



Leading a dynamic community
celebrating the *Arts*

The 30th Middle Schools Awesome Art Show
at the Kiwanis Gallery

April 28 to May 24
The 30th Middle Schools Awesome Art Show

This year we celebrate 30 years of this exhibit which was started by the Red Deer and District Allied Arts Council in 1985. Through all their moves and changes, this exhibit was a constant in their arts programming. The Red Deer Arts Council is thrilled to be able to continue that tradition.

From TV shows to celebrities to the world around them, middle school students see the world with unique eyes. What will catch their eyes this year? This annual exhibit delights its audience with a variety of works expressing these young students' talents as they experiment with different subject matter and media. Come see what's new!

First Friday Red Deer Opening Reception: May 1 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Come and meet the students and enjoy their expressive artworks.

Featuring middle school students from Eastview, Central, Gateway, West Park and Glendale

First Friday Red Deer is sponsored by the Red Deer Downtown Business Association



1960s Punk Levi
Pixir, Grade 8
Jakobe Moore
Glendale Sciences and Technology



Anime
Pencil on Paper, Grade 8
Samantha Finlay
Central Middle School



The Curious Case of Lynda Adams Interview by Paul Cowley

The Curious Case of Lynda Adams would seem a fitting title for her life.

After all, like the reverse-aging Benjamin Button, Adams has admittedly approached life and work a little backwards.

The Red Deer College instructor was long happily married and a mom to two teen kids when she decided to turn a passion for dance and theatre – inspired by a youthful trip with her grandmother to see *My Fair Lady* at the Jubilee Theatre – into a future career.

“In the 1980s, I started taking dancing seriously, professionally. So I kind of did exactly the opposite way of everyone else who I know, who actually did all that first, then got married and had kids, and gave up their careers,” says Adams, a long-time instructor in the Theatre Performance and Creation program who has taught movement, dance, acting, business of theatre and play analysis to hundreds of students. Luring her into the world of the professional arts 30-odd years ago was *Kompany!*, a musical theatre troupe that she performed with throughout the 1980s in Canada and the U.S., and internationally in Greece, Australia and Switzerland.

A scholarship from Edmonton Musical Theatre led to acting classes at Citadel Theatre.

For 20 years, until 2009, she was both an instructor and then curriculum director of Theatre Alberta’s Artstrek program as well as artist-in-residence at Victoria School of the Arts in Edmonton from 1989 to 2002.

In the overlapping and vagabond tradition of arts jobs, she also taught at Grant McEwan College and the University of Alberta, and the University of British Columbia. She was also artistic associate at Edmonton’s Northern Light Theatre.

In the middle of this busy period, and in keeping with her backwards bent on life, she went back to school at age 47, making the bold decision to move to England for a year in 1994 to get her master’s degree in Movement for the Actor at City University of London.

“I was definitely the oldest in that class, but it was a really fantastic experience,” she says. In 2002, she became a full-time faculty member at Red Deer College, where she has continued directing with numerous plays under her belt including *The Seagull*, *Cabaret*, *The Sound of Music* and *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, as well as the world premiere of Mieko Ouchi’s *The Dada Play*.

Her love of experimental theatre led to a collaboration with a number of other artists on a project entitled *THE CANOLA PROJECT – At Close Range*, a series of interdisciplinary site-specific theatrical events, exploring the ever-changing human and geographical landscapes of Central Alberta.

The former president of Culture Link has been a member of the Red Deer Arts Council since Day 1 and always encourages others to pursue their passion.

“As an educator I now advise lots of young people that they’re never too old to follow their dreams. If that’s what you want. Why not? Make it happen.”



Tickets for the **May 8** dance at **Festival Hall** are available at the door, or online at www.countrypridedanceclub.ca. \$10/adult; \$5/youth; \$20/family of up to four; 3 years and under free. Live music by **JukeBox Rock**. Learn the schottische and jive. Hot dogs, pie and ice cream available for purchase in support of the Red Deer Cultural Heritage Society!

