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E-NEWSLETTER - February 2015

New Executive Director joins CSARN



CSARN is pleased to announce the appointment of Scott Walker as Executive Director. An experienced arts administrator and producer, Scott was a founding producer of Toronto's Reprise Concerts, and is a former Coordinator of the Professional Arts Alliance of Greater Victoria. Scott is also an actor and singer who has appeared on stages across Canada in productions that range from Shakespeare to Steinbeck to Sondheim. His film and television credits include the Hallmark movie *Freshman Father*. As a recording artist, Scott's critically-acclaimed solo CD contains a collection of standards from the Great American Songbook, on which Scott is accompanied by a full 40-piece orchestra. His latest release is the love song *Someone I Don't Even Know*. Scott is also the voice of the YouTube comedy hit *Spiders on Drugs* [37,000,000 hits so far].

"Scott brings to CSARN his first hand knowledge of the life of an artist," says Board Chair Elise Orenstein. "Scott's understanding of CSARN's mission positions him to move the organization forward and continue to provide relevant and positive impacts for senior artists."

Prior to Scott's appointment, CSARN's founding Executive Director, Garry Neil, stepped down from the position and joined the Board as Vice-Chair. Ms. Orenstein called Garry, "a driving force in CSARN's formation and success." She added, "We are grateful that Garry will now bring his commitment and deep understanding of the arts and his experience as an arts administrator, business consultant, and corporate director to the Board."

You can find out more about Scott at his website, www.scottwalker.ca. He can be reached at scott@csarn-craac.ca.

CSARN's Third Mentorship Series Set to Roll Out

CSARN is pleased to welcome a new group to our Mentorship Program. Co-Directors Joysanne Sidimus and Deborah Windsor have selected a third group of younger artists who will be mentored by their senior colleagues. They are currently formulating their plans and will begin working together next month.

In the meantime, here are a couple of updates from mentorships already in progress. First, an excerpt from the mid-term report from actor and mentor **John Boylan** about his work with mentee **Samantha Wan**. John talks about his approach to mentoring:

"My dictum is: Call me when there is a crisis and call me when you achieve big success. That way the door is not only open to discuss on a weekly basis but during those heightened times when "you really need someone to talk to". I think this must be a key part of the definition of a mentor. Being there when needed.

"A mentor needs to have no 'angle'; no personal interest in the sense of having something to gain. A mentor can't want to be liked or always right. A mentor's brain must be working objectively and if that is taking place then the mentee feels this openness and purity and this lays the atmosphere where trust can be built."

Then there is this section of a final report by mentee **Patricia Wheeler** after her music mentorship with **Mike Malone**:

"At the beginning of this project, I assumed I knew what the words "mentor" and "artist" meant. While I may have been technically correct, it became apparent to me after my third session with Mike that my

understanding of the terms was superficial...The concepts Mike brought up when he was not addressing the tools and building materials involved in constructing a piece of music in this idiom spoke to the true nature of creativity, revealed to me the constant state of flux that the equation "Vision + Craft = Art" exists in, and ended up being the stuff of true mentorship.

We wish the new partners as fruitful an association as Patricia and Mike, and John and Samantha.

CSARN's Mentorship Program is made possible through the generosity of Janis Neilson, and additionally supported by the Trillium Foundation, Lynda Hamilton, Sandra and Jim Pitblado, Joan and Jerry Lozinski, and other private donors.

"Fraud with Peril" or "Scam, Kid, Ya Bother Me!"

The Ontario government says there are many fraud artists out there, and, too often, they are targeting older residents. We've all heard of the email from the spouse of a wealthy foreign oil minister offering us a cut of a vast inheritance if only we'll send them some money to process the paperwork. But there are many others that seem less far-fetched but are no less costly:

- **The Ponzi Scheme:** made infamous by Bernie Madoff, this is an oldie but a goodie which surfaced again just recently in Alberta. An unscrupulous broker will offer you an investment opportunity that is paying well beyond what you would earn anywhere else. In reality, the only one making any money is the broker. Only invest in safe, secure, reputable vehicles, unless it's money you can afford to lose.
- **The Grandchild Emergency Scam:** In which a young relative who is supposedly traveling in a far-off land has all their money stolen and needs you to send them some immediately. The police say the best thing to do is check with another family member to verify whether the young relative is really away.
- **The Romance Scam:** In which the scammer lurks on online dating websites with a phony profile, lures an innocent person along with flattery, then asks for money. Don't give it to them.
- **The Phony Charity Scam:** In which someone approaches you on the phone, at your door, or on the street, appealing for money. Often the charity they claim to represent has a name very similar to a real one. Police say check the charity's registration number online or with Revenue Canada. All legitimate charities [including CSARN] post their charitable registrations online.
- **The Secret Shopper Scam:** In which someone approaches you online with an offer to become a "secret shopper." They send you a cheque to deposit into your account, give you instructions about what to buy, then tell you to wire whatever is left of the cheque back to them. The cheque will bounce and you'll be left with a hole in your bank account and, likely, some nasty fees to pay for the rubber cheque.

Sadly, there are many more out there. The Ontario Government has an entire web page devoted to other scams, and how to protect yourself from them. You'll find them [here](#) with a link to legal service if you need it.

The bottom line: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

In next month's edition.....

Once again, CSARN will be presenting a series of seminars on topics of interest to senior artists in select locations around Ontario. Details in next month's newsletter.

In the meantime, please pass this on to anyone you think may be interested.

We'd like to hear from you: Please write and tell us how we could focus our efforts on your needs.

**Canadian Senior Artists Resource Network (CSARN) |
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