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## **FemFest 2012 Events Are Going Off the Grid!**

**August 9, 2012** –To celebrate its tenth anniversary FemFest is bursting at the seams with events in addition to its line-up of great theatrical performances! There are several guest artists coming to town in to celebrate ten years of showcasing the best of women playwrights. We are especially excited to announce Governor General Award winning playwright, Judith Thompson, who is one of Canada’s most celebrated and well-known writers.

Thompson will be facilitating a masterclass over two days for local playwrights, giving a lecture at the University of Winnipeg for theatre and film students, plus reading from her work.

Thompson has written several plays that have become part of the Canadian canon including *The Crackwalker*, *Lion in the Streets* and *White Biting Dog*. With a huge list of works and awards to her name, Thompson is an ideal guest to FemFest.

“There are so many amazing female playwrights and Judith Thompson is by far one of the best,” says Artistic Director Hope McIntyre. “We are honoured to welcome her to Winnipeg for FemFest 2012 and know that she will offer a great deal to local playwrights.”

In addition to Thompson, FemFest will welcome Toronto playwright Marcia Johnson, whose play *Binti’s Journey* ran at MTYP a couple years ago. Aside from participating in FemFest 2012’s new Bake Off initiative, Johnson will be sharing her most recent work during a special lunch time reading on Tuesday, September 18 at Aqua Books. Vancouver playwright Jordan Hall, whose play *Kayak* ran at FemFest 2010 and went on to win the Samuel French Canadian Play award will also be in town to read from her new play *The Possible Lives of Dolores Garcia Rodriguez* as part of the ‘Shorts’ series FemFest will host between full productions. The ‘Shorts’ also include work by an array of Canadian playwrights, giving the audience a taste of great work by women in between other shows in the festival. There will truly be something for everyone!

**FemFest 2012: *Staging Identity*** runs from **September 15-22, 2012** at the **Asper Centre for Theatre and Film** (at the University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony Street). For more information regarding show times and ticket information, please visit [www.femfest.ca](http://www.femfest.ca).

*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.*

## **Sarasvati Productions – FemFest 2012: Staging Identity Ancillary Events**

### **Marcia Johnson Reading**

September 18, 12:30pm-1:15pm

Aqua Books (123 Princess Street)

Made possible through the support of the Canada Council for the Arts and Playwrights Guild of Canada

### **MasterClass with Judith Thompson**

Sponsored by the Playwrights Guild of Canada

September 18, 3-6pm and September 19, 9am-12noon

Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (at the University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony Street)

### **The Real Thing Lecture with Judith Thompson**

Sponsored by the University of Winnipeg Department of Theatre and Film

September 19, 12:30-1:20pm

Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (at the University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony Street)

### **Judith Thompson Reading and Reception**

September 19, 5pm

Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (at the University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony Street)

### **FemFest Shorts**

Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (at the University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony Street)

September 19, 8:15pm

*Is It Wednesday?* by Pam Calabrese MacLean

*Naked* by Lisa Rose Snow

*Virgin* by Joan Kivanda

September 20, 8:15pm

*Is It Wednesday?* by Pam Calabrese MacLean

*In the Valley* by Natasha MacLellan

September 21, 8:15pm

*The Possible Lives of Dolores Garcia Rodriguez* by Jordan Hall

Special reading by Jordan Hall

Made possible through the support of the Canada Council for the Arts and Playwrights Guild of Canada

September 22, 8:15pm

*Is It Wednesday?* by Pam Calabrese MacLean

*Hungry Wolf* by Cornelia Hoogland