

## GLOBAL PEACE ALLIANCE BC GIVE PEACE A CHANCE: END RACISM. BUILD PEACE

### Festival Schedule

#### 11:30 President's Welcome Niovi Patsicakis



Niovi is a semi-retired teacher. She has taught over 30 years as a classroom teacher and in the field of remedial reading and special education. She holds Bachelor of Education and Master of Education degrees from McGill University. She is a strong advocate for public education and learning conditions of special needs students. Over the years, she has presented many briefs to the government and the school board, running for School Trustee twice and as a Member of the Legislature once. She is the President of Global Peace Alliance BC society, a member since 2012. She continues to play a vital role in the education of youth and others by holding webinars and talks on the importance of peace and nuclear disarmament.

*We would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional and unceded territory of Coast Salish Peoples, specifically the Kwantlen, Katzie, Semiahmoo, and Tsawwassen*

*First Nations. We are committed to be allies and call for the adoption of all recommendations in the Truth and Reconciliation Report.*



**Raman Sangha MC**

Teacher, Dancer, Singer – Activist



**Thomas Dale Jackson**  
**- OPENING WITH**  
**SPECIAL MESSAGE**  
**AND SONG “Lost**  
**souls”**

Thomas Dale Jackson, is a Canadian actor and singer. At 17, Jackson began playing coffeehouses and soon became one of Canada's top singers. He created and starred in an annual series of [Christmas](#) concerts called the [Huron Carole](#) for 18 years in order to support the Salvation Army. He was the Chancellor of [Trent University](#) from 2009 until 2013. He played Billy Twofeathers on [Shining Time Station](#) and Peter Kenidi on [North of 60](#).



Five decades later, Jackson continues to be a triple threat actor, musician and humanitarian and is **one of Canada's favourite and most honoured Indigenous performers.**

## 11:45      Keynote Melinda Kachina Bige - Truth and Reconciliation as it Relates to Peace



Melinda Kachina Bige is a Denesuline & Nehiyaw ts'éku/iskwew situated on Snuneymuxw lands. Currently Chair of Indigenous studies at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Creator of the online Octopus Spirit Journal, and advisor of up-and-coming BIPOC news the Resolve. Kachina was raised on the territories of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen, & Musqueam people. The communities in which she belongs too are in the Denesuline lands of the Northwest Territory, specifically Lutsel k'e. Though her Kookum's family comes from both Treaty 8 and Treaty 4 territories. Her family names are Dumais, Thomas, Clee, Foy, and Sakiskanip, (this list of family names is not exhausted). Should you ask her about her family, and their rich history she always has an enthralling story. Growing up in Indigenous housing in so-called Surrey, and surviving homelessness as a teen this community-made professional is passionate about the decolonial history of the land, child rearing, plants, art, and food. The beginning of her journey situated in Indigenous pedagogy began with a committee: the Metro Vancouver Urban Aboriginal Strategy, and a trip to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Her early guide an Indigenous intelligent Dr. Jennifer Mervyn. She is fortunate to have many mentors in her life including her Aunt Theresa Crookedhand. Her academic interests include Decolonization, family relationships & sexuality, astronomy, Indigenous governance, race, racism, anti-racism, resurgence & cultural continuity.

## **12:00      Shyama-Priya**



Let's welcome Shyama-Priya from The Wild Moccasin Dancers. She will be sharing the ladies' fancy shawl dance. Dancing is about giving back and inspiring others to discover their gifts. Our gifts are our medicine, it's how we heal ourselves and heal others. Shyama-Priya will be sharing the ladies fancy shawl dance. This dance is one of the many styles you would see at a pow wow. She will also be inviting up participants to learn some steps

## **12:10      Annie Ohana - GPA Board Director - Moderator for Panel for END Racism Build Peace**



Annie Ohana has received the Prime Minister's award for teaching excellence. She is a Social Justice & Equity Curriculum Specialist, the Aboriginal depart head at LA Matheson Secondary and a BCTF Representative. She was part of the BC Fed Human Rights Commission. She is much loved by her students and inspired by her to participate on Global issues, the multicultural club, the Energy Ambassadors program, creative writing and much more. She has been involved and is a much wanted speaker by many social movement organizations. She has fostered the LA Matheson secondary Mustangs for many years, youth that help in the community and participate in social justice causes. Her motto, "There is Reconciliation Every time We Learn". We are extremely proud to have Annie on our Board of Directors.



