

# FRINGE MAGAZINE

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**CREATIVE NEWS  
AND WORLD VIEWS**

***Living Life on the Fringe***

Winter 2017

## **When You Want It, You Do It!**

Why waiting until  
all conditions are  
favourable is an  
illusion

## **IS THERE LIFE OUTSIDE THE BOX?**

Discover a secret place  
on the fringes between  
reality and imagination

## **THE KENNEDY LEGACY**

As the Centenary of  
John F. Kennedy's  
birth draws to a  
close, we celebrate  
some real life  
*Profiles in Courage*

## **POETRY TODAY**

In a world where texting  
and twitter are the norm,  
has poetry the power to  
colour this trend beautiful?

## **Portraits of the Creative Professions**

With an ever increasing  
push towards automation  
and robotics, why a career  
in the arts is now  
worth considering

**WELCOME TO OUR FIRST  
EDITION**



A white swan is shown swimming in a body of water, captured from a side profile. The swan's long neck is elegantly curved, and its red beak is pointed forward. The water around it is slightly rippled, and the lighting suggests a bright, sunny day, with some highlights on the water's surface. The quote is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image.

**'ART IS SOMETHING TO DO WITH  
AN ARREST OF ATTENTION IN  
THE MIDST OF DISTRACTION.'**

**-SAUL BELLOW**

# WELCOME

Hi, and welcome to this very first edition of 'Fringe' - our free quarterly online magazine.

This idea is the culmination of a total exasperation with most of today's mainstream media outlets and their endless pumping of bad news; yet, all the while, never presenting any viable solutions.



As far as I can see, the only way out of any problem requires novel creative solutions. I believe creativity, innovation and originality are key ingredients in overcoming our current local and global challenges. To generate the flames of creativity, we need sparks of initial inspiration, be it through a renaissance of good literature, a wave of authentic music, a landscape of beautiful art, another golden age of cinema, or ideally all of the above. Words and images are the gateway to our imagination and through them we can truly conquer the world!

In a time when robotics and automation are making our world a much less human place to live, I hope that by showcasing our irreplaceable human spirit, we can find unity and strength in what is truly important in the life that we collectively share on this beautiful planet of ours. I want to thank all of our wonderful contributors, and I sincerely hope you enjoy this interesting compilation of their writing and artwork. Please share your feedback with us at [www.fringemagazine.net](http://www.fringemagazine.net).

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and prosperous 2018!

Happy reading to you all,

**S.J. Robinson**





# SUBMISSIONS WELCOME

We are currently open to submissions of short stories, poetry, book/film reviews, interviews, and visual artwork. We are also on the lookout for op-ed features on current/global issues (*We will accept political topics; however, we will NOT accept anything that promotes the express candidature of any one politician/party. We will accept generalised submissions that are written around political issues - These articles will be strictly vetted*). We are also interested in articles of general interest on a wide range of topics - art, literature, film, biographical, lifestyle, parenting, gardening, the environment, and anything else that is of interest to you and which aligns with our main purpose - to promote creativity and the arts. This free quarterly magazine is '*by the people, for the people*', and contrary to what others may have you believe, **YOU ARE THE NEWS** and we want to celebrate real people, real stories and real events.

As you can see, we are still in our infancy - a very pure state - where naturalistic images grace the space in which advertising would normally go! Our goal is to only open up to advertising when we reach the 10k subscriber threshold; and our long-term aim is to keep the magazine free to readers. In the meantime, we are actively seeking contributions from talented Writers, Artists, Photographers, Filmmakers, Directors, Poets and all the other 'Fringe Creators'. If you have a composition, a life story, an unusual career or a project you are passionate about that you would like to share, we would love to hear about it. To submit a contribution for consideration, please email [fringemagazine@protonmail.com](mailto:fringemagazine@protonmail.com), marking '**Submission**' in the subject line. To encourage friends and family to sign up, please direct them to <http://fringemagazine.net>, where they will also get a code to access (future) back issues.

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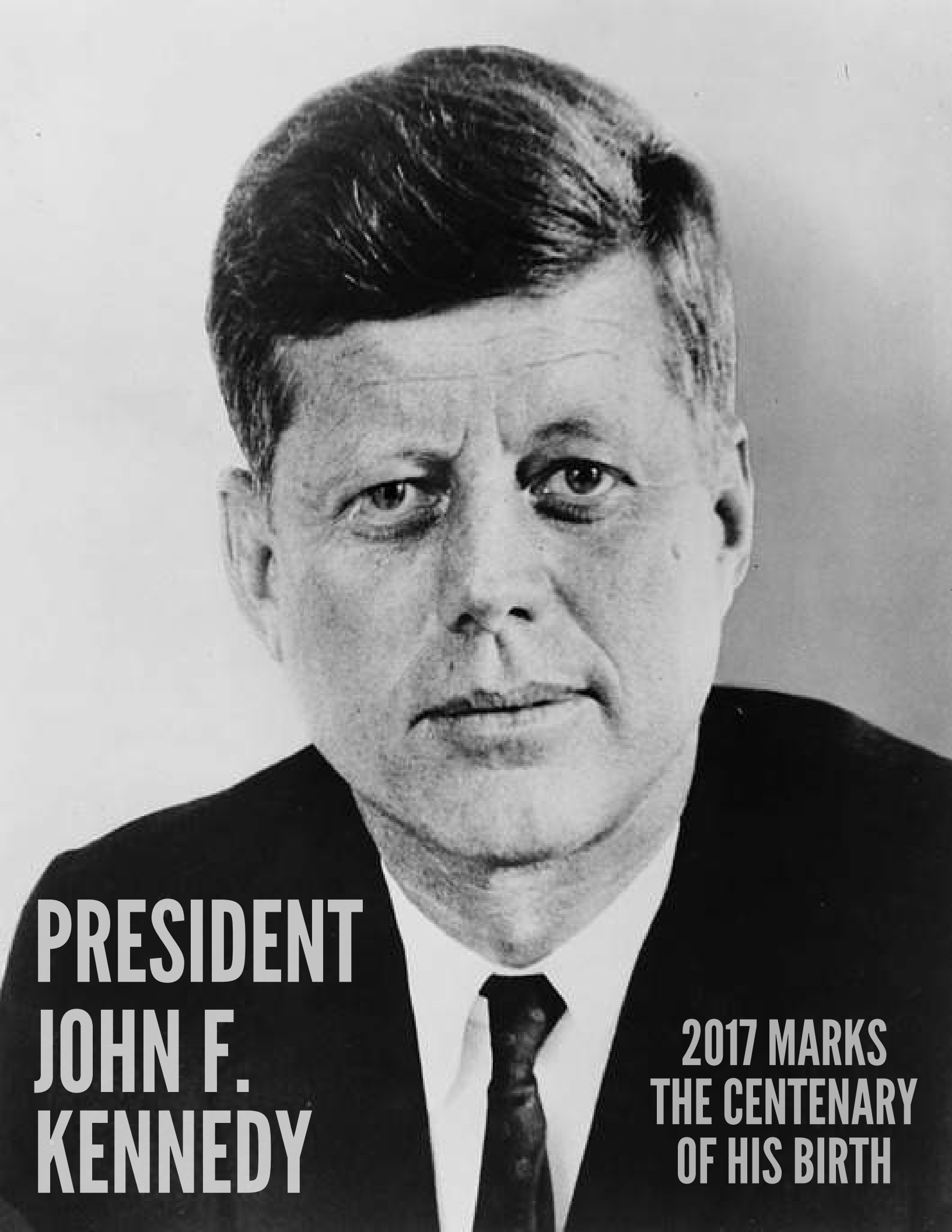
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Editor **S.J. Robinson**, Features Editor **Rosalind Winton**, Special Thanks to Contributors **Nadia Chloe Rose**, **Tim Beck**, **Janna Yeshanova**, **Daniel Buckner**, **Patricia Beal**, **Cheryl Sherman** and **Laura Bono** at the **World Mercury Project** (for the featured photos of RFK Jr). All other featured photos have been used with permission of the contributors; and in all other instances, are courtesy of **Pixabay.com**. A very Special Thanks also to **Martin McCarthy**.



**PRESIDENT  
JOHN F.  
KENNEDY**

**2017 MARKS  
THE CENTENARY  
OF HIS BIRTH**

# PROFILES IN COURAGE: THE KENNEDY LEGACY AND WHAT IT ENTAILS

WRITTEN BY  
S.J. ROBINSON



**JFK**



**RFK**



**RFK Jr.**

*"Whatever may be the sacrifices [a man] faces if he follows his conscience – the loss of his friends, his fortune, his contentment, even the esteem of his fellow men – each man must decide for himself the course he will follow. The stories of past courage can define that ingredient – they can teach, they can offer hope, they can provide inspiration. But they cannot supply courage itself. For this each man must look into his own soul."*

- John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States

## **JFK AND THE LEGACY OF COURAGE**

The recent release of a small selection of the previously sealed 'JFK Files' has once again brought into focus the life and tragic death of the late President of the United States, John F. Kennedy; and yet, it is worth noting that the Kennedy name lives on and has been immortalised, not because of the tragic circumstances surrounding JFK's death, but rather because his prime legacy – his 'eternal flame' – has defied death. Everyone who is born into this world leaves an imprint; this is their *legacy imprint*. The Kennedy Legacy is vast and far-reaching and espouses, above all else, what he described himself as, "that most admirable of human virtues – *Courage*".

## **COURAGE AS A SYMBOL OF HOPE**

When somebody risks everything to stand up for the courage of his/her convictions, they offer hope to the world. And if this courage risks all the person holds dear in the process, then it is the purest and most sincere form of all love – rooted in a true love for one's fellow man. Hope is important. It is as necessary as oxygen is for life on this planet. It has the power to heal the heart and to nourish the soul. In times of trouble, hope can lift people on high and carry them through the eye of a storm. As Robert F. Kennedy (John's brother and closest confidant) highlights – courageous hope is a unifying force that has real power. He says: "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest of walls of oppression and resistance"

## COURAGE IN MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE

While historical records can be coloured by perspectives or bent to achieve certain outcomes, the one thing that cannot be distorted is a person's spirit. JFK was iconic because he offered a spirit of hope at a time when the American people needed a real agent of change; and he was committed to that change. However, as history has shown us so often, change does not necessarily make you popular with lovers of the status quo. While it can be much easier to be a passive politician with no real agenda, this is to neglect your office and duty to the people who elected you. To be a real politician means to have strong opinions on political issues. It means to have a genuine willingness to accept current flaws in the system and be ready to seek out and embrace the best solutions, whether popular or unpopular. JFK had a deep admiration for Abraham Lincoln, and has been likened to him in many ways. Lincoln was also a harbinger of change, but his desire to abolish slavery was not met with open arms by the oppressing side. The issue of slavery divided North and South, and caused the country's bitter and bloody Civil War. Nevertheless, Lincoln stood resolutely by the courage of his conviction that, "As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master". It was because of uncompromising courage such as this, that JFK expressed his admiration of political leaders who defied popular opinion in matters of conscience.



## "RECOGNISING RIGHT" AND BUILDING A TRUE DEMOCRACY

The idea of principles and convictions and matters of conscience is explored by JFK in his book *Profiles in Courage*. He says that "a true democracy is one that puts its faith in the people not to condemn those whose devotion to principle leads them to unpopular courses, but will reward courage, respect honour and ultimately recognise right". If "recognising right" is central to democracy, it comes as no surprise that one of the most notable hot-bed issues for JFK to take on, during his tenure in the Oval Office, was that of racial segregation and discrimination, which by the



beginning of the 1960s could no longer be ignored. Like Lincoln, he believed that all men are created equal and he was sympathetic to the crusade of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. in highlighting the injustice and prejudices which were deeply embedded in American society.

