

Tapping into the community

Hot Flash Hoofers give spectators free tap dance lesson at Lonsdale Quay to raise awareness about local organization

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On Saturday, March 13th, 2010, Lonsdale Quay will come alive with the sounds of rhythmical feet and high-spirited beats, as North Vancouver's Hot Flash Hoofers offer a free tap dancing lesson to members of the public. The dance team, joining staff and volunteers of the North Shore Women's Centre, will help to raise awareness about the organization, while providing a sneak preview of what is to come during their performance scheduled one week later, on March 20th, 2010, at the Centre's 6th annual benefit production: Crimson Cabaret: Celebrating Creative Women. The event will take place at North Vancouver's Centennial Theatre.

The North Shore Women's Centre is a 37 year old organization that works to improve the social, economic and political status of women by actively addressing violence against women, the feminization of poverty and other systemic oppressions. It offers women and girls across the North Shore a range of programs and services including a drop-in resource centre, peer counseling, a family law clinic, basic computer training, support groups for single mothers, lesbian and bisexual women, teen girls, monthly workshops, a lending library, public education, and more.

Due to funding cutbacks to social services and advocacy groups this year, the North Shore Women's Centre relies heavily on the success of the Crimson Cabaret event to assist them in meeting the needs of women in the community by sustaining the Centre's programs and services for the year ahead. Recent news from the United Nations documents the "systemic erosion" of women's status in Canada -- dropping in the gender gap index from 14th position in 2006 to 25th position in 2009. With BC having the highest poverty rates among provinces in Canada, women are increasingly disadvantaged and facing more precarious situations.

The Hot Flash Hoofers are four-time winners of the World Championship of the International Dance Organization Competition in Germany. Their group of 17 dancers, aged 40-75 years old, have participated in AIDS/HIV benefits in Vancouver and Las Vegas, as well as performing on the "Breakfast TV" and "Vicki Gabereau" shows.

Other confirmed performers for Crimson Cabaret include First Nations dancers, Full Circle; African dancer, Jacky Essombe with the drumming group, DivaDrum; contemporary dancer, Julie Chapple; comedic actor and mime, Dianna David; singer/songwriter, MJ Cyr; Filipino folk/funk rock band, Laksa Mana; operatic soprano, Robyn Driedger-Klassen; fusion bellydancers, Sisters of Alchemy; contemporary dancers, Tomorrow Collective; Kathak dancer, Trisha Rampersad; and singer/songwriter, Veda Hille.

The North Shore Women's Centre invites all members of the public to join them at Lonsdale Quay on the afternoon of Saturday, March 13th to learn more about the Centre's activities and programs, and to try on some fresh tap dancing moves from a group of fun and seasoned professional dancers. Discount tickets to Crimson Cabaret for early-bird participants will be available, and spontaneous prizes will punctuate the informational and entertaining event.

WHAT: Free Tap Lesson

WHEN: Saturday, March 13, 2010,
1:00pm

VENUE: Lonsdale Quay

For more information,
please contact Supriya Ryan,
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at 604-984-6009.

Visit us at www.northshorewomen.ca.