



Sarasvati Productions' World Premiere

An Epic Undertaking

Winnipeg, March 20, 2011— From April 27 to May 13 Sarasvati will present the world premiere of *EDEN*. It is the largest project the company has undertaken in its eleven year history in Winnipeg. For an independent theatre it is momentous and will certainly be an important artistic event showcasing numerous local artists!

In its almost 12 year history in Winnipeg, Sarasvati Productions has produced dozens of small scale shows. FemFest, their annual festival of plays by women, is by far their largest event and they have also coordinated numerous tours both within Winnipeg high schools and to other locations in Manitoba. After over a decade of work the company has decided it is time to take the risk and mount a 'mainstage' show with full design complements, use of video, a large cast and an experienced professional team. *EDEN* will certainly be an experience audiences will not want to miss.

"As a writer it is an amazing journey; to finally see the piece coming to fruition is like watching a dream take shape," says Artistic Director and playwright Hope McIntyre. "The seed for this play was born after 9/11 in watching the use of fear tactics to justify the abuse of human rights. It frightened me to think where that could lead us as a society." *EDEN* is set in a dystopian future and focuses on two 15-year olds who have inherited a world built on lies and manipulation. It is a powerful exploration of truth and justice, but also weaves in the reality of how marginalized groups are blamed for the world's troubles, in this case the First Nations population who have been relegated to living underground in the play.

This is a large step forward for the company and an important artistic work. Directed by local playwright and performer Sharon Bajer, the premiere will feature Winnipeg stage veterans Ti Hallas, Marsha Knight, Tracy Penner, Steven Ratzlaff and Tom Soares. Joining the cast are emerging artists Kevin Anderson, Andrea del Campo and Kevin Gabel. Rounding out the artistic ensemble is a strong design team including set designer Kim Griffin, lighting designer Dean Cowieson, costume designer Kelsey Noren, sound designer Chris Coyne and Jordan Popowich creating the video component of the play.

The development of the play was supported through the Winnipeg Arts Council New Creations program and the premiere is being supported by the Manitoba Arts Council. *EDEN* will run April 27 to May 13, Wednesday through Saturday at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm. Performances are at the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (at the University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony Street). Tickets are \$18 adults and \$12 students/seniors, and can be purchased at www.sarasvati.ca or reserved at 586-2236.

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 and showcase their skills, and celebrate their creativity.