Kiwanis Gallery Exhibits for 2014:

The Best of the West Studio Art Quilts Associates Trunk Show; Open and Closed: Mixed Media by Wendy Meeres; The 29th Middle Schools Awesome Art Show; Hang-ups and Insights: The 6th Annual International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement Art Show with Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School and Hunting Hills High School; Glass Earth: Mixed Media by Larissa Blokhuis; Common Threads: In-Definite Arts Society; Unfulfilled Precognition: Photographs by Alexis Marie Chute; Starry Night: Red Deer Arts Council Visual Arts Members Juried Exhibition. As part of First Friday Red Deer, RDAC's Kiwanis Gallery had 735 people attend with an average attendance of 61 people with the highest attendance at the Middle and High School shows. We have continued with our alternating First Friday Red Deer; when the artists/groups have had their opening, we hosted the following:

February - Bradford Lawlor - performer April - Frank Pavlick - literary readings

August - Vincent Millward - performing singer/songwriter

October - Michael Dawe - literary reading and talk about his new book, *Red Deer: A Memorable City*

December - The Wild Gonzales, students from LTCHS performed at the opening of Starry Night

The Visual Arts Committee hosted two Pop-Up Galleries with seven visual arts members at AB Culture Days, with over 300 people attending; the second one at the Kerry Wood Nature Centre had 4 artists that hosted 80 people.

We continued with our Office Art Program for 2014 with the following member artists participating: Kristin Guttridge, Janice Williams and David Flewwelling.

The Scholarship and Awards Committee was pleased to announce the following winners for 2014:

Performer Erin Pettifor, attending Red Deer College's Theatre Performance and Creation program, won the Centennial Scholarship for Post-Secondary Students.

Performer Brock Beal, attending Red Deer College's Theatre Performance and Creation program, won the most prestigious award, the Princess Margaret Scholarship for Post- Secondary Students.

The scholarships were publicly awarded at the Mayor's Recognition Awards held in June 2014.

The first ever Emerging Artist Award went to Eva Mary Alysse Bowd of Red Deer. Ms. Bowd is a visual artist whose media are ceramic, performance, installation, drawing and written narrative.

Our social media impact was 724 likes on Facebook and 346 followers on Twitter in 2014. We saw many hits on our website and kept it up to date with news and events. The Communications Committee is working on implementing the Marketing Plan.

We were active partners with Red Deer schools, both Public and Catholic, for Alberta Culture Days, with over 15 partners for the main events held over the course of the last weekend in September. Kompany! from Edmonton put on the production *In True Pirate Fashion*, for 1008 middle school children at the Red Deer College Arts Centre (thanks to RDC for that ongoing partnership); we had five artists in the high schools whose workshops were attended by 537 students.

Our board made a new standing committee, *Art Moves*, whose mandate is designed to assist community members who would like to pass on their art to a person or organization that would otherwise not have the ability to purchase the art at market value. Our board held a Strategic Planning Session and Board Orientation in April to acquaint new board members with the organization and its plans.

2014 was a very busy year for our board, committee members and volunteers. We are happy to be partners with lots of individual artists, and arts and cultural organizations to bring the arts to vibrant life in Red Deer.

I am the Arts



Lynda teaching the Artstrek theatre program, c. 2009
Photograph by Sui-Fan Wong

I am a teacher, daughter, sister, wife, mother and a halmoni (gramma to my two beautiful 1/2 Korean grandkids!).

I enjoy nature walks, visits with family and friends and sailing in the unpredictable ocean.

I love collaboration - creating theatrical works inspired by the world around us and sharing in the process with others.

I am Lynda Adams.

I am proud to call Red Deer and beautiful central Alberta home.

Join me in discovering the best our city has to offer.

**Upcoming Exhibit in the Kiwanis Gallery:
May 26 to June 20**

Hang-ups and Insights: The 7th Annual International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement Art Show with Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School and Hunting Hills High School.

Become a member of our board or committees and get involved. Give back to the community that you are a part of. Find a rewarding volunteer position with the Arts Council.

We need people to help with our Scholarship & Awards Committee. So if you want to help young aspiring artists, this committee is for you. This committee also oversees the Emerging Artist Award. Call Diana at the office.

Red Deer Arts Council

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Thanks to the City of Red Deer for all their support through Culture Services!