

TOWN TALK

Pair kick off dance and fitness studio in Yaletown

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VANCOUVER SUN



LEG UP: City-born pro dancer Ella Jotie says her career high was performing for Canadian troops in Kabul, Afghanistan. Reville will sound Monday at 6:30 a.m. on the Barre Fitness studio (www.barrefitness.com) she and Toronto-raised former tech-biz executive Michele Murgel have founded in ever-trendy Yaletown. It's the old Citation Kitchens storefront, following a \$100,000 revamp to resemble a ballet studio designed pro-bono by Murgel's architect-squeeze Terry Tremaine. "You don't have to be a dancer to join the classes," said multi-qualified fitness instructor Jotie, comfortably resting a high-heeled foot on the barre. "You're just going to feel like a dancer."



Pro dancer Ella Jotie (left) and Michele Murgel will open the Barre Fitness studio Monday when every participant "will feel like a dancer," Jotie said.

BARDY TIME: The bard's a popular fixture on the beach, but he visits Granville Island, too. Make that Performance Work's tree-shielded outdoor stage, where members of Carousel Theatre's Teen Shakespeare program present *The Taming Of The Shrew* to Aug. 14. Graduate (1993) Carole Higgins sets the show in late-1800s Paris, and many players in Moulin Rouge headgear. They include twins Anais and Veronique West as Kate and Bianca, the former with a husky, smoky voice that might well be heard far beyond Granville Island.

BELLY HIGH: The Opus Bar's eighth-annual street party benefited UNICEF's Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS campaign recently. Opus chef Felix Turianskyj served Moroccan chow, the Lucieterra belly-dancing troupe entertained, and Opus boss John Evans handed a \$10,000

instalment of \$50,000 committed to UNICEF Canada's Martha Spears.

MAKE IT A DOUBLE: It's been eight years since Hong Kong-born Mina Shum directed and co-wrote the \$3-million *Long Life, Happiness & Prosperity*, and 16 since her debut feature film, *Double Happiness*, both starring Sandra Oh. Now she's looking to three-times-double that budget in "a big, shiny romantic comedy" titled *The Two Of Me* to be produced by Brightlight Pictures' principal Stephen Hegyes. As for doubles, writer-director Shum said it's about a 35-year-old, high-powered marketing executive and mother who also exists as a 10-years-younger indie-rock musician "with near no money and lots of instant noodles." Having played

in the alt-rock band Playdoh Republic, Shum should be on firm ground with the script.

THIRD AND LONG: It's déjà-vu for Dal Richards, whose band plays beneath a tent for BC Lions games at open-air Empire Field. It was Empire Stadium when Richards, wearing the same orange jacket, giggled there three decades ago. Same format, too: Perform for 30 minutes before the kickoff, and again for each touchdown — which gives today's tootlers rather less playing time.

JUST DESSERT: Hungry audiences may fancy a meatless meal after Pacific Cinémathèque's Aug. 20-22 screening of Canadian director Ivan Reitman's 1973 *Cannibal Girls*, starring pre-SCTV Eugene Levy and Andrea

Martin. One recalls Hollywood wit Oscar Levant's friends speculating on dinner following the 1957 premiere of *Saint Joan*, which saw star Jean Seberg burned at the stake. Levant blandly suggested: "Nothing barbecued."

GAME PLAN: Plaudits to Barrie Mowatt and the Vancouver Biennale organization for making an educational children's game of the more than 30 pieces of public art they've placed around town. Hit www.vblearn.ca for free access to *The K-Crew Detective: Case of the English Bay Bandits* plus much information about and smashing photos of the sculptures themselves.

NYET YET: Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television vice-chair Terry McEvoy was



Twins Veronique and Anais West play Bianca and Kate in Teen Shakespeare's staging of *The Taming of the Shrew*.



Dr. Olga Murchurtova and husband Percy Lipinski watched a CNN iReport of him wrestling a wild lion in Africa.



Yue Minju's A-Mazing Laughter is in the Vancouver Biennale's game, *The K-Crew Detective*.



Mina Shum will write and direct the \$25-million film *The Two Of Me*, about a woman and a 10-years-younger version of herself.

necessarily close-mouthed while fronting a reception for ACCT and Directors Guild of Canada members Thursday. He's also the Vancouver International Film Festival's Canadian Images programmer, so already knows which 100 of 600 submitted films will be screened Sept. 30 to Oct. 15. Hopeful filmmakers present questioned McEvoy from every angle, "which is why I have this blank look," he said.

PERCY PERSEVERES: Two weeks after Percy Lipinski's mention for a CNN iReport on Salvadoran fireball rollers, here he is again. This time, his on-camera doings (<http://ireport.cnn.com/docs/DOC-478221>) entail tastings at the Testicle Festival, which takes place during the annual Calgary Stampede. The delicacies, a.k.a. prairie oysters, are rare now that steers become so at birth rather than a year later. Still, it should give Lipinski and wife Olga

Murchurtova something to talk about. She's a surgeon who conducted male-to-female operations in her native Moscow and, after requalifying, is now doing so here.

TAKE A SHOWER: The Celebration of Light tourney is over, but look for fireworks in the northeast sky again Aug. 12, when Spaceship Earth passes through old comet Swift-Tuttle's tail and its Perseid Meteor Shower of incandescent debris whizzing past at 212,000 km/h.

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