## FROM JFK TO RFK, THE LEGACY IS PASSED

JFK's presidency was committed to supporting full legal equality for African-Americans; and while an amendment to the Bill of Rights, called the Civil Rights Act, was prepared by Attorney General, Robert F. Kennedy, it did not get passed into law prior to JFK's death. However, its legal status was secured by Robert shortly afterwards, in accordance with his brother's wishes, and was an enormous legacy achievement. Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated after winning the Californian presidential primaries in the 1968 election, but his other legacy goals remain and are currently being pursued by the RFK Memorial Trust. These goals are: 1. *To expose injustice*; 2. *To right wrongs*; and 3. *To teach change*. Fittingly, Ronald Reagan has said of Robert F. Kennedy: "He exposed the corrupt, inspired his countrymen, and renewed and enriched the American conscience".

- ▶ **Robert F. Kennedy, left, was Attorney General from 1961 to 1964. He was committed to helping African Americans win voting rights and gain equal access to public services and facilities.**

**IDEALISM vs. APATHY**

What categorised the two brothers, JFK and RFK, wasn't necessarily their religious label or political affiliation, but rather it was a romantic idealism that defined their outlook and shaped their decisions. They believed in such lofty ideals as a nation upheld by God, freedom from slavery and oppression, the equality of all men whether black or white, the strength of the law and the power of justice, and in the democratic voting process. However, they were not naive or shy of deep understanding; and they did recognise the limitations of politics to solve the world's problems. This is clearly evident in JFK's address to the American Press, where he explains very candidly the quagmire of, on the one hand, having an open society with a transparent government and an informed public, while on the other, trying to counteract the vulnerabilities that the country was then exposed to in adopting a stance such as this in the face of their enemies. However, they worked within the existing framework to exact change in the system to the best of their abilities, understanding a great universal truth that the worst crime of all to the injustices of the world is apathy.

**ROBERT KENNEDY JR AND CURRENT LEGACY ISSUES**

As the saying goes, 'the apple doesn't fall far from the tree'. So fast forward now to today, and we meet the offshoot of RFK – his son Robert F. Kennedy Jr. – who is certainly not apathetic, and not one to shy away from controversy or the task of pursuing idealistic goals. He has spent the majority of his early life taking on repugnant corporate greed and the toxic polluters of our planet through his work as an environmental attorney. He has also played a key role in the establishment of 300 'Waterkeeper Alliances' across the globe – organisations that protect the purity of our water. Last year, he became the Chairman of the World Mercury Project, and this now consumes most of his time and energy. According to its website, the mission of the World Mercury Project is to 'work aggressively to reduce exposure to all sources of mercury, hold those accountable who fail to protect our planet and people from unnecessary exposure [and] restore health to those who have been harmed'. Exposure to mercury is commonplace, and the burden of mercury accumulating over time can be as much as 13 milligrams in the average 165 pound individual. Not only can this have devastating neurological effects, especially when it comes to the developing brains of babies and children, but it can also increase the risk of cardiovascular disease.



■ JFK visited Ireland in 1963, after his trip to Berlin

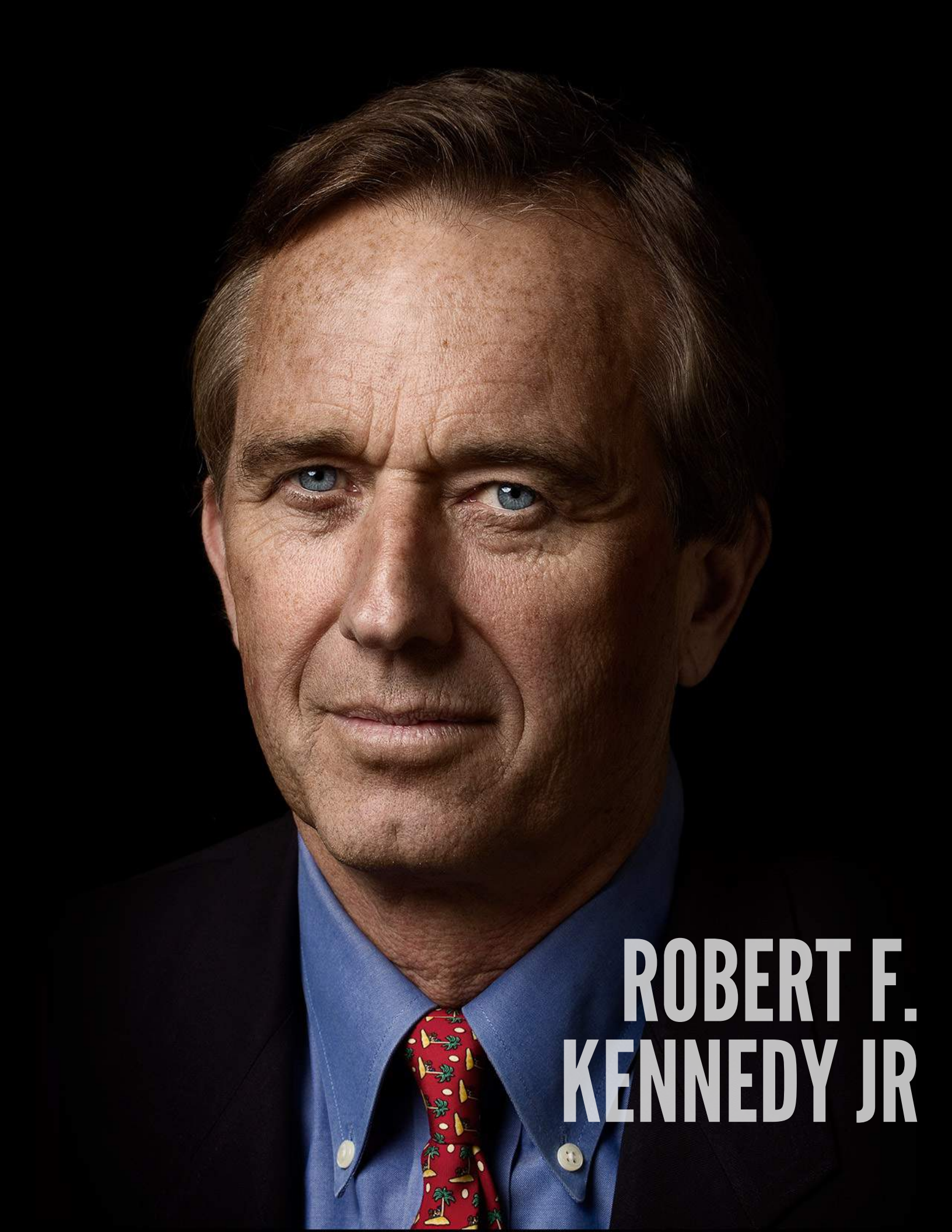
## The Roots of Courage

While courage is rooted in a person, it is also rooted in a place – a place of origin. We have a commonplace tendency in Ireland to lay claim to all those that are our own, no matter where in the world they may be; and John F. Kennedy is no exception.

He was the great-grandson of Irish immigrants and was proud of his Irish heritage. In 1963, JFK made a landmark visit to his ancestral home of County Wexford in Ireland. His four day 'homecoming' visit had a huge impact on the nation and was described by Kennedy as the best four days of his life.

Although not as well-remembered in America, his visit was a major event for the Irish people, as it symbolized the realization of the American Dream. It's a story of how a descendant of an Irish immigrant family – a family who once upon a time made a journey across the Atlantic in search of a better life – defied the odds and obtained one of the highest political offices in the world.





**ROBERT F.  
KENNEDY JR**

**Photograph (L to R):  
Laura Bono, Robert F.  
Kennedy Jr. and Lyn  
Redwood of the World  
Mercury Project.**



At present, there are a plethora of intake pathways for mercury, including our air, water, food, vaccines, and other pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

Robert Kennedy Jr. has toured the US, raising awareness of the dangerous levels of mercury now in the country's fish supply. While doing so, he kept encountering mothers who told him he couldn't speak about the dangers of mercury, without speaking about the dangers of mercury in vaccines. Having pursued the issue and having studied the vast amount of research available (research vehemently denied and/or ignored by the Center for Disease Control in the US), he has taken on the task of exposing the link between mercury in vaccines and neuro-development disorders, and made it one of his prime legacy goals. Put quite simply, the health and future prosperity of our children are at stake in this.

### **Conclusion**

What clearly marked JFK and RFK's all-too-shortly-lived political lives was a sincere belief in their lives serving a higher purpose. More than anything, they were concerned about safeguarding the future for the next generation, and in acting upon what you profess to believe in, regardless of the consequences. Whether they were right or not in all of their political decisions is not for me to decide on in this article. Politics is always a divisive subject, and the constants

and variables of every political landscape and époque can be subjective when viewed in hindsight. Each time period faces the challenges and threats to our peaceful co-existence here on this earth in its own unique way, usually based on the information that is currently available. But if one thing remains true of the Kennedys, both past and present, it is that they are not afraid to act out of their personal convictions and to do what they believe in their hearts to be right for their country and its people. For me, these men offer profiles in courage that are an essential cornerstone of any true democracy.

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### **SOURCES AND FURTHER INTEREST**

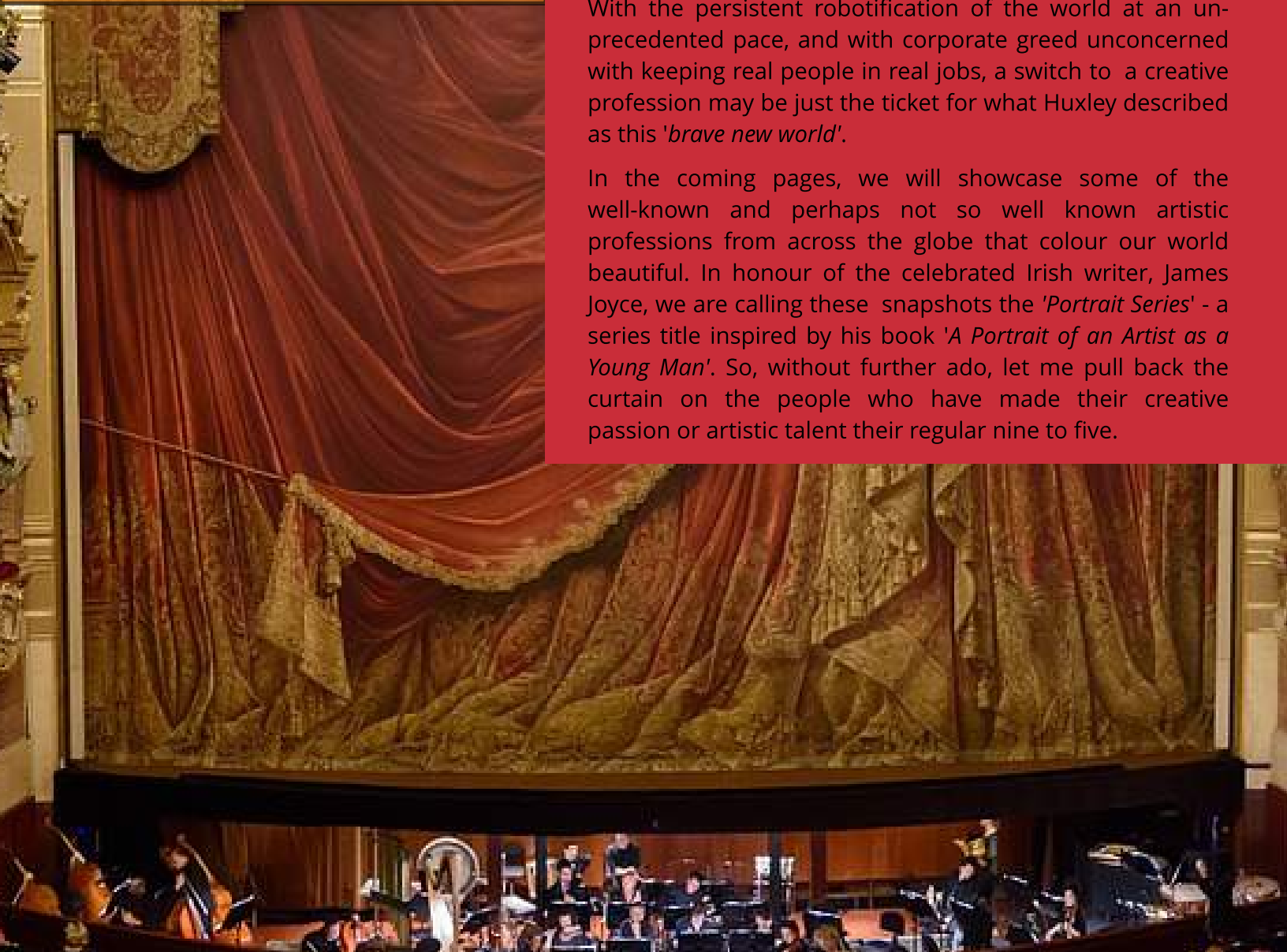
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- 2) Encyclopaedia Britannica, Video Archive Footage, Address: 'The President and the Press' given before the American Newspapers Association @ Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, NYC, April 27, 1961
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# PORTRAITS OF THE CREATIVE PROFESSIONS



