



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEER CROSSING THE ART FARM WILL HOST
SYNCHRONICITY
a festival
AUGUST 7TH & 8TH 2010

Gibsons, BC – June 2, 2010 – deer crossing the art farm, a Sunshine Coast based non-profit devoted to creating positive change through arts and nature-driven programming, will host the first annual Synchronicity Festival on August 7th & 8th, 2010.

Working within the theme of synchronicity, the festival will bring together **visual artists, actors, puppeteers, dancers, musicians, mixed media artists, filmmakers and writers**. After a two-month period of creation, collaboration and rehearsal, the festival will combine sound, imagery, words, light, sculpture, performance, and nature to take the audience on a one-of-a-kind journey through the 5 acre art farm and surrounding forest. The event is hybrid by design; part carnival, part exhibition, part performance, part festival, with the focus being on revealing – or providing audiences the opportunity to *experience* – the hidden connections between ourselves, each other and the natural world.

The festival will run 3 separate shows each day on Saturday and Sunday, August 7th & 8th. Tickets will be \$10/adult, \$8/senior or student and children under 12 are free to attend. Food and beverages will be available on site, along with plenty of activities for children of all ages. Audiences are encouraged to come for a show and stay for the day. Tickets can be purchased online at www.deercrossingtheartfarm.org/synchronicity.

“Everything is in contact with everything else, with or without touching.” Gordon Onslow Ford

deer crossing the art farm makes the equation **art + nature = change** happen. Rurally based in Gibsons, BC, the art farm is committed to sustainability at all levels and facilitates programming that encourages insight, reflection, dialogue, learning and collaboration through: arts and nature-based residencies, workshops, productions & festivals, community outreach, as well as youth and education partnerships

For additional information, contact: Chad Hershler, Executive Director, E: contact@deercrossingtheartfarm.org

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deer crossing the art farm FACTS SHEET

1. Deer crossing is located in Gibsons, BC, on five acres of traditional Squamish territory, and **is the hub of the 'art farm movement'**. "Artfarmers" believe that **creativity grounded by nature leads to powerful change** in their lives and builds stronger, healthier, and richer communities.
2. Deer crossing the art farm is a nonprofit organization that **facilitates the equation: art + nature = change** through a combination of arts and nature-driven programming.
3. Deer crossing the art farm belongs to everyone--it is open, inclusive, and responsive to the community. It welcomes all to join and collaborate: **the art farm is people** coming together to share ideas, skills, techniques, inspiration and creativity with one another.
4. The art farm's season runs from Spring Equinox to Fall Equinox. During this time it facilitates and hosts:
 - a. **Arts and Nature-based residencies**
 - b. **Workshops**
 - c. **Productions & Festivals**
 - d. **Community outreach**
 - e. **Youth and education partnerships**
5. Deer crossing the art farm is **dedicated to accountability and sustainability** at all levels: organizationally, environmentally, socially, and economically.
6. The name 'deer crossing' was chosen because **crossings suggest a place of encounters: with nature, with the inner self, and with others**. Mythically, the deer represents gentleness in the face of fear. The art farm movement is conceived as a gentle response to the challenges of the modern day; a place to gather, create, learn, share, commune, reflect, dialogue, and collaborate with like-minded people who strive for positive and powerful change in their lives and communities.

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Sample interview questions

Q: What is deer crossing the art farm?

A: Deer crossing is more than a nonprofit organization, it represents a social movement—it's people who believe that creativity grounded by nature leads to powerful and positive change in their lives and communities. Deer crossing – the hub of the art farm movement - is located in Gibsons, BC – but the art farm movement is designed for people to join and collaborate from communities all over – in person, on-line, in their communities...everywhere.

Q: What does the equation 'art + nature = change' stand for?

A: The equation is the heart and soul of the art farm's mission – to develop and sustain a rurally based model for creating positive change through a combination of arts and nature-driven programming; facilitating collaboration, dialogue, reflection and inspiration that nurtures and grows stronger, healthier, richer communities.