## Panel Discussion End Racism. Build Peace

### Jenny Kwan



Born in Hong Kong, Jenny immigrated to Canada at age nine. After graduating from Simon Fraser University, she worked as a community legal advocate in the Downtown Eastside. In 1993, she became the youngest city councillor elected in Vancouver's history, distinguishing herself as a fearless voice for the community.

In 1996, she was elected MLA for Vancouver-Mount Pleasant, becoming one of the first Chinese-Canadians to sit in the Legislative Assembly. Jenny was also the first Chinese Canadian appointed to cabinet and served as

Minister of Municipal Affairs, Minister of Women's Equality and Minister of Community Development, Cooperatives & Volunteers.

Re-elected as an MLA since 2001, Jenny's work on behalf of our community has consistently been recognized by East Vancouver voters. She continues the fight for a Canada where no one is left behind. She currently serves as the NDP's Critic for Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship and Housing, as well as Caucus Chair. 29 years serving her community.

### Lama Mugabo



Lama Mugabo is a Community Planner with a passion in social justice, food security and community development. In 2005, Mugabo co-founded BBR – Building Bridges with Rwanda, a non-profit organization designed to create a platform for collaboration between international volunteers and their Rwandan counterparts who are rebuilding their society. Lama is a founding director of Hogan's Alley Society, a non-profit organization designed to promote the interest of people of African descent and revitalize Vancouver's only Black

neighborhood, which was destroyed by the urban renewal policy in 1972. Currently, Lama Mugabo is

managing the RR25 [Legacy Project](http://www.lamamugabo.com) at Simon Fraser University. To learn more about Lama, please visit: [www.lamamugabo.com](http://www.lamamugabo.com)

### **Peter Prontzos**



Peter arrived in Canada after escaping from the U.S. military when he was ordered to take part in the war against Vietnam. After working as a driver, construction worker, parking lot attendant, writer, and actor, among other jobs, he finally finished grad school at UBC and eventually taught political science and interdisciplinary studies at Langara College for 26 years. He has just finished the manuscript for his first book, entitled, "Remembering Our Humanity."

### **Lorene Oikawa**



Lorene Oikawa is Past President of the National Association of Japanese Canadians. Lorene is a co-editor of the book *Honouring Our People: Breaking the Silence* which tells the stories of the Japanese Canadian survivors of internment/incarceration. She is a writer and speaker who works with community, government and unions on diversity, inclusion and anti-racism initiatives.

She is a fourth generation Japanese Canadian, whose family came from Japan in the 1800s and 1906.

