

Luay S. Eljamal

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CAREER SUMMARY

Arts & Culture Management — Managing business and non-profit operations, exercising agility in leading teams to meet project goals on time, within budget, and in accordance with predetermined expectations

Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Advocate — nurturing and educating on the importance of an inclusive culture and positive sense of community to bring together Indigenous groups, immigrants and marginalized members of society

Technically-Minded Theatre Artist — skilled at theatre writing, directing and digital performance, incorporating audiovisual technologies into various performances and community events.

EDUCATION

Project Management	University of California, Irvine
Master of Arts (with Distinction) Focus: Contemporary Performance Making (Writing, Directing & Digital Performance)	Brunel University London
Bachelor of Arts* Focus: Drama	University of Alberta
Bachelor of Education* Focus: Drama Education & Communication Technology	University of Alberta

**Studied concurrently*

SELECT WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2020 - Present **Programs Manager**, Arts Council Wood Buffalo, Fort McMurray, AB
- Planning the development, delivery, and evaluation of the organization's various programs for participants aged 7 to 80
 - Managing the transition of our flagship event from in-person to online, resulting in a 900% increase in audience participation
 - Managing an annual budget for each program area, and creating systems to aggregate and analyze financial and statistic data
 - Developing new programs and initiatives to support current artists' needs and the strategic direction of ACWB
 - Identifying and evaluating risks associated with program activities and taking appropriate action to control the risks and keep staff and public safe
 - Managing the delivery of grants/funds to individual artists and arts groups of various artistic disciplines
 - Representing Arts Council Wood Buffalo in partnership opportunities with artists and stakeholders
 - Reporting evaluation findings to the Executive Director and recommending changes to enhance programs
- 2019 - Present **Founder & Artistic Director**, Symmetree Theatre, Fort McMurray, AB
- Director of new theatre company, which aims to share stories about marginalized members of society, where the conflict does not stem from the fact that they are marginalized
- 2018 - 2020 **Programs & Communications Manager**, Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo, Fort McMurray, AB
- Developing programs and coordinating events, drawing in an average increase of 114% in public participation.
 - Maintaining programming plan that aligns with the organization's strategic plan
 - Applying for, managing and reporting on grants, securing over \$200,000 on an annual basis
 - Participating in working groups and committees
 - Representing the Association at various events

- Reporting to administration, finance, and stakeholders as to the budget and general developments of each program
- Facilitating Cultural Awareness Training workshops for local municipal departments, businesses and non-profits
- Collaborating with community organizations to plan and organize different programs
- Hiring program coordinators and recruiting volunteers and facilitators

2016 - 2017 **Performing Arts Instructor**, Jigsaw Performing Arts Schools, London, UK

- Teaching groups of children aged 5-18 singing & drama classes
- Tailoring lessons to each age group in order to ensure material is challenging, yet attainable
- Writing report cards with individual comments for each student
- Preparing presentable material for parents to witness children's growth
- Learning students' passions and altering instruction to suit their individual learning needs

2013 - 2014 **Multicultural Resident Assistant**, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB

- Living with, managing and supporting the integration of 28 international students in Canada, fostering responsible social interactions
- Developing an inclusive culture and positive sense of community
- Maintaining an environment conducive to students' academic success and personal development
- Managing and facilitating intercultural programs and supporting residents' needs on an individual and community level
- Received 4 awards: Leadership Society, Dedication to Community, Global Heart and Global Education

2012 - 2015 **Performing Arts Instructor**, Strathcona County, Sherwood Park, AB

- Teaching drama, improvisation, video production and voice to children aged 6 to 19
- Mediating and resolving conflicts between students and parents
- Ensuring students were consistently engaged
- Preparing presentable material for parents to witness child

- 2015 **Drama and English Teacher**, École Paul Kane High, St. Albert, AB
- Teaching drama and English to years 10, 11 and 12; approximately 30 students in each class
 - Lesson and unit planning for upcoming classes
 - Creating and administering various assessments, with rubrics handed out in advance, so that students understood the learner outcomes they were expected to demonstrate
- 2013 **Drama and English Teacher**, D.S. MacKenzie Junior High, Edmonton, AB
- Teaching English and Drama to years 7, 8 and 9; approximately 30 students in each class.
 - Assisting with Computer & Photography classes
 - Coaching the school improv teams, and preparing them for “Theatresports” competitions

ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

Writing

- 2021 **Amalgamation (Issue #24)**, Guest Editor, NorthWord
- 2021 **Looking to the Past to See the Future**, Guest Writer, Theatre Alberta
- 2021 **Symmetries Do Not Exist**, Poet, Queering Activism in Wood Buffalo
- 2019 **Freeing Heaven’s Secrets**, Playwright, Symmetree Theatre
- 2008 **Jason Love - The Eternal Sphinx**, Children’s Book, Luay Eljamal

