

## **Strong Communities**

*August 29, 2008*

## **Celebrate Alberta Arts Day at the Jubilee September 6 in Calgary**

***Enjoy free daytime activities for the entire family and an evening gala featuring top Alberta artists***

*Calgary...* Make a date with family and friends to celebrate the arts on September 6 at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, 1415 - 14th Avenue NW, Calgary.

Experience a diverse range of creative and interactive arts activities, workshops and performances **FREE from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Throughout the day, families can participate in dance workshops, sit in on readings by Alberta authors, listen to live music, learn how to create animation, view short films by Alberta filmmakers and much more.

A thrilling evening gala of lively and eclectic performances from some of Alberta's top artists, including the **Alberta Ballet, Asani, Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, The Swiftys** and many more will take place on the main stage starting at 7:30 p.m. Three major awards recognizing outstanding contributions to the arts in Alberta will also be presented at the gala. Tickets are \$15 and available through Ticketmaster. Group rates are also available.

The events at the Jubilee are part of the Alberta Arts Day celebrations. For details on all the activities at the Jubilee as well as other Arts Day events across the province, visit [culture.alberta.ca/artsday](http://culture.alberta.ca/artsday).

Alberta Arts Day aims to increase Albertans' access to the province's vibrant culture, one of the goals outlined in Alberta's Cultural Policy - *The Spirit of Alberta*. To learn more about *The Spirit of Alberta* visit [culturalpolicy.alberta.ca](http://culturalpolicy.alberta.ca).

-30-

**Attachment:** Backgrounder detailing performance times

**Editor's Note:** Media are invited to attend both the daytime activities and evening gala. To reserve seating for the gala, please RSVP to [keltie.macpherson@gov.ab.ca](mailto:keltie.macpherson@gov.ab.ca)

### **Media inquiries may be directed to:**

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## September 6 daytime activities at Jubilee in Calgary

### Throughout the day:

- Art exhibition of works from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts collection, Alcove Suite Lobby
- Animation sessions for children by Quickdraw Animation Society, Lower Lobby
- Roaming stilt characters from the Green Fools Theatre Society

### Lobby Stage:

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Storyfair Productions: Musical storytelling company
11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	The Heebee Jeebees: A cappella singing group
12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Les Bûcherons: French-Canadian performers
2 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Cantare Children's Choir: Children's choir for 6-19 year-olds
2:45 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Kita no Taiko: Taiko (Japanese drums) company

### Dance Workshops

10 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	Aboriginal storytelling and movement for ages 10 and up by Red Thunder: The Next Generation
10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.	Jazz for 10-12 year-olds by Decidedly Jazz Danceworks
11:15 a.m.-12 p.m.	West African for 7-9 year-olds by Decidedly Jazz Danceworks
12 p.m.-12:30 p.m.	Jazz for 5-6 year-olds by Decidedly Jazz Danceworks
12:30 p.m.-1 p.m.	Creative movement for 5-6 year-olds by Decidedly Jazz Danceworks
1 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	Aboriginal storytelling and movement for ages 10 and up by Red Thunder: The Next Generation
1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Tryzub Ukrainian Dance Ensemble

### Media Arts Room

<b>Comedy (I)</b>  10 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	In <b>Rugburn</b> , a young painter works up the courage to contact the collections agency that has been hounding him, and gets embroiled in a more personal confrontation than he bargained for. Rugburn: some things hurt worse than they should. Filmmaker: Trevor Anderson (Edmonton), Length: 12:36 min
	The <b>Backgrounder</b> is a unique mockumentary capturing a day in the life of an affable average guy, who is part of an unusual and elite group with a vital function and a virtual omnipresence. And no one knows they exist! Filmmaker: Harley Hay (Red Deer), Length: 13:07 min
	In <b>Artistic Taxidermist</b> , a taxidermist and his wife discover Da Vinci's Mona Lisa. They set off to explore its artistic potential and the creative expression of taxidermy. Filmmaker: Sandi Somers (Calgary), Length: 5:30 min
<b>Drama / Documentary</b>	<b>Shipwrecked</b> is the story of a lonely 10-year-old boy who discovers a miniature shipwreck on a cold, isolated beach. Shocked to find dozens of tiny footprints leading away from the historic sailing vessel, the boy follows the prints,

