

NORTH PEACE CULTURAL CENTRE  
GRAND OPENING

SCRIPT

**1ST HALF**

*The show opens with the proscenium  
curtain closed.*

*- House lights to half*

ROTARY PIPE BAND

*From the back of the house (or House  
right entrance if the piper can't  
negotiate the stairs) we hear the sound  
of a piper, he proceeds to the stage and  
finishes Stage Right in front of the  
curtain.*

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the  
Grand Opening of the NORTH PEACE CULTURAL  
CENTRE. As the curtain opens Please  
give a warm welcome to your hosts for  
this afternoon's (evening's) performance,  
Dr. Jack Temple, Beverley Barradel,  
Sandra Le Clerc and Russ Beerling.

*Jack Temple is discovered Centre stage.  
Sandra Le Clerc enters SL, Bev Barradel  
enters SR. They cross to Jack and take  
his arm and cross to SL Mic.*

JENNIFER LINDSAY

JACK

Good evening everyone, that traditional  
greeting was provided by the Rotary Pipe  
Band (or just Gordon Davies). Joining  
him now is \_\_\_\_\_ award - winning  
Highland Dancer \_\_\_\_\_ and her  
students. The hosts stay in place.  
Jennifer dances to her music, then is  
joined by her students who dance to the  
pipe band. They finish, the PC closes,  
Lighting change back to hosts

JACK

Now that we're all warmed up, I'm Jack  
Temple and I'd like to welcome you to  
tonight's performance.

BEVERLEY

Good evening everyone, we have a wonderful show for you to.....

SANDRA

Wait a minute, where's Russ?

JACK

Russ, he was just backstage.

BEVERLEY

Russ, Russ, where are you?

RUSS (*Offstage*)

I'm here.

SANDRA

Well, come on out here.

RUSS

I'm afraid.

JACK

Oh come on Russ, you're used to people, you talk to thousands everyday.

RUSS

Yeah, but that's on the radio, nobody ever has ever seen me.

BEVERLEY

Russ, you look great, you even rented a Tuxedo.

JACK

Come on boy, you're holding up the show.

SANDRA (*patiently*)

Give yourself a nice introduction and just come on.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and Gentlemen, please give a warm welcome to Russ Beerling. *He finally enters.*

BEVERLEY

There, that wasn't so hard, was it?

RUSS

No, not at all, in fact I kind of like being seen, maybe I'll rethink my medium.

JACK

Well, on with the show. I hope you've all had an opportunity to have a good look at this magnificent new facility.

BEVERELY

This building was literally built by this community. From dozens of fundraising efforts, hundreds of volunteer hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations.

RUSS

The wonderful thing about living in the North Peace District is that so many people have come here from so many different places. History is still being made and we are part of it. I came here in 19\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_. How about you Sandra?

SANDRA

I came here in 19\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_. Jack?

JACK

19\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_. How about you Beverley?

BEVERLEY

Gee thanks dad, how soon they forget.  
\_\_\_\_\_*(tells her story)*

RUSS

What better way to continue our show with a style of dance that would have been popular in the early, early days of Fort St. John.

CAN-CANNETTES
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SANDRA

This energetic troupe has been around for 14 years.  
They\_\_*(intro)*\_\_\_\_\_

JACK

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Mini Can-Cannettes!

**MINI CAN-CANNETTES**

*They enter dancing SR and exit SR, Sandra and Bev enter SR and go to SR mic.*

SANDRA

The Martial Arts are not only a form of Self Defence, they can also be an art-form.

TAEKWONDO
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BEV

Here to demonstrate a few martial moves are members of the KAY H. MIN TAEKWONDO SCHOOL. Kids, don't try this at home!

*The Taekwondoers enter SL and do their bit, they exit SL. While they exit SL the piano is being moved into position SR. Sandra and Russ enter SL and go to that Mic.*

RUSS

Fort St. John has more than its share of talented people.

SANDRA

And not all of them are discovered in theatres or soda fountains. Our next performer has the distinction of being the most melodious cab driver north of Seattle.

RON COSTLY
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RUSS

Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr Ron Costly. *They exit.*

*Ron enters downstage of piano and sings. They exit SR. Piano stays. As they exit the PC closes, and Bev and Jack enter SR.*

BEV

There are many stories about the building of the Alaska Highway. *adlib about what Jack was doing in 1942 etc.*

SHORT TOMPKINS
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JACK

Here to share a story about the building of the highway is FSJ pioneer Short Tompkins.

*He enters with mic and goes to center stage to tell story. While he is telling the story the black traveller is drawn concealing the logo. The Music Teachers get in place for their number. Sandra and Jack enter SL.*

JACK

We are very fortunate to have in the North Peace a group of committed and talented individuals devoted to music education.

