

A heartwarming and magical dance journey inspired by Cassie Beasley's original novel Circus Mirandus.

December 2 - 4, 2021 The Pumphouse Theatres

NOTE FROM OTHE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

We both have been working hard and crossing our fingers even harder to make it to this day. A live show! It brings us an incredible amount of joy to present to you Circus Mirandus, a combination of efforts from our dancers, creative team, and volunteers over the past 11 weeks. Welcome and thank you for joining us here today.

We would not be here without the trust and support of our dancer's families. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to create and care for your children throughout two pandemic season's. It's been exhausting getting used to the new normal and we cannot extend enough gratitude for everyone working extra hours to make this show a reality.

Every season we gather dancers from across the Calgary area, uniting different genres, experiences, and dance training programs to create together. Our short rehearsal process involves learning how to create choreography under the watchful eye of local professionals, writing a script and bringing it to life, and finally taking to the stage. It involves dedicating every Sunday to the creative process and even more hours to practice independently. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know this youth company and are very thankful for their work.

The show we are presenting to you tonight is a theatre and dance adaptation of Cassie Beasley's novel "Circus Mirandus" which immediately captured our hearts. We wanted to tackle the many ways the character's challenge themselves with uncertainty, much like all our young dancers have been throughout these past two years. However, we also wanted to bring you a magical, midnight circus that extends beyond belief and possibility! Laugh, cry, cheer and go on this journey with us with your hearts wide open.

Our Board of Directors has guided and supported us through an ever changing three seasons. We want to thank them for being present and steering this organization into brand new possibilities. We could not have made it to season number 41 without your trust that we could make it happen. Thank you!

Jessalyn Britton and Alicia Ward
Co-Artistic Directors and General Managers

NOTE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Alberta Dance Theatre is proud to present this year's live show "Circus Mirandus." As we join Young Micah on a magical midnight circus journey our imaginations will ignite and our hearts will be lightened. Our dancers, choreographers, and artistic directors have been working hard the past ten weeks and are ready to entertain.

Led by our talented Artistic Directors / General Managers, Jessalyn Britton and Alicia Ward, Alberta Dance Theatre provides school aged dancers across the city an opportunity to create and collaborate alongside professional choreographers. For over forty years, Alberta Dance Theatre has been entertaining families with completely original and immersive performances.

On behalf of the Alberta Dance Theatre Board I would like to recognize the impressive efforts of Jessalyn and Alicia, leading us through two successful seasons while contending with the ongoing impacts of the COVID pandemic. We thank them for keeping our dancers and choreographers safe, and for their creativity and leadership!

The Board would also like to acknowledge the great work and energy of our dancers and choreographers, and their ability to adapt as we maneuver different approaches to comply with COVID requirements. A special call-out to our parents for their commitment, support and hours put into fundraising, props, costumes and the works to ensure the success of this year's production.

For our viewers, thank you for being here today and supporting Alberta Dance Theatre and the arts in general. This is our first year performing at the Victor Mitchell Theatre, Pumphouse Theatres and we're looking forward to watching the show in this space. As a non-profit organization we appreciate your generosity! For more information on how you can support Alberta Dance Theatre please visit our website or take part in our \$40 for 40 More Years campaign.

Stay safe – put your mask on, distance yourself, open your imagination and enjoy the show!

Best of the season to all!

Sherrie Bosch Chair, Board of Directors

CIRCUS MIRANDUS

The Passage of Time

Choreography facilitated by Alicia Ward

Lightbending Adventure

Choreography facilitated by Chantal Gandar

Knots

Choreography facilitated by Stephanie Jurkova-Abaco

Aunt Gertrudis

Choreography facilitated by Jocelyn Mah

Funhouse Mirrors

Choreography facilitated by Jessalyn Britton

Top Hat

Choreography facilitated by Jessalyn Britton

Cannon Animals

Choreography facilitated by Jessalyn Britton and Alicia Ward

Tap Dancing Elephants ... who are good at math

Choreography facilitated by Alicia Ward

Potions

Choreography facilitated by Rebecca Fishman

Sword Swallower

Choreography facilitated by Stephanie Jurkova-Abaco

Elastaman

Choreography facilitated by Britanny Burchill

Birds

Choreography facilitated by Kaja Irwin





Artistic Direction

Jessalyn Britton & Alicia Ward

Script

Alberta Dance Theatre Youth Artists & Alicia Ward

Choreography

Alberta Dance Theatre Youth Artists, Jessalyn Britton, Brittanny Burchill, Rebecca Fishman, Chantal Gandar, Kaja Irwin, Stephanie Jurkova-Abaco, Jocelyn Mah & Alicia Ward

