

recreation & entertainment

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Classical ensemble next presentation by Milton Concert Productions

Milton Concert Productions will showcase the talents of Toronto's *toneART ensemble* at St Paul's United Church on April 8, 2005.

toneART ensemble was founded in 2000 by violinist Corey Lyle Gemmell and composer/pianist Robert A. Baker. They were joined in 2001 by guitarist Danielle Cumming and pianist Kathryn Tremills. Originally founded as a group dedicated to 20th and 21st century works they now include earlier works and explore their influences on modern compositions, thus creating strong and exciting historical links between eras.

Primarily based out of Toronto's Heliconian Hall for their own concert series, *toneART ensemble* has performed at McMaster University, at the Owen Sound Art Gallery and on a variety of concert series in and around the Greater Toronto Area. *toneART ensemble's* performances are noted for their dynamic and exciting concerts and presentations. Since its foundation in 2000, these four like-minded musicians have presented over a dozen different and complete programs of music. At present the group's repertoire includes in excess of 40 works. Programs always include presentations by the musicians and the composer (as in the works of Robert A. Baker) as the *toneART ensemble* seeks to remove distances between audience members and performing musicians.

In the fall of 2003 *toneART ensemble* released

its first compact disc recording of 20th Century compositions including works by Ravel, Schnittke, Kolb, and of course Robert A. Baker.



Pianist
Kathryn Tremills



Guitarist
Danielle Cumming



Violinist
Corey Lyle Gemmell

from the bookshelf

A REVIEW BY DIANE DINEEN

The In-Between World of Vikram Lall

M.G. Vassanji

Anchor Canada, 2003

Even as an eight year old growing up in rural 1950's Kenya Vikram (Vic) knew that he was in-between. His friends Bruce and Annie were white, the children of farmers. Although not rich they were more privileged than he would ever be. His friend Njoroge was black and more African than he would ever be. As a brown boy, a child in an Indian family, he was culturally and socially forever in-between.

In this novel Vic is now an adult, hidden in a small town in far away Ontario and looking back on the changes he and his family and Kenya have experienced. He remembers it all and he narrates the story for us.

In the 1950's Vic's uncle was secretly helping the Mau Mau who were attempting to overthrow the British system and return Kenya to African control. At the same time his father was an Anglophile who enthusiastically cheered as Elizabeth II was crowned Queen. Terrible violence erupted and once again Vic was in the middle. One friend may have had knowledge of the terrorist actions that caused the brutal deaths of other friends. In spite of this Vikram cannot take a stand, he cannot decide who was right and who was wrong and where his loyalties should lie.

Even as an adult Vic still had a hollow sense of unbelonging. Through connections he came to be a "fixer" and a middleman laundering money for Jomo Kenyatta, the former Mau Mau leader who rose to the position

of President. As an Indian, an in-between, Vic was a good choice to perform such tasks. Eventually the money laundering aroused public attention and Vikram became the scapegoat who must flee to foreign shores, to Ontario and to his memories.

Vassanji tells the story through adult eyes but he remembers what it is to be young. The terror inflicted by the Mau Mau is palpable; the lack of sleep, the sounds in the night, the fear that someone may be coming to get you. As a young child Vic was fascinated by trains and this theme is carried through the novel with beautiful images of building train tracks and riding on the famous East African trains.

Among the more disheartening aspects of this novel are the apparent ease with which foreign aid can be pocketed and the rampant corruption among politicians in Kenya. Both of these situations have been well documented as having occurred in Kenyatta's time and Vassanji uses these facts to strengthen his picture of Vic's unsavoury job and his ultimate downfall.

M. G. Vassanji was born in Kenya, grew up in Tanzania and came to Canada in 1978. He knows Africa, he knows the position of the Indians in Africa and he has been in the position of "not belonging" Vassanji won a Giller Prize for this haunting and honest book about his native continent. It is a great story about a complex and interesting part of the world.

The Pacifier

Redefining the status of the typical Reaction hero, Vin Diesel stars as Navy Seal Sean Wolfe in the hilarious action comedy *The Pacifier*. Beginning as what would appear to be one of Diesel's normally violent films about some form of fighting, *The Pacifier* quickly shifts to a new assignment that Wolfe has been given. Having been the executor of several attack missions, rescue missions and the like, Wolfe felt like he could do his job better than any other Navy Seal alive...until he tried babysitting. After losing a scientist to an assassination over a top-secret government program, Wolfe is now expected to protect the scientist's family of five children from the same fate. When the nanny quits, Wolfe is then forced to baby-sit as well as perform his duties as a Seal.

While the majority of the film is comedic as a result of Wolfe's babysitting capabilities, or lack thereof, it does pick up on the action level once the assassins try to get the program from the residence. Many scenes involve Vin Diesel's style of Kung

film review

By LAURA COOK

Fu while others are just simply slapstick comedy as a result of the children's antics.

With a variety of scenes to choose from, the audience will realize that something as simple as a diaper change can be just as challenging for some characters as a high-speed car chase is for others.

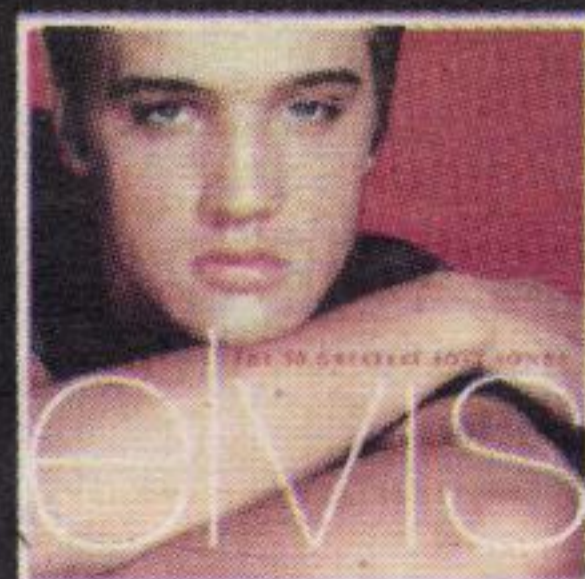
Although the film is rated PG, for action violence, language and rude humor, *The Pacifier* is somewhat appropriate for younger audiences, so long as you're prepared to have them mimic some scenes. Starring Vin Diesel, Lauren Graham, Faith Ford, Carol Kane, Brad Garrett, Morgan York, Max Thierot, and Brittany Snow, this cast easily wins over audiences with their acting expertise. Brought to you by Disney Pictures, the film lives up to Disney standards by keeping it short, ninety-two minutes in length, and sweet with a happy ending.



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FROM THE COMPASS CREW