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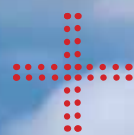
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"IT WAS THREE IN THE MORNING AND I WAS TOTALLY DONE BUT CHARLES WAS NOT, SO TO BE POLITE I CONTINUED SHOOTING. THE TRIP WAS A 'BIG RAIL TRIP' IN THE NORTH OF QUEBEC, WHERE THE RIDERS JUST LOOKED TO HIT BIG RAILS (70+ STAIRS) THE CANADIAN WAY (NO KICKER). THIS ONE WAS ACTUALLY NOT THAT BIG, BUT TECHNICAL - A LITTLE DOWN THEN A VERY LONG FLAT FOLLOWED BY A STEEP DOWN SECTION. THE IN-RUN WAS FROM A FLAT PARKING LOT, SO THEY TOOK TURNS USING A CAR TO PUSH EACH OTHER INTO THE RAIL.
- DOM DAHER

WAVEFLEX ON FIRE_

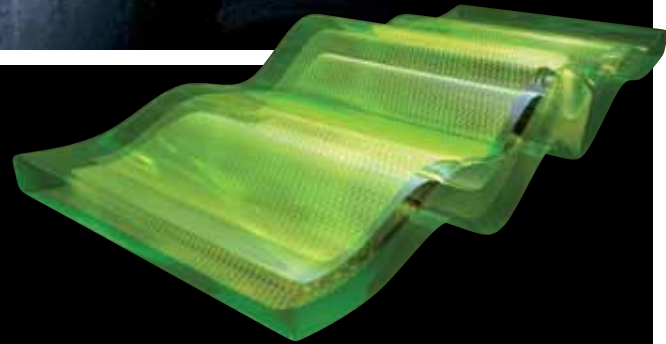


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On the cover: Amanda Scheller competing in last season's inaugural If Ullr Was A Girl competition. The wildly irreverent contest is back this season with a \$25,000 purse. Details are in SnoLife, page 11. Photo: RANDYLINCKS.COM
This page: Photographer David McCole captures '07 Festival frenzy.



TWSSF — APRIL 2008

08 EDITORIAL

Anything can happen at this festival. And as editor and dedicated Fest watcher Lori Knowles can tell you... it usually does.

11 SNOLIFE

Wha's happenin' at the Fest, near the Fest, or as a result of the Fest.

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Art is one of the things that distinguishes this festival from other beer-swilling, reggae-blaring winterfests. Lori Knowles interviews art honcho Darrin Polischuk about bringing art to snowboards and bringing artful snowboards to the Festival.

22 SOUND TRACKS

She may not be sick, but she has a strange mind. Lisa Richardson says, "To really capische this week, close your eyes and listen." Among the sounds Lisa hears? Heavy breathing. Thumping. Howling. *Howling?*

24 LET THE GAMES BEGIN

With the Olympics looming, competition at this year's TWSSF suddenly has a lot of added heat. G.D. Maxwell takes us as far away as Japan and Australia-Fair to see who's cookin'.

26 ORAGE MASTERS

It's the un-competition competition, and Eve Boissonnault is on it like white on snow. Like gold on medal. Like black on diamond. Maybe she's hoping to glom onto that free surf trip to Costa Rica.

28 IS PAIN REALLY A SPORT?

Peter Kray goes backcountry. And wishes he hadn't. Remember the line, "Because it feels so good when it stops?" Peter should have remembered that before he started.

30 CUT IT OUT!

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Look up, waaaay up and you'll see our testers testing '09 skis this week on Whistler's Peak. Now look down to page 32 for a sneak peek at what's on their feet.

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The Borg changed the way we watched the Pro Photographers' Showdown and the 72-Hour Filmmaker Showdown. Now, Son of Borg will change the way we hear them. As G.D. Maxwell says, "Resistance is futile. Lower your shields and surrender your ships."

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What makes this snowfest different? Well, the spoken word for sure. Jules Older looks at two events, Words & Stories and Chairlift Revue. It was at the Revue that he met his Waterlue.

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**ALSO
INSIDE**
TWSSF SCHEDULE
Don't miss a thing — keep this page close to your heart the entire time you're at the festival.
PAGE 41

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*Mike Hopkins
Pro Athlete*

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EDITORIAL



Don't Change this Channel...
ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN

The TELUS World Ski & Snowboard Festival has a way of leaving lasting impressions: Fergie's heli-drop onto Whistler's mainstage with no skis but one hell of a set of ski legs. Cameron Diaz's Hollywood smile when a festival punter desperately fell from a Whistler barstool to hook her attention. Her big laugh and *There's Something About Mary* reply: "Nice try, buddy." TWSSF-bound American Glen Plake's forced about-face at the US/Canuck border when ancient transgressions came back to kick him in the butt. As if every Whistlerite — or every chaste Canadian — is Mister Clean. Insert Diaz laughtrack here.

The lingerie girls and guys who made such a huge and lasting impression at last year's festival fashion show — especially those with undies painted-on. And then there are those athletes and their moves no one's ever seen — or attempted — before. The ka-ching and the bling they score for busting out of the pack means we lazy-ass watchers won't be let down. I can't tell you what the lasting memory from this year's fest will be. I *can* tell you that this season TWSSF is in its lucky 13th year... so who knows? *Anything* can happen. And trust me, it will.

Lori Knowles

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After many days helping my dad out on the job site, I've learnt how to make my way around his shop. But he's also shown me that when it's time to get it done, you give it until the job is finished. When I go out for a day on the mountain, it's that drive that helps me to attain my goals. It was fun being able to bring the skills my dad taught me into the Helly job feature.

Adam





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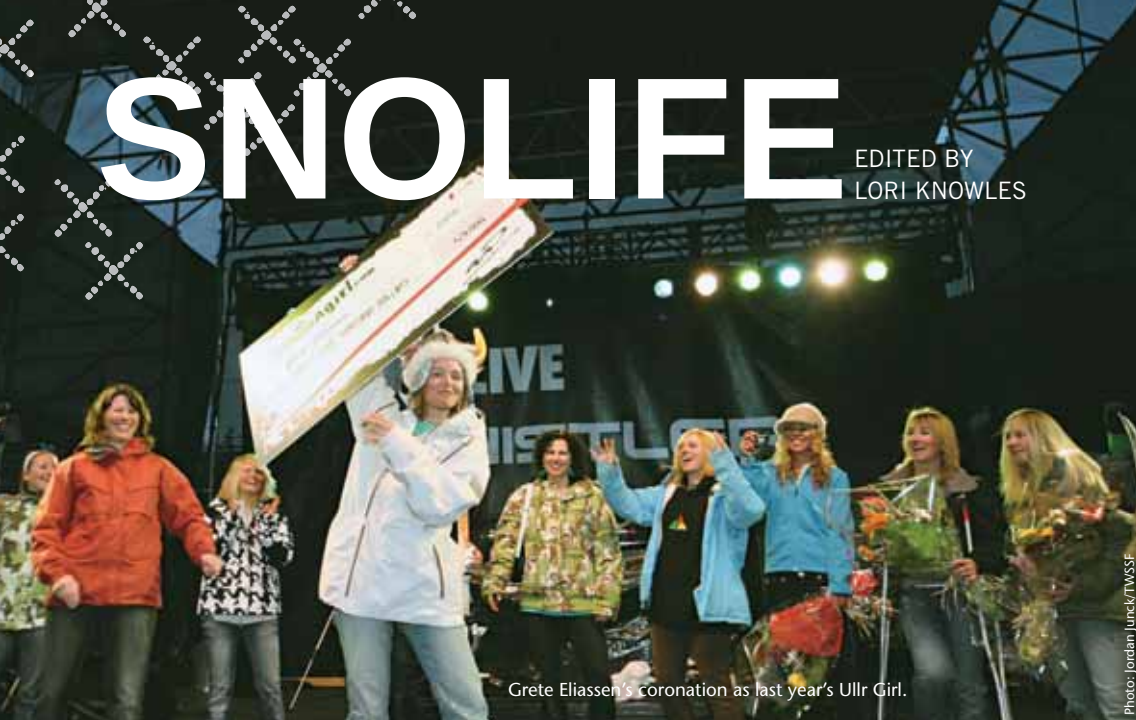
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SNOLIFE

EDITED BY
LORI KNOWLES



Grete Eliassen's coronation as last year's Ullr Girl.

