



t r a n s f o r m a t i v e t h e a t r e

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Sarasvati Productions presents *No Offense...*
Fall 2010 High School and Community Tour!

After developing this piece in 2009, we are pleased to be touring throughout Winnipeg and the surrounding area. Taking the play to youth and into high schools where it truly needs to be seen. This no-holds-barred, interactive theatrical experience features youth performers tackling racism in high school.

Special Public Presentations – at FemFest (at the Canwest Centre for Theatre and Film, 400 Colony Street):
Sunday, September 26th and Tuesday, September 28th at 2pm

Touring Communities and Schools in Winnipeg and Surrounding Areas:
October 4 – November 12, 2010

Give your students or community the powerful experience of live theatre. Book the touring version of the show or bring students to the theatre for the special preview as part of FemFest 2010.

In *No Offense...* Racial tensions run high when an aboriginal and a white student are found fighting in the hallways of Barberry High. A mock trial is held to get to the root of the conflict. As students and teacher testify, it becomes clear how racism has been overlooked in the school. How jokes, stereotypes and misconceptions created a stressful environment where someone was bound to lash out. How discrimination ultimately lead to conflict and destructive behaviour. What makes *No Offense...* so unique, is that it allows students to share their thoughts and suggestions about situations that are played out in front them on stage.

Background

This interactive theatre experience was created by over 30 youth, artists and community members with the guidance of Sarasvati Productions and Fringe Benefits Theatre. It was created in Forum theatre style, whereby youth shared their experiences and stories as inspiration for the play. As a result what is being portrayed is all based on real experiences in Winnipeg high schools. Another component of the Forum theatre style is that after the play is performed, scenes are replayed and the audience is able to stop the action and step in with solutions to the racist behaviour. This provides a chance for those watching to discuss what happens and participate in changing the ending.

Testimonials:

It was an exhilarating experience. Through the development of the piece, we got to sit together and share our past experiences with racism. The level of equality in the room was amazing, young or adult it was all the same. It allowed me to see these new faces as people just like myself, human beings each just as vulnerable as the next. It was a very thought provoking process. As I sat there listening to their stories I realized, "Every person here tonight has experienced racism in one way or another. This is something the public needs to be aware of; because chances are, they are affected by discrimination just as much as the people in this room."
– Ashley Chartrand, 16-year old aboriginal participant in the creation of *No Offense...*

No Offense is a great show -- the high school audience at the preview was totally captivated. It's utterly authentic, it's about something real. Its truthfulness was a breath of fresh air.
– Kent Suss, Theatre School Director Manitoba Theatre for Young People