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OFFENDERS, NEWCOMERS, GANG CULTURE, WILD WOMEN – SARASVÀTI EXPLORES IDENTITY!

Winnipeg, July 20, 2012 – Sarasvati Productions will blow you away with its 12th theatrical season in Winnipeg exploring the theme of Identity! Join us August 21st at 10am for this special season launch, *Launching Identity*, which will include a sneak peek of the unique and exciting performances that Sarasvati Productions will undertake for the 2012-2013 theatre season. The launch will be followed by a reception with the Sarasvati Productions team

“We wanted to throw a birthday party for FemFest,” says Artistic Director Hope McIntyre, “*Launching Identity* will commemorate our 10th year of FemFest and will also give us a chance to break the big news about several exciting projects we have lined up.”

This year Sarasvati Productions will be presenting a variety of works that will examine a number of issues that affect the lives of marginalized communities, including food banks, youth gangs and gun violence, women offenders and wild women. FemFest will start off the season in its traditional September slot but the season will continue with a high school tour, a new twist on our cabaret of monologues and another world premiere mainstage production in the spring of 2013!

In its twelve years in Winnipeg Sarasvati Productions has established itself as a mainstay in the independent theatre scene with its unique approach to transformative art. With its mandate to use theatre to increase human understanding the company has had a profound impact on its audiences. Last year the company produced its 9th FemFest, the highlight of which was international artist in residence Zena Edwards from the U.K. who wowed audiences with her mix of beat poetry and performance. The company also hosted its inaugural So You Think You Can Act fundraiser with local celebrity Ace Burpee walking away with the trophy. Our International Women’s Week Cabaret traveled to women’s shelters and community centres. The 2011-2012 season wrapped up with the world premiere of *EDEN*, an epic production. Throughout the last two years, the company has also been in development with community groups, creating projects for high school students and with organizations such as the Elizabeth Fry Society and Winnipeg Harvest.

***Launching Identity* takes place on Tuesday, August 21, 2012 at the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony Street) at 10am. Reception refreshments generously donated by Cake-ology and Diversity Foods.**

About Sarasvati Productions: *Sarasvati Dramatic Theatre Productions and Repertory Inc. (founded in Winnipeg in 2000) seeks to inspire artists and audiences through the use of theatre and to provide a space where artists can develop, showcase their skills and celebrate their creativity.*