Photo: Jordan Lunck/TWSSF

What Do You MEAN IF?

The Festival's *If Ullr Was a Girl* contest is back for its second year. As with all things female, there have been a few — just a few! — changes. But let's start with what's the same.

Ullr Girl is still a women-only competition, combining a slopestyle event, a big-mountain event, a Superpipe event and *Ullr Unleashed* — a showcase of arts and culture. It's still all about finding the ultimate mountain woman: worthy of dethroning the god of snow and seizing the crown herself. And Whistler is once again backing the event with another \$25,000-prize purse dedicated to female rippers.

As before, women had two weeks to join the Ullr Girl online community (ifullrwasagirl.com) by posting their profiles alongside mountain-gals

from across North America. From that, four wildcard athletes were chosen and will join up to 12 invited ski and snowboard pros to contend for the crown April 13-15.

What's different: This season the '07 Idol-esque online voting was nixed... sorry, Simon. Instead, the four wildcard athletes were selected, based on their demonstrated passion for mountain life, by a panel of judges. Says judge Michelle Leroux, "We wanted to see creativity, enthusiasm and proof that these girls rip and deserve to compete for \$25,000."

Skier Grete Eliassen took the Ullr Girl crown last year and donated her entire prize to charity. FoMoInfo: ifullrwasagirl.com



Sarah Burke won gold in Ski Superpipe Finals at January's Winter X Games.

Photo: Eric Lars Bakke/Shazamm/ESPN Images

BURKE IS BACK

Fresh from her skiing superpipe super win at '08's Winter X Games in Aspen, Canadian girl Sarah Burke is back home in Whistler for the Fest.

skipressworld.com

I WANT MY MTVEEEEEEEEEE!



The crowd awaits the arrival of the Big Air rockods, all the while chanting, "I Want My... I Want My... MTVeeeeeeeeee!"

Photo: Jordan Lunck/TWSSF

Serenaded for being the Acropolis of the gods of cool by Dire Straits in the 1980s, MTV has remained the key propaganda promoters for successive waves of the Next Generation. And nothing snap crackles and pops with culture and catchy guitar riffs quite like TWSSF, which explains why MTV would dub it the jewel in their crown, the snowscaped version of a Daytona Beach Spring Break hoedown... and their primo new event partner in Canada. This year, MTV broadcasts live from Whistler, shooting several special episodes spotlighting the gods, rock stars and pop-heroes of the snowsports world, and hooking up some lucky popsters during the Festival with a tricked-out stay in a Whistler chalet and a private concert with The Trews. Contest details are at mtv.ca. — LISA RICHARDSON

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SNOLIFE

And Now For Something "A LITTLE DIFFERENT"

April 11 marks the world premiere of mountain-bike feature film *Seasons*.

The flick focuses on seven of the world's top mountain bikers: Darren Berrecloth, Matt Hunter, Cam McCaul, Steve Peat, Andrew Shandro, Steve Smith and Thomas Vanderham. It traces their rides through four seasons of one year, with footage from slopestyle competitions to World Cup downhill races to epic backcountry freerides.

"The film has been a ton of work for everyone involved," says filmmaker Jamie Houssian of The Collective. "So it's nice to finally see it come together in the studio. It's a new type of film for the action-sports genre. We're stoked to show people something a little different."

FoMoInfo: thecollectivefilm.com

NO TICKETS REQUIRED

Over a decade ago, it was decreed that no action should go unsoundtracked at TWSSF, a decree that effectively turned the Fest into the biggest free outdoor concert series in North America.

This year the noise continues, with reggae, rock, hip-hop and indie-funk pounding out their summons at the Outdoor Concert stage at the base of Whistler Mountain daily April 11–20. Showtime: 3 p.m.

Big news this year is the presence of Michael Franti and Spearhead, who will offer their special brand of "thinking man's hip-hop" in Whistler, their only West Coast gig south of Anchorage, on Sunday April 20.

Franti's newest album *Yell Fire!* offers his most uplifting set of songs to date, inspired by a trip

to war-ravaged Iraq, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Explains Franti, "The thing that I found when I was in war zones was that nobody wants to hear songs about war. They want to hear songs about connection to people, and songs about love and life, songs that make them dance."

Says Festival Director Sue Eckersely, "Franti has the perfect energy to wind up the Festival — it's guaranteed to go out on a high note."

Also on the music tap: *Rolling Stone* cover-boy and organic roots-rocker, the John Butler Trio, and Canada's own, The Trews, from... where else? Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

No tickets required... not for *none* of it.

FoMoInfo: whistler2008.com



Spearhead at last year's fest.



The Trews



Last year's Filmmaker Showdown winners

THE FASTEST FILMMAKERS IN THE WEST

The 72 Hour Filmmaker Showdown challenges artists to shoot, edit and produce a three-to-five-minute digital film set within a 100 km radius of Whistler in the space of 72 hours.

Says Lilli Clark, the event's producer: "The 72 Hour Filmmaker Showdown provides filmmakers with a focus that has resulted in some incredible films over the years. Whistler from April 11 will be thrumming with more than 70 creative teams racing to beat the clock, and the sense of exhilaration once they've accomplished that at the Gala Screening is palpable."

On April 15, more than 2000 people will watch the 2008 72 Hour Filmmaker Showdown finalists. The winner of the 2007 Best in Show award will pick up \$15,000 in prizes including a \$2,000 cash purse. The Gala Screening will be followed for the first time by the Filmmakers Second Cuts screening, on April 16, which will present all the films submitted to the contest.

Also new this year: A March 12 Celluloid Social Club Screening featuring a selection of the 72 Hour Filmmaker Showdown finalists. It'll take place at 8 p.m. at Vancouver's ANZA Club. Each film will be followed by a short interview with the filmmaker by the host, followed by an audience Q&A. Entry is \$5.

FoMoInfo: whistler.mtv.ca/arts_filmmaker.php



ROSSI'S SINS

Lust. Lust is good. Gluttony. Gluttony rocks. Pride, greed, rage, envy: worthy. Oh, and sloth. Sloth is righteous, too. All seven sins are celebrated in Rossignol's limited edition twintip series. The artists of sin include Steve Caballero, Will Barras and Squindo. Squindo sounds like it just might be the eighth sin.

— JULES OLDER



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SNOLIFE



Photos: Robin O'Neill / Tourism Whistler

EAT IT

Whistler hosts two major events: the Whistler World Ski & Snowboard Festival every April and the Winter Olympics in 2010. At both, “You gotta eat a breakfast, Marge.” Here’s how to find your way to sustenance...

Start your first day with breakfast and java at **Behind the Grind**, a tiny café that’s a locals’ fuel stop and java jolt.

