



John Fluevog  
Boots and Shoes

Boboli on South  
Granville

**Men's Clothing**

High-end establishments well worth a visit include Boboli on South Granville, Harry Rosen, and Holt Renfrew in the Pacific Centre, Boys' Co. on Robson, Leone in the Sinclair Centre, Mark James on West Broadway, Enda B Men and Women on West 10th Avenue, and S. Lampman in Kerrisdale. For a sportier look, try Eddie Bauer at Oakridge Centre and Park Royal Centre, Roots on Robson Street and Tilley Endurables on Granville.

**Shoe Stores**

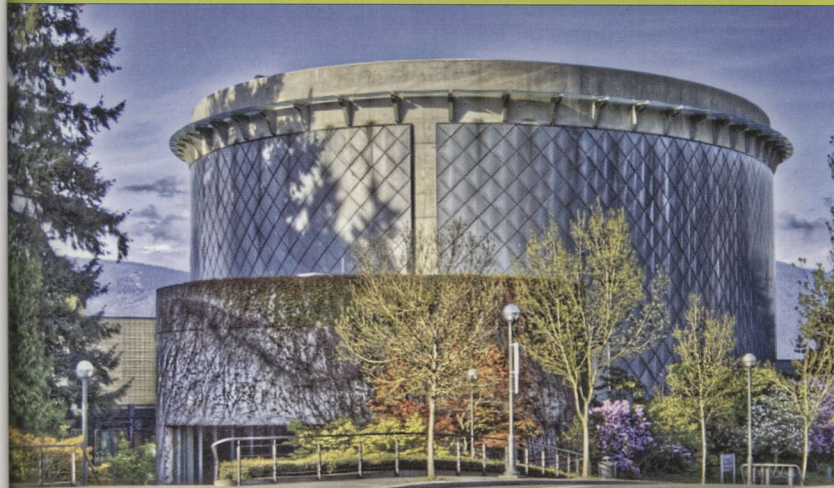
With shops on Granville Street and in Gastown, the unique style of internationally renowned shoemaker John Fluevog tempts those willing to put an unconventional foot forward. The classic Ingledew's, downtown on Granville, and Freedman Shoes on South Granville both offer quality classic dress and casual footwear.

If your tootsies are feeling tender, the Broadway Shoe Salon and Walk with Ronsons both have a good selection of comfortable walking shoes.



# Entertainment

Heather Conn



Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, UBC

Vancouver offers remarkable entertainment from little-known talented amateurs to marquee-splashed stars. Whether you're a film buff, a music fancier, or someone who revels in live theatre or dance, you'll find events happening every night of the year. Stroll through the downtown entertainment district where many clubs, for all persuasions, provide a lively after-hours scene. Most performing arts productions sell tickets in advance. Ticketmaster has a monopoly in this area, with a telephone line dedicated to arts events. A welcome addition is Tickets Tonight, open daily, which sells day-of-event half-price tickets at the Tourism Vancouver Visitor Centre.

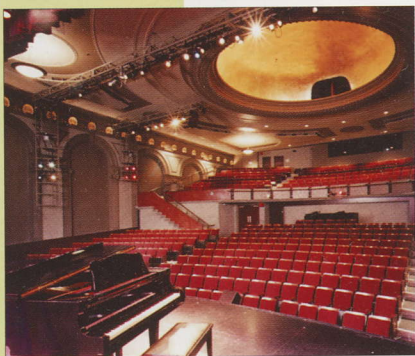
The Drowsy Chaperone, Vancouver Playhouse

**Film**

Known for its thriving, close-knit independent film community, Vancouver is a filmgoer's mecca. Its outstanding Vancouver International Film Festival draws devoted attendees from



# ARTS CLUB THEATRE



Stanley Theatre

across North America, screening more than 350 dramas and documentaries representing dozens of countries, at 10 venues. You'll also find innovative and provocative movies at many themed film festivals such as the Latin American Film Festival ([www.vlaff.org](http://www.vlaff.org)), the Jewish Film Festival ([www.vjff.org](http://www.vjff.org)), and the Mountain Film Festival ([www.vimff.org](http://www.vimff.org)). In May, DOXA ([www.doxafestivals.ca](http://www.doxafestivals.ca))

shows exclusively documentaries, and in August, the Vancouver Queer Film Festival ([www.queerfilmfestival.ca](http://www.queerfilmfestival.ca)) features films with gay themes. For year-round fare, Pacific Cinematheque on Howe Street offers offbeat new releases and delightful rare films and classics. Catch special film events and the best of world cinema at Vancity Theatre at Seymour and Davie.

## Live Theatre

The Vancouver Playhouse (part of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre complex) is one of the best regional theatres in Canada. Plays presented here employ the top actors, directors, designers, and craftspeople from across the country. Since it opened in 1963, the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company has often premiered award-winning Canadian plays.

