



Discover  
the Fine art of  
Science!

stage shows - workshops - camps  
evergreentheatre.com

# Evergreen Theatre Society Company Resume

Since 1991, Evergreen Theatre has been creating and performing original, science-based performances for audiences across Alberta. The company started out as a dynamic collective of actors, teachers, nature interpreters, composers, and writers, and has since evolved into an award-winning non-for-profit charitable society. We offer curriculum-based touring shows, artist-in-residency programs, a mobile puppet theatre, commissioned works for zoos, science centres and museums, presentations for organizations nationwide and custom field trips to our fabulous facility, Evergreen Community SPACES.



By integrating science with a variety of theatrical media, including, but not limited to, drama, storytelling, movement, puppetry, musical theatre and mask, Evergreen strives to create engaging productions that are as informative as they are entertaining. The goal is to inspire scientific literacy and enthusiasm through the arts, as well as to empower audiences with accessible and positive choices to keep the world around them forever green.

# Our Value-Driven Priorities

- Accessible Arts, Culture and Education
- Bridging and Connecting Community
- Environmental Stewardship and Social Responsibility
- Inclusion, Equity and Diversity
- Truth and Reconciliation
- Innovation and Resiliency
- Authenticity and Transparency
- Vibrant, Creative Team Culture



## Our Mission

To create, facilitate and empower youth by fostering meaningful curriculum-based theatrical programming that explores and inspires; innovation, stewardship and sustainability through the intersection of education, art, science and community.

# 🌲 Artistic Integrity 🌲

Evergreen Theatre values a balanced approach to interpretive theatre whereby the elements of entertainment and education are given equal attention and importance. We focus on the family audience through the use of song, dance, big expressive characters, puppetry, and larger than life costumes and sets. Evergreen strives to produce shows and residencies that address current scientific issues and contain an awareness of popular culture and modern sensibilities. All artistic choices (script, costumes, character development choices) follow a "fact-to-fiction" approach.

## Touring Shows

Evergreen performs a 45 minute signature show with 2 professional actors in elementary schools. Our theatrical performances engage children from Grades K-6, with opportunities for students to perform in the show. Shows feature curriculum-based scripts, exciting sets, props, and costumes - and popular music based on hits that kids and teachers love. All with our signature environmental and science education themes!



Following the show, our Evergreen artists ask related questions about the material presented, reinforcing the topics learned in the production.



# Artist-in-Residency

Using inquiry-based learning, our professional artists challenge students to discover meaning and relevance to curriculum-linked topics pertinent to natural, scientific and sustainability-oriented issues. Since the program focuses on facilitating the students and staff in the creation of an original, custom-made show, we may also explore topics in social studies, culture and heritage, and global citizenship, as per the school's request. Our methods of exploration include performance creation, movement, puppetry/mask, playwriting, music, and physical theatre.

Our students  
loved the  
experience! They  
got to shine!



Facilitating the development of both critical and creative thinking as well as problem solving, the artists support a process where the students participate in the creation of an original performance that raises scientific and social awareness and thus empower youth to take part in making positive choices. Through the arts we create a memorable experience, building the base for a lifelong investment in, and commitment to, science and the natural world.

# Puppets on the Move

- Self contained outdoor theatre
- 20 minute shows
- Nature, science and environmental themes
- Minimal set up and space required
- Great for schools, festivals, special events and parades
- Travels across Alberta
- Live character interaction option

Like a food truck, but less calories and more fun!



## Custom Field Trips

Evergreen Theatre Society owns and operates a 24,000 square foot facility in central/NE Calgary which houses multi-purpose studios, production & performance space.