On Whistler, lunch at the **Roundhouse Lodge** above the gondola. Quick pizza? Fresh salad? Fancy seafood? All of the above.

Tonight, dine at one of the iconic **Sushi Village**. The sushi’s as good as Tokyo, and the sake margaritas are better.

Then, end the night at **Dubh Linn Gate** in the Pan Pacific Hotel. Between the Guinness stout and live music, well, no one’s ever had a bad time in an Irish pub.

Plan B, for Guinness haters, is the full monty at the **Vida Wellness Spa** at the Fairmont Chateau

Whistler. Besides Swedish and Shiatsu, Vida offers Ayurvedic treatments based in ancient healing techniques of India. Multicultural pleasure.

OK, you’ve survived Day One. Here’s Day Two. Have the Big Breakfast at the **Wildwood Café**. Order Eggs Benedict *and* banana bread French toast.

Ski hard all morning, then drop down to the Village for lunch at **Elements** in the Summit Lodge. Elements calls itself as an “urban tapas parlour.” It serves fresh Pacific seafood, and for dessert, apple cheesecake with butter-scotch sauce.

For dinner, a change of pace. Head south to **Dusty’s** and the best ribs in the province. Then, it’s a quiet drink at the **Mallard Lounge** back at the Chateau. Or, rave your eardrums out in half the clubs in the Village.

There’s your map. From Day Three forward, you’re on your own, Marge. — JO

SNOWSHOES VS. SKIS ON THE UP-AND-UP



Photo: Stano Fabian/WBFJ

They call it the toughest sprint race in Canada.

Closing the Fest on April 20 is the North Face Canadian Ski Mountaineering Championships — a 6.3-km ascent from the base of Whistler to the Roundhouse. Last year the fastest time was 1:03:30 — just over an hour’s run up nearly 4,000 vertical feet.

This year there’s an extra tough twist: Racers on skis will be pitted against racers on snowshoes. The event will go down — make that *up* — as the greatest vertical snowshoe race in Canada.

It’s all part of the Diamir World Backcountry Freeride Jam (WBFJ), a totally fee-free and all-inclusive collection of backcountry events to encourage more people to try big-mountain, off-piste skiing. The Jam includes free product demos and skills clinics, plus The North Face Spearhead Passage 26km race and The North Face Whistler Dash (10km), both on April 19.

Read all about the trials and tribs, agonies and ecstasies of skiing uphill in Peter Kray’s *Is Pain Really a Sport?* on p.28 FoMoInfo: wbfj.ca



Photo: Randy Lincks / Tourism Whistler

THEY CALL IT SERIAL PULP FICTION



Christina Nick’s Chapter 3 illustration for the Serial Pulp Fiction project

Photo: Christina Nick

Whistlerites said they wanted 2010 to be a chance to tell their stories to the world.

It might not be exactly what they had in mind, but this winter, Whistler’s *Pique* news-magazine partnered with The Vicious Circle writers’ group and TWSSF to collaborate on telling one seriously juicy tale in the form of a serial-scandal-filled novel.

The first chapter, written by Cindy Filipenko, appeared in the *Pique* in January. It launched the story with the murder of an ambitious property developer and the mysterious disappearance of Whistler’s most successful Realtor.

Nine chapters followed, scribed by writers who stepped up for the challenge. Once assigned a chapter, the writers had 72 hours to write their 1000-word contribution.

This Serial Pulp Fiction is the third generation collective work penned in Whistler, following the 2005 and 2006 Collective Novel experiments, which were written on-site, marathon-style, in gondolas and king-sized bedroom suites of past festivals.

All participating writers and illustrators will receive a special limited-edition copy of the complete work. The rest of us can see it displayed at the festival’s BRAVE Art exhibition, April 11-20.



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Photo: Etienne Bonneau-Mareil



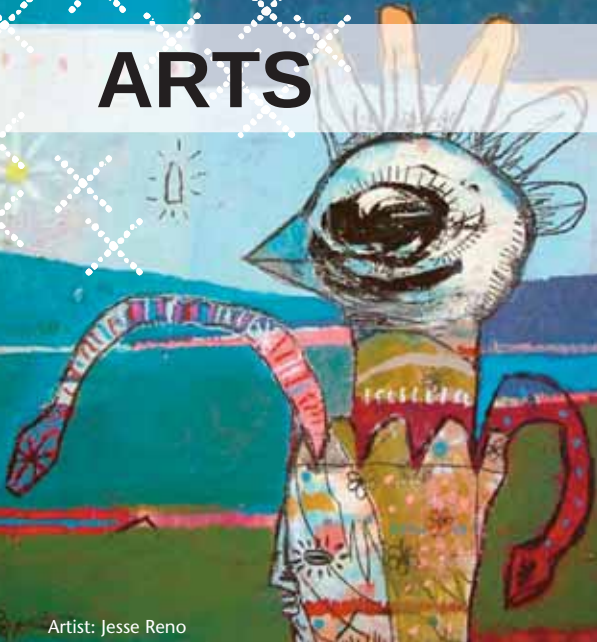
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Artist: Jesse Reno

Photos: Courtesy of TWSSF



Artist: Camilla d'Errico

BRAVE ART
is on display April 11-20,
2008 at the Whistler
Conference Centre, and
May 9-June 8 at the El Cartel
and Ayden galleries
in Vancouver. FoMoInfo:
braveartshow.com

OFF THE STREET

A CANDID INTERVIEW WITH DARRIN POLISCHUK,
CO-DIRECTOR OF THIS YEAR'S BRAVE ART — BY LORI KNOWLES



Artist: The Dark

Snowboard topsheet art
on display at Brave Art '07

Skiing woke up and realized
that the snowboard industry was
creating better looking products...



Russ Pope painting live in 2007.

Photo: Jordan Junek

SP: What is BRAVE Art?

With BRAVE Art we're striving to connect people with art. In Whistler we do it away from intimidating gallery spaces and the world's great art cities.

SP: What else makes it different?

We pay attention to the atmosphere. We throw in some great lighting, ambience, a few cocktails and DJ sets. On our opening nights and locals' night we have artists painting live. It's a chance to see work being created. It gives the audience opportunity to talk to the artists and experience the vitality, energy and atmosphere that surround the creative experience.

SP: Who are your artists?

They come from divergent backgrounds — from street-based graffiti to skate and snowboard graphics, cartoonists, young artists, old artists, male, female...

SP: Tell us a bit about whom you've selected.

The BRAVE Art shows in Whistler and Vancouver are lining up nicely. We are working on some nice surprises from NYC... let's just say they are the top names in this genre. But we are really excited about our confirmation of Lady Pink. Traditional street art is male dominated, but Lady Pink is a female graffiti legend. If we can get her excited about snowboard lessons, she may fly up for some live painting.

SP: And others?

