



Ken Cameron, 36

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,

THE ALBERTA PLAYWRIGHTS' NETWORK

Ken Cameron arrives at a trendy Calgary coffee shop, slightly breathless and slightly late: His bike had a flat tire, the playwright apologizes. He quickly credits a book on turning problems into positives — reading it has deterred him from blowing a gasket.

Chilling out is no mean feat for the executive director of the Alberta Playwrights' Network. Meditation and hot yoga helps the deceptively casual Cameron to unwind from APN duties, preparing to tour an intensely personal play, *My Morocco*, at three Fringe festivals, collaborating on a new play, and prepping for four plays to be produced for the upcoming theatre season.

As a volunteer board member with Ground Zero Theatre, Cameron is lobbying for more space from the city, linking playwrights with theatre companies and mentoring people in the grant application process.

In a culture that's infamous for being ego-cen-

tric, Cameron's known for sharing, a trait he utilized to pull APN from a financial precipice in 2002 by establishing partnerships between local, provincial and national theatre companies. "I have the desire to see the community in broader terms than just myself," Cameron says about revitalizing APN. "That has more lasting impact than one play, at one time, in one city."

His volunteerism is rooted in small-town Ontario, where his dad was involved in the Lions Club and his mom was a teacher. The same collaborative rural influence tinges Calgary theatre and arts, Cameron says.

His most fun during the past year isn't acting on stage after a 12-year hiatus, collaborating on a dance drama about superheroes or tussling for increased funding. "Being married," says the newlywed. "I've had the most fun being married. I love my wife."

—*Dina O'Mawa*

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40/40 Brain Waves

- The person who has had the biggest influence on my life is Sharon Pollock, the great Canadian playwright. I first met her when I was 20 years old in Stratford, Ontario, and she took me under her wing (and drank me under the table to boot).
- Lately, I've been thinking that if I wasn't doing what I'm doing, I would be a farmer, like my father. I've got a real "back to nature, live the simple life thing" going on. Though, I have to confess, I'm more likely to run a vineyard than a pig farm.