

Two by Barbara Hager

## From Bella Coola, with love

Originally slated to premiere at this year's Victoria Film Festival, the latest documentary by local filmmaker Barbara Hager (*Motown High*), *From Bella Coola To Berlin*, will be making an appearance at this week's **Movie Monday**. This brief-but-fascinating doc tells the story of nine Bella Coola men who, in 1885, travelled to Berlin to perform their traditional songs and dances around the country for 13 months.



Little is known about these nine Nuxalk men: only three of the nine men's English names are remembered (and it's surprising that they were even allowed to leave, as, at that time, the songs and dances they were going to perform were outlawed in Canada), but there is little doubt that this experience had a lasting impact on the community.

Through interviews with Nuxalk elders and German scholars and historical documents such as German show programs and academic writings (while the show was greeted with much fascination by the anthropologists of the day, it was a commercial failure because it didn't fit with that time's perception of the Wild West-style native American), Hager has shed light on this intriguing happening that changed the remote B.C. community forever.

Hager will be at the screening, which happens at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 9 at the Eric Martin Pavilion.

## Edible island

If you missed its premiere at the recent Slow Food Festival, you have another chance to check out *Island on the Edge* at this week's **Awareness Film Night**. Nick Veersteeg's documentary takes a look at local food production and what might happen if we were suddenly cut off from our regular food supplies.

The evening will also feature a pair of foody short films (*The Sharing Farm* and *Garden Tendrils*), plus a chance to chat with Veerstag, local food concern tables and nosh supplied by Edward Milne Community School culinary students.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. March 11 at 6218 Sooke Road. Admission by donation. Check sookefoodchi.ca or awarenessfilmmight@gmail.com for details.

Compiled by Amanda Farrell and Bill Stuart

### IMAX

★★ **The Alps** - (10am, noon, 3:00, 6:00)  
 ★★ **Dinosaurs: Giants of Patagonia** - (1:00, 4:00, 7:00)  
 ★★ **Extreme** - (11am, 2:00, 5:00; 8:00)

### screenings

**Movie Monday** - Showing ★★★ **Motown High**. This popular documentary features the amazing Vic High R&B Band on their trip to Detroit, where they show off their chops and get mentored by Motown diva Martha Reeves. 6:30pm at Eric Martin Pavilion, 2326 Trent. By donation. 595-FJJC. moviemonday.ca

### cinecenta

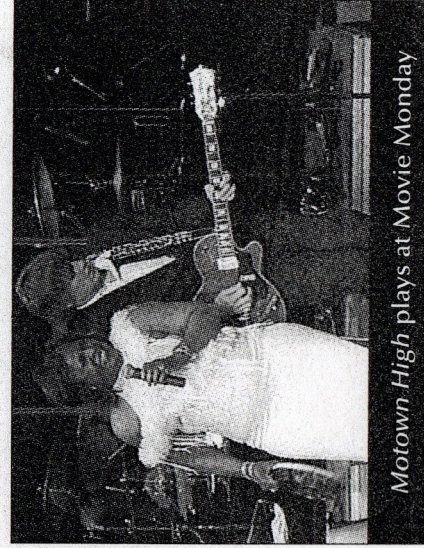
★★ **½ Tell No One** - (Sun.-Tues., Jan. 4-6; 7:00) Popular American thriller writer Harlan Coben gets the European treatment in this French-language adaptation of his complexly plotted tale of a man whose wife was murdered several years ago. Then, just as he sees video evidence suggesting that she is still alive, the cops reopen the case—and he is the prime suspect.  
 ★★ **½ Grindhouse** - (Wed.-Thurs., Jan. 7-8; 7:00 only) Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez are in top form in this three-hour homage to '70s exploitation cinema (complete with trailers for fictitious splatter-films). From hot cars to pustular zombies, this is everything your parents warned you against.

## Fest past and future

If you didn't get a chance to catch it when it opened last year's Victoria Film Festival,

**Movie Monday** will feature *Motown High* at their weekly screening series. Barbara Hager's documentary follows the hard-workin', hard-rockin' students of the Vic High R&B Band while they met Motown legend Martha Reeves and the tunefulness that ensued.

And with this year's **Victoria Film Festival** just a month away, there are a few ways you can get involved. You can head over to their website and pick up a festival pass or individual tickets. (Walk-up sales won't be available until January 12, so you can avoid the lines by getting with the tech times.) If you are feeling a little more extravagant, you can buck up for a Fairmont Empress Hotel Package that features one night's accommodation, two Film Fest tickets, full English breakie in the morning and cocktails at Whitebird. But if you're looking for a cheaper way to enjoy the festival, VFF is still looking for volunteers to help out with many aspects of the fest. And finally, if you just can't wait for the fest to begin, there's also the VFF kickoff at Lucky Bar on January 8. Check out victoriafilmfestival.com for full details.



Motown High plays at Movie Monday

-Bill Stuart