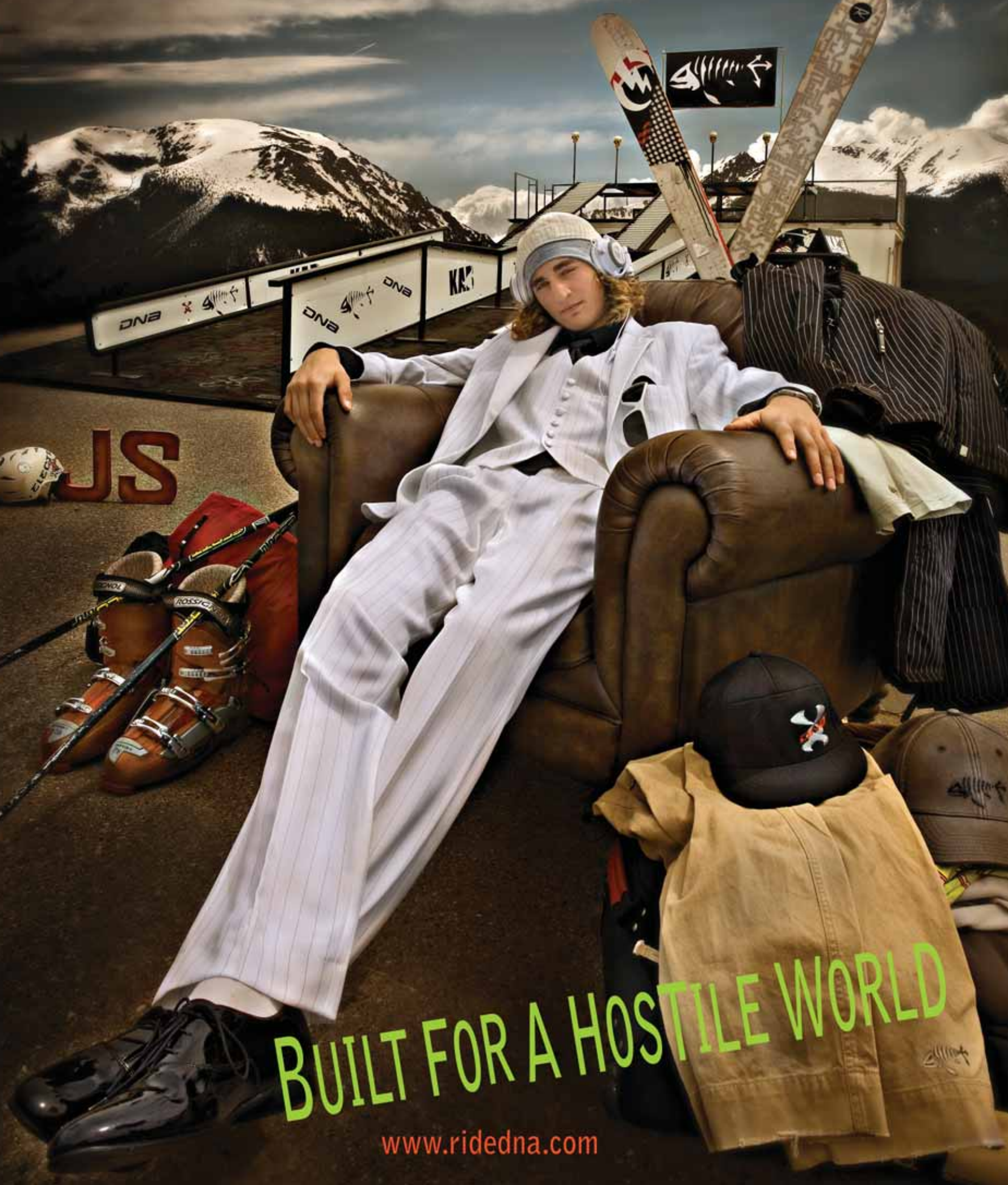
Whistler's Australians will be frothing over the work of Demote... he is one of their top street artists. And some well-established artists who three years ago were just starting out are now in high demand. Artists like The Dark from Vancouver does these dramatic stencils and classic images and portraits. Crazy Jesse Reno from Portland is getting tons of hype. He'll be painting live — he puts on a great show. According to art critics, a Jesse Reno original one day may buy you a down payment on a house. And we're also excited about working with Camilla d'Errico, another artist emerging with great style and a loyal following.

SP: How do you choose who's going to show?

Wow, that's a tough one. There are always more artists who want to be part of BRAVE Art than we can accommodate. What we're looking for in an artist varies because we bring in a mix of well-established rock stars and emerging talent, plus some locals. In the end we do our best to represent different styles, tastes and budgets.

SP: The selection process is important... how controversial is it?

Yes, we argue over some artists' involvement. But this is the essence of what we do...really it is the biggest job we have. The Internet has made selection easier — potential participants represent themselves online. But we also visit as many shows as possible and keep an eye out for artists on the move.



JS

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Snow doesn't begin to slow Sam Roberts.



DJ Experience

Photo: TWSSF

SOUND TRACK THE BUMP & GRIND

After Hours the Buzz Continues

— BY LISA RICHARDSON

When the lights in Whistler go down, nightwatchers and Roswell-disciples turn their eyes to the mountains where the blinking lights of the grooming fleet suggest a UFO takeover is imminent. The latest X-file-styled midnight sightings at the resort, denied by all official bodies, feature a new creature of the dark slopes — night-goggle-clad security forces reputed to be in training for 2010.

But what the Secret Service skiers don't realize is that when the fireworks from the Big Air light up the night sky on April 12, those high-tech goggles will leave them blinded and wandering the Village, solely dependent on their sense of... hearing. Luckily for them, the TELUS World Ski and Snowboard Festival's goal that no action go un-soundtracked means an aural tour is the best way to get oriented...



Finger Eleven

Photo: David McColm

Photo: David McColm



For a good seat, come early.
Oh. No seats.



Toots and the Maytals

Photos: TWSSF

Thumping. Sporadic but low-decibel thumps indicate a 6 a.m. start will be mandatory. Fresh powder is ushered in by the deep arhythmic bassline of avalanche-control bombs. Repetitive multilayered thumping, however, suggests you've moved into the **DJ Experience** zone, an all-hours after-burner that promises that Saturday 19 April will not end when the sun goes down... but when it comes up again.

Heavy breathing. The sound of a sharp intake of breath followed by a vocal exhalation that is half-sigh puts you amongst the 15,000-strong crowd at the big-awe of **Big Air**. Combined with the heartbeat pounding of drums and pyro going off, and an aural backdrop of wailing vocals, this is the sound of a climax.

Rocking. Complex vibrations, melding drumbeats, guitar riffs and the anthems of reggae, rock, hiphop and indie-funk turn the mountains into a natural amphitheatre every day, when the likes of the John Butler Trio, Michael Franti & Spearhead, The Trews, Julian Marley, Ill Scarlett, and Daniel Wesley pound out the **Outdoor Concert series'** daily 3 p.m. summons.

But neither the sounds nor the talent go gently into the good night once dark falls. The **Kokanee Freeride Series** keeps the soundtrack pumping, spread throughout Whistler's epic night spots, where the tunes meld with the clink of glasses and the non-stop buzz of club life conversations and late-night bump'n'grinding.

Howling. You're either moon-struck or singing along with the fat lady. Our own correspondent, GD Maxwell, either in drag, or wearing an inukshuk costume, has the honour of declaring post-**Chairlift Revue**, circa 11 p.m., Sunday 20, that the 13th annual TELUS World Ski & Snowboard Festival is now officially over.

Until next year.

The Festival's goal:
No action goes
un-soundtracked.



Prevail prevail. So far.

COMPETITION



Photo: Courtesy of TWSSF



Photos: David McCann

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

CAN SPORT AND CULTURE THRIVE SIDE-BY-SIDE? MAX FIGURES THEY DO EVERY APRIL IN WHISTLER, BUT WHAT'S HE KNOW?

— BY G.D. MAXWELL

Lest we forget, the Telus World Ski and Snowboard Festival started life as the World Technical Skiing Championships, lo those many years ago. And while you're unlikely to see any Bigfoot competitions during the 13th edition of Whistler's unique Mountain Kulture extravaganza, if you pay close attention, you just might notice a flurry of new excitement in this year's athletic competitions.

