



Effecting change with language art

by Sarah Ivens

That: Oratrix Productions' Write Off Tour"

Where: Solstice Café, 529 Pando-

When: April 21, doors at 7:30

m., show at 8 p.m.

How Much: \$5-\$8 (sliding scale)

Oratrix Productions, the all-girl, all-queer poets troupe, will be coming to Victoria on April 21 as a part of their "Write Off Tour."

Artists Ivan E. Coyote, Soul-Childe, Tara Hardy, Lane Stroud, Katinka Kraft and Amy Mahoney

will be joined by locals glenna and Lisa b.

They're coming with "a night of outrageous, fun, thought-provoking, hilarious, brilliant storytelling and high intensity, adrenaline-fueled verbal acrobatics," says Kraft.

The tour is "a collection of artists who might have been overlooked

by the mainstream. But by sharing our lives and work, we create an invaluable record of marginalized history. I believe stories unfold are a cemetery of lost wisdom."

"Words have given me a vehicle to navigate through the complexities of my identity as a German-American, queer, drag king,

femme, bilingual bi-dyke," says Kraft.

Hardy also believes in the power of words.

"Art will be at the centre of the next social movement in this country, and spoken word will be part of that upheaval," she says.

To the people who might not believe that spoken word is poetry, she points out that hybrid art forms often face obstacles in being recognized. "Look at jazz, rock, hip hop. Spoken word, specifically—owing a debt to, among other things, hip hop and punk rock—is a marriage of poetry, theatre, music and narrative."

People should expect to be inspired, entertained, enlightened, enthralled and pulled into connection with the artists. Mahoney says that this is what drives people to change. "You feel suddenly responsible, in the best kind of way, for creating and changing the world around you."

"We hope to encourage other people who are overlooked by traditional institutions to write about their lives, experiences, dreams and histories," says Kraft. "In short, our mission is to 'write and tell' and to encourage others to write and tell."

Stroud sees the potential power within words too. "I had childhood aspirations of effecting social change. I think I've always known it was what I was going to do with my life. Recently through spoken word, I learned how I was going to do that."

So come on out for a night of watching people wield language as a tool of change, and be prepared for a little change within yourself.

The Martlet
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