

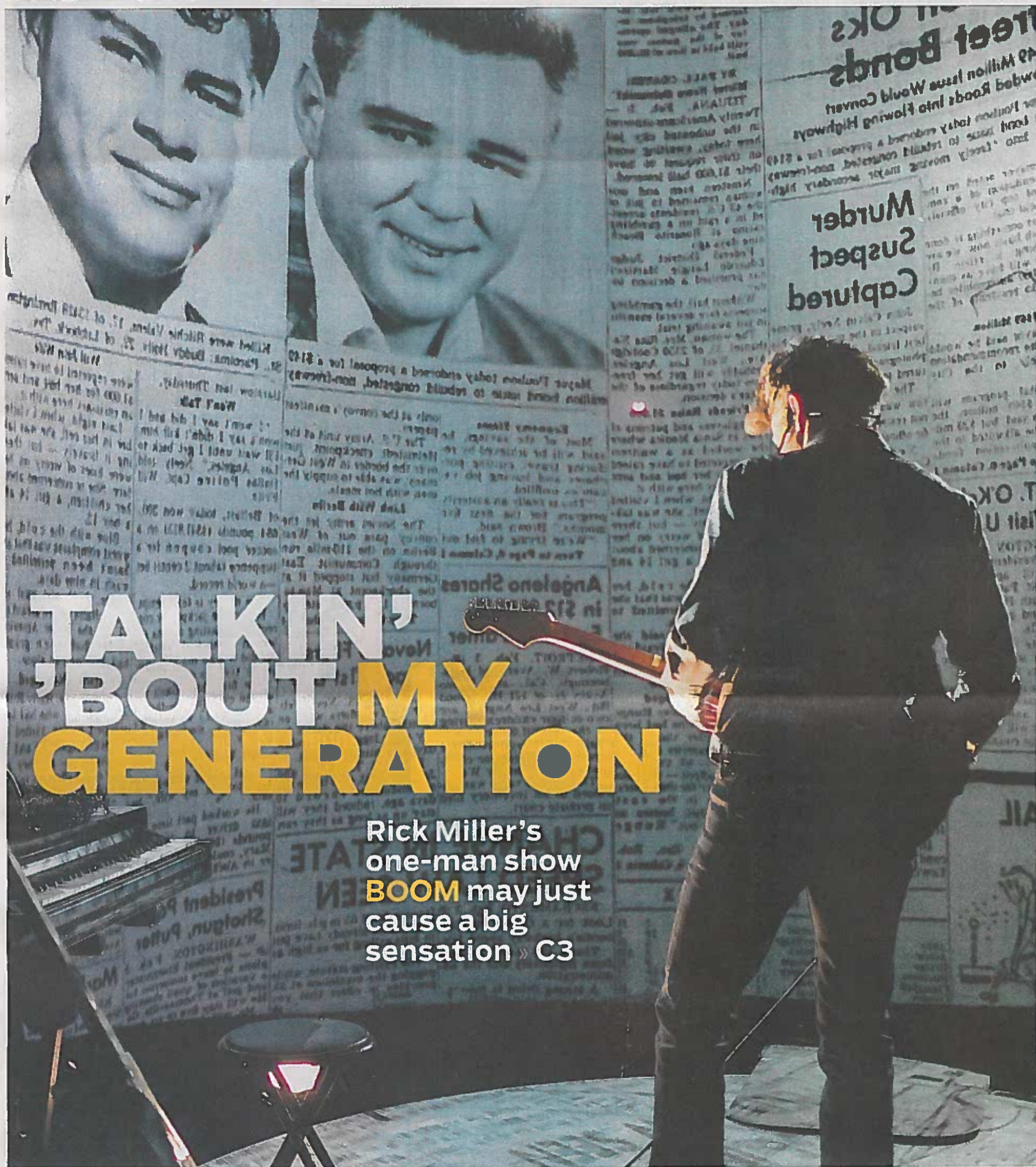
STARTS JAN 14! FROM \$29
GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE
BOOM
A MULTIMEDIA SPECTACLE
TO DEFINE A GENERATION
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Scene

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TALKIN' 'BOU' MY GENERATION

Rick Miller's one-man show **BOOM** may just cause a big sensation » C3



B.C. ON THE BBC

Famed B.C. composer Jean Coulthard is set to become the first Canadian featured in a new BBC music series



