

# Chuck Berry and Little Richard tribute show comes to Bracebridge



CHARLIE RAY RICHARDS

The only Chuck Berry tribute artist in North America is set to perform a tribute concert at the Rene M. Caisse Memorial Theatre on Sunday, Sept. 20.

Charlie Ray Richards, along with his six-piece rock and roll band, is taking the theatre stage for a live Chuck Berry and Little Richard Las Vegas-style show that pays tribute to the two legendary musicians whose contributions pioneered rock and roll music.

The afternoon event titled, 'Reelin' and Rockin', 'Slippin' and Slidin,' will showcase the magnitude of the music of two great 50s rock and roll icons.

"I thought it was time that musicians honored Chuck Berry and Little Richard the same way we do Elvis," says Richards. "The music of these two legends is truly timeless and can get any room of people of any age up on their feet dancing."

When Richards first picked up his father's acoustic guitar

at 14 and learned Chuck Berry's Johnny B. Goode, he never imagined it would be the climax of a nightly act. Twenty years and 40 Chuck Berry songs later, Richards now realizes that music never got better than the way Chuck played it and has devoted himself to paying homage to the living legend with his own tribute act, Monkey Business.

Richards has studied the musical, vocal and theatrical stylings of Chuck and when he performs, every guitar lick, sequined shirt and duckwalk is authentic. He and his six-piece band have won the adoration of hundreds of Chuck Berry enthusiasts and Richards is quickly establishing himself as the only known Chuck Berry tribute artist in North America.

"I thought it was time that a tribute show honored Chuck the same way so many do for Elvis," says Richards. "The music of Chuck Berry is truly timeless and can get any

room of people of any age up on their feet dancing."

As Richards stuns unsuspecting audiences with his Chuck Berry show, an equally convincing Little Richard artist emerges.

He's able to capture not only the rock and roll piano playing of Little Richard but also imitates the extraordinary singing and screaming style of Little Richard with astounding accuracy.

Richards and his six-piece tribute band Tutti Fruitti perform all of Little Richard's best known material with renditions of the original recordings that leave the audience looking for the record player.

The upcoming show will also feature celebrity impressionist Houston MacPherson, whose one-man comedy routine amazes audiences worldwide.

MacPherson gives stunning impressions and voices of over 60 celebrities including Ed Sullivan, George Burns and

Jack Nicholson.

As a teenager growing up in Toronto, MacPherson was a star athlete. His mimicry and vocal impressions did not become a profession until later in his life.

After a high-level sales career, MacPherson decided to follow his heart and pursue his show business dream full time.

In just a few short years, he has established himself as one of the finest singing comic impressionists in the world.

His show is hilarious and brilliantly paced from start to finish.

The multi-talented entertainer has thrilled audiences all over North America and is now on the verge of a breakout career that leaves audiences wanting more and more.

The tribute concert will begin at the theatre at 2 p.m. on Sept. 20. Advance tickets are \$29 and are available by calling the Rene M. Caisse Memorial Theatre box office at 1-877-645-8440.

## New Tree Museum Exhibit opens this weekend in Gravenhurst

By Matthew Sittler

Several thought-provoking works by multimedia artists Dyan Marie and Ed Pien are the focus of a new exhibit opening this weekend at the Tree Museum, located at 1634 Doe Lake Road in Gravenhurst.

The Tree Museum is a sprawling, outdoor art gallery which showcases unique and challenging art installations amidst the grandeur of nature.

The new exhibition of site-specific installations is called In Between, and it runs from Sept. 6 to Oct. 30.

Visitors to In Between will discover how Marie and Pien have used the Muskoka landscape to explore spaces that lie between the physical, perceptual and imagined.

Tree Museum curator Anne O'Callaghan says their works are located throughout the property.

"(The exhibit) expresses that notion that we are in between two spaces, the urban and the rural, which is getting shorter and shorter," said O'Callaghan. "With Dyan's work, there are two parts to her exhibition. One is at the Tree Museum and the other part is in downtown Toronto, between Lansdowne and Bloor Street."

At the Tree Museum, Marie's work includes large signage that combines Muskoka images with ones from the city.

In Toronto, the same two image types are also used, but in a different way.

"She's made banners that are located all along Bloor Street," says O'Callaghan. "She spent some time up at the Tree Museum taking photographs of the rocks, clouds, the lake and ferns - all those things which are so much part of the Muskoka landscape. She also went along Bloor Street and took photographs of newly-arrived Canadians who

have stores located along the street. They brought Muskoka into their lives, showing them together, because not many people get a chance to be out of the city. It's sort of transforming the streets of Toronto and transforming the Tree Museum site."

Artist Ed Pien has taken a different approach in addressing the In Between motif.

Part of his new work incorporates reflective surfaces.

"When people are up north and see the lakes, people are often looking at the landscape reflection in the water rather than looking at the water," notes O'Callaghan. "Ed has put about 12 stainless steel disks up in the trees and they are very active because of the wind."

"What you are seeing when you look at them is the reflection of the landscape surrounding you. The sunlight catches them and you see the light's reflection on the ground. It's magical."

Pien explains more on the Tree Museum's website, [www.thetreemuseum.ca](http://www.thetreemuseum.ca).

"In my installations, I am interested in how the viewers embody and negotiate their way through a given space," says Pien. "The Tree Museum's natural environment offers an incredible opportunity to realize an installation that will allow me to complicate a give site using optical play."

Both Marie and Pien have several installations included in the exhibit beyond those which are described.

For those wanting to attend the exhibit's opening this weekend, it should be noted that a reception will be held Sunday beginning at noon.

Both artists will be in attendance and O'Callaghan says September is a wonderful time to visit the property.



IN BETWEEN: Multimedia artist Dyan Marie has erected large signage as part of her contribution to the new Tree Museum exhibit called In Between, which opens Sept. 6 and runs to Oct. 30. Both she and artist Ed Pien have used the Muskoka landscape to explore spaces that lie between the physical, perceptual and imagined. Photo by Matthew Sittler

## Ontario Playright Norm Foster's "My Narrator"

**Time:** 7 - 8:30 p.m.  
(Doors open at 6:30)

**Where:** Algonquin Theatre

**Date:** Friday, September 18

Tickets available at the box office or through Mitch Kays at (705) 952-1778.

**ADDITIONAL DATES:**

- September 25 - Gravenhurst Opera House
- October 16, 17 - Renee Caisse Theatre, Bracebridge
- October 30, 31 - Orillia Opera House
- November 7 - Community Theatre, Barrie



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