

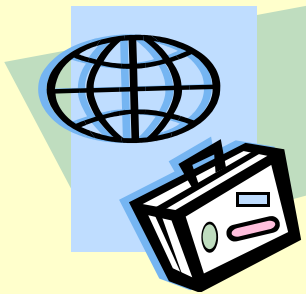


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What Travel Writers Say Newsletter

www.whattravelwriterssay.com

Outward Bound: Mike Keenan



On May 14, I attended "Media Night" at one of North America's finest cultural attractions, the Shaw Festival in Niagara on the Lake. This year, Shaw celebrates its forty-four season. Shaw is the only theatre in the world specializing exclusively in plays by Bernard Shaw and his contemporaries, and in plays about the period of Shaw's lifetime (1856-1950). It's one of the few theatre companies that has a permanent acting company, and the only one in the world that specializes in such a defined historical period.

Jackie Maxwell, artistic director and dramaturge, is in her sixth season as the Shaw Festival's Artistic Director. She continues to focus on what has become The Shaw's greatest asset - the virtuosity of its actors.

I was treated to *The Women* by Clare Boothe Luce featuring a cast of 19 ladies who appear on stage at the beginning and again to acknowledge audience cheers and applause at the end.

Please see Outward Bound, page 3

Why buy good luggage?
You only use it when
you travel.

Yogi Berra

Readers' Forum Contest

The link <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/indextravelforum.html> takes you to our "Travel Forum" where readers post tips and ask questions related to travel. We recently ran a draw of all of those who submitted a travel tip.

Winner of the draw, a two-night stay for two at Toronto's Delta Chelsea Hotel in deluxe accommodation with dinner for two in the restaurant, "Bb33" and hotel parking is Sandy Duquette of the North Country Chamber of Commerce, who will certainly enjoy the hotel located in the heart of the city with easy access to shopping (Eaton Centre) and theatre. (33 Gerrard Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1Z4, (T) 416 585 4396 (www.deltachelsea.com))

AccessMyID.com is sponsoring our next contest. See our "Website of the month." The first five emails to us will be awarded a one-year free subscription that will alleviate a lot of travel worries in terms of your lost or missing vital records. Check out the web site & send us a quick email!

Please see Website of the month on page three

Featured Tip

If you hear a different drummer - dreamer, take a chance ... The road you choose to travel means the difference in the dance.

D. Morgan

Are you looking for cheap flights, accommodations, currency and temperature information? For the latest information, check:

<http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/indextips.html>

Also, do you want to:

- Drive in the United Kingdom?
- Find UNESCO World Heritage sites?
- Learn about England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales?
- Access information from the United Nations?
- Read about the best places to retire and live in the United States?
- Access information on biology, geography, geology, geo-space, and water?
- Know where U.S. military bases are located?
- Rent a vacation home?
- Volunteer or work and travel?
- Try wakeboarding?
- Order a computer-generated wake-up call?
- Access information on Wales?
- Enjoy a walking tour in the U.K.?
- Check ratings on washrooms?
- Find a specific waterfall?

See Featured Tips, p. 4



Educators

Educators are reminded that our database contains lesson plans and an abundance of material that can be readily adapted to the classroom.

If engaged in "Trivial Pursuit" contests, this is the place to go!
See actual lesson plans at:

<http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/tipslessonplan.html>

<http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/tipslessonplan1.html>

Website of the month: www.accessmyid.com

What would you do in an emergency if your vital travel documents were lost, stolen or damaged? Now you can TRAVEL SMARTER with AccessMyID.com! AccessMyID.com allows you to upload and securely store your vital travel documents, Personal and Medical Profiles online. Stored documents provide indisputable Consulate or bank ID. Be organized. *Travel prepared.*

Digitize: Up to 50MB of important travel-related, medical and personal documents can be uploaded by scanning or taking a digital photo of each.

Upload: Securely upload and store a copy of all your documents to your account. You, and only you, will be able to access them from anywhere in the world from a computer linked to the internet. You'll be able to access your vital travel documents, Personal and Medical Profiles, Usernames / Passwords and Current Travel Itinerary / Contacts.



Jan Zandboer will make five 1-year gift subscriptions available to the first five people who send an email to us at: whattravelwriterssay@cogeco.net

Outward Bound: Mike Keenan cont'd.