### **Troy Derrick**



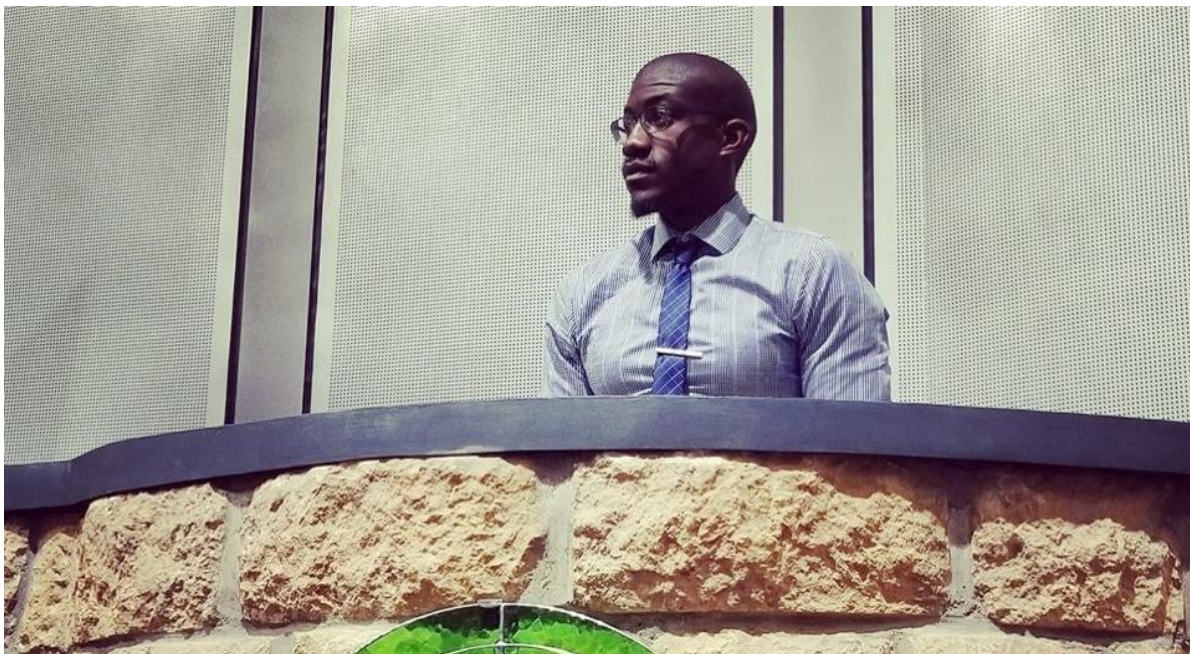


Troy Derrick is a proud member of the Gitksan Nation from his father's side and German from his mother's side. It wasn't until Troy was 28 years old that he really started to embrace his indigenous ancestry. Troy was able to connect with local Coast Salish Nations of Semiahmoo, Katzie and Kwantlen as well as multiple other communities.

Through relationship development there were teachings shared, history discussed and a desire to further share with no blame and no shame.

Over time Troy was invited to share this knowledge in various schools, universities, government agencies, various industries, indigenous communities, community centres within BC and other provinces.

## 12:40 Chuka Ejeckam - Speaker on Anti Racism



Chuka Ejeckam is a political researcher and writer in Toronto. He holds a master's degree in political science from the University of British Columbia, and is a research associate with the BC office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Public Policy Manager, **Canadian Race Relations Foundation** He writes at [rabble.ca](http://rabble.ca).

**1:00      Break**

**1:30      Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Society - SEACHS**



SEACHS engages in training and educating Canadians about Southeast Asian cultures. It seeks to encourage young people to become involved in the preservation and promotion of various forms of Southeast Asian culture. Every song, dance is an individual and collective journey for self-knowledge and expression.

Vietnam Que Huong Toi, Vietnamese my homeland is a song about love and pride for the beautiful country. Conical hats dance Em di xem hoi trang ram

**1:40      Glisha**





20-year-old RnB songstress Glisha, who is from British Columbia, Canada, emerged into songwriting and producing her own music with vibrantly melodious vocals and emotionally-charged lyrics in 2018 after years of making covers and singing in various huge events since a very young age. Her sound is reminiscent of today's contemporary RnB amidst dulcet tones and mellifluous cadences; encompassing her listeners with emotion as she shares messages from the heart. Glisha's career in songwriting took off when she released her first single in 2018, *Over Myself*, which garnered tens of thousands of streams within the first month of release - an

impressive feat for a debut song. Glisha's live performance of this song earned recognition by the Joey Awards, where she was awarded 'Best Performance in a Recorded Song' in November of 2019. Her success continued with the release of her second single and first music video, *Scars and Scratches*, which further solidified Glisha's place in Vancouver's music community. She won 'Best Female Artist' at the 2020 Fraser Valley Music Awards. Glisha, who recently finished Music Technology course, released her first music album entitled 'Attachment and Acceptance' in January this year. The album [\[https://distrokid.com/hyperfollow/glisha/attachments--acceptance\]](https://distrokid.com/hyperfollow/glisha/attachments--acceptance) which also streams 100,000+ within its first month, contains songs written and recorded during the Covid pandemic times including the hits songs *Staycation* and *Yesterday*.