"We've got a renewed commitment to the athletic events this year," said Sue Eckersley, Festival organizer and Whistler's favourite party-thrower. "While we've become A-Club for film, music, photography and the arts, we want to make sure the alpine events retain their prominence."

And with the Olympics looming two years hence, certain events have taken on a new importance as preview tests for gold-tinged hopes.

In fact, some countries — notably Japan and Australia — have been holding competitions to

select athletes to sponsor as Festival competitors. Aussie surfer-turned-snowboarder phenom, 17-year-old Nathan Johnstone, earned the right to represent the blokes from Down Unda at this year's Superpipe competition when he took top prize at the Australian Snowboard Open at Perisher Blue earlier this year. He'll be leading a contingent of hyped-up countrymen to Whistler.

Japan has been holding a series of qualifiers around the country and in Korea, with winners meeting for a head-to-head competition — the Canada Cup Big Air — in late March. The biggest airhead from that competition will carry the honour of Japan to Whistler for the Big Air competition scheduled to kickoff the Festival on April 12.

The biggest news on the competition front, though, is the Whistler debut of the Orage

Masters. Having earned the rebellious label 'anti-comp,' the Masters pits eight teams of four skiers against each other in a bizarre marriage of slope-style jibfest and Mardi Gras costume party.

The teams, sponsored by the biggest names in skiing, will duke it out head-to-head in one of the most spectator-friendly, on-hill competitions in all skidom — see Eve Boissonnault's piece on page 26 for lurid detail.

If it seems like the high-profile comps are front-loaded — the Orage Masters takes place April 12, same day as the crowd-pleasing Big Air finals later in the evening — the entire following week will showcase training, qualifiers and semi-finals leading up to the high-flying Superpipe Finals and Superhit Big Air on April 19th.

"Our roots are in competition," Sue Eckersley assures. "You will be impressed with what you see this year."

NOW IMPORTED



Available at these Whistler locations:

- Moe Joes • Garfinkel's • Savage Beagle
- Caramba Restaurante • Kypriaki Norte
- The Mountain Club • La Rua Restaurante
- Araxi Restaurant & Bar • Una Mas
- Seven Restaurant • Whistler Brewhouse
- Blackcomb Liquor Store • Citta Grill
- Hoz's Beer and Wine Store • Ric's Grill
- Fitzsimmons Pub



CANADA
ALPINE SKI ALPIN

Carlsberg
OFFICIAL BEER

UN-COMPETITION



Photos: Courtesy of Orage

Last year's Masters winners:
Team Atomic.



Orage Masters action
at Mammoth 2007.

New at the Festival **ORAGE MASTERS:** MOVING ON UP (NORTH)

— BY EVE BOISSONNAULT

It's freeskiing's
spring celebration
of choice.

After having been nurtured for four years under the warm California sun on Mammoth Mountain, the Orage Masters are now all grown up and ready to join the big league at TWSSF. This year's "jib those twintips" competition is going to bring young and established talents together in the tried, tested and twisted Orage Masters format.

Where did the TWSSF Stompede go? What happened to the competition that turned freeskier Virginie Fabvre and snowboarder Matt Dano into champions? Well, it's gone.

With the relocation of the slope-styled Orage Masters to the Festival for skiers, organizers decided to re-allocate resources to ensuring that prize money was commensurate with the level of talent that was participating. "The festival is continually evolving," said Lisa Richardson, *grand manitou* of communication at the Festival. "We keep our ears to the ground, and the rumblings we heard from the athletes were that they wanted more prize money and bigger parties. So that's what the Festival will deliver."

It shouldn't have been surprising that the Orage Masters were taking over the event. Since 2003, when they gave away snowmobiles and huge plasma-screen TVs, they've been over the top in the same way the Festival is.

But the most progressive aspect of the event is the format itself. The Orage Masters competition had a real *Lords of Dogtown* feeling to it from the get-go. It was the first non-competition competition in the sport. It's a friendly way to come together and

show off creative tricks at the end a long winter. It's freeskiing's spring celebration of choice.

So this year the event is movin' on up to Whistler. And it's only fair that it gets to be TWSSF-scaled. And that's why the special park course will be design by Peter (YP) Young, with the help of superstar TJ Schiller. In its cherished tradition, the Orage Masters will still give away surf trips to Costa Rica and snowmobiles to winners — not to mention the *blason de la gloire*, a specially made Orage jacket that the winning team will show off at the Very VIP after-party.

This year, eight teams have been invited to participate: Salomon, Rossignol, Forefront, Armada, Dynastar, Volkl, K2 and Atomic.

"Partnering with Orage to bring the Orage Masters as part of the Festival was a perfect opportunity to keep on the cutting edge of the freeskiing progression," Richardson said. "The Orage Masters is such a great fit for the Festival — with it's anti-competition team spin, and the emphasis on collaboration and creativity, we think it caps the athletes' season off perfectly and provides a great and accessible on-hill event for spectators to enjoy." Enough said. We're there.



The Festival's 2007
Stompede at Whistler.

Photo: Etienne Bonneau-Marcil



**TELUS
WORLD**
SKI & SNOWBOARD
FESTIVAL
APRIL 11 - 20 2008



WHISTLER, B.C / APRIL 12, 2008
oragemasters.com

SKIING UPHILL

IS PAIN REALLY A SPORT?



Photos: Stano Fabian/WBF

WELL, IS PAIN A SPORT? FOR REASONS HE STILL CAN'T QUITE FATHOM, PETE DECIDED TO FIND OUT. — BY PETER KRAY

I'm trying to think off all the things I like about racing uphill in a randonnee rally, and absolutely nothing comes to mind.

It's cold, and I'm sweating like a pig. There's powder galore, and instead of levitating down through its gossamer weave, I'm inching up a steep slope at the speed of Sisyphus — Sisyphus in steel boots.

I can't believe they actually call this a sport.

"It'll be fun," said a 'friend' who will, from this point on, be called Snowdomasochismo. "They're actually looking at including it in the Olympics."

"It," is ski mountaineering, or a randonnee rally, where lots of large-lunged Yeti people race each other up and down, up and down, up and down three to four peaks in a single-day's mountaineering marathon of brute strength. "They" are the International Olympic Committee, who like to reward the top survivors of such suffer-fests with shiny medallions. And yes, "they" are considering including ski mountaineering as a discipline, perhaps as early as the Winter Games in Sochi in 2014.

Much like cycling or soccer, the heart of ski mountaineering beats strongest in Europe. But fueled by a backcountry boom and a new wave of alpine athletes in North America, it has caught

on big in recent years, and Whistler is one of its hottest stops. The North Face Canadian Ski Mountaineering Championships will be held here on Saturday, April 19th, including the 26km Spearhead Passage and the 1200-metre Whistler WindUp speed ascent, where a new technical climbing section should bring a smile to the sweat-drenched faces of Snowdomasochismo and his pals in pain.

"We wanted to spice up the course this year to make it even more interesting for the serious competitors," said Scott Flavelle, course director. "A route straight up the Exhilaration Couloir could be perfect."

That's right, Scott, perfect for mountain goats. For the rest of us, the 10km North Face Whistler Dash provides a more manageable ass kicking without the need for avalanche rescue gear. Or you can just ride the lifts and test the gear at the Diamir World Backcountry Freeride Jam all week on top of Whistler Mountain — and let gravity do all the work.