Select Directing Experience

- 2022 **Misery**, Keyano Theatre
Fort McMurray, AB
- 2019 **Freeing Heaven’s Secrets**, Symmetree Theatre
Fort McMurray, AB
- 2018 **Sexy Laundry**, Keyano Theatre
Fort McMurray, AB
- 2017 **Where in the World is Nina Santiago**, Jigsaw Performing Arts School
London, UK

- 2016 **Proud**, Finborough Theatre
London, UK
Assistant Director to Jonny Kelly,
- 2014 **Freeing Heaven's Secrets**, Symmetree Theatre
Edmonton, AB
- 2013 **Young Frankenstein The Musical**, University of Alberta Students' Union
Edmonton, AB
- 2012 **Seussical the Musical**, University of Alberta Lister Hall Students Association
Edmonton, AB
- 2012 **The Marriage Proposal**, University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB
- 2010 **The Insanity of Mary Girard**, Cheepiyak Theatre
Provincial Tour: Edmonton, Red Deer, and Fort McMurray, AB

Select Producing Experience

- 2022 **Connection to Land Video Series**
Film series inspired by three indigenous artists' own connection to the land.
Fort McMurray, AB
- 2021 **Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards: Midnight in Technicolor**, Arts
Council Wood Buffalo
*2-hour broadcast recognizing 36 nominees in 14 arts award categories, produced
during COVID-19 pandemic.*
Fort McMurray, AB
- 2020 **Sparkling Creativity**, Arts Council Wood Buffalo
*45-minute documentary following emerging playwright Carla White as she drafts
a play about the 2016 Fort McMurray Wildfire.*
- 2019 **Freeing Heaven's Secrets**, Symmetree Theatre
Fort McMurray, AB

Select Acting Experience

- 2022 **Suite Surrender**, Bernard S. Dunlap, Swamp Rat Experience
Director: Hanna Fridhed
Fort McMurray, AB
- 2020 **Flashdance the Musical**, C.C., Keyano Theatre
Director: Karen Towsley
Fort McMurray, AB
- 2014 **Welcome to Thebes**, Polykleitos, University of Alberta
Director: Jane Heather
Edmonton, AB
- 2012 **Ragtime**, Ensemble, Two-One-Way Tickets to Broadway
Director: Barbara Mah
Edmonton, AB
- 2012 **NINE**, Ensemble, University of Alberta
Director: Kristin M. Finlay
Edmonton, AB
- 2010 **Spring Awakening**, University of Lethbridge
Director: Jay Whitehead
Lethbridge, AB
- 2010 **High School Musical**, Zeke, Keyano Theatre
Director: Julie Funk
Fort McMurray, AB
- 2009 **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**, Joseph, Cheepiyak Theatre
Director: Terri Mort
Fort McMurray, AB

2009 **Seussical The Musical**, Horton, Keyano Theatre
Director: Andrea Boyd
Fort McMurray, AB

2009 **Grease**, Roger, Keyano Theatre
Director: Andrea Boyd
Fort McMurray, AB

Select Audiovisual Design Experience

2022 **Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards: Future Midnight**, Arts Council WB
Sound & Projections Design
Fort McMurray, AB

2022 **Misery**, Keyano Theatre
Music Composition & Projections Design
Fort McMurray, AB

2021 **Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls & 2-Spirit+ Livestream**,
Arts Council Wood Buffalo
Video Design
Fort McMurray, AB

2021 **it's past midnight somewhere**, Arts Council Wood Buffalo
Video Design
Fort McMurray, AB

2021 **Around the Campfire: Music, Story, Song**, Arts Council Wood Buffalo
Video Design
Fort McMurray, AB

2019 **Freeing Heaven's Secrets**, Symmetree Theatre
Sound Design
Fort McMurray, AB

- 2017 **Lottery**, Fictive Theatre
Sound Design
London, UK
- 2017 **Quarter Life Crisis**, Yolanda Mercy
Projections & Sound Design
London, and Edinburgh, UK
- 2016 **The Slave**, East of West Theatre
Sound Design
London, UK
- 2016 **The Oracle**, Brunel University
Projections & Sound Design
London, UK
- 2016 **Symmetree Doesn't Exist**, Brunel University
Projections & Sound Design
London, UK
- 2015 **Hunter—Hunted**, Brunel University
Projections & Sound Design
London, UK
- 2010 **The Insanity of Mary Girard**, Cheepiyak Theatre
Sound Design
Provincial Tour: Edmonton, Red Deer, and Fort McMurray, AB
- 2008 **Wanda's Visit**, Cheepiyak Theatre
Sound Design
Provincial Tour: Edmonton, Red Deer, and Fort McMurray, AB

WORKSHOPS & TALKS

2021 - 2022 **Allyship**

Panel discussion coinciding with Truth and Reconciliation Day, to share personal views on indigenous issues and how to be a meaningful ally to Indigenous populations on in Nistayowou and Turtle Island.

