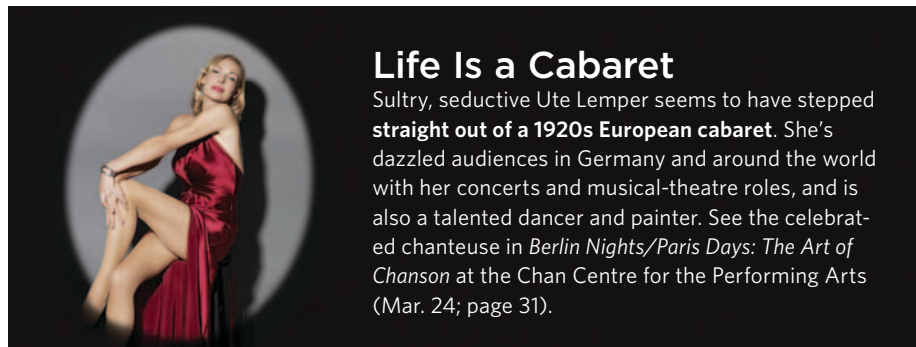




Neon Nightmare?

In the 1950s, '60s and '70s, Vancouver streets glowed with bright neon signs advertising everything from beauty salons to tailors. Whether neon is an art form to be applauded or an eyesore to be eradicated continues to stir up debate. See some old favourites from the city's past in *Neon Vancouver/Ugly Vancouver* at the Museum of Vancouver (to Aug. 12; page 53).



Life Is a Cabaret

Sultry, seductive Ute Lemper seems to have stepped straight out of a 1920s European cabaret. She's dazzled audiences in Germany and around the world with her concerts and musical-theatre roles, and is also a talented dancer and painter. See the celebrated chanteuse in *Berlin Nights/Paris Days: The Art of Chanson* at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts (Mar. 24; page 31).

INTIMATE APPAREL

It's 1905, and plain, sensible, lonely Esther yearns for love. She sews custom lingerie for the uptown ladies of New York—for the downtown working ladies, too—all the while wishing she could wear one of her own exquisite creations. See playwright Lynn Nottage's exploration of race, class, identity and desire at the Granville Island Stage (to Mar. 10; page 51).



INTIMATE APPAREL PHOTO BY DAVID COOPER



Spirit of the West

Forget drinking hokey green beer: there's no better way to spend St. Patrick's Day than by hearing Canada's unofficial national anthem, "Home for a Rest," performed by Canada's favourite folk-rock-Celtic band. Spirit of the West has been singing that crowd favourite—along with "Save This House," "The Crawl" and other ones you already know all the words to—for decades, never losing their energy or sense of fun. Get ready to sing along as you bounce the night away on the springy dance floor of the beautiful old Commodore Ballroom (Mar. 17; page 55).—Sheri Radford

SPECIAL EVENTS & FESTIVALS

2012 COASTAL FIRST NATIONS DANCE FESTIVAL This annual event gathers Aboriginal performance groups from BC, the Yukon, Alaska and abroad to share a multitude of indigenous cultures and dance traditions (Mar 8-11). Museum of Anthropology at UBC, 6393 N.W. Marine Dr. Tickets 604-684-2787. www.damelahamid.ca/festival/festival.htm **Map 4: D1**

CELTICFEST VANCOUVER Celebrate Celtic culture with an array of events, some free, including concerts, scotch

tastings, a youth variety show, a street market and Celts on the Creek, a family-friendly afternoon of Celtic music and dance (Mar 10-18). Various venues. Tickets 604-684-2787. The St. Patrick's Day Parade (Mar 18) starts at 11 am at Howe Street and Drake (Map 1: D4) and runs along Howe to Georgia, ending at Georgia and Granville (Map 1: C5). www.celticfestvancouver.com

CHUTZPAH! FESTIVAL Artists from Canada and around the world create a multicultural celebration of Jewish performing arts, including music, theatre and dance (to Mar 4). Single ticket

SPIRIT OF THE WEST	29
PITCH PERFECT	30
SOUL MATES	49
BARRENONE	50
CANOE CULTURE	51
HIT THE SLOPES	52
IRELAND FOREVER	54
ROAD TO RICHMOND	55

This directory includes editors' recommendations and regular advertisers. Live productions can change at short notice. Venues usually open an hour before the show. Prices listed may not include surcharges. Map coordinates refer to the maps on pages E8-E15.

SPECIAL EVENTS & FESTIVALS	29
COMEDY & SPOKEN WORD	30
CONCERTS	30
DANCE	49
SPECTATOR SPORTS	50
THEATRE & OPERA	50
ATTRACTIONS	52
HISTORIC SITES, MUSEUMS & INTERPRETIVE CENTRES	53
PARKS & GARDENS	53
TOURS & LEISURE ACTIVITIES	54
NIGHTLIFE	55
VISITOR SERVICES	55

\$16-\$40. Various venues. Tickets 604-257-5145 or 604-684-2787. www.chutzpahfestival.com

FESTIVAL DUBOIS A weekend of music, workshops, kids' shows and food, all steeped in the francophone spirit. This year's performers include Le Vent du Nord, Ligue du Bonheur and Juan Sebastian Larobina (Mar 3-4). Mackin Park, 1046 Brunette Ave., Coquitlam. 604-515-7070. www.festivaldubois.ca **Map 2: D5**

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE & TRAVEL SHOW Be inspired by experts and find deals on outdoor gear and adventure travel (Mar 3-4). Sa 10 am-6 pm, Su 10 am-5 pm. \$12, 12-17/senior \$10, under 12 free. Vancouver Convention Centre, West Building, 1055 Canada Place Way. Toll-free 1-800-891-4859. www.outdooradventureshow.ca **Map 1: B6**

A QUESTION OF LOYALTY This federally funded project explores a little-known dark period in Vancouver

» SNOW DAY

Local actor Cory Monteith, star of the hit TV show *Glee*, recently hit the slopes of Cypress Mountain (page 54) for a day of snowboarding.