

## ***Sarasvati Productions Launches an Incredible Season!***

**Winnipeg, August 23, 2011**– This morning, at 10 a.m. Sarasvati Productions launched its 11<sup>th</sup> and most ambitious season yet. The announcement was held at the Canwest Centre for Theatre and Film at the University of Winnipeg. Sarasvati Productions’ supporters, artists, staff, board and committee members were present to share in the excitement of the season, aptly titled *Blooming with Inspiration*.

“It was wonderful to be able to announce a line-up that I am personally and artistically inspired by,” said Artistic Director Hope McIntyre. “The season is the fruition of work we have been developing for a long time and it was great to allow our artists to share a sample of what they have been creating and receive an overwhelmingly enthusiastic response.”

President of Sarasvati Productions’ Board Janet Taylor began the presentation with opening words of welcome, and expressed her joy in being a part of the great work Sarasvati creates through transformative theatre. Artistic Director Hope McIntyre then outlined the upcoming season starting with FemFest.

FemFest 2011’s theme is Staging Inspiration. The festival of plays by women, for everyone has been a staple annually in Sarasvati Productions’ seasons since 2003. This year it will run from September 17-24 at the Canwest Centre for Theatre and Film at the University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony Street. McIntyre highlighted the addition, for the first time, of work for children and guest artist in residence Zena Edwards.

An excerpt from *Magpie* by Katherine Koller was presented. This piece features actors Jane Burpee, Adam Charbonneau, Nan Fewchuk and Karl Thordarson. *Jail Baby*, a piece being workshopped as part of FemFest was then highlighted. Then Jane Burpee treated the audience to an excerpt from the monologue *Eleanor Roosevelt* by Ginny Collins, which will be part of this year’s Cabaret of Monologues. Finally the world premiere of *EDEN* was announced, slated for a performance run from April 27 to May 13.

Committee members Ti Hallas and Pamela Hadder spoke of two exciting fundraising ventures Sarasvati Productions is introducing this year. Love Blooms was launched on August 1st. A Sarasvati themed bouquet can be purchased from Sonya’s Flowers (1459 Main St.) for \$20, and for each bouquet sold \$5 will support the work of Sarasvati Productions. As well, they announced an exciting new event – and presented a challenge to the media. So You Think You Can Act will pit local celebrities against one another to see who has acting chops. The gauntlet was thrown down to the media – which on-air personalities have what it takes? Do the print media have more stage presence than the deejays? Who will win the coveted trophy, and bragging rights?

Following the presentation, attendees enjoyed refreshments, and coffee and tea (provided by San Vito Coffee House). The guests enjoyed themselves as they mingled with artists and each other.

**About Sarasvati Productions:** *We seek 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.*