In the 1930s, the Stanley Theatre on Granville Street near Broadway was the place for vaudeville. It later became an excellent movie theatre but eventually closed in the heyday of the multiplexes. In the late 1990s, the Arts Club Theatre completed lengthy and difficult renovations to transform the dilapidated but distinguished cinema into a first-class professional theatre. Now called the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, the heritage theatre is a charming 630-seat venue, home to many of Vancouver's most entertaining productions, including many smaller musicals. The plays are equally good at the Arts Club's 450-seat Granville Island Stage. A string of hits, including homegrown and international plays, contribute to the Arts Club's longevity. Having run the Arts Club since it opened in 1972, artistic director Bill Millerd is the most respected, and probably most decorated, theatre practitioner in the country.

Middle: Firehall Arts Centre  
Bottom: Vancouver Playhouse's *The Wars*



If you thought that Granville Island was just for great market shopping, you'll be surprised at how many live theatres coexist here. Across the walkway from the Granville Island Stage is the intimate New Revue Stage. This cabaret-style venue hosts Vancouver TheatreSports League, offering comic improvisation honed to a science. If you haven't seen a live improv show, catch one of the regular early-evening performances. Vancouver TheatreSports is suitable for the entire family. The 224-seat Waterfront Theatre is another Granville Island venue, noted for performances of new Canadian plays. For independent theatre with an off-the-wall edge, hit Granville Island in the fall for the Vancouver International Fringe Festival. Built in a former fire hall, the Firehall Arts Centre on East Cordova is devoted to new plays, performance art, and dance, and has a reputation for presenting groundbreaking multicultural productions. In addition to its professional theatres, Vancouver has several good community theatres. Presentation House in North Vancouver has excellent offerings. Metro Theatre in South Vancouver's Marpole area presents melodrama, mystery, and British comedy. At the Jewish Community Centre's Norman Rothstein Theatre, live performers fill a luxurious, 318-seat auditorium.

The Queen Elizabeth Theatre is the place to go to see New York-style musical productions, touring theatre and dance companies, family presentations, and multicultural shows. The theatre is perfect for all these and the productions of its resident troupes, the Vancouver Opera and Ballet British Columbia. Built in 1959, the theatre is a large venue featuring elegant decor, plush seats, and a 21-metre (70-foot) wide stage with proscenium arch.

## Music

From strings to swing to the thrum of indie rock, Vancouver's music scene offers vibrant choices and a diverse history. The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (VSO), which began in 1919, now performs more than 150 concerts annually, welcoming many outstanding artists. You'll usually find the symphony at the historic Orpheum Theatre, a former vaudeville house built in 1927. At the time, this venue was one of the largest and most impressive theatres on the West Coast. After five years of extravagant renovations in the late 1970s, it still entralls with its classic ambience of old-time elegance.



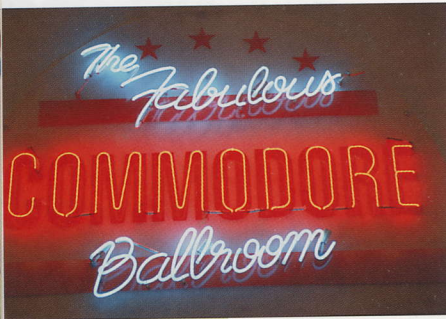
Bramwell Tovey conducting the VSO

Vancouver Opera's *Ariadne auf Naxos*



Vancouver Opera's *Carmen*





Like the symphony, the opera has long historic roots in Vancouver. The city's first opera performances date to the late 1880s. The Vancouver Opera Company launched in 1960, with a performance of Bizet's *Carmen*. Today, Vancouver Opera is fiercely committed to developing Canadian talent, as well as

hiring principal singers of international fame. The company employs its own orchestra and chorus made up of local musicians and singers. Traditional opera fans can relish shows from *Salome* to *Rigoletto*. All performances are at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

For jaw-dropping acoustics, try a classical concert at the 1,400-seat Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at the University of British Columbia. The UBC Opera Ensemble appears here a few times a year, as does the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. For choral splendour, look for the Vancouver Cantata Singers performing at the Chan Centre. This award-winning chamber choir, one of Canada's foremost, is guaranteed to captivate.

For eclectic tastes that lean to rock 'n' roots, try the Railway Club on Dunsmuir downtown or an informal concert at the Commodore Ballroom on Granville Street. Built as a ballroom dance club, its main attraction was its bouncy, horsehair-spring floor. Although the Great Depression hit just after it opened, it managed to survive and go on to greater glory during the big band era. Over the years, it's adapted to host rock, jazz, punk, and many other kinds of musical acts.

It's still one of Vancouver's most-loved clubs — and there's still some spring left in that floor. Check in advance to see who's playing. Artists include local, national, and international musicians of every genre.

Folkies and world beat aficionados will want to watch for concerts sponsored by the Rogue Folk Club, and visitors in July can take in the venerable Vancouver Folk Music Festival. For jazz, try The Cellar Jazz Club on West Broadway and O'Doul's in the Listel Hotel. The superb Vancouver International Jazz Festival in June offers both ticketed and free events. A casual spot for upbeat and world beat local bands is the long-running Backstage Lounge on Granville Island. For rollicking rhythm and

blues, put on your boogie boots and head to the Yale Hotel, near the Granville Bridge on the downtown side. Built in 1889, the Yale is one of the oldest buildings in Western Canada. Dress casually and enjoy some beer at this classic blues bar.



