

## The Weekender: April 17-19

Two jokers—Rick Miller and Jerry Seinfeld—kick off our roundup of Toronto’s best weekend events. Read on for the rest **By Stacy Lee Kong**



### 8. RYAN SCHNEIDER: BEFORE AND AFTER US

New York artist **Ryan Schneider**’s first Canadian solo exhibition features his signature large-scale paintings in vibrant colours, though the artist has moved in a new direction. Rather than portraits in interior settings, the paintings here are landscapes that juxtapose nature and culture. *To April 26, Tuesday to Saturday 10–6. Artcore/Fabrice Marcolini, 55 Mill St., Bldg. 62, 416-920-3820, [www.artcoregallery.com](http://www.artcoregallery.com).*

### 7. CHILDREN'S CHOCOLATE WORKSHOP

If the Easter Bunny was stingy last weekend, this 90-minute workshop at gourmet chocolatier **Stubbe** will more than make up for it. Intended for chocoholics aged eight and up, the workshop includes a chance for kids to learn the basics of working with chocolate and make a take-home treat. Reservations required. *April 19, 1 p.m. \$70. Stubbe Chocolates, 653 Dupont St., 416-923-0956, [www.stubbechocolates.com](http://www.stubbechocolates.com).*

## 6. THIS IS NOT A READING SERIES

**Avril Benoît**, a veteran journalist and the director of communications for Doctors Without Borders, sits down with **James Maskalyk** to talk about his first tour of duty with the organization, a half-year spent in Sudan in 2007. His blog about treating malnourishment and measles in Abyei led to the recently published book *Six Months in Sudan: A Young Doctor in a War-Torn Village*. April 19, 5 p.m. PWYC. Gladstone Hotel Ballroom, 1214 Queen St. W., 416-598-1447, [www.pagesbooks.ca](http://www.pagesbooks.ca).

## 5. TORONTO JAZZ ORCHESTRA 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Nearly 10 years to the day since the Toronto Jazz Orchestra's first show at the **Rex**, it returns for a celebration of the past decade, which included the release of three albums, dozens of performances and a National Jazz Award nomination. April 18, 3:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m. PWYC. The Rex Hotel, 194 Queen St. W., 416-899-5299, [www.thetjo.com](http://www.thetjo.com).

## 4. LA BOHÈME

The **Canadian Opera Company's** spring program whips out the big guns with Giacomo Puccini's *La Bohème*, opening this Friday. Set in Paris' Latin Quarter in the 1830s, the opera tells the tragic story of poet Rodolfo (David Pomeroy) and Mimì (Frédérique Vézina), the tuberculosis-stricken seamstress with whom he falls in love. First performed 113 years ago, *La Bohème* is still fresh, and one of the world's most popular and beloved operas. April 17, 7:30 p.m.; April 19, 2 p.m. \$65–\$315. Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen St. W., 416-363-8231, [www.coc.ca](http://www.coc.ca).

## 3. REELWORLD FILM FESTIVAL

The ReelWorld Film Festival is a springtime tradition in the city's film industry, guaranteed to showcase exceptional Canadian and international flicks. Founded by the *Young and the Restless* actress Tonya Lee Williams in 2001, the festival promotes multiculturalism by screening 47 films from 14 countries. Look out for *More Than a Haircut*: set in four Eglinton West barbershops, the doc tackles the issue of fatherlessness in Toronto's Caribbean community. To April 19, various times. \$10 per screening. Scotiabank Theatre, 259 Richmond St. W., 416-598-7933, [www.reelworld.ca](http://www.reelworld.ca).

## 2. HARDESELL

An examination of “the commodification of everything,” the play features a standout performance by **Rick Miller** as a clown whose life is ruined when his mind is taken over by jokes, jingles, voices and people, including Stephen Lewis, Richard Dawkins, Morgan Freeman and Bugs Bunny. April 17, 8 p.m.; April 18, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; April 19, 8 p.m. From \$20. Berkley Street Theatre Downstairs, 26 Berkeley St., 416-368-3110, [www.canstage.com](http://www.canstage.com).

## 1. JERRY SEINFELD

The iconic, award-winning funnyman Jerry Seinfeld hits **Massey Hall** for four performances this weekend. He's taking a break from producing his new NBC reality TV series, *The Marriage Ref*, and returning to his stand-up roots to sound off on holidays, stinky cabbies and the joys of parenthood. April 17 and 18, 7:30 and 9 p.m. \$79–\$125. Massey Hall, 178 Victoria St., 416-872-4255, [www.masseyhall.com](http://www.masseyhall.com).