Fancy a job that a robot won't soon be able to do in your stead? Then now is as good a time as any to consider a career in the arts. Long hailed as a career choice that would yield an unstable future, the tables have finally turned. With the persistent robotification of the world at an unprecedented pace, and with corporate greed unconcerned with keeping real people in real jobs, a switch to a creative profession may be just the ticket for what Huxley described as this *'brave new world'*.

In the coming pages, we will showcase some of the well-known and perhaps not so well known artistic professions from across the globe that colour our world beautiful. In honour of the celebrated Irish writer, James Joyce, we are calling these snapshots the *'Portrait Series'* - a series title inspired by his book *'A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man'*. So, without further ado, let me pull back the curtain on the people who have made their creative passion or artistic talent their regular nine to five.



# 13 PORTRAIT OF AN ACTRESS

## NADIA CHLOE ROSE

Nadia has been a model and actress from a young age and has worked in both the UK and Spain professionally for over five years. She studied cinematic acting in Madrid, before appearing in the national Spanish soap opera *Algo que Celebrar*. She has also toured with Shakespeare performances in Spain playing Juliet and was voted best actress for her performance in Spanish play, *Dos Sombreros de Copa*. She has appeared in several films, including *No More Lights in the Sky*, and has recently been cast in the upcoming fantasy movie *Hunters Hunted*, set to be filmed in the UK.



**Hi Nadia, you are quite a diverse creative, can you tell me first about your acting... Did you always want to be an actress? And what do you love most about the profession?**

I started acting very young doing theatre tours. I always loved acting as it was a way to explore different walks of life and ways of seeing the world. What I most love about acting is the teamwork involved, on each set I have been the relationship with the crew and director has been fantastic.

**You are also what's known in the business as a 'cross-pollinator', in that you have forayed yourself into writing: Can you tell me what you're written? And why you enjoy off-camera work as well?**

I have written a few shorts which have been produced, *Lifted*, which was produced in Bologna, Italy, and *Motivation*, in the U.K. I have written two feature films, a Romantic Comedy set in Mallorca and a Romantic Thriller set in Seville ...I love Spain as you can see. I have also written '*Egbert, A Romantic Comedy*' as an eBook and it's in the process of being released on Amazon Kindle, so keep an eye out for it! I love writing because it's a wonderful way of connecting with people and I love finding our common points that make us all human.

**There are many directors turned producers, directors turned writers, or actors turned directors, for me Angelina Jolie's recent directorial debut comes to mind. Do you think it's important to have a diverse profile in the film business today?**

I have never dreamed of directing, but I do believe that acting and screen-writing really complement each other. It especially helps me understand



Above Right, Photograph by Dale Wordley.



the director more if they are also the writer as I understand the effort they have put into creating the screenplay.

**So you think it gives everyone involved a greater appreciation of the different components required to produce a successful film or stage production?**

Yes, it really does.

**You are also a model, what kind of modeling work have you done?**

I have worked in television adverts, for Schwarzkopf in Madrid, in modeling assignments, portrait workshops, and within fashion, beauty photo shoots. I also recently did a 'Catalogue' photo shoot: Modeling the Winter and Summer collection for a Spanish designer in Galicia, Spain.

**Following recent revelations from the casting couches of Hollywood, have you ever sensed an underlying objectification of women in the modeling/acting profession? And how do you think women can safeguard themselves from this?**

This is so important. It is a wide-spread issue; that people think they can use their position to also be

with you, which is entirely a lie as a woman always has the power to walk away. Actresses and models are professionals and must be treated as such. Woman can safeguard themselves by viewing it all as strong business women and not allowing anything that wouldn't be acceptable in any other area of business.

**Women are also generally paid less than men in the film world, do you think that this is all going to change now?**

Well I certainly do hope so!

**It's no secret that in general it's tough to make it in the world of film or show business. What attracts you the most to the industry and what motivates you to keep pursuing your dream?**

I want to share my work with the world, especially [now] my writing. I'm so passionate about my work reaching the people who really need it, trying to get to them, and inspire and motivate them is everything to me.

**You are British, but are also fluent in Spanish and French, is that correct? Have you always been attracted to different cultures? And what does this bring to your acting?**

Yes, that is correct. I always loved different cultures, especially Spanish. I remember when I was at school I would sit in the German classes and look at the pictures on the wall of Spanish women dancing, little did I know at that point that those images would reappear in my feature film screenplay later. Spain just always had that special spark that captivated me. I love working with languages. I did a degree in Translation and Interpreting and also a Master's degree in Conference Interpreting at the University of Granada in Spain, so I also work as a translator and interpreter. I had the opportunity to interpret at the United Nation Headquarters in Geneva with French and Spanish as part of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It was so much fun.

Regarding the link between languages and acting, being able to speak French and Spanish has allowed me to act in theatre performances in France and on a National Spanish Soap Opera in Madrid. Languages will always broaden your world, I am very grateful for all the people who have been part of my learning of them.

**What or who inspires you to do what you do? Did you have a mentor or role model who has guided you along on your journey so far?**

My competitors inspire me a lot to be better by setting the standards high. I am always motivated to keep improving, becoming a stronger and upgraded version of myself. I've experienced massive self-growth over the last few months [with my writing] and that has been exciting. I want my writing to reach people, who can benefit from reading it... so that I can help them.

I really look up to Xenia Tchoumitcheva in the fashion world, because she displays such strength and is a very powerful woman. She is my inspiration at the moment.

**What would you recommend to young people, who are aspiring to make it in the world of show business today?**

It is a business so you need strong business skills. Get away from time wasters and strive every day to grow and better yourself. Aim for progress every day and never quit, never back down, never retreat.

**Thanks so much for your time. Lastly, can I just ask what you are currently working on? And where can people find out more about you?**

The final edit of my eBook 'Egbert: A romantic comedy', which will be on Amazon kindle I hope by the time this interview is out. You can find me on social media: Nadia Chloe Rose.



# PORTRAIT OF A FILM COMPOSER

## INTERVIEW WITH L.A. BASED TIM BECK



**Hi Tim, you have quite an interesting and unusual job, can you tell me a bit about the work you do?** I am a composer who specializes in film scoring and writing music for multimedia. This includes, but is not limited to movies, television, video games, online videos, etc. I am also classically trained in concert music and jazz, but work primarily with film.

**Has music always been your passion? Or was there something/someone who sparked this interest in you as a child?** Music has always been a major part in my life, but I didn't get serious about it until my teenage years. I was certainly inspired by my father who gave me piano lessons and slowly found more inspiration from other composers and musicians as my talents matured. I also loved acting and stage work, which led me to performing in plays and musicals from high school through college.

**What instruments do you play and for how many years have you been practicing them?** I play several instruments. Guitar is my main instrument and I have been playing it actively since I was 13. It was also my main instrument when I auditioned for music school at Duquesne University. I also play piano, bass, drums, percussion, and can sing. Now I focus on composing, though I play piano/keyboard for writing on my computer.

**Did you always know you wanted to have a career involving music, or were you advised to stick to something more grounded and stable than the arts/humanities field?** I knew that I wanted to be somehow associated with the arts, be that in music or film/acting somehow, but yes, the fear of instability within that field caused me to almost second guess it altogether. I ended up initially declaring my major as Music Education in college to possibly become a music teacher in schools. However, my passion for composition took over and I switched to studying that more seriously at the collegiate level. I chose to take the chance on instability and it has worked on so far.

**You went on to do a Bachelor's Degree in Music Composition, what types of music were you particularly attracted to in college and what did you compose during this time?** Though I knew a bit about jazz and classical, I definitely came from a more rock n roll/songwriting background when I entered college. Because of that, I became enamored with classical and a lot of jazz music because it was initially overwhelming to me. I was eager to learn more about these historically praised and loved styles of music, which seemed to create some of the greatest composers and musicians. Classical and jazz music still overwhelms me, and it creates this constant urge to learn and grow artistically.

**I noticed you also had your own hard rock band, in which you were lead-guitarist, singer and song-writer... That seems a world apart from the orchestral or jazz work you've done! Where do you think that part of your personality came from?** Singing and songwriting in a band seemed to come natural from playing guitar and studying it so seriously. I absolutely loved classical and jazz, but listening to and performing rock music and playing in a band seemed to connect with me intimately since I was naturally extroverted. I was able to channel that personality into energy, which I tried to use



as fuel for my music. It became this beautiful release for me, which allowed me to communicate in a way where words seemed to fail.

**So much can be achieved through music and music has always been such a huge part of our culture, but what purpose do you think it serves?** The arts are so fundamentally important to culture because they help define the people a part of it and how they chose to be remembered. Though all arts are important, music is special in that it creates a language in which all people can understand. It is a connecting tool that allows people to communicate where words seem to fall short. Simply speaking, music and the arts are forms of expression, without which would restrict how people identify themselves.

**So all of your diverse musical experience eventually brought you into the world of 'show business', and you've already scored several films, including four feature films... How did that come about?** Working on all of those films were years in the making. Through networking and actively getting compositional work on smaller projects, I was then asked to come on to larger film works. My first feature was an independent zombie film called *13 Score*, which released in 2013. Since then, I have worked on two other independent feature film scores, plus doing additional music on another independent feature, as well as performing technical work and playing guitar on the score for "Jem and the Holograms", which was released by Universal Pictures in 2015. I am also attached to 2 other independent features, which will come into fruition in 2018.

**You have been described as having "developed a rare instinct for the kind of music that will complement a scene in a film": How do you think this rare instinct came about? ...How much of this is natural talent and how much of this can actually be learned?** That comment was a humbling compliment from my late compositional teacher, the great David Stock. In it, I think he suggested that film scoring goes beyond simply understanding how to write music. I love film and have actively watched movies and tried to learn and understand them ever since I was very young. To be a successful film composer, one must understand story, the flow of the film, and what is necessary for the music of the film. Sometimes a film will need a grand operatic orchestral style feel to help tell the story, while other films need absolute minimal music with sound design. Each project is different, which brings unique challenges accordingly. By continually working on one's compositional craft and engrossing oneself in film, the composer can be prepared for whatever a film project may need. Innate abilities can help spark talent, but they will only plateau without proper care and development.

