

## LE CALENDRIER CULTUREL

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Pavillon Samuel-Bronfman  
3000, rue Jean-Brillant, Salle 4068

## ACTIVITÉS POUR ENFANTS

*Initiation à l'Astronomie*  
Avec Marcel Ducharme  
Pour les enfants de 9 à 12 ans  
Observation d'étoiles au télescope  
et initiation au fonctionnement  
d'instruments d'optique.  
Le 2 mai à 14 h  
Bibliothèque de CDN

*Tournoi amical*  
Animé par Claude DeGagné  
Pour les enfants de 9 à 12 ans  
Jeu questionnaire de type  
« Génies en Herbes » sur le club de  
hockey Les Canadiens  
Le 9 mai à 14 h  
Bibliothèque de CDN

*L'homme de la remise Tenon Mortaise*  
Théâtre jeune public, 8 ans et +  
Le 3 mai à 15 h  
Maison de la culture NDG

## EXPOSITIONS

*L'Amérindien, vu et inventé*  
Sélection de livres anciens  
Jusqu'au 20 août  
Pavillon Samuel-Bronfman, 4e étage

*Collectif – Salut Lemoyne!*  
Sur l'artiste Serge Lemoyne  
Du 7 mai au 7 juin  
Maison de la culture CDN

*David Clark – 88 Constellations*  
*For Wittgenstein*  
Œuvre interactive d'art Web  
Du 7 mai au 7 juin  
Maison de la culture CDN

## MUSIQUE

*Chœur des jeunes*  
*de la Faculté de musique de l'UdeM*  
Le 3 mai à 15 h  
Maison de la culture CDN

*Nathalie Choquette –*  
*Diva world tour in Québec*  
Opéra famille  
Le 10 mai à 15 h  
Maison de la culture NDG

## CINÉMA

*Vaisseau Amiral*  
Documentaire sur l'édification du  
bâtiment du CÉGEP Gérald-Godin,  
à Ste-Geneviève, par les architectes  
Saucier et Perrotte  
Le 5 mai à 19 h 30  
Maison de la culture NDG

## Joe DiPietro on the universality of *Over the River and Through the Woods* Same family, different food

By Iuliana Petrescu

Playwright Joe DiPietro had a feeling of déjà-vu as he got on the set of his new play at the Segal Centre. The living room was a spitting image of his grandparents' house in New Jersey.

"I feel so at home here, it's eerie," he joked with the crowd who packed into the theatre for his Sunday at the Segal lecture, while scanning the wallpaper and the familiar armchair in the corner.

*Over the River and Through the Woods* is DiPietro's family play, the one he believes that every writer feels the need to share at some point. The story follows Nick Cristano, a young Italian-American who's been offered a dream job in Seattle, and his four colourful and loving grandparents who pull every trick to keep him in Hoboken.

The title comes from a Thanksgiving song from the 1840s that was inspired by the author's memories of visiting her grandfather's house as a child.

Growing up in Jersey with two sets of grandparents who were "loud and had a lot of opinions that they voiced often," DiPietro thought that Sunday dinner with the gramps was the norm for most people.

"When you're a kid you think your reality is everybody's reality. I thought that everybody knew their grandparents."

The play is about the generation gap between grandparents and grandkids – dressed with a lot of food and guilt.

DiPietro was inspired by the fact that the older generation always pushes the new one to accomplish more and be better, but in the end the two groups can't relate to one another anymore.

### The next one's about you...

Theatre-goers are always curious to know how much of the story is actually true. DiPietro acknowledged that it's about "a very fictionalized version of [himself] trying to do the right thing" – which is why he usually encourages



Nick Cristano surrounded by his colorful grandparents, who scheme to keep him from moving to the other end of the country.

directors to cast a really attractive Nick.

As for the grandparents, they're very true to life (after seeing the play, one of his cousins quipped: "That wasn't writing, that was typing.>").

His grandmother Ida (the inspiration for Aida in the play) was the nurturer who was always cooking up something. His grandfather was the silent type who worked on the railroad. The other set of grandparents lived a few streets away and were loud and just the total opposite, said DiPietro.

However little they actually understood him, they were fiercely supportive of their grandson's burgeoning writing career. DiPietro's musical comedy *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* ran Off-Broadway for an impressive 12 years until 2008 and toured the world, which gave him the confidence to keep writing.

"I'm glad you liked this one because the next one is going to be about you," he told his grandparents after they saw *I Love You*.

DiPietro knew that *Over the River and Through the Woods* would hit a chord with Italians and Jews, but he wondered if anyone else would get it. He was surprised when a Swedish woman came up to him crying after an early preview

of the play in New York and told him, "That is my family exactly, except with different food."

Director Steven Schipper was also convinced that DiPietro must have hid behind the couch at his house with a tape recorder.

"There is no other explanation for the accuracy, the word-for-word authenticity of what is on that stage," he wrote in the program booklet.

"Sure, my family was Jewish and he's writing about Italians, but you just have to change the pasta to matzah, and you'll see what I mean."

DiPietro credits the power of comedy to reveal certain truths about people and tap into our common human experience.

And yes, the grandparents saw the play. Ida, who is pushing 100, stood in the lobby after the show opened in New York and asked patrons if they liked it.

"It's about me!" she informed them.

*DiPietro's next project is the musical Memphis, co-written with Bon Jovi keyboardist David Bryan, which premieres on Broadway this fall. Over the River and Through the Woods ran for two years Off-Broadway in New York. On at the Segal Centre until May 10. Admission: (514) 790-1245*

## Portes ouvertes sur le design

Par Émilie Russo

Montréal invite le grand public à visiter gratuitement ses designers de talent les 2 et 3 mai prochain. Petits et grands pourront butiner à travers les 65 endroits choisis par le bureau Design Montréal pour cette troisième édition des portes ouvertes. Les ateliers, boutiques et galeries des concepteurs les plus inventifs de la métropole s'ouvriront aux curieux entre midi et 18 h.

Tous les participants se sont distingués lors des concours nationaux et internationaux dans plusieurs

domaines du design et de l'architecture. Ils exposeront leurs plus récentes réalisations par des visites guidées, des outils interactifs, des maquettes, des projections et de l'animation.

Cette année, les enfants pourront s'adonner à des activités ludiques et interactives dans une vingtaine d'endroits. Les parents peuvent se procurer un passeport, disponible sur le site [www.designmontreal.com](http://www.designmontreal.com), qui permettra à l'enfant de participer au concours *La grande expérience Design Jeunesse*.

La programmation des Portes ouvertes

Design Montréal est disponible sur le site Internet [www.designmontreal.com](http://www.designmontreal.com) ou dans les Maisons de la culture.

### Activité dans CDN

**MU : l'exposition des finissants 2009**  
1<sup>er</sup> et 2 mai prochain  
Faculté de l'aménagement  
Université de Montréal  
2940, chemin de la Côte-Sainte-Catherine  
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