Which reminds me of the one thing I do like about this new 'sport'. After all the young guns with big lungs, backcountry old-timers on skinny skis, and even lift-serve skiers in alpine boots



That's right,
Scott, perfect for
mountain goats.

came striding by me like I was in the breakdown lane with blinking hazard lights, I finally stood on the last peak, looked at the long slope beneath me, and muttered, "Climbing is pretty sweet. Once it stops."

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Photo: Klaus Polzer

WHAT A CHALLENGE! AFTER A TORN ACL I WORKED HARD TO CATCH UP WITH MY RIDING LEVEL. THIS INVERTED CORK 3 FINALLY LAUNCHED OFF MY WINTER!

T. To...
TOBIAS REHRL



YODAI

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KEEP CONTROL!

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FASHION

CUT IT OUT!

Hot on the runway at Whistler is next season's FABulous street and skiwear. Play with your '09 look. Better yet, eyeball these items — and more — at Fashion Exposed, Friday, April 18.



Quiksilver
goggles



Peak Performance
Men's Norris hood

Peak Performance
Men's Retallack jacket



686
Men's Levis 3Ply jacket



DC
Men's Rodan pant



Salomon
Men's Gangsta jacket



Helly Hansen
Men's Atlas jacket



Peak Performance
Siberia hat



DC
Women's
Swiss beanie



Helly Hansen
Women's
Silver jacket & pant

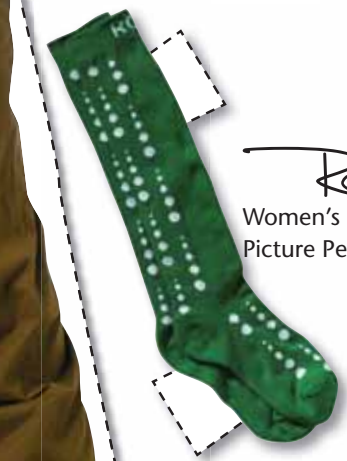
FASHION
EXPOSED
APRIL 18



Salomon
Women's Maitai jacket



DC
Women's
Massplaid zip hoodie



Roxy
Women's
Picture Perfect sock



686
Women's
Acc Caliber Army Plaid
jacket

Roxy
Women's Rosette pants

SKI TEST PREVIEW

SKI PRESS
SKI TEST
APRIL 15-16



VÖKL



ROSSIGNOL



SALOMON

And do we get a word of thanks? Oh, yes, while you're playing the butterfly, flitting all over the mountains and the town, we're those busy little bees, toiling, toiling, toiling away on Whistler Peak. Without a word of appreciation.

Yes, that's us — as if you really care — labouring, labouring, diligently testing next year's skis.

Stop snickering. It *is* work, and we're doing it for *you*!

If you don't believe it, check out the first issue of next season's *Ski Press* or log on skipressworld.com, and read the world's biggest and world's best ski test.

If you want a sneak peek, just look at the rest of this page.

THE THINGS WE DO FOR YOU

FREESTYLE

02



Blizzard

03



Dynastar

11



Rossignol

15



Zag

FAT TWIN

N°	BRAND	NAME	LENGTH TESTED	DIMENSIONS	RADIUS	PRICE
01	ATOMIC	PIMP	192	128-103-120	32	\$800
02	BLIZZARD	THE ANSWER IQ	185	130-105-120	30	\$1449 w/IQ 5.14 TT 110
03	DYNASTAR	BIG TROUBLE	186	124-92-114	23	\$896
04	ELAN	POGO STICKS	185	124-92-114	22.9	\$975 w/ELX 14.0 WB
05	FISCHER	MISFIT	186	129-96-119	22	\$825
06	HEAD	MOJO 94	187	132-94-119 (180)	19.5 (180)	\$1295 US w/Mojo 15
07	K2	KUNG FUJAS	179	126-95-120	20	\$650
09	MOVEMENT	BAGGY	188	132-102-122	21	\$750
10	NORDICA	ZERO	184	130-104-130	23	\$1179 w/N PRO 25 WB
11	ROSSIGNOL	S5 BARRAS	185	128-98-121	21.3	\$840
12	SALOMON	CZAR	182	128-108-118	44.7	\$899
13	SCOTT	PUNISHER	182	128-89-115	16	\$750 US
14	VÖLKL	BRIDGE	185	130-92-112	22	\$650
15	ZAG	SLAP MW	185	138-110-136	21	\$950

08



09



MIDFAT

Movement

N°	BRAND	NAME	LENGTH TESTED	DIMENSIONS	RADIUS	PRICE
01	ATOMIC	NOMAD CRIMSON TI	183	129-86-115	19	\$1300 w/XTO 614
02	BLIZZARD	TITAN CRONUS	187	125-88-111	19 (180)	\$1179 w/IQ B 4.12 TT
03	DYNASTAR	LEGEND MYTHIC RYDER	184	122-88-110	21	\$896
04	ELAN	888 ALU	186	128-88-108	23.1	\$1100 w/ELX 14.0 WB
05	FISCHER	WATEA 84	176	126-84-112	18	\$825
06	HEAD	MONSTER 82	183	122-82-108 (172)	17.7 (172)	\$1150 w/Mojo 12
07	K2	APACHE XPLOER	184	128-84-112	19	\$1100 w/Marker MX 14.0
08	KASTLE	MX 88	178	128-88-113	20	\$1450 w/Jester
09	MOVEMENT	THUNDER	187	122-89-111	23	\$750
10	NORDICA	HOT ROD HELL CAT	178	132-90-118	18	\$1699 w/N PRO 2S Xbi CT
11	ROSSIGNOL	PHANTOM SC 95	185	130-95-115	23.4	\$1130
12	SALOMON	LORD	185	128-87-115	19.5	\$780
13	SCOTT	MISSION	183	130-90-116	15.9	\$825 US
14	VÖLKL	UNLIMITED AC50	177	128-85-112	18	\$1150 w/iPT Wide Ride 12.0D
15	ZAG	BIG	188	134-84-113	15.5	\$1000

06



Head

10



FAT

Nordica

N°	BRAND	NAME	LENGTH TESTED	DIMENSIONS	RADIUS	PRICE
01	ATOMIC	SNOOP DADDY	184	129-94-118	22	\$900
02	BLIZZARD	TITAN ARGOS IQ	187	132-101-118	29	\$1449 w/IQ 5.14 TT 110
03	DYNASTAR	LEGEND PRO RIDER	184	128-100-118	24	\$1024
04	ELAN	999 WOOD	185	129-99-119	31.3	\$1225 w/ELX 14.0 WB
05	FISCHER	WATEA 94	186	130-94-118	22	\$950
06	HEAD	MONSTER 88	186	126-88-112 (175)	19.2 (175)	\$1200 w/Mojo 12
07	K2	APACHE OUTLAW	184	129-92-115	21	\$800
08	KASTLE	MX 98	184	132-98-117	27	\$1500 w/Jester
09	MOVEMENT	GOLIATH SLUFF	184	134-99-118	23	\$800
10	NORDICA	ENFORCER	185	135-98-125	18 (178)	\$1179 w/N PRO 2S WB
11	ROSSIGNOL	PHANTOM 108	195	140-108-120	31.6 (185)	\$1150
12	SALOMON	GUN	188	135-99-125	22.2	\$779
13	SCOTT	CRUSADE	189	135-93-123	16.5	\$875 US
14	VÖLKL	MANTRA	184	133-96-116	22.5	\$800
15	ZAG	HELI GOLD	189	140-93-118	16.5	\$1300