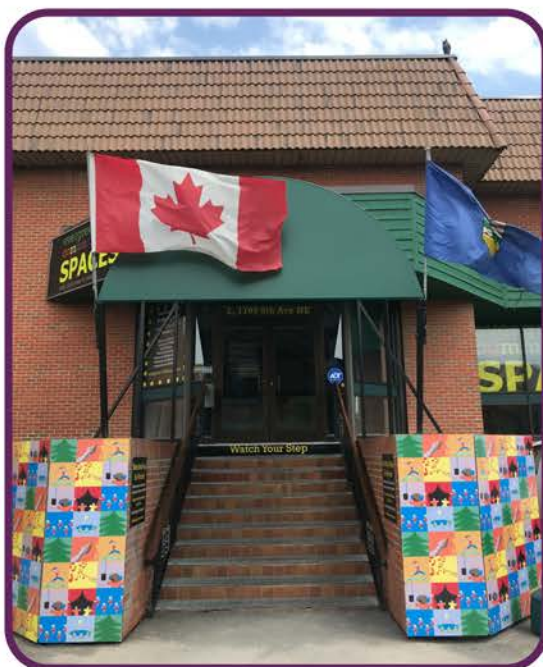


Your students can experience a modified residency or customized one to multi-day series of arts workshops (drama, dance, yoga, puppetry, art) with the opportunity to perform on our Grand Oak Showroom Stage. Check out the SPACES below!

# Evergreen Community SPACES

This project is an innovative venture: a community-centric, not-for-profit arts facility designed for life-learning, supported by Alberta foundations and endowments. The dollars charged for use of the facility go to manage and repay the multi-year loan given to Evergreen Theatre to finance the project. Evergreen Theatre is a private, not-for-profit charitable organization.

This facility supports Evergreen Theatre's mandate to promote the arts through instructional space provision to artists and the greater community. We offer cost-effective spaces with the highest functionality possible. Because the space is multi-use and multidisciplinary, we are open to many groups and have few usage restrictions.



- Theatre
- Drama
- Dance
- Fitness
- Art
- Recreation
- Culture
- Events

*Making SPACE for creative communities to thrive!*

# Evergreen Executive Team

Evergreen Theatre is led by **Sean Fraser**, who has a degree in Business Management combined with 20 years working in family entertainment, event & tourism industries, technical theatre and production, lighting and sound design. Under Sean's leadership, Evergreen Theatre & Community Spaces earned the Alberta Business Award of Distinction for Arts & Culture & the Better Business Bureau Torch Award for Ethics. Sean was also honoured with the Legacy Creative Placemaker's Award. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Evergreen's educational artistic programming is led by **Christina Chase-Warrier**, who holds a BA & BEd from the University of Calgary. Christina has been extensively involved with Evergreen Theatre for over 25 years. As an elementary school teacher with the Calgary Board of Education for 10+ years, she first experienced Evergreen's unique blend of educational yet engaging programming during one of their many school performances. She was immediately drawn to the organization's dedication and dynamism and has been a strong supporter ever since. Christina's background experience as a classroom teacher has proved to be a very valuable fit with Evergreen Theatre. Her deep understanding of what engages children & commitment to Evergreen's values, have helped nurture and sustain Evergreen's growing community footprint. Christina was proud to accept the Alberta Emerald Award for Excellence in Environmental Education this past June.

**DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING**

**Michelle Brandenburg:** Trained as a theatre artist, Michelle's post-disciplinary practice has been diverse, educational and transformative. Driven by an unwavering passion to explore the connections of artistic inspiration, community/social development and lived experiences. Michelle's current practice includes theatre and film performance, facilitation, education, voiceover, casting, clown, producing, directing and list making...many lists. Neurodivergent and living with a chronic illness has led Michelle into the intersections of art and healthcare, working within the disability and medical communities to design and deliver creative care artistic programming with lasting, measurable, and meaningful impact. Michelle is driven by a desire to connect communities through art, increase artistic access and remove barriers so innovation and creativity can impact all of society. Fuelled by coffee, she aims to explore everyday through a different lens than the day before. Michelle resides in Redwood Meadows, Alberta--proudly located on the traditional and ancestral lands of many people & currently stewarded jointly by T'suut'ina Nation and the residents of Redwood Meadows.

