

## Coordinator Bio

### Corine Demas, Coordinator

Corine Demas has held a love for poetry since she was a child reading her mother's copy of Walt Whitman's, "Leaves of Grass". Corine is the spoken word director for Heart of the City Festival and has performed at Edmonton's Poetry Festival as well as Next Fest.

## Storyteller Bios

### Adele Fontaine, Storyteller

Adele grew up in St. Paul and has lived in Edmonton most of her life. She attended the UofA and graduated from the Campus St. Jean. She has traveled extensively and has received teachings from the Dalai Lama. My Sundays with Normand is a selection of poems written by Adele every Sunday morning since her beloved husband, Normand Fontaine passed away. What began as a way to process loss transformed into a rare celebration.

### Shirley Hamaluk, Storyteller

Shirley Hamaluk raised 3 beautiful daughters and is the big sister to 3 awesome brothers. She is the only daughter to the most amazing mother/role model she could ask for. Time with her family, playing games, cooking, crafting and going on road trip adventures is what she values most. Today her passions are painting (flowers and mystical icons) and cooking: she loves creating a meal based on her own taste buds!

### Pramila Sinha, Storyteller

Pramila was born and raised in India and came to Canada as a young bride. From a very young age she started working in the community and participated in organizing flood relief in her home town.

She took lessons in Indian Classical Dance right from her childhood and ultimately earned Graduate Degree in Kathak Dance. Without realizing she had been practicing all kinds of Yoga Asanas and Mudras that were pieces of the Dance poses. About nine years ago, yoga became a passion for her and now in her golden years, it has become a way of life.

Pramila has a Master's Degree in Sociology. She worked as an Unarmed Civilian Peace keeper with Nonviolent Peaceforce for more than 3 years in war

zone area of Sri Lanka. She trained and spoke as a professional Speaker/ Trainer for 5 plus years, before perusing her Unarm Civilian Peacekeeper work. She has spoken at Peace conferences in South Korea, Belfast and the UN.

### Rusti Lee, Storyteller

Rusti Leahy, empathic writing coach and editor, helps writers stay true to their voice, their story while offering tips to craft, tweak copy/structure/content edit for maximum reader benefit. Passionate about women's writing, memoir and poetry, her own triumph over adversity serves to help writers pack the most power into their stories. Find out more: [www.rustillehay.ca](http://www.rustillehay.ca)

### Joan Boute, Storyteller

Joan stomped around Alberta and returned full circle to her birthplace of Edmonton. Laughter is Joan's best medicine and says she likes storytelling very much. She has done a family history through scrapbooking. Joan has recently moved to a lodge in the city and is very happy with her decision.

## Poet/Writer's Bios

### Brandon Wint, Poet

Brandon Wint is an Edmonton-based poet, educator and spoken word artist. Brandon is a two-time national poetry slam champion, the author of Love, Our Master (In/Words Magazine and Press, 2014) and the albums The Long Walk Home (2016) and Infinite Mercies (2018). His first book, Divine Animal, is forthcoming from Write Bloody North in spring 2020.

### Kathy Fisher, Poet

Kathy Fisher is a Montreal-born, Edmonton-based multidisciplinary artist and documentarian who creates with keen attention to the ear and eye. The two poems she submitted to Wax Poetry's spring 2015 contest took 1st and 2nd places respectively. Her poem "Smoke Pit" made the short-list (top five poems) for Best poem in the Gwendolyn MacEwen Poetry Contest. Recent publications include Exile Quarterly, Below 40: Volume II, The PoeTrain Anthology, and Sun and Snow Anthology: Returning Home.

### Liam Coady, Poet

Liam Coady graduated from the University of Alberta Drama Program, is a national team poetry slam champion, a former finalist of the Canadian Individual Poetry Slam, and has been a featured performer at festivals and showcases throughout the country. He has made artistic and curatorial contributions to Found Festival (2016), Next Fest and the Edmonton Poetry Festival, in addition to co-founding the Edmonton Poetry Brothel. He is the author of the 2014 chapbook, *Talks with the Immortal Jellyfish* and frequently lends his poetic potency to genre-defying collaborations with dancers and musicians, most notably in the form of Tall Tales and The Tinkerbox, a project co-created with accomplished pianist and composer Leif Ingebrigtsen.

### Nadine Hunt, Writer

Nadine Hunt was plucked from a small town in Ontario and dropped into Edmonton. She began stand up comedy a few years ago and was part of a comedy CD released on iTunes and can now be heard on Sirius XM comedy radio. Nadine also was chosen to be part of SiriusXM Top Comic in 2016. Recently Nadine has found a love in story telling and has participated in Edmonton's story slam society winning a few times.

### Colin Matty, Poet

Colin Matty is an improviser, actor, and poet. Colin received his training and performed hundreds of scenes during his decade with Rapid Fire Theatre (2006 – 2016) at the old Varscona Theatre, the Citadel, and other less savoury locales in Edmonton and across the country. He is known for his impromptu poetic works which he creates on the spot using a typewriter, as well as his performances with the Edmonton Chapter of the Poetry Brothel. Colin is the director of WordsWorth, a creative writing residency program for youth run under the auspices of the Writers' Guild of Alberta.