

Winnipeg lawyers step into the spotlight for *Jail Baby*!

Winnipeg, May 7, 2013: Lawyers have a knack for performing and Winnipeggers have a unique opportunity to see them poke fun of the legal system on stage. Several prominent Winnipeg lawyers have signed on to participate in cameo appearances in *Jail Baby*, Sarasvati Production's latest play, set to premiere next week.

Most of the participating lawyers have some experience in acting, although none have previously worked with Sarasvati Productions. Saul Simmonds (founding partner Gindin Wolson Simmonds Roitenberg), Rachel Margolis (partner, Aikins Law), Bonnie Gembey (Gembey Law Office) and Amanda Sansregret (Legal Aid Manitoba) all share previous acting experience; Loretta Ross (Executive Director of the Fox Lake Cree Nations negotiations office) will be taking to the stage for the first time. The lawyers had one rehearsal with the cast and are excited to perform in a surreal Alice in Wonderland inspired Kangaroo Court scene, where they play a dithering old judge. Each lawyer will be performing twice.

Sarasvati Productions, in partnership with the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba, developed *Jail Baby* over the past three years out of the desire to bring the stories of incarcerated or recently released women to the forefront of public discussion. Over 60 women from correctional institutions from Manitoba and Alberta participated in drama workshops and interviews. As well, research and interviews were conducted with corrections workers, mediation services, victim services and families of incarcerated women.

"Since the play is about the justice system, it only made sense to include these professionals," says Hope McIntyre, Sarasvati Productions Artistic Director and one of the playwrights for *Jail Baby*. "So much of our work is community outreach and this is a great way to bring the play full circle and involve the legal community. Plus it will be a blast for audiences to see these lawyers in a new light!"

Saul Simmonds will be performing on May 16 & 17; Bonnie Gembey May 19 & 21; Loretta Ross May 18 & 26; Amanda Sansregret May 22 & 23 and Rachel Margolis on May 24 & 25.

Jail Baby runs from **May 16-26, 2013** at the **University of Winnipeg Asper Centre for Theatre and Film** (400 Colony Street). Tickets are \$18 or \$12 for students and seniors. To purchase tickets and to see show times, please visit www.sarasvati.ca.

About Sarasvati Productions: *Sarasvati Dramatic Theatre Producers 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 and showcase their skills and celebrate their creativity.*

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