

Free salsa lessons offered this weekend



BY DOUG LUNNEY, WINNIPEG SUN

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Leo Lopez and his daughter Ana Karen Lopez, co-directors of Salsa Explosion, will be offering free lessons Saturday at Labodega Imports' first anniversary event. (SUPPLIED PHOTO)

It's no illusion — Winnipeg has produced some of the world's greatest entertainers when it comes to those who make us say, "How on earth did he do that?"

Darcy Oake's star has continued to rise since his memorable 2014 appearance on Britain's Got Talent and now Chris Funk (The Wonderist) is to appear on America's Got Talent.

Funk's appearance was to be promoted among a few teaser clips on Tuesday night's episode, but viewers will have to stay **SUN+** see when he'll be featured in an upcoming show.

"The producer finally reached out to tell me they were uncertain of the air date," Funk told me on Tuesday, adding it could be in three or four weeks. "I guess people will just have to watch out for it."

Funk will be joining fellow Canadian magician Murray Sawchuck as a guest in Sawchuck's Las Vegas show at Planet Hollywood from June 12-19.

"I'm thrilled to be bringing my signature routine to Las Vegas," said Funk, referring to his violin routine. "There isn't anyone doing what I do right now and that's very exciting."

Meanwhile, "the world's greatest escape artist," Dean Gunnarson, and his crew also have reason to celebrate.

Gunnarson's Escape or Die was recently named winner of the best Canadian documentary series at the Yorkton Film Festival.

SALSA SATURDAY

Free salsa lessons are part of what Labodega Imports will be offering as part of its first anniversary celebrations this weekend.

Leo Lopez and his daughter Ana Karen Lopez of Salsa Dance Explosion will be teaching a class from 1-2 p.m. Saturday in the parking lot at Labodega (995 Portage Ave.). Local band Baltimore Road will provide entertainment Saturday and Sunday.

Labodega offers handcrafted artisan products from Mexico and store owner Susan Smandych says she just received a truckload of merchandise for her event, including garden pottery, clay chimineas, metal wall art, and hand-loomed rugs.

GREEN KIDS PARTY

Green Kids, a non-profit live-theatre company, is celebrating its 25th anniversary in Winnipeg.

To mark the occasion, they'll hold an eco-cabaret evening in the grand lobby of the Manitoba Theatre for Young People at The Forks on June 16 (7 p.m.). They are bringing together many of the people who helped programming evolve over the years, said executive director Daina Leitold.

Green Kids is the only charity in Canada dedicated solely to environmental education for young people through performance. They receive no government funding, are debt free, and have money in the bank, Leitold said.

"We are extremely proud to be 25 years strong and more sustainable than ever," Leitold said in a release. "Our year-round programming, like our comedic tours of The Forks and our interactive classroom workshops, is now half of what we do.

"And we still tour an original play and accompanying workshops each year."

The cabaret celebration is an over-18 preferred event and admission is by donation.

WORTH THE TRIP

It's called The Automobile City, so it's fitting Steinbach hosts one of our province's finest outdoor car shows.

The 33rd annual Wheels of Hope charity car show goes Sunday in the park-like grounds of the Mennonite Heritage Village (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Live entertainment and vendors row will set up along the village's Main Street, which is an ideal backdrop for vintage autos.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students, and children under 10 are free. The Steinbach Lions Club will use proceeds to provide specialized mobility equipment for people in the southeast and outlying areas.



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