



Leading a dynamic community that celebrates the *Arts*

Get your giggle on with Improv Jelly in the Kiwanis Gallery August 5th!

During the August 5th First Friday Red Deer in the Snell Auditorium, Improv Jelly will be performing two sets from 6:15 to 6:45 pm and 7:00 to 7:30 pm of classic, simple, yet fantastically fun improvisational games with actors, Paul Sutherland, Nicole Leal, James Scott and Philip Abusow. They love involving the audience, but only if the audience volunteers when Improv Jelly asks! They will also perform some short sketches to entertain the audience and to create that atmosphere of relaxation and fun, which comedy does so well. They look forward to performing, meeting the audience members and sharing lots of laughs!



Improv Jelly is a group made up of professional actors, sketch writers, and experienced improvisers from all walks of life. Improv Jelly, lead by Paul Sutherland and Nicole Leal, began in May of 2016. The group rehearses every second Saturday, along with support from Central Alberta Theatre. With the busyness of life and its demands, Improv Jelly was created to offer an opportunity to fellow artists to get involved in creating comedic moments in a safe environment within a workable schedule. The rehearsals all lead toward two shows in which all content is completely new, even between the first and second shows.

Improv Jelly's founders:

Paul Sutherland's past experience starts off with his years of being a working actor in Alberta who graduated from Red Deer College's theatre program in 2005. Paul also improvised for four years with Against the Wall Theatre's improv group called Bull Skit. He attended a five-week improvisation training course in Chicago in the summer of 2014.

Nicole Leal has been a working actor and director in Central Alberta since graduating from Red Deer College's theatre program in 2013. Nicole has been a part of Prime Stock Theatre's *Bard on Bower* and Against the Wall Theatre's sketch and improv group called Veal Skit. As well she has directed a high school Anti-Tobacco Program for Teens by Teens, known as Butt Ugly. Nicole is also embarking on a new adventure as Tree House Youth Theatre's Artistic Director for the 2016/2017 season.

Improv Jelly plans to continue their time together with professional artists in the hopes of adding another comedy group to the ever-growing city of Red Deer. Improv Jelly also encourages the community of Red Deer to support all arts and culture groups throughout the year. They look forward to seeing more people come out to see their actors involved in Improv Jelly in their upcoming shows this Fall / Winter season.

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



The third Emerging Artist Award goes to Nicole Leal!

The Red Deer Arts Council is excited to announce that the third Emerging Artist Award goes to Nicole Leal of Red Deer. Leal is a talented actor, director and Assistant Artistic Director for Tree House Youth Theatre.

Ms. Leal graduated from Red Deer College's Theatre Performance and Creation program in 2013. However, she volunteered with Central Alberta Theatre in 2008 doing makeup and hair. In 2010, she took a New York 5-week intensive acting for film workshop. Since 2013, she worked as the director for Butt Ugly Anti-Tobacco Program for Teens by Teens and acted for Prime Stock Theatre's *Bard on Bower*. Ms. Leal also co-founded the new sketch and improv group, Improv Jelly here in Red Deer.

The jury was delighted with Ms. Leal's work and passion for the arts and her commitment to Red Deer. They were encouraged by her maturity, zest for life, and the high quality of her work. They loved the fact that she continues to give back to the community by teaching through her performances and involvement with Tree House Youth Theatre. One of Ms. Leal's goals is to search out not-for-profit management training. That goal will help her broaden her ability to influence the arts in Red Deer and be an asset to the entire community. The jury believes that Ms. Leal will be a strong female voice on the path to leadership.



The Red Deer Emerging Artist Award, a new award announced in March of 2014, consists of \$1,000 and a certificate. The award supports and encourages promising Red Deer artists early in their careers.

Red Deer Arts Council Chair, Craig Scott, presenting Nicole Leal, our third Emerging Artist Award winner with her cheque for \$1,000, July 2016.

Photograph by Albertus Koett

Meat Draw Thursdays!

Red Deer Arts Council is at East 40th Pub on Thursdays, 6 pm to 8 pm throughout August with a Meat Draw Raffle; 6 rounds with the seventh a bonus draw plus a gift certificate for \$25 from Co-Op.

(each ticket costs \$1.00 and you could win either your choice of meat or a free drink!). See us on August 4, 11, 18 and 25! Don't forget that East 40th offers a BBQ steak dinner with all the trimmings and a drink for all of \$13.95 - a steal of a deal! Thursday nights only. Help the Arts Council raise funds for their various programs and enjoy a night on the town! East 40th Pub is located at 3811 40 Avenue, Red Deer.