MUSIC TEACHERS
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SANDRA

Many of tonight's performers got their start under the tutelage of our next guests. Please welcome the Fort St. John Music teachers \_\_\_\_\_ (names) \_\_\_\_\_ performing \_\_\_\_\_. *While they are being introduced the PC is opening to reveal the Music Teachers at the piano.*

*They play, the PC curtain closes, and Bev and Russ enter SL.*

RUSS

After years of being in temporary and cramped quarters, FSJ's Public Library is happily installed in the Cultural Centre.

LIBRARY READING
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BEV

With its bright, SouthEast location, roomy interior, and expanded book collection, the Library is now THE place to spend an afternoon.

RUSS

Here to perform a reading of \_\_\_\_\_ is the editor of The Northener, Pamela den Ouden.

*Pamela enters and places herself at the SR host mic. She reads. She exits SR. While Pamela is reading, Northern Dance is setting up (quietly) behind the curtain. Sandra and Bev enter SL.*

BEV

For \_\_\_\_\_ years now, Northern Dance has been a strong force on the dance scene.

NORTHERN DANCE
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SANDRA

They have won over \_\_\_\_\_ awards and competitions, and have a solid reputation throughout Western Canada.

BEV

Here to perform STRIKE IT UP are some of the up and coming stars of Northern Dance.

*As the music starts the curtain parts to reveal Northern Dance. They Dance. The curtain closes. While it closes Jack and Russ enter SL.*

JACK

The North Peace area seems to excel at finding oil, growing wheat, and creating talented artists.

DOREEN GWILT
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RUSS

Our next guest found her voice while living in Fort St. John and has recently released a cassette. Please welcome Doreen Gwilt.

*She enters SR with mic and goes to CS She sings, she exits SR. While she's singing the Shepherd's Inn is setting up behind the curtain. Russ and Sandra enter SR while Doreen is exiting.*

SANDRA

Just up the highway is a very special restaurant which not only serves up food to die for, but is also highly regarded for its inspirational choir.

SHEPHERD'S INN SINGERS
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RUSS

We're very pleased they could join us tonight, please welcome The Shepherd's Inn Singers.

*They should start singing as the PC is being opened. They sing, they leave SR. Jack and Bev enter SL*

BEV

As you might have picked up, dance is very big in Fort St. John, particularly Ethnic dance.

SCOTTISH DANCERS
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JACK

Our next dancers have been together for \_\_\_\_\_ . The Scottish Dancers.  
*Exit SL*

*They enter SR. They dance. They leave or freeze BLACKOUT. Special up on SR mic. Sandra and Russ enter SR. During the dialogue, Stage North is setting up in Blackout.*

## RUSS

Stage North mounted a production of Jennie's Story this year that marked a period of growth and expansion for the company.

## STAGE NORTH

## SANDRA

This moving play took the company to \_\_\_\_\_ and Mexico and finally to Campbell River, (I wonder which they preferred?) To give you an example of the quality and commitment Stage North brings to all their work, they offer us a scene from this award-winning play Jennie's Story by Betty Lambert.

*They exit SR as the lights come up to reveal the scene. They act. Slow fade to black. They exit SR. Jack and Sandra enter SL in Special.*

## NORTHERN DANCE

## JACK

Vivaldi's SEASON'S has been the inspiration for many musicians and dancers alike.

## SANDRA

It's a complicated, exciting piece of music that provides the theme for this next selection by Northern Dance. *They exit SL as music comes up with lights. Northern Dance enters SR. They dance. BLACKOUT They exit SL, while piano is moved on SR. Russ enters SL*

## DAVID LEE

## RUSS

Many singers and musicians have received support and an outlet for their talents through Northern Lights College. The College has become an essential part of the Districts cultural fabric. Please welcome soloist David Ley accompanied by Choir Master Merrill Fleweling(?). *Special up on piano and singer SR. He sings. Fade on applause. Sandra enters SL.*

## CAN-CANNETTES

## SANDRA

Please welcome back for the final number of the first act. The Can-Cannettes!

*They run on a-hootin' and a-hollerin'. They freeze, BLACKOUT, PC closes.*

## ACT II

VERSION (A)
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*PC is closed. Piano is in wings.  
House to half, music up, house out...*

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome back to BRIGHT NIGHTS IN JUNE and your hosts Russ Beerling and Sandra LeClerc. *They enter SL*

PETER PRIEBE
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SANDRA

The North Peace District is very proud of our next guest.

RUSS

He recently competed in \_\_\_\_\_ and made a great showing last week in Richmond. He has just released a cassette that we all know will do very well for him.

SANDRA

Please welcome Peter Priebe.

VERSION (B)
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*PC is open. MURAL is revealed. Piano is in wings.  
House to half, music up, house out...*

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome back to BRIGHT NIGHTS IN JUNE and your hosts Jack Temple and Beverley Barradal. *They enter SR.*

BEVERLEY

Our next dance group has made quite a name for themselves all over the province.