BABY'S GROWN UP

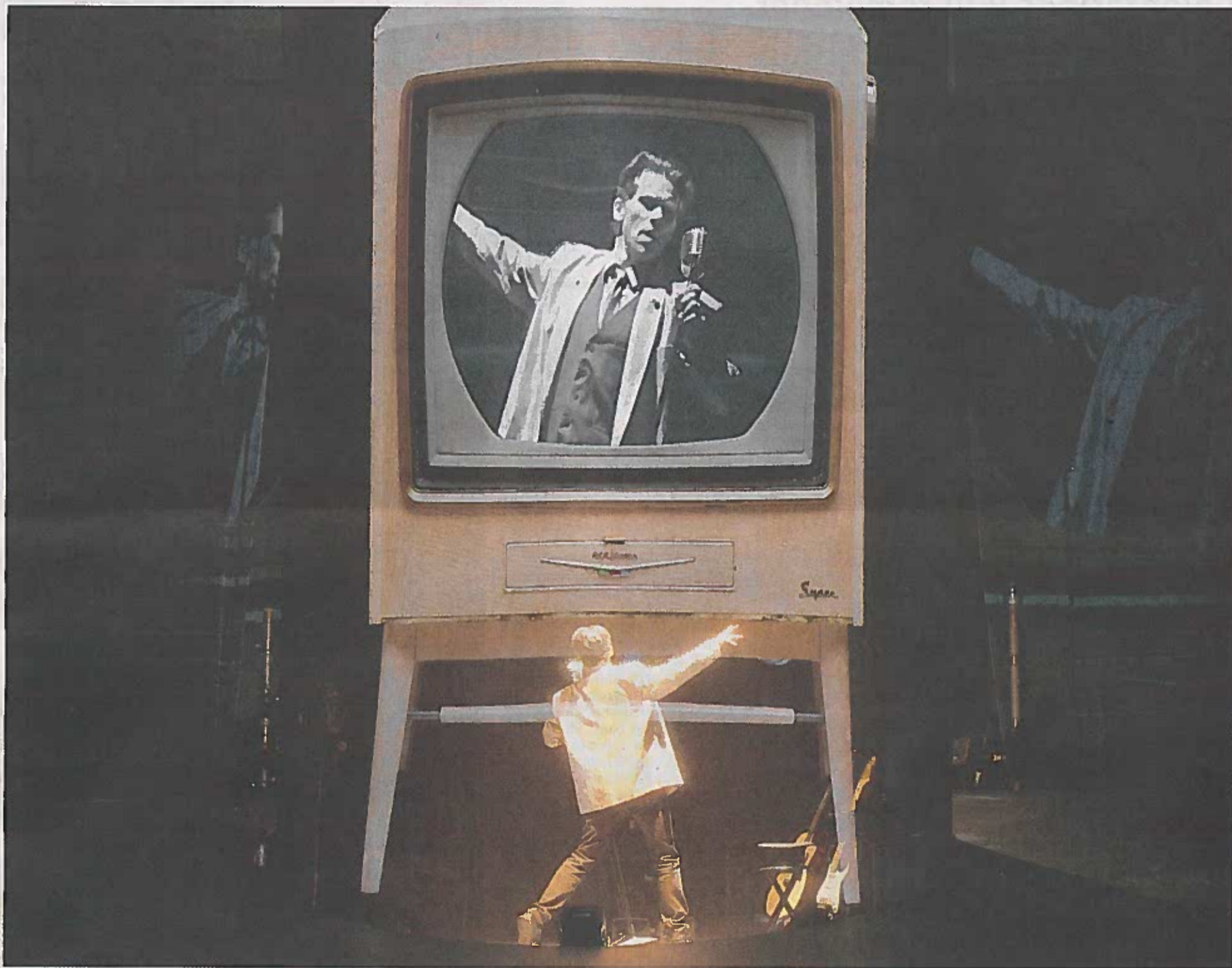
Gillian Abbott is taking her childhood love of Dirty Dancing to the big stage at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre



AMORE TRATTORIA

Comfort food lovers will get their fill at South Surrey Italian eatery Pasta Vino, which delivers the basics right.

COVER STORY



In the ambitious BOOM, Rick Miller covers 25 years in 100 minutes, finding connections between world events and pop culture in the post-Second World War, baby boom era.

Pop culture fused with big picture

One-man show covers quarter-century following Second World War

BOOM

Jan. 14 to Feb. 13 | Granville Island Stage
Tickets and info: from \$29, artsclub.com

SHAWN CONNER

SPECIAL TO THE SUN

BOOM, Rick Miller's one-man multimedia production, begins with the dropping of the atomic bomb and ends with another kind of boom — the Apollo 11 moon landing.

The writer/performer won't go so far as to call the latter event an aphrodisiac. But he believes it might have had an effect on some who were living through that time.

