



# AI, Avatars & Aliens

## A Speculative Cabaret

MARCH 13, 14 & 15 \* 7:30 PM \* DAVID SPINKS THEATRE



University of  
Lethbridge  
**FACULTY OF  
FINE ARTS**  
*Piiksinaasin*

# Territorial Acknowledgement

Oki, and welcome to the University of Lethbridge. Our University's Blackfoot name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. The University of Lethbridge acknowledges and deeply appreciates the Siksikaitsitapii peoples' connection to their traditional territory. We, as people living and benefiting from Blackfoot Confederacy traditional territory, honour the traditions of people who have cared for this land since time immemorial. We recognize the diverse population of Aboriginal peoples who attend the University of Lethbridge and the contributions these Aboriginal peoples have made in shaping and strengthening the University community in the past, present, and in the future.

---

Land Acknowledgement video was created/edited by Lucy Du in collaboration with Mia van Leeuwen & Julia Wasilewski

**Featured Sound:** Leroy Little Bear "Honour Song", Sonny-Ray Day Rider "Spirit"

**Featured Artists:** Bryce Many Fingers, Adrian Stimson  
photos by Angeline Simon

**Featured Theatre Productions:** *Yisstsiiyi*, *AlterNatives* and *D.I.N.E.*  
photos by Angeline Simon

# Cabaret Program

## Act1

Opening Number  
Kable Network  
Star2k Funtime 1  
Theatre ImpromptOu 1  
Burlesque Bots

## INTERMISSION

## Act2

AI PI  
Star2k Funtime 2  
Theatre ImpromptOu 2  
AAA Fashion Show  
Closing Number

---

The performance runs approximately 90 minutes with one 20 minute intermission.

Video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.

# Creative

Directors Mia van Leeuwen  
Julia Wasilewski  
Production Designers Lee Burkes  
Dave Smith  
Assistants to the Directors Emily Sharp  
Skylar Dupont  
Walbridge  
Projection Designer Lucy Du  
Sound Composition Aiden Telfer  
Production Manager Betty-Lou Hushlak

# Cast

Host/Starman Conner Christmas  
DJ Aiden Telfer  
Starbots/Performers Autumn Adrian  
Emily Carstairs  
Lucy Du  
Reign Dyer  
Zachary Elser  
Cadynce Flett  
Nikko Hunt  
Cole Kenyon  
Kiaora Morning Bull  
Evan Nisi  
Brooklyn Ross  
Shelby Van Den Biggelaar  
Reegan Walker

## **Kable Network**

Devised by ..... Ethan Weninger  
Cole Kenyon  
Script Consultant ..... Greg MacArthur

## **Star 2K FunTime**

Performers ..... Evan Nisi  
Reign Dyer  
Autumn Adrian  
Nikko Hunt  
Shelby Van Den Biggelaar  
Cadynce Fleet  
Reegan Walker  
Script Consultant ..... Greg MacArthur

## **Burlesque Bots**

Performers ..... Emily Carstairs  
Zachary Elser  
Devised by ..... Zachary Elser  
Chloe Jorgenson  
Sound Designer ..... Chloe Jorgenson

## **Fashion Show**

<b>Performers</b>	<b>Costume Designers</b>
Emily Sharp	Brooke Jenkins
Kiaora Morning Bull	Cassidy Braun
Lucy Du	Shayna Fullersmith
Zachary Elser	Finley Dupont
Reign Dyer	Avry Cook
Nikko Hunt	KC Chase
Cadynce Flett	Steele Prefontaine
Emily Carstairs	Gen Matsuzaka
Ash Thomson	Kacie Hilliard