Q: Given that it's an art farm, are there 'artfarmers'?

A: Absolutely! Everyone who joins the art farm is an artfarmer. An artfarmer is a person who is devoted to moving forward—to creating positive change by sharing their time, ideas, energy, resources, skills and their own unique creativity with others. Artfarmers ARE the art farm—it only thrives through the support, interest and collaborations of people—they're the fuel that keeps the engine for change – the art farm - running.

Q: What kinds of things go on at the art farm then?

A: From Spring Equinox to Fall Equinox we're hosting workshops, residencies, festivals and productions—for instance, we had a great workshop last summer on natural building with cob. We started work on a demonstration cob kitchen that will host artfarmer meals and celebrations in the years to come. This year, we have more workshops on natural building and appropriate technologies. As well, this year we've started an outreach program designed to bring the art farm's mission out to the wider community through education, volunteer driven activities, and participation in other Sunshine Coast events. Look for us at the Jazz Festival, the Children's Festival and Farmers Markets through-out the summer.

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Artist Bios

Steve Wright

Steve Wright is a sunshine Coast based artist who works with sound. He regularly holds sound and music workshops for kids aged 5- 100. He believes in an open and continuous process of creation and is not very interested in celebrity profiles. He is fond of rewriting kids' audio toys and enjoys musing about the nature of reality.

www.soundmusicworkshops.com

Chris Hind

Chris has been involved in many aspects of artistic expression including: music, sound design, scriptwriting and filmmaking. He has been a professional musician for the past 19 years specializing in Film Music and Sound Design. He graduated from Columbia Academy's Audio Engineering program in 1999. Chris has scored 12 films, many of which, have been screened in film festivals in North America and Europe. He has also worked on 17 plays, a videogame, sound designed 3 feature films and created two radio-plays for CBC Radio. As a filmmaker, Chris shot a dramatic short last summer entitled " A few of my favorite things ". He is currently working on a documentary concerning spiritual and paranormal experience and an animated short film. Chris has written 10 scripts and is working on the treatments for two feature film ideas. Synchronicity is Chris's first Art Farm project and he is thrilled to be on the Sunshine Coast basking in the creative energy of so many talented artists.

Lani Claxton

Lani first visited the Sunshine Coast when she was three and has been in love with it ever since. She is one of the co-founders of the Critical Mask Theatre Collective who recently produced and created "These Walls are Paper Thin" in collaboration with Mind of a Snail shadow puppet company. Later this month she heads to the Victoria International Fringe Festival to premiere her show "Canning Season: A frolicking fun variety hour". Lani is delighted to be back at the Art Farm which combines many things she is passionate about: art, nature and community.

Mary Burns

Mary Burns has worked as a journalist, a documentary filmmaker and a teacher of creative writing. She has published six books, including two novels, two short story collections, a

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philosophical natural history about snow geese and perception and a collection of radio plays. Her latest work is a stage play, "Imperfect", which has been produced at University theatres in B.C. and Ontario and will be produced at Dalhousie University in Halifax this winter. She has lived on the Coast since 1995 and joined the Synchronicity project because she's drawn to creative risk taking.

Chad Hershler

Chad Hershler has been acting and writing professionally for over 15 years. As an actor, Chad has worked on stages across the country including the Centaur Theatre in Montreal, the Tarragon Theatre in Toronto, Bard on the Beach in Vancouver and the Palace Grande in Dawson City, Yukon. He has extensive film and TV credits dating back to his work as a child actor in the late eighties. As Co-artistic Director of the art farm, Chad has spent the past three and a half years living just where he wants to: on the creative edge. He joined Synchronicity as a performer because he was drawn to the challenge – and was hankering for a chance to put on his performing cap once again.

