

Culture Days event kicks off week-long theatre festival

Winnipeg, August 30, 2010– For the first time since its inception in 2003, *FemFest*, Winnipeg’s annual theatre festival for female playwrights, will kick off with a free event. As strong supporters and participants in the Culture Days extravaganza, *FemFest 2010: On the Edge* will feature ***Playwrights Revealed***. In keeping with the Culture Days mandate, the free event will give those interested in culture in Winnipeg the chance to experience it free of charge. The event is also a rare opportunity for audiences to explore the creative process and the role of the playwright. *FemFest 2010* runs from September 25th to October 2nd and ***Playwrights Revealed*** will take place on September 25th, 2010 at 2pm.

This exciting event is being offered in partnership with the Manitoba Association of Playwrights and Thin Air: Winnipeg International Writers Festival. It coincides with Winnipeg welcoming the Playwright Development Centres of Canada for meetings hosted by the Manitoba Association of Playwrights. "It is a great honor for MAP to host the national meeting of Canada's Playwrights Centres which play such a vital role in the development and presentations of our country's playwrights. It is especially important for Winnipeg to hear from playwrights outside our community who offer other voices in theatre from coast to coast," says Rory Runnells Coordinator of the Manitoba Association of Playwrights. "This is a unique experience that can be enjoyed free of charge thanks to Culture Days and the organizers of FemFest," adds Runnells.

Of the five playwrights featured two are based locally here in Winnipeg. Celeste Sansregret is a writer in theatre, film, and television. Her most recent work is the Winnipeg Fringe Festival hit *Breast Friends*. Maureen Hunter is one of Canada’s most accomplished playwrights, having been nominated for numerous prestigious awards. Other playwrights include: Beverly Akerman (Montreal), the only Canadian playwright who has also sequenced her own DNA, Shirley Barrie (Toronto) President of the Playwrights Guild of Canada; and Jenny Munday (Sackville, NB) winner of Theatre of Nova Scotia Special Merritt Award and Artistic Director of Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre.

All FemFest events take place at the Canwest Centre for Theatre and Film (at the University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony Street). Admission is free for ***Playwrights Revealed***.

This activity is supported by the Playwrights Guild of Canada and the Canada Council for the Arts.

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.*