11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<p>uncovering and examining my artifacts left behind.  <b>Filmmakers:</b> Kirsten Bolton and Devon Bolton (Calgary), Length: 10 min</p> <p><b>The Lesson</b> is a layered and moving portrayal of one immigrant's impact on his new country of residence, Canada. In a society obsessed with the newest, biggest, and most luxurious, Ramesh Kumar's personal life takes on an almost monastic quality. His pared-down life, free of possessions and appearances, is a rare example of simplicity and peace in our modern world.  <b>Filmmaker:</b> Punam Kumar Gill (Calgary), Length: 12 min</p>
	<p>In <b>Colony</b>, human research subjects discover that the unknown substance injected into them turns them onto the ideal of a totalitarian-ruled medical institute. <i>Colony</i> is a dystopian science fiction short film about the addictive allure of power and its impending destruction of humanity.  <b>Filmmaker:</b> Michael Olson (Edmonton), Length: 9:30 min</p>
<p><b>Comedy (II)</b></p> <p>12 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Me, Masi &amp; Mr. Clean</b> is a charming tale about a young girl's struggle with self acceptance and society's obsession with unrealistic ideals. Seema, a precocious 11-year-old girl, constantly goaded by her Masi (Aunt) about her dark skin, resorts to an unusual means of confronting the "problem." Mr. Cleanliness is next to Godliness after all, so a few bottles of this beloved household product could be just the thing to help her. After an unexpected turn of events, a beautiful truth is revealed.  <b>Filmmaker:</b> Nina Sudra (Calgary), Length: 7:53 min</p> <p>In <b>Belly Boat Hustle</b>, five harried businessmen take time out to go fly-fishing in the glorious Rocky Mountains but can't leave their obsession for technology behind.  <b>Filmmaker:</b> Sandra Sawatzky (Calgary), Length: 6:23 min</p> <p><b>Lulla</b> is a short science fiction comedy in which Lucid 44 plays a gravedigger digging up not just a grave but something mysterious. Set to Lucid 44's music, <i>Lulla</i> features Lucid 44 in his first acting role.  <b>Filmmaker:</b> Terrance Houle (Calgary), Length: 4 min</p>
<p><b>Animation</b></p> <p>1 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Linear Dreams</b> is the work of accomplished animator, Richard Reeves. Reeves excels in the cameraless technique, where animated images and sound are created by scratching directly onto film. <i>Linear Dreams</i>, which includes hand-made soundtrack and visuals, took two years to complete: one year for all the sound work, testing, re-dos, editing, and reverb adding, another year to create, edit, sync, and finally print.  <b>Filmmaker:</b> Richard Reeves (Calgary), Length: 7 min</p> <p><b>Mr. Reaper's Really Bad Morning</b> is a film about the uneasy co-existence between life and Mr. Death.  <b>Filmmaker:</b> Carol Beecher (Calgary), Length: 16:43 min</p> <p><b>Patricia Grey</b>  Only after the tragedy of her daughter's death is a mother forced to confront her own reality, and face a harrowing past.  <b>Filmmaker:</b> Anne Koizumi (Calgary), Length: 5:39 min</p>

