

Cameron McKerchar

Education Influences

Elmer S. Gish Elementary (2000-2002)

As my first school, Gish was highly influential to beginning to understand what school was. Being all within 6 years of each other, and Gish covering K-9, I was able to start school with all of my siblings around. Beyond that, this school always carried an open vibe. My teachers were always very accepting and open to their students needs. This bedroom city of Edmonton (St. Albert) in general always felt like it had a welcome energy where people were maybe a little less well-off financially, but very at peace. I recall my fellow students all being very entertaining in K-2. This is a good age for a lot to stay on track, obviously, but things definitely were easier here all around than in Edmonton itself in grades 2-9. I feel That the vibe that this school brought, the welcoming Classrooms, and assistance available are all building Blocks towards my teaching values today.

It's early, but this City reminds me a lot of what Kamloops Feels like.

Calgary would be before this, but has no influence on my Education (yet) as I was 0-3 years old.





Cold as advertised! This was not a welcome city to my history, yet important in a lesson of what I did not want to do as a teacher. Family remained the most important here, and that's first and foremost of what I have to emphasize here.

Schools ranged from tough to tolerable here in grades 2-9. I learned what attitudes I don't like, what fundamental education elements worked from me, and I also found my sense of humour through some of the mid-year hardships. I believe I'm much better for these hard lessons, but I wouldn't go back.

Move To Edmonton (2002-2010)





There is plenty of good memories here, but I look back at it more like the 2005-2006 Oilers. They were a group of misfits fighting and clawing, and barely making it into the playoffs. All until the number 1 goalie went down, and they still almost won it all. These underdog stories will beat any expected win, and this style of team inspires me to this day when it comes to sports, sportsmanship, and how I like to approach sports and my own coaching style. These are the stories people root for. It's an important life lesson I believe, that sometimes no matter how hard you work, the other team just was better. You have to move on. I played a ton of Fastball from ages 6-14, Bowling, Karate, Hockey for a couple of years each to varying degrees of success. I will always carry these values

Move To Edmonton (2002-2010)

This is likely the most life-changing school I experienced. Having a not good, but not bad year at Bateman before, my sister suggested this switch. Some of my best memories are housed here. Finding out about the artistic and wide-array of learning styles available within this school was undeniably influential on my path today. I discovered acting here, and that would pave the way for the next several years of my life!

The teachers here were incredible! The methods they found to incorporate arts; visual, auditory, kinesthetic, etc. learning into things like English and Science was incredibly moving. I met the absolute best people, and the man photographed on the right (right photo) is still my best friend to this day. I have already mentioned the Biology teacher I had here was the most-inspirational. I began peer-tutoring here with Middle-school P.E.



Abbotsford School of Integrated Arts (2011-2013)



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Gallery 7 is a semi-professional theatre that I tried out for twice before locking down an acting role, which would see me becoming a mainstay for most of the 6 years I was there. This was always on the side of work, or university, or both!

To this day, Gallery 7's head guy, and the producer are both close friends in the working relationship. Both have provided me recommendations for community and references into the teaching program.



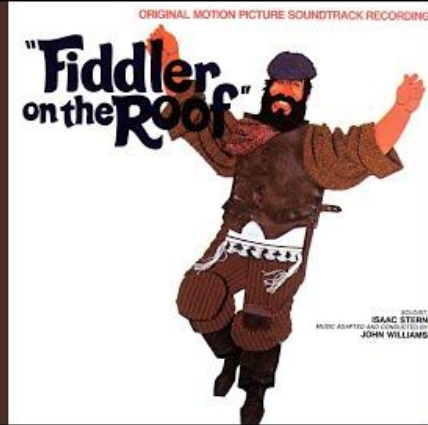
Gallery 7 Theatre
(2013-2019)



Page/Time	What	Where	Who	Notes
During Show Cont'd				
	Sa Brings on Tie Box #2 from USL Exit, gives to Ab	DSR Chair (Abe)	Sarah > Abe	
Page 38	Ab takes Tie Box 1 & 2 and Camera off USR	USR Exit > Props Table	Abe	
Page 42	Sarah brings Coffee Pot off USL Exit	USL Exit > Props Table	Sarah	
Page/Time	What	Where	Who	Notes
Act II Transition				
	Table cleared, and set to be Dinner plates (x5), water glass (x5), Wine Glass (x5), Forks (x5), Knives (x5), Spoons (x5), Napkins (x5), Salt & Pepper, Elijah Cup, Salt Water (x3), Matzah, Wine Bottle	Dining Table	Cameron & Laura	All that is cleared from table and not set again will return to their pre show home on props table or on/in Cabinet (See Pre Show)
Page 43	Ch brings on Speed Dialer	SL End Table	Chris > Sarah	
Page 44	Sa puts Speed Dialer in drawer of Dcs Coffee Table	Dcs Coffee Table	Sarah	
Page 45	Bo comes on USR w/ Beeper in pocket	Bob Pocket	Bob	
Page 46	Sa Brings on Seder Tray from USL containing food items (see pre show), sets on Dining Table	Dining Table	Sarah	
Page/Time	What	Where	Who	Notes
Page 47	Su brings on Kugel + Haroset on from USR exit, Sarah takes off USL Exit	USR Exit > USL Exit	Sue > Sarah	
Page 61	Bo grabs Vodka + Vodka Glass (x2) from USL Exit, gives to Bo, placed SR End	Coffee Table + SR End Table	Sarah > Bob	

While I mostly acted in high school, I also branched out into my first Stage Management role with this company. This was influential on an insane amount of organizational skills for a cast, which would include managing the people themselves as well as every micro-aspect of the script, set, crew, you name it. This amount of management was something I was thrown into the fire for, and pulled off with flying colours (and some lights).

