

## **FemFest 2014 Will Pack a Powerful Punch!**

Winnipeg, June 4, 2014 –A tattooed teen, family feuds, Immaculate Conception and a paranormal comedy – this diverse range of plays all explore the theme of power! Sarasvati Productions presents *FemFest 2014: She's Got The Power*, the 12th annual theatre festival of life changing theatre written by women for everyone. This year's line-up explores how power shapes and defines the ways we interact with others and the world around us. Featuring local and national talent, *FemFest2014* invites Winnipeg audiences to experience theatre that challenges the status quo while empowering the voiceless.

"I have the great pleasure of bringing in some of this country's super powers of theatre for FemFest," says Hope McIntyre, Artistic Director of Sarasvati Productions. "This year we will again showcase an array of incredible artists but it is unique in the fact that it will also celebrate the power of storytelling to be used for good."

Not only does *FemFest2014* squeeze war, psychic abilities, tattoo addictions, and free brownies into this year's line-up, it also features interactive and educational workshops by guest artists. One workshop by Vancouver-based playwright Tara Travis will facilitate communication through the use of outspoken puppets. Travis has been a hit at recent Fringe Festivals with her performance of *Till Death: The Six Wives of Henry VIII*, which received rave reviews. Of course the festival also continues the tradition of developing local playwrights with the world premiere of two plays: Rebecca Gibson's *The Naked Woman* was chosen by last year's Bake-Off audience and will receive a full production and Tyler White's *Launched* was in the Bake-Off two years ago. FemFest is truly helping to create and showcase the work of female artists!

FemFest runs at the University of Winnipeg Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (400 Colony Street) from September 13-20, 2014. Tickets are \$10 for single shows with the full festival being available for a \$50 festival pass. Tickets can be purchased at [www.sarasvati.ca](http://www.sarasvati.ca) or by calling 204-586-2236. 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 2014: *She's Got The Power*

### Performance Line-Up!

#### IN-HOUSE PRODUCTIONS

***The Naked Woman*** by Rebecca Gibson

A comedy about aging, loss, regret and the ability to move forward. Helen is 84 years old and has recently lost her husband. When she decides to stop wearing clothes, everyone thinks she is either overcome with grief or beginning to go senile.

***Launched*** by Tyler White

After the death of their domineering mother, Cathy and her siblings wrestle with an inability to “launch”, even though they are in their late forties. Cathy decides to face her fears and follow her dream, which rocks her family’s world!

#### READINGS

***Bake-Off*** directed by Cairn Moore

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. In partnership with the Manitoba Association of Playwrights

***Skin Deep*** by Alison Mclean

At the age of 19, Joanna considers herself a rebel. She moved out when she was 18 and thinks she’s doing pretty well in the real world. But does her secret weapon give her enough power when it comes time for her mother’s second wedding and a strapless bridesmaid’s gown?

***German Silver*** by Priscilla Yakielashek

The new government is seeking out everyone it perceives as a threat. A group of strangers spend their last hours together and question those they’ve chosen to die with. Have they held onto their humanity as firmly as they expected? What does dignity matter, when the end is the same?

#### *Short-List*

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

#### TOURING SHOWS

***8 Ways My Mother Was Conceived*** produced by Mary Beth Productions (Montreal, QC)

directed By Tamara Brown

written and performed by Michaela Di Cesare  
Due to her eccentric Italian family’s belief that her mother was conceived à la Jesus Christ (sans sex), a young woman suffers from a Virgin Complex.

***Herewithal: A Paranormal Comedy*** a Sticky Fingers Production (Vancouver, B.C.),

written by Jim and Tara Travis with verbatim text from psychic readings

designed and performed by Tara Travis  
directed by Jim Travis

Tara Travis talks to dead people. It’s true, she’s experienced a variety of other-worldly encounters and is ready to share her shocking revelations. Witness verbatim reenactments of actual psychic readings, experience some surprising puppetry, and sample fresh baked brownies (secret family recipe provided courtesy of the spirit world!)

***River*** story conceived and performed by Rubena Sinha (Toronto, On)

In *River*, a woman must confront the past to overcome the challenges she faces in the present. *River* weaves music, personal narrative, Hindu mythology and folktales to convey her struggle to come to terms with her child’s assault, its effects on her family and the loss of her life partner.

#### CABARETS

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