**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT**

# Evergreen Theatre Artistic Roster



**Kit Benz** is a clown, puppeteer, physical theatre artist, and arts educator based in Moh'kins'tsis on Treaty 7 Territory. They are a graduate of the drama program at Bishop's University as well as the Professional Training Program at Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre. Kit spent several glorious summers training in Pochinko clown at the Manitoulin Conservatory for Creation and Performance. Kit loves exploring the myriad ways art can be used to learn, grow, and bring change.

**Snizhana Bora** (Korchova) was forced to flee the war in Ukraine and now resides in Calgary. Despite the challenges she has faced, Snizhana remains remarkably resilient, positive and dedicated to her craft. She is thrilled to be continuing to instil a love of the arts in the children she works with as a valued member of the Evergreen Theatre artistic team. Snizhana is a professional actress, director, and acting teacher. She began her artistic journey by enrolling at the University of Arts in Kharkiv in 2011. Snizhana studied at KhNUM I.P. Kotlyarevsky in Kharkiv from 2011 to 2016, earning both a Bachelor's and specialist's diploma in drama. Throughout her career, Snizhana has showcased her talents in various theatres in Germany and Poland, as well as participating in international projects and festivals as both a participant and organizer. From 2016 to 2020, she served at the Kharkiv Drama Theater, honing her skills and expanding her repertoire. Additionally, Snizhana is a proud member of the Theatre Union of Ukraine. She has also made appearances in various television projects. In 2015, Snizhana became involved in the international theatre project "Salt," which she continues to contribute to. Recognizing her passion for nurturing young talent, she opened her own dance and theatre school for children aged 2 to 18, accumulating 10 years of experience working with children.

**Alexa Elser** is a Lethbridge-born, Calgary-based actor, dancer, and singer. After training as a competitive dancer for over 10 years, she went on to complete a BFA in Dramatic Arts (Performance) at the University of Lethbridge. Alexa has had the chance to perform with many Alberta-based organizations including Theatre Calgary, Jubilations Dinner Theatre, New West Theatre, and Lethbridge Shakespeare in the Park, as well as continually teaching dance for Puddle of Mud Productions. Alexa loves nothing more than to combine and share her passions through performing and teaching, and is always ecstatic to do just that for the Evergreen Theatre team!





# Evergreen Theatre Artistic Roster Continued

**Jenny Austin** is a professional actor, singer, stage manager and teaching artist. She is a graduate of the Canadian College of Performing Arts and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from the University of British Columbia. She is passionate about working with young people and helping inspire them to create and love theatre! Her professional experience has led her across Alberta, BC, Ontario and Italy, performing and running workshops in schools. She also works as an artist in residence in schools, working with students to create and perform their own plays from scratch in one week. In addition to her work as an artist, she is also the Founder and Managing Director of Sleeping Giants Theatre in Cochrane, AB, a new theatre company that offers acting classes to youth and adults and produces unique theatrical productions in the community.



**J.R. McNeil** is a versatile performance artist (Dance, Circus and Acting) who was born near St. Louis, Missouri. Shortly after moving up to Canada in 2016, he joined The Young Canadians and performed in two Grandstand Shows. J.R. attended high school at the Performing and Visual Arts Centre in Central Memorial (PVA) where he graduated as a dual disciplinary student (Dance and Drama). Afterwards, he took his training to Decidedly Jazz Danceworks (DJD) Professional Training Program for two years where he found his love for Africanist-Aesthetic dance. His training then took him into Cirque Du Soleil's NexGen professional development training program for Trampwall twice in Portugal. J.R. since has received the honour of training with elders and mentors of the West African region and is excited about sharing his gained knowledge of Guinean dance styles back here in Calgary. J.R. has done a few residencies now with Evergreen and cannot wait to keep spreading his love for the arts with more schools.



