



NEWS RELEASE

September 8, 2009

Events Wood Buffalo is “blasting open the doors” for Alberta Arts Days

On September 18 and 19, Events Wood Buffalo will bring Alberta Arts Days to life at Keyano College, putting local and provincial artists in the spotlight and providing unparalleled access to the arts for residents of our community. Alberta Arts Days, which runs from September 18-20, is all about discovering, experiencing and celebrating the importance of arts and culture to a healthy and vibrant Alberta.

“We are blasting open the doors of the Keyano Arts Centre to expose the breadth and depth of Alberta talent to our community,” said Claude Giroux, Executive Director of Events Wood Buffalo. “Too often, the process of creating art happens behind closed doors and all the public generally sees is the finished product. This is an opportunity to see art in action and discover the theatrical, musical and artistic talent that exists in Wood Buffalo and Alberta.”

“I hope that all Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo area residents seize the opportunity to enjoy this free peak inside the Keyano theatres, studios, rehearsal halls and art gallery to see ‘art in action’” said Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit. “This unique chance to watch the artistic process, to see inspiration combined with discipline, will be truly exciting, and help people appreciate the crucial role creativity plays in all aspects of our lives.”

The Alberta Arts Days events at Keyano College will feature a number of exciting opportunities for people of all ages. Admission to all events is free.

On Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19 *Highway 63*, a play researched and written in Fort McMurray by theatre artists from across the country, will be remounted in the Keyano Recital Theatre. *Highway 63* captures the spirit of the people of Fort McMurray and the challenges and opportunities inherent in living at the epicenter of the mammoth oil sands economy. Performances are Friday at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, at 2:00 p.m. Admission is free.

On Saturday, September 19 between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., the doors to the studios, theatres, rehearsal halls and art gallery will be wide open, giving the public unparalleled access to art in action. Visitors will get a firsthand look at: auditions for the Keyano Theatre production of *High School Musical*; sound check for the evening music showcase; artists working in the drawing and sculpture studios, and media lab. Visitors can enjoy some firsthand fun at a drop-in cartooning workshop in the Keyano Art Gallery with Edmonton artist Robert Woodbury. Admission is free.

Also on Saturday at 7:30 p.m., acclaimed Alberta singer, songwriter and CBC radio host Tim Tamishiro will be the ringmaster during the free evening Music Showcase on the Keyano Theatre mainstage. This incredible show will feature Amy Heffernan, Mitch Osmond and the New Mondays,

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www.eventswoodbuffalo.com

Karissa Sovdi, Heather Blush and the Uppercuts, and Juno Award winners The McDades. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free, so arrive early to ensure you get a seat.

For more information about Alberta Arts Days visit www.AlbertaArtsDays.ca. For information about the Arts Days events happening at Keyano College visit www.eventswoodbuffalo.com.

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