Tim Beck with band,  
The Marauders





**'Chasing your dreams is great and should be encouraged, but don't do so naively'**

**Do you plan on sticking with creating unique film scores? Is this what you really enjoy?** Yes, I plan on continuing to write film scores. I love film and being a part of such a unique experience is both thrilling and frightening that seems to bring the best out of me. I also still love concert music and jazz, so I plan on being active with that as well. Just recently, I have started working on a ballet based on a short story created by writer/director Bianca Crespo and choreographed by choreographer/dancer Angela Todaro. This allows me to create my own music based on my own vision musically, as opposed to catering to the needs of another medium, such as film or television.

**Of course, the music score makes up such an integral component of the film making process. What films do you think have been scored exceptionally well?** I'm obviously biased, but I'm firm believer that music can make or break a film. In the history of film, there have been so many moving scores that have been perfect compliments to the picture and inversely there have been great films that seemed to be lacking because of the musical choices. There are tons of unmistakably incredible and iconic film scores such as *Star Wars*, *Lawrence of Arabia*, and *Psycho*, but I will name some scores that connected with me even more personally: *American Beauty* by Thomas Newman, *The Godfather Part II* by Nino Rota, and *The Tree of Life* by Alexandre Desplat. Thomas Newman and Alexandre Desplat, as well as Danny Elfman, have been hugely influential in my own film scoring.

**Your trajectory into scoring films is not a typical school route that a young person can follow. Would you recommend this career choice? And what advice would you give to young talented musicians who may like to apply their talent in the direction of Hollywood in the future?** Anyone pursuing the arts must know that they are taking a risk, because there is no guaranteed stability. However, one should never regret having disregarded something that they are so passionate about. Chasing your dreams is great and should be encouraged, but don't do so naively: Make sure you hone your craft and educate yourself about the surroundings of your passion. Work on your art and network every day - Because if you don't, then I guarantee that there is someone else out there that will. Art and music technically are not a competition, but one should always be prepared so that you will be chosen and rewarded for your abilities when the time comes. Work hard, be patient, and never forget to be a good person. No one wants to work with a jerk, and Hollywood is a lot smaller than you'd think.

**~ Tim Beck is a Pittsburgh native composer, now based in Los Angeles, California. His website is [www.timbeckmusic.com](http://www.timbeckmusic.com)**



# Portrait of an Author: Patricia Beal

**Author of *A Season to Dance* (a ballerina story), which came out in May 2017. Here she shares an exclusive excerpt from her as yet unpublished second book - *The Song of the Desert Willow*.**

*He's the soldier who was left at the altar. She's the girl who thought she'd sworn off soldiers forever. Now if she could just deliver her grandma's last love letter and get off Fort Bliss before falling for him.*

Dating a soldier always sounded like a good idea but it was never a good idea.

Andrew drove back to the airport as soon as he got off work.

After taking the Howards to the hotel and returning the church van, he'd spent two hours in his office doing something that resembled work.

The newsletter he was supposed to review and approve got submitted without the usual scrutiny. The Army told people not to micromanage, right? Well, there you have it: Andrew James not micromanaging for a change.

The images he was supposed to select for the storyboard his first sergeant was putting together for the battalion sergeant major were not selected. He didn't even open the picture folder. It could wait.

But thoughts of Clara Malone refused to wait.

Returning to the airport to buy a bracelet for someone he'd just met sounded like a terrible idea, but he couldn't help it. A second trip to the airport to buy the bracelet she'd been admiring when they first met was an idea firmly planted in his heart since the moment she said "yes" to dinner with him.

Maybe he would hold on to it to see if things worked out and then give it to her during a future date? The bracelet didn't look expansive—quality local work, but not jewelry. But she would probably freak out.

Andrew drove past her hotel, as a group of well-dressed Joes spilled out of the lobby.

Where should he take her? His first thought had been the Magic Bistro, but the L&J Cafe had such a unique environment too and the best Mexican food. Was she expecting Mexican food? Or how about The Garden?

It's just a dinner, Andrew. Chill. Just a dinner.

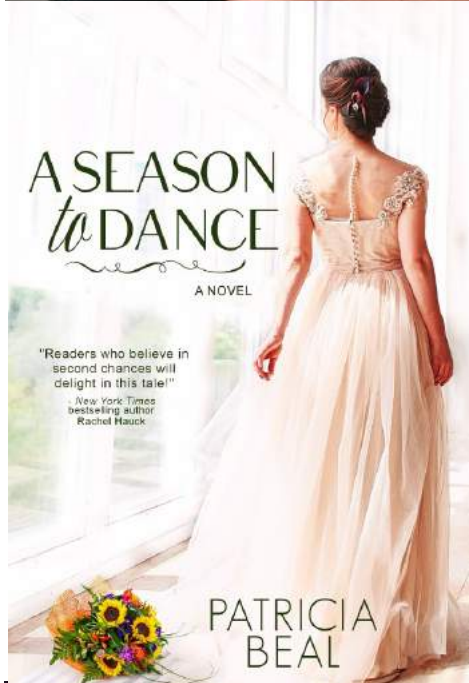
Maybe he should take her on post? Girls always liked that.

No. Not this girl. Definitely not. Something about the way she'd narrowed her eyes at Alice Howard's suggestion of meeting on post told him Clara had no desire to see Fort Bliss.

Andrew parked at the airport and closed the top of his classic yellow Chrysler Crossfire. Why did he have to have such a flashy sports car? He glanced at the Radisson. Please don't be at the window, Clara. Her room was probably to the other side anyway. Besides she'd never seen his car.

But Colonel Howard had mentioned the Crossfire. Did she know what one was? He hurried to the entrance.

Oh, enough already. What was the matter with him? He liked her already. That was the problem. Somehow, he liked her a lot. What a beauty! And Clara Malone — even her name was pretty.



# The Song of the Desert Willow (Excerpt)

He crossed the tall atrium and glanced at the spot where they'd first talked. He suspected her mousy sort of personality was just a façade. After all, she'd been surrounded by six strangers who knew each other well.

But just in case she was always shy and reserved, the Magic Bistro would be their best bet. Their live music was mellow and the singer good. No awkward silences.

Children's voices echoed all around the airport atrium, and the late setting sun shone through the glass roof, forming a path that led straight to the Placita.

Andrew walked into the store where he'd first seen her and spotted the silver bracelet she'd held right away. It was the only silver one. How lucky that it was still there. He touched the cold metal flowers remembering her delicate hands and peach nail polish.

The memory of her sweet perfume and the image of her long willowy figure and toned arms were vivid in his mind, and they warmed his spirit.

Warmed it too much.

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

Staying pure until he'd married Tatiana had been easy. He'd grown up expecting to marry soon after college, and even expecting that the year or two before his wedding night would be a challenge. So he'd been prepared.

Staying pure after being abandoned practically at the altar at West Point on graduation week was not so easy. Being 26 and single was not expected. No. Nothing could have prepared him for that.

Bringing into captivity every thought...

Andrew ran his fingers over the two rows of skinny flowers that made up the bracelet.

"Sir?" the short saleswoman with dark black hair said from behind the counter.

"Yes, ma'am." He continued to examine the bracelet.

"We close in five minutes."

She will love it. "I'll take this bracelet." He approached the counter.

"This is pretty." The woman lifted her glasses. "Love, fun, rest, hope, faith, dreams, joy, wish..." She stopped reading the tiny petals and rested her glasses on her nose again. "Nice."

"It is." Andrew's voice sounded surer than he felt. "It's very nice."

"A gift?"

"Yes." He pulled his wallet out of his ACU's back pocket.

"Girlfriend?" She smiled and cut the tag, pushing it in Andrew's direction.

"Date." He picked up the tag and tossed it in a plastic waste basket by the register.

Her eyebrows rose. "Lucky girl." She reached under the counter and showed him a glossy red box with a silver ribbon. "A ruby box for a fairer than ruby lady who will bring you love, hope, faith, dreams, and joy?"

"God only knows if this is the one, but I sure hope so." He tapped his card on the counter while she placed the bracelet on the simple white pad inside the box. Could Clara be the one—the one who would make everything right again? He handed her his debit card.

The sales lady handed him the box in a small bag and returned his card. "Well, good luck."

"Thanks."

The atrium was busier than before, and a female soldier in the rental car area looked enough like Tatiana to make him do a double-take.

Would she really show up this summer? He owed her no loyalty—they were not in a relationship. But he'd asked her to come. He'd asked her to reconsider her graduation decision. After 4 years apart, they were both still single. Her time in the Army was almost up. She could resign her commission and be with him, like they'd originally planned.

He crossed the parking lot, baking on the asphalt but aware of the Radisson on his left. As he climbed into the Crossfire, his Blackberry vibrated. He removed the ruby box from the small shopping bag and placed it in the glove compartment before checking the phone.

A text from Tatiana?

I bought the tickets! Pop goes the Fort. I will be spending the Fourth of July 4-day weekend at Fort Bliss :-)

Fantastic timing, as always. Thank you. He shook his head and looked at the glove compartment, then at the Blackberry. He pulled up the calendar app. Five weeks. He dropped his head to the steering wheel. Five weeks, and Captain Tatiana Kirsch would be in town.

That wouldn't be a problem, right? Clara might not even stay beyond tomorrow night, whatever jewelry he gave her. He started the engine.

Andrew lowered the top of his convertible, turned on the radio, and glanced at the Radisson.

But he hoped she would stay. He needed Clara to stay.

The sun was behind the Franklins now, making their east faces dark. But the sky was still blue and the air hot. That was his favorite time of day—a time of dramatic change and a time full of promise...

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- *The Song of the Desert Willow* is a split-time military romance. It's the story of a college graduate (Clara) who thought she'd sworn off soldiers forever, and a young Army captain (Andrew) whose first shot at love and marriage imploded on the steps of a West Point chapel on graduation week. To find out more about the book, you can sign up to Patricia's newsletter at [www.patriciabeal.com](http://www.patriciabeal.com)

# About Patricia

Patricia Beal is from Brazil and has danced ballet since her childhood. She fell in love with the English language while washing dishes at a McDonald's in Indianapolis and put herself through college working at a BP gas station. Patricia graduated magna cum laude from the University of Cincinnati with a B.A. in English Literature and worked as a public affairs officer for the U.S. Army for seven years. Her feature story on a day in the life of 'Bad Luck Squad' in Iraq won a Keith L. Ware award in print journalism. She's a 2015 Genesis semi-finalist and First Impressions finalist. Her debut novel, *A Season to Dance*, came out on May 9.

## Why do you write?

The desire to write a novel came 30 years ago, when as a teenage girl back home in Brazil, Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist* touched my heart. I wanted to do that to people, touch their hearts with a simple story that had something to say about the human condition.

## What inspired you to write this particular story?

*The Song of the Desert Willow* (the novel my agent is working on selling right now) is a Prince Harry inspired novel. After *A Season to Dance*, I wanted to write something lighter. A military romance set in El Paso took shape in my head, and Prince Harry was perfect for the role of U.S. Army Captain Andrew Lee James, an idealistic West Point graduate who loves the Army, his baby yellow Chrysler Crossfire convertible, and the new girl in town—Clara Malone. This novel is more youthful than the debut, but ended up being a deep and intense ride. I think I cried through the last five chapters as I wrote them. I guess some people just don't know how to do light anything. Guilty. Russian dancer Ivan Vasiliev said something to that regard when in London in the summer of 2011. I was there! I watched him and Natalia Osipova in Sir Frederick Ashton's *Romeo and Juliet* at the London Coliseum. So good!

