

The Province PULLOUT SECTION C

# THE-LIST

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2005

## PUCCINI'S LAST GASP

**VANCOUVER OPERA OPENER:**

Turandot, about a Peking princess who tests her suitors with riddles, was maestro Giacomo Puccini's final work

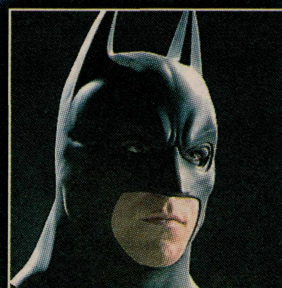
**STUART DERDEYN C3**



### Theatrical hot tamale

Astrid Hadad from Mexico wows with colourful costumes and ranchero rock

**IN CONCERT C5**



### Holy extras, Batman!!!

Arguably the best flick about the Dark Knight, *Batman Begins* comes out on DVD with a bat cave-full of features

**HOME MOVIES C16**

ILLUSTRATION — TIKO KERR

**PLUS YOUR COMPLETE LISTINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD**



# The bent, surreal world of the Astrid Hadad revue

**PERFORMANCE ART** : Brilliantly theatrical Mexican entertainer

## In concert

### Astrid Hadad y Los Tarzanes

**Where:** Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, UBC

**When:** Saturday at 8 p.m.

**Tickets:** \$36-\$45 at Ticketmaster

Other than the looking on from either wing of the cautionary play we call the U.S. Canada and Mexico don't have a lot in common. Histories, languages and cultures are all quite distinct and separate. OK, except for tequila. Tequila knows no borders.

And nor, it turns out, does the brilliantly theatrical, bawdy, campy, mournful, sacreligious and very funny Astrid Hadad. She may speak a fractured Spanglish one-on-one but give her a stage, a spotlight, her Los Tarzanes band and that bottomless trunk of outrageous costumes and the simpatico is absolute.

It helps to know Hadad comes from a deeply Catholic culture where brightly painted pictures of bleeding hearts, burning martyrs and general spiritual agonies were the Smurfs of her childhood. Churchy imagery and iconography



**John P. McLaughlin**

ON MUSIC

become high camp in the bent, surreal world of the Hadadian revue, just like she plays up the Mexican ranchera cliché of trumpets, guitars and the handlebar moustachio. Ole, baby.

"The Catholic religion says we came into this world to suffer," says Hadad, "and some suffering is

**"The Catholic religion says we came into this world to suffer and some suffering is inevitable. But I believe we came into the world to go shopping."**

— Astrid Hadad

inevitable. But I believe we came into the world" — big smile — "to go shopping."

She's an Olympian shopper and always with an eye to stagecraft.

She has a staff of believers who will stitch, glue and otherwise assemble the crazy costumes she envisions, using the treasures she drags in from her forays through the shops of Mexico City.

It's Tutti-Frutti Cabaret as she emerges outfitted as a garden she waters as she sings away, or wearing gargantuan sombreros filled with feathers or confetti or margarita glasses. Or maybe she'll be the Virgin of Guadalupe or even the Statue Of Liberty sticking it to Dubya. She's fearless and hilarious and frequently damned poignant. I've heard there's one costume where she's a living room — sofa, lamps and all.

She makes provocative, extravagant performance art all stirred into the polyrhythms of a ranchero, bolero, rhumba, rock and jazz sopa. A little tequila on the side? Absolutely.

"You enjoy yourself and the others will enjoy themselves, too," she will say. "I am a provider of pleasure."

jpmac@gmx.net



Astrid Hadad loves outrageous costumes in her campy act.

**RYTHM AND BLUES**  
**Yale**  
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**OCTOBER TONIGHT OCTOBER 20TH**

**20 Dalannah Bowen 60th Birthday Party and Fundraiser** 8pm \$10 donation

**21-22 Too Slim & The Taildraggers** 9pm \$10  
**Brickhouse** 12:30am-3am

**23 Brickhouse** 8:30pm-1:30am

**24 Jerry Adolphe & Friends** featuring **Al Foreman & Neil Cruickshank** 9:45pm

**25 Lesismore** 9:45pm

**26 Gabriel Mark Hasselbach** 7-9pm \$10  
**David Raven** 9:45pm

**27 Bob Walsh Trio** w/ special guest **David Gogo**

**28-29 Guitar Shorty** 9pm \$10 **Brickhouse** 12:30am-3am

**30 Brickhouse** 8:30pm-1:30am

**31 Jerry Adolphe & Friends** featuring **Dean Edmonds & Dave Vidal** 9:45pm

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Evening: Doors at 8pm / Show at 9pm - Tickets: \$26

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