

Jail Baby Takes Audiences Behind Bars!

Winnipeg, April 1 2013: An amazing Winnipeg artistic team tackles the world premiere of a play created with incarcerated women. After three years in development, Sarasvati Productions will be debuting *Jail Baby* to eager Winnipeg audiences this May. This one of a kind production goes deep inside prisons to tell the real stories of women and crime.

This unique project was developed in partnership with the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba. Artists Nan Fewchuk, Marsha Knight, Hope McIntyre and Cairn Moore went inside several correctional institutions and conducted drama sessions with dozens of women. McIntyre and Moore then wrote the script that was subsequently brought back to women in federal institutions to have them read it and workshop the play.

Jasmine bursts into the world unlike your typical new born child and is anointed a “jail baby”. Born in prison and raised by a mother who revolves in and out of the correctional system. Is she destined to become one of society’s “monsters”. The play contrasts this true to life story of struggle with hilarious parody of the myths of incarceration - from B movies to reality television!

“Our challenge as a theatre company is to take these amazing stories and a ton of research material and sculpt it into a strong, engaging and thought-provoking artistic product,” says Hope McIntyre. “After several readings, workshops and input from various members of the community we are very proud of *Jail Baby*. It is funny, powerful, gritty and yet ends with possibility.”

Now the work is in the hands of Winnipeg artists. At the helm of the world premiere is director Ann Hodges, whose career has included work all over Western Canada. Sarasvati Productions is also excited to be working with veteran actors Megan McArton and Tracey Nepinak: current celebrated performers Shannon Guile (Hot Thespian Action), Daina Leitold and Cory Wojcik (*The Big League*); and emerging artists Melanie Dean (*August: Osage County*) and Ashley Chartrand.

***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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