

SYLVAN LAKE THEATRE TRAIL PROGRAM



September 9, 10 & 16, 17 2023

1pm, 1:30pm, 2pm, 2:30pm

THE PLAYS

The Raven and The Gull by Derryn Yeomans

What happens when rugged raven meets brassy beach bird? They share a lot of garbage. Yum! Discover being different... and the same.

Director: Jenna Goldade

Stage Manager: Reina Jugueta

Actors: Aaron Refugio, Vahn James McCagg

2 Bros at The Beach

These two have been improvising together for years so hold on to your seats. They are more entertaining than the battle of Alberta!

Created and Performed by Improv Jelly Improvisers

Matthew Taylor and Paul Sutherland

The Time Capsule by Aaron Vanderweg

“To whoever finds this...whenever you find this... I just met the most amazing boy...” ♥ Sylvan Lake 1976, summer of love!

Director: Tanya Ryga

Stage Manager: Kathy Bradshaw

Actors: Kianna Rose Taylor, Jackie Halina

Cooking With Tobias or How to Traumatize a Child in Three Puppets by Ash Mercia

Prepare yourself for a culinary adventure! Join Tobias as he cooks and chats with old friends, or is that chats and cooks old friends? What does a puppet eat, anyway?

Director: Tanya Ryga

Stage Manager: Pamela Cregg

Actors/Puppeteers: Layne Zazalak, Ash Mercia

THE STORYTELLERS

Research, write, rehearse, repeat. That's the life of a Theatre Trail storyteller. And the resulting stories?

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!!

Evan Macleod

Norene Cawthorn Reaume

Connie Stroud

Barb Pettie

MEET THE CAST & CREW



Tanya Ryga
Artistic Director

Director: *The Time Capsule, Cooking with Tobias or How to Traumatize a Child in Three Puppets*

Tanya Ryga has been very busy steering the wonderful group that runs the Sylvan Lake Theatre. Earlier this season, she directed their dinner theatre production of *Fully Committed* and was one of the instructors training actors in *ACT UP*. Seeing theatre happen in Sylvan Lake is a dream come true! Thank you to the company of 25 people who pulled this year's Theatre Trail together, and to the over 2000 people who have attended our shows and/or participated in the training opportunities over the last year. Finally, a huge thanks to the 2023 theatre trail sponsors and donors that stepped up to make sure the arts continues to grow in the Sylvan Lake community!

Jenna Goldade is excited to work the Sylvan Lake Theatre trail directing *The Raven and the Gull*! She is a mother, teacher, improviser, producer, writer, director, social media manager and lover of the arts! For the past 15 years, she has been the executive director of *Bull Skit Comedy/Against the Wall Theatre* and in that time, she was dedicated to Improv, but her love for theatrical productions was ignited with *Tony & Tina's Wedding* (RDC) where she had the pleasure of assistant directing alongside Karen Johnson Diamond. She can't wait to share stories and be a part of this theatre company in the very beautiful town of Sylvan Lake.