FREERIDE

Fischer

04



11



Scott

REALLY FAT-IMPRESSION

N°	BRAND	NAME	LENGTH TESTED	DIMENSIONS	RADIUS	PRICE
01	ATOMIC	SUGAR DADDY	193	128.5-99-119	30	\$1000
02	DYNASTAR	LEGEND PRO XXL	187	132-109-122	41	\$1088
03	ELAN	POGO HOLMES	187	136-107-126	25	\$1075 w/ELX 14.0 WB
04	FISCHER	WATEA 101	192	134-101-124	25	\$950
05	HEAD	MONSTER 102	193	125-102-117 (183)	37.3 (183)	\$1565 US w/Mojo 15
06	K2	OBSETHED	189	138-105-125	25	\$770
07	MOVEMENT	GOLIATH	191	135-108-124	32	\$830
08	NORDICA	THE BLOWER	193	139-110-129	29	\$1319 w/N PRO 2S WB
09	ROSSIGNOL	S6 KOOPMAN	186	140-110-133	21.3	\$950
10	SALOMON	X-WING LAB	198	140-107-120	33	\$1099
11	SCOTT	P4	191	138-108-131	23	\$850 US
12	VÖLKL	GOTAMA	190	133-105-124	28.5	\$800
13	ZAG	H112 ADRIDE	198	138-104-123	26	\$1100

Elan

04



09



Salomon

EXTREMELY FAT-IMPRESSION

N°	BRAND	NAME	LENGTH TESTED	DIMENSIONS	RADIUS	PRICE
01	ATOMIC	BIG DADDY	190	145-125-128.6	41	\$1050
02	BLIZZARD	TITAN ZEUS IQ	191	135-119-125	58	\$1579 w/IQ5.14 TT 110
03	DYNASTAR	HUGE TROUBLE	185	140-115-130	33	\$1024
04	ELAN	QUAD ONE	184	161-121-141	20.3	\$1325 w/ELX 14.0 WB
05	K2	HELL BENT	189	150-122-141	27	\$800
06	KASTLE	MX 108	195	130-108-120	40	N/A
07	NORDICA	THE JAH LOVE	185	167-140-157	29	\$1579 w/N POWER 2S XXWB
08	ROSSIGNOL	S7 CABALLERO	188	145-115-123	17.5 (185)	\$1150
09	SALOMON	ROCKER	192	147-127-137	48.5	\$1150
10	SCOTT	STUNT	195	141-113-128	20.5	\$825 US
11	VÖLKL	CHOP STICK	185	148-128-148	32.4	\$800

WOMEN SPECIFIC

Roxy



FAT TWIN

N°	BRAND	NAME	LENGTH TESTED	DIMENSIONS	RADIUS	PRICE
01	FISCHER	VISION ZEAL	177	127-92-115	20	\$825
02	HEAD	SWEET ONE	173	129-92-117 (159)	14.9 (159)	\$1065 US w/One LD 12
03	K2	MISSBEHAVED	169	130-98-118	18	\$650
04	ROSSIGNOL	SCRATCH GIRL BC	171	126-96-119	20.8 (178)	\$570
05	ROXY	SHAZAM	170	120-90-113	20	\$625 US
06	VÖLKL	COSMO	169	130-92-112	17.9	\$650



MIDFAT

Head

N°	BRAND	NAME	LENGTH TESTED	DIMENSIONS	RADIUS	PRICE
01	DYNASTAR	EXCLUSIVE LEGEND POWDER	172	121-85-104	19	\$830
02	ELAN	FREE SPICE	168	128-88-108	19.4	\$950 w/ELX 11.0 WB
03	HEAD	WILD ONE	172	121-81-107 (161)	15.4 (161)	\$1150 w/One LD 12
04	K2	T NINE LOTTA LUV	170	124-88-111	18	\$1000 w/Marker M1 11.0 Ti
05	MOVEMENT	BLACK ROSE	175	121-88-110	22	\$710
06	NORDICA	HOT ROD HELLDIVER	178	132-90-118	17 (170)	\$1299 w/N PRO 25 Xbi CT
07	SALOMON	LADY	169	128-86-114	15.4	\$780
08	VÖLKL	ATTIVA AURORA WIDE RIDE	163	128-85-112	14.7	\$1150 w/iPT Wide Ride 12.0D
09	ZAG	LADY GOLD	175	132-83-112	13.5	\$1000



FAT

K2

N°	BRAND	NAME	LENGTH TESTED	DIMENSIONS	RADIUS	PRICE
01	K2	T NINE TOUGH LUV	174	135-102-121	22	\$650
02	ROXY	HELTER SKELTER	176	124-92-114	20	\$815 US
03	SALOMON	SCARLETT	164	130-96-124	18.6	\$780
04	VÖLKL	AURA	170	130-94-113	21.1	\$800



REALLY FAT-IMPRESSSION

Atomic

N°	BRAND	NAME	LENGTH TESTED	DIMENSIONS	RADIUS	PRICE
01	ATOMIC	HEAVEN 'N HELL	183	126-99-117	29	\$800
02	VÖLKL	KIKU	176	133-105-124	23.5	\$800

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PROPHOTO
SHOWDOWN:
April 17

RESISTANCE IS FUTILE, DUDE

Photo: Courtesy of TWSSF



Screens can be seen.

Photo: David McColm

Lower your shields and
surrender your ships.



Voices can be HEARD!

Photo: David McColm

I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW, THE BORG HAS COME. MAX TALKS WITH ONE-OF-TWELVE ABOUT THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO PHOTOS AND FILMS. — BY G.D. MAXWELL

Eleven years ago, when Eric Berger and Jack Turner took the stage for the first Pro Photographers' Showdown, there was an enthusiastic crowd, a screen at the front of the room, reasonably good sightlines and astonishing photos. Half a decade later, there were two screens at the front of a massive conference room, and if you didn't arrive a good hour before it started, you needed binocs to see what was going on.

Same story with the wildly successful 72-Hour Filmmaker Showdown. "I can't see," was the predominate soundtrack. Four years ago, walking into the Telus Conference Centre, everything changed. You could feel it before you could hear it, and you could hear it before you could see it. But when you finally saw it, it stopped you dead in your tracks. You stared at it — and it stared right back at you... no matter where you stood. Or sat.

The centre of the massive room was filled with a hexagonal superstructure, 5.5 metres high and 6.7 metres point-to-point. Six elevated screens, each 2.3 metres tall and three metres wide faced

seats radiating to the far corners of the room. The corners themselves each contained another screen. Thirty-six speakers filled the room with enough sound to disintegrate skiers' bone spurs. Scores of lights pulsed with the music. The Borg had arrived.

Resistance is futile. Lower your shields and surrender your ships. Get down; watch the show. The Borg is the brainchild of One-of-Twelve, a.k.a. Scott McPhee, general manager and technical guru at Rocky Mountain Production Systems. "I was getting tired of doing the same-old same-old. This was something I thought would shake things up a bit."

After 12 guys spent three days constructing the giant Meccano set, stringing a couple of miles of A/V cable, tapping into enough power to run a restaurant and fine-tuning 10 screens and projectors, there wasn't a bad seat in the joint. Perfect sightlines for everybody.

For this year's photo, film, DJ and fashion shows, Son of Borg features a new sound-forward sound system to provide much-needed clarity for the films, which often feature less than state-of-the-art recording quality.

Resistance? You must be joking.