JACK

Fort St. John sure has an active ethnic dance community, doesn't it?

IRISH DANCERS
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BEVERLEY

It does, and it's easy to see why with this energetic troupe. Please welcome The IRISH DANCERS. *They exit SR.*

*ID enter SL, they dance, they exit SR, Sandra and Russ SL while PC is closing.*

SANDRA

The North Peace District is very proud of our next guest.

PETER PRIEBE
--------------

RUSS

He recently competed in \_\_\_\_\_ and made a great showing last week in Richmond. He has just released a cassette that we all know will do very well for him.

SANDRA

Please welcome Peter Priebe.  
*They exit SL*

*Peter enters DSR, He sings He exits DSR. As he exits Beverley enters SR.*

NORTHERN DANCE
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BEVERLEY

Please welcome back Northern Dance and SHOCK ROCK!

*The PC opens, the Mural is concealed. They dance, blackout. In Half-light piano is moved into position while Sandra and Jack enter SR.*

MUSIC TEACHERS
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SANDRA

The Fort St. John Music Teachers return with another selection.

JACK

Please welcome Sandra Gunn on Flute and Jeanette Kurschat on piano. *S and J enter USR, Jack and Sandra exit DSR, Lights up on musicians in place. They play, they leave USR. Russ Beerling enters SL.*

## IRISH DANCERS

RUSS

With another colourful and energetic performance, please welcome back THE IRISH DANCERS. Exit SL....Irish Dancers enter USR and go to forestage, PC closes behind them. Stage North to set up Alaska Highway show behind. Irish dance, they exit USL, Enter Jack (with Russ) SR.

## STAGE NORTH

JACK

(...adlib Alaska highway stuff about how much it changed the area etc.) And of course the building of the highway is the stuff of which great stories are told. An original play, written by \_\_\_\_\_ will be presented by Stage North this summer her at the Cultural Centre. the first full length play on this stage. Please welcome Stage North with an excerpt from their production of THE ALCAN CRAZE OF '42.

The PC opens to reveal scene. They act, Blackout. Lights to half, set is struck and stage cleared while Russ and Beverley enter SL.

## ANDREA VAN DONSELAAR

RUSS

Something very exciting happened a few years ago in the local dance community.

BEVERELY

A young brilliant dancer was offered the chance of a lifetime...To study with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

RUSS

We're very glad that she was able to join us tonight, with piece choreographed by \_\_\_\_\_.

BEVERLEY

Fort St. John, please welcome back Andrea van Donselaar. She enters SR, she dances, she exits SL (preferred) or SR. The mural is revealed and lit beautifully while Jack and Sandra enter SR. They are set up during their intro. All except Dan.

SANDRA

Our next group of artists are an accomplished and melodic ensemble.

STRING ENSEMBLE
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JACK

Strings transport the listener in ways that few instruments can rival. Please welcome Dan Dickout and the String Ensemble. *Jack and Sandra exit SR. The SE play, slow fade PC closes.*

*Russ and Sandra enter SL.*

CATS
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RUSS

Our next presentation is indeed a special treat. If you missed it in Vancouver, or Toronto or London England, wait no longer.

SANDRA

Using a combination of Northern Dance and The Northern Lights Chancel Choir, under the Artistic Direction of Noelle Jellison, Ladies and Gentlemen, tonight on this stage, Andrew Lloyd Webber's CATS.

*PC opens to reveal CATS. They sing, they dance, they finish. Jack and Russ enter SR. The stage goes to half, Cats is cleared.*

JACK

Well, we have just about reached the end of our program. What a wonderful showcase of talent and dedication we seen tonight.

RUSS

What amazes me Jack is the diversity and scope of the community, and how wonderful it is that we now have this facility to support, encourage and showcase them in the way they deserve.

ANDREA VAN DONSELAAR
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JACK

Please welcome back for an encore presentation, the exquisite Andrea van Donselaar. *They exit SR.*

*Andrea enters wherever she needs to, she dances, she exits. During the applause the piano is moved into position and the mural is revealed. The piano begins playing the opening bars of THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM. All four hosts enter Jack and Sandra SR, Russ and Beverly SL. Under the piano....*

## FINALE

JACK

Ladies and Gentlemen, the entire company. Everyone comes on equally from each side led by Ron Costly SR and the Chancel Choir SL. They go to their set places, all others filter in behind. SR Northern Dance, Irish Dancers, Peter Priebe, String Ensemble, Jennifer Lindsay, and Doreen Gwilt.

SL, Stage North, Can-Cannettes, TaeKwondo, David Lee, Scottish Dancers and Andrea. All sing. All Bow, taking from Ron. House lights up...Performers acknowledge audience and applaud. As they applaud they walk backwards upstage. PC closes, house music on, Doors are opened.