

FemFest showcases the Best of Fest and nothing less

Winnipeg, August 5th, 2010– Sarasvati Productions, the theatre company behind **FemFest 2010: *On the Edge***, an annual theatre festival of plays by women for everyone, has been doing its research- in the theatre world that is. The company has specifically scouted out two past productions from the Fringe Festival that were widely received, controversial and extremely entertaining, and will showcase them at this year's festival. This will give local theatre-goers the chance to enjoy la crème de la crème of past Fringe Productions; shows that will make them laugh and think. It is Winnipeg's best kept secret that FemFest features some of the best comedy in town and audiences can catch it all from September 25th to October 2nd!

"We specifically chose these pieces to appeal to *our* festival-goers due to their success during their first local runs, and continued success across the country, so why not bring them back for those who missed out the first time around?" says Artistic Director, Hope McIntyre. The pieces were not only chosen for their popularity, but also their controversial content. "This year FemFest is 'on the edge' and truly breaking boundaries," says McIntyre. "We aren't shying away from controversial topics and both *The Vajayjay Monologues* and *RAUNCH* are wildly hilarious send-ups of taboo subjects. Comedy works well when you can get an audience to laugh and then to realize that they are laughing at something as insane as vaginal enhancement surgery!" adds McIntyre.

The Vajayjay Monologues is a one-woman show by writer/director Lindsay Burns from Calgary that made its local debut at the Winnipeg Fringe in 2008. It is now being showcased at the Edmonton Fringe, playing to sold-out shows and getting rave reviews. The performance is a modern day response to Eve Ensler's widely popular *Vagina Monologues*. It includes hilarious discussion on such topics as LiLoh, Britney and Paris' public flashing of their "pink tacos", the new culture that is TMZ, and Oprah as the messiah to young girls and women everywhere. The piece has obvious staying power, due to the fact that it is relatable for both males and females, young and old.

Best of Fest winner at the Winnipeg Fringe in 2009, *RAUNCH: The Rise of the Chauvinist Pigs*, will yet again shock and entertain local audiences. The innovative piece was created by Alice Nelson and Jacqueline Russell, and includes the use of puppetry, clowning, and aerobic striptease to present such issues as labioplasty, breast implant websites, *Girls Gone Wild*, and Kinderwhores.

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 or \$50 for a full festival pass and are available at www.femfest.ca, by phone (586-2236) or at the door. 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 Madayag 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 Vajjay Monologues

written and performed by Lindsay Burns (Calgary)

directed by Vicki Stroich

A remix, revolt and call for revolution, *The Vajjay 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.