

## Sh-boom! Sh-boom!

### Cornerstone's production of Life Could Be A Dream is bringing the doo-wop to Canmore nights

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With a title that references a song that begins "Hey nonny ding dong, Alang alang alang . . ." you know there's fun to be had with the latest jukebox musical that's being brought to Canmore for the winter season at the Corner.

Roger Bean's fun for the family musical takes place in 1959 in a basement as four young men follow their dreams.

Four friends become what today we'd call a boy band, singing the new pop sound of the day emulating singers like Frankie Valli and Paul Anka instead of the Bing Crosby, Perry Como sound that once ruled the radio.

Clayton Labbe plays Denny and Michael Gill plays Wally two young men who start as a singing duo. They recruit Skip played by Syd Sengotta when they realize that they need a sponsor to enter a singing contest and he has ties to Big Stuff Auto. Eugene, played by Anton Lipovetsky is brought in in a similar manner.

The four guys become Denny and the Dreamers as they try to win the contest. They practice their singing and dancing in Denny's basement for much of the show.

"I want to get the Chevy that's at the Big Stuff Auto; I really want to be a star," Labbe said. "The three — three stooges over here — we're kind of like the guys that hang out in the basement and just want to be the cool kids for once."

Karita Mullins plays Lois, a girl who becomes the centre of attention among the guys. The daughter of their sponsor and the band's de facto choreographer Lois and Skip spend much of the show hiding their romance from the others.

"The whole thing is fun," Debbie Rosen, music director for Cornerstone Theatre said. "It's about infectious music and four part harmonies and the guys do an amazing job of that.

"It's the kind of thing where you picture yourself in front of the Ed Sullivan show with your TV tray on Sunday night. It takes you right back to that time — a time of values and morals . . . ."

Lipovetsky plays the nerd who provides the comic relief.

"Act 1 ends with a very intense dance number to the tune of Goodie, Goodie," he said, describing a favourite moment in the production. "It's that '50s wholesome anger. There's props and stuff going on at the end of it, but we're all sweating by the end of it, we get off stage panting and it's so much fun — I never thought I'd be doing anything like this, I never thought I could dance or anything, but this number looks awesome."

Mullins said she enjoys playing the centre of attention, with all the guys singing to her, pulling her in every direction.

"They're all songs that you would recognize from the '50s and '60s," Mullins said. As they guys have discovered Lois and Skip are together, Mullins sits back and listens to her favourite part of the show as the four men perform Heartaches. It's a comedic piece, where Eugene's wailing makes Mullins laugh.

Sengotta called the music from Life Could Be A Dream, "classic easy-listening music."

"You just hear so much from the voices," he said. "Telling a story in the words . . . plus I love Back to the Future and it's kind of like the same feel."

Rosen has been impressed by the chemistry that has developed among the singers.

"They sound like they've been singing together forever," she said.

Life Could Be A Dream started Nov. 7 and plays Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. Call (403) 609-0004 for tickets, or go to [www.atthecorner.ca](http://www.atthecorner.ca).

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