

Sarasvati's Popular Cabaret Features Women of Winnipeg!

Winnipeg, January 31, 2011– Sarasvati Productions announces the return of their exciting cabaret of monologues to celebrate International Women's Week, but this year the focus is on the stories of Winnipeg women. This is the 7th time the International Women's Week Cabaret of Monologues has been done, with past performances selling out and touring to community organizations throughout Manitoba. It was decided that it was time to look to the stories of women in our own community. Audiences will have a chance to enjoy a line-up of powerful and hilarious pieces while celebrating the city's herstories.

“Our evening of monologues is our most popular event because audiences get a great night of entertainment,” says Artistic Director Hope McIntyre. “There are so many amazing women in Winnipeg now and in the past, so it promises to be a unique and truly Winnipeg celebration.”

Sarasvati Productions launched this popular event in 2004 in order to celebrate International Women's Week. Over the years it has featured dozens of monologues from playwrights across Canada. The goal is to provide a broad range of voices, issues and styles that relate to women's experiences. The Cabaret has worked with various women's groups in the past to raise funds and awareness (including the Brandon YWCA Women's Shelter, the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters, New Waves Collective, Fort Garry's Women's Centre, Osborne House, Sage House and SISTARS at the South Point Douglas Women's Centre). There are events happening all over the world to mark this special time of year. The monologues represent the diverse voices of women covering the spectrum of humour and tragedy that women experience in their lives.

The two public performances will take place on **March 9 & 10 at the Colin Jackson Studio (at Prairie Theatre Exchange, 3rd floor Portage Place Shopping Centre) at 8pm**. Tickets are only \$10 and can be reserved by phone (586-2236) or on the website (www.sarasvati.ca). In addition the work is being offered to community groups looking for a unique way to celebrate women during International Women's Week.

The topics of the monologues include: Nellie McClung who has returned from the grave to take in a Jets game, Sal's on the Bridge, the invisible women in Winnipeg's history, immigration, war brides and the erasure of aboriginal history in the region. Four local playwrights are being showcased with new monologues specifically written for the event, including emerging writer Jessy Arden, Fringe favorite Ginny Collins as well as past FemFest participants Cairn Moore and Talia Pura. In addition, Artistic Director Hope McIntyre will have some of her monologues written for Women's History Month featured in this year's line-up.

In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling on member states to proclaim a day for women's rights and international peace. Following the United Nations' lead, Canada chose March 8 as International Women's Day (IWD). Each year at this time, Canadians celebrate progress toward equality for women and their full participation, reflect on the challenges and barriers that remain, and consider future steps to achieving equality for *all* women, in *all* aspects of their lives. Over time, International Women's Day has grown into a week-long series of commemorative events and activities across the country.

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 place where artists can develop, showcase their skills and celebrate their creativity.*