, seeing bald eagles, blue herons and harbour seals along the way. Choose your preferred level of roughing it either beach camping or B&B accommodations—but be sure to book early, as these popular trips sell out every year with eager gastronomes and oenophiles.-Sheri Radford