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SARASVATI PRODUCTIONS

THE PULSE

Up & Coming

Women in Conflict with the Law Project

After months of work there is now a script entitled *Jail Baby!* By June the piece will have been read for an invited audience at the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba and with women in the Edmonton Institution for Women. We are excited to announce that a workshop presentation of this new play, developed after drama sessions with incarcerated women, will be included at FemFest 2011. Part parody, part human tragedy – find out what really happens to ‘unruly women’ as they revolve in and out of the criminal justice system.

FemFest 2011: Staging Inspiration

September 17—24, 2011 @ Canwest Centre for Theatre and Film

A stellar line-up of work has just been announced for FemFest 2011, our ninth annual festival celebrating female playwrights. We are particularly excited to be welcoming international guest artist Zena Edwards from England. She will perform her new work *Traveling Light*, conduct a workshop exploring the intersection of poetry and drama, and meet with emerging artists. In addition we will be welcoming touring shows from Regina, St. John’s and Toronto as well as producing *Magpie* by Katherine Koller and offering showcasing opportunities to new works in development. There will certainly be something for everyone and we encourage you to check back regularly at www.sarasvati.ca for all the latest news.



Zena Edwards

GENERAL AUDITIONS—June 17&18

Book a slot by calling 586-2236 or e-mailing production@sarasvati.ca.

Come and Gone

IWW Cabaret of Monologues

We celebrated the 100th anniversary of International Women’s Day with an amazing line-up of monologues. Aside from two performances on March 12th we also did special performances at Sage House and for Genesis House in Winkler. Thank you to our fabulous artists and audiences!



Support Sarasvati Productions

If you care about the work we do, we can use your help! As a registered charity we provide tax receipts for donations of \$10 or more. Mail in a donation to the address on the back, donate through our website or donate to our endowment fund at the Winnipeg Foundation (www.wpgfdn.org).



Vision Statement

Sarasvati Productions embodies the spirit of its namesake in its desire to inspire artists and audiences through the use of theatre. Sarasvati is a place where artists can develop and showcase their skills, while celebrating their creativity and pushing the boundaries of the theatrical medium. In connecting with community groups, Sarasvati insists upon a theatre that is fulfilling for both participants and audience alike. The company’s vision is one of inclusion, where artists and audiences of all backgrounds come together to experience what it means to be human.

Become a Sarasvati Supporter today!

242 Cathedral Avenue
Winnipeg, MB
R2W 0X3

Phone: 204-586-2236
E-mail: info@sarasvati.ca
www.sarasvati.ca

We have sent this newsletter to everyone on our mailing list, including those who requested more information while completing our surveys and past artists who have worked with us. We respect your privacy; if you would like to be removed from our mailing list or change your contact information please let us know.

Tidbits

FemFest 2011 will include theatre for young audiences for the first time! We are pleased to be doing a workshop of *TopDogs* by Janice Salkeld and a reading of *Bear and Blue's Adventures Through the Whispering Woods* by Tyler White.



RISING STAR

Rose Condo

We are pleased to be supporting the development process of (*africanada*): *a love story* by Rose Condo at FemFest 2011.

Does the patch of earth you were born on determine who you are and where you can go? Using traditional forms of storytelling, dance, and drumming, this new script follows a young woman as she explores identity and nationality in lands both near to and far from her home.

Rose has worked for many years as an actor, director, playwright and educator. In 2003 she wrote and performed *PYG* which was published in an anthology by Scirocco Drama in 2004, and was produced by Hamilton's Black Box Fire Theatre Company in 2009. In 2005, Rose was commissioned by the Edinburgh International Science Festival to write *Sorted*. Rose

dramaturged, directed and produced the Canadian premiere of *Schools*, written by East African playwright Troy Howe for the 2009 Winnipeg Fringe. She has taught with Prairie Theatre Exchange, Manitoba Theatre for Young People, and the Youth Peace-building Project. While studying for her MA in Theatre and Development at the University of Leeds in England, Rose worked with Mind the Gap Theatre (a company of adult actors with learning disabilities) and Tales in Transit (a company devoted to offering theatre experiences to newcomers). She also travelled to Kenya where she worked with drama students at Kayole One Primary School in Nairobi.

Recently, Rose helped to launch a Community Arts Training Project with Clownwise Inc. in Winnipeg. Rose is currently the Administrator for the Aboriginal Arts Train-

ing and Mentorship Program at MTYP, and she is an instructor in the Department of Theatre and Film at the University of Winnipeg.




Hands Up

We would like to welcome Myrna Donald to the Board of Directors. Myrna works in data entry at the U of M, but has also worked as a physiotherapist in every province in the country.

Also a warm welcome to our summer students - Jacqueline Robertson (Production Assistant) and Terryn Shiells (Marketing and Community Outreach Assistant). Jacqueline is a U of W student in the Department of Theatre and Film. Her goal is to become a production manager. Terryn is a student in the Creative Communications Program at Red River who also took theatre at U of M. They both bring a lot of energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the Sarasvati office.



Hands Out

Our Board has been working hard to raise funds for our upcoming season of work. We have an ambitious year ahead of us with FemFest, several community projects and premiering *EDEN* in the spring of 2012. If you weren't able to join us for our fundraising Beer College on May 30th, please consider making a gift to the company. You will not only be supporting us, but supporting local artists.

If you can't make a monetary contribution, consider giving of your time. We love to add volunteers to our list either to help out at events or to sit on one of our committees.



Testimonials

As a native Calgarian I was very excited to take part in Femfest. There is nothing like this in my town. This is a festival that embraces the newcomer and the professional, creating a multitude of experiences and opportunities. It is unique and necessary. -Lindsay Burns, performer/playwright *The Vajayjay Monologues*

Presenting written work by women artists in your own community brings a deeper level of enjoyment and pride to the artistic process. Being part of a playwright's experience watching their piece transition from the page to the stage motivates and challenges me in ways I have never experienced before. Especially since, at FemFest, the playwright will most likely be in the audience! FemFest has allowed me to contribute to the festival both as a performer and a director, giving me the opportunity to support the women playwrights in my community, while developing my own skills as an artist. Thank you, FemFest! - Elena Anciro, performer *Generation NeXXt*