**1:50      African Descent Youth Engagement Association**



The Youth group is presenting a Kiganda Cultural dance The **kiganda dance** hails from the Buganda people from the central region and is the dominant Bantu speaking ethnic group in central Uganda. The Baganda have a variety of dances originating from individual clans based on different themes such as; economic and social activities, politics, education, love and their history depending on the audience for whom the performance is made.

## **2:00      Canada National Folk Art Society – Let's Dance Yangge from China**



Yangge is an ancient traditional folk dance from China. The performance is lively, colorful, diverse and full of excitement. People dance Yangge to celebrate festivals such as the New Year. People use Yangge to express their hope for a better life, love, peace and prosperity. The group has been performing since 2018.

## **2:10      Peter Prontzos - Global Peace Alliance Vice President, Langara Prof. Emeritus**



Peter arrived in Canada after escaping from the U.S. military when he was ordered to take part in the war against Vietnam.

After working as a driver, construction worker, parking lot attendant, writer, and actor, among other jobs, he finally finished grad school at UBC and eventually taught political science and interdisciplinary studies at Langara College for 26 years.

In 2008, he ran for Parliament for the NDP and was endorsed by Noam Chomsky. He lost anyway.

Five years ago he retired from teaching and has just finished the manuscript for his first book, entitled, "Remembering Our Humanity."

He also leads tours once a year to Greece.

Most importantly, he has 3 children and one grandson.



**2:30**

## **Grishma Bajracharya and Kamla Bajracharya**



Grishma and Kamla are members of the Jhigu Palaa Society, a non-profit that helps empower women in Nepal. They are thankful today again to be part of Global Peace Alliance's program. It is a medley of romantic songs. The first piece of the song is about love, peace and happiness. A lady is very excited and waiting impatiently to reunite with her man. She feels love everywhere, everything is beautiful and is enjoying the breeze, the blue sky and the flowers.

The second piece of the song is again about a young lady who had a crush on a young man. It is love at first sight, when she lays a single

glance on the guy from the rooftop of her house. She wanted to look beautiful in saree therefore she is draped in a floral print saree and a soft silk shawl. She urges to comb his careless, crazy, widespread hair neatly. She wonders why her heart is drowning in his admiration = it is Spring, the flowers are blooming, Jasmine buds are in their glory.

## **2:40 Sherry Duggal - Combination of spoken word and dance.**



**Sherry Duggal** is a naturopathic doctor who is now delving herself into her creative side. Her works are performance oriented. Sherry presented her comedy script "Love Therapy" at the Masala Mehndi Masti! festival, the biggest South Asian Festival in North America. One of eight featured writers, her one woman act "Epiphany" was presented as part of the Pull Festival in Vancouver, B.C. She has also written for prominent magazines such as Darpan Magazine, Celebrations Magazine and the Canadian Immigrant Magazine, a branch of the Toronto Star. She presented her play "Eve: A Balancing Act" at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and has also performed at the prestigious India International Center in New Delhi, India.

She has been a featured writer for "World Poetry", "Writers International Network", "Poetic Justice", "Pandora's Collective",

"Holy Wow poets" and "Surrey Muse". Sherry has performed for the Rabindranath Tagore Festival and the Sufi Legacy Conference and many other festivals in India, the UK, the US and Canada. Sherry was also the lead in a feature film called "Plus" and has worked on a number of short films and music videos, while training at various acting studios in Vancouver, B.C.

She is currently hosting a health segment for Access Television, Channel 4 telecast on Shaw Cable.

## **2:50 Mike Stotland Meditation Session**



Mike Stotland is a counselling intern with Moving Forward Family Services, and a student at Stenberg College in their Counselling Therapy program. Mike is a Certified Trauma Treatment Specialist as well as a certified mindfulness and meditation teacher. He owns his own practice, Sandalwood Wellness where he provides counselling and wellness services to a variety of clients in the Fraser Valley.

