

Calgary Poet Laureate, Kris Demeanor – Background

Kris Demeanor

Calgary born songwriter Kris Demeanor delights in exposing the underbelly of western Canadian culture – gambling, drug use, murder, religion, the suburbs. His numerous CDs of original work explore the darkness and absurdity of these corners of Alberta life.

While Kris's music has taken him around the world performing, he has become a fixture of Calgary's spoken word, literary and theatre worlds, creating music and lyric for numerous award-winning projects.

Career highlights include taking the award winning short film based on his song "I Have Seen the Future" to the Sundance and Toronto film festivals, collaborating with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra on the 2011 event "Acres of Dreams", and sharing a beer with David Byrne.

In addition to his musical work he writes extensively. Kris's work has appeared in magazines like *Alberta Views* and *Canadian Geographic*. In 2009 he was awarded the Best New Magazine Writer Award for his feature piece 'Get a Real Job' in *Unlimited*. He performs regularly at the Banff/Calgary WordFest and the Calgary Spoken Word Festival.



Nomination Quote:

From supporting materials in Kris's nomination package, a particular quote captures the maverick spirit that Kris Demeanor will bring to the role of Poet Laureate.

"It's a Thursday evening civic event. There's someone at the event who would rather not be there. She's there because she should be there for work—it's one of those obligatory things. And it's been a long day, a long week, a long month. Next up—the Poet Laureate. Oh God, here we go. How long will this take? Unaware of the funding structure, she thinks 'why are we spending money on this joker when I can't even get the snow cleared off my street?' But then Kris starts. And he's funny and human and honest and understandable. And she recognizes a couple of the references—that flower shop on Edmonton Trail. The kinds of houses in Bankview. That crazy, warm January wind. And then a few feelings land in the middle of her chest, right where the tightness lives. And she recognizes herself. And she smiles."

Current Project:

Mission to Mars

Commissioned by the Canadian Space Agency and created in collaboration with students from Lord Beaverbrook High School, this audio book tells the story of the first manned mission to Mars. Release date TBA.

Samples of Past Work:

Deerfoot

Performed at the Poet Laureate Nominee Showcase, March 1, 2012 <http://vimeo.com/37984484>

Acres of Dreams

Four of the province's most talented singer-songwriters; Kris Demeanor, James Keelaghan, Wendy McNeill and former Edmonton Poet Laureate Cadence Weapon (a.k.a. Roland Pemberton), joined forces with arranger **Dave Pierce** and the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra in 2011 to craft a powerful tale of immigration in the Canadian West.

Interview with Kris about Acres of Dreams: <http://www.calgaryfolkfest.com/podcasts/acresofdreams.mp3>

I Have Seen The Future

This BravoFACT commissioned short was winner of best animated short at the Los Angeles Film Festival 2008, screened at Sundance 2008, Toronto International Festival, was short listed for a 2009 Academy Award, and won Best Video at the 2008 Western Canadian Music Awards. Song by Kris Demeanor, animated by Cam Christiansen. Based on the true story of a father/son tennis match rudely interrupted by three glue-sniffing youths.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgbfkJQKw6Q&feature=player_embedded#!

Cutest Kitten Ever

Kris Demeanor is a member of Calgary rapture pop band Cutest Kitten Ever. In conjunction with the release of their album *Go Down Shooting*, the band collaborated with various Calgary artists on the creation of 10 videos uniting music and visual art. <http://www.cutestkittenever.com/blog/>

Additional Background

Kris Demeanor's Website: www.krisdemeanor.com

More background about the Calgary Poet Laureate program is available at:
www.calgaryartsdevelopment.com/files/PoetLaureateBackgrounder.pdf

For more information on the program or to contact the Poet Laureate call 403-264-5330 ext. 202

Media Contact Information:

JoAnn Reynolds

Communications Manager, Calgary Arts Development

Phone: [403.264.5330 ext. 201](tel:403.264.5330) Cell: [403.437.8826](tel:403.437.8826)

Email: joann.reynolds@calgaryartsdevelopment.com