

# **The Calgary Vietnamese Youth Group presents a musical production “SEASONS: A Thirty Year Journey”** By Cecile Pham, CVYG member

Globalfest 2005 was over.

The curtain closed and tears of joy were wiped, yet there was no feeling of sated satisfaction to be savored by this elated group. Although we, the young men and women of the Calgary Vietnamese Youth Group (CVYG), had performed nine times to sold-out audiences, a lingering feeling remained that one more colossal performance had yet to happen for us.

We were very grateful to the organizers of Globalfest for allowing us to share our culture through our Vietnamese Pavilion and show named “Seasons”, and the tremendous response from audience members overjoyed us and validated our hard work. This enthralling support encouraged our group leaders to make the decision that we had been waiting for: we would have an encore presentation of our Globalfest show, “Seasons”. At heart, this performance is a bittersweet tribute to our homeland in remembrance of the 30 years that have come to pass since the collapse of South Vietnam, and a display of gratitude towards our new home, Canada.

Our musical production portrays the journey of an ordinary Vietnamese family as they overcome the extraordinary challenges of rebuilding their lives in a new country. The journey starts with the courtship of a young couple, and follows the path of their life as they demonstrate the power of love and the resiliency of the human spirit in spite of seemingly insurmountable obstacles: the fall of Saigon, the brutal re-education camp, the exodus of thousands of Vietnamese across treacherous seas, and the building of a brand new life in a new land. The acting, dancing and singing of our performers are enhanced by poignant multimedia images, which reinforce the authentic perspective of the Vietnamese people.

“Seasons” has extended its content and now boasts a rousing opening number and a lively new dance performance. Last but not least, we are so pleased to have a hilarious, much sought-after talent from Hollywood join our show: Dat Phan, 2003 winner of NBC’s “Last Comic Standing” and a guest on “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno” will be with us on the Jack Singer Hall stage. His youthful energy and unique life experience combine to create a live stand-up performance we will not soon forget! His contribution is a major thread which weaves into the tapestry of talent and dedication that this Vietnamese Youth Group and its supporters would like to offer to the citizens of Calgary.

So come see for yourselves, and enjoy a night of entertainment that ultimately carries this message: we Vietnamese survivors had to flee our beloved motherland, only to discover our new home. For with glowing hearts, we saw the light of the true North strong and free. Thank you Canada!

*Date: Sunday November 13, 2005 at 7:00 PM, doors open at 6:30 PM to view the Photo Exhibition*

*Location: Jack Singer Hall Theatre, Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts*

*Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, students and children over 2 years of age.*

*To purchase tickets please contact Ticketmasters at [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca) or phone (403) 299-8888.*

*Portions of the proceeds will be donated to the Red Cross Relief Fund and to Calgary Homeless Societies.*