

ACAD PHOTOGRAPHER FRAMES HER FUTURE

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For Stephanie Haynes, life is seen in two different ways: through her eyes, and through the lens of her camera.

Haynes, a fourth-year photography student at Alberta College of Art and Design (ACAD), grew up in the small northern Alberta hamlet of Gwynne, and at the age of 14 was given her first digital single lens reflex camera.

It may seem surprising that the gift of a camera could alter the course of someone's life and ultimately a career path, but for Haynes, it did.

As a ninth grade student armed with her brand new Canon Rebel XTi, Haynes started pursuing photography as a hobby, but it soon became more.

"People started asking, 'Will you take my photos?' and it kind of snowballed from there," said Haynes.

Before even registering at ACAD, Haynes had started taking graduation, portrait and wedding photos as her own small business. Now, upon her planned-for graduation in spring 2014, she hopes to continue that pursuit.

Julia Haynes, Stephanie's younger sister of three years,

sees Haynes' future clearly. She envisions Haynes with a successful photography business shooting weddings, engagements, family portraits and dance performances.

"It's not too hard to think up because that's basically her plan and she knows how to get there," said Julia.

"[Photography] has always been her dream and I can't imagine her doing anything else."

Wedding photography has been a large part of Haynes' repertoire, and although there are added stressors that come with shooting a wedding, she finds relief in the time she has alone with the couples and their wedding parties.

"Probably my favourite part of the whole entire [wedding] is shooting the portraiture that happens after the ceremony, before the reception. I love being creative and spontaneous with location and the personality of the couple and the bridal party."

For Haynes, seeing a couple's excitement about their photos is "the best thing in the world."

Mitch Kern, head of photography at ACAD who is also one of Haynes' instructors, not only thinks that she can photograph a wedding, but



Fourth-year ACAD photography student Stephanie Haynes.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHANIE HAYNES

anything she puts her mind to. "Stephanie would be great at anything, from advertising to editorial to fine art photography. I think there are

no boundaries," he said.

"She has a keen photographic eye—a natural feel for composition. And she handles light extremely well.

"I like the way she puts herself into her work. That is, you can see her personality and outlook on life reflected in her photography."

This past September, one of Haynes' photographs was chosen during a contest held by Calgary Arts Development and Doors Open YYC to be displayed on the Old King Edward School in Calgary's southwest area of Marda Loop.

For some reason or another, Calgary Arts Development didn't notify Haynes that her photo was chosen, and she found out by chance through a friend who told her that one of her photographs was on the side of the Old King Edward School.

If that weren't thrilling enough, that same photograph was the featured on *Avenue Calgary's* website in an article about Doors Open YYC and the Old King Edward School.

"I was freaking out," Haynes laughed.

According to Kern, Haynes has the makings to become someone who will have more than just one photo on a wall.

"Stephanie has the perfect blend of talent, natural ability and self-confidence to be extremely successful at the highest level.

"The sky is the limit for her."