## What purpose do you think writing and art serve in today's world?

I will have to use one of my favorite art quotes here: "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." –Pablo Picasso; and for really bad days, this truth applies: "Life beats down and crushes the soul and art reminds you that you have one." [Stella Adler]

## Lastly, can you tell me about your first novel?

*A Season to Dance* is the heart wrenching love story of a small town professional ballerina who dreams of dancing at the Met in New York, of the two men who love her, and of the forbidden kiss that changed everything.

- Patricia Beal, above left, dancing in Germany in 2011; and in the ballet programme below, she is the girl in the bottom right hand corner



# ROSALIND WINTON

## PORTRAIT OF A LITERARY EDITOR



As well as being the Feature Editor for Fringe and running her own Literary Editing business, Rosalind Winton has been writing poetry and song lyrics for over 30 years. Her poem 'Precious Child' was published in the *Best Book of Life and Love* in 1995. She has written lyrics and songs for solo artists, musical theatre projects and school plays. Some of her songs have been performed live on stage. Her song *A Beautiful Lady - Titanic* won an Outstanding Award at the Chichester Music Festival and a Merit award at the Portsmouth Music Festival, both in 2001. This song has been recorded onto film footage of *Titanic*, aired on the radio and has been played at *Titanic* exhibitions. As well as the writing of her lyrics, she loves spending time in the recording studio, overseeing the production of her songs. Her biggest ambition is to write a theme song for film. You can see some videos and audio files of songs from some of her projects on her website [onevoiceliteraryagency.com/mymusic](http://onevoiceliteraryagency.com/mymusic). 'Precious Child' will be featured in an upcoming poetry anthology that Rosalind is producing called **POETIC WONDERS** coming out some time in 2018, along with many other of her poems and the poems of five other talented authors.

### How I Became an Editor

When I started editing, it was a real eureka moment, you know, those light bulb moments where you realise what your calling is. I was working for the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London from 1987 to 1995. I was a Personal Assistant in the Development Department and part of the job was inputting data into the *Military Balance*, a publication which listed most of the armaments of the world's armed forces, at least those that the embassies would allow us to use. The Editing Department was on the floor above me and I was fascinated by their work and I eventually found myself helping to edit, not only the *Military Balance*, but other publications that the company produced as well. I really enjoyed it and loved the feeling of helping people, such as interns, who would come in from abroad to write research papers for the Institute. Usually their English wasn't very good and I would help them with their work, I loved to see them achieve their goals.

I left the Institute to have my children and once they were old enough that I had more time on my hands, I started to think about what I wanted to do. I thought that I would love to go back into editing, but found it really difficult to get a job, I had been out of the workplace for a long time, I didn't have qualifications or a substantial amount of experience.

At the time, my best friend was writing a novel and one day she asked me if I would edit it for her. I agreed and once I was doing

that, I realised that I might be able to do this myself. Set up my own editing business and do it freelance. After some deliberation with myself, wondering if actually it was something I could do and after discussing it with my husband and friends, I decided to give it a try. So over the next couple of months I did a lot of research into publishers and agents and what it was they were looking for from authors. I built a website and got it all up and running. I called the business One Voice Literary Agency, One Voice being my very favourite Barry Manilow song. I've been a fan of Barry's for a long time and the sentiment and lyric of the song has always meant something special to me and was very appropriate and absolutely perfect. I had the title designed as a logo and set to work trying to build myself up as an agent for my clients, but it was the most difficult thing I had ever done.

I sent my clients' work to many publishers, with all the correct criteria, but I never received the go ahead. I bought myself the *Writer's and Artist's Yearbook*, which lists hundreds of registered publishers and agents. I went to networking events, book fairs, but it just wasn't working, it was not lucrative, because I took clients on with a royalty contract, which meant unless the work was published and making sales, neither the author or myself would make any money, it was extremely time consuming and soul destroying. I reached the stage where I was thinking that I was going to have to give it up, but it dawned on me that I would change the way I was working. Instead of trying to make it as an agent, I would just concentrate on editing and proof reading. This turned out to be so much better, I could do the job, get paid for it and enjoy it a lot more. The next problem I had, was building up a clientele.

I promoted myself as best I could, but again, it was really difficult, then, one day, my friend sent me the link to a website called Stage 32. She had no idea what it was, but because she knew I was interested in musical theatre, thought it might be something to do with that and I might want to look into it. Once on the site, I found that it was the definitive networking site for creatives of film, television, theatre and much more. As I explored the site, I found that a lot of the members were screenwriters and I realised I could promote my editing services here and see what happens.



Since then, I have become Stage 32's Official Editor and I have also built up a clientele of extremely talented writers and I have, since joining the site, edited everything from full length novels, novellas, children's YA and picture books, non-fiction, screenplays, television scripts, articles, blogs, websites, business reports and everything in between; and now, I have also become Features Editor for 'Fringe'. This is a new magazine idea I discussed at length with Sarah, who was one of my clients. We felt that there was all this talent out there but no suitable medium to showcase their work. Not all my clients are members of Stage 32 and I seem to be on a momentum that is building beautifully. It's been absolutely amazing and the business continues to grow.



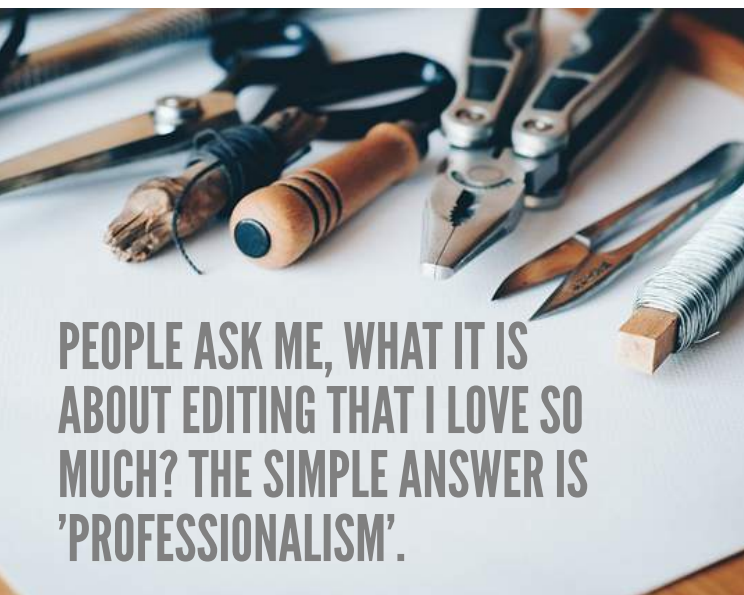
People ask me, what it is about editing that I love so much? The simple answer is 'professionalism'. I believe that it doesn't matter whether a piece of work is a full length novel or a short article, it should be presented in as professional a manner as possible. The writer wants people to read their work and be engrossed in the story, or the subject of the article, rather than be aware of grammatical errors and spelling mistakes. The writer wants their work to be recommended for the greatness of the story or subject matter, rather than the negative relays about how bad the editing is. It really is very important, especially these days, when self publishing, mostly on Amazon is the thing of the day.

It seems these days, that unless you are a celebrity, or a politician, or a pop star, it is virtually impossible to become a published author under the traditional umbrella. Many people now self publish on Amazon, which is great, as long as the author can spend the time promoting their work. Traditional publishers have their own editors, so the work would be automatically edited. Some have three or four editors and the work will be passed to all of them, so that any mistakes the previous editor has made, would be spotted.

Even if you find a friend, or family member you can trust to be honest and give constructive criticism, there is nothing wrong with that, as long as the work is looked at by someone else that can spot errors and give you advice about story and character development and if it's a screenplay, format is all important. Sometimes, it doesn't matter how many times you read through your own work, you will miss things and it is very important that a piece of work is properly edited before it is published.

[onevoiceliteraryagency.com](http://onevoiceliteraryagency.com)

[facebook.com/OneVoiceLiteraryAgency](https://facebook.com/OneVoiceLiteraryAgency)



PEOPLE ASK ME, WHAT IT IS ABOUT EDITING THAT I LOVE SO MUCH? THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS 'PROFESSIONALISM'.

## POETRY FOR THE WORLD TODAY

Say the word '*poetry*' to a lot of people and watch them wince, but poetry was once used as a definitive form of communication, especially for courting to let your love know how you felt about them, Robert and Elizabeth Browning are the most famous writers of romantic poetry from the 1800s. These days, there is no X Factor or talent show that showcases poetry, yet there are hundreds of talented poets out there, some publish their poetry, others write for the sheer joy of it. Some belong to writing workshops, some even become Poet Laureates. You may see poetry on Facebook, Twitter or other social media sites, but you never see people queuing round the block of shops, or fighting to get through the door to buy poetry books, so we hope you enjoy this section of Fringe as we bring unknown poets to the fore who really love writing poetry.

- ▶ ***Rosalind Winton has a particular appreciation and love for poetry as a unique form of creative storytelling. She would love to hear your thoughts on any of the featured poetry, as well as read your own compositions.***



# Precious Child

At last a precious child is born,  
So perfect, good and fine,  
With eyes so full of innocence,  
Oblivious of time.

From life comes love, from love comes life,  
A timeless ring of fire,  
Your babe is but a tiny spark,  
For the plan of fate's desire.

And very soon that tiny spark,  
Will soon become a flame,  
Bringing warmth into a world,  
That never stays the same.

A part of you forever now,  
An everlasting light,  
Must always remember to follow the heart,  
And truth will keep it bright.

© Rosalind Winton, Published in the  
*Best Book of Life and Love*, 1995.



# DANIEL BUCKNER

Daniel has been writing poetry since he was a child and his inspiration comes from his military background, politics, relationships and social situations. In 2009 he wrote a story in rhyme called *The Bear on Lonely Lake*, which was edited, produced and voice recorded into an audio book by Rosalind Winton, which they hope to publish as a book in the near future. In 2012, Daniel began work on a writing project that is a work in progress that he hopes will



come to fruition in the future. Daniel was raised in a military family and was destined to join the military himself. As a child, he saw Europe and as an adult in the military, he saw the Keys, the Bahamas and the Virgin Islands. As beautiful as they were, Daniel left it all for a far more beautiful attraction and married Catherine shortly thereafter. They lived from season to season in Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Delaware. Daniel has lived a varied life. He has been a sailor, a correctional officer, a plant manager, a store manager, twice a student in college and all the time a secretive writer. He resides in Rhode Island in the United States, with his beautiful daughter and memories of his late wife.



# Christmas

*By Daniel Buckner*

Who saw HIM? Who saw that star,  
So long ago, which we, by the way  
Of scripture know?

Did they rise, to follow on,  
And kneel before salvation's dawn?  
How many knew, that light began,  
To walk among the fallen man?  
In straw and dust lay Faith's stronghold,  
Eternal LORD just minutes old.

And angels gathered singing then  
'Peace on Earth, good will t'ward men!'  
Frightened shepherds trembled sore,  
But to the people tidings bore.

'That One who came from Heaven's Throne,  
Is born this night in Bethl'em town!  
Need the summons twice be made,  
To come, when men and angels bade?  
But who saw that brightest light appear?  
Who heard the angels and drew near?