2018 - 2020 **Cultural Awareness Training**

4 hour workshop geared towards corporate HR managers, government departments, school teachers and social profits with the goal of increasing cross-cultural awareness, knowledge of cultural differences, understanding differences in team styles, and improving knowledge of religions in the Wood Buffalo community

2018 **Technology & Culture**

A presentation on the effect technology and the arts can have on identity and community formation, giving participants the tools they needed to create new technologies with cultural impact.

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2021 - Present **Theatre Alberta**

Board Member

Edmonton, AB

2021-2022 **Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (RACIDE),**
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

Committee Member

Fort McMurray, AB

2020 - Present **Friends of the Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts (FoSECPA)**

Board Member

Fort McMurray, AB

- 2020 **Alberta Foundation for the Arts,**
Expert Panel Juror
Edmonton, AB
- 2018 - 2020 **Newcomer Interagency Network**
Steering Committee Member
Fort McMurray AB
- 2012 - 2014 **University of Alberta, International House**
Council Member
Edmonton, AB

GRANTS AND AWARDS
(Total Granted = \$511,800.00)

Creative

- 2021 **Digital Now Grant,** Canada Council for the Arts
\$50,000 to Symmetree Theatre
Awarded for the production of a digital video-performance series on the importance on Land Acknowledgements, lead by Indigenous voices to premiere in October 2022.
Fort McMurray, AB
- 2019 **Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards: Theatre Category** (Shortlisted)
Arts Council Wood Buffalo
Fort McMurray, AB
- 2019 **Explore and Create - Concept to Realization Grant,** Canada Council for the Arts
\$25,800.00 to Luay Eljamal
To stage original sound-art play Freeing Heaven's Secrets for presentation in Fort McMurray, and formalize new theatre collective: Symmetree Theatre in November 2019.
Fort McMurray, AB

- 2021 **Community Grant**, United Way Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo
\$143,000 to Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo
To fund the development of three programs designed to support newcomers to Canada: Cultural Awareness Training, English Language Learners Assistance, Cross-Cultural Parenting
- 2020 **Community Grant**, United Way Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo
\$146,000 to Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo
To fund the development of three programs designed to support newcomers to Canada: Cultural Awareness Training, English Language Learners Assistance, Cross-Cultural Parenting
- 2020 **Human Rights Project Grant**, Alberta Human Rights Commission
\$27,000 to Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo
To fund the development of an Immigrant Advisory Table, which built cultural group capacity with the opportunity to proactively engage with the community and reduce discriminatory barriers.
- 2019 **Community Grant**, United Way Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo
\$120,000 to Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo
To fund the development of three programs designed to support newcomers to Canada: Cultural Awareness Training, English Language Learners Assistance, Cross-Cultural Parenting
- 2016 **Deutsche Bank Award for Creative Enterprise** (Shortlisted)
Deutsche Bank
London, UK
- 2010 **Outstanding Student Director**
AHSDFA
Red Deer, AB
- 2010 **Outstanding Sound Design**
AHSDFA
Red Deer, AB

2010 **Outstanding Ensemble**

AHSDFA

Red Deer, AB

2010 **Outstanding Lighting Design**

AHSDFA

Red Deer, AB

2010 **Outstanding Production Concepts**

AHSDFA

Red Deer, AB

Leadership

2020 **Top 50 Under 50**

Your McMurray Magazine

Fort McMurray, AB

2019 **LGBTQ2+ Artist Leadership Award**

Pride YMM Committee & Oil Royals

Fort McMurray, AB

2014 **RLPA Leadership Society Award**

Residence Life Professional Association

Edmonton, AB

2014 **Dedication to Community Award**

Residence Services, University of Alberta

Edmonton, AB

2014 **Global Heart Award**

International House, University of Alberta

Edmonton, AB

2014 **Global Education Award**
International House, University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB

Academic

2010 **University of Toronto Book Award**
University of Toronto
Toronto, ON

2010 **Robert W. Prather Award**
Fort McMurray Public School District
Fort McMurray, AB

2010 **Dedication to Community Award**
Residence Services, University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB