

SARASVÀTI PRODUCTIONS ANNOUNCES YOUTH COMPETITION TO FIGHT RACISM

WINNIPEG, November 8, 2010 - Sarasvati Productions is encouraging youth to use the arts to confront racism head on. In conjunction with its current touring production of *No Offense...* the company is hosting a competition for youth with amazing prizes, such as an iPod.

"We are hosting this competition because stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination continue to exist in Manitoba schools and we want it to be dealt with," says Artistic Director of Sarasvati Productions, Hope McIntyre. "We want to encourage youth to participate in change and are looking forward to seeing how the play might inspire strategies to fight racism."

To enter the competition, youth can submit their ideas to combat racism. The focus is on using artistic expression to create change. Submissions can be in many different forms, including poems, drawings, videos, events, or any other creative avenues to increase the dialogue about racism and provide solutions to racist behavior.

All submissions are due by December 15, 2010. A panel of judges, including youth and artists, will choose a winner. This competition will help take the ideas in the play and bring them into a real life context, where students can use their creativity to fight racism within schools and voice their concerns. Details can be found at www.sarasvati.ca.

No Offense... is touring until mid-November throughout Manitoba. This play is targeted toward youth, complete with youth actors, highlighting the issue of racism within high schools. The play is performed in the forum theatre tradition, where audience members are given a chance to stop the action of the play and find solutions to the racism they are observing. This type of theatre allows the audience to interact with the actors and test strategies to combat racism.

"So far, the tour of *No Offense...* has been a great success and received positive reviews from students and teachers alike," McIntyre reports. "The competition will work in conjunction with the play to help reiterate the fact that these students can help put an end to racism. It completes the circle for a show that was developed by the community, performed by actors, and will now produce change in the community."

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.