Jenna Goldade
Director: *The Raven and the Gull*

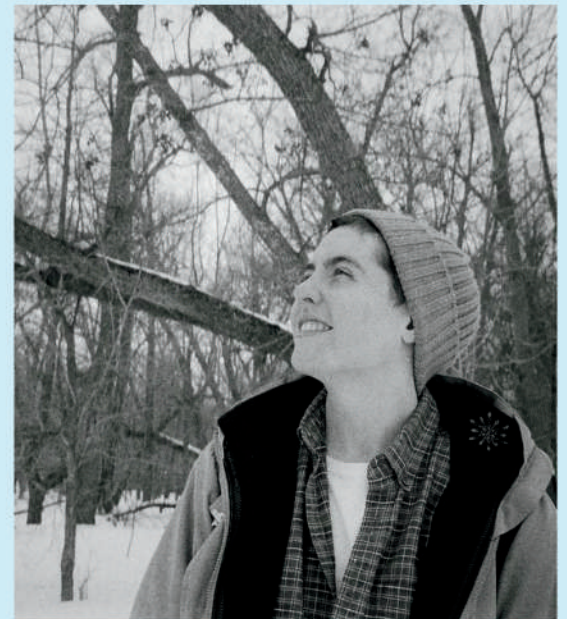
MEET THE CAST & CREW



Derryn Yeomans
Playwright: *The Raven*
and *The Gull*

Derryn Yeomans only recently added playwriting to her writing ventures. For the past decade, she has focussed on writing poetry but previously published short stories and non-fiction and worked as a writer in advertising and public relations in Calgary. She has led courses in journaling in Red Deer. A yoga practitioner and amateur visual artist, she enjoys long walks, biking, snowshoeing and theatre, of course.

Aaron Vanderweg is a Sylvan-Lake-born, Toronto-trained dramaturg, director, playwright and actor. He is the current producer of Red Deer Player's *Breaking Cover* series, and facilitator for Sylvan Lake Theatre's *Write It!* script lab. Recent productions of his original plays include *A Plant Called Kyle McKinney* at the Heartlands Regional One-Act Festival, *Slipper Story* for Alberta Culture Days and *The Time Capsule* in Sylvan Lake's Theatre Trail.



Aaron Vanderweg
Playwright: *The Time capsule*



Ash Mercia
Playwright/Actor/Puppeteer:
Cooking with Tobias or *How to Traumatize a Child in Three Puppets*

Ash Mercia is an actor, improviser, puppeteer, producer and award winning playwright. She is also a freelance writer who creates reviews and editorials for the video game industry. She holds a BEd in English/Art and a Theatre Performance and Creation diploma. She has performed and trained internationally (USA, Italy, Slovenia), and creates plenty of content locally and online. She's a certified beekeeper and an avid squirrel enthusiast.

Website: www.TheAshRose.ca

MEET THE CAST & CREW



Vahn James McCagg
Actor: *The Raven and The Gull*

Vahn James McCagg is from Red Deer, Alberta. They identify as nonbinary and use they/them pronouns. They are an actor in *The Raven and The Gull*. They are ecstatic to finally fulfill their lifelong dream of playing a bird. They hope you enjoy the theatre trail and advise you look out for bird droppings.

Mabuhay! **Aaron Refugio** is a proud, first-generation artist hailing from the Philippines. After finishing acting training at the University of Alberta, he is delighted to be back home and performing with Sylvan Lake Theatre! Building community through art has always been a cornerstone of his practice. Aaron is very delighted to be sharing stories with you all and thanks you for watching live theatre :)

Insta: @aaron.bryle



Aaron Refugio
Actor: *The Raven and The Gull*



Matthew Taylor
Improv Jelly Improviser:
2 Bros at The Beach

Matthew Taylor burst forth onto this earthly plain from the heart of Muskoka River that is Bracebridge, Ontario. His parents had the earnest idea to head west to Alberta when he was a mere 2 years old, to which Matthew humbly agreed. From there, you can surely picture an energetic montage of Matthew living life and learning as much as he could in pursuit of the wonderful calling that is theatre and improv. Images such as Matthew diligently consuming the knowledge imparted to him by the illustrious instructors of The Red Deer College Theatre and Film Programs. Matthew applying said knowledge to wonderful productions such as *Macbeth* for Bard on Bower, and *A Tranny Tale* for the Toronto Fringe Festival. There are also his formative years with *Bullskit Comedy*, and most recently, and wonderfully with *Improv Jelly*. And finally, Matthew graciously entertaining you during the Sylvan Lake Theatre Trail in *2 Bros at The Beach*.