On the Festival Stage, Luce introduces us to the "privileged" class of ladies who struggle to maintain their social status through marriage. *The Women* may seem clichéd and outdated but the cast performance is so strong that one wonders if the phrase, "You've come a long way baby" has any merit today.

The playbill includes ten productions as follows: Festival Stage: Shaw's *The Doctor's Dilemma* and Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*. At the Court House: Shaw's *John Bull's Other Island*, *The Cherry Orchard* and the *Age of Arousal*. At The Royal George theatre: the classic comedy *Harvey* and Kurt Weill's *One Touch of Venus*. The traditional Lunchtime theatre offering is J.M. Barrie's *Half an Hour*. The Studio Theatre: Caryl Churchill's wicked satire *Serious Money*.

Besides Shaw, Niagara on the Lake, once voted "prettiest town in Canada" is worth a trip on its own.

Toll free: 1-800-511-SHAW (7429);
Local: 905-468-2172;
<http://www.shawfest.com/>

Travel is educational; it teaches you how to get rid of money in a hurry.

S. Barry Lipkin

Featured Tip from page 2

- Discover weather worldwide?
- Access WiFi maps?
- Discover the "wonders of the world?"

Well, that's just the "U-V" list of travel tips at www.whattravelwriterssay.com where there are 400 more links to every conceivable travel related question that you might have. Bookmark the site to assist you in the future.



Industry News

For the latest travel industry news, visit: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/indexnews.html>

I recently attended FIT Cuba 2010 (International Tourist Fair) May 3-8, promoting the island's attractions with Russia as a new potential market. 1.53 million tourists have visited Cuba during the first four months this year, a new record, with Canada remaining the number one client, averaging slightly over a million tourists yearly. Despite the global economic crisis, tourism has grown 3.5%, the island attracting 2.43 million people in 2009. Besides Russia, Cuba is pitching Brazil, Venezuela, Mexico, China, India and ex-pats in the U.S.

Cuba currently has 50,000 hotel rooms throughout its territory, 60% of them in 4 or 5-star category. A scheduled increase of 20,000 units is planned over the next five years. There are four 5-star hotels being constructed in Guardalavaca (Holguin), Cayo Coco (northern cays), Varadero (Matanzas), and in Trinidad (Sancti Spiritus)

Cuba also has an ambitious program underway for the restoration of heritage buildings, as well as ongoing work in Old Havana which I witnessed. The large and well-protected Bay of Havana could become an important tourism port. Infrastructure modernization is taking place in Varadero, the country's largest resort, as well as upgrading of airport facilities and the restoration of

important diving centres.

Contact: Nieves Ricardo, Cuba Tourist Board
1200 Bay St. Suite 305. Toronto, Ontario. M5R 2A5.
Canada TL: (416) 362 0700 nieves@gocuba.ca;
www.gocuba.ca; www.cubatavel.cu

In Havana, I stayed at the 5-star Melia Cohiba Hotel <http://www.solmelia.com/hotels/cuba/havana/melia-cohiba/home.htm> Ave. Paseo, Vedado, Tel: (53) 7 8333636 - Fax: (53) 7 8344555;
Email: melia.cohiba@solmelia.com

Adjacent to the Hotel is the Habana Cafe with interior decor that transports one back to the 50's with a vintage car, photography and an airplane hanging from the ceiling. The floor show was terrific, but the food (when we finally were served) was just so-so.

I flew aboard Cubana Airlines from Pearson in Toronto (Terminal 3) <http://www.cubana.cu/home/> The plane was clean & comfortable; the service efficient and clearing customs (with a visa) was smooth. The hotel was 20 minutes away, and we drove at night along the Malecon or seawall where Cubans flock to socialize and beat the heat.

Havana and the rest of Cuba is safe and secure and the people are incredibly friendly and gracious. How often does a cabbie shake your hand when you tip?

In Cuba, music and dance is ubiquitous, and according to fellow traveller and Canadian film maker, Stephen Smith, Cubans are the best dancers in the world! For more information on FIT Cuba, see: <http://www.cubaweb.cu/en/comunicaciones/111-fit-cuba-2010>

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