Thomas Jones

Thomas Jones has been a professional actor in Vancouver for 20 years. He was last seen in Vancouver Opera's production of Madama Butterfly as a Kabuki style Kurogo. He has been featured in many new creations with companies such as Boca del Lupo, the Only Animal, the Electric Company, Runaway Moon Puppet Theatre and Caravan Farm Theatre, all of which were site specific pieces in the open air. Tom is excited to apply his experience in outdoor performance to the beautiful setting of deer crossing the art farm.

Sandy Buck

Sandy Buck moved to the sunshine Coast in 2007 from Vancouver because it seemed a perfect place to start a family and a creative dream. She went from a life of costume design for film and TV (including a Genie nomination for Costume Design on the feature film "Eve and the Firehorse") to creating puppets with her company Rababoo Puppet Theatre. Using all her creative skills, especially textile arts, Sandy has co-written original scripts along with building the puppets and performing with them. The art farm is the biggest creative project she has taken on yet and is ecstatic to be working with such a diverse and innovative team.

Sarah May Redmond

Sarah May Redmond is a Vancouver-based performer and co-creator of many original theatrical collaborations, the latest of which was "Installments", which took place in the

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women's washroom at the Firehall Theatre as part of their BC Buds Festival. She has worked with such Vancouver companies as the Arts Club, the Playhouse and Bard on the Beach, as well as many theatres around the province. Some of her favourite theatrical experiences have been on farms, such as Runaway Moon Puppet Theatre on the outskirts of Enderby and Caravan Farm theatre near Armstrong. She is very happy to be back in the 'field' of outdoor spectacle, helping to tend the latest crop of creations at deer crossing the art farm with her good friends Sandy and Chad.

Eilis Carpentier

Eilis Carpentier has lived on the Sunshine Coast for only two years (so far). She has also lived over the years in Vancouver, Montreal, London, and Washington DC. After many years as an environmental activist, Eilis has shifted gears to art. She writes poetry and creative non-fiction. She also operates a letterpress printing press, Selkie Press, which prints broadsides, chapbooks, and ephemera.

Diego Samper

Diego Samper moved to the Sunshine Coast seven years ago, with the intention of living closer to nature. As an artist, he considers mediums just that: materials and techniques to achieve a purpose. Diego uses photography, painting, drawing, assembled artifacts and sculpture to express a vision or materialize a dream. Some ventures have taken him to architectural, set design, book and graphic design. Diego is always exploring, experimenting, crossing boundaries between media, carefully avoiding the repetition of formulas. Nature has been the constant guide and master in his process.

For the last two years, the art farm has provided Diego with a space to materialize ideas he has had for some time - and he is thrilled to now be directing *Synchronicity*: a collective construction, an interdisciplinary performance design at the intersection of theatre and scenography, exhibition and visual arts, music, poetry and media. A creative adventure.

Serena Eades

Serena Eades was born and raised in Roberts Creek, BC where she began playing the violin at a young age. She received a Bachelor of Music degree through Capilano College and Brandon University, and further studied classical violin with Nancy DiNovo, Ann Elliott-Goldschmid, Tatiana Zatina, and Kerry Duwors. Well into her violin studies, Serena took up other genres of playing; exploring Cape Breton, Bluegrass, Jazz, and Gypsy music, having had opportunities to study with Natalie MacMaster, Calvin Vollrath, Matt Glaser, Jerry

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Holland, and many other inspiring artists. Serena has played in classical and non-classical ensembles and orchestras across Canada. She has also toured and performed with The Gruff, Mark Berube and C.R.Avery across the country.

Serena currently plays with "Oldtime-Latin-Gypsy-grass" stringband The Rakish Angles (www.rakishangles.com). Based on the Sunshine Coast of B.C. 'The Angles' blend string band tradition and contemporary imagination to produce a polished and exciting sound. They were nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award and an Indie Acoustic Music Award for their debut album. Serena is excited to be a part of the Synchronicity Festival, as this is the first time she has collaborated in a multi-disciplinary event.

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