

Volume 4, Issue 1

March, 2011



SARASVATI PRODUCTIONS

THE PULSE

## Up & Coming

*International Women's Week Cabaret of Monologues  
March 12 4pm & 8pm*

*Colin Jackson Studio Theatre (at Prairie Theatre Exchange)*



Why is Eleanor Roosevelt so upset that she is being quoted in inspirational calendars? What happens when Cosmo becomes your bible? How do we protect our loved ones when they are in the grips of an addiction? This year's exciting line-up of monologues will address these questions and many more. The cabaret features ten monologues, five written by local playwrights just for the event, performed by nine local actors. Join us as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. There are other activities during the week, including speakers at Union Centre (275 Broadway) followed by a march to the Legislature at 4:30pm on March 8th.

### *Women in Conflict with the Law Project*

Our artist/facilitators traveled to Edmonton at the end of February to work with women at the Edmonton Institution for Women. Script work has begun and we look forward to a public reading in May and a workshop presentation of the script at FemFest 2011.

### *FemFest 2011: Staging Inspiration*

*September 17—24, 2011 @ Canwest Centre for Theatre and Film*

A stellar line-up of work is being planned for FemFest 2011, our ninth annual festival celebrating female playwrights. The dates are set, the venue booked and the full line-up will be announced in the spring. Something to look forward to once the snow melts!

## Come and Gone

### *No Offense...*

Thousands of youth had the chance to participate in this interactive exploration of racism. We completed our tour with a final performance at the Aboriginal Circle of Educators conference on February 18th. We've had lots of interest in the show though and will explore a remount down the road.



### **Support Sarasvati Productions**

If you care about the work we do, we can use your help! As a registered charity we provide tax receipts for donations of \$10 or more. Mail in a donation to the address on the back, donate through our website or donate to our endowment fund at the Winnipeg Foundation ([www.wpgfdn.org](http://www.wpgfdn.org)).



### **Vision Statement**

Sarasvati Productions embodies the spirit of its namesake in its desire to inspire artists and audiences through the use of theatre. Sarasvati is a place where artists can develop and showcase their skills, while celebrating their creativity and pushing the boundaries of the theatrical medium. In connecting with community groups, Sarasvati insists upon a theatre that is fulfilling for both participants and audience alike. The company's vision is one of inclusion, where artists and audiences of all backgrounds come together to experience what it means to be human.

**Become a Sarasvati Supporter today!**

242 Cathedral Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB  
R2W 0X3

Phone: 204-586-2236  
E-mail: [info@sarasvati.ca](mailto:info@sarasvati.ca)  
[www.sarasvati.ca](http://www.sarasvati.ca)

We have sent this newsletter to everyone on our mailing list, including those who requested more information while completing our surveys and past artists who have worked with us. We respect your privacy; if you would like to be removed from our mailing list or change your contact information please let us know.

### Tidbits

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the declaration of International Women's Day it is interesting to note that it is a stat holiday in several countries, including Cuba and Russia. Not so in Canada.



## RISING STAR

### Jessy Ardern

Jessy Ardern is a student at the University of Winnipeg, where she spends her time studying theatre, creative writing, and the art of the last-minute essay. She is a founding member of The Struts and Frets Players, a local theatre company that specializes in the adaptation and performance of classical stories. Jessy spent two years assistant directing the Shakespeare Company at MTYP. Her work as a playwright has been seen onstage at the Winnipeg Fringe and at Sarasvati's FemFest. This past spring she tied for first place in PTE's amateur 90 minute playwriting competition. Jessy is currently working on an adaptation of the Volsunga Saga for this year's Fringe Festival with Ariel Levine, her close friend and writing partner.

Sarasvati is pleased to continue to showcase talented young writer Jessy Ardern with her



## Hands Up

We would like to thank Rose-Anne Harder for her dedicated work on the Sarasvati Productions' Board over the last five years. Rose-Anne completed her term as president at our January AGM. Although she will continue to advise new President Janet Taylor, we will miss Rose-Anne's leadership.



## Hands Out

We continue to recruit for our Fundraising and Development Committee. If you've ever thought about giving back, this is a great way to get involved and help plan unique and exciting events. Give us a call today!

We have a great team of volunteers who help out regularly at our events. We keep a list of volunteers for everything from ushering to posterizing. If you want to be added to the list contact us at [info@sarasvati.ca](mailto:info@sarasvati.ca).



## Testimonials

Over the last few years, Sarasvati Productions has given me the opportunity to grow both as an actor and as a playwright. My time working on the forum theatre production *No Offense* has introduced me to the possibilities of theatre as a tool for social justice - I really felt that I had an opportunity to connect with the audience and to create dialogue. The skills demanded for performing *No Offense* were ones that I might not otherwise have gained. As a playwright, I had my first opportunity to be published thanks to Sarasvati. The scene book *Generation NeXXt* contained a scene that I wrote under the guide of many playwrights that I might not otherwise have had a chance to meet. My time with Sarasvati has been extremely educational, and I hope to continue working with them in the future. - Jessy Ardern, performer *No Offense* / playwright *Generation NeXXt*

*No Offense...* was a meaningful activity that helped educate our students about how their actions can make a difference in how we treat others. The initial theatre piece created shock among the students which grasped their attention. The interactive portion of the program is where students really understood the power they have to make change and eradicate discrimination. This activity created a safe learning environment where students could practice how to recognize discriminatory remarks and then step in and change the situation. I highly recommend the *No Offense...* program to any school looking for tools that would help create a safe and positive environment for their students. - Anne Grossman, Guidance Counsellor Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau

new monologue *Suffragettes* as part of our International Women's Week Cabaret of Monologues. Previously Jessy's writing was included in FemFest with her scene *3:30 AM* in the *Generation NeXXt* anthology. Jessy also just wrapped up touring in *No Offense...* and her relationship with us goes back to 2008 when she was involved in the workshop of *Ripple Effect*. She is certainly a writer with great promise and we look forward to her continued theatrical contribution.



JESSY ARDERN

