

** VOCALEYE COMMUNITY NEWS | FEBRUARY 2024

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** 1) WELCOME YEAR OF THE DRAGON!

As we leap our way into frosty February, we thought we'd share a few facts about the month (aside from it being a super fun month for Live Theatre!)

1. Lunar New Year (Chinese New Year) happens this year on **Saturday, February 10, 2024**. This year ushers in the [year of the Dragon](#) - The Wood Dragon to be precise!

2. Of all the words you can misspell, February is one of the most misspelled words in the English language.

3. The odds of being born on February 29 are about 1 in 1,461.
(In 2024, February has 29 days 🎉)

Another interesting fact about February is that it is been [Black History Month](#) for about 50 years, officially recognized by President Gerald R. Ford in 1976. Follow the VocalEye socials for Black History Month artist spotlights and events and scroll down for two FREE concerts in celebration of the Lunar New Year and Black History Month!

Reminders:

👉 Ticket Access rebates are available for those in financial need. Please contact donna@vocaleye.ca before purchasing your tickets.

👉 Theatre Buddy sighted guides are available to assist from meet up locations close to transit. Please reserve 3 days in advance by contacting buddies@vocaleye.ca

👉 For complete event listings, visit the [VocalEye website](#)

** 2) VOCALEYE IN-PERSON

** 3) [CHOIR BOY](#)

The hit coming-of-age play threaded with rapturous gospel hymns.

Described twice: Sunday, February 18 at 2 pm and Friday, February 23 at 8 pm at the Arts Club Stanley, 2750 Granville Street, Vancouver. The Arts Club offers special ticket prices for VocalEye users: Zone A+, A or B seats \$49; Zone C seats \$29. Please call the Arts Club Box office to purchase, [604-687-1644](tel:604-687-1644), and be sure to mention VocalEye, or [purchase tickets online](#).

Pharus is a senior at the Charles R. Drew Prep School for Boys, and the proud leader of its legendary gospel choir. The prestigious school is committed to building “strong, ethical Black men,” but conforming to their traditions becomes harder as he learns to accept his identity as a young gay man. Weighing reconciliation and rebellion, *Choir Boy*, featuring gorgeously sung a cappella hymns, is a love letter from the Academy Award–winning screenwriter of **Moonlight** to the healing power of music. Described by Cas Wanden.

[Accessibility at the Arts Club](#)

Notable Social! VocalEye is hosting a Notable Social after the matinee performance of **Choir Boy**. Please register at least 3 days in advance by emailing amy@vocaleyec.ca

** 4) [AS ABOVE](#)

A world premiere by award-winning playwright, Christine Quintana.

Described on Sunday, February 25 at 2 pm at the Belfry Theatre, 1291 Gladstone Avenue in Victoria. The Belfry offers Pay-What-You-Want tickets. Please contact the Box Office to purchase, [250-385-6815](tel:250-385-6815).

Set in Victoria, **As Above** centres on Jo, eight years sober, and attempting to rebuild the life she destroyed. Once a prominent botanical researcher, she now lectures at a horticultural centre, while embarking on a new relationship with Rick, who may be too good to be true.

A mysterious phone call sends her on an urgent quest to find Ada, her estranged daughter, as her research bleeds into her complicated personal life in rich, unexpected, and life-changing ways.

“Quintana’s writing is natural, bitinglly funny, and heartfelt.” -

Georgia Straight

Commissioned by the Belfry and written by a Jessie and Dora Award-winning BC playwright, **As Above** appeals to the hope in all of us.

Described by Jill Sharpe.

** 5) [SIGHTED GUIDE TRAINING](#)

VocalEye offers Sighted Guide Basic Training several times a year, free of charge. Our next workshop is already full! Email us at info@vocaleyeye.ca to be placed on the waiting list, or [register now](#) for a workshop in April or May.

DATES: Saturday, January 20 from 1 pm to 5:30 pm (waiting list only)

Saturday, April 6 from 1 pm to 5:30 pm

Sunday, May 26 from 2 pm to 6:30 pm

LOCATION: BMO Theatre Centre, 162 West 1st Avenue,
Vancouver

Learn how to effectively and confidently assist a person who is blind or partially sighted in everyday situations. The training will include an introduction to Disability Justice principles, effective communication, guide dog etiquette, practical techniques and every day scenarios.

Topics include: language, disability history and etiquette, assumptions and bias, respectful and dignified ways of facilitating conversation, guide dogs and service dogs, and the history of the white cane. [More info on our website.](#)

** 6) COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

IN PERSON

- [Through My Lens](#), created by Amy Amantea with Theatre Replacement will be showing on the MainStage as part of this year's [Hold On Let Go Festival!](#) Through My Lens is a new intimate work by Amy Amantea that combines conversation,

hospitality and portraiture. There will be three performances: Thursday, January 25 at 6pm, Saturday, January 27 at 4pm, and Saturday, January 27 at 5:30pm at the Russian Hall, 600 Campbell St, Vancouver. Tickets can be purchased at the door (Pay-What-You-Can), on a first-come-first-served basis, or [Purchase Online](#). For questions about access, or if cost is a barrier, please reach out to holdonletgo@theatrerplacement.org

- [Imagining Multi-Sensory Art - Learning from Objects; Literacy and Inclusion](#): In partnership with the University of British Columbia, this free, half-day event will address how collaboration between institutions of learning and art can advance accessibility, and aims to raise awareness around non-visual participation in the art world through multisensory approaches to art. Non-visual artist Carmen Papalia and scholar Dr. Georgina Kleege will share their experiences, past collaborations and future aspirations. **Takes place on Saturday, January 27 from 1 to 4 pm at UBC Robson Square, 800 Robson Street.** [Register online](#)
- [Marcus Mosley: A Gospel Concert](#): To kick off Black History Month the Vancouver Public Library is presenting a gospel concert with acclaimed gospel singer [Marcus Mosely](#). He will

perform a selection of gospel songs, and explain how this music tells a key part of Black Canadian History. **This free event takes place on Thursday, February 1 from 7 to 8 pm at the Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street.** [Register](#)

- [LunarFest Concert:](#) To celebrate Chinese New Year and the Year of the Dragon, enjoy a free concert at the Orpheus, with music from Harmonia String Ensemble, the West Vancouver Youth Band, and renowned Ukrainian pianist Anna Sagalova. In collaboration with Jade Music Fest, Daniel Lew & Van Lefan will perform both original songs and iconic songs that everyone can sing along to. Enjoy a night of music from a selection of genres and cultures on **Tuesday, February 13 from 7:30 to 10 pm at the Orpheum, 601 Smithe Street.** [RSVP for tickets](#)

[Buy Me a Coffee](#) is a great way to let us know you care about our java levels and perfect for smaller donations that don't need a tax receipt.

Canadian residents who would like a tax receipt can donate once, or join our small but mighty **Make it Monthly Team**, through [Canada Helps](#).

Special thanks to the generous funders, donors and supporters who help us make the arts more accessible for people who are blind and partially sighted.

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info@vocaleyecanada.ca

We occupy the unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

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