Public Market 2016 Season - Red Deer Arts Council's Members will be at the market in **Stall 104**, watch for our members: August 6 & 13 Strive Dance, August 20 Wildrose Harmonizers, August 27 Country Pride Dance Club.



Fort Normandeau Days Saturday & Sunday, August 22 & 23, noon to 5 p.m. at Historic Fort Normandeau. Have a blast in the past as we celebrate life as it was at the Crossing, circa 1885! Call 403-346-2010 for more info.

Sunnybrook Farm Museum - Lunch at the Farm. Wednesday, August 10 & 31: 11:30 am to 2 pm. Relax in the 1889 Hanna log house and enjoy lunch including home-made pie with ice-cream and musical entertainment. Includes a guided wagon ride featuring the history of Sunnybrook Farm Museum. Cost: \$12.00 per person. Reservations recommended. **AND**

Pioneer Days Festival. Saturday, August 20–Sunday, August 21: 8 am to 4 pm. Pioneer breakfast, tractor pulls, tractor parade, threshing, cowboy church (Sunday), home-made pie, silent auction, children activities, concession, face-painting and more. Cost is \$15.00 per family or \$5.00 per person (additional meal charges apply).

Brenda Smith: An artist entrepreneur

Interview by Paul Cowley

Brenda Smith was about six when the world took on a new hue.

She was colouring with her cousin and looked over to see a wonderful image taking shape.

"I remember it so strongly," she recalls. "I remember her using purple and blue together. And I just loved those two colours together."

Her creativity sparked, art has been a part of her life ever since.

In junior high school in Drumheller, where she grew up, her imagination turned her bedroom walls into "all sorts of weird colours," she says with a chuckle. Her art also found an outlet in her passion for sewing and, in high school, painting.

As an adult, she turned her hand to stained glass, inspired partly by an antique-collecting uncle's kaleidoscope-coloured collection of lamps, including masterpieces from the workshops of Tiffany. Brenda worked with stained glass for more than 16 years, teaching classes as she became more accomplished.

"My dad also collected antiques in Drumheller. He had a little antique store next to his plumbing shop and I've always really loved old things, antiques and such, I think just because of my upbringing."

Her love of painting never left her and she turned it into a business as a decorative painter, turning clients' walls into works of art along with painting partner Janice Williams. Brenda went to Toronto to learn the trompe l'oeil technique, creating imaginary vistas complete with architectural features and distant scenery. An example of her work takes up much of one wall in her kitchen.

"I discovered decorative painting and I just absolutely loved it," she says. "Then I opened a decorative painting school and my studio was downstairs."

The challenge of turning mundane walls into artworks was a lot of fun, she says. "You have to listen to people because they don't always know what they want."

Alas, clients were hard to come by in Central Alberta and the artistic entrepreneur has moved on to a new business. Brenda's latest venture in the creative world is Art for Dinner, a business she began last August. It involves an evening of painting at local restaurants, which brings together regular painters and those who have never picked up a brush. It's an evening of art guaranteed to produce a finished painting and it has been an amazing experience.

"A lot of times at least half of the people who come to an event have never painted before. They are bound and determined that they just can't do this, and I just guide them through it and they leave so happy."

Smith also takes her canvases and paints to other events, such as private functions and fundraisers. For more information see www.artfordinner.ca

I am the Arts



Brenda Smith in Mexico on her 60th birthday. "... and how can you be in Mexico without having a Corona on a very hot day, when it is your birthday week?" The photographer was Darlene S.

I am a wife and mother and friend, which I feel are most important.

I love dancing, sewing and music.

I am proud to call Red Deer my home.

Join me in discovering the best our city has to offer

Upcoming Exhibit in the Kiwanis Gallery:

August 23 to October 16

Geospace: Acrylic Paintings by Susan Delaney

First Friday Red Deer Opening: September 2 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm



In June, we sent out a survey to our individual and organizational members to get their input into our work. Thanks to all those members who provided our Communications Committee with some great data. We will let you know the results once they are compiled. We also held a draw for one individual and one organizational membership. We are happy to announce that Jan Howden-Paul and the ACFA Régionale de Red Deer were the winners. Congratulations to both of them and thanks to everyone who participated. We truly appreciated the input.

Red Deer Arts Council

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