**Aaron Coates** is an actor, writer, director, and the Associate Artistic Director of Cowtown Opera. He studied acting at Mount Royal College in Calgary and at École Philippe Gaulier in Paris. Aaron has worked for many theatre companies in Calgary including Evergreen Theatre, Trepan Theatre, Lunchbox Theatre, Alberta Theatre Projects, Theatre Calgary, Verb Theatre, Ghost River Theatre, Vertigo Theatre, Calgary Opera, Quest Theatre, Storybook Theatre, Downstage, and Dirty Laundry. He has written for theatre, opera, and film, as well as creating devised work with actors, singers, and students. He is a longtime faculty member of Company of Rogues Actors' Studio in Calgary, where he teaches movement, acting, and professional development.

**Erin Pettifor** is an emerging queer theatre artist based in Amiskwaciwâskahikan/Edmonton. In the 2023 Edmonton Fringe she premiered her show *Stigma, Pistil and Style*, directed by Jacqueline Russell with Wee Witches. Erin performed in Larrikin Entertainment's new musical, *WYRD*, a thrilling musical with themes on patriarchy and the cycle of abuse. She has co-created and performed multiple physical theatre pieces for various festivals and cabarets. Erin has several performance credits from the Edmonton Fringe Festival, independent local productions, workshop readings, and theatre for young audiences. Clown, embodiment, and her work with her mentor Jacqueline Russell have greatly informed her practise. Erin has a BFA in Acting from the University of Alberta and a diploma in Theatre Performance and Creation from Red Deer College.

**Jamie Matchullis** is very delighted to be working with Evergreen Theatre and all the amazing people and puppets employed there! She has had the privilege of working with Evergreen Theatre in many different areas: as a puppeteer, a Puppet Camp Instructor, as an actor in the touring show *Goldie Locks & The Three Polar Bears*, and as a board member. Select credits include: *Sunny Side Up*, *Mary Jane*, *Nativity in the City*, *Halo* (Fire Exit Theatre), *The Hits Reimagined* (Theatre Calgary), *All in the Timing/15 Minute Hamlet* (Spirit Fire Theatre), *Born to Fun*, *Bad Eggs* (Late, Late, Breakfast Show), *Ai Yah! Sweet & Sour Secrets*, *What Gives?* (Lunchbox Theatre), *Rumpelstiltskin & The Frog Prince* (Birnton Theatricals), *Much Ado About Nothing* (The Shakespeare Co. Outreach), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Theatre Calgary/SBTB). Jamie is a Calgary Critics Award Nominee for Best Actress in a Musical for her role in *What Gives?* She is an actor, singer, writer, sketch comedian, arts educator and baker. She also has a husband, a toddler and two cats.

**Mackenzie Sutton** (she/they) is a Calgary based actor, performer, and instructor. Mackenzie is a graduate of the University of Alberta's BFA Acting Conservatory program in Edmonton. She is a working actor and performer on both stage and screen, selected credits include; "Last Train to Nibroc" with Fire Exit Theatre, "Starving" Lifetime Movies, "The Devils" Studio Theatre UofA, and "Weasels" Studio Theatre UofA. She is an experienced youth instructor having facilitated summer camps in theatre and riding, to now working with Evergreen Theatre as a resident instructor for their "Grow a Show" program. Mackenzie loves working and performing with youth theatre and young theatre makers and seeing the magic come alive.

**Ali DeRegt** is a multi-disciplinary theatre artist based in Calgary focused on devising, puppetry, and clown. She recently earned an MFA from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London, where she co-founded *HOT TRASH! Theatre*, a devised theatre company that focuses on DIY aesthetics, physical storytelling, and general nonsense. In addition to Evergreen, recent collaborations in Calgary include *Verb Theatre*, *Lunchbox Theatre*, *Mudfoot Theatre*, and *The Green Fools*. You can see her puppetry work on *Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock*, which is streaming now on Apple TV Plus.