Avatar video created by Lucy Du

# About our 24–25 Alumni Season

Welcome to the 2024/2025 Drama Season! This year we are putting the spotlight not only on our current students, but also on some of our many Drama alumni. We have welcomed back former students in a variety of roles over the years (including as staff and faculty!), but this Season we are celebrating alumni as our special focus. The decision to include the play **In Tongues**, written by alumni James Odin Wade, as our second mainstage production, sparked the idea to program alumni involvement across all four productions. Our University Chancellor, Terry Whitehead (BA'94), has been a champion of the Fine Arts through support for a number of awards, such as the Spirit Prize for Indigenous art and the Play Right Prize for playwriting. Terry's support and encouragement as our Season Patron has assisted us in bringing back a number of our graduates, as directors, writers, designers, performers, devisers, and creators. Our former students bring their professional skills and experience to inspire our current students, and together they have worked hard to bring you an outstanding season of entertainment. If you are one of our former students, thank you for being part of the audience! Your support is an important piece in the success of our Drama program, and we are proud to have you join us.

# Director's Note

Humanity has been speculating about the existence of alternative life forms since the dawn of time. From the Egyptian pyramids to the Nazca lines, to the arrival of Steven Spielberg's *E.T.*, our obsession with the extra-terrestrial is constantly evolving. Artificial intelligence is also nothing new -- Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Ridley Scott's *Bladerunner*, and Disney's *Wall-E* all imagine A.I. living amongst humanity. But what about humanity living amongst artificial intelligence?! With today's engagement with gaming, digital avatars, cosplay subculture and ever evolving A.I. tools, one can only wonder -- what will happen next?

Collaborating with students from a Devised Theatre course last fall, we looked to Karel Čapek's 1920 play *Rossum's Universal Robot's* -- which introduces the word "robot" -- as a starting place to create new works. It was interesting to discover that students were inclined to devise performances that evoked vintage representations of artificial intelligence, staying far away from any contemporary sense of A.I. Fast forward, some of that student work will be showcased in the cabaret along with other AAA offerings from alumni, faculty and local Lethbridge talent.

The **AI, Avatars and Aliens Cabaret** embraces the technology and aesthetics of the past, with references to *2001: A Space Odessey*, *Star Trek*, *Indiana Jones* and ... *David Bowie*! We hope that our audience will be transported by our vintage sci-fi dream world, sparking nostalgia and inciting laughter along the way, while also raising questions about the future. Enjoy! – Mia & Julia

## BIOS For Returning Alumni Artists

**Conner Christmas (BFA'17)** Since graduating, Conner's been making their mark primarily in the film and stand-up comedy industries, but still has a love and desire to work in theatre. Their acting resume has grown to be quite extensive, working with large production companies such as Netflix and Hulu, established Canadian theatre's including Theatre Calgary, the largest comedy institution in Canada, Just For Laughs, as well as many independent projects.



Conner's been featured in various film festivals across Canada, perform internationally as a comedian, and are currently building their experience as a director and writer. "I'm so thankful for all the professors and staff during my time here in Lethbridge, and I'd like to thank the current staff for all the work they do for the current students." You can find Conner's other shows by signing up for their newsletter! [www.connerchristmas.com](http://www.connerchristmas.com)



**Julia Wasilewski (BA'05/BFA'07)** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Lethbridge as well as a Lethbridge-based costume, set, and lighting designer. She holds a Masters degree in Design from the University of Calgary and a BA Drama and BFA Multidisciplinary Arts from the University of Lethbridge. Julia's practice embraces the intersection between traditional design conventions and contemporary renewable approaches in an effort to embrace sustainable theatre-making.





**Ash Thomson (BFA'10)** I grew up in Lethbridge doing community theatre and Kiwanis Festival with my greatest teacher and biggest fan, my mom, Sheri Thomson. First UofL show? A Little Princess in 1994. I was 12! I stumbled east in 2001 to gigs with CanStage and Young People's Theatre (Midsummer Nights Dream and Pinocchio.) I became an Occupational Therapist and left Theatre for 10 years. She took me back in 2015 and I've made up for lost time with Elf (New West Theatre,)

The Play That Goes Wrong (Playgoers,) Hedwig and the Angry Inch (Theatre Outré,) Queerprov and As The World Burns (ImpromptOu) and independent projects including The Pink Unicorn, Mr. Richard Goblin and The Band Formerly Known as Karen, Lewis and Pam.

