



# CULTURALLY SPEAKING

The monthly newsletter of the Earth Cultures Project of Educational Communications

July 2011

MESSAGE FROM NANCY PEARLMAN, Executive Director of Educational Communications



## UNEXPECTED DANCE AND MUSIC IN THE MOVIES

While it is always more enjoyable to go to an ethnic folk dance performance and see the dancers and musicians perform live, I nonetheless enjoy authentic folk dancing wherever I may catch a glimpse.

These past few months I have been attending a variety of film movie screenings, especially by non-American directors and producers. Foreign films documentaries often present an issue or problem in a most unexpected way.

The movie "Woman Rebel" about a female leader in the Maoist uprising in Nepal is basically a film about her involvement in the rebel movement that lasted for ten years. Eventually they agreed to a peace agreement and then the featured rebel was elected to Parliament. For about thirty seconds in the film was a shot of her dancing when she returned to her family's village. I asked the filmmaker why we saw her dancing alone since traditionally there would have been a line of women. Indeed, she pointed out that due to clever editing, they just got her featured alone.

"The Bang Bang Club" is a fictional film based on a true story of a group of four young combat photographers from South Africa: Greg Marinovich, Joas Silva, Kevin Carter, and Ken Oosterbroek. Two of these received Pulitzer prizes for their work. These photojournalists risked their lives to tell the world about the brutality and violence of the first free elections in post-apartheid South Africa in the early 1990s. What caught my interest was the scene in the Swoeto township between rival black tribes. As they faced off

with clubs, guns, and other weapons, the women first danced in front of the combatants. Traditional African warfare of the 1800s would have this same activity. It may seem odd in a modern context but the tradition continued.

"Bhutto" chronicles the life of one of the most complex and fascinating figures of our time, former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the first woman to lead an Islamic nation. It is a story of her struggle to change the political character of her country and not a movie featuring dance and song but the celebrations at her rallies and her elections show the men dancing in the street in traditional movements common to the area. "An African Election," a film by Jarreth Merz documents Ghana's 2008 presidential elections. With unprecedented access to the political parties involved in the elections, the Swiss filmmaker captures the intrigue of electioneering and the struggle to have a democratic process for electing that West African country's president. Again, the movie is a political thriller but the celebrations also included men and women dancing in the streets.

Although there was no folk dancing or any dancing in many movies featuring musicians, composers and musicians, the story of music making and performing in many movies was wonderful. In "The Child Prodigy" from Quebec, Canada, it was great to hear some new music from composer and pianist Andrew Mathieu. This talented young man was well-known in North America and Europe in the 1930s and 1940s only to be forgotten in the 1950s but with over a hundred unique and beautiful compositions, it is hoped that we will hear more of his music and maybe see some ballets or modern dance routines created with them.

(continued on page 2, column 2)

## HAPPY WHEELBARROW DAY!

Huh? What is Wheelbarrow Day?



Well, you may know that, like our Fourth of July national holiday, the French have BASTILLE DAY on July 14th. Here's the background.

On 7/14/1789 revolutionaries stormed the fortress/prison called the Bastille, to rescue the political prisoners inside (really it was to steal ammunition!). It wasn't much of a fight, but it had great symbolism. This, plus the political manoeuvrings at that time, produced a short-lived constitutional monarchy. On the first anniversary, 7/14/1790, they held a great celebration and feast "La Fete de la Federation". Prepping the grounds for the feast required the efforts and wheelbarrows of the local citizens, hence prior to Bastille Day you have "La Journee des Brouettes" the day of the wheelbarrows!

In 1880 Bastille Day or "La Fete Nationale" was made into France's national day. It is celebrated with parades, speeches, fireworks much like our Fourth. So on July 14th, sing "La Marseillaise" and associate wheelbarrows with freedom!



contributed by  
Preston Ashbourne



## WORDS FROM LIANA'S WORLD

### THE HUNT FOR THE PERFECT RED SHOES

The craving for shoes  
Has grown strong and loud.  
But the perfect red shoes  
Are no where to be found.  
  
None are here,  
None are there.  
Store after store,  
The hunt goes on.  
How could this be?  
Such a simple thing,  
The perfect red pair  
That I must wear.  
  
Time goes on,  
And no such luck.  
What a tragedy,  
What a loss,  
For the shoes  
UNFOUND.



Contributed by  
Liana Hovhannessian

## UNEXPECTED DANCE AND MUSIC IN THE MOVIES

(continued from page 1 column 2)

"For Once in My Life" features a unique band of singers and musicians with a wide range of mental and physical disabilities and their journey to show the world the greatness and killer soundtrack within each of them. "Music by Prudence" is about another disabled woman who struggles to share her music in Zimbabwe.

"Freedom Riders" tells the story of the brave black and white men and women

who in the early 1960s headed south to desegregate the public transportation systems, the stores, and the schools. Another movie about the Freedom Riders, "Soundtrack for a Revolution" features the music that was critical to the civil rights movement. Historic clips are shown as well as performances by famous singers of this century singing the songs that shaped a nation.

Music and dance is everywhere and can be enjoyed in small bits or as major featured performances. Just keep your eyes and ears open.

Nancy Pearlman, Executive Director  
Educational Communications

## SOME UPCOMING EVENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



### ANITA AND THE YANKS

**PADDY O'S** 5-9PM (full band)  
**July 15**  
20320 South Western Ave  
Torrance, CA 90501

**CAT 'N' FIDDLE** 7-10PM  
(full band)  
**September 4, 11, 18 & 25**  
6530 W Sunset Blvd, Hollywood, CA  
90028

**GALLAGHERS** 9-12PM (full band)  
**September 9**  
300 Pacific Coast Hwy  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

**JOXER DALY'S** (full band)  
**September 16**  
11168 Washington Blvd  
Culver City, CA

**NOVEL CAFE** 7-10PM (trio)  
**July 1, 8 & 22**  
**August 5 & 19**  
1713 E. Colorado Blvd  
Pasadena, CA 91106

**MULDOONS** 2-4PM (full band)  
**July 10**  
202 Newport Center Drive  
Newport Beach, CA 92660

[www.anitaandtheyanks.com](http://www.anitaandtheyanks.com)



### ASSIEH LAMORA

Assieh was born and raised in Iran. She started her Flamenco dance training at early age in Los Angeles and later in Spain at Amor de Dios Flamenco Dance Academy in Madrid with master teachers like; La Tati, Ciro, Carmela Greco, La Truco, Manolete and in Sevilla at Manolo Marin Dance Academy. She has also studied under private training of Angelita Vargas and Pepa Montes. She dances every **Friday, Saturday and Sunday** at: **El Cid**. 4212 Sunset Bl, Los Angeles (323) 668-0318

more upcoming events on next page

## UPCOMING EVENTS (continued from previous page)

## JOHN BILEZIKJIAN



John Bilezikjian is "America's Oud Virtuoso". Mr. Bilezikjian may be the most prominent Oudist of his generation. He is a master Oudist who has elevated this instrument to the concert stage as well as continues to perform as a folk musician. He has performed for some 51 years on this ancient eleven stringed Persian fretless instrument dating back some 2,000 years. The Oud is performed with an eagle's quill.

**Sunday August 21, 2011**

**"THE MAGIC OF JOHN BILEZIKJIAN"**

**La Mirada Theatre & Performing Arts Center**

For more details

<http://friendsofjohnbilezikjian.com>

*John's weekly performance schedule:*

**First Tuesday of the Month**

Casablanca Restaurant  
6030 Paseo del Norte  
Carlsbad, CA. 92008  
(760) 603-9672  
7:30 pm to 9:30 pm  
Belly Dancing and Folk Dancing

**First, Second and Fourth  
Wednesday of the Month**

Tonya's Original Belly Dance  
Showcase – Khoury's Restaurant  
110 N. Marina Dr.  
Long Beach, CA. 90803  
Alamitos Bay Landing, LB Marina  
7:30 pm to 9:30 pm  
Belly Dancing and Folk Dancing,  
Tony and Atlantis (562) 598-6800

**Third Thursday,  
Every other Month**

Tango Del Rey  
3567 Del Rey St.  
San Diego, CA. 92109  
(858) 794-2687  
8:30 pm to 11:30 pm  
with featured & guest belly dancers  
& Frank Lazzaro & Dave Dhillon

<http://dantzrecords.com>



**GYPSY FOLK ENSEMBLE**

The Gypsy Folk Ensemble is an ethnic and folk dance performing company based in Los Angeles, California which was formed in 1978 to preserve, perform and teach traditional folk dances from countries around the world.

**Summer Reading Program – Library Shows Free! and open to the public**

*(dates and times subject to change, check with library to confirm.)*

**July 6 "One World, Many Stories"**

Baldwin Park Library – 6pm  
4181 Baldwin Park Blvd.  
Baldwin Park 91706 (626) 962-6947

**July 7 "Polynesian"**

Ladera Ranch Library – 10:30am  
29551 Sienna Parkway  
Ladera Ranch 92694 (949) 234-5940

**July 9 "One World, Many Stories"**

Katy Geissert Civ. Ctr. Library – 2pm  
3301 W. Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance 90503 (310) 618-5950

**July 11 "Polynesian"**

Victorville City Library – 6pm  
15011 Circle Dr.  
Victorville 92392 (760) 245-4222

**July 12 "One World, Many Stories"**

Charter Oak Library – 3pm  
20540 E. Arrow Hwy, Suite K  
Covina 91724 (626) 339-2151

**July 13 "One World, Many Stories"**

Lloyd Taber Library – 10:30pm  
4533 Admiralty Way  
Marina Del Rey 90292  
(310) 821-3415

**July 13 "Polynesian"**

Beverly Hills Library – 3:30pm  
444 N. Rexford Dr.  
Beverly Hills 90210 (310) 288-2211

**July 14 "Armenian / Estonian"**

Montebello Regional Library – 3pm  
1550 W. Beverly Hills Blvd.  
Montebello 90640 (323) 722-6551

**July 14 "Polynesian"**

West Valley Regional Library – 4pm  
19036 Vanowen St.  
Reseda 91335 (818) 345-9806

**July 14 "One World, Many Stories"**

Scripps Ranch Library – 3pm  
10301 Scripps Lake Dr.  
San Diego 92131 (858) 536-8158

**July 19 "One World, Many Stories"**

View Park Library – 5:30pm  
3854 W 54th St.  
Los Angeles 90043 (323) 293-5371

**July 20 "One World, Many Stories"**

South El Monte Library – 2:30pm  
1430 N. Central Ave.  
So. El Monte 91733 (626) 443-4158

**July 23 "One World, Many Stories"**

Compton Library – 2:30pm  
240 W. Compton Blvd.  
Compton 90220 (310) 637-0202

**July 27 "One World, Many Stories"**

South Pasadena Library – 2pm  
1100 Oxley St.  
So. Pasadena 91030 (626) 403-7358

**July 27 "One World, Many Stories"**

Lennox Library – 4pm  
4359 Lennox Blvd.  
Lennox 90304 (310) 674-0385

**July 28 "Polynesian"**

Temple City Library – 2pm  
5939 N. Golden West Ave.  
Temple City 91780 (626) 285-2136

**July 28 "Polynesian"**

Lynwood Library – 3:30pm  
11320 Bullis Rd.  
Lynwood 90262 (310) 635-7121

**August 2 "One World, Many Stories"**

Baldwin Hills Library – 3:30pm  
2906 S. La Brea Ave.  
Los Angeles 90016 (323) 733-1196

**August 11 "One World, Many Stories"**

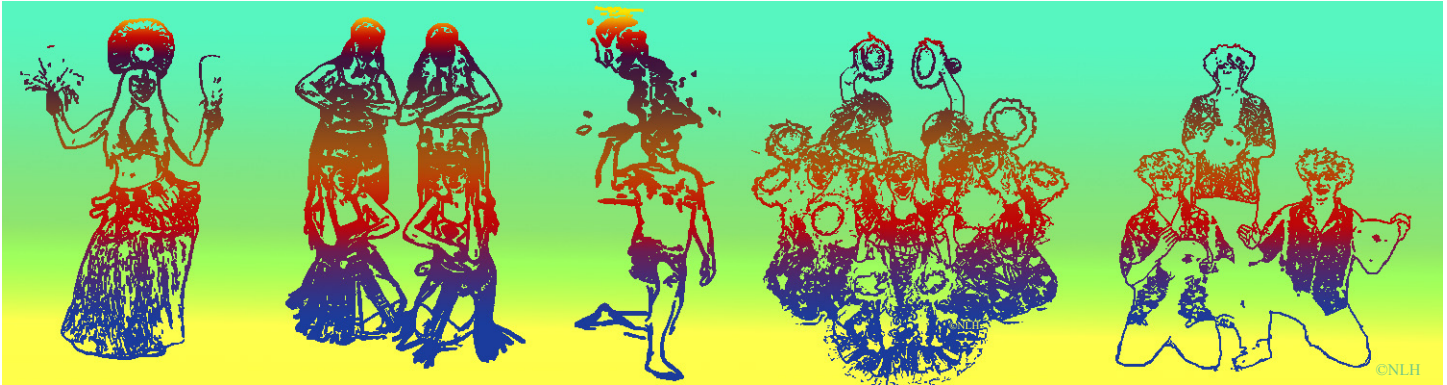
Rancho Park Library – 4pm  
2920 Overland Ave.  
Los Angeles 90064 (310) 840-2142

**August 25 "One World, Many Stories"**

John C. Fremont Library – 6:30pm  
6121 Melrose Ave  
Los Angeles 90038 (323) 962-3521

[www.gypsyfolkensemble.com](http://www.gypsyfolkensemble.com)



**CAN'T STOP DANCING!****ABOUT THE  
EARTH CULTURES PROJECT**

Earth Cultures is one of the projects of Educational Communications, a non-profit 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization founded in 1958, dedicated to improving the quality of life on this planet. The organization produces documentaries and works with several performing groups and individuals through its Earth Cultures Project to promote cultural awareness and provide education through the arts.

**DONATION AND  
VOLUNTEER  
OPPORTUNITIES**

Your donation will help bring the arts back to education under the Earth Cultures Project, or help fund other projects of Educational Communications.

Educational Communications always needs volunteers in the office. If you are interested in volunteering please call Nancy at (310) 559-9160.

Visit the Earth Cultures Project website at [www.earthculturesproject.org](http://www.earthculturesproject.org) to find easy ways to donate to any of our projects. Use "goodsearch" to search the web as you always do, and a small percentage goes to the non-profit of your choice. Sign up for "eScrip" or "GoodShop." Spend as you would anyway and donate to your cause at the same time. We hope you'll choose Educational Communications in Los Angeles as your non-profit of choice.

**LINKS OF INTEREST**

(see below for clickable links if viewing on the webpage)

**MUSEUMS**

**Bowers Museum**  
<http://www.bowers.org>

**Craft & Folk Art Museum**  
<http://www.cafam.org>

**Metropolitan Museum of Art**  
(search the database for works of art, costumes & more)  
[http://www.metmuseum.org/works\\_of\\_art/](http://www.metmuseum.org/works_of_art/)

**Museum of Latin American Art**  
<http://www.molaa.org>

**Pacific Asia Museum**  
<http://www.pacificasiamuseum.org>

**ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE  
LOS ANGELES AREA**

**Current Cultural Happenings  
Around Los Angeles**  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/caltechfolkdance>

**Olvera Street in Los Angeles**  
<http://olvera-street.com>

**Folkworks** (click on "calendar")  
<http://www.folkworks.org/>

**FOLK DANCE & FOLK MUSIC  
INFORMATION**

**Dick Oakes' Folk Dance Pages**  
<http://www.phantomranch.net/folkdance/folkdance.htm>

**Folkways** (ethnic music)  
<http://www.folkways.si.edu/index.aspx>

**ARC Music** (ethnic music CDs)  
<http://www.arcmusic.co.uk>

**ARTS AND CULTURES**

**Smithsonian Magazine  
Arts & Cultures**  
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture>

**Smithsonian Center for Folklife  
and Cultural Heritage**  
<http://www.folklife.si.edu/>

**BBC - Holidays Around the  
World and so much more!**  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/humanplanetexplorer/events\\_and\\_festivals](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/humanplanetexplorer/events_and_festivals)

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

**BYKI**  
Free language software downloads  
<http://www.byki.com/>

**FREELANG**  
Free bilingual dictionary downloads  
<http://www.freelang.net/>

(These links are for reference only and are not endorsed by Educational Communications)

*Educational Communications is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. This is the monthly newsletter of Earth Cultures, one of Educational Communications' many projects which focuses on "Education through the Arts." Volunteers and donations are always appreciated.*

**EARTH CULTURES PROJECT**

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**Support the Arts & Education!**