

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS &
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High Resolution photo: [Glory.jpg](#), [Glory2.jpg](#)

Description: Martial arts and dance combine for an innovative and challenging critique of violence in the modern world.

Photo Credit: N/A

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***Glory* finds beauty in turbulence through martial arts and dance.**

CHILLIWACK, BC – We’ve all seen dance, theatre, and martial arts, but *Glory’s* combination of all three will be anything but familiar. *Glory* addresses themes of modern perceptions of violence in an exciting and engaging manner by contrasting the intensity of martial arts with the elegance and emotion of dance. Don’t miss the opportunity on **April 4** to see this unique show when it makes a stop at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre.

Glory examines our culture’s over-saturation of violence and passivity in viewing it by incorporating first-person video and sound, pairing somber imagery with stunning movement. The show beautifully combines two timeless practices: martial arts and

dance, a method which the production's creator and one of the performers **Shay Kuebler** described in an interview with *The Georgia Straight* as "creating form without form and using technique without technique."

Kuebler is also the founder and artistic director of the **Shay Kuebler Radical System Arts Society**, who is producing the show. The Society's goal is to increase support and public education for the arts. Before creating the society, **Kuebler** worked as an independent artist for eight years. He's also a founding director of the 605 Collective, and his work has been performed by Les Grandes Ballet Canadiens, Citie Ballet, L'École de Danse de Québec, Simon Fraser University, and the London Contemporary Dance School. He's also had work commissioned for the Canada Dance Festival, the Dancing on the Edge Festival, the International Dance Festival of Brazil, and the Baalbek Arts Festival in Lebanon. *Glory* is the sixth production the society has produced, all of which combine martial arts, theatre, and dance.

The incorporation of martial arts adds a heightened level of physical demand, and although most of Kuebler's productions use both dance and martial arts, the theme of violence makes it that much more intense. "People have been actually concerned for my safety, so that's good," he said. "That's why research is so important. We start with one guy, then two, then add more, and it gets risky."

Glory is a critique of how consumers view violence. Not only does the show address how the portrayal of violence has evolved over time in the media, but it challenges viewers to think about whether or not they glorify violence. "With Nintendo, you jumped on an enemy and it died," Kuebler said. "Now kids are playing war games and throwing grenades."

Despite their violent reputation, Kuebler found the humility of martial arts the perfect medium through which to tell his story. "Martial arts are beautiful, because people in martial arts are not violent people," he said. "You get your ass kicked on a daily basis, so you're humble. It gives you confidence: you don't want to prove yourself."

If nothing else, Kuebler hopes that *Glory* will inspire people to reevaluate their conceptions surrounding violence. “I want to make accessible work that can also be artistic and take people on an unexpected journey,” he said. “I want to draw people that don’t necessarily go to theatre. That’s critical to me.”

A challenging, thought-provoking, and contemporary performance, *Glory* is sure to be something new for both first-time theatre goers and veterans alike, and will leave all audience members rethinking their opinions on violence.

Glory is coming to the Chilliwack Cultural Centre’s HUB International Theatre on **April 4 at 7:30 pm**. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$27 for seniors, \$25 for youth, and can be purchased at the Centre Box Office, online at www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca, or by calling 604-391-SHOW(7469).

Glory is sponsored by: the Best Western Rainbow Country Inn, The Chilliwack Progress, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the British Columbia Arts Council, the Province of British Columbia, and the City of Chilliwack.

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For additional information and to arrange interviews, contact:

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Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Owned by the City of Chilliwack, the Cultural Centre houses two unique performance venues, an art gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, offices, and is home to the Chilliwack Academy of Music and the O’Connor Group Art Gallery. Since opening in 2010, over 290,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding \$4,280,000. The Centre is overseen by The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre highlights:

- 597 seat performance theatre
- 168 seat recital hall / rehearsal space / dance studio / meeting space
- Chilliwack Art gallery (22-foot high display area)
- 21 music instructional rooms
- Arts, crafts and performance studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

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The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society is registered under the British Columbia Society Act as a not-for-profit society (society number S-54973), and is a registered Canadian charitable organization under the Canadian Charities Directorate. (Charity number 805742897 RR0001)

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