# Evergreen Theatre Artistic Roster Continued



**Taryn Haley** is a proud graduate of Red Deer College and Missouri State University. She is currently pursuing her BEd at St. Mary's University. Taryn's shows with Evergreen Theatre include *THE THREE LITTLE PIGS & BB WOLFE* and *THE SINKING SLAND*. Other credits include *AND THEN*, *THE LIGHTS WENT OUT* (Workshop Theatre) *HAIRSPRAY*, *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF* (Tent Theatre), *THE PENELOPIAD* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival) *CITY OF ANGELS*, *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*, *TARTUFFE*, (MSU) among many others. Taryn also works as an Evergreen Theatre residency artist and additionally supports the administration of our bustling facility, Evergreen Community SPACES.

**Nick Driscoll** (he/him) is a multi-talented Calgary-based musician, actor, and music producer. He holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Missouri State University, and first joined Evergreen as an actor in the 2019 touring production of 'The Three Little Pigs & B.B. Wolfe'. Nick recently released a fantastic album, *Good Enough*, now streaming on Spotify and Apple Music. In addition to singing, acting, teaching and producing for Evergreen Theatre, Nick works in corporate education for a major tech company, and is passionate about merging the arts with technology.

**Christopher Duthie** is a bilingual actor, playwright, theatre creator and co-founder of Bad Knaps Theatre Collective. He has been acting professionally for more than a decade working with Evergreen Theatre, One Yellow Rabbit, Ghost River Theatre, Theatre Calgary, Vertigo Theatre, Lunchbox Theatre, Quest Theatre, Alberta Theatre Projects and others. He holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph and a BFA in Drama from the University of Calgary. He lives in Calgary with his wife, Alexandra, and their cat, Isabelle.

**Teigan Blondin de Boer** holds a BFA from the University of Calgary. After university Teigan pursued her Arts Career at Evergreen Theatre and various other theatre companies around Calgary wearing multiple hats. Teigan has always had a love for science, technology and art and has supported Evergreen as an administrator, client liaison, painter, technician, costume designer, prop and puppet builder, and artist-in-residence. She is a multi-talented gem and we are lucky to have her!



**Jane Oliphant** is a local Calgary-based Actor who received her BA in Theatre at Trinity Western University. She has worked throughout Calgary (and beyond) performing on stage, in film, singing, dancing, playwriting, stage fighting, playing instruments and teaching. Jane loves to explore, create and collaborate. In her free time Jane loves to head outdoors with her goofy pup, Finn. Jane is currently travelling Alberta as "Snow White" in Evergreen's original "Snow White and the Seven Regions." You can catch her at schools "hitting the slopes." When she's not touring, Jane is a valued member of the residency roster. Kids love recognizing her from our shows!



**Sarah Haggeman** is excited to be working with Evergreen Theatre for the first time ever! After graduating from MRU's Theatre Arts program and Company of Rogues' Master Class program, Sarah has been performing all kinds of theatre with lots of incredible people. Select credits include: Sweeney Todd, Pippin, Curtains, The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical, Goosebumps the Musical (Storybook Theatre); Conversations With..., Mary Jane, Babette's Feast (Fire Exit Theatre); Sleeping Beauty, The 12 Days of Christmas, Rapunzel (Birnton Theatricals/Stage West for Kids); Laid/e: The Toulouse-Lautrec Project (Theatre Encounter); The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Bare: A Pop Opera (The Honest Collective); Helen (IGNITE! Festival); Heart of Gold (Puddle of Mud Productions); First and Last (Rogues Theatre), as well as many productions as a member of Heritage Park's Summer Street Theatre Troupe.



**Judith Mendelsohn** is a physical theatre performer based in Mohkinstis (Calgary). She creates performances for children and adults and entertains from up high as a stilt walker. She trained in Paris for 2 years with the infamous clown, Philippe Gaulier and holds an MFA in theatre from the University of Calgary. Judith is most passionate in her role as an Arts Education, creating theatrical experiences for children through curricular content and is proud to have worked with Evergreen Theatre since 2011. Currently, Judith is pursuing a B.Ed. at the University of Calgary, furthering her knowledge in education.



Thank you for supporting Evergreen Theatre Society!



Evergreen Theatre Society has been the proud recipient of multiple awards over our history including:

