

BEYOND DRYDEN

Playwright Oren Safdie's new play a tribute to Habs legend



Mike Cohen

The St-Ambrose Montreal Fringe Festival will officially unveil its lineup next Monday, but one show to watch out for is critically acclaimed playwright Oren Safdie's world premiere of *Beyond Ken*

Dryden, a solo show about a boy's idolization of his sports hero Ken Dryden and the Montreal Canadiens as his own family and the province of Quebec were coming apart. It will run from June 6 to 16 at Studio Multimedia, geared towards those aged 12 and up. "Ken Dryden read the play and responded really positively," Safdie told me.

The 1970s were a wonderful though

tumultuous time to be growing up in Montreal, but as Safdie notes through it all, goaltender Ken Dryden and the Canadiens remained steadfast in his life; connecting the city and lifting his and everyone's spirits by winning six Stanley Cups in nine years. Safdie's newest work is influenced by his stepfather Roch Carrier's children's classic, *The Hockey Sweater*. The star of the one man show is New Yorker Max Katz. While attending McGill he became a Habs fan. See my blog for more details.

POLITICAL PATTERN: Why has the Quebec Liberal Party pushed its leadership convention to June 2025? There are a lot of rumours making the rounds. One narrative is that charismatic St. Laurent MNA Marwah Rizqy, now pregnant with her second child (to West Island Jacques Cartier Liberal MNA and hubby Greg Kelley) is not ruling out a run at that time. I for one would love to see her in that post as she is a force to be reckoned with....

While in the Eastern Townships for business recently, I had a chance to meet up for coffee with Canadian Party of Quebec leader Colin Standish. Working with party president Liz Campbell, Deputy Leader Myrtis Fossey of St. Laurent, former Equality Party leader Keith Henderson and new publicist Dan Laxer, Standish is speaking out as loudly as he can against the CAQ government's repeated attacks against the English community. We do need such a voice and with the addition of Laxer to the team the CaPQ hopes to garner more headlines...Is lawyer Neil Oberman on the radar screen of the Conservative Party of Canada to run against Anthony Housefather of the Liberals in Mount Royal in the next federal election?

DANCING WITH THE SHAARS: Congregation Shaar Hashomayim in Westmount has a unique event planned on June 6. *Dancing With the Shaars* is a spin on *Dancing With The Stars*. Professional dancers will accompany some of Montreal's prominent and community-minded leaders as they perform for the coveted Mirrorball Trophy. "Since October 7, our community's connection to Israel has been at the fore of our identity, and we



Oren Safdie

are proud to support crucial initiatives that will help society recover from the recent terror attacks and war," said synagogue publicist Julie Wiener. A portion of the proceeds raised from this event will go toward two projects in Israel, namely the Pediatric Emergency Department at Kaplan Hospital and the rebuilding of Kibbutz Holit. The event is a cocktail dinner followed by the performance.

COHEN CHATTER: LaSalle's Connie Rotella has been tapped as the choreographer of the French musical of *Tootsie*, set to hit the stage next December. Her son Alessandro Gabrielli has landed the role of Carl and will also be a swing... St. Laurent native Patrick Sabongui is set to become a series regular, joining Melissa Roxburgh in NBC's new drama series *The Hunting Party*. This high-concept crime procedural is about a small team of investigators who are assembled to track down and capture the most dangerous killers the USA has ever seen, all of whom have just escaped from a top-secret prison that's not supposed to exist.

Something to share? Email mcohen@thesuburban.com, follow me on Twitter @mikecohencl and on our blog section at www.thesuburban.com

YVES LÉGARÉ | Avec vous™
Alfred Dallaire

LIMITED OFFER
\$250
DISCOUNT*

ON YOUR FUNERAL PREARRANGEMENTS
PLAN, SAVE AND REASSURE YOUR LOVED ONES

514 595.1500 | YVESLEGARE.COM

Pierrefonds complex | 14370, boul. Pierrefonds, Pierrefonds

*On presentation of this announcement, get \$250 discount applicable on a prearrangement contract. Certain conditions apply. Offer valid until December 31, 2024.

BRAND NEW LUXURY APARTMENTS

Le Cartier
Corner of Peel and Sherbrooke

CONTACT
Catherine Paradis
(514) 586-1511
cparadis@lecartier.ca

lecartier.ca