MEET THE CAST & CREW



Paul Sutherland
Improv Jelly Improviser:
2 Bros at The Beach

Paul Sutherland has performed, directed, and produced many theatre, film, sketch and improv productions over his 20 year acting career. He and his wife Nicole are artistic directors of the improv company Improv Jelly based in Red Deer. Paul is one of the "Bros" in the improvised *2 Bros at The Beach* for the Sylvan Lake Theatre. Paul is a Journeyman electrician by trade and is pumped to light up the stage at BukWildz with his "Bro" Matthew Taylor.

Jackie Halina is a passionate Theatre Trail actor with a flair for immersive performances. Embracing the exhilarating world of improv acting, Jackie Halina thrives on the spontaneity and creativity it brings to the stage. Beyond the spotlight, she finds solace in the depths of the ocean as a scuba diver, exploring the mysteries beneath. Additionally, Jackie channels her compassion for animals into meaningful work, collaborating closely with dogs and cat to create a harmonious bond. With each role she takes on, both on and off the stage, Jackie strives to infuse her life with adventure, empathy, and endless curiosity.



Jackie Halina
Actor: *The Time Capsule*



Kianna Rose Taylor
Actor: *The Time Capsule*

Kianna Rose Taylor is an actor in the Theatre Trail. Kianna has her acting diploma from the Vancouver Academy of Dramatic Arts and has had the pleasure of working in a few independent films and some theatre productions back in B.C. She recently moved to Sylvan Lake this summer from B.C. She's absolutely thrilled to be here in Alberta closer to her family and is looking forward to exploring more of this beautiful province in the future.

Layne Zazalak is a local Laker and has been since he was 4 years old. As an actor in The Theatre Trail, Layne will be playing both Tobias and himself in the show. Layne really hopes you enjoy the trail and this beautiful town that he calls home. He is hoping to see familiar faces in the crowd, please feel free to say hi! (After the show).



Layne Zazalak
Actor/Puppeteer: *Cooking with Tobias or How to Traumatize a Child in Three Puppets*

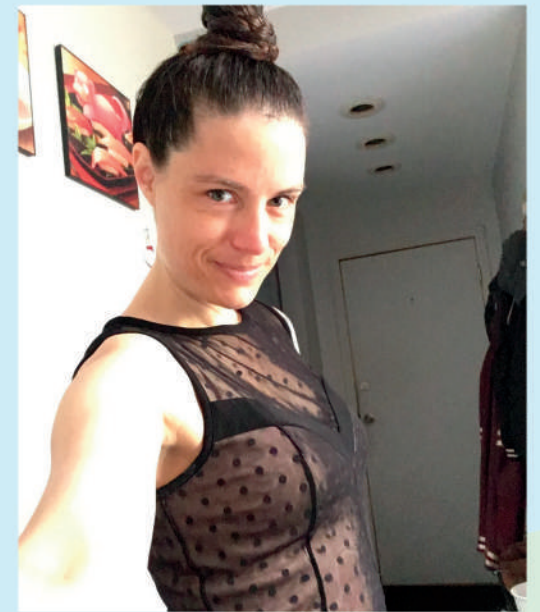
MEET THE CAST & CREW



Tobias Green-Danforth
Puppet: *Cooking with Tobias*
or *How to Traumatize a Child*
in *Three Puppets*

Tobias Green-Danforth, chef extraordinaire, has been causing quite the stir in the puppet world in recent years. Skyrocketing to stardom in the late nineties, Tobias starred in the hit television series *Marzipan on Mars* where he played Captain T.J. Reinhart solving mealtime mysteries in outer space. After some scandalous, and yet unproven, rumours of possible gang involvement surfaced, Tobias' saw his film career dry up. Disappearing for a decade, he resurfaced in late 2022 as a one-star Michelin chef and again starring in his very own, self-produced, culinary live show: *Cooking with Tobias*. Tobias enjoys friends, farming, and playing squash on weekends.