**Michelle Sylvestre** (Currently a PHD student) is an interdisciplinary artist, educator and PhD student in Cultural, Social, and Political Thought. She holds a BFA in Art (2017), and an MFA in New Media (2021) receiving SSHRC, Elizabeth II Graduate, and Dean's Tuition scholarships. Sylvestre's current work explores speculative futures and the potential for storytelling, performance, and artistic inquiry to critique systemic biases in Artificial Intelligence (AI).



Using research-creation, she merges critical inquiry with artistic practice to address complex sociocultural challenges, advocating for equity and inclusion in technology. Currently, she is developing interdisciplinary workshops as part of her PhD work and her role as Researcher in Residence with the University of Lethbridge's Abundance Intelligence Niitsitapi Pod.

## JamChor 2 Choir

Choir Director – **Jaimee Jarvie** (BMus'13, MMus'24)

Soprano – **Jaimee Jarvie**

Alto – **Megan Wittig** (BMus '12, MMus'15) & **Tiffany Badiuk**

Tenor – **Bryan Figueroa & Isaac Gokarn**

Bass – **Tanner Lapointe** (BMus'22, BEd'25) & **Stone Campbell**

**Jaimee Jarvie** (BMus'13, MMus'24), a local soprano, has been immersed in music since the age of three. She earned her Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Lethbridge in 2013, followed by her Master of Music Degree in 2024. Her Master's Thesis, "Responding to MS Through Song: A Research-Creation Project," focused on the connections between wellness and singing in musicians living with Multiple Sclerosis.



As a performer, Jaimee has graced multiple ensembles and choirs, shining in various scenes and operas with the U of L Opera Workshop Program. Notable roles include Adele in *Die Fledermaus*, First Spirit in *The Magic Flute*, Sally in *A Hand of Bridge*, and Apollonia in *La Canterina*. She has performed as a soloist with the Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra, and as a chorister she has performed internationally in Canada, the United States, France, Austria, Germany, Italy, and Ireland at the Cork International Choral Festival.

A promotional graphic for the Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival. The background is a faded image of a woman in a white shirt playing a piano. The text is overlaid in various fonts and colors. At the top, it says "LETHBRIDGE AND DISTRICT" in small blue letters. Below that, "MUSIC AND SPEECH ARTS" is written in large, bold, blue letters, with "AND" in smaller letters between "MUSIC" and "SPEECH". "festival" is written in a large, elegant, grey script font. Below that, "Celebrating 95 Years" is written in a large, black, cursive font. Underneath, the dates "MARCH 31 - APRIL 12, 2025" are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the website "WWW.LETHMSF.ORG" is written in a small, black, sans-serif font. There is a small logo of a speech bubble with musical notes inside it to the right of the main text.



## **Theatre ImpromptOu**

### **Members:**

**David Gabert** (ImpromptOu Co-Founder)

**Erica Arrieus** (ImpromptOu Co-Founder, BFA, BEd)

**Mark Ogle** (BFA, BEd'17)

**Cole Olson** (BFA'14)

**Alex Watz** (BFA'19)

**Katrina Violet** (BFA'20)

**The ImpromptOu Players** are the improvised arm of Theatre Outre, Lethbridge's Queer Theatre Company. Formed in 2017 by David Gabert and Erica Arrieus, ImpromptOu produces a variety of monthly shows in Lethbridge at Good Times Lethbridge Comedy Club with unscripted shows that push the boundaries of sexual, gender and cultural norms. Shows include Queer-prov: Uncensored Song & Sketch Show, Card Chaos: Improvised Party Show, As The World Burns: Lethbridge's Improvised Soap Opera, Trebl-Quest: An Improvised Fantasy Musical and No Way Out: An Improvised Tragicomedy. It has toured shows across Alberta and Saskatchewan with members who have worked and performed improv together since they were a part of the University of Lethbridge Improv Club in 2005 to those who have graduated as recently as 2024. Today, the ImpromptOu players are made up of University of Lethbridge Alumni from various faculties and members of the community who take part in performances throughout the year between other performances and the daily grind. They are incredibly excited to share a glimpse of their improvised storytelling with you as a part of the cabaret and return to the stage at the University that started so many of their journeys.