Composition

Dean Lauderdale

Lighting Design

Lauren Acheson

Poster Design

Jeff Eisen

Costumes & Props

Thank you to our Volunteers:

Emma Anderson, Joe Anderson, Charles Buck, Priya D'Mello, Rhonda Dupuis, Heather Edey, Doug Hill, Vivian Krauchek, Shela Luprypa, Leticia Sheldon, Heide Stauffer-Hill

Backstage

Thank you to our Volunteers:

Rosalia Nastasi, Sara Poldaas, Leanne Ritter, Marianne Vaessen

Box Office & Cast Events

Thank you to our Volunteers:

Irina Charania, Anu Nijhawan, Marline Smith

Fundraising

Thank you to our Volunteers:

Nana Boadi, Charlene Dorey, Natalie Farden, Leanna McKenzie

THANK YOU

Alberta Dance Theatre's 2021 - 2022 season is made possible by:



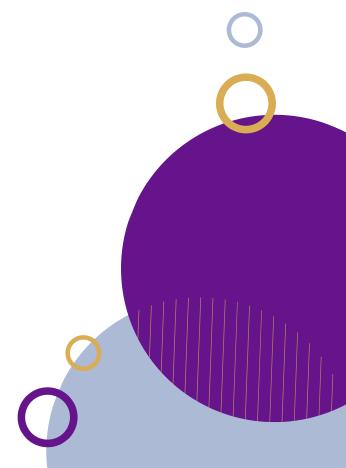




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THANK YOU

Alberta Dance Theatre would like to extend their thanks to our Donors, Creative Team, Volunteers, and the ADT Dancers and Families. Our season would not be possible without the energy, enthusiasm, financial support, and donation of time from all. Thank you for believing in the Alberta Dance Theatre experience!

We would also like to extend a thank you to Cassie Beasley and their team who allowed us to use the magical and heartwarming story of Circus Mirandus.

Thank you to Nuno Fragoso for building our fabulous Cannon prop!

Thank you to Wil Knoll for setting up our Live Stream to schools!

Thank you to the Alberta Dance Theatre Staff and Board of Directors (past and present) who put in countless hours throughout the year to support our work in the studio every fall. Your support and insight is very appreciated.

Thank you to The Pumphouse Theatres team who have looked after us astonishingly well! Thanks to our technician Rajiv Rathore for spending our show week with us!

ADT Administrator: Sherri Rau

Founders: Gayda Errett and Eleanor Laishley

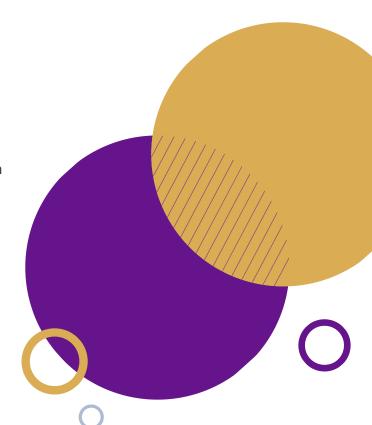
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Fundraising Campaign



MARCH 2020 - MARCH 2022 WWW.ALBERTADANCETHEATRE.COM/DONATE-NOW









ABOUT US

Formerly known as Children in Dance, Alberta Dance Theatre has been a part of the Calgary dance community since 1979.

As many as 50+ young performers, Grades 1-12, create and perform in ADT's annual dance production. Children's literature provides the basis for the productions and original music is commissioned. As a result, a rich tradition has been established that provides imaginative, engaging and affordable family entertainment to Calgarians. Works of the company have also been performed around the world in Brazil and The Netherlands, and province-wide in Edmonton, Banff and Lethbridge.

Each spring, Alberta Dance Theatre holds open call placement auditions inviting dancers from around the city of Calgary to join the company.

ADT welcomes dancers of all experience levels and uses the auditions as a way to place the dancers in the appropriate performance group.

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram, or visit our website to join our enewsletter list to keep up to date on all Audition happenings. If you are interested in joining the company the Co-Artistic Directors would love to meet you! Be sure to talk to an Usher after the show in order to meet Jessalyn and Alicia!



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Alistair Boadi-Gumbs - Circus Attendee 5

Alistair is glad to be back at ADT for his second year. Although this will be the first year he gets to perform LIVE! Alistair enjoys dance including ballet and is excited to be doing voice lessons this year as well. Alistair has a love of reading and peppermint tea!

Ally Sheldon - Sword Swallower

Ally Sheldon has danced and done gymnastics throughout her entire life. She began her life with ballet and tap, switched to gymnastics, and switched back to dance at the age of 10. She is a senior dancer this year, it is also her final year with the company. She's been dancing with ADT for the past 6 years. She's in grade 12 at St. Francis High School, and is planning to go into an athletic therapy program for University next year. Outside of dance and school Ally enjoys working out and napping.

Amelia Kostrosky

Amelia is eight years old, and loves her grade 3 class at school. This is her sixth year in dance and first year at Alberta Dance Theatre. She loves the creation to performance experience at ADT! She is also on the competitive team at North Calgary Dance Centre. When not at the studio, Amelia loves to read, play with her friends, and hang out with her two dogs! She also has an older brother and sister, and loves playing pranks on them!

Airo March - Lightbender

This is Airo's second year with Alberta Dance Theatre. After the uncertain abnormal season of 2020, Airo is excited for ADT's 2021 season! Monday through Saturday, Airo dances at Free House Dance Plus, where he has been dancing for over 10 years. This year, he has also decided to try out competitive dance, going to Pure Energy for one class. He is also somewhat academically inclined, enjoying subjects such as chemistry, math, and physics. He has decided to enrol in some advanced placement classes in math and physics to further satisfy his desire to learn. When he has a couple of spare hours, Airo loves to spend time with his friends and play video games, his all time favourite being the Plants vs. Zombies series.

Anna Vaessen - Passage of Time & Top Hat Dancer, Understudy Main Cast
Anna is a grade 11 student in her third year as an ADT senior. Outside of ADT Anna trains
with the Youth Training Program at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks. When not dancing she
enjoys taking care of other athletes as part of her school's sports medicine program, and
trying to take home every bunny she sees ... it's become a problem.

Aria Cancilla - Geraldine

Aria is thirteen years old and goes to Rideau Park School. She has been dancing at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks since the age of 3. This is Aria's third year in ADT. She likes drawing, acting, reading and listening to music. Aria hopes you enjoy the show, especially Geraldine.

Bronwyn McCoy - Passage of Time & Top Hat Dancer, Understudy Main Cast Bronwyn is a dancer at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks and ADT. She has been a dancer for 11 years but this is her first year with ADT. She does ballet, jazz and modern dance styles. She goes to St. Alphonsus school where she takes both art and drama. She is participating in her school production the Magical Land of Oz where she is a choreographer. In the past Bronwyn danced with Evolutions School of Dance where she did competitive dance in jazz and modern. She loves to write, act and read on the side. Bronwyn LOVES to perform for people and has been doing it for a while now. She really enjoyed being a part of the company and is excited for more.

Brooklyn Dorey - Juggler

Brooklyn Dorey has been doing dance for 10 years, her favourite dance style is ballet because she gets to go on pointe. Brooklyn's favourite hobbies other than dance are reading, doing hair, baking and art. Brooklyn is 13 years old, in grade 8 French immersion at Jp2 in Okotoks. She hopes to dance at ADT next year and one day go back to Florida.

Charlotte Green - Circus Attendee 3

Charlotte has been dancing at ADT for four years and has been dancing at Counterpoint since she was two. Charlotte loves dancing but when she isn't at ADT or Counterpoint she enjoys painting, listening to music, or hanging out with her friends. At the moment she does contemporary, ballet and pointe. Charlotte is fourteen years old and in grade nine at Connect Charter School.

