

***FemFest plans to shock and awe theatre audiences
with their “edgy” 2010 line-up!***

Winnipeg, June 23, 2010– Sarasvati Productions announces the exciting line-up for their annual festival of plays by women for everyone. **FemFest 2010: *On the Edge*** will push the boundaries of conventional theatre, by showcasing performances that are innovative, inspirational, fresh and fun. Now in its eighth season, the festival boasts four touring shows, local productions, two evening cabarets, readings of new works by local playwrights and skill–development workshops for both aspiring artists and the community at large.

This year’s **FemFest 2010: *On the Edge*** performance line-up has been chosen specifically to highlight timely societal issues that could induce “buzz” and discussion in the community. The issues being brought to the forefront range from racism to labioplasty, breast implants to breast-feeding, environmental activism to the Church of Oprah and her Vajjayjay followers.

My vajayjay is angry. It is. I have trouble showing my anger because of the botox and filler, but trust me it’s pissed. – a botoxed woman in Lindsay Burns’ *The Vajjayjay Monologues*.

“We have never shied away from controversial works, in fact our goal is to create dialogue and this often means needing to give voice to those who are usually silenced,” says Hope McIntyre, Artistic Director of Sarasvati Productions. “We want our audience members, both male and female to be inspired and entertained by our shows and this year’s line-up will certainly fulfill that goal.”

The highlight of this year is internationally acclaimed artist d’bi.young. d’bi has toured all over the world with her unique blend of dub poetry and theatrical performance. Her new piece *she* will be performed at FemFest and will include a special performance for the Peace and Justice Society Conference. On the local front sixteen women playwrights, ranging from seasoned writers Maureen Hunter and Margaret Sweatman to exciting emerging writers, will be launching a new anthology at FemFest. The collection of scenes is targeted at young female performers. FemFest will also continue its tradition of supporting female artists in other disciplines through its cabaret evenings. We are excited to welcome back drumming group Insisto and alternative band Mad Young Darlings for these evenings. There is truly something for everyone!

FemFest runs at the Canwest Centre for Theatre and Film (at the University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony Street) from September 25th-October 2nd, 2010. Tickets are \$10 for single shows with the full festival being available for a \$50 festival pass. FemFest welcomes all audience members to join in a celebration of female artists and experience a taste of the local and national art scene.

About Sarasvati Productions: *Sarasvati Dramatic Theatre Productions and Repertory Inc. (founded in Winnipeg in 2000) seeks to inspire artists and audiences through the use of theatre and to provide a place where artists can develop, showcase their skills and celebrate their creativity.*

About FemFest: *Founded in 2003 by Sarasvati Productions, FemFest presents the work of both established and emerging artists from across Canada. The festival’s mandate is to produce one-act plays by women and showcase women theatre artists.*

An exclusive sneak-peek at the FemFest 2010: *On the Edge* performance line-up!

IN-HOUSE PRODUCTIONS

Kayak by Jordan Hall (Toronto)

When the next big flood comes will you hold on tight to preserve your way of life while others perish? Annie Iverson is forced to question her comfortable existence when her son's radical environmentalist girlfriend disrupts her life plan.

No Offense... collaboratively developed by Sarasvati Productions and Fringe Benefits Theatre

This interactive theatre experience was created by over 30 youth, artists and community members. Racial tensions run high when an aboriginal and a white student are found fighting. Based on real stories this no holds bar portrayal is certain to inspire dialogue.

Generation Next: An Evening of Contemporary Scenes for Young Women

coordinated by Cairn Moore (Winnipeg)

What do you get when you mix 16 women playwrights, 8 actors and 4 directors? A riveting collection of scenes for young female performers. From break-ups to political kidnapping, the scenes range from the absurdly comic to the dramatic.

Playwrights Revealed

Manitoba Culture Days Free Public Event
in association with the Manitoba Association of Playwrights and Thin Air: Winnipeg International Writers Festival

Hear an exciting selection of national and local playwrights read from their work and answer questions about the playwriting process.

SHORTS

Exciting one-woman shorts presented throughout the festival:

Chelle by Beverly Akerman (Montreal)

Mrs. Ferguson's Bed Sherryl Melnyk (Calgary)

READINGS OF NEW SCRIPTS IN DEVELOPMENT

Breast Milk, Best Milk

by Primrose Madayan Knazan (Winnipeg)

Caught between militant breastfeeding advocates and the need to provide sustenance for her son, frustration, extreme exhaustion and stress drive a new mother to the brink of insanity.

Shiksa

by Cairn Moore (Winnipeg)

Painter Emma, meets attorney Zak. Zak is Jewish. Emma is not. When Zak's parents discover he is living with a Shiksa, he must choose between the love of his parents and the love of his life.

PRESENTED PIECES

RAUNCH: The Rise of The Female Chauvinist Pigs!

written and performed by Alice Nelson and Jacqueline Russell (Calgary)

produced by Alice Nelson and Jacqueline Russell

Breast Implant Websites, Kinderwhores, *Girls Gone Wild*: is this the face of "New Feminism"? A performance that leaps from Lolitas to MILFs, Aerobic Striptease to labioplasty incorporating clown, puppetry, projection and monologue. Best of Fest Winnipeg Fringe 2009!

she

written and performed by d'bi.young (toronto)

produced by anitafrika dub theatre

'she' is the first play in the labyrinth trilogy. it is an apocalyptic yet hopeful biomyth adventure critically commenting on the status of women in today's world through the lens of gender norms, expectations and exploitations.

All of Him

written and performed by Tanya Pillay (Toronto)

directed and dramaturged by Jajube Mandiela in association with b current performing arts corps

A live biography of a jovial father with a dark past who asked: is that all there is to me? This intimate eulogy invites your comments and questions amidst the mix of cheer and smear.

The Vajayjay Monologues

written and performed by Lindsay Burns (Calgary)

directed by Vicki Stroich

A remix, revolt and call for revolution, *The Vajayjay Monologues* is feminism with a killer sense of humour. It is an inspiring and hilarious call to action, which has been performed for sold out audiences across Canada and in New York.

CABARETS

Two evenings, featuring an exciting mix of artists from all disciplines! The closing cabaret will also be a celebration of Sarasvati Production's decade of difference in Winnipeg.