Gallery 7 Theatre
(2013-2019)



Gallery 7 Theatre (2013-2019)

All of this played into teaching inspiration. Many teachers were often involved as cast and crew, and certainly as mentors. Being in front of hundreds of people in a stage performance makes a classroom feel like a transferable skill, especially when it comes to speaking projection (masks aside!).





Brother (1995-Present)



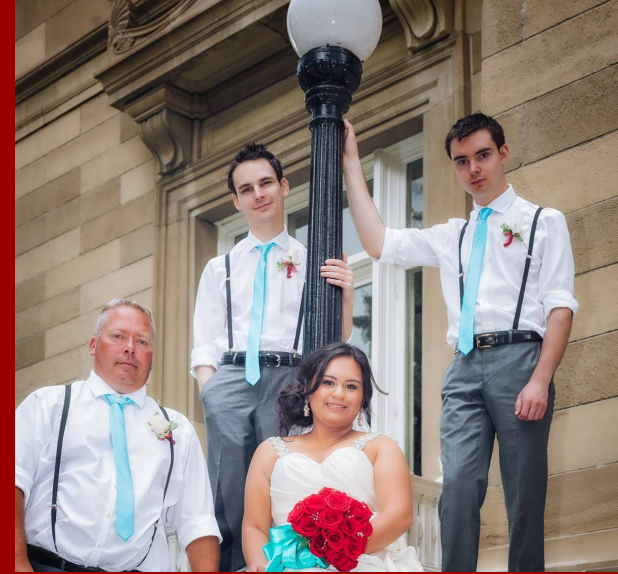
As the youngest of four, I have always been close with my oldest brother. He became a huge inspiration with his constant ability to be calm, especially during family matters. His ability to referee problems and listen was always something I hoped to emulate and become as a child, and as one who was definitely less than patient at the time personally. I think he's far from perfect, but definitely a constant inspiration. Seeing him worry about being a father and dealing with kids to the way he is now with his first son is also incredibly inspiring. We share a lot of interests in sports and still keep in touch mostly over the Edmonton Oilers. I don't think either of us could ditch the cursed team with loyalty for so long, and how it keeps us in contact. Before Covid, I would make a spring trip to Calgary to see the Oilers play the Flames with him and my sister in law, and stay for about 5 days. His ways of carrying himself in settings where he is the leader will always be a spot to draw on for me as a teacher.



Sister in law (2014-Present)

This may be an extension of my brother at a time, but she is family through and through. I think she's always held family as high as I do, and best of all; she is a teacher! If I ever have questions on this career path, she has a pretty firm and strict answer which goes a long way!

During visits to Calgary, I would volunteer at her school where she would teach grade 5. Obviously both of them have names, and I feel family is an exception, but we'll stick to the formula this assignment asks for. I'm sure we'll continue to have a professional relationship as the only two teachers in either immediate family.



University of the Fraser Valley (2015-2021)

The focus at UFV, was theatre and history. (History just may not hold as many photos). These were my major, and minor, and much like Gallery 7, both usually ran at the same time. UFV was originally where I Assistant Stage Managed, before being a Stage Manager with Gallery 7. I learned to work with many departments to act, do lighting Design, sound operations, and work on many different niches of acting to see where I could stretch myself as a performer. I would love to share this knowledge in a school setting at some point.



History would be my other focus within the school, being inspired by professors from my acting classes, theatre history, military history and my professor teaching modern and ancient Chinese history voluntarily at his 70+ years of age. His willingness to stay in the field for himself and us was amazing!





I had the opportunity last year to get well beyond my 100 hours of volunteer experience last year at KSA. This school was eerily similar to the one I attended back in Abbotsford, only it was K-12. This allowed the opportunity to work a ridiculous variety of teachers, grades and programs. I was able to learn Volleyball, Soccer and Basketball better through assistant coaching/observation/participation with the high school. I also worked lunch hours with a Grade 1 and 2 classroom, and found that's about where I want to be (if I can add sports or theatre in a K-12 school on top of that, I would be in the dream job).

I was also able to work the P.E. Schedule for the Elementary kids twice a week in the last half of the year.

I owe a lot to many people from each of these categories, but without being able to name people, I'll just say these ridiculous socks were bought for me as a gift when TRU accepted me into the program. I was told I needed to take this photo to announce it...

Kamloops School of the Arts (2020-Present)

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