Ash Mercia is an actor, improviser, puppeteer, producer and award winning playwright. She is also a freelance writer who creates reviews and editorials for the video game industry. She holds a BEd in English/Art and a Theatre Performance and Creation diploma. She has performed and trained internationally (USA, Italy, Slovenia), and creates plenty of content locally and online. She's a certified beekeeper and an avid squirrel enthusiast. Website: www.TheAshRose.ca



Ash Mercia
Actor/Puppeteer:
Cooking with Tobias or
How to Traumatize a
Child in Three Puppets



Evan Macleod
Storyteller

Evan Macleod is a storyteller in this year's Theatre Trail. This is his first project with Sylvan Lake Theatre; but he is very lucky to have had the opportunity to learn from Tanya Ryga during his time studying Theatre at Red Deer College (once upon a time, when RDP was RDC...) He hopes that you enjoy the creative work of his ensemble!

MEET THE CAST & CREW



Norene Cawthorn
Reaume
Storyteller

Norene Cawthorn Reaume is a Sylvan Laker from way back and she loves her Town! A volunteer and board President at Sylvan Lake and District Archives, Norene is passionate about sharing history. In a perfect pairing she is a Storyteller & Facilitator with Sylvan Lake Theatre. She plays several roles in the Sylvan Lake Theatre Society as an avid volunteer and council member. When Norene isn't spinning a yarn, she loves her family, gardening and photography.

After many stops along the way, **Connie Stroud** now considers herself a Laker. She carries with her a love of nature, sharing her passion and seeking new adventures with her friends and family. Connie has a unique and quirky view of the world. She often sees the humorous side of life and embraces it full speed ahead not always looking where she is going. This makes her perfect for bringing a story to life with that often surprises even herself.



Connie Stroud
Storyteller



Barb Pettie
Storyteller

After enjoying the Theatre Trail experience as a patron, **Barb Pettie** is joining Sylvan Lake Theatre Trail as a Storyteller this year.

As a youth, Barb wanted to be a novelist. Realizing she needed a steady income, she instead studied journalism and wrote for several community newspapers and organizations before trying some other adventures.

Near the turn of the century, Barb was active with Leduc Drama Society appearing onstage in *Noises Off* (1998), co-writing a 20th anniversary retrospective *Adrift in LA* (1999) and stage-managing plays and musical performances like *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (2000).

In addition to her career as publisher of the Sylvan Lake News, Barb loves spending time with her granddaughters, and hunting and fishing with her husband.

MEET THE CAST & CREW



Reina Jugueta
Stage Manager: *The Raven*
and *The Gull*

Reina Jugueta is the Stage Manager for *The Raven and the Gull*. Her latest stage-managing stint was *Bard on Bower 2023* that just recently completed its run. Her other interests include costumes and various handmade crafts like quilting and jewelry making. She's excited that she will be a new member of the Central Alberta Quilting Guild by this September.

Nikki Bystrom has been living in Sylvan Lake for just over 3 ½ years but has been in the area for over 25 years. During the winter, she can be found most evenings at the rink coaching figure skating. In the summer, she spends as much time as she can on the lake paddling or walking or biking along the shore. Weekdays, she works in a family law office. She is enjoying her position as treasurer for Sylvan Lake Theatre Society and will be stage managing *2 Bros at The Beach* at one of the venues on the Theatre Trail. ♥



Nikki Bystrom
Stage Manager: *2 Bros at*
The Beach



Kathy Bradshaw
Stage Manager: *The Time*
Capsule

Kathy Bradshaw has long been a supporter and volunteer for arts and culture within Sylvan Lake. She claims to have no creative talent, so places herself behind the scenes to support those who do. A lover of music, Kathy spent the last 20 years as a volunteer for the Sylvan Lake Jazz at the Lake Festival. She's seen some things; she's done some things. Now she's going to do them for the Sylvan Lake Theatre Trail.