Daisy Anderson - Micah

Daisy Anderson is an 11 year old dancer. She has been dancing since she was 2 years old and fell in love with the sport instantly. Daisy's favourite hobbies include skiing, reading, swimming, and fashion, and definitely not math. Her parents say she's great at dancing but her sisters think otherwise.

Evyn Quarin

Evyn has been Irish dancing for almost 3 years and more recently began jazz and modern classes. For Evyn, dance is a big dreamy inspiration and it makes her laugh (especially working with this team!). Evyn is in Grade 3 French Immersion at William Reid and she loves reading, swimming, skating, skiing, crafts, camping and paddle boarding. She is a big fan of kindness, Mother Nature and caring for plants and animals (especially chickens and her dog, Ivy). Candy is a favourite (but not chocolate) and Evyn sees a future of world travel, science experiments and professional tennis.

Imogen Poldaas Thierry - Magnus

Imogen is 12 years old and goes to Rideau Park School. Imogen has been dancing since they were 7 and have always loved it. Imogen plays volleyball and boxes, they also do circus (which works for ADT's dances nicely). When they grow up Imogen wants to be a chef. The dance styles Imogen does are hip hop, break dance and jazz. They danced at DJD for 3 years and this is their first year with ADT.

Isla Buck

Isla Buck is 10 years old. She has danced for 8 years and loves musical theatre. She plays soft ball during summer. She's always loved her school West Gate and loves dance even more.

Juliette Rose - Passage of Time & Top Hat Dancer, Understudy Main Cast
This is Juliette's first year with Alberta Dance Theatre. She is very excited to be presenting
Circus Mirandus to local Calgary audiences! When not dancing Juliette is busy with high
performance sports. She competes in modern pentathlon. Juliette attends William
Aberhart High School.

Kiara Charania - Circus Attendee 3

Kiara is a 12 year old non binary person. They love to dance, act, and sing. Their favourite colour is purple and they love dogs. They have 2 dogs that are very old. They have had the dogs their whole life.

Kobe Hill - Grandfather

Kobe is bad at math, I mean look at them, do you think they know the quadratic formula. Besides that Kobe has a passion for dancing that has extended since 1784. With the float of a butterfly and no bee qualities at all. You'll find that Kobe has started too many projects without finishing any of them. They also like to play music, and would make you cry with a serenade of twinkle twinkle little star. Overall, Kobe is glad to be a part of ADT this year.

Mavis Mahallati

Mavis is twelve years old and this is her first year doing ADT. She loves pink and animals. She is in the potions dance as well as the Elastaman and Strongman and the Lightbender dance. She lives in Calgary with her brother, sister, and parents.

Mirabel Johnston

Mirabel Johnston is 10 years old and has been doing dance for 6 years. Mirabel has done ballet, jazz, tap and ADT. Mirabel loves snowboarding, soccer and swimming. Her favourite hobbies are reading and drawing though she does like sitting down and listening to music. Her favourite music artist is Taylor Swift but with rock its Guns and Roses.

Nayeli Barajas

Nayeli started dancing ten years ago and she has been dancing with ADT for five. She dances at DJD and previously danced at Freehouse Dance Plus. Currently she dances jazz and ballet during the week. Nayeli is 14 years old is in grade 9 at St. Jean Brebeuf. In her free time she likes to draw, especially animals, or talk with friends. Her favourite subjects are science and ELA as she wants to be a forensic scientist when she grows up and really enjoys writing about topics she finds enticing.

Olivia Paauw - Juggler

Olivia is 14 years old and in grade 10. This is her second year dancing with ADT. Olivia does contemporary and jazz at Counterpoint. She loves science, biology, reading and her favourite animal is elephants.

Prarthona Datta - Passage of Time & Top Hat Dancer, Understudy Main Cast Prarthona is 14 years old and is in Grade 9. She had been living in Saskatchewan for 10 years before she moved to Calgary. She loves to dance, sing, draw, and read. Some of her favourite styles of dance are ballet and lyrical.

Prokriti Datta - Passage of Time & Top Hat Dancer, Understudy Main Cast Prokriti is 13 years old and in grade 8. Prokriti is a dancer and a singer. She has been taking dance since she was three to four years old. Some of her passions are reading, drawing/painting and singing. Prokriti's friends have described her as a funny and kind friend.

