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SARASVATI PRODUCTIONS

THE PULSE

Up & Coming

So You Think You Can Act *February 16th 8pm @Gas Station Arts Centre*

So You Think You Can Act is a fun fundraiser supporting the transformative theatre work of Sarasvati Productions. The evening will feature celebrities, famous for things other than theatre, testing out their acting chops in front of a panel of judges and an audience, who will select the winner. This year's theme is Love Gone Wrong in honour of the post-Valentine's Day date. Join us on February 16th at 8pm at the Gas Station Arts Centre and find out who will win the coveted trophy!

Slated to grace the stage so far are Ace Burpee (Hot 103), Randall King (WFP), Tracy Koga (Shaw TV), John Lu (TSN), Laurie Mustard (Winnipeg Sun), Al Simmons and Judy Wasylycia-Leis. Stay tuned for the announcement of the full line-up of celebrities!



EDEN by Hope McIntyre *April 27- May 13th @ Asper Centre for Theatre and Film*

EDEN is a bold and compelling new Canadian play written by Winnipeg-based playwright Hope McIntyre. It is an interdisciplinary theatre piece which combines video, music, dance and theatre to explore the notions of truth and justice. It is an exciting piece not only due to its epic nature, exploring three generations of characters in a futuristic dystopia, but also due to the large cast size and unique production demands. We are excited to be premiering this original work!

Come and Gone

Women Through the Ages—In Monologue *Women's History Month*

On October 28th we had a wonderful time sharing an evening of monologues with our partners at the Council of Women of Winnipeg and a great audience! The evening included seven pieces, ranging from comedy to drama and covering a span of over 200 years of women's stories. If you missed it stay tuned for our International Women's Week Cabaret of Monologues where some of the pieces may be brought back by popular demand.

FemFest 2011: Staging Inspiration

Thank-you to all of our artists, volunteers, audience members, and supporters for another successful festival! Over 8 days there were 23 inspiring performances, workshops and events. We are already planning for next year's festival and promise more exciting work for FemFest 2012: Staging Identity.

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).

Become a Sarasvati Supporter today!



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.

242 Cathedral Avenue
Winnipeg, MB
R2W 0X3

Phone: 204-586-2236
E-mail: info@sarasvati.ca
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

In 2010 we celebrated our tenth anniversary and next fall, FemFest 2012 will mark the 10th anniversary of FemFest. Over the years we have showcased hundreds of women artists!



RISING STAR

Robyn Pooley

We are pleased to be continuing a tradition of providing opportunities to emerging artists and particularly grads from local theatre programs. In 2010 we worked with Robyn on *Generation Nexxt* for FemFest, and welcomed her back for FemFest 2011 to take part in Rose Condo's *africanada: A Love Story*. Now, we are pleased to welcome her to the Sarasvati team as our new administrator.

Robyn is a recent grad of the Acting honors and English honors programs from the University of Winnipeg. Since graduating, Robyn has actively pursued her passion for acting and performing. This past summer, Robyn was fortunate enough to study at Canada's National Voice Intensive in

Vancouver, under some of Canada's finest voice, movement, Shakespeare, and acting instructors.

In addition to acting, Robyn is also a trained dancer with lots of experience under her belt. Most recently, you may have seen her choreography in *Idol: All Stars* at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival.

As a local actor, choreographer, and now administrator, Robyn is definitely one to watch.



ROBYN POOLEY



Robyn in a scene from *Generation Nexxt*



Hands Up

Welcome to Robyn Pooley our new administrator! See more about Robyn below.

Our Artistic Director, Hope McIntyre, was recognized during Women's History Month in October at the Manitoba Legislature for her role as a woman artist working toward social change.



Hands Out

We are continuing to raise funds for our upcoming world premiere. *EDEN* is an ambitious project with a large cast and epic story. Show us that you want to see artistic work that speaks to our abiding concerns for peace and justice by supporting the world premiere of *EDEN*, which will run from April 27 to May 13. Book your tickets now as a show of support, make a donation to cover tickets for our community partners or to help cover production costs.

We understand money is tight so would also love to welcome new volunteers and donations of goods that can be used in our upcoming fundraiser raffle!

You can also support our work by attending our upcoming fundraiser, So You Think You Can Act. It will be a great time and all monies raised will support our continued artistic programming.



Testimonials

I truly appreciated the opportunity to participate in Fem Fest on behalf of MAWA. It proved to be a very positive experience. Fem Fest allowed me to meet new people interested in both the visual and performing arts and I received very positive feedback from members of the audience about my art and its meaning. They offered their interpretation along with very perceptive comments. I found the opening cabaret both entertaining while concurrently at times, providing subtle commentary on social issues. I was able to attend "Jail Baby" and based upon my employment experience in corrections, I found this to be exceptionally well written and presented.

Thank you for providing me with this rewarding experience. I look forward to involvement with Fem Fest in future years..

—Willy Carleton