

**FROM: Ryga Festival Society**

**Date: August 22, 2016**

**SUBJECT: Marginal Arts Festival Concerts  
September 1-3, 2016**

**MARGINAL  
ARTS  
FESTIVAL**  
in Summerland

The Ryga Festival Society is making final preparations for its first annual Marginal Arts Festival in honour of the Summerland writer whose works have been published, produced and performed around the world. Ryga (1932-1987) wrote on his manual typewriter surrounded by family, friends, and orchards in the shadow of Giant's Head. His works were performed on TV, and radio, film and theatres large and small.

The **Marginal Arts Festival**, so named because of Ryga's commitment to portray people marginalized in our society, will present concerts, readings, and workshops scheduled for the Labour Day long weekend – altogether a dozen events are planned.

The performances kick off with a celebration of the spoken word: “**Outspoken!**” will showcase a variety of recitals in an increasingly popular form of entertainment. This coffee house-style, family friendly event takes place at the Summerland Waterfront Resort on Thursday, September 1 at 7 pm.

One of the highlights of the festival will be a tribute to George Ryga with an appearance by Ann Mortifee, whose haunting music is an integral part of “*The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*”, Ryga's powerful play which opened Canada's National Arts Centre in 1969. The short tribute is followed by a full evening called “**Quit Your Day Job**”, a variety show celebrating talented Okanagan singers, musicians and actors who could indeed quit their day jobs and perform full time. Lights up on September 2 at 7 pm.

A major highlight of the festival is an evening with Grammy nominee and three-time Juno Award-winning jazz artist **Campbell Ryga and his Ensemble**. This will be Campbell's first return to perform in his native Summerland in many years; music aficionados are eagerly awaiting “**Homecoming: Campbell Ryga at Centre Stage**”, on Saturday, September 3 at 7 pm.

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### **“Music in the Park – Free Concert”**

These popular Okanagan Valley bands will perform at a free concert during the afternoon of Saturday, September 3, 12-4:30 pm in Summerland's Memorial Park:

- **Blue City Trio:** Tom Esson and Sergei Ryga, who started playing music together in Summerland 36 years ago, add the rhythm of hand percussionist Dan Marcelino to their set, which infuses jazz, Latin and pop sensibilities with a distinctive '80s flavour.
- **Dirt Road Opera:** Former Cruzeros lead vocalist and songwriter **Barry Mathers**, country singer **Rachel Matkin**, guitarist **Gary Smyth** and drummer Jay Swetlishoff have joined forces to create a new roots band that blends their individual vocals to produce incredible harmonies.
- **Smith Fraser Duo:** Okanagan guitarists Andrew Smith and Neil Fraser serve up a tasty stew of folk, blues, roots and jazz. When not exploring fresh arrangements of the classics, they perform compelling original songs.

There are five professional **workshops** on **creative writing, acting, and singing**, plus, two free **play readings** at the Summerland Library. The latest details are available on the Festival website: [www.marginalarts.ca](http://www.marginalarts.ca)

**Tickets for Campbell Ryga Ensemble Concert, Outspoken!, and Quit Your Day Job!** are available on EventBrite, <http://www.eventbrite.ca/o/marginal-arts-festival-10676305637>

... or in person at the Summerland Visitors' Centre, the Summerland Arts Council, and at the Tumbleweed Gallery in Penticton.

Contact Peter Hay or Dorthea Atwater, 250-494-8533

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