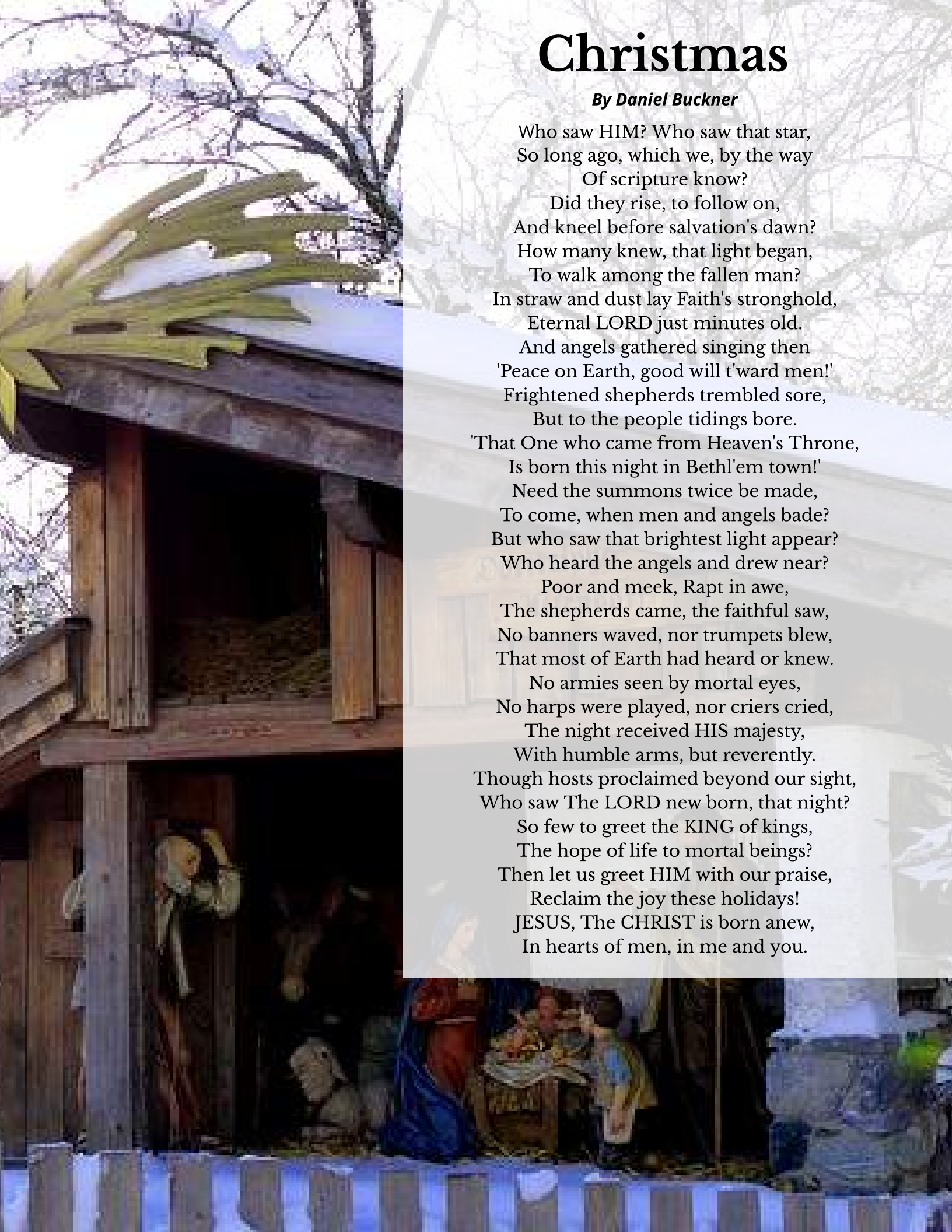
Poor and meek, Rapt in awe,  
The shepherds came, the faithful saw,  
No banners waved, nor trumpets blew,  
That most of Earth had heard or knew.

No armies seen by mortal eyes,  
No harps were played, nor criers cried,  
The night received HIS majesty,  
With humble arms, but reverently.

Though hosts proclaimed beyond our sight,  
Who saw The LORD new born, that night?

So few to greet the KING of kings,  
The hope of life to mortal beings?

Then let us greet HIM with our praise,  
Reclaim the joy these holidays!  
JESUS, The CHRIST is born anew,  
In hearts of men, in me and you.



# FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

## The True Story of Janna Yeshanova



**Janna Yeshanova, with mother and daughter, in 1990, two weeks after setting foot on US soil. They were among the last Soviet citizens granted access to the US prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991.**

Janna is the author of a great historical romance, which tells Janna's own true story. *Love Is Never Past Tense* is an old-fashioned love story with an original twist of modern history and intrigue woven in. It is the true story of the closing days in the Soviet Union, as told by an estranged couple whose lives are shaken by the country's collapse. It shows how lives were twisted by world changing events, how political turmoil pushed them onto different continents and how they managed to reconnect years later. Just as *Doctor Zhivago* is a Russian Romance set in the opening chapters of the Soviet era, *Love Is Never Past Tense* uses a second chance romance to showcase its closing days.

"On December 6, 1987, a crowd of 250,000 people demonstrated in front of the White House to demand that Gorbachev (who was visiting at the time) allow Soviet Jews a path to immigration," says Janna. "This protest helped open a window of opportunity. My family and I became part of that immigration, but the opportunity was short-lived. Invitations and approvals were needed and the door to the United States was closed again for those whose exit visas were stamped after September 30, 1989. My visa, which I still have, is dated September 28. I left the Soviet Union as an adult shortly before it disappeared. Back there, I taught college level Russian Language and Literature and had a wonderful opportunity to direct a play with my students. My US activities were new school, new profession and the rest is on my website: [life-spark.com](http://life-spark.com). *Love Is Never Past Tense* has been adapted into a wonderful screenplay and I am currently looking for a production partner to give it life."

## LOVE IS NEVER PAST TENSE

**A hot summer romance leads to a hasty marriage, a quick divorce and years of struggling to survive the fall of the Soviet Union until the lovers find each other again on the opposite sides of the ocean.**

# WHEN YOU WANT IT, YOU DO IT!

WRITTEN BY:  
JANNA YESHANOVA

Once, back in Russia, I parked my car overnight near my house instead of parking it in the garage. The next morning, I was preparing to take my little daughter to the swimming pool when my next-door neighbor suddenly grabbed my attention. He was so agitated! He spoke very, very fast, pointing to the back of my vehicle. I couldn't understand what he was saying, so I went to him and to my huge surprise, I realized that the back tires were gone. Neat, accurate rectangular red brick structures were supporting the back end of the car!

My first thought was to thank God that my Mom was not around to tell me that I should've parked in the garage, given the shaky economic conditions of my Soviet country, but my temporary psychological comfort was abruptly interrupted by her voice.

"Ha!" She had decided to visit us that shiny Saturday morning. This was, after all, the Soviet Union. Perhaps God was elsewhere.

My Mom's voice proclaimed, "Janna, this is what happens when the car does not spend the night time in the garage," but that was not the end of her thoughts. My Mom, who had endured World War II and knew that one needs to survive in any given circumstance, continued, "Janna, you can't leave the car outside. You have to drive it in the garage... Now!

My helpful neighbor quickly installed the spare tire, but the fourth one... was still a problem...

"How can I do it now, Mom?" I asked, repeatedly counting the tires and realizing each time that there were only three. "How can I drive on three tires?" I asked facetiously.

"Janna! When you want it you do it!" was her reply.

My feelings bounced between anger and the desire to burst out laughing. Time has passed, but I still remember one thing: "Janna! When you want it you do it!"

This conversation took place in the days just before my country began to crumble. Life was lining up a generous supply of adversity and turnabouts. My Mom's words "Janna! When you want it you do it!" echoed in my memory when I needed support. They helped me to cross the Atlantic with almost no money or help.



At that time, the Soviet government allowed emigrants to exchange only \$126.00 from local currency. So I had a choice: I could stay and keep what I had, or go...

Going wasn't easy. A narrow window of opportunity had opened, but just barely. Bureaucracy tried to freeze the status quo with one hand and extort the last kopek from anyone who dared to leave with the other. Ethnic tensions, held in check for decades by Soviet power, found new voices and raised new threats. Not all neighbors were helping with tires. Some were stealing them. Some were trying to steal the country. Go. Definitely go. Tough choices are easy when you have no option. I took my \$126.00, my mother and my daughter and dashed for the border. The full story is told in my book *Love Is Never Past Tense*.



I never thought about writing a book. I thought about writing a letter to my future grandkids, so they would know their background, appreciate what they have and know how they got it. I started that letter, but it never stopped. The story kept running and running out of my quill. Then I realized that I could wrap this story into an inspirational second chance romance, so I did that!

Doubts crept in. *Who would read all this material I produced?*

A thought about publishing a book knocked on the door... Was this thought knocking on my door? I believed it, and then I did not. Who will read it? – was the next thought. Doubt was trying to steal my tires, but in my imagination Mom's voice repeated "Janna! When you want it you do it!"



Another pity party showed up as I flew home after a seminar. On my lap, I had a proof copy of the book. I was scanning the lines, double checking for mistakes and possible flaws. The thought 'who will read it' was following me even in the sky. Doubt was sharing my seat, but opportunity was in the seat next to me.

*Opportunity can show up anywhere.* The man in that seat wondered what I was reading. I briefly shared the story and he asked to see the manuscript. He started reading as we took off from Philadelphia and didn't stop until we landed in Chicago.

Alex was a PhD graduate from Yale. As we parted he handed me his business card and asked me to let him know when the book would be published. He said he wanted to buy it. "No, no, no!" I protested! "I'll send it to you!" I was so happy that someone wanted to read it. "A man?! Reading a love story?!" was in my head. "Please... No need to buy it! I'll send it to you!" I heard my voice say.

Months later, I sent him the promised copy. After reading it, he called me and said that he could picture a great movie based on the book. A movie? I hadn't imagined! The story for my future grandchildren was gaining traction.

Alex took on the role of my excited neighbor mounting the spare tire and eight months later the Jewish Federation of Omaha Nebraska invited me to present *Love Is Never Past Tense*. They flew me to Omaha, offered me a great hotel and placed an article with my picture and my biography on the front page of their newspaper! They bought, as far as I remember, two hundred books.



Three tires on. "Janna! When you want it you do it!" Life doesn't stop, it keeps going and going. A new idea evolves in my head and keeps disturbing my world. I imagine a book trailer would be a great reward for all my trouble. I dial the first filmmaker my internet search provides and run into a guy who has won an Emmy. He makes my book trailer and more than that – he becomes a friend.

My book trailer catches the eye of a screenwriter, who decides to read the book. He falls in love with *Love Is Never Past Tense* and writes the screenplay. The movie Alex imagined has started to materialize.

We all know that opportunity comes from within. First, you need to decide. Then, everything falls into place. Not immediately, but it does! Did someone say that thoughts are materializing? They do!

Now I am looking for a new adventure. Is it a new adventure or is it a sequel to the same one? Is this the adventure that we call life? Is it really the case of when you want it, you do it? My conclusion: **Do it, even when a whole set of tires is not available.**



Janna does a book signing at a presentation of her book to the Jewish Federation of Omaha Nebraska

# A PORTRAIT OF AN AUTHOR / ARTIST

## INTERVIEW WITH: CHERYL SHERMAN

Cheryl is undertaking a massive feat. Not only is she in the process of writing a series of young adult fiction, but the books are beautifully illustrated by her as well. They have won several awards in the US, and her artwork is reminiscent of celebrated Irish artist, Pauline Bewick, which is no surprise as Cheryl has Irish, British and Swedish ancestry on her mother's side. Here she share her fantasy story, her life story and her artwork with Fringe.

**THE FANTASY STORY:** *California teen Callista (Calli) Ann Sanders has loved the ocean her entire life, enjoying her carefree days swimming and surfing with her twin brother. She's always felt a mysterious pull toward the sea; but one day her beloved ocean turns on her. A disastrous car accident lands her in the water where she nearly dies, until a mysterious stranger saves her. While recovering from her accident, Callista learns some stunning information. She is part Selkie, and her family has a long history with the infamous god, Triton -- the very being who rescued her from drowning. As Callista discovers the story behind her true past, she is slowly transforming into something other than human, and is falling in love. Meanwhile, forces are at work to separate her and her new love and create havoc within the ocean's depths. This fantastical tale of love and intrigue above and below the earth's surface can be enjoyed by teens and young adults alike.*



Cheryl Sherman divides her time between her ranch in Arizona and her home in San Diego.