## Literary Arts Room

<p><b>Literary Non-Fiction</b></p>	<p><b>Myrna Kostash</b> (Edmonton)  Myrna Kostash is the author of a number of works, including the recent titles <i>Frog Lake: A Reader</i>, and <i>Prodigal Daughter: A Journey to Byzantium</i>. In addition to extensive credits in creative non-fiction, Kostash has written radio drama and</p>
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10 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	documentary, television documentary, and theatre cabaret. She has also taught and mentored in numerous positions at institutions in Canada and the USA, served as president of the Writers' Guild of Alberta, chair of The Writers' Union of Canada, and Alberta representative to the board of governors of the Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA). Her current roles include serving as president of the Creative Nonfiction Collective, an organization she co-founded.
	<p><b>Sid Marty</b> (Lundbreck)</p> <p>Sid Marty's work has appeared in <i>Equinox</i>, <i>Canadian Geographic</i>, <i>National Geographic Traveler</i> and in many Canadian anthologies and literary magazines. He is the author of five non-fiction books (<i>Men for the Mountains</i>, <i>Switchbacks</i>, <i>A Grand and Fabulous Notion</i>, <i>Leaning on the Wind</i>, and most recently <i>The Black Grizzly of Whiskey Creek</i>) and three collections of poetry. He is one of three finalists for The Grant McEwan Literary Arts Award.</p>
	<p><b>Aritha van Herk</b> (Calgary)</p> <p>Aritha van Herk teaches creative writing, Canadian literature and contemporary narrative at the University of Calgary. Her work includes several novels (<i>Judith</i>, <i>The Tent Peg</i>, <i>No Fixed Address</i>, <i>Places Far From Ellesmere</i> and <i>Restlessness</i>) and critical works <i>A Frozen Tongue</i> and <i>In Visible Ink</i>. With <i>Mavericks: An Incurable History of Alberta</i> (winner of the 2003 Grant MacEwan Literary Award) van Herk ventured into new territory, transforming history into a narratological spectacle. That book frames the new permanent exhibition that opened at the Glenbow Museum in 2007. van Herk is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and is active in Canada's literary and cultural life, writing articles and reviews as well as creative work.</p>
<p><b>Fiction</b></p> <p>11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Todd Babiak</b> (Edmonton)</p> <p>Todd Babiak has published three novels: <i>Choke Hold</i>, <i>The Garneau Block</i> and <i>The Book of Stanley</i>. All three are national bestsellers, and <i>The Book of Stanley</i> is in development as a television series. His fourth novel, tentatively titled <i>Toby: A Man</i>, will be published in fall, 2009, by HarperCollins. He writes for film and television, as a punishing hobby, and is a columnist at the Edmonton Journal.</p> <p><b>Leslie Greentree</b> (Red Deer)</p> <p>Leslie Greentree's second book of poetry, <i>go-go dancing for Elvis</i>, was short-listed for the Griffin Poetry Prize in 2004. Her poetry and short fiction has won several CBC competitions, and has appeared internationally in the New York Times and the London Sunday Times. <i>A Minor Planet for You</i>, her first book of short fiction, won the Howard O'Hagan Award in 2007. In 2008, Leslie was awarded a City of Red Deer Mayor's Recognition Award for Fine and Performing Arts.</p> <p><b>Melanie Little</b> (Calgary)</p> <p>Melanie Little is the author of <i>The Apprentice's Masterpiece</i>, a novel-in-verse for young adults (Annick Press), and <i>Confidence</i>, a collection of stories (Thomas Allen), a Globe and Mail Best Book. Her fiction has appeared in anthologies including <i>The Journey Prize Anthology</i> and <i>Scribner's Best of the Fiction Workshops</i>, and she has been shortlisted for the Danuta Gleed, Bronwyn Wallace, and CBC Literary Awards. In 2005-06 she was the Markin-Flanagan writer in Residence at the University of Calgary. She is currently editor of the Calgary-based Freehand Books, Canada's newest literary press.</p>
<p><b>Poetry</b></p> <p>12 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Kimmy Beach</b> (Red Deer)</p> <p>Kimmy Beach's fourth collection of poetry, <i>in Cars</i>, was published by Turnstone Press in 2007. She has read across the country, and her second collection, <i>Alarum</i></p>

*rain. Ineure poems*, has twice been adapted as a full-length stage play. Kimmy was the 2005 International Guest Poet for the Dead Good Poets Society in Liverpool, UK, where she launched her third book, *fake Paul*, onstage at the Cavern Club in Mathew Street. Kimmy was the first writer-in-residence for the Parkland Regional Library System/Writers' Guild of Alberta/Library Association of Alberta's 'Check out the Writer' program.