# Crew

Stage Management Andreas Marinakos  
Elizabeth Mawii  
Sound Operator Keely Evanoff  
Lighting Board Operator Zeth Stewart  
Projection Operator Jocelyn Smith  
Running Crew Hunter MacDonald  
Followspot Operators Emilia Siemans  
Malia Mix  
Dressers Maria Balyta Crespo  
Emma Glover  
Costume Technician Autumn Adrian  
Sidryn Hodgins  
Costume & Prop Technician Aliyah Deane  
Stage, Scenery, Props Technician Matthew Denittis  
Man Fei Wong  
Lighting Crew Palmer Konschuk  
Zeth Stewart  
Reese Cox  
Gen Matsuzaka

---

# Production Staff

Kelly Roberts	Sound Technician
D.A. Smurlick	Stage Coordinator
Mike Takats	Light Technician
Arlene Curran	Scenic Carpenter
Lynn Hopkins	Costume Technician
Patricia Jonzon	Costume Technician
Terek Jonzon	Props Technician

## Department of Drama Faculty

Justin A. Blum, PhD (Chair of the Drama Department)

Lee Burckes, MFA

Nicola Elson, MFA

Gabrielle Houle, PhD (Adjunct Faculty)

Kelly Reay

Betty Hushlak

Doug MacArthur, MFA

Greg MacArthur, (MFA'16)

Shelley Scott, PhD, (BA'86)

Dave Smith, MFA

Aaron Taylor, PhD

Mia van Leeuwen, MFA

Julia Wasilewski, MFA (BA'05/BFA'07)

## Professors Emeriti

Ron Chambers

Lisa Doolittle

Richard Epp

Brian Parkinson

Leslie Robison-Greene

## University Theatre Staff

Kelly Roberts, (BFA'91)

D.A. Smurlick

Mike Takats

Arlene Curran

Patricia Jonzon, (BFA'14)

Terek Jonzon, (BFA'14)

Lynn Hopkins, (BFA'93)

## FFA Dean's Office

Operations Manager:

Amanda Berg, MA (BA/BMgt'04)

Manager of FFA Facilities:

Niall Donaghy, MFA

Admin Assistant:

Sarah Hilliard, (BA'10)

Admin Support:

Krystal Ming-Honiwell, MSc

Events Manager:

Baz Skinner, (BA'16)

## Box Office & Front of House

Grace Abbott

Autumn Adrian

Raine Belanger

Caleb Bell

Indira Brouwer

Finley Dupont

Zachery Elser

Cole Howg

Phoenix Keeler

Charis Legg

Maddie McKee

Emma Naude

Ryan Proctor

Emma Van Bussel

# Thank you

Terek Jonzon, Chloe Jorgenson, Dallas Evans,  
Maddie McKee, Greg MacArthur, Amethyst First Rider,  
Caroline Russell, Iniskim Advisory Circle,  
Leroy Little Bear, Sonny-Ray Day Rider, Inge Genee

Cover Design by Lidija Sijacic

*The Spirit and Play Right Prizes will be presented this year  
at a public event on March 19 at 5:00 PM in Spinks Theatre.*

Become a

# FRIEND OF FINE ARTS



Join a community dedicated to supporting the Faculty of Fine Arts. With a gift of \$25 or more, you'll become a 'Friend of Fine Arts,' enjoying exclusive perks like VIP event access, special recognition, and more—all while helping to foster student creativity and development. **Learn more or join us at [go.uleth.ca/fofa](http://go.uleth.ca/fofa), or scan the QR code.**



**THEATRE  
OUTRÉ**

**improptOu**  
by Theatre Outré...

**NEW SEASON. NEW SHOWS.  
LOCAL IMPROV SHOWS & EVENTS  
MONTHLY AT GOOD TIMES COMEDY CLUB**

**Student Discount Code: STUDENT25**

**f** ImproptOu Theatre Outré **@**improptouimprov @theatreoutre