**Tell me a bit about you... Were you always a creative person?**

I have always lived on the West Coast, near an ocean. I was in three rock/jazz/pop bands, did recording, taught music for many years, loving every minute of it, and raised my family. I trained horses for fun and always did art, watercolors, colored pencil and ink drawings in between work and caring for our ranches. Now I write, do my own illustrations, cover art and all my own editing.

**Do you think the life of a person in the creative arts is always varied?**

Creative folks are always doing things that connect them to their art, because it's an expression of who they are. We can't help it, anymore than taking a breath.

**Is there a restlessness that's ever present, or is it just a matter of getting bored too easily?**

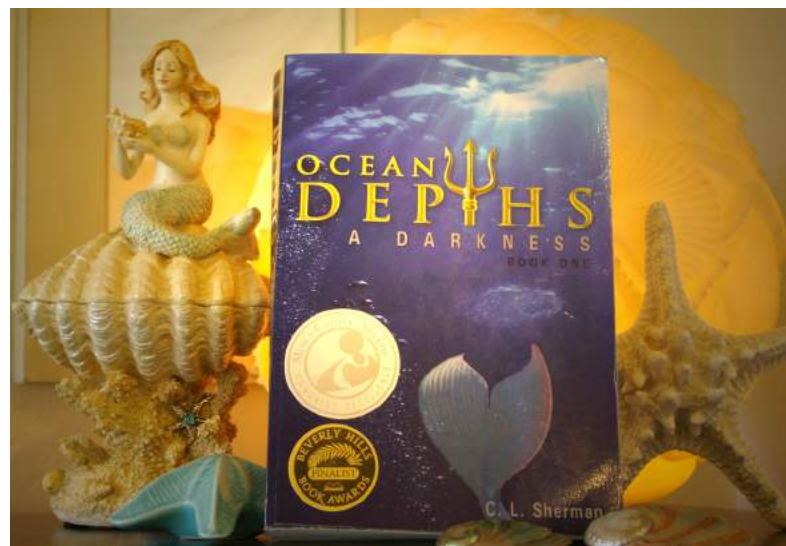
I experience a considerable amount of restlessness unless I'm doing my writing, art or music. Exercising and being in nature is a good way to rid me of some of my artistic tension.

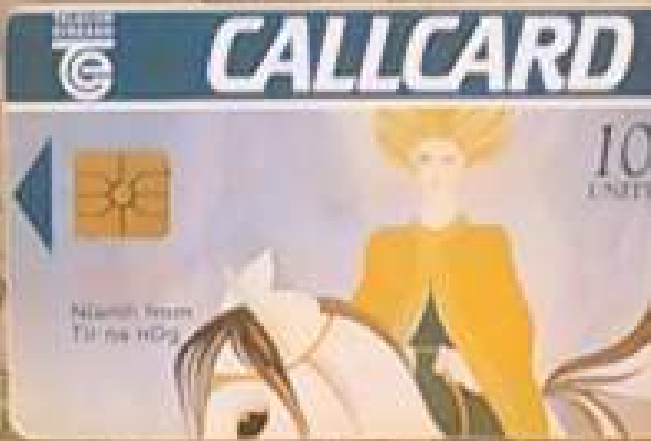
**When did you first realize you wanted to be a writer?**

When I was a child, I loved to tell and write stories and essays for my teachers. They told me I should write books, but was also a talented vocalist, artist and musician. So I concentrated on those three talents instead of writing. They were more glamorous, I suppose. Plus, I was in a rock/jazz band writing music and performing for several years during my teens and twenties.

**What have all your different interests and life experience brought to your writing?**

Depth – that is the gift of age. Looking back at all the struggles and joys that I've gone through has equipped me with the ability to convey that into my story plot. As my characters experience their lives, they learn, just as I have. Living life is a marvellous teacher.





**What genre do you write, and why did you choose it?**

I love young adult fiction, especially fantasy. There is little to stop my imagination from going where it will as I write in that genre. I enjoy my heroine being naive, as she learns what life is all about and how to become an enlightened and nurturing individual on the planet - whichever planet I choose.

**What is a 'typical day' for you? Do you have some type of routine in place or do you take every day as it comes?**

I exercise, get my make-up on, dress for the day, help my husband get to work, my adult children to their daily routine, then I do morning chores, indoors and outside. Next I write my series until lunch. I eat and write, do a few chores, then write again until dinnertime. After I clean up dinner, I play my grand piano, and then write again until I'm sleepy. I don't usually watch TV.

**So what about your main character, Callista, do you identify strongly with her? Do you think she is a type of alter ego or something like that?**

I relate to all of my characters, they're all a part of me, especially the good guys - protagonists. Even my antagonists have a little of my humanity in them. I do dislike them for harming my heroine and hero.

**What purpose do you think writing and art serve in today's world?**

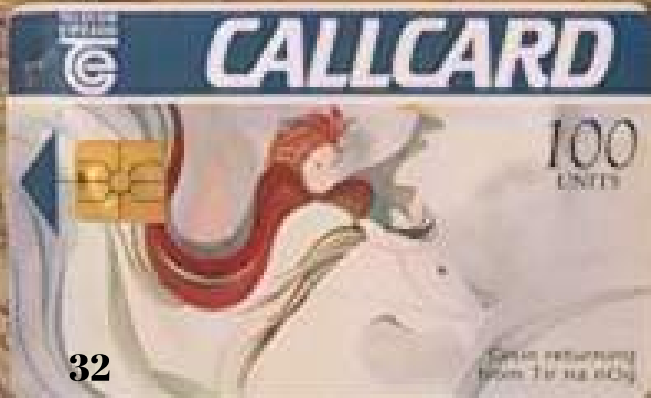
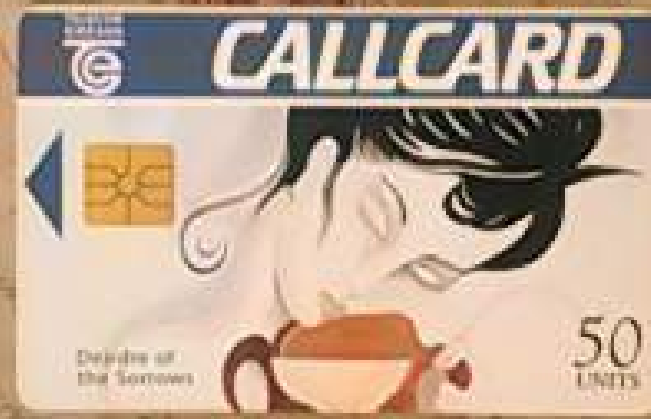
I believe art of any sort elevates the spirit of a person. My novels are created to pull my audience into Callista and Triton's world, and take them out of their common everyday life. That's what I expect from the novels I read. If they don't do that, I read them grudgingly because I bought them.

**Is there any one book/ author/ artist that has particularly influenced or inspired you?**

I'm an avid reader! I love fiction, mystery, how-to books, instruction manuals, anything that can teach me a new skill, help me become more enlightened, or entertain me. So is there one? Nope! I have hundreds of books under my bed, in my closets and stacked neatly in my office. I do love Tolkien, Rowling, Lewis, Creighton, Meyers and Dan Brown. And there's more!

**And what about your artwork, as you know I have likened your illustrations to Pauline Bewick here in Ireland, but where do you draw artistic inspiration from?**

I dreamed of Triton, and he was reclining on a rock outcropping in the ocean. So, I drew what I saw in my dream, then finished it in watercolor. As I wrote Callista and Triton's story, I drew some of the other characters, completing them in watercolors also. My illustrations are as much for my audience as for me. I love finding out who my characters are as they live their lives through my illustrations.



**EDITOR'S SIDE NOTE:** Pauline Bewick is a well-known Irish artist, renowned for her distinctive style. In 1994, before the advent of mobile phones, a special series of Irish callcards showcasing Pauline's depictions of Irish mythology were released. Left are the set of four, from my own personal collection of what is now considered an unusual antique. Despite subtle similarities between Pauline and Cheryl's artwork, Cheryl had never heard of Pauline. For me, this shows that art really does transcend our humanity and connects us to a type of universal consciousness.

You are after undertaking something quite impressive in terms of scale with your Ocean Depths series, what book are you currently working on? And where does that fit in with the rest of the story you've written so far?

I'm finishing the last of my edits to book three, Ocean Depths A Life. Then I'll begin working on book four again, having started it. Books five to eight will continue the story. The plot is like an alphabet, going from A to Z in a continuous story line. I've written the last chapter of book eight, knowing where the plot is going.

**In terms of research for your books, how much practical research did you have to do? Or did you leave it all to the imagination?**

I research constantly when I want any information to increase the story line. Fiction is best when it's based on facts.

**What advice would you give to aspiring writers or artists?**

Sit down and do it, and quit talking about it with everyone! Never give your first draft to anyone, nor your 2nd or 3rd. If you lack the skill you need, take an online course and read the genre you're writing - that is one of the best teachers out there. If you're an artist doing illustrations or painting, get started and continue it until you're done. Never leave a project undone. That will cripple your creative bend. You'll make mistakes, but keep going! You may fail the first time, second time, third time, but who cares? Figure out how where you're failing, fix it and keep going. Be a child again, and create from start to finish. Always finish what you start. There will be those who want to rain on your parade, just put up an umbrella and keep going. Don't let anyone tell you, you can't. They aren't in your head, they don't have your talent or your passion. Always believe in yourself and your project, [and] then others will [too]. I love what Steve Martin, the comedian, said, "Be so good they can't ignore you!" Your heart will be thrilled, and so will your audience, if you believe in your work.

