

FREE (TO PARTAAAAAAAY)

#1083 / JUL 28, 2016 - AUG 3, 2016 VUEWEEKLY.COM

VUEWEEKLY

NIGHTJAR
SPEAKEASY 4

UPSIDEDOWNTOWN
RELEASE
PARTY 15

PARTY AT
CLINT'S HAUS

EXPLORE EDMONTON'S VIBRANT
HOUSE VENUE SCENE

PREVIEW // DEATH



// Photo supplied

LOOK INTO THE LIGHT

Lee Henderson's upcoming installation at Latitude 53 forces some serious contemplation

Thurs, Aug 4 to Sat, Sept 10
Palliative Care
Latitude 53

For many of us the words 'palliative care' bring up associations we'd rather forget, but for Toronto-based multimedia artist Lee Henderson it was a fitting title for his new installation.

Designed to provide a space for people to contemplate their own mortality, "Palliative Care (1985-1992)" is set to appear next month at contemporary art gallery, Latitude 53. It features a 25-minute video compilation of every instance in all seven seasons of the classic TV series, *The Golden Girls*, where a character refers to the concept of death.

The fact that Henderson chose that particular show is no coinci-

dence. In a recent phone interview, he said he appreciated that the '80s sitcom wasn't afraid of tackling heavy topics related to the advanced age of its four female protagonists. As he was going over the 180 episodes, he realized there were only four that didn't mention death in some way.

He's also noticed that the show has had a resurgence in popular culture and on social media (including a post about a puppet show adaptation in Toronto). Henderson attributes the comeback to the fact that many people, like himself, who watched the show and developed an attachment to it in the '80s,

now find themselves saying goodbye to their last grandparent.

When Henderson was putting together the video, he decided to cut each clip at the moment when "another word is spoken." As a result, there are many "breaks" as he explained, where there is either silence or a laugh track.

The program's sitcom format also ties into a running theme of humour in his art.

"My artwork is funny the way King Lear is funny," he says. Not in broad, obvious strokes, but in the way laughter can sometimes be your only recourse when faced with the

knowledge that we're all mortal.

Every aspect of the space Henderson has mapped out will allow viewers to step back from their busy lives and relax as they take in his work. The room is heated, lit with a warm glow and furnished with chaise lounges. The effect is that it calls to mind the *Golden Girls* setting in Florida. More than relaxing, Henderson hopes the exhibit can be a space that "slows the mind," where people can come to meditate on these topics—and whatever else comes to mind. To him, there aren't very many places in the fast-paced modern world to do so.

In addition to verbal mentions of the concept of death such as: "will," "exterminator" and "heaven," there are also visual gestures, as when a character draws his finger across his neck, as well as a scene wherein a major character dies briefly and goes to heaven. In the clip you can see her walk towards a white light (shown in the image).

This installation will be exhibited alongside two works from Montreal artist Joani Tremblay entitled "Landscape Gaze and Breezy Erudition" and "What About Formal Freedom?" starting August 4.

CLAIRE HOFFMAN
ARTS@VUEWEEKLY.COM

ARTIFACTS



// Photo supplied

Belmont Block in Little Italy / On now

Murals aren't just great for Pokéstops in the app *Pokemon Go*—they brighten our city and give it character, in that real reality kind of way. And there's a new one in Little Italy, along the redeveloped Belmont Block. The mural adorns the south-facing wall of the 14-suite Belmont apartments in the McCauley area. (Belmont Block in Little Italy, 10767—95 St)

Off Whyte 2016 / Mon, Aug 1 – Wed, Aug 31

Off Whyte—the holdover show from the Whyte Avenue Art Walk—continues in a new venue thanks to Jake's Gallery. Guests will be able to have friends, family, clients, and admirers vote for artists' work via Twitter and Facebook using the hashtag #offwhyte. Once art lovers post their choice artist online, Jake's Gallery will choose the top 16 to participate in a month-long gallery showing with an artist reception on August 5. Let the paintbrushes fly and the thumbs hover over keyboards. (Jake's Gallery, 10441—123 St.)

The Improv Power Hour Featuring Go 4 Broke Productions / Jul 29 (7 pm)

At the Edmonton Fringe Festival in 2015, Cards Against Humanity and improv came together for the perfect mash up. Now your favourite Go 4 Broke (G4B) players are back to play the game again in this special preview before the Fringe. Spectators will be drawing cards from the deck, giving the players a scenario and then the actors will be making up a fast paced, hilarious scene based on the cards chosen. (Blues on Whyte, \$11 in advance at YEGLive)

V

HEATHER SKINNER
// HEATHER@VUEWEEKLY.COM