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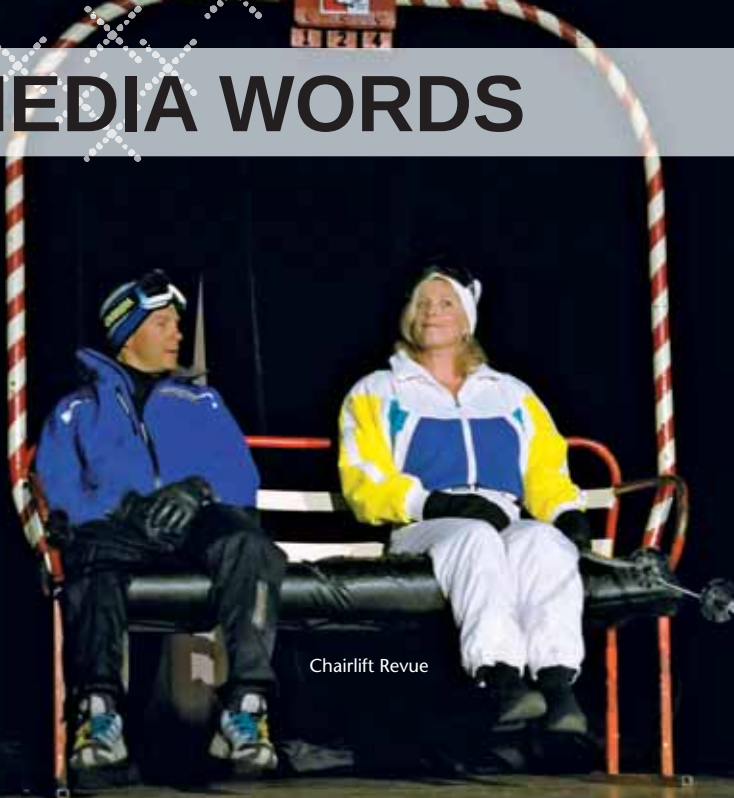
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Chairlift Revue

Photo: Courtesy of TWSSF

Behold the Spoken WORD

— BY JULES OLDER

This ain't yer faddah's snowfest, that's for sure. Art. Video. Fashion. The winter world's best attended slide show. But for me, the thing that really announces *This be different* is the spoken word. Snowsports are the antipodes of the spoken word. If you don't believe it, check out 99 out of 100 ski porn flicks, where the modal sentence is (all together now), "Just go for it, dude!" By contrast, TWSSF has not one but two spoken-word events. One is *Words & Stories*; the other, *Chairlift Revue*. Here's the Jules Report on each.

Words & Stories is about building an oral tradition of snow seekers. *An oral tradition of snow seekers.* Nice. Worthy. Exemplary. Now, let me tell you what that means.

The evening's story tellers have told their tales: growing up in Whistler, a snowboard trip to Iran, linking Africa and mountain culture. Now it's Lisa's turn. Michel Beaudry, the event's founder, introduces a nervous but determined Lisa Richardson to the sold-out house. With a tremulo in her voice that doesn't settle but grows as she feels the audience response, she takes us to *December 23, 1995*.

December 23, 1995. That's Whistler's 9-11. That's the day the chairlift collapsed, killing one, injuring many, leaving a dark shadow that's still carried in the spiritual x-ray of many a Whistlerite.

By the end of her recitation, Lisa's voice is half quaver, half steel, and half the audience is weeping.

Like I said, not yer average snowfest.

Chairlift Revue is a series of one-act plays whose common denominator — in fact, whose only rule — is that they be set on a chairlift.

Though most are comedies, this event also had me weeping, but for a different reason.

I was one of the playwrights. And I was in the audience. Thus, I got to experience every single extra word I'd left in, every single obscure reference I'd insisted on, every single schtick that broke the rhythm, line that landed with a thud, exhibit of the author's tin ear, proof of his inability to prune his own words, reason to revoke his poetic license.

Not what you'd call a positive experience.

But a learning one.

My entry for this year is exactly half (1/2) as long.



Words & Stories

Photo: David McColm



More Words & Stories

Photo: David McColm

TELUS WORLD SKI & SNOWBOARD FESTIVAL EVENT SCHEDULE 2008

DAY	FRIDAY APRIL 11	SATURDAY APRIL 12	SUNDAY APRIL 13	MONDAY APRIL 14	TUESDAY APRIL 15	WEDNESDAY APRIL 16	THURSDAY APRIL 17	FRIDAY APRIL 18	SATURDAY APRIL 19	SUNDAY APRIL 20	
DAYTIME	ORAGE MASTERS			SUPERPIPE TRAINING SKI & SNOWBOARD		SUPERPIPE QUALIFIER SKI	SUPERPIPE QUALIFIER SNOWBOARD	SUPERPIPE SEMI FINALS SKI & SNOWBOARD	SUPERPIPE FINALS SKI & SNOWBOARD		
			ULLR BIG MOUNTAIN	ULLR SUPERPIPE	NIKITA CHIQUITA JAM						
								WORLD BACKCOUNTRY FREERIDE JAM			
	DEMO PARK								DEMO PARK		
	SKIING & RIDING ON WHISTLER BLACKCOMB										
	BRAVE ART										
			MASCOT MAYHEM							WHISTLER DOGFEST	
	KOKANEE FREERIDE APRES SERIES							KOKANEE FREERIDE APRES SERIES			
APRES	OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES - FREE DAILY CONCERTS 2:30PM - 5:30PM										
AFTERDARK	The Collective presents SEASONS WORLD PREMIERE	BIG AIR	ICON GONE	PARTY	FILMMAKER SHOWDOWN	FILMMAKER SECOND CUTS SCREENING	OLYMPUS PROPHOTO SHOWDOWN	SCHICK XTREME3 presents FASHION EXPOSED	DJ EXPERIENCE	THEATRE	
	KOKANEE FREERIDE CLUB SERIES										
PLUS MORE UNSCHEDULED FUNCTIONS, EVENTS & PARTIES THAN ANYONE CAN TRACK											

*SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

DOGFEST



Photos: Courtesy of TWSSF



WHISTLER
DOGFEST
AT TWSSF
Don't miss it:
April 19th and 20th



PUTTIN' ON THE DOG

— BY ZIPPY THE DOG



Photo: Jordan Junck

Zippy the Dog here, on the mean streets of Whistler. I'm runnin' with the real brains behind the festival — the Watermark Dogs. No, nothing to do with what they leave behind if they get locked in too long. The Watermark Dogs do all the real work while their people, who *claim* to run the festival, wander around talking to each other all day.

We're checkin' out the Dog Parade route lookin' for the best ambush alley for the Great Mascot Smackdown. Rumour has it the new kids in town — 2010 Olympic mascots Miga, Quatchi and Sumi — are plannin' to steal the show from our own mascots, Big Air Bear, Digger the Dog and the RCMP's Safety Bear. We're not takin' any chances... this is *our* festival.

Of course, *they* want to be here. There'll be lots of booths with lots of treats and the latest in dog — that's *dog* — fashion accessories. There'll be those poor, abused dogs who do tricks on

command — easy, Dexter, don't lose your breakfast. Funny how no one ever considers "Couch!" a trick.

The CARDA dogs'll be savin' lives and refusin' all our taunts to come out and play. The Dog Talent Show will put those stuffed cartoons to shame. And, of course, we'll all be puttin' on the dog and parading our stuff. That's *our* stuff.

We're not takin
any chances...
this is *our* festival.

THERE'S NO BETTER WAY TO END YOUR DAY.



P. Leanna Rathkelly

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