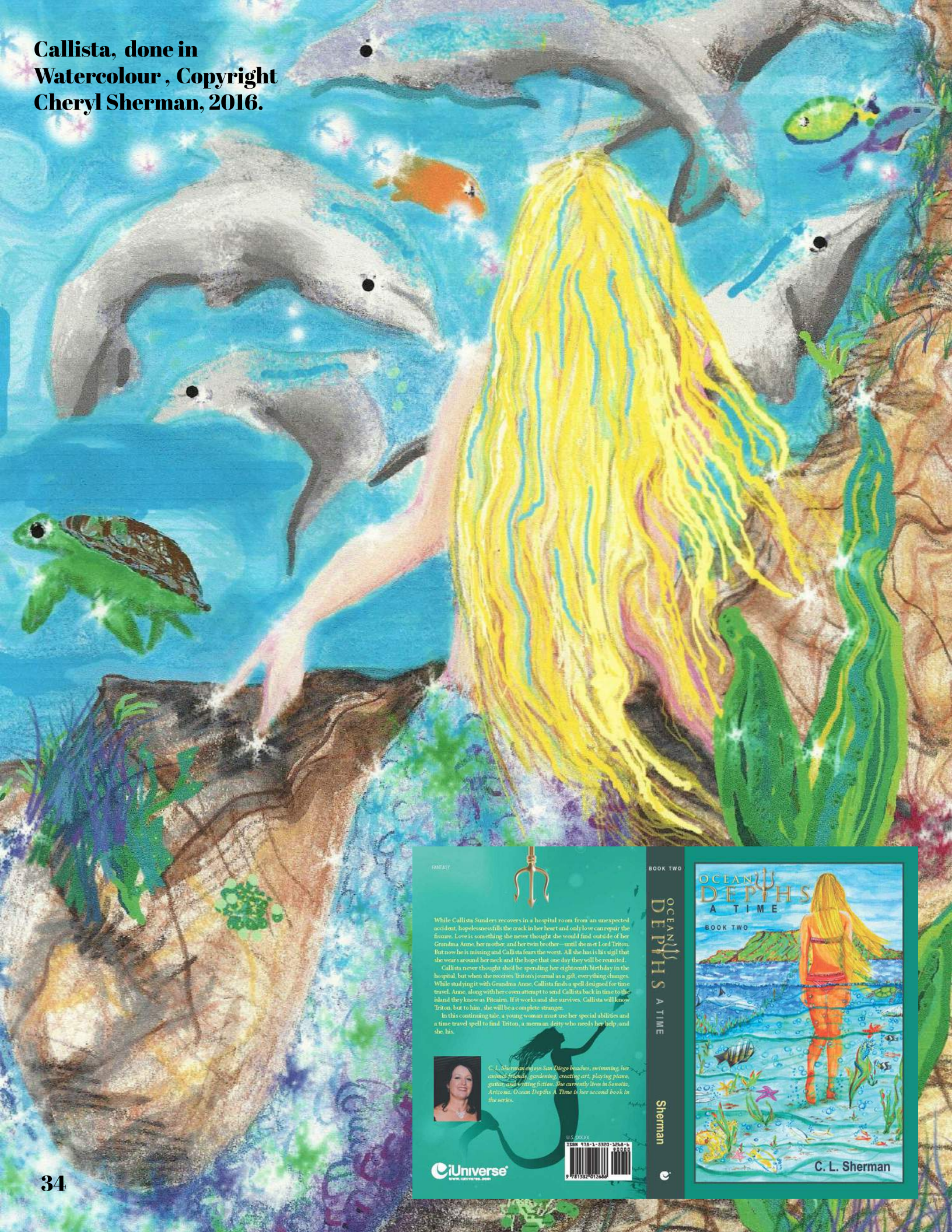
**Where can people find out more about you and your books? Do you have a website?**

Website [www.cherlynnsherman.com/wp/](http://www.cherlynnsherman.com/wp/) My novel series is sold at Barnes and Noble, Amazon, Google Play and Kobo.

- ▶ Cheryl's novel Ocean Depths A Darkness has won Finalist Award/Young Adult Fiction at the Beverly Hills Book Awards 2016, was one of eight Favorite Titles at London book Fair 2016, won Silver Award/Young Adult Fiction at the Mom's Choice Awards 2016 and won a Pinnacle Award in 2016.
- ▶ Cheryl's novel Ocean Depths A Time won Silver Award/Young Adult Fiction at the Mom's Choice Award in 2017, won a Pinnacle Award 2017, and won Finalist Award/Young Adult Fiction at the Beverly Hills Books Awards 2017.



**Callista, done in  
Watercolour, Copyright  
Cheryl Sherman, 2016.**



FANTASY



While Callista Sanders recovers in a hospital room from an unexpected accident, hopelessness fills the crack in her heart and only love can repair the fissure. Love is something she never thought she would find outside of her Grandma Anne, her mother, and her twin brother—until she met Lord Triton. But now he is missing and Callista fears the worst. All she has is his sigil that she wears around her neck and the hope that one day they will be reunited.

Callista never thought she'd be spending her eighteenth birthday in the hospital, but when she receives Triton's journal as a gift, everything changes. While studying it with Grandma Anne, Callista finds a spell designed for time travel. Anne, along with her coven attempt to send Callista back in time to the island they know as Epirium. If it works and she survives, Callista will know Triton, but to him, she will be a complete stranger.

In this continuing tale, a young woman must use her special abilities and a time travel spell to find Triton, a merman deity who needs her help—and she his.



*C. L. Sherman enjoys San Diego beaches, swimming, her animals, friends, gardening, creating art, playing piano, gallivanting, visiting friends. She currently lives in San Jose, California. Ocean Depths: A Time is her second book in the series.*

U.S. \$20.99



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BOOK TWO

OCEAN DEPTHS  
A TIME

Sherman



C. L. Sherman

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white dress, stands in a field of tall yellow flowers. She is looking out an open window. The scene is bright and sunny, with green trees in the background. The title 'LIFE OUTSIDE THE BOX' is overlaid in large, bold, pink letters.

# LIFE OUTSIDE THE BOX

**By S.J. Robinson**

***This is my signature article. This is how it all got started for me. Moving 'outside the box' was such a turning point and it has been such a huge contributing factor in my imagination coming fully to life; and now, I find I can no longer live any other way than 'on the fringes between reality and imagination'... Would you be willing to try it?***

*Time* – Our greatest ally and our elusive friend. As a people, we cannot seem to get enough of this precious resource. It accomplishes so much; brings day after night, and season after season; and is always moving onto the next thing. It features in weather reports, in songs, in books, in classrooms, in lecture halls and is always a part of our daily conversation. It can be gained, and it can be wasted. It can be whittled away, or we can be racing against it. Some people say it's not on their side and is moving too fast, while others say they need to kill some every now and then. Of course, in the professional world, time cannot just be a colleague you wrestle to get along with... it needs to be your best friend. So regardless of whether you feel short of time or not, we all need this resource not only to exist, but in order to live life to the full; and if we really aim to make the most of our time, it has the ability to accomplish everything we truly desire.

Since committing myself to writing my series of thrillers back in 2012 and, in the meantime, becoming a busy mom of two very active children, I am always on the lookout to find ways to gain more time. Not that it's really gaining more time, but rather it's finding ways to use it more effectively. I find that you have two options as far as time is concerned: either you are working for the clock or you are making the clock work for you. In my daily juggling act, I can get stressed easily. I honestly do. Mostly it is



**[CONTINUED]** because I like to keep my word. This means that when I commit to doing something, I like to follow through, and usually for this, a deadline is involved. Actually one of the most attractive things I saw on a CV of late was somebody's ability to work to immovable deadlines. For me, this is a skill that really has the 'WOW' factor. Why? Because, to me, this is somebody who likes to keep his/her word. This is someone who respects time, especially other people's time. Think about it: *How many times have we been promised things by people who fail to deliver? How many times have we ourselves promised things which we never followed through on?* These time-management failures are some of the most irritating and frustrating things. I would even go so far as to say that anyone who even shows up late for an interview is simply not worth hiring. Time management is a tell-all. At the end of the day, we are all only as good as our word. Our word is a reflection of who we are. It is a reflection of our character. Considering this, one of the primary goals should be to master effective time management.

Effective time management is a skill which reveals so much about somebody's internal make-up. Your time management skills reveal your level of organisation, your ability to deliver, your ability to keep your word and your respect of others. Life is full of potential setbacks and unforeseen surprises, but if you are ahead of the game, you will find the time to overcome the obstacles. It is up to us how we decide to use our time each day, and with practice, it can become your greatest friend. So with all this groundwork on the importance of good time management in mind, it brings me to one very simple step to instantly gain more time (and not only gain time, there are a whole range of other benefits as well!). Here it is: **GIVE UP TV**. Yes, very simple, almost too simple, I know. However, one of the single greatest things I have ever done to claim back countless precious hours of my life, every single day, was to give up 'the box'. In fact, my family and I have had no TV in our house for well over six years and counting. This means: No TV, no TV bills, no TV licensing fees, and (this is an amazing one!) no switching off of the brain for several hours at a time each day.

And what resources have I gained?

**Time:** Plenty of it... and time to do the things I really want to do.

**Money:** Much needed, especially at the moment with two young children.

**Creativity:** Brain is switched on all day long, and follows its own organic learning curve.

**Freedom:** As you are not in bondage to the constant pumping of bad news.

**Family Time:** Yes, sitting down for a meal at the table and really getting to know one another through the rare and wonderful art of conversation.

**The World:** The world is now your oyster as you step outside the confines of your living room for your life fulfillment and life enjoyment.

Indeed, life 'outside the box' holds many attractive benefits.



So am I saying all TV is bad? No, not necessarily; but if time is what you're after, throwing out the box is one sure fire way to recover valuable hours of your life... And there is the added perk of expanding your mental capacity while you're at it. Most people know the negative effects that TV has on the brain, but if the average person is still watching four to five hours of TV a day, then this is not doing the person any real favours. The creator of EruptingMind.com highlights that "this results in a high level of mental programming, degeneration of the brain and wasted time that could otherwise have been devoted to more constructive and beneficial activities" - beneficial activities such as reading, learning a foreign language and exercise - all of which have a positive effect on your brain. The author further notes that "reading for at least thirty to sixty minutes every day" can actually undo the damage which too much TV has done especially on the frontal lobe part of your brain (*of course, what you read is important too, but that's for another article*). He highlights that "reading is like exercise for the brain, just like running is exercise for the body", and that the brain-damaging effects of TV -

such as lack of critical analysis, addiction, reduced higher brain function, degenerative brain rot and short attention span - can, in this way, all be reduced, or eliminated.

Caroline Leaf - author of the bestselling book *Who Switched Off my Brain?* - essentially believes that "we are all neuro-plasticians, who are able to complete our own brain surgery and change our brain." We are the ones who determine what goes into our brain and we are the ones who shape our thoughts, our words, our actions and our reality. She draws on the incredible research of a Nobel-prize winning Professor, Dr Eric Kandel, who states that humans are actually "wired for love" and that all of the circuitry inside of our brain is actually geared in a positive love direction. While **Love** is a natural or innate emotion; **Fear**, on the other hand, is a learned emotion. Fear can be wired into our brain from a young age through exposure to toxic thought-pollutants in our environment and it produces all of the abnormal emotions in life including hurt, bitterness, anxiety and depression.

New scientific research into epi-genetics suggests that we do, in fact, create our own realities and that as our brains think and choose, branches called dendrites or neuro-pathways form in our brains, which can strengthen over time through environmental exposure and reinforcement. Epi-genetics shows us that our thinking affects what we become, which in turn suggests that the things we allow ourselves be exposed to in our daily environments also have a direct impact on our thought life and the person we become. We all know that TV is great at pumping out bad news, lewd images and vulgar chat shows, a fake pop/reality culture, false celebrity idolism etc... *But what if unknowingly these were all having a moulding or rotting effect on your brain, and therefore, your life potential? Would you really waste your precious time watching it?* I, personally, have decided to opt-out, and I highly recommend everyone to seriously consider giving up 'the box' in order to take back power over your brain and life. There are so many amazing things to experience in this world and we only have a limited amount of time in which to do them. So, in closing, I will just say...



## THE FINAL WORD

I sincerely hope you have enjoyed what we have put together here, and it would be lovely to hear your feedback. We're hoping you will be inspired to get creative and we will be on the lookout for your contributions up ahead! We have been overwhelmed by the positive interest so far, and it has been such a joy showcasing all of the wonderful creative artists and having the opportunity to speak to them personally about their work. We are dedicated to doing our utmost to bring you the roses among the thorns, and to truly celebrate life through the sparkling prism of art in all its various forms. The magazine will return in 2018 with our Spring edition, and will remain exclusive to all subscribers via a unique password. All we ask is that you please encourage anyone you know who may wish to sign up and join our creative renaissance. On behalf of myself and Rosalind, thank you for being part of our publication and we look forward to the next edition. Yours,

S.J.Robinson



***Cherish time.  
Seize life.  
Embrace the real world.  
Dream big.  
Make goals.  
Go after them.  
Love much.  
Regret little.  
Be free.  
Be thankful.  
And THANK YOU for reading!***

- To comment on this article, and join the chord cutting debate, email [fringemagazine@protonmail.com](mailto:fringemagazine@protonmail.com). Interesting letters and commentaries may be published in the next edition.



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