

Up & Coming

International Women's Week Cabaret of Monologues *March 12 8pm* *Colin Jackson Studio Theatre (at Prairie Theatre Exchange)*



We are pleased to announce that due to the centenary of International Women's Day, we are bringing back our cabaret of monologues. From 2003 to 2008 we annually performed a series of monologues giving voice to the diversity of women's experience. We've toured the monologues as far as The Pas and into correctional centres and women's facilities. We are excited to be gathering a group of female performers together to perform a new array of monologues. Aside from the two public performances we will once again be offering the line-up to community groups looking who are looking for a way to celebrate! The last time we performed the cabaret it sold out so be sure to reserve early and be part of this amazing initiative.

Women in Conflict with the Law Project

We have begun work in partnership with the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba to share theatre skills with incarcerated women, as well as working with recently released women to develop a theatrical performance that will tell their stories. After completing sessions with women at Elizabeth Fry, our artists have been amazed by their strength and resilience. We are even more confident that this project will serve an important need, both empowering the women through theatre workshops and also creating a script that will serve to tell the real story of incarcerated women. In this way, we can help to educate the wider public about what these women need in order to break the cycle of recidivism.

Come and Gone

FemFest 2010: On the Edge

Another FemFest has gone by and it included some of the strongest programming yet. From the launch of the festival by Mayor Sam Katz to our closing celebrating Sarasvati's ten years in Winnipeg, it was a packed week. Our special guest d'bi.young wowed audiences both with her performances and workshops. Welcoming Lindsay Burns, Alice Nelson, Jacqueline Russell and Tanya Pillay rounded out the festival with exciting and edgy work. Our cabarets continued to be a popular smorgasbord of music, dance, art and video featuring dozens of female artists. A big than you to all FemFest supporters. FemFest 2011 is already in the works!



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 or donate to our endowment fund at the Winnipeg Foundation (www.wpgfdn.org).



Become a Sarasvati Supporter today!

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.

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

Although Sarasvati will not be participating in this year's Master Playwright's Festival, StrindbergFest, our Artistic Director Hope McIntyre will be directing *The Ghost Sonata* for the University of Winnipeg.



RISING STAR

Braiden Houle

Sarasvati was proud to welcome Braiden Houle back to play the role of JR in *No Offense...* for the tour to high schools and communities. Braiden was part of the original creation group and did the staged reading of the piece at FemFest 2009 before premiering it at FemFest 2010.

Braiden began his acting career at the young age of 11, where he landed his first role in the performance called *Juliana and the Medicine Fish*, and played the part of Cub Smoke. Since that time, he has landed roles in numerous plays, films, and even radio. His inspiration comes from witnessing his distant cousin Adam Beach star in various TV shows and film, and Braiden hopes he can someday mount to be an amazing actor like him. Braiden also TA's the Aboriginal Arts Training and Mentorship



Hands Up

We would like to officially welcome new Board member Richard Beamish. Richard is a partner at Tapper Cuddy LLP, as well as an active member in the community.



Hands Out

We are doing our annual recruitment for new Committee and Board members as we approach our annual general meeting. If you've ever thought about giving back, this is a great way to get involved. Give us a call today!

We are planning our first major annual fundraiser this spring and need volunteers to help with the event planning. The gala evening will be entitled "So You Think You Can Act" and will feature local celebrities testing their acting abilities. Call us and join the event committee to be part of this unique event.

We still have a few copies of the anthology *Generation NeXXt*, which was launched at FemFest in September. Proceeds from books sold through our office go towards our on-going programming. At just \$18 for a collection of 16 scenes by an array of female playwrights, it's a real bargain!



Testimonials

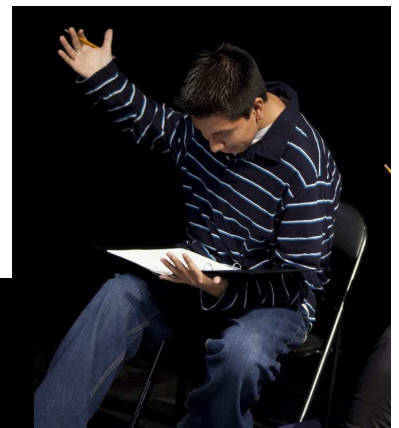
FemFest 2010

As an emerging writer and now playwright, having my work accepted and presented by the gifted actor Nan Fewchuk—three times over 10 days, no less!—was one of the peak experiences of my year. And of my career-to-date. FemFest has allowed me to cross over from short story writer to playwright, to access financial support through the generosity of the Canada Council and the Playwrights Guild. My participation in Sarasvati's FemFest 2010 represented not just one small step for this woman, but a giant leap towards deepening my craft.—Beverly Akerman

No Offense... tour

The students and I found the forum aspect of the production really beneficial. As spectators, they were able to play out their outrage to the injustice of the story. They were able to change the outcome instead of just sitting back and watching, disgusted and angry at the characters' behaviour and poor choices. This was particularly powerful because it later helped my students to make connections to all forms of discrimination and oppression, not just racism, and the power of standing up and speaking out.—Julianne Hoyak, Steinbach Regional Secondary School

program at Manitoba Theatre for Young People, and alas, has had a vast amount of training in workshops regarding writing, miming, comedy, and others. Braiden Houle is dedicated to acting and is very excited to be a part of *No Offense...* He hopes to continue to work with this company and see the script soar throughout the years.



Braiden in *No Offense...*