



Celebrating the Arts Arts Immersion at Calgary Arts Academy

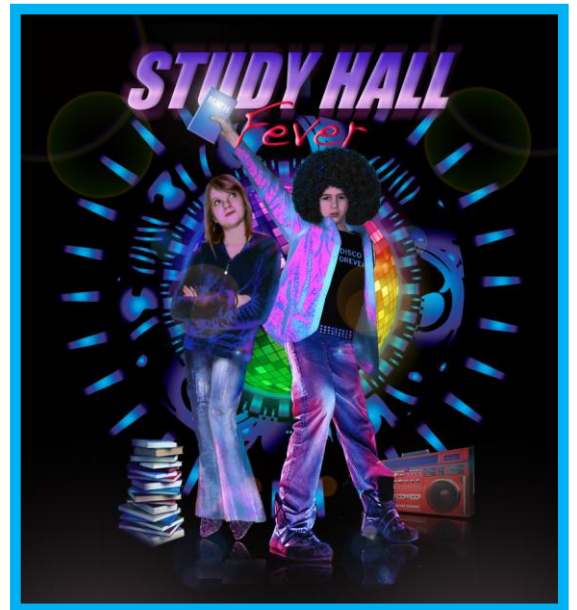
Janice Nigh, Arts Coordinator

February 2010

Study Hall Fever - Vertigo Theatre: February 18th and 19th, 2010 *Study Hall Fever Set to Launch!*



We are undergoing our final preparations for our 6th annual production at Vertigo Theatre. This year we take a look back at the seventies and the disco era - funky music, colourful outfits and a relaxed easy going feeling! All sixty-four Year 8 and 9 students are excited to perform. We are looking forward to trying out some new technology this year. We have rented a rear screen projection system. In the past, we have projected from the audience which often has the projection shining in the performer's faces. With the spectacular Vancouver 2010 opening ceremonies as inspiration, our virtual show will sure to provide some wonderful moments! Performing for two nights this year will allow the performers to really embrace their roles!



A City of Calgary Art Project Proposal



Four staff members - Candace Lennie, Jeff Eisen, Lori Kearney and Nancy Williams - have submitted a proposal to participate in painting murals in the stairwell at the Calgary Tower for "The Climb for Wilderness." They chose to depict a Prairie Chicken in their mural because it is an endangered species of Alberta. The high realism of the Prairie Chicken is in contrast to the First Nations Chicken Dancer portrayed in a Norval Morrisseau style. Final judging of the submissions is due in early March - our fingers are crossed!

Resident Artist Profiles

Jeff Eisen - Resident Visual Artist



This is Jeff's first year as a full time resident artist at Calgary Arts Academy. He is the playwright and lyricist for *Study Hall Fever* and worked on many of the technical elements of the show. Prior to coming to Calgary, Jeff has a varied and interesting past.

Jeff attended Ontario College of Art and Design and owned and operated two design houses focusing on advertising, design, and marketing. Through brand development, interior design, architectural design and illustration, Jeff worked with Pantages Theatre in Toronto and their opening of *The Phantom of the Opera*, retail fixture design for Clinique, Estee Lauder and Lancome, Toronto street office designs for Conrad Black, Royal Bank, Druxy's Delis, and Franchise design and development for several pubs and eateries. Jeff was the Creative Director for The Indian Motorcycle Company and was responsible for brand development, licensing, clothing design, logo design, advertising and marketing design. He then moved on to become the Creative Director/Partner for American Motorcycle Company and was responsible for brand development and design for Harley-Davidson, Crocker and emerging American custom motorcycle companies. He most recently worked for three years with The Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd D.A.R.E program teaching art as a coping method during recovery from addiction. His varied past and experience has been a huge bonus for Calgary Arts Academy. As a visual artist, computer whiz and design genius, his many talents are very much appreciated by staff and students. In his words, *"been married a few times - have 3 wonderful, beautiful, talented kids. I'm the eldest brother of 4 boys and I've had a very busy and creative journey."*

Steve McMullen - Resident Musical Theatre Artist

Steve has worked at Calgary Arts Academy since the beginning, starting as a contract artist and becoming a full time artist three years ago. He made his first debut on stage at the age of eight and was a member of the Young Canadians in Calgary. Steve attended the American Musical and Drama Academy in New York City and obtained his certificate in Professional Musical Theatre Training. His heart belongs in New York City and he visits as often as possible taking in all the Broadway shows! Should one ever have a question or comment about a Broadway show, Steve is the one to ask! He proudly displays his Broadway Playbills in his teaching space.

Steve currently teaches at Freehouse Dance Studio instructing students in musical theatre techniques of voice, acting and dancing. He has worked at Master's Academy and College, Evergreen Theatre, Theatre Works Alberta and Triangle Theatre School. He is a freelance singer, dancer, actor and costumer.

Other than his many talents in the performing arts, Steve has a real soft spot for the students and particularly those who need a little extra TLC. Steve is always there with a kind word or humourous joke to cheer those who need a boost. Steve has a reputation for being strict with high expectations in the drama studio as well as a kind heart and listening ear.



A Visit to Wildflower Arts Centre



Wildflower is a City of Calgary run Arts Centre that offers fine

and performing arts experiences to all ages of Calgarians for the past thirty years. During a recent visit to their facility, the several similarities between their organization and Calgary Arts Academy were apparent. Artists collaborate with Wildflower staff to establish approaches, processes and projects very much the same as artists and teachers work together at Calgary Arts Academy. Wildflower artists visit schools to provide residencies to 'animate parts of the curriculum using art as the vehicle.' Arts Immersion at Calgary Arts Academy puts the art form at the centre of all teaching and the resident artists teach the curriculum through the art form. Both Wildflower and CAA generally have a focus on the process rather than the product, although the product is clearly important in productions.

Wildflower may be a source of artists should Calgary Arts Academy require short term contract artists. We currently use their kiln for pottery projects and look forward to future collaborative projects.

Upcoming Productions

Division Two:

- March 18, 2010
- March 19, 2010

Division Three:

- March 30, 2010
- March 31, 2010

Next Issue of Celebrating the Arts

- ~ Study Hall Fever review and photos
- ~ Visiting art dignitary from Banff
- ~ Artist Residency - Ryan Purchase
 - One week at Glenmeadows
 - Musical improvisation
 - Trombone player

Artist Quotation

"I want to make paintings full of colour, laughter, compassion and love. I want to make paintings that will make people happy, that will change the course of people's lives. If I can do that, I can paint for a hundred years."

Norval Morriseau



Self Portrait ~
By Norval Morriseau