Simone Orlando in Ballet B.C.'s *Elemental Brubeak*



**Dance**

For modern dance, you'll find B.C.'s most diverse performance spaces at Scotiabank Dance Centre on Davie and the Vancouver East Cultural Centre on Venables. "The Cultch" opened on October 15, 1973, with a two-week run of the locally based Anna Wyman Dance Theatre. Today's Cultch, with a renovated historic theatre and new addition, offers a marvellous array of distinctive dance performances and performing arts.

You might want to keep an eye out for Kokoro Dance, an innovative troupe that performs outdoors and at various venues throughout the city. The long-running Judith Marcuse Dance Projects creates multi-disciplinary dance and theatre productions at various city-wide locations.

For classical and modern dance, Ballet British Columbia has built an international reputation for artistic excellence. The company first performed on April 11, 1986, and was quickly recognized for its combination of talent and creativity. You can see the ballet at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

**Clubs**

For star watchers, the bar of choice is the Gérard Lounge on the first floor of the Sutton Place Hotel. One of Vancouver's trendiest lounges, the luxurious Gérard is exquisitely furnished and the bar prices

Fei Guo and Shannon Smith in Ballet B.C.'s *Peter Pan*

Bar at Opus Hotel





Vancouver's Jazz Festival featuring Five Alarm Funk

reflect the surroundings. If you spot some of Hollywood's most memorable faces here, be discreet; Vancouver is known for its politeness. If you're more intent on meeting someone attractive and of the opposite sex, visit Richard's on Richards. The crowds at this big dance club tend to be in

their late twenties and early thirties. Music ranges from rock and extreme metal to hip-hop and house.

A few blocks from Richard's, you'll find AuBAR, the place to be seen. The club has a line outside most every night from Thursday through Saturday. Another place to dress up for and be seen is the lounge at the Opus Hotel in Yaletown. Gastown's Fabric Nightclub attracts a casual, youthful crowd to dance in its brick-walled warehouse space. Leading DJs spin hip-hop, Top 40, funk, and alternative and electronic music.

Lineups are the biggest problem with Vancouver clubs. Any place worth going to usually has a lineup after 9 p.m. Smoking is not permitted inside public buildings, so be prepared to smoke outside, away from doorways.

### Gay and Lesbian

In Vancouver, gay clubs have the least amount of attitude of any downtown night spots. Celebrities is a longtime favourite of gay, straight, and bi dancers and party lovers. Theme nights such as Latin night, amateur drag nights, and even gay bingo add to the fun atmosphere. If you're looking to make it a long night of dancing, move on to Pulse Nightclub, where another mixed crowd dances the night away. Numbers, a more exclusively gay male dance club, is another option.

For something a little more low-key, Oasis is a lounge and restaurant combo with a patio and tapas menu. Sports fans might want to head over to Score, a gay-friendly sports bar. And for the times when a cocktail and conversation suits the mood better than dancing or partying, 1181 is the place to go. All three clubs are frequented by a gay-positive, mixed crowd.

The Honey Lounge is a cool bar with a good percentage of lesbian patrons. Next door to Honey is a women-only nightclub called Lick, an "All-Girl-Operated Underground Queer Night Club." Patrons here enjoy hip-hop to indie and pop on the club's super sound system. Venues from Celebrities to The Railway Club and the Howard Johnson's on Kingsway host women's DJ dance nights.



Shops along Davie Street in Gastown

# Visual Art

Gary McFarlane



Vancouver's art scene began to come into its own in the 1930s when Emily Carr and other artists developed a style that reflected the West Coast landscape and images. In the post-war years, artists such as Jack Shadbolt incorporated surrealism, abstractionism, and the other "isms" of the day. During the 1960s and '70s the city became a centre for experimentation. One of the most memorable images of the era was a monocled Mr. Peanut, represented by the artist Vincent Trasov, running for mayor. Over the last two decades, the Vancouver School of photographers has put the city on the international art map. Local art stars include Rodney Graham, Stan Douglas, and Jeff Wall. The Vancouver Art Gallery regularly showcases this city's historic work. Today Vancouver has a thriving art scene. Vancouver's art ranges from lush landscapes to photography to animé-inspired drawings to the unique artist-run centres where anything goes.

Marchessault-Arcetritires at Bau-Xi Gallery

Inside the Vancouver Art Gallery

### Commercial Galleries

South Granville is home to many of the city's most prestigious galleries, running for a few blocks north and south of the Granville Street and Broadway intersection. Equinox Gallery features up-and-coming and senior Canadian sculptors and painters, including Gathie Falk, Liz Magor, and Gordon Smith. They also carry twentieth-century classics such as Warhol and Lichtenstein. Bau-Xi and Winsor galleries specialize in landscape paintings and other figurative works. Douglas Udell Gallery carries work by artists from the