The ADT Youth Artists train at a number of local Calgary studios!

Alive Danceworks Pulse Dance Studios Decidedly Jazz Danceworks
Kôr Danceworks Free House Dance Plus Evolutions School of Dance
Airborne Dance Centre Aberhart High School Pure Energy Dance Foundation



Lauren Acheson - Lighting Designer

Lauren is a scenographer living and working in Mohkinstsis, also known as Calgary. This is their third show with ADT and they are so happy to be back, hopefully in a real theatre this year! Other credits include: set and lighting design, Bright Lights (Theatre BSMT) - set and costume design, Love and Information (Calgary Young People's Theatre) - set and lighting design, Tape (Ignition Theatre) - associate production design, Premium Content (Major Matt Mason Collective/High Performance Rodeo). Lauren holds a diploma in Theatre and Entertainment Production from Red Deer College and a certificate in Set and Costume Design from The National Theatre School of Canada. You can check out some of their design work at laurenacheson.com

Jessalyn Britton - Co-Artistic Director & General Manager, Choreographer

Jessalyn has had a lifelong passion for dance. She holds a B.A. in Contemporary Dance with distinction from the University of Calgary and danced with Decidedly Jazz Danceworks

Professional Training Program for three seasons. Upon graduation, Jessalyn danced professionally with dance theatre company kloetzel&co. for several seasons where she performed in Professional Series, Toronto's Dusk Dances, and in the full length work "The Alice Odyssey." Jessalyn was also a Corps Bara company member as well as company manager. Independently, she has had the opportunity to perform and choreograph in dance events throughout Alberta and B.C, has self-produced three full length shows CrossCurrents, and cocreated the dance company ESIRA. Jessalyn is currently co-Artistic Director and General manager of Alberta Dance Theatre and teaches in YYC studios and schools.

Rebecca Fishman - Choreographer

Rebecca is a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and actor based in Calgary. Her passion for the arts has been around her entire life! Her parents are both theatre professionals. She spent her time at her parents' rehearsals and shows, and just knew she needed to be a part of the magic. Rebecca grew up dancing at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, where she is now a part of the faculty; teaching Jazz and West African dance. Rebecca has worked in various artistic roles with Theatre Calgary, Full Circle Theatre, Quest Theatre, Stage West, One Yellow Rabbit and Shakespeare in the Park. Rebecca understands the importance of introducing young people to the arts and could not be more thrilled to work with ADT this season!

Britanny Burchill - Choreographer

Britanny is a professional dance educator and choreographer in Calgary, AB with close to 20 years of experience. She specializes in Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary and Hip Hop. She is an ADAPT certified instructor and also holds certification in Acrobatic Arts Module 1 & 2. Britanny loves to move and inspires others to do the same. She encourages creative movement and engages her students with an innovative and energetic approach to movement and dance.

Britanny is originally from Saskatchewan and moved to Calgary to attend the University of Calgary where she trained in the dance program to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Contemporary Dance and Kinesiology. During her university years she performed and toured with local dance projects across Western Canada.

To further her training and education, Britanny has traveled across Canada and the USA where she has had the opportunity to take class and learn from dance artists and dance masters from around the world. She attends workshops and dance teacher seminars on a regular basis in order to provide high quality instruction to her students.

Throughout her career, Britanny has been involved in the competition circuit as a dancer, a choreographer and an adjudicator. She has received recognition and has achieved many accolades for her work.

Britanny knew at an early age that her passion was for creating and educating. She wanted to instill the love and passion for dance in others. She is committed to motivating dancers, providing high quality training to students of all ages and abilities and to helping individuals achieve their goals.

Britanny is so excited to work with Alberta Dance Theatre this upcoming season!

Chantal Gandar - Choreographer

Chantal Gandar was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta. She holds a Masters of Fine Arts in Dance Choreography from The University of Arizona, and a Bachelor of Arts in Contemporary Dance from the University of Calgary. She has performed in works by Michèle Moss, Melissa Monteros, Wojciech Mochniej, Connie Moker Wernikowski, Douglas Nielsen and Amy Ernst. Chantal danced with Corps Bara Dance Theatre for many years and went on to be Artistic Director for the company from 2010-2014. Her love for Corps Bara is still strong as she has been on the board of directors since 2018. Crossings Dance has been a home studio and place of mentorship for Chantal since her youth, and she continues to choreograph annually for their youth dance company, CYDC. For the past three years, she has been teaching dance at Ambrose University, where she is a Sessional Instructor and the Dance Program Coordinator. After choreographing a piece with Alberta Dance Theatre for the Enchanted Toy Shop production in 2019, Chantal is excited to be part of a second season with the company!