MEET THE CAST & CREW

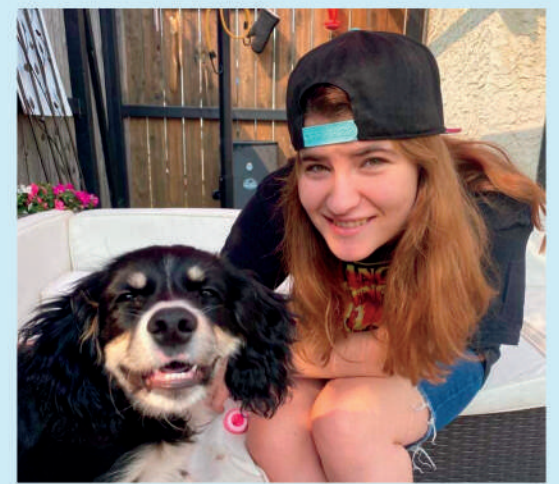


Pamela Cregg

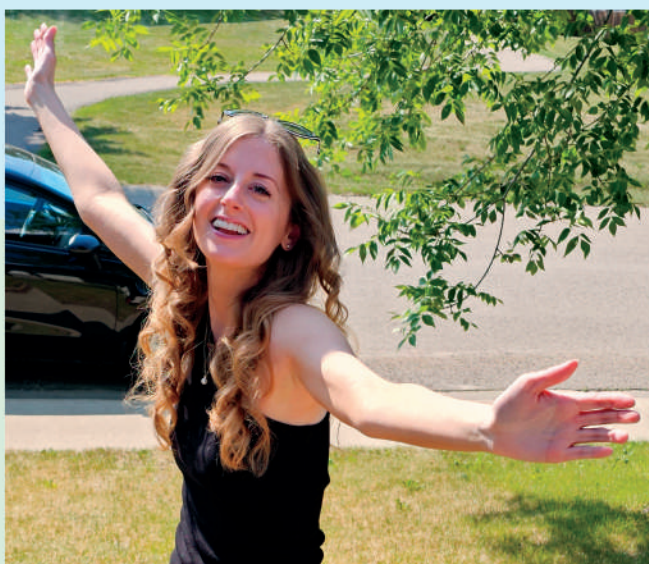
Stage Manager: *Cooking with Tobias*
or How to Traumatize a Child in
Three Puppets

Pamela Cregg works for the US Division of a Canadian Insurance company. In the evenings, Pamela dabbles in photography, poetry, piano and other passions. Throw in paddleboarding by sunset to complete the alliteration. Sometimes, her dog does join her for a paddle. Pamela joined Sylvan Lake Theatre to honor her late father. He was a Drama, Music, and English teacher. You might agree, joining Sylvan Lake Theatre is the perfect fit.

Alyse Macsymbic, who prefers to be called Aly, has lived in Sylvan Lake since 2009. From a young age, she has loved theatre and music and would perform entire movie scenes to the delight of her family. Aly's taste in music ranges from 1960's rock to today's pop culture. During a school production of *Fiddler on the Roof* (2022), she discovered the amazing backstage aspect of mounting a show. More recently, she signed up for Sylvan Lake Theatre's ACT UP course which led to her being part of the Theatre Trail company of artists.



Aly Macsymbic
Trail Assistant



Zoe Smibert

Box Office Manager

Zoe Smibert is a Chartered Accountant by day and a tech/audio/arts enthusiast by night. She is interested in all things British, vegetarian, and/or animal-shaped. Zoe grew up in Sylvan Lake and recently made a comeback. She is thrilled to be involved with the vibrant local theatre community.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

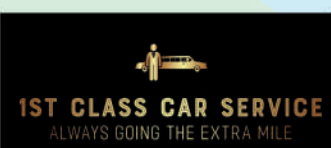
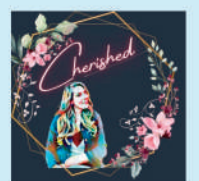
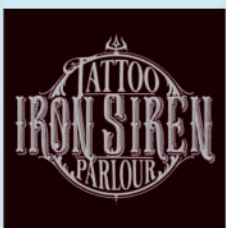
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THANK YOU!

