



A dynamic community that celebrates and supports *Arts and Creativity!*

Red Deer Arts Council and Red Deer Public Library are delighted to present

Holiday Music with Christopher Lamontagne at Echoes of Italy

which runs in the Kiwanis Gallery until December 2, 2023.



Moving Landscape
Acrylic and Handmade Paper on Cradleboard, 2023
Linda Mah

#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening

Reception December 1 from 5:30–7:30 pm.

Join Chris Lamontagne and his guitar for some holiday tunes in the Snell Auditorium during our December First Friday!

Gallery Hours: Mon to Thurs 9am–8pm, Fri 9am–5pm, Sat & Sun 10am–3pm



The Red Deer Arts Council is pleased to present



Merry Messages: Hand-Lettered Greetings by the Lettering Arts Guild of Red Deer

in the Red Deer Arts Council's Community Gallery.

The Lettering Arts Guild is committed to promoting the tradition of calligraphy and beautiful lettering styles. Also, on display is the 'To the Letter' exhibit.

#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening Reception on December 1 from 5pm – 7pm with artists in attendance.

RDAC Community Gallery 6 – 4919 49 Street
The exhibition runs until January 4, 2024.

Gallery Hours: Mon to Fri 12pm – 4pm



~Creativity Understood~

What's Happening in December 2023



The Writes of Winter:

A Holiday Writing Contest!

The days are getting shorter, the temperatures are dropping, and we're all preparing to hunker down through another dark and dreary winter. We could all use something to look forward to! Why not a little creative writing, and the chance to win a fabulous prize?

We are inviting Red Deerians of all ages to create a short poem or story with a maximum length of 500 words about winter and/or the holiday season in Red Deer. Submissions can be fiction, or creative nonfiction: That means memoirs, events from history, and local legends are all welcome, so long as you've put your own creative spin on the source material.

For most of us, the holidays are the candle that keeps the darkness at bay over the long, harsh Canadian winter. Family, food, and festivities give us a chance to rest, rejoice, and reinvigorate ourselves for another two (or five...) months of chilly weather. Share with us your take of the holiday season in Red Deer, and perhaps you'll find more than just coal in your stocking!

We will be selecting a winner for each category (poetry, short story - fiction, short story non-fiction) on the following timelines: **Holiday Season deadline: December 10, 2023 | Winter Blues deadline: January 15, 2024**

Fundraiser T-Shirt Printing Event!

Marnie Blair of the RDAC Board is going to host a Custom T-Shirt Printing Event on Monday, December 11 from 6:30 – 8:30pm at the RDAC office for black ink screen printing of our fancy design by Alison Forsberg! We can only print one colour on the night, but white prints can be ordered through our website.

Now, we have a fun and funky T-shirt design ready for your holiday season gift giving!

Our new order form on our website at

<https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/fundraising> to order your custom screen-printed T-shirt or sweatshirt!

New Projects Coming in 2024!

The Red Deer Arts Council recently received a grant to support the development of Drum Circles in Red Deer. This new project is led by "Drummer Dan" Barton and we are excited to explore the universal heartbeat and rhythms from around the world in new ways! We'll also be hosting workshops to learn how to tune drums so we can get our incoming stock ready for playing! More details to come soon! We've also got exciting new developments for the local theatre community! Sign up for our newsletters at RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca to find out everything!

*Wishing everyone a very happy Holiday Season,
Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!*



Jenna Goldade Reflects on 16 Years of Bull Skit Comedy

If you want to get something done, just tell Jenna Goldade she can't do it.

At age 21 and not yet out of Red Deer College, Goldade became a founder and artistic director of Against the Wall Theatre. Sixteen years later, her local troupe has out-shot all predictions by continuing to stage bi-monthly Bull Skit Comedy shows at Red Deer's Scott Block Theatre.

Goldade, now age 36, recalled wanting to do the kind of productions she wasn't being cast in: edgy dramas, sketch comedy and improv shows. "I thought, I can create a play. Just do it. It can't be that hard. Nobody's going to tell me I can't do this," recalled the RDC film and theatre alum,

with a chuckle. "The whole reason I started Bull Skit was I wasn't going to be told 'No.'"

In 2008, Goldade and a handful of other actors began staging cabarets to help pay for the kind of serious shows she envisioned Against the Wall Theatre tackling.

Their first big production was a drama about aimless 20-somethings. While that was satisfying enough, Goldade and her fellow group members soon found the fundraising sketch comedy and improvisation shows were more fun.

And early audiences also got a kick out of the improvs. Even though "we weren't that good at first." Goldade recalled many shows were sell outs. With other actors eager to join the company, she figured "I had better know what I was doing." She took summer workshops with Second City and the Improv Olympics in Chicago. She also regularly honed her skills at Loose Moose Theatre in Calgary and at Rapid Fire Theatre in Edmonton.

Goldade's interest in improv goes back to when she was a 12 year old, attending middle school in Rocky Mountain House. Her mom had taken her to see stage productions to expose her to some arts and culture. Goldade came up with the idea of starting her own improv and cheerleading clubs.

"It lasted for about three days" she wryly recalled. But after moving to Red Deer for high school, Goldade got involved in musicals as a chorus member and understudy. While frustrated by the lack of meaty roles, theatre "was the only challenging thing for me, that kept my attention," recalled Goldade. She remains grateful her parents supported her career choice.

While Bull Skit Comedy, like many arts groups, is struggling to regaining its former audience after COVID, the troupe is evolving, expanding its repertoire and diversifying offerings, including doing corporate team-building workshops.

Besides presenting monthly Maestro improv challenge shows, there will be an improvised musical in January, a Love Actually show in February and a sketch comedy show in March. As well, Bull Skit is partnering with The Forum in Red Deer to stage Cirque du Soleil-style aerial shows at Bo's. Improvisers from Calgary and Edmonton are eager to come "play" on stage with the Bull Skit gang: "They respect us and it makes me feel really great that we're doing these good things," said Goldade.

For more information, please visit bullskitcomedy.com.



Jenna Goldade. Photo Credit: Megan Nicole Photography



Jenna Goldade on stage at the Scott Block Theatre. Photo Credit: Candy Coated Studio