

FemFest 2013 a Theatrical Revolution!

Winnipeg, June 11, 2013 –Sarasvati Productions presents **FemFest 2013: Revelation and Revolution**, the 11th annual theatre festival of life changing theatre, written by women, for everyone. This year's lineup includes an exciting mix of artists who are using performance to see the world in a different light and explore notions of revolution. It will be an amazing showcase of talent from across the country as well as a celebration of local female artists.

On the local front, we are especially excited to begin a new play development process with VOICES, Manitoba's Youth in Care. FemFest 2013 will include a workshop presentation of a new, interactive theatre piece exploring experiences in foster care entitled *Giving Voice*. As well emerging playwright Jessy Arden will premiere her new play Harold and Vivian Entertain Guests at FemFest. This piece won last year's inaugural Bake-Off competition at FemFest and was selected by the audience to be showcased this year.

We are also thrilled about our visiting touring artists, including Governor General Award for Drama nominee Lisa Codrington, critically acclaimed writers and performers, Liza Paul and Bahia Watson, and Montreal's Christine Rodriguez. As part of FemFest, these visiting guests will perform and facilitate workshops for the community.

FemFest runs at the University of Winnipeg **Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (400 Colony Street)** from **September 14-21, 2013**. 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-Peak at the FemFest 2013: *Revelation and Revolution* Performance Line-Up!

FULL PRODUCTIONS

Harold and Vivian Entertain Guests by Jessy Arden

Harold and Vivian married out of spite. The absurd world they have created for themselves is disrupted when new neighbours, newlywed Mike and Janet, come to say hello. As the two couples interact, holes are shown in the relationship of Mike and Janet, while it also becomes clear that perhaps Harold and Vivian truly deserve each other.

Flood Control by Marilyn Anne Campbell

Lonely Ray stands on a bridge, building up the nerve to end his life, when he's interrupted by Gina, a highly-organized woman who has come to kill herself simply because she has nothing left to do. Finding what is missing from their lives is a revelation for the characters.

DEVELOPMENTAL WORK:

Bake-Off

Selected playwrights are given a list of ingredients and have two weeks to mix up a script! The staged readings of the resulting pieces will be like a dessert buffet with tasty treats and plenty of delightful surprises.

Giving Voice with VOICES

This new play will be developed in the Forum theatre method with workshop sessions with youth in foster care. The final product will be interactive and explore the issues that foster children have had to deal with from the stigma to the transition to adulthood after care.

Perfect Love by Talia Pura

An exploration of the role gender plays in relationships. If the sexual orientation continuum is a sliding scale, is relationship-based dialogue any different for male and female characters?

SHORTS:

The Exchange by Katherine Koller

Shauna doesn't know Molly, but Molly knows Shauna by appearance, by reputation, and by name. Molly has come to trade lives.

Short-List

As fillers throughout the festival, we will offer audiences the chance to hear excerpts from scripts from the FemFest shortlist.

TOURING PIECES:

Dreaming in Autism by Christine Rodriguez

La Tigresse Productions (Montreal)

Enter the world of a mother who has high hopes for her new baby boy but soon learns that he has autism. She is forced not only to deal with the disappointment and challenges but also to take on the struggle to help her son thrive and become socially accepted. Sad, funny, but mostly full of love.

pomme is french for apple by liza paul and

bahia watson

paulwatson productions (Toronto)

Comprised of fast-paced series of vignettes, this vaudevillian two-woman show is a fresh, funny, irreverent and distinctly west indian look at womanhood in all its glory: its perils, its pleasures and all kinds of madness in between.

The Aftermath by Lisa Codrington (Toronto)

After an unexpected tragedy, Jane a reclusive yet outspoken middle-age woman prepares for an impending apocalypse by lecturing the audience on the importance of emergency preparedness.

Cabarets

Plus our exciting opening and closing cabarets featuring women artists in all disciplines!