

T.O.'s always been Harold's Town

New show highlights late painter's art and style, E3

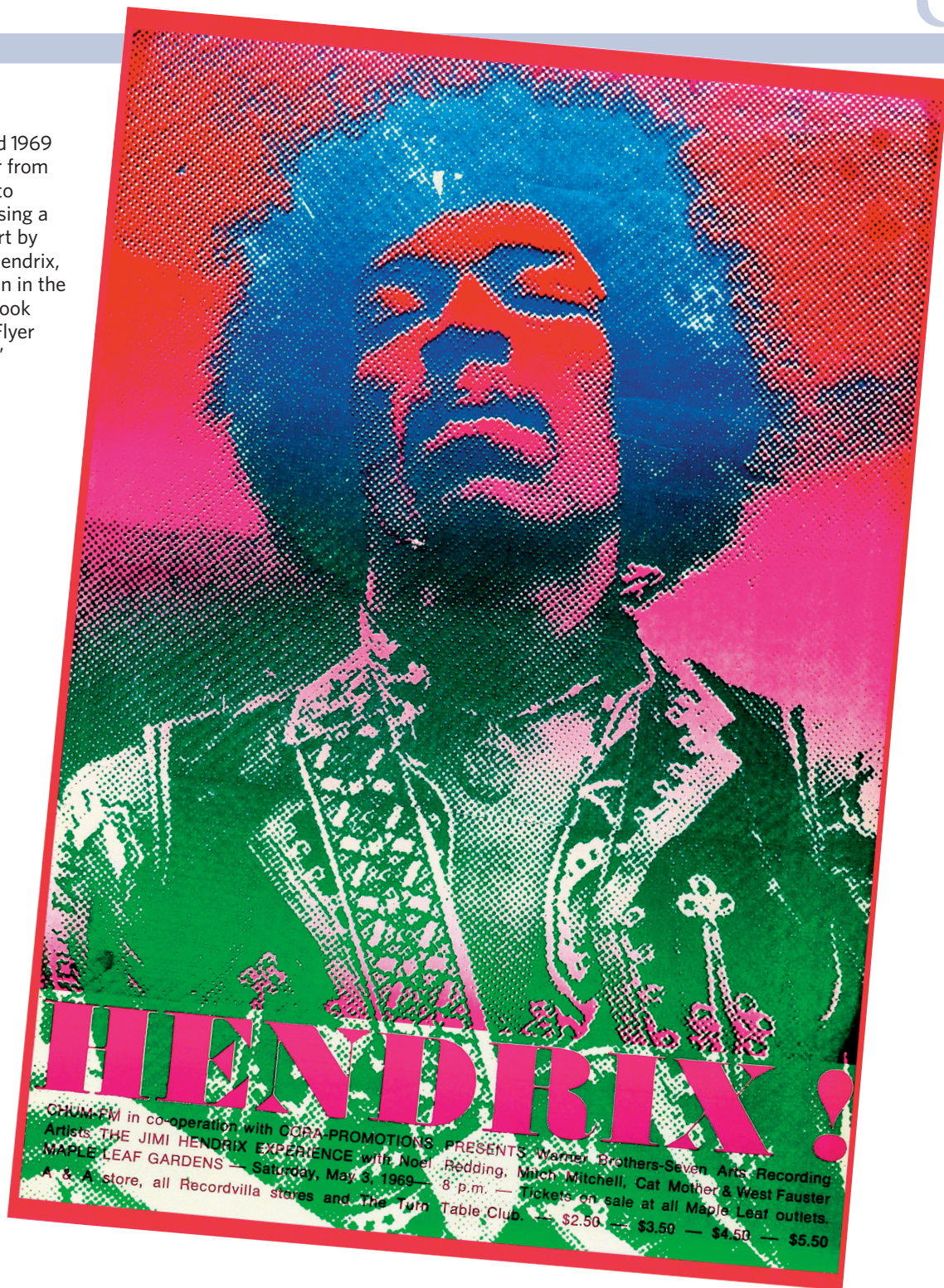


Hauntingly good reads

Horror and mystery take the lead this season, Books, E11-13

ENTERTAINMENT & BOOKS

A vivid 1969 poster from Toronto promising a concert by Jimi Hendrix, as seen in the new book "The Flyer Vault."



THE FLYER VAULT

Who do we see in kids' books?

Star survey provides insight into diversity of Canadian publishers and the characters they develop

DEBORAH DUNDAS
BOOKS EDITOR

Exclusive new numbers gathered by the Toronto Star show that diverse faces are being reflected in children's books published in Canada, but the people telling those stories are still overwhelmingly white.

The importance of kids seeing themselves reflected in the books they're reading can't be overstated. Zetta Elliott, author of the "Dragon Thief" series, among other books, grew up in Canada thinking that she couldn't star in her own stories.

"I adored fantasy fiction but fairies, unicorns and magic carpets belonged to white children in England — not awkward Black girls in Canada," Elliott wrote in the Star this year.

She's not alone. In a variety of interviews I've done and in conversations I've had recently, I kept hearing the phrase, "We didn't see ourselves represented" in the kids' books they read growing up in Canada.

In 1985 in the U.S., the Cooperative Children's Book Centre in Wisconsin began tracking how many books were published in the U.S. and, of those, how many were by Black authors and illustrators. Over time, the tracking has expanded to include First Nations, Asian/Pacific creators and others, developing a body of data on how many children's/YA books were published *about* those groups and also *by* people in those groups.

It's important work and it's not been done in Canada. And so the Star developed and undertook a survey of book publishers across the country.

"Calls for more books by and for authors from diverse backgrounds continue to grow, and it is helpful to have a baseline snapshot of Canadian publishing activity, both to know what the market looks like now, but also to provide the chance to measure change over time," said Kate Edwards, executive director of the Association of Canadian Publishers.

In the survey, we asked how many Canadian authored and/or illustrated children's books they published in 2018 in three categories: Picture Books (ages 0-8), Middle Grade Books (ages 8-12) and Young Adult Books (ages 13 and older).

We then asked them to break down for

KIDS' BOOKS continued on E2

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Notorious GIG

Daniel Tate's published archive of concert flyers is a treasure trove of history sure to trigger memories for Toronto music fans

BEN RAYNER
POP MUSIC CRITIC

Back in the Stone Age before the internet took everything over, the flyer was your passport to musical Coolsville in this city.

Our depleted forests and legions of street-cleaning personnel might not have looked too kindly upon them, no, but those little handbills passed out by the fistful at club and concert exits and stacked for the taking in the corners of strategic locations about town were, for a long time, one of the primary means a music fan could stay plugged into the multitudinous live shows and DJ nights

happening all over Toronto. Especially if you were into music happening at the underground level, where a typical "advertising budget" didn't provide for much else beyond maybe papering the downtown with posters and putting in a few calls to what were once known as "listings editors" at the local print publications.

Daniel Tate was one of the people who used to hand you those flyers when you staggered out of the club at 4 a.m. during the mid-1990s. He put himself through a political science degree at

FLYERS continued on E8

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