"When they (the Americans) landed on the moon, a lot of people felt somewhat relieved," the Toronto-based performer said.

"For a lot of people, 1969 was a mini-baby boom. It was for my parents. The way my dad put it, he finally felt that communism wasn't going to win. And if that inspired you to have sex, then so be it."

In the ambitious BOOM, Miller covers 25 years in 100 minutes, finding connections between world events and pop culture in the post-Second World War, baby boom era.

Miller originally trained in Montreal as an architect before transitioning to the performing arts.

Since then he has become a Dora and Gemini award-winning writer, performer and director who has collaborated with the renowned Quebec director Robert Lepage and written and/or performed in several productions such as *Bigger Than Jesus* and *Hardsell*.

He also hosted ABC's hit prime time series *Just for Laughs* for three years and has done voice work for video games. As artistic producer of WARD Productions, he has created and performed shows such as *Art?*, *Slightly Bent*, and *Into the Ring* (with Dawson Nichols).

But Miller is probably best known for the worldwide hit *MacHomer*, which wedded Shakespeare and *The Simpsons*.

"To me, the through-line in a lot of my work is looking at high culture, low culture, high-tech, low tech, crashing things together and seeing how they connect," he said.

"MacHomer did that with Shakespeare and *The Simpsons*; *Bigger Than Jesus* did it by exploring Christianity through the lens of Jesus Christ



Rick Miller used a similar formula to BOOM for his hit show *MacHomer*, which wedded Shakespeare and *The Simpsons*.

Superstar. *Hardsell* was the same thing in a way, mixing in high integrity with disposable culture. And BOOM follows the same instincts."

Some of the connections explored in BOOM are between world events and developments in popular music.

"I'm very interested in music, specifically why it sounds the way it does, and what the cultural forces are that shape it,"

said Miller, who sings with a band called Trainwreck.

"In choosing all the music, there were a lot of factors. Part of that was rights. But I wanted to make sure that the late '60s, with all that was happening in Yorkville in Toronto, was represented.

"I found a place for Joni Mitchell, and for Steppenwolf. As much as I could, there is Canadian content. But like it or not, there were a lot of external factors that shaped Canada, and I have to cover that."

The story is told through three main characters from different parts of the world. They include Miller's dad, originally from Eastern Europe, a draft-dodger from the U.S., as well as Miller's Canadian-born mother.

"Though their stories are very specific, they resonate with people no matter where they're from," Miller said.

A talented impressionist, Miller acts out their roles as well as dozens of important figures of the time.

"I'm incarnating every single one of those 100 people, whether it's Martin Luther King or Kennedy or Cronkite or any of our prime ministers," he said.

"I'm trying to understand what

it was like to live at that time, not just so people can relive the nostalgia of, 'Oh, weren't the '60s great.' It really is trying to get at the DNA of our culture and who I am. I'm living through that onstage in a way that is fun and playful. It's fun for me to do and for people to watch. Even Baby Boomers learn a hell of a lot."

To incorporate images from the era, the stage is set up like a slide projector, with a translucent column centre stage. Miller says that he is proud of the way he and his designers have been able to present "a big-picture perspective on a lot of stuff that happened," and that allows the events and connections to resonate with a broad audience, from actual baby boomers to their grandkids.

"We live in a time these days when it looks again like a lot of the world's falling apart," he said.

"It's so easy to descend into a kind of cynicism or nihilism. Easy for me, anyway.

"But I think those moments that bring a culture together are important. BOOM isn't an in-depth exploration of one particular moment, it really is a zoom out to look at how all of these things are connected."

Gifts from a postwar generation

#203

JOB-RELATED DEATH TOLL DROPPING

But as many as three people still die weekly. » D1



BOOM, IN 4 MINUTES A YEAR

Show celebrates rise of the boomers. » C3

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SERIOUSLY WESTCOAST SINCE 1912

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016

Could this be Vancouver's cheapest house?

Trim and tidy and zoned industrial, 107-year-old cottage is 'just right,' its owner says

BETHANY LINDSAY
VANCOUVER SUN

The little grey house at 937 Mclean Dr. is trim and tidy, with a small front patio for barbecuing and a stand of bamboo growing beside the porch.

At first glance, there's little to distinguish it from any of the thousands of small homes in Vancouver now worth more than \$1 million. But BC Assessment's latest figures put the value of the property at just \$385,900 — one of the cheapest single-family homes, if not the cheapest, in Vancouver.

'DRACONIAN': Ban on treating spouses, friends riles dentists

