



Joseph Karaparambil (aka JK Creations) is a self-taught artist who was born in Kerala, India. He has more than 30 years of experience in drawing caricatures & cartoons, and his works are currently on display in the Romanian

Cartoon Museum as well as published in online news media in the U.S., U.K., & Australia. Aside from visual arts, his first short film "Little Passenger" became the finalist of the 2011 International Short Film Festival in Paris. On weekends, he enjoys teaching art classes. **W:** jkcreations.org
E: jophyjacob@hotmail.com



Richard Kusi-menkah is hip-hop, R&B, rock and funk bassist from Edmonton, AB. He collaborates with other musicians on occasion and is part of the Edmonton/Sherwood Park-based punk/pop/rock band Form 10. **W:** [facebook.com/rkusimenkah](https://www.facebook.com/rkusimenkah) or [instagram.com/kuskus87](https://www.instagram.com/kuskus87)
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Open Minds Connective is a collective, open to all artists, that aims to connect a variety of individual artists/groups in order to build, inspire, collaborate on, and present artistic works.

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ImagiNation Miscellany is an artistic showcase in which a miscellany of imaginative people come together to showcase their work, perhaps collaborate and improvise using different art forms - from music to spoken word poetry, photography to video, dance to hip hop - and most of all, see who else is out there in the YEG community with a knack for artistry so that future collaborations can be born!

W: [facebook.com/ImagiNationMiscellany](https://www.facebook.com/ImagiNationMiscellany)
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Special Thanks to:



MERCURY ROOM

Andy Luong

Josh Granier

Ruben Contreras

Tracie Louttit



Artist Biographies

Fri, June 26, 2015



Ray Beau is a visual artist.
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Ruben Contreras is concerned with art & mass media's roles in triggering change, generating interdependence in communities. His activity in film production started in Puebla, Mexico in 2004. He now co-produces the TV community show *Nosotros* on Shaw Channel 10 where he is a volunteer coordinator & cameraman. He is currently producing & directing his first short film for FAVA (Film & Video Arts Society Alberta) & is the El Mundo Al Revés Latin American Film Festival Committee Chair with Memoria Viva Society of Edmonton.
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Arigo Dut was born in South Sudan & raised in Canada. She brings a unique multi-layered voice to her poetry, which is laced within the intricacies, complexities & beauty that occurs when two very different entities blend. A young & vibrant poet, Arigo shares her stories, pain, & hopes. Inspired by the words of Edmonton-based poet Ahmed Knowmadic, she has pushed out of her comfort zone & has chosen to sideline her fears. She is currently completing her Bachelor degree in Communications Studies at MacEwan University & cannot wait to see what the world has in store for her.
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Fahim Hassan is a visual artist who uses digital technology to display a broad range of social information. In the past, his work ranged from identifying niche datasets & web scraping to data mining & information design.

His current projects are focused on developing interactive data visualization approaches to understand social problems. He was born in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where he spent most of his apprenticeship years learning photography, statistics & other non-essential life skills. He is now exploring Edmonton, meeting new people & taking notes of everyday life.

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Sierra Jamerson cut her musical teeth at the tender age of eleven as one of four lead vocalists in her maternal family's

Traditional Black Gospel group, touring nationwide. At that same age she began writing original music

influenced by the history & culture of her father's people, the Tahltan First Nation. This unique upbringing provided her with the ability to interpret Jazz, Soul, and R&B music with an intuitive understanding. She likes to refer to her music as political-soul, meaning contemporary soul music with a deliberately conscious/social awareness slant.

W: sierrajamersonmusic.com

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Nickolas McKay was born once, much like everyone else was. He grew up in a small place a very far ways away from this one. He doesn't have much education to speak of but a deep fondness for books. Comics are among the types of books he has a fondness for. Nick was taught how to draw ants by his sister at the age of three & hasn't been able to keep pen from paper ever since. **E:** mackay.nickolas@gmail.com



Shakeyra Pinnocks is a visual artist from Jamaica. Growing up she recalls drawing her favourite TV characters as they ran across the screen. She finds inspiration from almost everything around her, whether it be the shape of a vase,

the colours of the sunset, or a warm smile on a stranger's face. With no formal training Shakeyra has been commissioned in a number of different forums, including face painting for AMA's Boys & Girls Club Bike Safety Event; creating wall displays & speed painting for auctions for churches in Edmonton & Calgary. On an individual basis, Shakeyra creates logos, portraits, sketches, T-shirt designs & wall designs.

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Luis R. Ruan is a Californian Native who is highly involved in his community. He played in a South American Andean group called Raices for five years and taught Andean music & guitar for thirteen years in several high school in Los Angeles. He is also a writer and has facilitated writing workshops & presentations for high school age youth to encourage expression through the arts instead of expression through violence. Luis wrote & published his first book *Journey to the Mountain Within* in which he shares his experience in working with marginalized youth.

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ShaktiFlow is an organization that is founded upon the philosophy of empowering the collective through the strengthening of each individual, all through the combination of dance, meditation, and psychological strengthening.

Fusing a wide variety of dance knowledge, from East to West, ShaktiFlow's style is continuously evolving and brings a unique flair to dancing and teaching.

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Kayla Shanti was born & raised in Edmonton. She began singing at the age of 3 and is trained in piano & voice. Her original music has been heard on CBC Radio, and she has performed at City Hall, the Jubilee Auditorium, Winspear Centre, Edmonton Event Centre, & more. In 2003, she performed alongside Grammy winner Josh Groban during his tour stop in Edmonton. Kayla has been teaching voice for the last 8 years at Long & McQuade. You'll be sure to see her this summer promoting her album titled *Distractions*.

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Sean Sonogo is currently the youngest musician to ever work at Edmonton's Finest Dueling Piano Bar, the Red Piano, on a regular basis. Last year Sean completed his first full-length album with L.A. Producer Bill Bell. Over the

last nine months, Sean has begun to get involved with the spoken word poetry scene in Edmonton and hasn't looked back since. Still fairly new to the poetry scene, he is very excited to have the opportunity to share some of his spoken word with everyone at this year's ImagiNation Miscellany event.

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Garrett Strawberry was born in Red Deer, AB and at a young age, he began copying cartoon characters from children's books.

Currently, all his paintings are done with acrylic. Garrett has done research with the University of Alberta on Early Childhood

Development of Aboriginal children and created a painting to illustrate a year's worth of research. He practices Aboriginal spirituality daily, and all his art has strong ties to spirituality in some form. He also used art in his nine years of working with high-risk teens, and now he works in the area of adult mental health.

E: garrett.strawberry@ytcadmin.ca

Wanduni (a.k.a. Lay-Z) was born & raised in Sierra Leone, West Africa and witnessed the country's disturbing 10-year war. He became interested in hip hop in 1996, and in 1999, began writing & recording his own music in Krio, his country's local language. His silky vocals & West African R&B style quickly gained the recognition of professionals in the music business. Wanduni moved to Canada in 2006, where he decided to continue his music career in a new language & new setting. Wanduni's music & lyrics are highly influenced by his experiences home & abroad - from his experience of a devastating rebel war to struggling with his resettlement in Canada.

W: wanduni.com / **E:** layzonline@gmail.com



Josh Williams is a singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist who has performed at a number of concerts & events across Alberta & in the U.S. He was self-taught as a musician at an early age and began composing his

own music at age seven. His music ranges from folk & soft rock to soul/R&B & pop. Earlier this year, Josh released his first full-length record *Time & Faith*, which was produced by Nick Goodman, a student from the University of Lethbridge. His song "Love's Still Calling" also made it into the Top 10 Hot Factor 2015 with Hot 107 FM.

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