

PERFORMANCE ART GOES ABOVEGROUND

Mainstream arts like music and theatre have dozens of nonprofit societies representing their needs in this city, but now performance art, one of the most underground forms, is getting its own new society. The move promises to ensure it a regular roster of biennial festivals and a long-term future in this city. "Performance art goes on in the city all the time, but very rarely aboveground," explained the grunt gallery's **Glen Alteen**. It all started with **Live at the End of the Century**, an event organized by the grunt two years ago to mark 20 years of performance art in Vancouver. Alteen said it was never intended as anything but a one-off festival, but the galleries and artists involved pushed for the event to be held every two years. The result,

October 13 to November 30, will be the first **LIVE** biennial of performance art. "When you've got 15 galleries willing to work on *anything* together, it's worth pursuing," Alteen quipped. "We program performance art regularly [at

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the grunt], but it was the excitement from these groups who *don't* do it regularly that made it happen." That, and a \$20,000 boost from the **Vancouver Foundation**, support that allowed the grunt to fulfill its hopes of a six-week schedule with more than 30 events.

LIVE will have its own society set up

hope for disaster."

by the time the festival ends, and that group will lead it into regular biennial events, he said. LIVE kicks off October 13 with a performance at the Vancouver Art Gallery; see its lineup detailed in the Visual Arts Season Preview in this issue. More schedule information will soon be at www.livevancouver.bc.ca/, and brochures are to appear at galleries at the end of this month.

POETRY NOT IN MOTION

Stimulation-starved commuters will have to wait for the latest batch of **Poetry in Transit** writings to appear on Greater Vancouver buses. "Because of the transit strike, there was a delay," **Margaret Reynolds**, executive director of the Association of Book Publishers of B.C., told the *Straight*. Reynolds, whose

script by Morris Panych, who is one of Vancouver's—and Canada's—most original and prolific play-

association organizes the literary project with TransLink, said all the pieces that will appear in the usual bus-ad format are ready to roll, but the transit authority has been unable to organize its end due to backlogs caused by the spring-and-summer strike. "I have a letter saying it's going to happen this year," Reynolds said. "Normally we would launch in September. We're hoping it will be up in October." For more than five years, Poetry in Transit has featured poems by writers from across the province.

ON THE HOUSE The venue may come free, but they still have to raise money for the show to go on. The three companies chosen to take part in **Presentation House's** second annual

al's Award-winning *Elizabeth Rex* (October 3 to 28), which will star
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On the House project are holding a fundraiser at the North Vancouver playhouse for their productions this Saturday night (September 8). Starting last season, Presentation House offered up its space to three small, venue-starved companies, and this year features **Stepping Stones' Faces of Love**, the **Out to Lunch Players' Much Ado About Nothing**, and **Rock-Paper-Scissors' Design for Living**. Those three troupes will provide improv, music, and short plays at the Make Me a Star fundraiser. In an added twist, they'll hold a contest, in which the winning character actor will get a walk-on part in RPS's April debut of *Design for Living*. Phone 604-990-3474 for tickets.

• JANET SMITH