Kaja Irwin - Choreographer

Kaja is a Winnipeg born dancer, choreographer, and dance educator. After deciding to pursue a career in dance after completing her B.A. in Political Science, Irwin studied in the Professional Training Program offered at DJD, developing her love of both jazz and the Calgary dance community. Kaja has been fortunate to share her choreography across Canada as well as Amsterdam. Irwin loves to explore movement and collaborations across art forms. Recently she collaborated with jewellery designer Corey Moranis in a short art film released in Spring 2020 and is developing work incorporating both mask and jazz art forms as well as entering her seventh season performing with Decidedly Jazz Danceworks. Kaja is really looking forward to working with Alberta Dance Theatre again and is extremely excited to see what this next season will bring!

Stephanie Jurkova-Abaco - Choreographer

Stephanie Jurkova-Abaco is an emerging performer and choreographer in the final year of her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance degree at the University of Calgary. Having originated from rhythmic gymnastics, her passion for movement was later challenged by the rigid structures of ballroom dance before flourishing through contemporary and vernacular jazz forms. In parallel to her undergraduate education, Stephanie is immersed in Decidedly Jazz Dancework's Professional Training Program. Creatively, Stephanie is intrigued by unconventional connections, seeking different ways of partnering and negotiating personal space. Her choreographic work has been showcased as part of the IGNITE! Festival for Emerging Artists.

Dean Lauderdale - Composer

Dean Lauderdale is a Calgary-born musician and has an immense passion for teaching, performing and writing music. With over 10 years of experience, Dean has been teaching privately, ranging in all skill levels at his home studio as well as at Long & McQuade and Forte Music. He is also very involved with the Youth Singers of Calgary and is currently Director with ONCUE, an a cappella ensemble, and Assistant Director for the JUNIOR HI division. Dean holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at Humber College as well as a Music Diploma in Classical Vocal Performance from Mount Royal University. This is Dean's second year with Alberta Dance Theatre having been brought on as musical composer. He greatly enjoys the creative and collaborative nature of the role and hopes to do more projects like this in the future.

Jocelyn Mah - Choreographer

Hailing from Calgary, Jocelyn is a graduate of The School of Toronto Dance Theatre, and holds her Master of Arts from The London Contemporary Dance School (London, UK). Jocelyn has performed for numerous independent artists and companies in Toronto, Calgary and London, UK. Her lively, musically-based choreography has been presented across Canada as well as in the UK and Europe, at The Summerworks Performance Festival, Dance Ontario's Dance Weekend, Springboard's Fluid Fest, EDge on Tour, Dancers' Studio West, and Kaeja's Winddown Dance, among others. Jocelyn's practice and choreography also include music performance and composition, as well as puppetry and elements of authentic and vernacular jazz. Jocelyn was honoured to be the recipient of the inaugural Winchester Prize for Choreographic Distinction. She is an alumna of Alberta Dance Theatre.

Alicia Ward - Co-Artistic Director & General Manager, Choreographer

Alicia Ward is an enthusiastic human being who loves performing, teaching and promoting a passion for performance art. Throughout the year Alicia finds herself instructing drama and dance to all ages at various studios throughout the city. She also loves large amounts of organizational tasks! Alicia works administratively for a number of education and arts focused companies including co-founding Triple Bill Weekends and the Young Adventurer Society, and working with the International tap dance festival Rhythm, Body, and Soul. Alicia is passionate about growing the artist community in Calgary and fostering opportunities for dancers of all ages to develop a love for movement. Alicia can be found performing throughout Alberta with her new storytelling series for young audiences, Colour Me Sad. She performs mainly for littles and those who are young at heart. Recent Credits: Itty Bitty Arts Day (Arts Commons), Go Go Peek-a-Boo and Nutcracker in a Nutshell (Bach Tots).