**Marilyn Dumont** (Edmonton)

Marilyn Dumont first collection, *A Really Good Brown Girl*, won the 1997 Gerald Lampert Memorial Award and is now in its eleventh printing. Her second collection, *green girl dreams Mountains*, won the 2001 Stephan G. Stephansson Award and her third collection, *that tongued belonging*, was awarded the 2007 Anskohk Aboriginal Poetry Book of the Year and the McNally Robinson Aboriginal Book of the Year. Marilyn has been writer-in-residence at several post-secondary institutions in Canada and was a mentor for the 2006 Wired Writing Program - Banff Centre for the Arts. Marilyn is currently on leave from her Creative Writing teaching position at Athabasca University in order to be the 2008 Edmonton Public Library's writer-in-residence. Marilyn continues to work on a fourth manuscript in which she explores Métis history, politics and identity through her ancestral figure, Gabriel Dumont.

**Richard Stevenson** (Lethbridge)

Richard Stevenson has read to enthusiastic audiences across the country and is the author of 23 full-length books and 7 chapbooks, including, most recently, *Hot Flashes: Maiduguri Haiku, Senryu, and Tanka*, *Parrot With Tourette's*, *A Charm of Finches*, and *Wiser Pills*. Richard also occasionally performs with the young adult rock/ poetry group Sasquatch. He regularly reviews poetry and fiction, and periodically runs adult and young adult workshops. He holds degrees in English and creative writing from The University of Victoria and University of British Columbia and teaches Canadian literature, creative writing, children's literature, and business communication at Lethbridge College in southern Alberta.

**Children's / Young Adult Fiction**

1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

**Marty Chan** (Edmonton)

Marty Chan is a young adult author, playwright and humorist. His first kids' book, *The Mystery of the Frozen Brains*, won the 2005 City of Edmonton Book Prize. The sequel, *The Mystery of the Graffiti Ghoul*, won the 2007 Diamond Willow Award and was nominated for the 2008 R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature, 2007 Manitoba Young Readers Choice Award, 2007 Arthur Ellis Award, and 2007 Golden Eagle Children's Choice Award. He is a regular contributor to the Edmonton Journal. Along with composer Robert Walsh, Marty is the co-creator of *The Forbidden Phoenix*, a martial arts musical that will be produced at the Citadel Theatre in October 2008.

**Georgia Graham** (Lacombe)

Georgia Graham was born and raised in Calgary and loved drawing as long as she can remember. She graduated from the Alberta College of Art in 1982 where she studied visual communications. She has illustrated over a dozen children's books and written three including *A Team Like No Other*, *The Strongest Man This Side of Cremona* and her upcoming *Lime Green Secret*. She always works in pastel.

**Jacqueline Guest** (Bragg Creek)

Jacqueline is a Métis writer whose award-winning historical and mystery novels for young readers feature characters from ethnic backgrounds including First Nations, Inuit or Métis. Her characters often face issues such as bullying, blended families and physical challenges and are strong role models for today's youth. Jacqueline

regularly presents to students in all grade levels on subjects such as history and writing. She has participated in Mamawenig, the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Gathering, where she helped shape the direction of Native literacy in Saskatchewan, and has given workshops and presentations to a wide range of adult audiences. She is the current writer-in-residence for the Marigold Library System and a member of Calgary Arts Partners in Education Society. Jacqueline has been nominated for a National Aboriginal Achievement Award and the prestigious Esquao Award for outstanding achievement by an Aboriginal woman. A strong advocate of reading, Jacqueline believes the key to the future is through better literacy today.

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