## **3:00 Break**

## **3:15 Violette Baillargeon - Relationship of War to the Environment**



Violette Baillargeon is a mom to 4, a secondary teacher of French and Spanish, and an environmental activist. She has traveled extensively through Latin America to work with public school teachers and social justice activists and has seen the effects of Climate Change firsthand. She has been a guest of Gloria Makarenko's on CBC's The Climate to discuss the relationship between refugees and climate change, as well as on Radio Canada in French, and live on Breakfast Television. Violette spent 3 years on the British Columbia Teachers Federation Executive Committee advancing climate action within the Federation and in representing 45 thousand teachers provincially and 250 thousand

teachers nationally, and has been successful in carrying motions around supporting school strikers and teachers who support them, enshrining Indigenous land titles in school communities, mobilizing a teachers pension plans divestment campaign away from fossil fuel

projects, and enacting changes to the curriculum that would ensure the climate emergency is centered in schools. There is great potential for teachers to engage in this struggle and Violette is hoping to capitalize on teachers' natural leadership and sense of fairness to encourage school leaders across BC, Canada, and internationally to rise up against the political complacency that has led to the crisis facing our youth today.

### **3:20      Sudnya Dance Academy   Bharata Natyam**



Dance style: Bharatanatyam - Classical dance style of India. Bharata Natyam is the oldest classical dance form that originates from Tamil Nadu, a Southern province of India. Bharata itself stands for Bha-Bhakti (devotion), Ra- Rati (satisfaction), and Ta – Tapasya (meditation); the word Natyam means, “art.” Visually Bharata Natyam is a dynamic, earthy, and very precise style of dance. It is noted for its fixed upper torso, legs bent or knees flexed out combined with spectacular footwork. With its stylized hand gestures, facial expressions, and footwork the dancer conveys universal values to the audience through various mythical stories and contemporary themes.



### 3:30      **Roots Peruvian Folk Dance group**



Roots is a Peruvian folk dance group founded in New Westminster in 2017 under the direction of Jessica Roca Muncaster with the mission to present and diffuse the rich diversity of art from Peruvian cultures into the communities of British Columbia. The beauty, colour, and excitement of traditional Peruvian dances are displayed in their repertoire. Roots have dancers from Canada, Mexico and Peru that want to preserve and share the rich multicultural heritage of Peruvian folk artistry through

entertaining performances.

Their performance : Dancing together without borders

This dance that we will present will be a mixture of rhythms from the three regions of Peru: the Coast, the Andean and the Amazon. We foster love and friendship with dance, including families and friends of different nationalities and ages.

### 3:40      **Barbara Waldern**

Just Peace Committee and the International League of Peoples' Struggles-Metro Vancouver



Just Peace Committee and the International League of Peoples' Struggles-Metro Vancouver, present a perspective on building the movement for just peace against imperialist domination, exploitation and plunder. They have been involved in doing activities with the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network this year. Just Peace Committee has been working with local groups to build a united peace movement since 2017. The ILPS has existed for over 20 years. The choir began in March, 2000, with the

support of the Vancouver and District Labour Council. Their criteria for acceptance are a willingness to sing and a commitment to the principles of labour and social justice movements

**3:45 -4:00      Art for Peace Award Ceremony**

**4:00              Ukrainian Choir Mariia Hahalovska and Spivanochka  
show**



Mariia Hahalovska and Spivanochka show - Peace and dreams

She is a Ukrainian singer, who has performed at many Ukrainian concerts, festivals and competitions. The children's ensemble was created 3 years ago. Their mission is to share Ukrainian music and culture

**4:10              Babeeta Chhabra *Poetry and song***



Babeeta likes to be referred to as a 'global citizen', born in the UK, of Indian descent and who has travelled and worked in Canada, Japan, India, Germany and France. Educated as a Pediatric Occupational Therapist and a Sri Sri Yoga teacher she continues to inspire many people to live happier and healthier lives. She is an author, jazz singer and dancer and is currently based in White Rock. "A Beautiful Void" is her first book. It is her intention through teaching, writing and the arts, to inspire human values that unite us all: love, peace, joy, truth, beauty and compassion. One World Family is her performance.

**4:20 Closing Song Peter Jackson**  
**Vote of Thanks Niovi Patsicakis**

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