

AND ENTERTAINMENT

# arts



## Popular program for kids returns

**ARTS ALIVE** holds annual summer theatre school.

The senior musical theatre program from Arts Alive returns in July with a new musical, a new director and lots of new ideas.

Students last year were disappointed that the popular summer program was not offered in the school's offerings.

Ward Norcutt, currently teaching in the drama department at Dover Bay Secondary School, directs *Seussical – The Musical*. Rehearsal starts July 9 and lasts for three weeks, with opening night scheduled for July 27 at the Bailey Studio, the home of Nanaimo Theatre Group, on Rosstown Road.

“Although I have directed many musicals, this will be the first time I have worked on *Seussical*,” Norcutt said. “I was delighted to be asked to work with Arts Alive on this show. Several of my present and former students have taken part in this course in previous years, and I know it can provide participants with a great

deal of theatrical ‘know how’ in the short but intensive rehearsal period.”

Norcutt is keeping some of his new ideas close to his chest, but he let on that he is planning a moving, multi-level set to provide the different locations in *Seussical*.

Senior musical theatre is open to 12-18-year-olds. Actors don't have to audition to join the course, but there will be auditions for major roles, and these will be held in late May through early June.

“We'll also be looking for technical crew, set and costume designers and makers, and make-up artists,” Norcutt said.

Details of the course, which is a part of the 2012 Arts Alive annual Summer School of the Fine Arts, will be on the new website, which will be available in early April, at <http://nanaimoartsalive.com>.

Registration begins May 14, with an early bird registration discount and second family member discounts as well.

For more information, please call 250-713-9708 or e-mail [admin@nanaimoartsalive.com](mailto:admin@nanaimoartsalive.com).

## University magazine boasts first-ever full-colour edition

Hot off the press and ready for public scrutiny, Vancouver Island University's *Portal* magazine promises to be a page-turner.

The university's publishing class is hosting a launch party for the magazine April 5 with readings, entertainment, appetizers and door prizes.

The creative writing and journalism department will also be presenting scholarships and awards to students.

For the first time in the magazine's 19-year history, *Portal* will be published in full colour, showcasing the artwork and photos including graphic design student Jordan Wende's cover image.

This year's launch will also celebrate the legacy

of Rhonda Bailey, publishing professor, who retired after 17 years at the helm of *Portal*.

The launch party runs from 5:30-8:30 p.m., in the Arbutus Room of Bldg. 300 at VIU. Admission is free and the public is welcome to attend.

For more on the magazine, please go to <http://mediastudies.viu.ca/portal>.

### Quickfacts

- ◆ **PORTAL MAGAZINE LAUNCH** set for April 5, 5:30 p.m., in Arbutus Room, Bldg. 300, at Vancouver Island University. Admission free, open to the public.



### Warming up

Arden Thorne, a student at Harbour Dance Centre, front, and Corrina Robson, of the MacKenzie School of Dance in Port Alberni, practise their ballet routines before adjudication at the Upper Island Music Festival Saturday at Beban Park. The annual festival attracts more than 3,600 students from across the region hoping to earn a spot at the provincial performing arts festival, which takes place in Nanaimo in May. For more information, please visit [www.nanaimomusicfestival.com](http://www.nanaimomusicfestival.com).

RACHEL STERN/THE NEWS BULLETIN

## Author details Scottish influence in city

Local historian Jan Peterson is launching her new book, *Kilts on the Coast: The Scots Who Built B.C.*, at the Nanaimo Museum.

The book launch and signing take place on Saturday (March 31) from 1-4 p.m.

Peterson, well-known for her book series on Nanaimo's history, gives a brief talk on her book and will be available for the remain-

der of the launch to sign books and answer questions.

Her work focuses on the Scottish people who helped shape early settlement growth on Vancouver Island from 1848-1854, highlighting famous figures in B.C.'s past including Governor James Douglas and members of society in Victoria, and also features coal miners and Hudson's

Bay Company traders.

Peterson has a personal connection for writing about Scottish immigration, as she was born in Scotland and immigrated to Canada when she was 20 years old.

For more information, please call Aimee Greenaway at the Nanaimo Museum at 250-753-1821 or e-mail [program@nanaimomuseum.ca](mailto:program@nanaimomuseum.ca).